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opening extract from

# First Learner's French Dictionary

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le **caramel** noun *masc.*  
toffee

la **caravane** noun *fem.*  
caravan

**caresser** verb  
to stroke  
**Chloé caresse le chat.** Chloé is stroking the cat.

le **carnaval** noun *masc.*  
carnival

 **CULTURE**  
In France **le carnaval** is the name given to the celebrations on **Mardi gras** (Shrove Tuesday). This is the last day before **le Carême** (Lent) when French children put on fancy dress, eat **crêpes** (pancakes), and often take part in processions through the streets.

le **carnet** noun *masc.*  
1 **notebook**  
**Note la date dans ton carnet.**

Write down the date in your notebook.

2 **book**  
**un carnet de tickets** a book of tickets  
**un carnet de timbres** a book of stamps  
**un carnet d'adresses** an address book

3 **le carnet de notes** the school report  
**le carnet de correspondance** the school diary

la **carotte** noun *fem.*  
carrot

 **LANGUAGE**  
French = **carotte**  
English = **carrot**

**carré** adjective *masc.*, **carrée** *fem.*  
square  
**une table carrée** a square table

le **carré** noun *masc.*  
square


• The months of the year and days of the week do not take a capital letter in French.

le **carreau** noun *masc.* (plural les **carreaux**)

1 **window pane**  
2 (pattern)  
**les carreaux** check  
**une chemise à carreaux** a checked shirt  
3 diamonds (*in cards*)

le **carrefour** noun *masc.*  
**crossroads**  
**au carrefour** at the crossroads


le **cartable** noun *masc.*  
schoolbag

 **CULTURE**  
A **cartable** is made from a strong material and is worn on the back. Many French schoolchildren have to carry a lot of books and some have schoolbags on wheels.

la **carte** noun *fem.*  
1 **card**  
**une carte d'anniversaire** a birthday card  
**une carte de vœux** a greetings card

 **CULTURE**  
In France people send greetings cards in January for the New Year instead of Christmas. It is not at all common in France to exchange cards with people you see everyday.

**une arte postale** a postcard  
**une carte d'identité** an identity card

 **CULTURE**  
All French people have an identity card. They can use it instead of a passport to travel around the European Union.

2 (for playing games) **card**  
**un jeu de cartes** a pack of cards  
**jouer aux cartes** to play cards  
3 **map**  
**une carte de l'Europe** a map of Europe

**une carte routière** a road map  
4 **menu**

le **carton** noun *masc.*  
**cardboard box**

le **cas** noun *masc.*  
**case**  
**en tout cas** anyway  
**au cas où** just in case

la **case** noun *fem.*  
1 (in crosswords etc.) **square**  
2 (on forms, worksheets, etc.) **box**

la **caserne** noun *fem.*  
**une caserne de pompiers** a fire station

le **casier** noun *masc.*  
**locker**

le **casque** noun *masc.*  
1 **helmet**  
2 **headphones**

la **casquette** noun *fem.*  
**cap**

le **casse-croûte** noun *masc.* (plural les **casse-croûte**)  
**snack**

**casse-pieds** adjective *masc. & fem.*  
**Elle est casse-pieds.** She's a pest.

**casser** verb  
to break  
**Théo a cassé un verre.** Théo has broken a glass.

se **casser** verb Ⓣ  
to break  
**Le vase est tombé et s'est cassé.** The vase fell and broke.  
**Je me suis cassé la jambe.** I've broken my leg.

la **casserole** noun *fem.*  
**saucepan**

 **FALSE FRIEND**  
**la casserole = the saucepan** (not the casserole)

Ⓣ means use **être** to make the past tense.

la **cassette** noun *fem.*  
**tape**  
**une cassette vidéo** a video

la **catastrophe** noun *fem.*  
**disaster**

la **cathédrale** noun *fem.*  
**cathedral**

**catholique** adjective *masc. & fem.*  
**Catholic**

le **cauchemar** noun *masc.*  
**nightmare**  
**faire des cauchemars** to have nightmares

la **cause** noun *fem.*  
1 **cause**  
2 **à cause de** because of  
**Je vais être en retard à cause de toi.** I'm going to be late because of you.


le **cavalier** noun *masc.*,  
la **cavalière** *fem.*  
**rider**

la **cave** noun *fem.*  
**cellar**

 **FALSE FRIEND**  
**la cave = the cellar** (not the cave)

le **CD** noun *masc.* (plural les **CD**)  
**CD**  
**J'ai deux CD.** I have two CDs.

**ce** adjective *masc.*, **cet** *masc.*, **cette** *fem.*,  
**ces** *masc. & fem. plural*  
1 **this**  
**ce soir** this evening  
**cette chaise** this chair  
**cet homme** this man

 **LANGUAGE**  
Use **cet** with masculine nouns beginning with *a, e, i, o, u*, or *silent h*.

2 (when pointing to **this one**, not **that one**)  
**ce livre-ci** this book  
**cette photo-ci** this photo  
**cet élève-ci** this pupil  
3 **that**