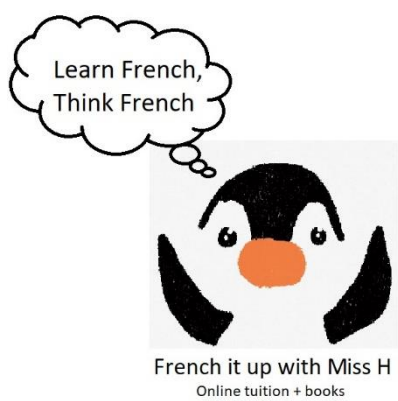


Learn French, Think French



N5 French – Preparation for the final exam

*The need-to-know vocabulary, dictionary skills tips
and technique when sitting the exam*



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My name is Miss H. Modern Languages teacher across secondary schools in the United Kingdom since 2010 and tutoring since 2019, I have taught all types of learners: from the age of 5 to 72, whether they are studying for their exams (GCSE and A-levels in England, SQA exams in Scotland, FIDE in Switzerland, French citizenship or DALF and DELF in Europe), whether they are at school, young professionals or pensioners, my students have inspired me to write a series of books based on my experience, as a teacher and as a learner. This book is dedicated to each and every one of them. I hope reading it will inspire you, and them, as much as they have inspired me.

PART 1 – VOCABULARY

LES MEMBRES DE LA FAMILLE – FAMILY MEMBERS:

Ma belle-mère – mother-in-law/step mum
Mon beau-père – father-in-law/step dad
Mon frère jumeau – my twin brother
Ma soeur jumelle – my twin sister
Mon arrière-grand-mère – my great grand-mother
Ma demi-soeur – my step-sister
Mon demi-frère – my step-brother
Mes copains – my friends
Mon meilleur ami – my best friend
Ils ne sont pas mariés – they are not married
Il est célibataire – he is single
Ils vont divorcer – they are going to divorce/get a divorce
Aller + infinitive => going to + verb

LES LOISIRS - HOBBIES:

Faire de l'équitation – to do horse-riding
Du saut à l'élastique – bungee jumping
Sauter - to jump
Du parapente – paragliding
Jouer aux échecs – to play chess
Faire du char à voile – sand yachting/land sailing
Aller à la pêche – to go fishing
Faire de la plongée (sous-marine) - (scuba) diving
Faire de la luge – sledding
Se faire bronzer – tanning/sunbathing
Faire de la planche à voile – wind surfing
Faire du VTT – mountain biking
Faire de la randonnée – hiking
Jouer à des jeux de société – to play board games

LA SANTE - HEALTH

Se tordre la cheville – to twist your ankle

Avoir un mal de tête/avoir mal à la tête – to have a sore head

Avoir mal au ventre – to have a sore stomach/belly – tummy

Se casser une jambe – to break a leg

Je suis fatigué – I am tired

J'ai un rhume – I have a cold

J'ai la grippe – I have the flu

J'ai le nez qui coule – I have a runny nose

J'ai mal à la gorge – I have a sore throat

J'ai froid – I am cold

J'ai chaud – I am hot

J'ai de la fièvre – I have a fever

MONTHS/DAYS/WEATHER/SEASONS

Les mois – months

janvier – January

février – February

mars – March

avril – April

mai – May

juin – June

juillet – July

août – August

septembre – September

octobre – Octobre

novembre – November

décembre – December

les saisons - seasons

en été – in summer

au printemps – in spring

en automne – in autumn

en hiver – in winter

les jours - days

lundi – Monday

mardi – Tuesday

mercredi – Wednesday

jeudi – Thursday

vendredi – Friday

samedi – Saturday

dimanche – Sunday

prochain – next

dernier – last

dans la journée – during the day

dans la semaine – during the week

pendant le voyage – during the journey/the trip

le matin/dans la matinée – the morning

à midi – at midday

l'après-midi – the afternoon

le soir/en soirée – the evening

avant – before

après – after

aux alentours de/environ – at around/about

plus ou moins – more or less

quatre heures et demie – half four

et quart – quarter past

moins le quart – quarter to

à huit heures **pile**/précises – at eight **on the dot**/precisely

La météo – the weather

Il fait beau – it is nice

Il fait mauvais – it is bad

Il pleut/il y a de la pluie – it is raining

Il neige/il y a de la neige – it is snowing

Il gèle – it is icy

Il grêle/ il y a de grêle – it hails

Il y a du vent – it is windy

THE TINY WORDS THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Et – and

Ou – or

Très – very

Trop – too (much/many)

Vraiment – really

Un peu – a bit

Assez/plutôt – quite

Beaucoup – a lot

Où – where

Quand – when

Comment – how

Que/qu'est-ce-que – what

Qui – who

qui/que – that/who

ce qui/ce que – which/what

Pourquoi – why

WRITING: KEEP IT QUITE SHORT AND CORRECT, THINK SHORT IN ENGLISH AND THINK OF ADDING ANOTHER TENSE (conditional – I would (like)/passé composé (I have (liked))

- languages you speak: "I speak English very well and I have learnt French"

=> Je parle très bien anglais et j'ai appris le français.

- what experience do you have of working with children/the public: "I have worked in a school/a restaurant during **a placement**."

=> J'ai travaillé dans une école/un restaurant pendant **un stage**.

- why you would like to work in France: "I would like to work in France because I have always liked the culture".

=> Je voudrais travailler en France parce que/car/puisque j'ai toujours aimé la culture.

- what you do in your spare time: "**in my spare time**, I have started to exercise because I am very active."

=> **Pendant mon temps libre**, j'ai commencé à faire de l'exercice parce que/car/puisque je suis très active.

- when you will be available for a job interview **and** to start the job: "I will be available for a job interview in May and I would like to start/I could start the job in the summer"

=> Je serai disponible pour un entretien en mai et je voudrais commencer/je pourrais commencer le travail/à travailler en été.

- where will you stay/accommodation plans: "I will stay with a friend who lives there."

=> Je resterai avec un ami/copain/copine qui habite là-bas/qui y habite.

-any queries you have about the job:

"when would I start?" Quand commencerais-je?

"where could I stay? Où pourrais-je rester?"

"**what** is there to do in the area?" **Qu'est-ce-qu'il** y a à faire dans la région ?

"how much is the salary?" – combien est le salaire?

"**is it** easy **to** use the public transport?" **Est-ce-qu'il est** facile **d'**utiliser les transports en commun ?

"**is it** obligatory **to** wear a uniform?" **Est-ce-qu'il est** obligatoire **de** porter l'uniforme ?

When you ask a question, always swap verb and personal pronoun (who does the action) or stick to "qu'est-ce-que" (what). Example: "is it...?" => think what is "it is" => swap verb and personal pronoun: "it is" – c'est => "est-ce"

It is – c'est

It will be – ce sera

It would be – ce serait

It was – c'était

In my spare time – pendant mon temps libre

In + month – en

During the month of ... - pendant le mois de ...

PART 2 – DICTIONARY SKILL

1. Make sure to look at the correct half of the dictionary: French-English/English-French
2. When there are many translations for one word, they are ranked and numbered.
Look at all translations.
Chose the one that seems to be the best translation from the context of the sentence you are reading.

Example with the adjective « propre »:

J'ai ma propre chambre. => I have my own bedroom

OR

j'ai une chambre propre. => I have a clean bedroom.

Words with different meanings:

- Jumelle: twin OR binoculars
- Rester: to stay
- Travailler – to work
- Journée – day
- Rendre visite à – to visit someone

3. Look at the words or sentences in bold. They are expressions/series of words that literally translated do not make sense.
4. When the word does not appear in the dictionary, it is most likely a verb that is conjugated.

- a. The first letters will help you find the infinitive/the root of the verb. When you find the infinitive, you find the meaning.
- b. The last letters will help you find or confirm: who does the action and when the action takes place.

Example: “nous louerons un logement près de l’aéroport.”

« louer » => « to rent » and “erons” are the future tense ending when “we” does the action so all together it means “we will rent”.

Sometimes, the verb is so irregular that it changes entirely. Make connections with the verb being conjugated with a different personal pronoun.

Example: mes amis peuvent regarder la télé tard le soir.

« peuvent » => « je peux » => « I can » so « ent » of « peuvent » means “they” and therefore “ils peuvent” means “they can”.

5. Use the verb tables in the middle of the dictionary to conjugate verbs or to find at which tense the verb from a text is conjugated at.

One column = One tense

One line = One personal pronoun

6. Abbreviations:

n - noun

v – verb

prep – preposition

adj – adjective

adv - adverb

PART 3 – TECHNIQUE

Reading:

1. Read the question first.
2. Find the English key word from the question.
3. Scan through the text to find the key word in French.
4. Cross out every word as you translate a sentence into English, not to miss out on any detail.
5. Make connections between what you know of your own language and your knowledge of French.

Example of connections between English and French:

Un emploi/un employé => Employment

Vendre => vending machine

Posséder => to possess

Ranger => to arrange => to tidy

Example of connections with French words you already know:

noun	adjective	verb	
Des connaissances (knowledge)		Connaître (to know)	

6. Watch out for the comparatives/superlatives.

Plus ... que

Moins... que

Aussi ... que/autant ...que

Le plus

Le moins

Au moins

De plus en plus

De moins en moins

7. Translation skill.

Make sure that your answer makes sense. Imagine saying your sentence to a friend, would they understand what you are saying?

Sometimes, we use a noun in French when in English, we use a verb. This also works the other way around.

Example: "le fonctionnement de l'entreprise" => «how the company works ».

Listening:

1. There are 3 plays :

Play 1 – focus on the odd questions (question 1, 3, 5, etc)

Play 2 – focus on the even questions (question 2, 4, 6, etc)

Play 3 – fill in the gaps

2. Practice writing out what you hear in English, word per word. That will help you work on your ability to make notes quickly.

3. Practice writing out what you hear in French, word per word. In between each play, go back over your notes and answer the questions. If you recognise the sounds, you should be able to spell and write the words down. You might be able to recognise the word then.

Examples :

[teh.a.tr] => téatr => « théâtre » meaning « theatre »/drama

Sounds and their spelling:

[ea] – "i"

[wah] – "oi"/"ois"/"oie"

[ss] – "ss"/"t"

[oo] – [ou]

Writing:

1. Keep it short to keep it accurate.

2. Know your questions words:

"qui" - who

"que" - what

"où" – where

"quand" – when

"comment" – how

"combien" – how much/how many

"pourquoi" – why

3. When writing a question that starts with a verb, think of the sentence at its affirmative form. Then add “est-ce-que” at the very start and add a question mark in the end.

Example: « Il faut porter l’uniforme » => « Est-ce-qu’il faut porter l’uniforme ? »