

RAISE YOUR CHILDREN WITH A FRENCH... ACCENT

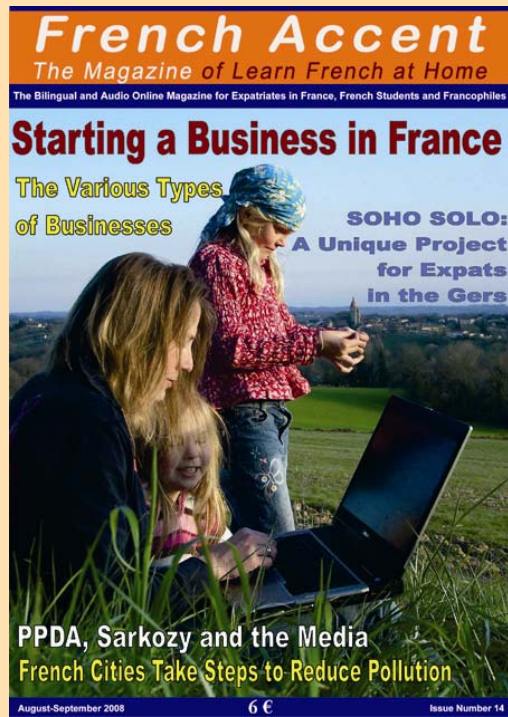
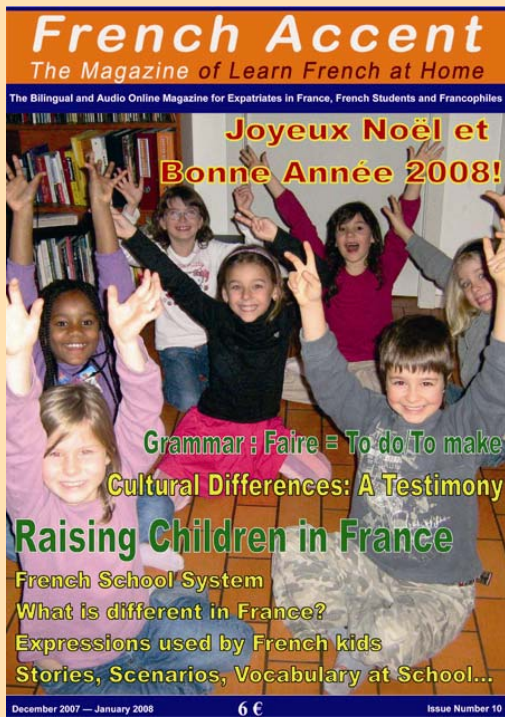
With Scenarios
& Audio Links

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TRAVELANGUES
Travel & Learn

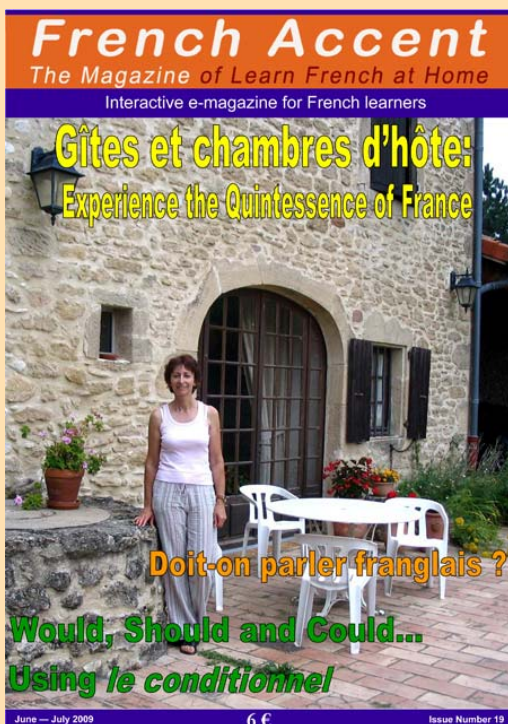
A collection of e-books on travel and language



French Accent Magazine

A **totally Unique** Online Magazine
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RAISE YOUR CHILDREN WITH A FRENCH ACCENT

How do children adapt to the life
in France?

How do they learn French so quickly?

French–English Scenarios,
Vocabulary, Stories and Songs
with Audio Links

Adapted From

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Authors:

Céline and Vincent Anthonioz, Annick and Roger Stevenson
Selection of stories and main voice: Alexandra Anthonioz

A COLLECTION
OF BOOKS
ON TRAVEL
AND LANGUAGE



TRAVELANGUES
Travel & Learn

Why this book?

Moving to a foreign country with children is quite a venture and you may be asking yourselves questions such as:

- Will my children adapt to the new life style and the new school system?
- Will they make friends?
- Will they panic when they don't understand what is being told to them?

It can bring about fear and hesitation, but it seems that most children adapt quite well and often even better than their parents. They learn the language, develop a social life and acquire new habits surprisingly quickly.

In order to help future expatriate families, or those who have recently moved to France, with learning the French language found in typical situations, and in order to reassure parents about the fact that children do integrate quickly in their new environment, we have created this informative and educational e-book. You will find a compilation of articles both in French and English on the education and cultural differences in France; experiences related by expatriate families; typical everyday French scenarios in school, social and different family situations; French songs and children's stories that parents can discover together with their children.

One of the most difficult and challenging aspects involved in learning another language is gaining a real understanding of the day-to-day usage. Many books accompanied with CDs offer listening comprehension exercises, but the scenarios or conversations are not always on situations that you would actually find yourself in on a daily basis when living in France. In these scenarios, we include up-to-date and useful vocabulary based on real life situations. In order to train your ear to the sound of French, **we have added audio links to each scenario** so that you can listen to it repeatedly.

How to start?

You can either read the e-book on your computer or print any pages you wish. To access the French audio files, you need to be connected to the internet; then click on this icon:



Note: the Audio files are located on the corresponding web pages of the various French Accent Magazine issues, together with other audio texts. They can also be downloaded in an MP3 format for iPods or other MP3 players.

To download the audio files: [click HERE](#)

How to use it?


If you are learning French on your own, we would suggest that you pick a scenario of interest to you and follow the following five-step process:

- 1) Listen to the scenario without reading it in order to try to understand as much as you can.
- 2) Then, listen to it while reading the scenario. Pay attention to the sound of every word and try to figure out the meaning of the conversation.
- 3) Listen to it one more time without reading it in order to try to recognize some words that you could not identify the first time you read it.
- 4) Then compare it to the English version.
- 5) Once you have understood the meaning of every sentence, listen to it again in order to focus once more on the sounds of the syllables and to pay attention to the liaisons in between words.

For the vocabulary sections, we would suggest that you repeat every single word out loud.

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The French School System

In France school is compulsory and free (in public schools) for all children from 6 to 16 years of age.

It is divided between:

- **L'école primaire** (elementary school), for children from 6 to 11 years old. Elementary school is also compulsory for foreign children living in France. It starts with CP (cours préparatoire) the first year, the following years are called CE1, CE2 (cours élémentaires 1 et 2), and CM1, CM2 (cours moyens 1 et 2).

- **Le collège** (junior high school), for 11 to 15 year-old youngsters. It goes in reverse order from the classe de 6ème (usually simply called la 6ème) to the classe de 3ème (la 3ème).

- **Le lycée** (high school), for 15 to 18 year-old teenagers. It continues the numeric countdown and goes from the classe de seconde (la seconde – which is another word for 2ème), la première, and the final year, which is known as la terminale, the year at the end of which the students sit for the baccalauréat examinations, at least for general and technical education. Teens who have opted for professional and trade school education usually leave the mainstream school system earlier and earn different types of diplomas for specific trades and professions (we will come back to this topic in our special dossier on teenagers).

The pupils have 36 hours of classroom instruction per week. The teacher has some flexibility in deciding the subjects to spend time on out of these hours per week, but the overall curriculum is dictated by the national Ministry of Education and is, in theory, at least, the same for every school in France.

The subjects taught are divided into three main categories:

- French, history, geography and civic studies.
- Mathematics, science and technology.
- Physical education and sports, arts and crafts, and music.

What about English lessons?

The very informative French Entrée website*, in its “Primary schools” section, explains that English is taught as an optional foreign language in the CM1 and CM2 years, however the quality of this teaching may vary considerably according to the availability and skill of the teacher, and it should not be relied upon as a substitute for teaching your children to speak their native tongue better!

(Cont'd page 15)



(Cont'd from page 14)

In fact, it has been noted on many occasions that English speaking children attending French primary schools may quickly become fluent and articulate in French but may not progress much in English unless their parents make an effort to help them, perhaps by using some of the curriculum materials from schools in their home country.

Extra activities after school

In France, less attention is given to activities such as arts and sports than in the UK or the US. This is why many French parents, on Wednesdays or Saturdays, send their kids to participate in such activities organized by different local services.

In most cities, one can find a Maison des jeunes et de la culture (MJC) that offers many such activities at a very reasonable price (which can be adjusted according to the family's income level). See page 35.

And if you are not sure that such a structure exists in your city, the best way to be informed about extra-curricular activities is to ask at the mairie.

www.frenchentree.com



Scenario: In the School Courtyard

Laura : Tu viens chez moi pour le goûter ?

Marie : Ah oui, on pourra jouer !

Laura : Oui, mais tu sais on est obligées de faire les devoirs sinon on va se faire gronder !

Marie : Bon, ben après les devoirs on pourra jouer à la maîtresse ?

Laura : Alors je vais préparer des feuilles d'exercice.

Marie : Quoi comme feuilles ? ?

Laura : De maths et d'écriture.

Marie : C'est pas tellement rigolo, ton histoire !

Laura : Si, tu verras. Et puis j'ai un nouveau jeu !

Marie : C'est quoi ?

Laura : C'est un super jeu de mime.

Marie : Ah super, ça va être trop chouette !

Laura : Bon, je crois qu'il faut retourner en classe, la récré est finie.

Marie : Déjà !... C'est trop court, la récré.

Laura: You're coming to my place for the afternoon snack?

Marie: Oh yes, we can play!

Laura: Yes, but you know that we'll have to do our homework, otherwise we'll get scolded!

Marie: Well, after homework we can play teacher?

Laura: Then I'll prepare the exercise sheets.

Marie: What kind of sheets?

Laura: Maths and writing.

Marie: That's not very funny, your story!

Laura: Yes, you'll see. And I have another game!

Marie: What is it?

Laura: It's a great mime game.

Marie: Great, that will be so nice!

Laura: Well, I think we have to go back to the class, the break is over.

Marie: Already!... It's too short, the break.



Basic School Vocabulary

Apprendre = both to learn and to teach

Le cahier = note book

Les camarades de classe = schoolmates

La cantine = the cafeteria

Le carnet de notes = report card/grades

Le cartable ou sac à dos = school bag for carrying books to school

La classe = either the school room or the level of education (*la classe de CE1...*)

Un classeur = a folder

La cour de récréation = the recess/break grounds

Le cours = lesson (*le cours de français...*)

Les couvre-livres = protective book covers

Les devoirs = homework

La discipline = discipline

Un écolier/une écolière = a school boy/girl

Un/une élève = a student in primary & secondary school

L'éducation = education

Enseigner = to teach

Etre dissipé = to be undisciplined

Etre sage = to be disciplined/well behaved

Etudier = to study/learn

Les fournitures scolaires = school supplies

Le goûter = afternoon snack

Gronder = to scold

Un instituteur/une institutrice = a school teacher

Le maître/la maîtresse = school teacher

Une punition = a punishment

Le pupitre/le bureau = desk

Une récompense = a reward

La récréation/la récré = recess/break

Redoubler = to repeat a year

La rentrée des classes = the start up of the new school year

Une sortie d'école = a field trip

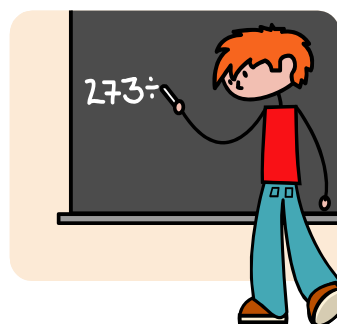
Le tableau (noir) = blackboard

Un travail ludique = an entertaining task

La trousse = small cloth or leather pen and pencil holder w/zipper

Les vacances scolaires = school holidays

Les grandes vacances = summer vacation



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