

Learning French

The French language is spoken in more than 50 other countries and is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. French is the official language of France and its overseas territories, and it is one of the official languages of the United Nations.

Language Family
Romance

Dialect
Modern Standard French

Writing System
Roman alphabet

Accent

Language Tips

- t You'll notice that many French words have accent marks, which help with proper pronunciation. Sometimes an accent mark is the only feature that distinguishes between two otherwise identical words. The French accents are

accent aigu accent grave accent circonflexe tréma cédille
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- t There are two categories of French nouns: masculine and feminine.
- t You may notice that some letters are rarely pronounced at the end of a word. Note, for example, the endings -s, and -nt in these words: les lles mangent. We'll help you learn the exceptions to this rule through guided exposure and practice.
- t Depending on how they're categorized, French adjectives appear before or after nouns.
- t In French, there are formal and informal ways of addressing others, depending on the age of the speaker and his or her relationship to the person being addressed.