



Berlitz

French Reference Dictionary

*French/English
English/French*

Dictionnaire de référence

*Français/Anglais
Anglais/Français*

60,000 entries
60,000 termes

Berlitz

**French-English
English-French**

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**French-English
English-French
Dictionary**

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Foreword

This volume is part of the Random House series of bilingual dictionaries. Intended for the American public, it reflects American English spelling and vocabulary.

The aim of this dictionary is to cover as much current vocabulary as possible, although many terms used by classic French writers are also included. Example phrases or sentences show how a particular term is used in context.

In the front and back of the book the user will find lists of irregular verbs and common expressions, pronunciation guides, and other information about the French and English languages.

It is hoped that this dictionary will be useful to the student, traveler, or anyone else who needs an alternative reference for effective communication.

Explanatory Notes

In both sections of the dictionary, all terms (including geographical and other proper nouns) are entered in a single A to Z alphabetical listing.

Many main entries contain phrases and expressions that appear as boldface subentries. If a main entry term is repeated in a subentry in exactly the same form, it is replaced by a long boldface dash. For instance, at the main entry **abaisser** the user will find the phrase — **la voix**, which stands for **abaisser la voix**.

In the translations given after a main entry, nearly synonymous terms are separated by a comma, whereas terms different in meaning are separated by a semicolon. For instance, at the main entry **chambarder**, the translations are: to turn upside down, to upset; to clear out, to throw out.

The feminine forms of French adjectives are shown at the main entry, following the masculine form: **heureux, euse** *adj.* If a feminine form is unchanged from the masculine, only one form is shown: **atomique** *adj.* If a masculine French noun can be used in the feminine gender, the feminine form is shown at the main entry, the gender to be chosen depending on the gender of the person or animal in question: **chien, ne** *n.m.f.* Common feminine nouns have their own main entry, such as **actrice**. The plural forms of certain French nouns are also shown at the main entry: **cheval** *n.m., pl. chevaux*.

In written French, capital letters do not usually show an accent: (capitalized) **Etats-Unis** versus (lowercase) **état**.

If an English word is translated as a French phrase, the gender indication is often placed after the French noun rather than after the entire French phrase: **bias** *n. parti m. pris*.

Pronunciation of French

The following concise guide describes the approximate pronunciation of the letters and frequent combinations of letters occurring in the French language. A study of it will enable the reader to pronounce French adequately most of the time. While the guide cannot list all the exceptions to the established pronunciations, or cover the manner in which adjacent words affect each other in speech, such exceptions and variations will readily be learned as one develops facility in the language.

French Description of Pronunciation

Letter

- a, à** Between *a* in *calm* and *a* in *hat*.
- â** Like *a* in *calm*.
- ai** Like *e* in *bed*.
- au** Like *oa* in *coat*.
- b** As in English.
At the end of words, usually silent.
- c** Before *e, i, y*, like *s*.
Elsewhere, like *k*.
When *c* occurs at the end of a word and is preceded by a consonant, it is usually silent.
- ç** Like *s*.
- cc** Before *e, i*, like *x*.
Elsewhere, like *k*.
- ch** Usually like *sh* in *short*.
ch is pronounced like *k* in words of Greek origin before *a, o,* and *u* and before consonants.
- d** At beginning and in middle of words, as in English.
At end of words, usually silent.
- e** At end of words, normally silent; indicates that preceding consonant letter is pronounced.
Between two single consonant sounds, usually silent.
Elsewhere, like English *a* in *sofa*.
- é** Approximately like *a* in *hate*.
- è, ê, ei** Like *e* in *bed*.
- eau** Like *au*.
- ent** Silent when it is the third person plural ending.

- er** At end of words of more than one syllable, usually like *a* in *hate*, the *r* being silent; otherwise like *air* in *chair*.
- (end of words)** See below under *r*.
- es** Silent at end of words.
- eu** A vowel sound not found in English; like French *e*, but pronounced with the lips rounded as for *o*.
- ez** At end of words, almost always like English *a* in *hate*, the *z* being silent.
- f** As in English; silent at the end of a few words.
- g** Before *e*, *i*, *y*, like *z* in *azure*.
Elsewhere, like *g* in *get*.
At end of words, usually silent.
- gn** Like *ni* in *onion*.
- gu** Before *e*, *i*, *y*, like *g* in *get*.
Elsewhere, like *g* in *get* plus French *u* (see below).
- h** In some words, represents a slight tightening of the throat muscles (in French, called "aspiration")
In most words, silent.
- i, î** Like *i* in *machine*.
- ill** (-il at end of words) like *y* in *yes*, in many but not all words.
- j** Like *z* in *azure*.
- k** As in English.
- l** As in English, but always pronounced "bright," with tongue in front of mouth.
- m, n** When double, and when single between two vowel letters or at beginning of word, like English *m* and *n* respectively. When single at end of syllable (at end of word or before another consonant), indicates nasalization of preceding vowel.
- o** Usually like *u* in English *mud*, but rounder.
When final sound in word, and often before *s* and *z*, like *ô*.
- ô** Approximately like *oa* in *coat*.
- oe, oeu** Like *eu*.
- oi** Approximately like a combination of the consonant *w* and the *a* of *calm*.
- ou, où,**
où Like *ou* in *tour*.
- p** At end of words, usually silent.
Between *m* and *t*, *m* and *s*, *r* and *s*, usually silent.
Elsewhere, as in English.
- ph** Like *f*.
- pn, ps** Unlike English, when *pn* and *ps* occur at the beginning of the words the *p* is usually sounded.

Pronunciation of French

- qu** Usually like *k*.
- r** A vibration either of the uvula, or of the tip of the tongue against the upper front teeth.
See above under *er*.
- s** Generally, like *s* in *sea*.
Single *s* between vowels, like *z* in *zone*.
At end of words, normally silent.
- sc** Before *e* or *i*, like *s*.
Elsewhere, like *sk*.
- t** Approximately like English *t*, but pronounced with tongue tip against teeth.
At end of words, normally silent.
When followed by *ie*, *ion*, *ium*, *ius*, and other diphthongs beginning with a vowel, *t* generally is like English *s* in *sea* (unless the *t* itself is preceded by an *s* or an *x*).
- th** Like *t*.
- u, û** A vowel sound not found in English; like the *i* in *machine* but with lips rounded as for *ou*.
- ue** After *e* or *g* and before *il*, like *eu*.
- v** As in English.
- w** Usually like *v*; in some people's pronunciation, like English *w*.
- x** Generally sounds like *ks*; but when the syllable *ex* begins a word and is followed by a vowel, *x* sounds like *gz*.
At end of words, usually silent.
- y** Generally like *i* in *machine*; but when between two vowels, like *y* in *yes*.
- z** Like *z* in *zone*.
At end of words, often silent (see above under *ez*).

Prononciation de l'Anglais

Ce guide reproduit approximativement les sons de l'anglais.

Français

Anglais

Voyelles

a	comme cheval	cat
a	comme gaz	father, calm
e	comme bec	red, said
e	comme décrire	mate, say
e	comme tristement ("e" muet)	seven, garden, mission
i	comme fixe	ravine, me
i	comme bistro	kit, chin
o	comme chaud	rose, toad, fellow
o	comme forme	paw, taught, thought
u	comme moulin	bull, took, wool
u	comme soupe	room, rule, flew
u	comme soeur	sum, brother

Diphthongues

ai	comme ailleurs	tight, sky
au	comme caoutchouc	round, tower
oi	comme boycotter	toy, choice

Consonnes

b	comme boîte	best, tub
d	comme donner	darling, rudder
f	comme falloir	fact, pharmacy
g	comme gamine	game, gift
h	(aspiré, comme la consonne espagnole "j" de junta)	hotel, host
j	comme djinn	jewel, gesture
k	comme kilo	kite, can, chorus
l	comme lent	lark, pillow
m	comme mélange	mellow, camel
n	comme net	north, winner
ng	comme parking	ring, tanker
p	comme pied	pear, top
r	comme retour ("r" rétroflexe)	roar, tar
s	comme masse	safe, cit, class

Prononciation de l'Anglais

t	comme tasse	tight, stopped, market
sh	comme chasse	shell, fashion, machine
tch	comme caoutchouc	choose, mature, such
th	comme la consonne castillane "d" de pedir	then, other
th	comme la consonne castillane "c" de círculo	thing, tooth
v	comme vive	very, love, of
w	comme foi, week-end	water, swept, quest
y	comme fier, yeux	yellow, unite
z	comme rose, zeste	zero, his
zh	comme jour	leisure, azure

Abbreviations Used in the Dictionary

<i>abbr.</i>	abbreviation	<i>Danc</i>	dancing
<i>adj.</i>	adjective	<i>def.</i>	definite
<i>adv.</i>	adverb	<i>defect.</i>	defective
<i>Adm.</i>	administration	<i>dem.,</i>	demonstrative
<i>Agr., Agric.</i>	agriculture	<i>demonst.</i>	
<i>Alg.</i>	algebra	<i>Dent.</i>	dentistry
<i>Anat.</i>	anatomy	<i>dimin.</i>	diminutive
<i>Anc.</i>	ancient	<i>Diplom.</i>	diplomacy
<i>Antiq.</i>	antiquity	<i>Distil.</i>	distilling
<i>Arch.</i>	archaic	<i>Eccl.</i>	ecclesiastic
<i>Archaeol.</i>	archaeology	<i>Electr.</i>	electricity
<i>Architect</i>	architecture	<i>Eng.</i>	engineering
<i>Arith.</i>	arithmetic	<i>Engl.</i>	English
<i>art.</i>	article	<i>Engrav.</i>	engraving
<i>Artill.</i>	artillery	<i>Entom.</i>	entomology
<i>Astrol.</i>	astrology	<i>Equit.</i>	equitation
<i>Astron.</i>	astronomy	<i>excl.</i>	exclamation
<i>Auto.</i>	automotive	<i>f., fem.</i>	feminine
<i>aux.</i>	auxiliary	<i>Fenc.</i>	fencing
<i>Aviat.</i>	aviation	<i>Feud.</i>	feudalism
<i>Bank.</i>	banking	<i>Fig.</i>	figurative
<i>Bill.</i>	billiards	<i>Fin.</i>	finance
<i>Bot.</i>	botany	<i>Fortif.</i>	fortification
<i>Brew.</i>	brewing	<i>Found.</i>	foundry
<i>Build.</i>	building	<i>Fr.</i>	French
<i>Callig.</i>	calligraphy	<i>fut.</i>	future
<i>Carp.</i>	carpentry	<i>Gard.</i>	gardening
<i>Chem.</i>	chemistry	<i>Geneal</i>	genealogy
<i>Cine.</i>	cinema	<i>Geog.</i>	geography
<i>collect</i>	collectively	<i>Geol.</i>	geology
<i>Comm.</i>	commerce	<i>Geom.</i>	geometry
<i>compar.</i>	comparative	<i>Gr.</i>	Greek
<i>condit.</i>	conditional	<i>Gramm.</i>	grammar
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction	<i>Herald.</i>	heraldry
<i>Culin.</i>	culinary arts	<i>Hist.</i>	history

Abbreviations Used in the Dictionary

<i>Horol.</i>	horology	<i>Mythol.</i>	mythology
<i>Horsem.</i>	horsemanship	<i>n.</i>	noun, neuter
<i>Hort.</i>	horticulture	<i>Naut.</i>	nautical
<i>Hunt.</i>	hunting	<i>n.f.</i>	feminine noun
<i>i.</i>	intransitive	<i>n.f.pl.</i>	feminine plural noun
<i>Ichth.</i>	ichthyology		
<i>Idiomat.</i>	idiomatic	<i>n.m.</i>	masculine noun
<i>imper.</i>	imperative mood	<i>n.m.pl.</i>	masculine plural noun
<i>imp., impers.</i>	impersonal	<i>nom., nomin.</i>	nominative case
<i>indef.</i>	indefinite		
<i>indic.</i>	indicative mood	<i>Numis.</i>	numismatics
<i>infin.</i>	infinitive mood	<i>obj., objec.</i>	objective case
<i>Insur.</i>	insurance	<i>Opt.</i>	optics
<i>Infml.</i>	informal	<i>Ornith.</i>	ornithology
<i>interj.</i>	interjection	<i>Pathol.</i>	pathology
<i>invar.</i>	invariable	<i>Parliam.</i>	parliamentary procedure
<i>iron., ironic.</i>	ironically	<i>Pej.</i>	pejorative
<i>irreg.</i>	irregular	<i>pers.</i>	person, personal
<i>jewel.</i>	jewelry	<i>Pharm.</i>	pharmacy
<i>Join.</i>	joinery	<i>Philol.</i>	philology
<i>lang.</i>	language	<i>Philos.</i>	philosophy
<i>Lat.</i>	Latin	<i>Phot.</i>	photography
<i>Lit.</i>	literature	<i>phr.</i>	phrase
<i>Log.</i>	logic	<i>Phys.</i>	physics
<i>m., masc.</i>	masculine	<i>Physiol.</i>	physiology
<i>Mach.</i>	machinery	<i>pl., plur.</i>	plural
<i>Magn.</i>	magnetism	<i>poet.</i>	poetry, poetically
<i>Man.</i>	manage	<i>Pol. econ.</i>	political economy
<i>Mason.</i>	masonry	<i>Polit.</i>	politics
<i>Math.</i>	mathematics	<i>poss.</i>	possessive
<i>Metall.</i>	metallurgy	<i>p.p.</i>	past participle
<i>Metaphys.</i>	metaphysics	<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>Meteor.</i>	meteorology	<i>pres.</i>	present tense
<i>Med.</i>	medicine	<i>pret.</i>	preterit
<i>Mil.</i>	military	<i>Print.</i>	printing
<i>Min.</i>	mineralogy, mining	<i>pron.</i>	pronoun
		<i>Pros.</i>	prosody
<i>mod.</i>	modern	<i>pr.p.</i>	present participle
<i>Mus.</i>	music	<i>Psychol.</i>	psychology

Abbreviations Used in the Dictionary

<i>Railw.</i>	railways	<i>Surv.</i>	surveying
<i>refl.</i>	reflexive	<i>t.</i>	transitive, term
<i>rel.</i>	relative	<i>Technol.</i>	technology
<i>Rhet.</i>	rhetoric	<i>Theat.</i>	theater
<i>Rom.</i>	Roman	<i>v</i>	verb
<i>Script.</i>	scripture	<i>V.</i>	voyez (see)
<i>Sculpt.</i>	sculpture	<i>Vet., Veter.</i>	veterinary
<i>sing.</i>	singular	<i>v.auxil.</i>	auxiliary verb
<i>Statist.</i>	statistics	<i>v.i.</i>	intransitive verb
<i>Subj.</i>	subjunctive mood	<i>v.refl.</i>	reflexive verb
<i>superl.</i>	superlative degree	<i>v.t.</i>	transitive verb
<i>Surg.</i>	surgery	<i>Vulg.</i>	vulgar
		<i>Zool.</i>	zoology

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FRENCH—ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS—ANGLAIS

