

# Transitioning to AS Level French



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This is a guide for pupils to practise their language skills through the medium of French for the purpose of transitioning to AS specific content with their teachers.

You have to a dictionary!

A good dictionary is essential whether you are keeping your language skills on the boil or learning new vocabulary, in a book format or on-line. These are just some of the ones that most teachers recommend, are user-friendly and will help you when you start you're a A-Level course properly. Get to know the way they work and how best to use them to help you!

**The Collins Roberts French Hardback Dictionary**

The world's leading French to English and English to French bilingual dictionary, This Tenth edition has been revised to include all the latest vocabulary from a wide range of fields, including new additions from the fields of the Internet, the environment and economics. Culture boxes explain the origins of phrases from literature, film and popular culture to aid translation and improve your understanding of French popular culture. Acclaimed "Language in Use" supplement contains hundreds of examples of usage in real-life contexts such as essay writing, email and telephone conversations to help you use French fluently and naturally. \* Includes detailed colour maps of the English and French-speaking worlds.

**On-line dictionary**

[www.linguee.com](http://www.linguee.com)

English Dictionary and Translation Search with 1000000000 example sentences from human translators. Languages: English, German, French, Spanish.



Dictionary for German, French, Spanish...





Free online dictionaries - Spanish, French, Italian, German and more. Conjugations, audio pronunciations and forums for your questions.

## Movie Recommendations for pleasure

Watching films in the French language will really help with your listening skills and keep your knowledge of vocabulary and syntax on the boil. Don't worry if you don't know what is being said, that it goes really fast or that you may only know a few words of vocabulary. (That is what subtitles are for)! What you will be doing however, is training your ear to get used to the flow and rhythm of the language and getting used to different voices and French accents! By the time you get to the AS course film selected by your teacher, you will be used to the medium and good to go!


### The African Doctor

Year released: 2016  
Rating: ALL (U)  
Duration: 1h33m  
Genre: Comedy

Synopsis:  
Happily escaping a dictatorship, a Congolese doctor transplants his family to a small French village, where culture shock sets in for everyone.


You can watch this film on


	<p><b>A Mighty Team</b>  Year released: 2016  Rating: GUIDANCE (PG)  Duration: 1h36m  Genre: Comedy  Synopsis:  When a fit of anger leads to a serious injury, a sidelined soccer star returns to his hometown and reluctantly agrees to train the local youth.</p> <p>You can watch this film on</p>
	<p><b>Nailed It! France</b>  Year released: 2019  Rating: GUIDANCE (PG)  Duration: 1 season, 6 episodes, 34m  Genre: Food &amp; Travel TV  Synopsis:  On this fun and funny competition show, home bakers talented in catastrophe struggle to re-create dessert masterpieces and win a 5,000 euro prize.</p> <p>You can watch this film on :</p>
	<p><b>A season in France</b>  Year released: 2018  Rating: 13+  Duration: 1h 40in  Genre: Film – drama / heartfelt  Synopsis:  Abbas, a high school teacher in the Central Africa Republic, has fled his war-torn country with his two children. They now live in France, where Abbas works at a food market, while applying for political asylum. A French woman, Carole, falls in love with him and offers a roof for him and his family. When Abbas' application is rejected, they face a crucial decision.</p> <p>You can watch this film on:</p>

	<p><b>Criminal: France</b>  Rating: 15  2019 Season <a href="#">Series</a>  Secrets emerge and entire cases unravel inside a police interview room in Paris, where suspects and investigators face off in an intricate dance.  Starring: Margot Bancilhon, Laurent Lucas, Stéphane Jobert  Creators: George Kay, Jim Field Smith</p>
<p>More film suggestions can be found here.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">   French Film + TV  Watch List - Suitable </p>

## Developing Listening Skills


As with watching movies, listening to the radio or podcasts in French will also help develop your listening skills and keep your knowledge of vocabulary and syntax on the boil. Again, please don't worry if you don't know what is being said, that it goes really fast or that you may only know a few words of vocabulary. You are still training your ear to get used to the flow and rhythm of the language and getting used to different voices and French accents! Do this every day and the AS course listening exercises will seem slower in comparison!! 😊

<p style="text-align: center;">   Learn languages online  with music videos and lyrics. </p>	<p>Sign up to <a href="http://www.lyricstraining.com">www.lyricstraining.com</a> and listen to French music and complete the online gap fill activities.</p>
<p><b>Radio France Internationale</b>  Includes audio news with transcripts in simple French</p>	<p><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/">http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/</a>  Although archived, this BBC French site has great suggestions for listening (see developing listening skills) and have transcripts to go with the listening – so a two for one 😊 skills bonus!</p>

	<p><b>LISTEN TO THE RADIO!</b>  The great thing about listening to the radio is that you can listen and do something else at the same time. Listen live using the Radio France or the Europe 1. Remember, this is French radio for the French so it will go quickly, just try to pick out some words for fun - even if it is just the weather!  Radio France - <a href="http://www.radiofrance.fr">www.radiofrance.fr</a>  Europe 1 - <a href="http://www.europe1.fr">www.europe1.fr</a>  Le mov - <a href="http://www.mouv.fr">www.mouv.fr</a>  Europe 2 - <a href="http://www.europe2.fr">www.europe2.fr</a></p>
	<p>Why not check out some recent French music. Search on Spotify for: Stromae, Maître GIMS, Louane, Indila, Zaz, Kenji Girac</p>
	<p><b>Four reasons to learn a new language</b>  English is fast becoming the world's universal language, and instant translation technology is improving every year. So why bother learning a foreign language? Linguist and Columbia professor John McWhorter shares four alluring benefits of learning an unfamiliar tongue.</p>
	<p><b>Breaking the language barrier   Tim Doner   TEDxTeen</b>  Watch the video in which Tim Doner shared his experience of learning many languages to illuminate the objectives of learning languages and how to reach the goals.</p>



## Developing Reading Skills

When you are reading French (article or book), you don't need to look up every word as it would take a long time to get through! Skimming and scanning the text to get the gist works just as well and will be far more pleasurable! Use the context, cognates, pictures and your literacy skills to work out what the article is about. Give yourself a target number of new new words to add to your vocabulary list. Ideally you could also find a synonym or an antonym for the new words you learn. This way you would be doubling or even tripling your range of vocabulary! 😊

<p><b>Radio France Internationale</b> Includes audio news with transcripts in simple French</p>	<p><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/">http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/</a></p> <p>Although archived, this BBC French site has great suggestions for listening (see developing listening skills) and have transcripts to go with the listening – so a two for one 😊 skills bonus!</p>
 	<p>Mary Glasgow publications publish 4 magazines for French learners ranging from beginners to GCSE (Ca Va) and AS/A Level students (Chez Nous). Check with your language teachers if you have a code to access to the magazine online.</p>
	<p>This website is a more light-hearted newspaper which covers global stories as well as gossip. <a href="http://www.20minutes.fr/">http://www.20minutes.fr/</a> Also try <a href="http://www.20minutos.fr/tv/">http://www.20minutos.fr/tv/</a>. This is the TV Channel for this newspaper.</p>
 <p><small>Sans la liberté de blâmer, il n'est point d'Éloge flatteur. - Beaumarchais</small></p>	<p>Why not have a go at reading a foreign language newspaper – Le Figaro is available in larger paper shops. Le Figaro has its own website <a href="http://www.lefigaro.fr/">http://www.lefigaro.fr/</a> so that you can read the paper online. You do not have to read the paper cover to cover, just scan the headlines and pick out ONE article that grabs your attention.</p>

## Developing your Grammar

Part of your skill set is of course developing your knowledge of the French language. There are some fun on-line grammar sites that can help you keep your grammar going during your transition time.

	<p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4cv7nb">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4cv7nb</a></p> <p>BBC bitesize again have grammar sections under each examination board. These have clear explanations and some exercises to remind you of key grammatical points. Further practice can then be had on the websites below.</p>
	<p><a href="http://www.languagesonline.org.uk">www.languagesonline.org.uk</a></p> <p>This a very helpful online grammar practice website. You are able to choose the tense you want to revise, read the explanations and complete the exercises. You can do these as often as you like, and it gives you a percentage.</p>
	<p>This website is free after 4pm. It has a really helpful A level section where you are able to watch news video clips, find theme related vocabulary and do listening and reading comprehensions as well as grammar exercises.</p> <p><a href="http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html">http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html</a></p>

## Developing knowledge through your research skills



Your research skills will come into the fore as this is an ideal opportunity to get to know about France and French speaking countries, for example, the regional culture and heritage in France, French-speaking countries and communities. Choose a region of France and compile a fact-file or start a presentation for your fellow students. You can do this research both in English or French. As this is part of the course of study, the more customs and traditions that you are able to refer to and the richer your knowledge, the better! Your teachers will probably refer you to information and websites, as it is easy to get overwhelmed, however, below are some ideas to get you started.

	<p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/znp3wcy/revision/1">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/znp3wcy/revision/1</a>          BBC Bitesize, although for GCSE, has a wealth of information. This link will take you through to GCSE AQA Customs and Festivals. Although this may not be your examination board, you can still benefit from the information. Scroll down to the Links box on the right hand side, and this will take you again to more information e.g. this profile on France <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17298730">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17298730</a></p>
<h2 style="color: #4F81BD;">Regions of France</h2>	<p><a href="https://www.regions-of-france.com/regions">https://www.regions-of-france.com/regions</a>          This might be a good place to start. Links to traditions, cultures and festivals can be picked up from here, put into your preferred search engine and researched.          Some websites in English with some great links to various topics: <a href="http://french.about.com">http://french.about.com</a> and <a href="https://about-france.com/french-life.htm">https://about-france.com/french-life.htm</a></p>
	<p>For some general information about places in France, check out this travel article from the Telegraph to start you off in the right direction.</p> <p><a href="https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/france/articles/the-best-places-and-cities-to-visit-in-france-and-where-to-stay/">https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/france/articles/the-best-places-and-cities-to-visit-in-france-and-where-to-stay/</a></p>
	<p>A great introduction to regional and cultural festivals in France to lead on to more specific research.</p> <p><a href="https://ofrench.com/culture/the-12-most-beautiful-traditional-regional-festivals-in-france/">https://ofrench.com/culture/the-12-most-beautiful-traditional-regional-festivals-in-france/</a></p>

# Finally, if you want to practise some past papers, check out:



It is important to keep the knowledge you have gained at GCSE fresh in your mind ready to start your A levels in September.

Why not spend some time looking over some past papers and using the mark schemes to assess how well you've done.