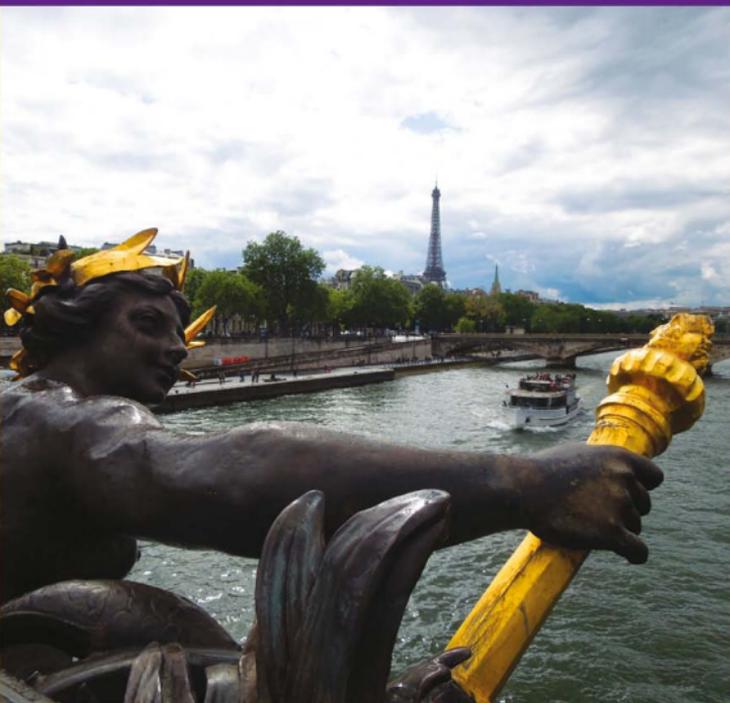


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- Jobs and Housing
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- Language schools and teachers
- Thoroughly-researched practical information
- Book, exhibition and music suggestions
- The Speak Easy & Becoming French books

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ARE YOU BECOMING FRENCH?

The French say that foreigners can never truly “become” French - no matter what legal status is inscribed upon the identity papers they carry around in their France-based wallets. Nor might newly-minted citizens or official residents wish to swap their own cultural markers, manners and mentalities for those of the local waiter who serves them their morning café au lait et croissant (to say nothing of totally being able to). But if you’re here long enough, your adaptation mirrors those Escher drawings where columns of black geese or fish on the left fly or swim straight across the page, migrating and mutating by imperceptible degrees, melting into and finally becoming their white counterparts on the right. To a greater or lesser degree, whether you expected to or not, one day you realize that you’re crossing to the other side. How do you know that you’ve arrived? When you (a very incomplete list):

1. sound as brilliantly amusing-funny-sarcastic-snide-snarky-smartaleky in French as you do in your native language
2. bristle at questions about your private life and stop asking others about theirs
3. call 5:00 “late afternoon” instead of “early evening”

4. consider 7:30 a tad early for dinner

5. stop smiling at folks you pass on the street and wonder why those batty tourists are smiling at you

6. succumb to the verity that the way to get what you need from the policeman, clerk, passerby, receptionist, helpdesk is to excuse yourself for disturbing them - no matter how ferociously you’ve heretofore resisted this humiliation

7. find nothing wrong with saying, in English, “I’m going to close the light,” “I have to get down from the bus at the next stop,” “I am here since three years”

continued on next page



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Illustrations by Judith Halasz

“If you’ve ever lived for a time among the French hoping to fit in, more than a few of these are likely to make you laugh out loud.”
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To order the book and/or “Becoming French” scarves and magnets, or for where to pick up a book in Paris, visit www.Becoming-French.com
Also available at FUSAC.

Are You Becoming French? continued from previous page

8. know that the 9:00 meeting will not start before at least 9:15 to 9:20 and that no one will remotely consider you late if you stroll in at 9:10
9. no longer order coffee with the main course (as opposed to with - or after - dessert)
10. no longer think - let alone complain - about how small the closets are
11. have inordinate trouble typing flowingly on a qwerty keyboard
12. start a series by counting with your thumb (as opposed to index finger)
13. lose the urge to invite new neighbors in for coffee
14. bag up all your purchases before reaching for your wallet
15. ask everyone you know about their recent and/or upcoming vacation



16. paraphrase Henry Ford when it comes to cocktail dresses ("any color as long as it's black")

17. routinely say bonjour to the total-stranger bus driver

18. kiss on both cheeks, not only one

19. put your hand to your ear, thumb and pinky up, middle three fingers folded, in a pantomime meaning "Call me!"

20. have a favorite player in a favorite French soccer team

Article by Shari Leslie Segall, a writer who lives in Paris

Did you smile while reading this article?

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Ma patrie, c'est la langue française.

— Albert Camus

God was easier to understand than French.

— Singer Pearl Bailey

(explaining why she dropped a French class to take up theology)

French, for me, is not just an accomplishment. It's a need.

— Alice Kaplan

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-- James Thurber

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-- Thomas Jefferson

ONE language sets you in a corridor for life. TWO languages open every door along the way.

— Frank Smith



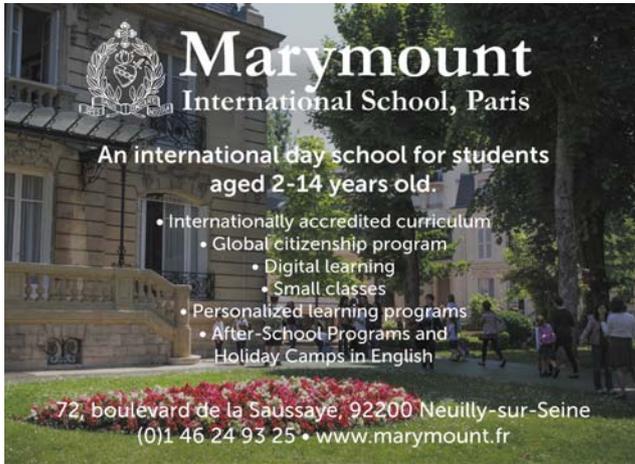
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COCORICO! says the rooster

There is no more prevalent symbol of France than the rooster. «Cocorico» is the French onomatopoeia for the rooster crowing sound cock-a-doodle-doo and also used to express national pride (often with a touch of irony).

The cock or rooster has played a role in the symbolism and folklore of many nations for thousands of years. For many people, the rooster symbolizes bravery, boldness and virility as he defends the flock.

The connection with the rooster as symbol of France in particular may quite simply stem from the similarity of two Latin words: gallus meaning cock and gallicus referring to an inhabitant of Gaul, now known as France. This play on words was known in Roman times, when many living in Gaul used roosters to symbolize their loyalty to Gaul.

continued on next page




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Cocorico! says the rooster continued from page 8



In the Middle Ages the cock was widely depicted in French churches and is recorded in 14th century German references to France. Chaucer's Chantecleer in the Canterbury Tales may have referred to the French.

During the Renaissance the association between the rooster as symbol of France and the French was solidified by the kings of France as they appreciated the strong Christian symbol that the rooster represents: prior to being arrested, Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him three times before the rooster crowed on the following morning. At the rooster's crowing, Peter remembered Jesus's words. The rooster crowing at the dawning of each new morning made it a symbol of the daily victory of light over darkness and the triumph of good over evil. It is also an emblem of the Christian's attitude of watchfulness and readiness for the return of Christ. Thus, during the Renaissance, the rooster became a symbol of France as a Catholic state and became a popular image on weathervanes, also known as weathercocks. From the 16th century onwards under both the Valois and Bourbon kings representations of a cockerel often accompanied the King of France on coins as a symbol of the king's piety.

During the French Revolution, the rooster often appeared in art, symbolizing hope and faith. The Gallic Rooster continued to appear on French coins through the 1800s.

The French resistance also used this symbol during the Second World War, to remind themselves of the resilience and bravery of the French people, urging the French to resist occupation.

Today the rooster symbolizes (unofficially, but frequently) France and continued on page 14



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Did you know?

French was the official language of England for over 300 years. It's the mother tongue of 75 million people worldwide and one of the official languages of the United Nations.

At the time of the French Revolution, 75% of French citizens didn't speak French as a mother tongue.

Non-French celebrities who speak French include: Jodie Foster, Johnny Depp, Diane Kruger, Elton John, Ewan McGregor, Halle Berry, Serena Williams, Kristin Scott Thomas, Madonna, John Malkovich, Hugh Laurie, Jane Fonda, Mick Jagger, and John Travolta.

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Cocorico! says the rooster continued from page 10

the French, and he often appears in international sporting events, acting as the mascot for French teams or on uniforms, has marched in the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, is on postage stamps and children's carousels and in countless idiomatic expressions.

Vivre comme un coq en pâte = To be in clover

Le coq du village = The cock of the walk

Passer du coq-à-l'âne = To skip from one subject to another

Les bémols d'un cocorico = Don't celebrate too soon, don't be too optimistic!

Sans crier cocorico = Without being too chauvinistic

Se lever au chant de coq = To rise with the lark



The French national football team's jersey for the world cup 2015, complete with rooster

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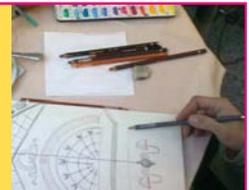


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EN AVANT LA MUSIQUE!

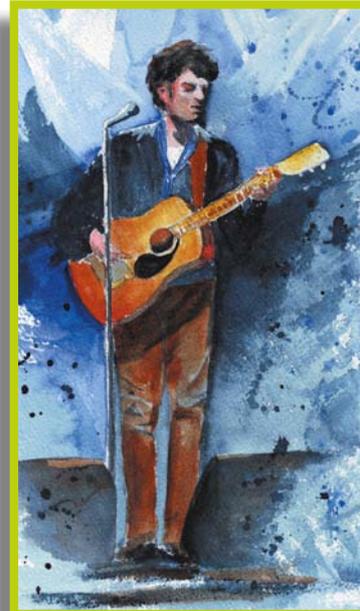
Match the French word or expression with the English equivalent.

1. Débuter quelque chose en fanfare
2. La cérémonie est bien orchestrée
3. Je connais la musique
4. Être réglé comme du papier à musique
5. Faire chanter quelqu'un
6. Sans tambour ni trompette
7. Accorder ses violons
8. Vivre en harmonie
9. Un nez en trompette
10. La musique adoucit les mœurs
11. Aller plus vite que la musique
12. Change de disque !
13. Si ça me chante
14. Se rincer la cornemuse
15. Faire ses gammes
16. En avant la musique !
17. C'est pas un enfant de chœur
18. Pisser dans un violon
19. C'est du pipeau !
20. Mettre un bémol
21. Flûte !
22. C'est toujours le même refrain
23. Un bœuf
24. Tambour battant
25. La mettre en sourdine
26. Se mettre au diapason

This puzzle is one of 100+ in the Speak Easy Puzzle books. Available at the FUSAC office or online: store.fusac.fr



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- a. Talk about something else!
- b. A jam session
- c. To put a damper on something
- d. The ceremony is well-organized
- e. Whistling in the wind
- f. To get in tune with
- g. Music soothes the savage beast
- h. To jump the gun
- i. He's no angel
- j. The same old tune
- k. To start with a bang
- l. To drink
- m. Drat!
- n. To reach an agreement
- o. Ok, let's go!
- p. I know the score
- q. With little fanfare
- r. To go through the basics
- s. To go like clockwork
- t. To tone down
- u. That's a lie!
- v. If I feel like it
- w. To blackmail
- x. To live in harmony
- y. Vigorously
- z. Turned-up nose

Answers:

- 1k - 2d - 3p - 4s - 5w - 6q
 - 7n - 8x - 9z - 10g - 11h
 - 12a - 13v - 14l - 15r -
 16o - 17i - 18e - 19u - 20c
 - 21m - 22j - 23b - 24y
 - 25t - 26f

KIDS IN PARIS

INSIDE MUSEUMS: check at the entry to most museums for a children's brochure, trail, game or treasure hunt to make the experience more interesting for them. Some, such as the Maritime Museum (Musée de la Marine), offer special workshops and visits where children can join groups and parents can visit separately. Or choose a museum that was designed with children in mind. Here are a few that are particularly kid friendly:

- **Cité des Enfants** at the Cité des Sciences et de l'industrie (Parc de la Villette, Paris 19th): This children's museum has sections for children 2-7 and 5-12. The older kids can explore the exhibits on the body, communication, TV studio, water, gardens and factories on their own. For example they can run and measure their speed, write « house » in Chinese, make power to run a television... The section for 2-7 year olds has them interacting with the exhibits to find their way, build and experiment.
- **Palais de la Découverte** (avenue Franklin Roosevelt, Paris 8th): a science museum directed mostly at those under 12 proposing chemistry and physics experiments, biology, animal communication and astronomy
- **Musée des arts ludiques** (34, quai d'Austerlitz, Paris 13th): With a focus on comics, manga and films you can discover original drawings, animation studios and film decors.
- **Musée de l'Armée** (at Les Invalides, Paris 7th): A detective story guides young visitors through this military museum which covers the period from the middle ages to the present. There are also guided visits with story tellers.
- **Choco-Story** (28 bd Bonne Nouvelle, Paris 10th): gourmet chocolate museum, history, ingredients, how to make chocolate and demonstrations – with tastings of course.

CIRQUE D'HIVER. A real circus in a historic round building from 1852. This is where the trapeze was invented. The Bouglione family has run their show in this circus building since 1910. They present a new show every winter with clowns, aerial acts, animals, acrobats and Monsieur Loyal the traditional circus ringmaster.

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CINEMA FOR KIDS. Mon Premier Festival is an annual film festival for kids ages 2 to 12 that takes place in cinemas all over Paris. Watch the site monpremierfestival.org for the dates (usually October). They have plenty of other related events too. Tout-petits Cinéma is another festival in February for tots 18 months to 4 years at the Forum des Images.

OUTSIDE LE JARDIN DES PLANTES is a favorite spot for strolling and running around. There's a ménagerie (zoo) with red pandas and kangaroos (a visit in the spring is extra fun with babies in the kangaroo pouches) and an old school natural history museum (La galerie de l'anatomie comparée du Muséum) that is stuffed with skeletons from all the animals known to man and an upper floor of huge, dusty dinosaur bones. No multimedia just bones—tons and tons of them—all crowded into a majestic hall with natural light. You feel like you've stepped back into the 19th century or Noah's ark. The kids are fascinated.

THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN in the Parc Floral (Bois de Vincennes). The 'garden' is hidden away in a greenhouse with huge flowers and

continued on the next page

Kids in Paris continued from page 19

plants which create the living conditions of forty different species of butterfly. You can also observe the egg-laying, hatching and metamorphosis of these little insects. Open from May to October.

JARDIN D'ACCLIMATATION – a classic. Ask any person you know who grew up in the Paris area about the Jardin d'Acclimatation and they will sigh as the childhood memories flood back. It is an amusement park with rides and a small zoo, but also a historic quality and old-style charm. Riding on the *Petit Train* is a highlight as is the little boat ride on the *Rivière Enchantée*. Christmas time might be cold but it is worth a visit to see the exceptional light display and hear a soundtrack of Christmas music from all over the world.

TUILERIES GARDENS (and Luxembourg) has wooden sail boats to rent and float in the fountain. No joy sticks or batteries, just a wooden stick to direct the boat and the wind in the sails to send the boat to the other side.

LUXEMBOURG GARDEN'S southwest corner is devoted to kids with slides and swings. It costs 1,50 Euro to enter the play area but to be a

continued on the next page



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Kids in Paris continued from page 20

parent sitting comfortably in the shade sipping a coffee while the kids run themselves ragged in a large but confined space is well worth the entry fee. There's also a historic puppet theater (guignol) with rowdy puppets which makes kids laugh even if they don't understand French.

FERME DE GALLY is a self-pick farm just outside Paris – 20 minutes west. This historic place on the edge of Versailles has been a farm since 1746. Today you can pick fruits, vegetables and flowers from April to November as well as enjoy many other activities. They have pumpkin carving in October, corn mazes, farm animals, and a wide variety of workshops such as bread making, paper recycling, bees, wool. There is nothing like an apple just off the tree or eating a strawberry found under a leaf to bring light to a child's eyes and have them wanting to spend more time outside the city. www.ferme.gally.com



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My favorite place to go when I was a kid?

Caroline grew up in Paris 19th, she tells us about her favorite outing.

The stamp market and Le Théâtre Guignol near Les Champs Elysées was my favorite place to go to as a kid ! On most Sundays, my family would go to the stamp market, located in the 8th district, at the corner between Avenue Marigny and Avenue Gabriel, close to the roundabout of the Champs-Elysées. My dad was collecting stamps at the time so we would have a look around. It was (and still is) the main place to go for philatelists. After Papa was done looking for stamps I would always get to go to Le Théâtre Guignol that is right next to it. Guignol is an iconic character in a French puppet show.

GET TO KNOW PARIS - Tours

Here is a selection of unusual and innovative tours. Each has a new twist. They can be fun for exploring Paris if you are new to the city, but also something to do with a visitor that would allow you to learn and see something new.

PARIS GREETERS are not really a tour, they are volunteers who warmly receive visitors from around the world and show them around their town. They propose walks free of charge in Paris. The individual greeters all organize their own schedules and visits, so each one is completely personal and shows aspects of Paris that are important or beautiful to them. It is the occasion to see Paris from the point of view of the locals, to discover neighbourhoods that you might not have imagined or dared to visit. You can't choose your destination - it is up to the greeter to show you what they love in a personal way. It is as much a tour as a way to meet a local person. These encounters enable the Paris Greeters association to achieve its aim: to change the traditional view that tourists have of Parisians and their city and their motto is "come as a visitor, leave as a friend". Greeters associations are also active in Boulogne-Billancourt and many other Paris area cities, not to mention around the world. They might change your idea of the "banlieue" or take you on a bike ride through the forest. Contact the Greeters on www.greeters.paris/



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audio, you are guided in unusual and captivating paths following a strong thematic thread. English themes include Montparnasse, the artist's melting pot, The history of the Louvre Palace and our favorite The American Revolution in Paris. This last tour is also available with a real human guide by the authors of the app. You can discover Paris in the founding father's footsteps. 2.5 hours covers Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and their time in Paris in the 18th century. Download the app or book the tour. www.bluelionguides.com/visites/9#zone_guides or call +33 (0)9.51.88.06.11



SECRETS OF PARIS tours aim to be cross-cultural experiences, giving you a better understanding of the real Paris, not just the postcard-perfect city seen on glossy tourism office brochures, nor the politically-skewed impression of France often portrayed in the press. Secrets of Paris tour experiences are educational, entertaining, eye-opening, and – most importantly – fun! They also do some speciality tours such as Graffiti Tour - A choice of the colorful, multi-cultural Belleville district, contemporary Chinatown with the tallest murals in Europe, or the charming, residential Butte aux Cailles district. www.secretsofparis.com/specialty-paris-tours

THAT LOU. Now there's a funny name for a tour. You might wonder who Lou is, in fact it is Le Louvre Museum. As treasure hunts go, THATLou is quite simple: teams consisting of 2 to 4 people compete, following a list of clues that lead them to works of art – or "treasures" – in the museum. Team members photograph themselves in front of as many works of art on the list as possible, earning varied points per treasure found. Sometimes bonus questions are embedded in the accompanying texts. Each hunt is tailored around a theme, keeping players focused and motivated. It's a unique and fun way to discover the Louvre! Great for kids too. <http://thatlou.com/>



MEETING PEOPLE IN PARIS

Now that I am here in Paris how do I meet people? is a question that is frequently asked. There are many possibilities and it is best to find people who share your particular interest. Decide what you want to do: from history to sports, the arts to volunteering and start there. Here is a list of ideas so you can start meeting lovely people in Paris! Please do not hesitate to share your discoveries with us as comments to this article <http://www.fusac.fr/how-to-meet-people-in-paris/> online! Also online you'll find links to contact these establishments.



DRAW Draw with Claude offers bilingual drawing classes for all levels in museums, parks and her studio. For a purely French experience find a "atelier" in your neighborhood. Join Urban Sketchers for outings in Paris.

COOK Learn about wine at Le Cordon Bleu. Tastings taking place once a week from 7 to 9pm! Make meals or macarons with the Alain Ducasse cooking school or join the Cercle Officiel des Filles à Fromages or a Club d'oenologie.

POETRY Listen to poetry readings at the Paris Poetry Circle. English reading group meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, around biscuits and tea to read and discuss poems. Free.

ATTEND The Mona Bismarck American Center (see ad on facing page) offers many ways to appreciate the arts including hands on workshops and small group discussions.

JOIN Networks and clubs such as Bienvenue à Paris (see ad on facing page), American Wives of Europeans, American Women's Group, British and Commonwealth Women's Association, Association of Americans Resident Abroad, The Franco-American Chamber of Commerce, Republicans or Democrats Abroad, University alumni groups or the Cercle des Amis de LaFayette just to name a few. These groups have different themes and interests and offer multiple occasions for getting together and meeting new members.

continued on next page

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Photo: Laurent Philippe

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We welcome members from all over the world to share intercultural experiences with Parisians in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION

Visit us at:

www.bienvenue-a-paris.com

Contact us at:

contact@bienvenue-a-paris.com

Meeting people in Paris continued from previous page

READ The American Library in Paris organizes discussions, groups, workshops and more for the public and members, adults and children. Many English language bookshops have book signings where you can meet the author and discuss books with other readers. Or join a book group at the Library, WICE, Meetup or Goodreads.com.



EXPLORE Take a walk with the Paris Greeters - see the paragraph under "Get to know Paris - tours".

WALK Take your dog or a friend's dog and go to the park. Other dog owners love to talk about their dogs and yours so it is easy to begin a conversation with Fido/Médor on a leash.

CONVERSE Conversation groups such as Franglish (see ad on facing page) where you have a strict 7 minutes of conversation in French then switch to English, then switch tables and meet a new partner. Let Them Talk has workshops and conversation groups for English or French. Saturday afternoons at Helena's place is English conversation practice, tea and cakes. Parler Paris Après

Photographe amateur recherche

Photographe amateur recherche modèle féminin, intelligente et créative. Débutante ou Etudiante, Française ou Etrangère. Garçonne bien dans sa peau ou Asiatique souhaitée aussi. Conditions idéales.

Téléphonez 01.44.49.99.48

Midi organizes a speaker and discussion in English every Tuesday afternoon or weekly French-English conversation groups. The Polyglot club offers a way to improve your language skills and meet new people with events such picnics on Sunday.

VOLUNTEER Volunteering can bring you right into the fabric of French society. A few suggestions include serving meals and other tasks at Restos du Coeur. Oxfam needs people in their bookshops for admin tasks and events. If you love animals contact the Société Protectrice des Animaux. Learn more about volunteering in Paris at «Café Bénévole» events which take place in the fall of each year. Visit the *Maison des Associations* in your *arrondissement* or watch for the "Journée des associations" of your town, generally organized on the first or second Saturday of September. Or you can use your skills in an English-speaking environment and become a listener at the English-speaking SOS Help crisis line (see the Health section) or as a Paris Greeter.

HAVE FAITH English churches and synagogues in Paris have lots of community groups and choirs for people of all ages. You'll be surprised

continued on next page

The language exchange event

- 1 **7 MINUTES IN FRENCH**
- 2 **7 MINUTES IN ENGLISH**
- 3 **SWITCH TABLE AND MEET A NEW PARTNER**

ONE-TO-ONE CONVERSATIONS

Every week

from 7 to 9 pm

www.franglish.eu

Meeting people in Paris continued from previous page

how international the people are who come together to worship in English. See pages 42-43.

KNIT L'Oisive Thé et Tricot. They have a weekly Wednesday knitting group in English as do many other French knitting shops.

SING Join a choir (in English or French) at church or in another setting such as John Meldrum's Highlites choir.

ACT American Childrens Theatre (ACTParis) is a theater company for children and teens with many different programs all year long. See their ad in the Learning section. Bilingual Acting Workshop is a film and theatre acting class specializing in American acting techniques for all ages.



MEETUP The concept of Meetup.com is neighbors getting together to learn something, do something, share something... All you have to do is create your account and then join the groups you like! For music lovers, check out «Paris live music addicts club». If you want to go to a gig but have no one to go with then it's the right group for you!

SEARCH Facebook has lots of expat groups which organize social events. Try «American expats in Paris», «Franco American events in Paris», «British expats in Paris group», «Aussie Expats in Paris» or «Internationals».

TAKE DICTATION Participate in a *Dictée des Cités* event. A mass outdoor dictation for young and old in French. No pressure to get a good grade like in school, but prizes to win if you do. Practice your French writing and learn a snippet of literature along with fellow dictees. Learn more on Facebook: [ladicteedesites](https://www.facebook.com/ladicteedesites)

STUDENTS Check what the association «Parismus» organizes or Erasmus parties going on in Paris. They are for foreign students who study in Paris and want to have fun!

MUSEUMS Museums often have associations. For example

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* (min. 10€ purchase per person)

membership to the Société des amis de Versailles not only gets you free entry to Versailles, but also invitations to conferences, trips and insider's looks with fellow Versailles buffs. The Louvre has a similar organization.

SPORTS Check at your town hall (Mairie) for "les associations sportives". There is way more to do in sports that just football. You'll be impressed at the variety of different associations there are. For example paddle boarding on the Seine, fencing, climbing and horseback riding are all available in Paris.

BLABLACAR Use your travel time to meet new people by sharing a ride. You can drive or be a passenger, sign up online.

For contact details and more ideas visit FUSAC online www.fusac.fr/how-to-meet-people-in-paris



THINGS FUSAC LIKES

Here are a few personal favorites from the FUSAC staff.

FAVORITE PLACE TO RIDE A BIKE IN PARIS

Urban biking in Paris is a mixed bag of uneven sidewalks, tall curbs, directionally-challenged tourists, traffic, pollution.... and some excellent bike paths. It certainly isn't Paris-Roubaix: A Journey Through Hell. *Au contraire mon frère*. You'll just want to be alert and on the defensive, equipped with a dring-dring bell or better yet a multi-note horn like they use in the Tour de France.

My preferred ride in Paris is heavy on monuments and runs along the right bank from Place de la Concorde to the river-side restaurant Gildas Delamer in the 16th (1, boulevard Exelmans). Directions: just hug the Seine the entire way using the bike paths when available. Once past la Maison de la Radio wiggle over to the quai Louis Blériot and use the empty, wide sidewalk running above the Seine and the quai Georges Pompidou. Don't miss the commemorative plate on the Mirabeau Bridge; Guillaume Apollinaire is considered one of the most important literary figures of the early twentieth century. "*Sous le pont Mirabeau coule la Seine*"

FAVORITE PLACES TO WATCH THE 14TH OF JULY FIREWORKS away from the crowds and with a panoramic view

- Paris west: Pont du Garigliano
- Paris east: The intersection of la rue Piat and de la rue des Envierges or the Parc de Belleville
- Suresnes: Mont Valérien, Terrasse du Fécheray
- Meudon : Terrasse de l'observatoire
- Saint-Cloud: Parc de Saint-Cloud, rond-point de la Balustrade also known as La Lanterne

FAVORITE VIEW OVER PARIS

Parc de Saint Cloud was the Former estate of the kings of France, Marie-Antoinette and Louis XVI spent quite a bit of time here during the Revolution. There was once a château, but now there remains only vestiges of the gardens and fountains designed by Le Nôtre. This a lovely and huge park to run, walk or ride a bike. Climbing up the hill to the area called "*La Lanterne*" is worth the effort to see the panoramic view over Paris. You can also drive up there and bring a

continued on next page

PARIS 16°
4 RUE NICOLE
01 46 47 09 26

BOULOGNE
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SANDWICHES
BAGELS
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LES MEILLEURS SANDWICHES CHAUDS AU MONDE

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montgolfière

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Pasta
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Salads
Soups
Desserts!

EARL OF SANDWICH

Things FUSAC likes continued from previous page

picnic. (*La Lanterne* was a sort of lighthouse tower that was illuminated to let the people know when Napoleon I was present at the chateau. It was destroyed by the Prussians in 1870). The park extends about 10 kilometers farther to the west becoming more of a forest than a park, so there is lots of room to roam.

FAVORITE MUSEUMS

Caroline: My favorite museum is a classic: **Le musée de l'Orangerie**. I could sit for hours looking at Les Nymphéas de Monet. If you manage to go there when it's quiet, it's incredibly peaceful. There is a lot to take in – it's almost overwhelming as you want to capture everything and see all the details ! I always want to go back. A must-see for impressionists lovers.

Lisa: My favorite museum? **Versailles!** But not the interior although you certainly can't scoff at seeing the queen's bedroom or the hall of mirrors, in fact you must see these rooms at least once (along with the fabulous history lesson of the Gallery of Battles), but what I find really enchanting is the gardens when the fountains are running. The



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fountains are not on every day. The 400 year old plumbing system is too fragile for that so it is a treat to see the fountains in action. It is the real Versailles as Louis XIV planned it and loved to show it off. Each little garden "room" is a new tableau. There is one set that dances to the baroque music of Lully that is piped in, another that spews from the mouth of a giant, another that cascades down three basins - just to name a few. The day ends with the grand finale in the Neptune Basin, then the fontainiers come with their giant lyre-shaped keys and literally turn off the water - watch for them! The official name for this event which happens each weekend and Tuesdays during the nice weather months is Les Grandes Eaux. You can buy one combined ticket for the inside and outside visits as the gardens are not free during Les Grandes Eaux. Make sure to give yourself plenty time to stroll in the garden and enjoy as many fountains as possible. If you have a chance to see the nighttime Grandes Eaux go for it! Louis XIV oriented the castle towards the sun(set) and he was right to do so!

John: If you have a penchant for the Seine like me go the **Hôtel de Cluny** for the *Pilier de Nautes* (Pillar of the Boatmen). Amid original vaults of the Roman bath frigidarium, this four-sided altar dedicated

continued on next page

Things FUSAC likes continued from previous page

to Jupiter and a collection of other Roman and Gallic deities was erected by a corporation of Parisi river merchants and sailors (nautae Parisiaci) dating to the 1st century AD. The motto of the city of Paris "Fluctuat nec mergitur" ("Tossed but not sunk") is a reference to these sailors and their important activity in Gallo – Roman times. For a complete history of river trade head to Conflans Sainte Honorine north of Paris where the Seine and Oise meet to visit the national "Musée de la Batellerie" (Museum of River Navigation).

FAVORITE SHOP TO BUY A GIFT

John: In a world tired of mass production an artisan item today is a true gift. For an authentic one-of-a-kind made in France present I suggest a quality knife from **Ceccaldi**, be it folding, table, kitchen, or vendetta. You guessed it: Ceccaldi has Corsican origins and the Corsican tradition of cutlery is highly appreciated today. 15 rue Racine 75006 Paris. <http://www.couteaux-ceccaldi.com/>

Lisa: For gifts I often go to **Tumbleweed**. A teeny tiny shop in the Marais that offers a selection of wooden toys and puzzles, fine crafts and quirky design! Lynn selects them from all over Europe and Japan. She also offers the cutest leather slippers for kids and recently found some Paris map scarves. I can always find something that fits my needs for a birthday, wedding or Christmas. 19 rue de Turenne 75004 Paris <https://www.facebook.com/tumbleweedmarais/>

Caroline: When looking for something for my mum I go to the jewelry shop called **Les Néréides**. It's a family business that started with a shop in Nice, on the French Riviera in the 1980s. The lovely universe of Les Néréides has always found its inspiration in travelling. The jewelry is all handmade and hand painted in their workshops. My mum really loves one of the latest collection inspired by 'La Provence'. 5, rue du Bourg l'Abbé 75003 Paris. For my brother I go to the bookshop **TASCHEN** in Saint-Germain-des-Prés. It was founded as a small comic shop in Germany in 1980 and is today renowned as the world's leading publisher of illustrated books across art, architecture, design, fashion, film, travel, pop culture, etc. My brother loves their comic books and limited editions. It's a great shop if you want to buy a comic book with a great design. 2 rue de Buci 75006 Paris

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Photo: Yves Aouat - Facebook: ParisFlaneriesPhotos

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PRE-PLAINT... Was your apartment or vehicle broken into? Your bag or car stolen? Your home tagged with graffiti? We certainly hope not, but sometimes it is necessary to make a police declaration for theft or damage. The good news is that you can now do a pre-declaration online (www.pre-plainte-en-ligne.gouv.fr) and avoid a long trip to the *commissariat*. Not only will you save time, you can also fill out the form calmly at home without pressure to speak French. Once the pre-declaration is transmitted you will be contacted within 24 hours by a police agent who will process the complaint then ask you to stop by to sign (within a month) and finalize the complaint. Reporting the incident, even if you won't likely get your property back, creates statistics which lead to new measures of protection by revealing problem trends.

TEST YOURSELF... if your bag is stolen do you know exactly what is in it so that you can itemize the *declaration de vol*? From vehicle papers, to personal papers, credit cards, Navigo, cinema card, the nice pen Grandma gave you, telephone and more - we carry lots of important items with us that may be covered by insurance if stolen. Some policies might allow you to claim the cost of getting your papers replaced, but the items must be listed on the *plainte*.

EMERGENCY... 112 is the Europe-wide emergency number for all services. You can call this number from any telephone, even from a locked mobile or one with no sim card. A specially trained operator will answer and transfer the call to the most appropriate emergency service. Operators in many countries can answer not only in their national language, but also in English or French. The operator can also identify where the caller is physically located and will pass it to the emergency personnel. So remember just one number: 112! (Hearing impaired: 114).



ASSURANCE MALADE, or "Ameli" which is the French administrative body that manages healthcare has English-speaking service numbers: 36 46 or 08.11.36.36.46

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Paris 75007	AMERICAN CHURCH www.acparis.org
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Paris 75008	SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCH www.saintmichaelsparis.org
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Chantilly 60500	SAINT PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH stpeterstallahassee.org
Rueil-Malmaison 92500	THE BRIDGE www.thebridgeparis.com
Rueil-Malmaison 92500	EMMANUEL INTL CHURCH www.eicparis.org
Saint Germain en Laye 78100	KEHILAT GESHER www.kehilatgesher.org
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Maisons-Laffitte 78600	HOLY TRINITY CHURCH www.htcml.com

SAINT FIACRE

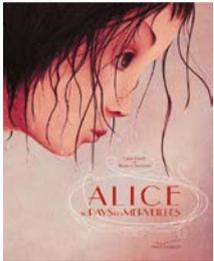
The patron saint of gardeners and taxi drivers

The legend goes that in 1640 when the first taxi company was created the driver parked his coach under a sign illustrated with an effigy of Saint Fiacre. A four horse-drawn coach became known as a *fiacre* in French.

But the saint of Irish origins, who died in 670 and was known as a healer with medicinal plants, is most often depicted with a shovel because when at Meaux in France he was to receive as much land as he could dig in one day. A miracle happened and he cleared a parcel large enough to establish a monastery.



We have selected a few of our favorites from the Book Corner. See the full Book corner online www.fusac.fr/livres. We add new books each week on Thursdays.



ALICE AU PAYS DES MERVEILLES

Lewis Carroll & Rébecca Dautremer, Gautier-Languereau

When Alice follows the White Rabbit down a rabbit hole, she finds herself in an enchanted world, filled with creatures like the Mad Hatter, the disappearing Cheshire Cat, and the Queen of Hearts. Alice quickly finds out that nothing is as it seems in the wild world of Wonderland...

"I am a big fan of Alice in Wonderland and even though I generally prefer sticking to the original illustrations, this version rendition is absolutely gorgeous! Alice is now a little girl with dark hair, closer to the real Alice Liddell who inspired Lewis Carroll. It is a very modern rendition of the classic. The drawings are full of interesting details and give a new outlook on the story." -- Caroline

REVIVAL - Stephen King, Albin Michel

In a small New England town, Charles Jacobs, the new minister, will transform the local church. When tragedy strikes the Jacobs family, this charismatic preacher curses God, mocks all religious belief, and is banished from the shocked town. Jamie has demons of his own. He plays in bands, living the nomadic lifestyle of bar-band rock and roll while fleeing his family's horrific loss. In his mid-thirties—addicted to heroin, desperate—Jamie meets Charles Jacobs again, with profound consequences for both. Their bond becomes a pact beyond even the Devil's devising, and Jamie discovers that revival has many meanings...

"A dark and electrifying novel about addiction, fanaticism, and what might exist on the other side of life. This rich and disturbing novel spans five decades on its way to the most terrifying conclusion! It's a great novel from King, in the great American tradition of Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Edgar Allan Poe." -- Caroline

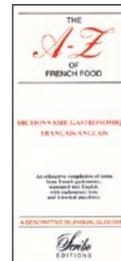
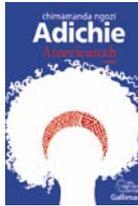
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"Small is beautiful like the FUSAC guide..." -- John

AMERICANAH - Chimanda Ngozi Adichie, Gallimard
Ifemelu quitte le Nigeria pour aller faire ses études à Philadelphie. Mais comment rester soi lorsqu'on change de continent, lorsque soudainement la couleur de votre peau prend un sens et une importance que vous ne lui aviez jamais donnés? Pendant quinze ans, Ifemelu tentera de trouver sa place aux États-Unis, un pays profondément marqué par le racisme et la discrimination. De défaites en réussites, elle trace son chemin, pour finir par revenir sur ses pas, jusque chez elle, au Nigeria. «En descendant de l'avion à Lagos, j'ai eu l'impression d'avoir cessé d'être noire.»

"I was intrigued to read about adapting to the United States where the young Nigerian discovers she is black and then about reintegrating upon returning to her home country where she was no longer black but "Americanah". -- Lisa



THE A-Z OF FRENCH FOOD, Athenaeum Editions

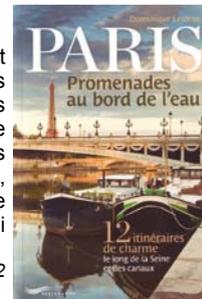
A handy portable French to English bilingual food and wine glossary compiled by Geneviève de Temmerman. What is a *communard*? A *potage à la jambe de bois*? The *nouille*-style? What is the origin of the words bistro or restaurant? "The A-Z of French Food" includes history, lore and metaphorical usages that give insights into the French food, language and psyche.

"Since this book first came out in 1988 we have kept it handy in the kitchen. We refer to it when we come home from the market with something new to try. This glossary also exists in an app." -- Lisa

PARIS PROMENADES AU BORD DE L'EAU

Dominique Lesbros, Parigramme
Où se trouvait le port aux Pommes? Où étaient amarrées les boutiques flottantes proposant des poissons vivants? Quelle était la fonction des gros anneaux scellés sur les quais? Au plaisir de la promenade au bord de l'eau, le long des berges de la Seine mais aussi des canaux parisiens, s'ajoute celui de mille et un aperçus de l'histoire de la capitale, tant celle-ci est liée au fleuve qui la traverse...

"Hoping for the English version of this book as these 12 walks will surely be a hit with all our readers." -- John



RENTAL LEASES IN FRANCE



Photo: Yves Aouat - Facebook: ParisFlaneriesPhotos

Since August of 2015 a law relements rental contracts. A rental lease in France will be established in French as French is the official (and thus judicial) language. To help English speakers FUSAC has put together a rental lease vocabulary glossary which can be found on our website at www.fusac.fr/paris-apartment-glossary-of-french-english-terms/. Since 2015 there is a standard lease for all types of housing whether furnished or not, shared or not. Standard contracts for both furnished or unfurnished rentals to print out and fill in can be

found online on the site of the national consumers association CLCV (Association nationale de défense des consommateurs et usagers, clcv.org).

All in all a rental lease with the required annexes will be 30 plus pages! Why so long? The contract includes the following ten sections making about four pages plus an eleventh section of annexes which can be quite long depending on the property:

- Section I : designation of the parties involved, names, addresses.
- Section II: the description of the property.
- Section III: dates. The beginning of the contract and length.
- Section IV: the financial. Amount of the rent, building charges. (These charges may or may not include heat, hot water, guardian salaries, elevator costs, cleaning and electricity of the public spaces, garbage service and more), dates of payment, method and date of revision or increase, as well as the amount paid by

the previous renter.

- Section V: renovations. A description of renovations performed since the departure of the previous renter.
- Section VI: deposit. The deposit for an unfurnished rental must not exceed one months rent, for a furnished rental the deposit is fixed by the owner.
- Section VII: modalities of sharing if the lease is to be shared.
- Section VIII: end of contract, giving notice (it must be done by registered letter).
- Section IX: agency fees if a housing agency is involved.
- Section X: other details specific to the property and contract
- Section XI: required annexes which are as follows
 - A standard document which describes, in 18 pages, the rights and obligations of renters and proprietors. This annex can be found online and is the same for every lease.
 - A diagnostic annex (DDT) must also be attached to the lease. The diagnostics that must be presented are the following: energy performance; lead evaluation for buildings dating before 1949; asbestos evaluation; natural and

continued on next page

Rental leases in France continued from previous page

technological risk evaluation if the property is in a risk zone; electrical and gas installation inspection

- The Inventory/state of the premises or *l'état des lieux*: inventory of fixtures and general condition of the apartment from ceiling to floor. (A model inventory in English is available here: <http://selectra.info/edl/modele-etat-des-lieux-en-anglais.pdf>)

L'ÉTAT DES LIEUX: There should be two copies of the *état des lieux* (one for the tenant, the other for the landlord). The inventory can be done between the landlord and the tenant or by a designated third party such as a real estate agent, or by a judicial officer (*huissier*). The *états des lieux* must describe the accommodation and its equipment (appliances, walls, floors etc) in full detail. It is also the time to read the heating or hot water meters if the property has them. The *états des lieux* is important because it is assumed that the accommodation was in good shape, which can be problematic if something goes wrong and your deposit is jeopardized.



Photo: Yves Aouat - Facebook: ParisFlaneriesPhotos

As a tenant, you have 10 days after the start date of your contract in which you can request a modification to the *état des lieux* if you notice something additional about the state of the accommodation and/or its fittings.

TENANT OBLIGATIONS as per the annex of rights and obligations include:

- To insure the property. Tenants are required by French law to have insurance to cover the property. Insurance will cover things like broken windows, theft/vandalism,

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fire, weather-related risks, etc.

- To pay the rent in full by the agreed date
- To pay *taxe d'habitation*. This tax covers the costs of local area services (street cleaning, rubbish removal, etc). As a tenant you are responsible for the *taxe d'habitation* for the property you are renting. The amount depends on the size & location of the property. The invoice for occupation tax arrives by mail directly from *les impôts* in October.
- To pay service charges: water, electricity, communal maintenance
- To use the property appropriately
- To do certain minor maintenance work
- To be responsible for any damage unless it is the result of the landlord, someone on the property uninvited or force majeure (circumstances outside of their control)

Unless agreed in the lease a tenant may not:

- Use the property for commercial purposes
- Sublet or share without written agreement from the landlord
- Make any major changes to the property or structures without the landlord's consent

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Rental leases in France continued from previous page

LANDLORD OBLIGATIONS

The primary obligation of a landlord is to provide decent housing. The definition of decent is that the property will in no way damage the health and safety of a tenant. Factors included are a minimum size of living space, the condition of the building and others that make a space habitable such as natural light, electricity, water and sanitary facilities. The landlord must also allow the renter to live tranquilly in the space. This means allowing visitors and pets, not imposing inspection visits or extensive renovation without compensation.

Since September 2015 a furnished residence must contain at least: A bed with bedding, shutters or curtains in the bedroom, a stove top or hotplates, an oven or micro-wave, a refrigerator, a freezer or freezer compartment that freezes to -6°C or less, sufficient tableware, cooking utensils, a table, chairs, shelves, lighting, housecleaning equipment such as a vacuum, broom or mop and a smoke detector.

VARIOUS AND SUNDRY things to note about housing:

- If a landlord is negligent in carrying out essential repairs a tenant may not withhold their rent but may make a legal claim through the magistrates' court.
- A deposit is most often due when the lease is signed even if you are moving in later. It is not legal to use the deposit in lieu of the last month's rent. A deposit is meant to cover any abnormal damage to the apartment (other than normal wear and tear) and any eventual utility bills that come after your departure. The deposit should normally be returned within 2 months of departure.
- The landlord is not responsible for troubles caused by neighbors.

UTILITIES IN ENGLISH

- The English-speaking customer service number for EDF is 09.69.36.63.83
- Orange, a telecommunications provider, operates an English-speaking customer helpline available at 09.69.36.39.00. Other telecommunication companies may also have someone who speaks English, just ask.
- Groupe Satec, an insurance agency that provides rental insurance has English speaking representatives 01.42.85.67.19

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Did you know ?

The baguette was invented in 1890 after the slightly sugary Viennese baguette was brought to Paris. Parisian bakers borrowed the form for the traditional Parisian bread recipe.

France is home to more than 40 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The oldest monument in Paris is the Obelisk on Place de la Concorde.

There are thriving beehives on the roof of the Garnier Opera, in the Georges Brassens Park and the Luxembourg Gardens.

The oldest building in Paris is Nicolas Flamel's inn, built in 1407 on rue de Montmorency, 3rd arrondissement.

The oldest woman ever, Jeanne Calment, lived to 122. She was born and lived in Arles, France her entire life.

Hints and Hindsight is a regularly appearing column on the FUSAC website by Shari Leslie Segall, a writer who lives in Paris.

What I didn't know: Adapting to France

Because autumn is when I arrived in Paris as a permanent resident, autumn is always an intoxicating swirl of sense-memories: The fragrance of the fall air, the luster of the September-October light, the sweetness of the season's first fresh figs, the toots of the swelling traffic, the feel of that infamous feast that Paris will always be. Every year, any one of these (and often all at the same sacred moment) catapults me back to those initial days decades ago. With no more than just the right mix of shrinking daylight and encroaching gray, "back then..." immediately becomes "right now!"

I came to France knowing the language, the literature, the history, even - per Charles de Gaulle's legendary quote - a respectable number of cheese names. Here's a very abbreviated list of what I did not know:

PEOPLE

I did not know that you have to say *Bonjour!* before any type of interaction about anything whatsoever no matter how desperately urgent what you want or need to say-or you'll be branded an ill-mannered brute. (The French Revolutionaries introduced this ritual to counter the king's practice of acknowledging only members and guests of his court.)

I did not know that you should not ask indiscrete questions. (Whereas Anglos feel ignored if conversations don't turn personal, the French feel invaded if they do. What's an indiscrete question? There are circles where even something as seemingly innocent as "So, how did you two meet?" is considered a line-crosser.)

PLACES

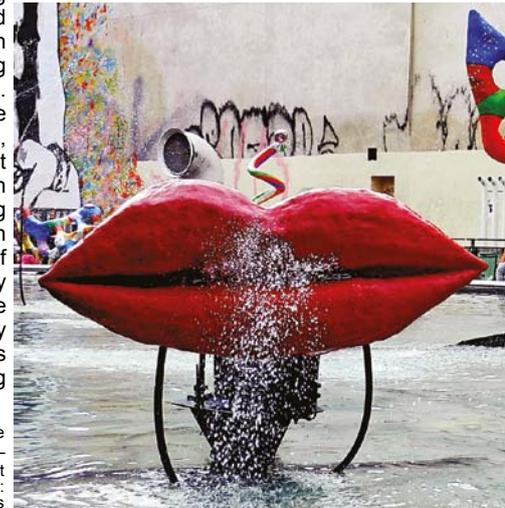
I did not know that at most restaurants, and even some cafés, food is usually served at only designated *petit-déjeuner*, *déjeuner* and/ or *dîner* times, not throughout the entire day and often not at what many Anglos think of as "lunchtime" (no, it doesn't start at noon) and "dinnertime" (no, at 5:30 establishments are still recovering from

the lunch crowd). And while the whole point of ordering a pizza is supposed to be its convenient availability, most chains deliver within a restricted mid-day or evening window of hours. (This is a good thing: have you noticed that, although their waistlines have begun to spread a bit, the French have nowhere near the obesity problem saddling many of their Anglo cousins? [*Déjeuner*, by the way, comes from *jeuner*, which means "to fast." To *déjeuner* is to unfast, which is what Anglos do when they "break" their overnight fasts with "breakfast."])

You: "Bonjour! I really love this dress. Would you happen to have it in size 34?"... Store clerk (wagging her finger reprimandingly in your face): "**NON!**" I did not know that the concept and practice of customer service was not a universal, innate human fact of existence. (In predominantly Protestant countries, money-the kind you earn by being nice to customers-means a well deserved reward for strictly embracing the Work Ethic, and is thus a source of unabashed pride. In traditionally Catholic France, money-the kind you would earn were you nice to customers-meant that you weren't otherwise occupied transcribing illuminated manuscripts by candlelight, tending to lepers, or chanting psalms in tattered burlap robes at dawn on sub-freezing Breton wastelands. Or it meant that, since you're touching it, you're obviously not the king. Although it's disappearing rapidly, there remain vestiges of the belief that money-and, by extension, those who too ardently pursue it-equates with embarrassing lowliness.)

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Photo: Yves Aouat
Facebook:
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What I didn't know continued from previous page

I did not know that bookstores were such islands of shared joy. The reputedly reserved, supposedly suspicious, self-avowedly arrogant French explode out of their carapaces in bookstores. Heirs to Old World veneration of knowledge and rightly proud of their language, the French sincerely love to read! The best times to be in bookstores are right after the fall flurry of French literary prizes, which are part of *la rentrée littéraire*, and right before summer vacation. During the former, readers devour the fruits of the newly celebrated superauthors; during the latter, they stock up on the works they've longed to read all year and will finally have time for. At these moments, and to an only slightly lesser degree throughout the year, the atmosphere around the display tables and racks feels palpably...well...happy-not bad for a population that often defines itself as morose.

THINGS

I did not know that a washing-machine cycle takes anywhere from an hour to an hour and forty-five minutes! (This is neither a plot by the electric company nor one to keep housewives occupied in the laundry room. Supposedly this is because the machines have their own, integrated, painfully sluggish water-heating systems-as opposed to their drawing on the hot water instantaneously available in the abode.)

I did not know that the "little black dress" and the chignon are not French myths and that if you wear and are coiffed with anything else at a fancy event you risk standing out as a combination of Dolly Parton (ridiculous ruffles) and Angela Davis (huge hair).

I did not know that the French word *préservatif* does not mean a chemical put into food to protect against spoilage. It means "condom." (I had not been here more than several weeks when I invited a male friend to dinner. Proudly removing the main dish from the oven, I announced, *Je fais toujours la cuisine sans préservatifs!*, which translated to "I always cook without condoms!" It took me a month to realize why he'd looked so baffled at my declaration.)

Everything ends this way in France – everything. Weddings, christenings, duels, burials, swindlings, diplomatic affairs – everything is a pretext for a good dinner.

— Jean Anouilh

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A FINAL SELECTION

I recently applied for and was granted French nationality. It's true I don't have a drop of French blood but France has run in my veins ever since 1972 when I first hitch-hiked into Besançon, Victor Hugo's birthplace.

At the official ceremony for newly-minted French citizens Monsieur le Préfet spoke at length about the three famous words written on the facades of all public buildings: *Liberté, égalité, fraternité*.

That well known triptych got me thinking about a number of other three-word formulas (invariable trinomials) that have stuck with me since beginning my French journey in Besançon. I thought I'd share a selection of them with you as a parting word to this year's FUSAC Selections guide. Here goes :

Hommes, femmes, enfants
Du pain, du vin, du boursin
Billet aller retour
Metro boulot dodo
Demain dès l'aube
Froid ? Moi ? Jamais.
Larguons les amarres
Rapport qualité prix
O rage O désespoir O vieillesse ennemie !
Ardeur, efficacité, audace
Sésame ouvre-toi
Entrée plat dessert
Qui dort dine
Jeu set match
La douce France
(Adieu) veau vache cochon
Fluctuat nec mergitur

To conclude,
here's a final pair
in the form of
a Hexagon:

-- John / FUSAC





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