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for Life in
L'Hexagone
(that's France)*

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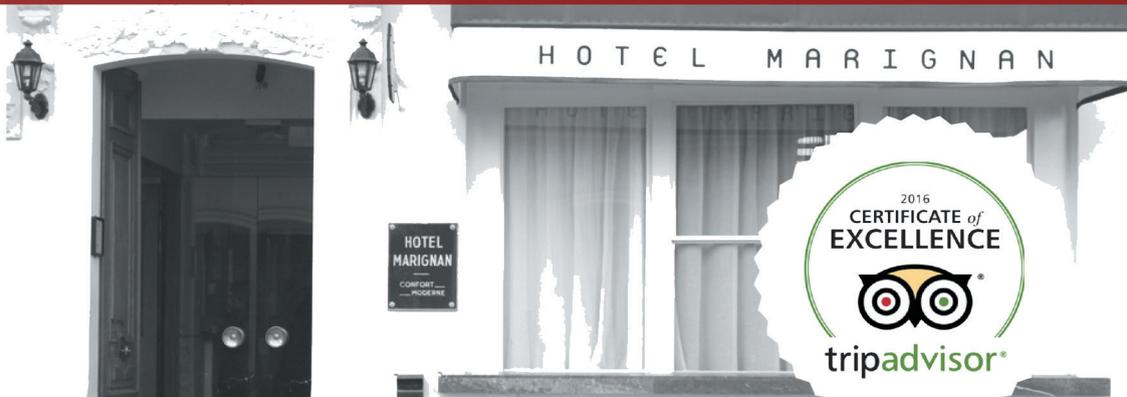
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(*L'Hexagone*, incidently, is one of France's nicknames due to the nearly hexagonal shape of metropolitan France)

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The Symbols and Emblems of France

The symbols and emblems of a country are defined by their constitution or simply by usage. Thus France has only one official symbol, the flag. There are of course also the national anthem, the language and the motto which are official and designated in

Article II de la Constitution du 4 octobre 1958:

La langue de la République est le français.

L'emblème national est le drapeau tricolore, bleu, blanc, rouge.

L'hymne national est la « Marseillaise ».

La devise de la République est « Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité ».

Son principe est: gouvernement du peuple, par le peuple et pour le peuple.

the Constitution. France also has several other symbols that have come into use over the years such as Marianne, the fasces and the rooster. In this article we'll present the history and development of the official and non official symbols of France.

The flag

The flag of France was not designed in one linear process as with some more recently independent countries. It developed organically, over time, from the flags flown over naval ships and through the revolutionary rosette (called *cocarde* in French). No one can even pinpoint when or why the three colors of blue, white and red were chosen. The commonly taught story, that the blue and red were the colors of Paris and white represented the king, has been revised by scholars. Michel Pastoureau, one of the authors of *Les Couleurs de la France* (editions Hoëbeke, 2017) suspects that the colors stem (unofficially of course) from those of American flag (which in turn was perhaps designed as a contra-flag

to Britain's Union Jack). The American revolution was an important event that just preceded the use of the three colors during the French revolution. During the period between the American revolution and the French revolution the three colors were fashionable in France with both men and women in ribbons and rosettes on clothing and hats. The rosette or cockade,

originally used on military uniforms, was a frequent decoration at the time as well and took on a new significance during the revolutionary period as people began wearing them to show allegiance to ideas or groups rather than just as decoration. Camille Desmoulins, during a speech on 12 July 1789, proposed that those who supported the patriots wear a rosette. He pulled a handy leaf from a nearby tree and pinned it to his hat during his zealous speech. The idea caught on like wildfire, but the next day the revolutionaries realized that green was the color of the Count d'Artois – one of the hated royals – thus the rosette color was changed to tricolor. Perhaps Lafayette or Bailly, the mayor of Paris, had the idea to fusion the colors of the king (white) and the red and blue of the national guard. Another source suggests the idea came from the king himself in

Carmagnole. Drap de laine rouge.
1790-1795. Galliera, musée de la Mode
de la Ville de Paris. Photographer:
© Eric Emo / Galliera / Roger-Viollet



a gesture of reconciliation. In any case the colors caught on and were soon seen on belts, scarves and flags carried by the revolutionaries. In 1790 a national tricolor rosette was proclaimed. There was no particular organization of the three colors at the time, but white was often in the center. Progressively tricolor flags became official, but some had horizontal stripes, some vertical and there were many different shapes. Things were clarified in 1794 when it was decided that ships would use a flag of three bands of equal widths with blue next to the pole. The maritime flag progressively became the de facto national flag and came and went in popularity throughout the 19th century - used during the various uprisings and republics, but banished during the monarchies and empires. The flag was not officially defined until the 1958 constitution and the shades of the three colors are still not specifically determined thus they can vary largely in usage from poppy to brick and cyan to cobalt.

There is, however, a specific way to fold the French flag: Fold in first the red, then the blue thirds to cover the white, then fold in half the other direction so that only the blue is visible.

There are also specific days to fly the flag:

- 19 March - Remembrance of the victims of the Algerian war
- Last Sunday in April - Remembrance of the Deported
- 8 May - Victory 1945
- 9 May - Europe Day
- 2nd Sunday in May - Joan of Arc Day
- 27 May - Resistance Day
- 8 June - Homage to victims of the Indochina war
- 18 June - Commemoration of the 1940 call to resistance by General de Gaulle
- 14 July - National holiday
- 16 July - In memory of the victims of anti-Semitic and racist crimes as well as Les Justes
- 25 September - Homage to the Harkis
- 11 November - Armistice of WWI
- 5 December - Remembrance of those who died for France in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia



The Marseillaise

Following France's declaration of war on Austria and Prussia, the mayor of Strasbourg, Baron de Dietrich, asked an army engineer Claude-Joseph Rouget de Lisle, who was also a musician, to write a marching song. On the night of April 25th 1792, Rouget de Lisle penned the *Chant de guerre pour l'armée du Rhin* (War song for the Rhine Army), named in honor of his garrison. The song was meant to inspire the army to be strong in the face of the invader's tyranny.

The song was republished under the name of *Chant de guerre aux armées des frontières* - by François Mireur, who was in Marseille to organize a march of revolutionary volunteers on King Louis XVI's Tuileries palace. The revolutionaries adopted the song and sang it with fervor as they entered Paris, on July 30th 1792. The Parisians thus named it *La Marseillaise*.

It was declared the national song on July 14th, 1795 but then banned during the Empire which followed. The July revolution of 1830 reinstated it, and it was arranged by Hector Berlioz. The Berlioz version was adopted as the national anthem under the Third Republic in 1879.

*Allons enfants de la Patrie
Le jour de gloire est arrivé !
Contre nous de la tyrannie
L'étendard sanglant est levé
Entendez-vous dans nos campagnes
Mugir ces féroces soldats?
Ils viennent jusque dans vos bras.
Égorger vos fils, vos compagnes!
Aux armes citoyens
Formez vos bataillons
Marchons, marchons
Qu'un sang impur
Abreuve nos sillons*

The Marseillaise has seven verses of which we usually sing just the first. To better

understand the lyrics try your language skills on the Speak Easy game based on La Marseillaise on www.fusac.fr/lamarseillaise/ and for a complete translation to English see www.marseillaise.org

The motto: « Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité »

It was Fénelon - François de Salignac de La Mothe-Fénelon - a French clergyman, theologian and writer at the end of the XVIIème century, who wrote the notions of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. Fénelon's novel *Les Aventures de Télémaque* (1699) is considered a critique of Louis XIV's politics and was a precursor to the Enlightenment. During the French revolution this motto was one of many suggested. Like many revolutionary symbols the motto went in and out of favor during the 19th century. The motto was officialized in the constitutions of 1946 and 1958.

Liberté Liberty is the notion of the absence of constraint, but also that individual liberty stops at the point where the liberty of others begins.

Égalité Equality is the notion that each person has the same rights and responsibilities regardless of social status or wealth.

*Tous les êtres humains naissent libres et égaux en dignité et en droits
(article 1er de la Déclaration universelle des Droits de l'Homme).*

Fraternité Fraternity is the notion that there is a link of solidarity and friendship amongst all humankind.

Rooster

There is no more prevalent symbol of France than the rooster. Today the rooster symbolizes (unofficially, but frequently) France and the French. 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 carousels and in countless idiomatic expressions. «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 French even have their own joke about themselves involving a rooster:

“Savez-vous pourquoi les Français ont choisi le coq comme emblème ? C’est parce que c’est le seul oiseau qui arrive à chanter les pieds dans la merde !”
-- Coluche

The connection with the rooster as symbol of France 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 already used roosters to symbolize their loyalty to Gaul.

In the Middle Ages the cock was recorded in 14th century German references to France. Chaucer’s cock Chantecleer in *The Canterbury Tales* may have also 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. It became a popular image on weather vanes, 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 appeared in art, symbolizing hope and faith. The rooster was on French coins through the 19th century and in the 20th the French resistance took the symbol to remind themselves of the resilience and bravery of the French people, urging the French to resist occupation.

Marianne

The first depictions of a woman in a Phrygian cap as an allegory of liberty and the republic date from the French

revolution in 1792. The Phrygian cap is a soft conical cap, a bit elfin one might say. It was worn historically by several peoples in Eastern Europe and Anatolia, including Phrygia – hence the name. It came to signify freedom and the pursuit of liberty as it was similar to the felt cap given to and identifying emancipated slaves of ancient Rome. Why Lady Liberty was named Marianne is however rather uncertain. It seems that Marie and Anne were very common first names during the 18th century and the contraction was often used to mean “the people”. Under the Third Republic statues and busts of Marianne popped up in nearly every town hall. Sometimes she was sculpted with a diadem or crown rather than the revolutionary Phrygian cap. The face of Marianne today is based on that of prominent women such as Brigitte Bardot or Catherine Deneuve who are chosen by the Association of Mayors of France. Marianne is seen most often on postage stamps, but also on coins such as Euro cents and the Republic’s documents.

La Semeuse

The Sower is a full length version of Marianne in the allegory of goddess of agriculture sowing the seeds of liberty and an optimistic future. She was first drawn by Oscar Roty in 1887 and was used on coins and stamps. This icon graced the franc coins for 41 years from the creation of the new franc in 1960 until the creation of the Euro in 2002. She is currently on the reverse of French Euro cents. *La Semeuse* is thus the most reproduced piece of French art.

14 juillet

First of all the French national holiday is not called Bastille Day in France. While it is true that the storming of the Bastille happened on 14 July 1789, the following year that same day was another significant event: the first Fête de la Fédération. This event was a grand reconciliation held on the Champs de Mars. Everyone was present: the king, the deputies of the constitutional assembly, the federalists and the people. 14 July was made the official national holiday only in

1880 after long debate as to what day to choose for the national day. In the law designating the day there was no mention as to which event - the Bastille or the Fête - was to be commemorated. It seems that the 14th of July was chosen as it was at a convenient time of year and did not offend any particular group, nor put any particular group in the forefront of commemorations. The first official 14 juillet 1880 was a day off work for all to celebrate patriotism and included a military parade, marching bands, fireworks, dancing and orchestras. Sound familiar?!

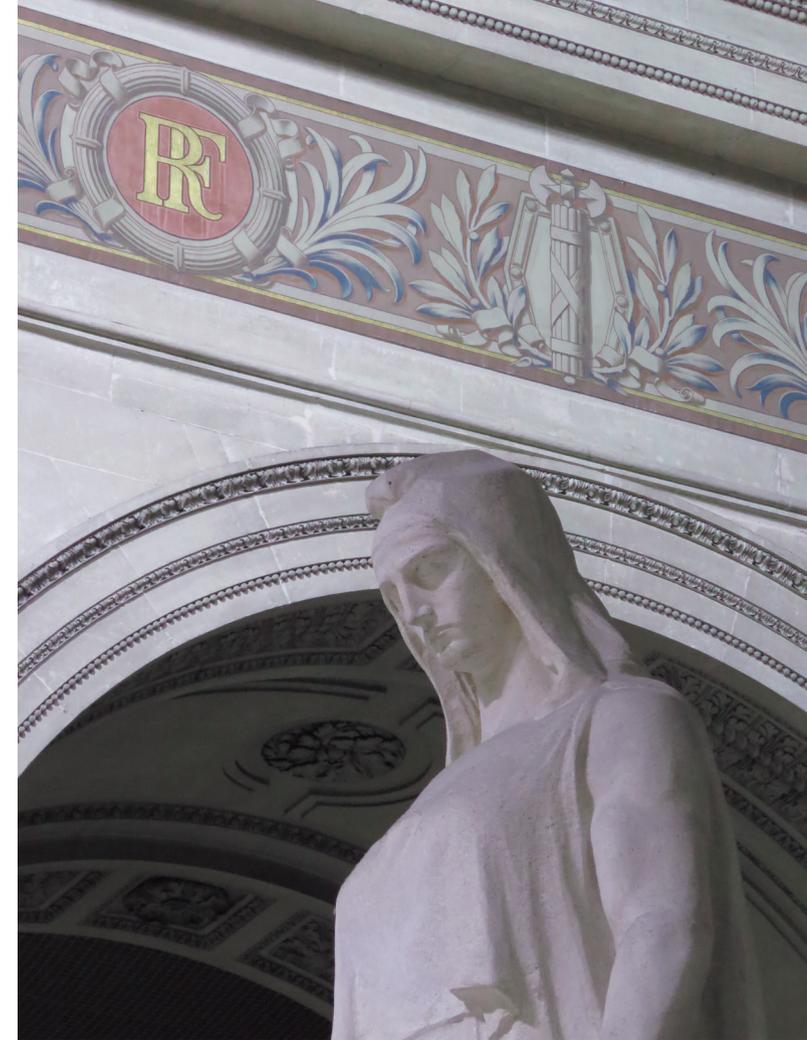
Lictor’s fasces

(Faisceau de licteur)

This symbol is the least known. It is an image or bas relief of long thin branches wrapped by a leather thong. This fasces represents the indivisibility of the republic. In front the fasces is the republican shield with the letters RF (République Française) and branches of oak (justice) and olive (peace). In ancient Rome a fasces was carried by the lictor who was the person who executed the magistrate’s laws. The lictor’s fasces is found on passports and other official documents as well as on buildings. It is also the emblem of France at the United Nations.

The Seal

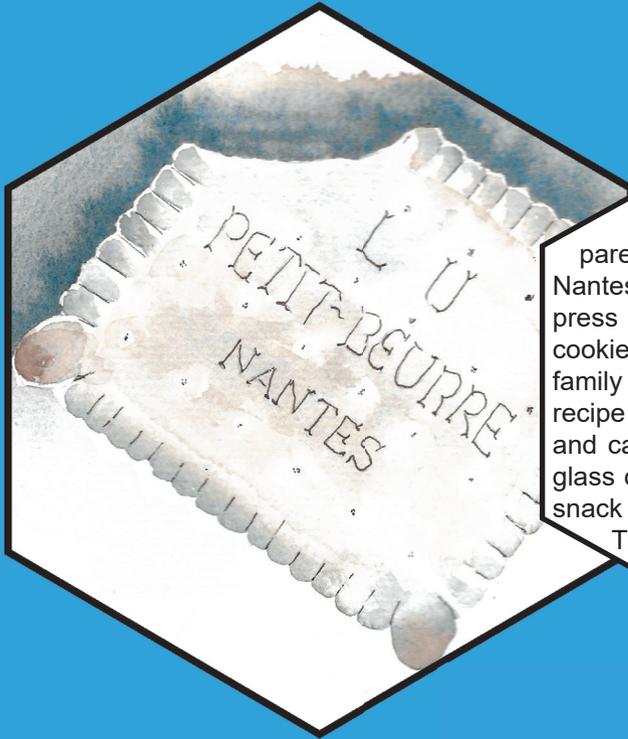
The seal of France is used now only on documents of great importance such as a modification to the constitution. The



Marianne with lictor’s fasces in the Panthéon, Paris.

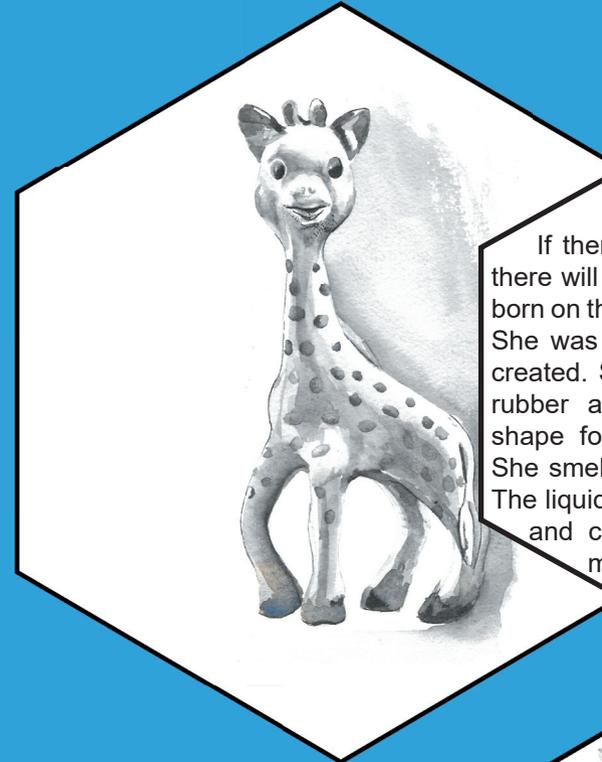
current seal, created in 1848, amalgamates many of the symbols of France. A seated woman – Liberty or Marianne – holds a lictor’s fasces in her right hand and in the left a rudder on which there is a rooster with his foot on the globe. An urn with the initials SU for *suffrage universelle*, the symbols of the arts and agriculture and the words «*République française démocratique une et indivisible*» complete the seal. You can see it on the façades of courts of law. The minister of justice is called the *Garde des sceaux* because the press for the seal (*sceau*) is kept at the ministry.

In nearly every French household you'll find...



LU cookies

Louis Lefèvre-Utile's parents made sea biscuits in Nantes. Louis discovered the cookie press in 1886 in Great Britain. LU cookies were born and named with the family initials. It was, and still is, a simple recipe of milk, salted butter, wheat flour and cane sugar. The LU cookie and a glass of milk has been the after school snack for French children every since. Then, as now, you start by first nibbling off the corners!

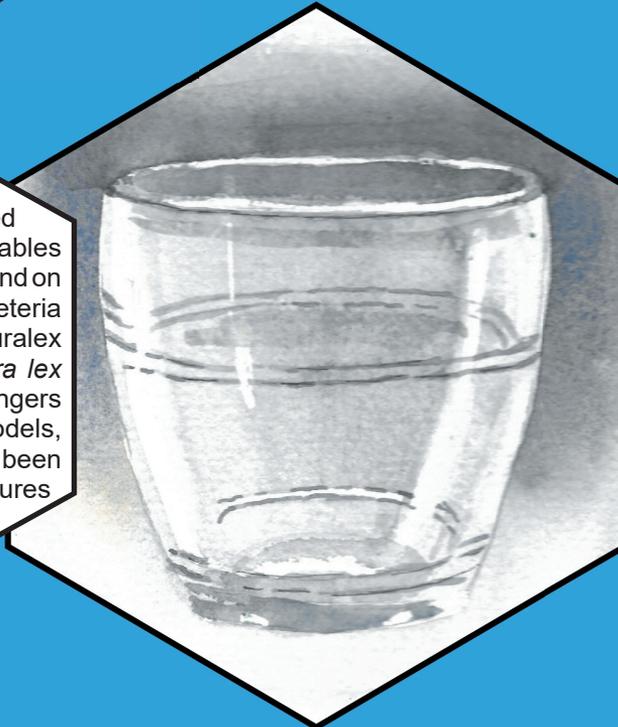


SOPHIE LA GIRAFE

If there is a baby in the house there will be a Sophie! This giraffe was born on the day of Saint Sophie in 1961. She was the first non-farm animal toy created. She is made of 100% natural rubber and is the perfect size and shape for baby's hands (and gums). She smells, tastes and feels good too! The liquid latex is molded, then shaped and colored by hand. Over 50 million Sophies sold!

DURALEX

The invention of nearly indestructible tempered glassware in 1947 revolutionized tables in homes, schools, bars, hospitals and on boats. Even stacked tall in the cafeteria or high in the cupboard at home, Duralex (the name is a contraction of *Dura lex sed lex*) keeps those with butterfingers from being scolded. The cult models, Gigogne and Picardie, have been seen in movies, used in sculptures and are popular in hip casual restaurants.



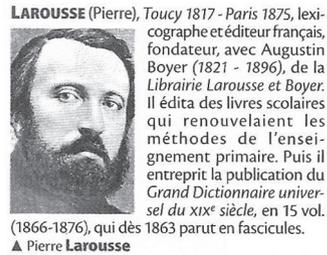
SYNTHOL

The French family's solution to *bobos* - the bumps, bruises, bites and scratches of everyday life. The amber magic potion always makes you feel better no matter the ailment. In 2014 the product was taken off the market and *les mamans* missed it so much they created a Facebook page called "syntholforever" to convince the manufacturers to bring it back. To everyone's relief Synthol returned to the pharmacies in 2016 and mothers breathed a sigh of relief.



Dictionary Culture

Bicentennial Pierre Larousse



Entry Larousse, Pierre.
Le Petit Larousse Illustré 2018. Page 1643.

Who hasn't consulted the illustrated and illustrious pages of a Larousse dictionary; the ubiquitous reference book first published in 1905 reportedly sells one volume in France every minute, amounting to over half a million copies annually.

But what do we know about the man behind the dictionary? Here then are a few words (pun intended) about Monsieur Larousse who will turn 200 years old this year.

He was born on October 23, 1817 in the sleepy town of Toucy in the Yonne department, making him a *toucyçois* for those interested in demonyms.

His father was a wheelwright smith; his mother an innkeeper. An excellent student, Larousse went to Versailles at the age of 16 for higher education. He was already on track to becoming a teacher, editor, encyclopedist and most

importantly, lexicographer. His friends referred to him not as "wordsmith" but as "the librarian". He set up an eponymous publishing house in Paris, wanting to know everything about everything. His appetite for learning was voracious.

In 1856 he published *Le Nouveau Dictionnaire de la langue française*, ancestor of *Le Petit Larousse*. His major work, however, was *Le Grand Dictionnaire universel du XIX^e siècle*, a work of 15 volumes -- 22700 pages -- which took him 11 years to write. Larousse died in 1875 and is buried in the Paris's Montparnasse cemetery, section 14 (n° 36 on the free guide available at the entrance). In honor of his accomplishments, there is a monument in

Definition of the word "DICTIONNAIRE"
Le Petit Larousse Illustré 2018. Page 380.

DICTAME

contient une plante, le plus souvent à deux cotylédons. Les dicotylédones forment une classe.



▲ dicotylédone

DICTAME n.m. (gr. *diktamon*). Plante à grandes fleurs blanches ou roses du sud de l'Europe, cultivée pour l'ornement, et qui sécrète une essence très inflammable (SYN. *fraxinelle*). Famille des rutacées.

DICTAPHONE n.m. (nom déposé). Magnétophone servant notamment à dicter du courrier.

DICTATEUR, TRICE n. (lat. *dictator*). 1. Personne qui, parvenue au pouvoir, gouverne arbitrairement et sans contrôle démocratique; autocrate. 2. Personne très autoritaire; tyran. ♦ n.f. **ANTIQ. ROM.** Sous la République, magistrat suprême investi, en cas de crise grave, de tous les pouvoirs politiques et militaires pour six mois au maximum.

DICTATORIAL, E, AUX adj. Relatif à une dictature.

DICTATORIALEMENT adv. De façon dictatoriale.

DICTATURE n.f. 1. **ANTIQ. ROM.** Magistrature extraordinaire exercée par le dictateur. 2. Régime politique instauré par un dictateur; totalitarisme. 3. Fig. Pouvoir absolu exercé par qq, qqch; tyrannie: *La dictature de la mode*. ♦ **Dictature** du prolétariat, selon le marxisme, période transitoire durant laquelle les représentants du prolétariat devront exercer tous les pouvoirs pour détruire l'État bourgeois et permettre le passage à la société sans classes. ♦ **Dictature militaire**, qui s'appuie sur l'armée.

DICTÉE n.f. 1. Action de dicter un texte: *Écrire sous la dictée de qqn*. 2. Exercice scolaire d'orthographe. 3. Fig. Fait de dicter un comportement; influence: *Agir sous la dictée de sa générosité*.

DICTER v.t. [3] (lat. *dictare*). 1. Dire à haute voix des mots, un texte à qqn qui les écrit au fur et à mesure. 2. *Dicter une lettre*. 3. Fig. Influencer sur la manière d'agir de qqn *son instinct lui dicte de se méfier*. ♦ **Dicter** sa loi, ses conditions, les imposer.

DICTION n.f. Manière de parler; manière de dicter, pour un acteur; élocution.

DICTIONNAIRE n.m. (du lat. *dictio*, -onis, mot). Recueil de mots rangés par ordre alphabétique et suivis de leur définition ou de leur traduction dans une autre langue. Abrév. (fam.) **dico**.

♦ **Dictionnaire de langue**, qui donne des informations sur la nature et le genre grammatical des mots, leurs formes graphiques et phonétiques, leur étymologie, leurs sens, leurs emplois, leurs niveaux de langue, etc. ♦ **Dictionnaire encyclopédique**, qui, outre les informations sur les mots eux-mêmes, contient des développements de nature historique, culturelle, scientifique relatifs à ces mots et traite également des noms propres.

DICTIONNAIRIQUE adj. Relatif au dictionnaire.

DICTON n.m. (lat. *dictum*). Sentence populaire qui est passée en proverbe. (Ex.: *En avril, ne te découvre pas d'un fil*.)

DICTYOPTÈRE n.m. Insecte à métamorphoses incomplètes, qui possède des ailes antérieures semi-rigides et des ailes postérieures membranées, tel que la blatte et la mante religieuse. Les dictyoptères forment un ordre.

DIDACTICIEL n.m. (de *didactique* et *logiciel*). **INFORM.** Logiciel conçu pour l'apprentissage de savoirs ou de compétences.

DIDACTIQUE adj. (du gr. *didaskain*, enseigner). Qui a pour objet d'instruire; pédagogique. ♦ **Poésie didactique**, qui s'attache à instruire, sur quelque sujet que ce soit. ♦ **Terme didactique**, employé pour la vulgarisation scientifique ou technique. ♦ n.f. Science ayant pour objet les méthodes d'enseignement.

DIDACTIQUEMENT adv. De façon didactique.

DIDACTISME n.m. Caractère de ce qui est didactique.

DIDACTYLE adj. **ZOOL.** Qui a deux doigts.

DIDASCALIE n.f. (du gr. *didaskalia*, enseignement). Indication donnée à un acteur par l'auteur, sur son manuscrit, dans le théâtre grec ancien.

♦ n.f. **pl.** Mod. Ensemble des instructions de jeu et de mise en scène données, hors dialogues, par l'auteur dans une pièce de théâtre.

DIDJERIDOO [didjéridu] n.m. (onomat.). Instrument de musique à vent des Aborigènes d'Australie, fait d'une longue pièce de bois creux dont l'embouchure est façonnée avec de la cire d'abeille.

DIDOT n.m. (de *Didot*, n.pr.). **IMPRIM.** Famille de caractères typographiques à empattements filiformes. ♦ **Point didot**, mesure typographique correspondant à 0,376 mm.

DIÈRE n.m. (du gr. *hedra*, base, plan). 1. **MATH.** Figure formée par deux demi-plans (faces) ayant pour frontière la même droite (arête). 2. **AÉRON.** Angle formé par le plan horizontal et le plan des ailes d'un avion. ♦ adj. **MATH.** Qui a deux faces.

DIÉFFENBACHIA [diefenbakja] n.m. (du n. de J. F. Dieffenbach). Plante ornementale originaire d'Amérique du Sud, à larges feuilles maculées de blanc, très toxique. Famille des aracées.

DIÉLECTRIQUE [die-] adj. et n.m. Se dit d'une substance qui ne conduit pas le courant électrique.

♦ **Constante diélectrique**, permittivité.

DIENCÉPHALE [di-] n.m. Partie du cerveau située entre les hémisphères, qui comprend le troisième ventricule au centre, l'hypothalamus en bas et, de part et d'autre, le thalamus.

DIENCÉPHALIQUE [di-] adj. Relatif au diencéphale.

DIÈNE [djen] n.m. **CHIM. ORG.** Hydrocarbure renfermant deux doubles liaisons carbone-carbone (SYN. dioléfine).

DIÈRESE n.f. (du gr. *diarsis*, division). **PHON.** Prononciation en deux syllabes d'une séquence qui d'habitude en forme une seule (ex.: *nuage* [nʁag] prononcé *nu-age* [nyʁʒ]). (CONTR. **synérèse**).

DIERGOL [diérgol] n.m. Propergol constitué par deux ergols liquides, un combustible et un comburant, injectés séparément dans la chambre de combustion (SYN. **biérgol**).

DIES ACADEMICUS [djesakademikys] n.m. inv. (mots lat. « jour académique »). Suisse. Cérémonie annuelle et publique dans les universités, qui marque la rentrée et la collation des doctorats honoris causa.

DIÈSE n.m. (gr. *diēsis*, intervalle). **MUS.** Altération qui hausse d'un demi-ton la note qu'elle précède.

♦ **Double dièse**, altération qui hausse de deux demi-tons la note qu'elle précède. ♦ adj. inv. Se dit d'une note affectée d'un dièse.

DIESEL [djezle]. ♦ **DIÈSEL** n.m. (de R. Diesel, n.pr.). 1. Véhicule équipé d'un moteur Diesel. 2. Gazole.

♦ **Carburant diesel**, ou **diesel** (Belgique, Québec,

gazole. ♦ **Moteur Diesel**, ou **diesel**, moteur à combustion interne fonctionnant par autoallumage du carburant (gazole) injecté dans de l'air fortement comprimé.

DIESEL-ÉLECTRIQUE, ▲ **DIÈSEL-ÉLECTRIQUE** adj. et n.m. (pl. *die[é]sels-électriques*). Se dit d'une locomotive dont la puissance est donnée par un moteur Diesel entraînant une génératrice ou un alternateur qui fournit du courant aux moteurs entraînant les essieux.

DIÉSÉLISATION n.f. Action de diéséliser.

DIÉSÉLIQUE v.t. [3]. 1. Équiper une ligne ferroviaire d'engins de traction à moteur Diesel. 2. Équiper un véhicule automobile d'un moteur Diesel.

DIÉSÉLISTE n. Mécanicien spécialiste des diesels.

DIÈSER v.t. [1], ▲ [11^e]. **MUS.** Marquer une note d'un dièse.

DIES IRAE [djesire] n.m. inv. (mots lat. « jour de colère »). Chant de la messe des morts, dans le rite catholique romain.

DIESTER [diester] n.m. (nom déposé). Huile végétale estérifiée, utilisée, pure ou mélangée à du gazole, comme biocarburant de moteurs Diesel.

1. **DIÈTE** n.f. (du lat. *dieta*, jour assigné). **HIST.** Assemblée politique qui, dans plusieurs États d'Europe (Saint Empire, Pologne, Hongrie, etc.), éliait le souverain et élaborait les lois soumises à sa ratification. Le Parlement polonais a conservé ce nom.

2. **DIÈTE** n.f. (du gr. *diata*, genre de vie). 1. **MÉD.** Régime à base de certains aliments dans un but hygiénique ou thérapeutique. 2. Abstinence momentanée, totale ou partielle, d'aliments, pour raison de santé: *Se mettre à la diète*.

DIÉTÉTICIEN, ENNE n. Spécialiste de diététique.

DIÉTÉTIQUE n.f. Discipline qui étudie la valeur nutritive des aliments et détermine les régimes alimentaires. ♦ adj. Relatif à la diététique.

♦ **Aliment diététique**, modifié, dans un but diététique.

DIÉTÉTISTE n. Québec. Diététicien.

DIÉTHYLÉNIQUE [die-] adj. **CHIM. ORG.** Qui possède deux doubles liaisons carbone-carbone.

DIEU n.m. (lat. *deus*). 1. (Avec une majuscule). Dans les religions monothéistes, être suprême, créateur de toutes choses et sauveur du monde; le Seigneur: *Prier Dieu*. 2. Dans les religions polythéistes, être supérieur, puissance surnaturelle: *Éros était le dieu de l'Amour chez les Grecs*. 3. Fig. Personne, chose à laquelle on voue une sorte de culte; idole: *Ces sportifs est leur dieu*. ♦ **Beau comme un dieu**, très beau. ♦ **Dieu merci** ou **grâce à Dieu**, exprime le soulagement: *Dieu merci, il n'y a pas de blessés*! ♦ **Dieu sait**, renforce une affirmation: *Dieu sait si elle avait préparé cet entretien*. ♦ **Grands dieux**, exprime la surprise ou l'indignation: *Homme de Dieu, homme qui se voue au service de Dieu; saint homme*. ♦ **Ni Dieu ni maître**, maxime de A. Blanqui devenue la devise des anarchistes. ♦ **Nom de Dieu** [très fam.], juron qui exprime le dépit, la colère, la surprise. ♦ **Pour l'amour de Dieu**, renforce une demande: *Pour l'amour de Dieu, arrêtez de vous disputer*!

DIFFA n.f. (de l'ar. *diyāfa*, hospitalité). Maghreb. Réception des hôtes de marque, accompagnée d'un repas.

DIFFAMANT, E adj. Qui diffame.

DIFFAMATEUR, TRICE n. Personne qui diffame. ♦ adj. Se dit d'un écrit, d'un journal qui diffame.

DIFFAMATION n.f. 1. Action de diffamer; écrit ou parole diffamatoires. 2. **DR.** Imputation d'un fait précis qui est de nature à porter atteinte à l'honneur ou à la considération d'une personne ou d'un corps constitué.

DIFFAMATOIRE adj. Qui est dit ou fait dans l'intention de diffamer.

DIFFAMER v.t. [3] (lat. *diffamare*, de *fama*, réputation). Porter atteinte à la réputation d'une personne ou d'un corps constitué, par des paroles ou des écrits non fondés, mensongers; calomnier.

DIFFÉRÉ, **E** adj. et n.m. Se dit d'un programme radiophonique ou télévisé enregistré avant sa diffusion (par oppos. à *en direct*): *Match retransmis en différé* (SYN. **préenregistré**).

DIFFÉREMENT [-ramé] adv. De façon différente; autrement.

The only book worth having if marooned on a desert island.

Toucy's town center, a street named after him in the 14th arrondissement of Paris, schools in several cities and a 40 centime postage stamp issued in 1968 to mark his sesquicentennial.

Today *Le Petit Larousse Illustré*, commonly known simply as *Le Petit Larousse*, is a cultural monument of the French-language. The one-volume work has two main sections: a dictionary featuring common words and an encyclopedia of proper names. *Le Petit Larousse 2018* (published in 2017) includes 63,200 definitions and more than 10,000 illustrations. Larousse's motto, *Je sème à tout vent* ("I sow to all winds") is perpetuated in Larousse's publications and inspires the cover art of the dictionary which typically features a female figure blowing dandelion seeds (*akènes* in French) to the wind.

New Words & New Faces

Every year *Le Petit Larousse*, (the only book worth having if marooned on a desert island according to Jean d'Ormesson, spokesman for the 2017 edition) introduces 150 new words and 50 proper names. It takes a team of 40 experts to do the sorting.

What are the criteria of selection (among approximately 3000 candidates) for these "happy few" words? Basically two : quantity or frequency of use – you have to hear it a lot -- and quality. Quality ties into the notion of shared use of a word across professions. The word breaks the jargon barrier to spread across different fields and occupations.

Let's have a look, topic by topic, at some of the new words.

The world of economics and society is particularly fond of new terms. The word **ubérisation** (remise en cause du modèle économique d'une entreprise ou d'un secteur d'activité par l'arrivée d'un nouvel acteur proposant les mêmes services à des prix moindres) is introduced at the same time as **Fonds vautour** (fonds d'investissement spécialisé dans le rachat à bas prix des dettes de l'État ou d'entreprises en difficulté). Also in the new edition, we find the adjective **Disruptive** defined as a company, a product, a concept that creates a real rupture within a sector of activity by radically renewing its functioning. The adjective **autoréalisateur** describes a prediction that influences behaviors so that what is predicted eventually happens!

Another words for the times we live in? **Génération boomerang** : A word coined by the media to describe the current generation of young adults (roughly ages 18-35) who still live at home with their parents and are not financially independent. The word "boomerang" implies that the kids come back home from college or elsewhere to live with their parents after not being able to support themselves financially in the real world. Or **hors-sol**, noun and invariable adjective: person or group completely disconnected from realities and constraints.

This year, we also find **e-sport**, **gameur**, **hipster**, **souplex** (duplex basement), **spoiler** -- when the plot does not thicken...

Other newcomers: **droit-de-l'hommisme** ; **hacktivisme** (mixture of hacker and activism); **storytelling** (political communication, marketing or managerial technique that promotes an idea, a product, a brand); **Dazibao**, **kamishibai** (from Japanese paper theater); **showcase** ; **matinalier** -- journalist presenting a morning session on

radio or television); **déradicalisation**; **infobésité** (information et obesity).

Computer language has given us **dématérialisé**, **gif** or **GIF** and **phablette** (combining phone and tablet).

New culinary and gastronomic trends are ever present, including **kale** and **teriyaki** -- a Japanese word describing a way of preparing food.

The same goes for environmental issues: **permaculture**, a mode of agriculture based on principles of sustainable development; **épisode cévenol** (phenomenon characterized by continuous heavy rains falling in autumn on the Cévennes massif).

The francophone world provides its usual lot of new terms. The Island of the Reunion is in the spotlight this year with **barachois** (shallow cirque), **boucané** (smoked meat) and **barreauder** (to make a fence using bars).

Finally, in the current or regional register we find a dose of humor. The 2018 Larousse edition welcomes **bisounours** noun and invariable adjective often used pejoratively to describe a person of great naiveté. Or **rouméguer** (from south-west France), for someone expressing displeasure. Aren't there already enough words to describe complaining ? *Je râle!*

New faces

The writer **Jean-Christophe Rufin** had already become immortal by being elected to the French Academy in 2008. He is even more so now by entering the sacrosanct *Petit Larousse*. His "class" of 2018 is of high

quality: the filmmakers **Olivier Assayas** and **John Carpenter**, the philosopher **Étienne Balibar**; The writers **Boualem Sansal**, **Alain Mabanckou**, **Richard Ford** and **Marie Darrieussecq**, the historian **Michel Winock**; the actors **Morgan Freeman**, **Catherine Frot**; **Stanley Lieber**, American comic book writer and publisher, and **Cosey**, the "little" Frenchman; the couturier **Emmanuel Ungaro**, the singer **Véronique Sanson**, the star ballerina **Auréli Dupont**, the soprano **Patricia Petibon** who already has an asteroid named in her honor! Last but not least: **Emmanuel Macron**.



The Seine - A *fleuve*

A specific word in French indicates rivers that end in oceans : *fleuve*. Getting my hair cut the other day in Boulogne Billancourt not far from the Seine I asked my coiffeuse, an immigrant like myself, if she knew anything about the Seine. « I know it's a floose » she replied. Everyone in the salon erupted in laughter. This *fleuve* is no floose.

Traversing Paris under 37 bridges on it's 776 kilometer run from a plateau north of Dijon to the English channel at Le Havre, the Seine, steeped in history with a capital H, is one of five principal ocean-flowing rivers in France. The Loire is the longest at 1010 kilometers. La Garonne, Le Rhône and Le Rhin are the others. Until joined by the tributary Aube, the river Seine carries the first of its *noms-de-fleuve*, the Petite-Seine. Farther on, augmented again by the Yonne at Montereau, it is the Haute-Seine until Paris. Then it is the Basse-Seine to Rouen and, finally, the Seine-Maritime to the sweep of the sea. The Seine everybody sees is in Paris. The river crosses Paris from east to west for exactly 12780 meters which represents just 1.64% of its total length. The 217 *bouquinistes* of Paris are booksellers of used and antiquarian books who ply their trade along large sections of the banks of

the Seine: on the right bank from the Pont Marie to the Quai du Louvre, and on the left bank from the Quai de la Tournelle to Quai Voltaire. The Seine can thus be described as the only river in the world that runs between two bookshelves. To change the metaphor : The Seine has been long considered France's digestive tract: For two thousand years grain moved upriver along this alimentary tract passing *peniches* of wine heading downstream. The Seine is in no hurry. Starting at 446 meters of altitude at its source to 0 meters at sea level the river drops 57 centimeters per kilometer. That translates to 6 centimeters every 100 meters, or 6 mm every 10 meters. This explains the weak current (average speed 2 km / hour) and those impressive worm-like meanders. Interested in more ? What follows are a few suggestions to better acquaint yourself with the Seine, this magnificently extraordinary *floose*.

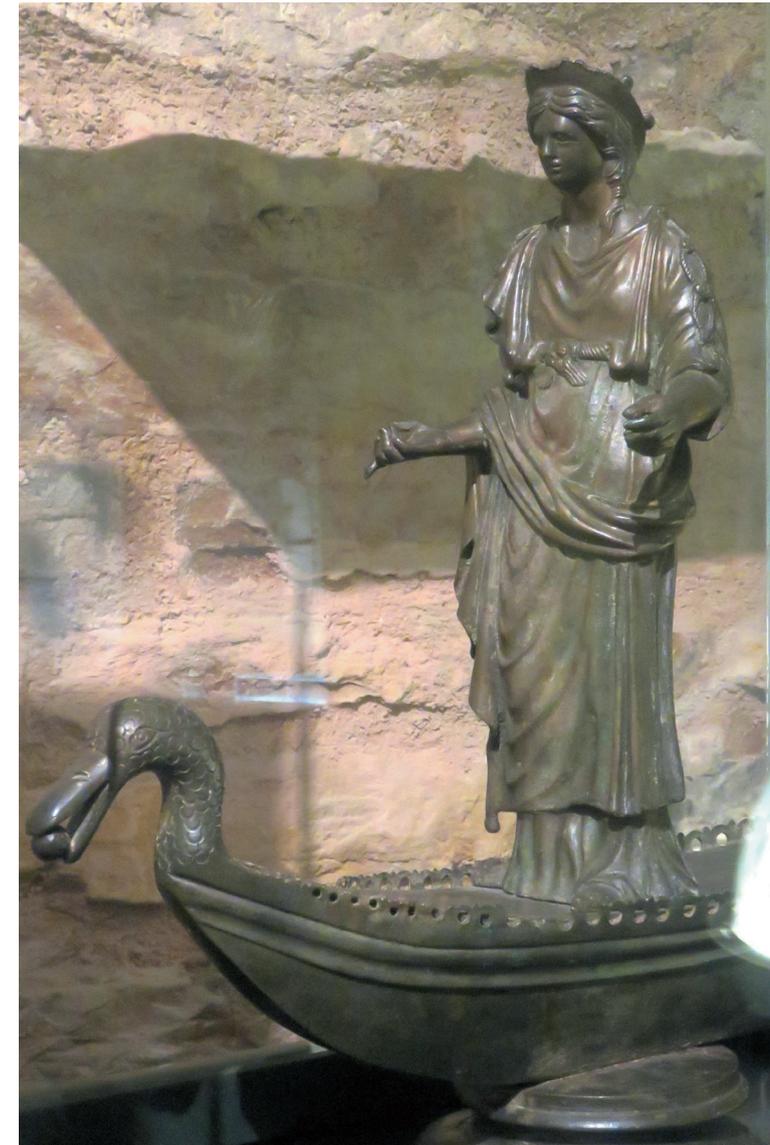
Discover Sequana : say *bonjour* to the goddess

Naturally you have been wondering for a long time why folks living in Seine-Saint-Denis are referred to as *Séquanodionysiens*. Sequano who ?

Back in Gallo-Roman times, Sequana

was the goddess of the river Seine, particularly the springs at the source of the Seine (owned by the city of Paris since 1864), and the Gaulish tribe the Sequani. The springs, called the *Fontes Sequanae* was the incredible site in the 2nd or 1st century BC of a most impressive healing shrine which included two temples, a colonnaded precinct and other related structures centered on the spring and pool. Pilgrims came from far and wide – from Lutetia Parisiorum (Paris) to Massilia (Marseille) in hopes of healing at this early-day Lourdes. Thousands of dedications and offerings were made to Sequana at her temples. Archeological digs in the 19th century uncovered a large vase inscribed with her name and filled with bronze and

Where Seine meets Yonne
river trout feed peacefully
on passing baguettes.



silver ex-votos -- models of parts of human bodies to be cured by her. Wooden and stone images of limbs, internal organs, heads, and complete bodies were offered to Sequana in the hope of or thanks for a cure, as well as numerous coins and items of jewelry. Respiratory illnesses and eye diseases were common. Pilgrims were frequently depicted as carrying offerings to the goddess, including money, fruit, or a favorite pet dog or bird. The prized archeological find? A bronze statue of a woman, draped in a long gown with a diadem on her head, is believed to represent Sequana. She stands on a boat, the prow of which is shaped like the head of a palmiped. In its beak a small circular object -- a round of goat cheese perhaps or a petanque ball. « For myth spinners », as Mort Rosenblum points out, « it's a promising start. » The 30 centimeter-tall statue (see photo on previous page) survives in the *Musée archéologique de Dijon* which is well worth a visit.

**Visit a bridge:
alpha and omega**

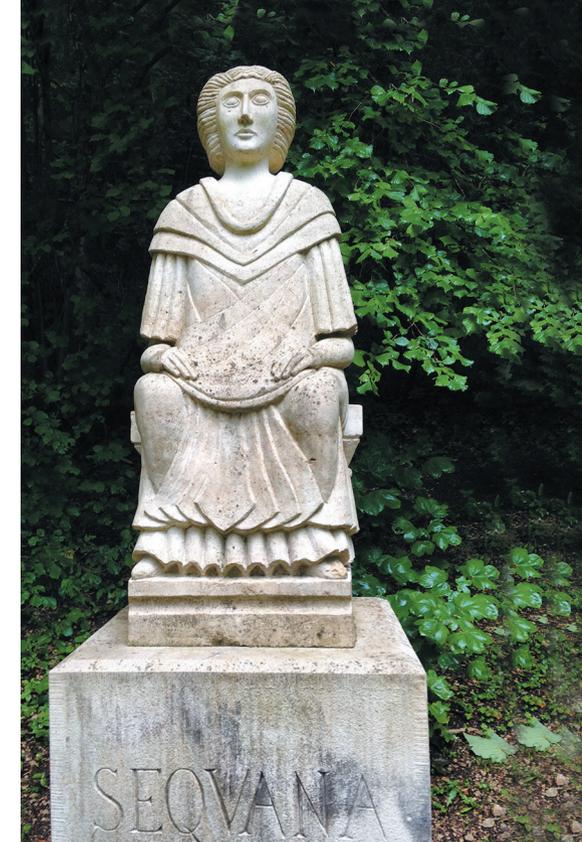
About 257 bridges cross the Seine along its entire length.

The first bridge over the Seine can be found in the belly of Burgundy at the river's source. It's a small, almost touching structure with a plaque reading Pont Paul Lamarche. Gustave Lamarche -- known as Paul -- was for many years the guardian of the source of the Seine, planting willows, trimming the grass, cleaning up after degenerates. He and his wife Monique ran the Café Sequana there until 1990. Monique's omelet was reputed better than those at La Mère Poulard, the famous restaurant of the Mont-Saint-Michel. It was on the occasion of Paul's hundredth birthday that the bridge was named after him.



Crossing the first bridge over the Seine takes 3 or 4 steps according to the length of your stride.

The last bridge to cross the Seine before it empties into the ocean is the Pont de Normandie, a cable-stayed (*pont à haubans*) road bridge that links Le Havre to Honfleur in Normandy. Its total length is 2,143.21 meters -- 856 meters between the two piers. Despite being a motorway toll bridge, there is a footpath as well as a narrow cycle lane in each direction allowing pedestrians and cyclists to cross the bridge free of charge for an exhilarating outing. The extraordinary bridge opened on 20 January 1995. Crossing the last bridge over the Seine takes between 3000 to 4000 steps according to the size of your stride. Exactly 3238 steps for a person of 5' 3 inches.



(The festival appears to be moving definitively to Fontainebleau for security reasons).

Pay homage to Django at Samois sur Seine

Jean «Django» Reinhardt (23 January 1910 – 16 May 1953) was a Belgian-born, Romani French jazz guitarist and composer, regarded as one of the greatest musicians of the twentieth century. He was the first jazz talent to emerge from Europe and remains the most significant by far. In 1951, Reinhardt retired to Samois-sur-Seine, near Fontainebleau, where he lived until his death.

The popularity of gypsy jazz has generated an increasing number of festivals, such as the Festival Django Reinhardt held every last weekend of June since 1983 in Samois-sur-Seine.



Samois-sur-Seine is a town in the Seine-et-Marne department in Île-de-France. The town extends for



Illustrations: Aurélia Bessède

about six kilometers along the Seine (left bank) at the edge of the forest of Fontainebleau. A memorial plaque can be found attached to Django's home, rue du Bas-Samois.

Watch a film : Barge life on the Seine turned to cinematic poetry

Jean Vigo made only four films before he died of tuberculosis in 1934, aged just 29. Yet no movie-lover, however eccentric, could compose a list of 100 films through which the cinema should be celebrated without including at least one of his works. The last and greatest was *L'Atalante* also released as *Le Chaland qui passe* (The Passing Barge).

L'Atalante is a barge in which two young newly-weds travel the waterways of France, notably the Seine. The crew consists of an old eccentric with a passion for cats and an equally peculiar boy. The wife loves her husband but soon grows tired of his water bound obsessions

and, longing for the excitement of Paris, is lured ashore by a peddler.

The distraught husband imagines his wife reflected in the water. Meanwhile, she tires of wandering the cruel streets of Depression-era Paris. There are prostitutes and beggars and thieves everywhere. Men try to pick her up, she has her handbag stolen and she goes forlornly in search of the barge. In the end she is found by the old man, and the lovers are reunited.

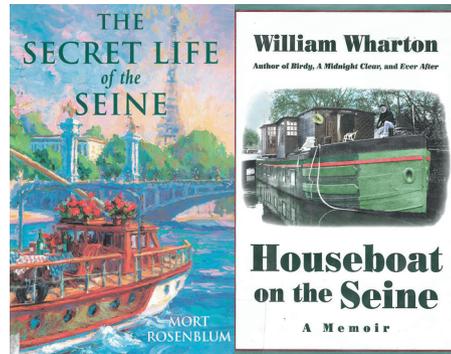
The film is a masterpiece not because of the tragic story of its maker but because, as Truffaut has said, in filming prosaic words and acts, Vigo effortlessly achieved poetry. *L'Atalante* has been hailed by many critics as one of the greatest films of all time.

Read a Seine book: Mort or William – or both!

“There is not a river like it in the world, for beauty and passion along its banks. Its history is as old as the Jordan's and it is no muddy stream across moonscape. If hardly a Mississippi, it still conceals



Illustration: Aurélie Bessède



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treacherous sandbanks that keep boatmen anxiously marking their twain”. Page 2 [The Secret Life of the Seine](#)

“Along with foul water, I saw waterfowl” Page 3 [The Secret Life of the Seine](#)

“As habitation fantasies go, waking up every day on a teak launch tethered to the banks of the Seine is a long way downstream from shabby. Mort Rosenblum’s moveable feast has a top speed of five knots – fast enough for fun, languid enough for dreaming. Take the trip you’ll never take. This is what books are for.” -- Garry Trudeau

“What a romantic notion, living on a houseboat in Paris! Although the idea was bewitching to his wife and family, the actual business of moving onto a boat in the middle of the Seine seemed out of the question, absurd. *Until one suddenly becomes available.*” Dust jacket blurb [Houseboat on the Seine](#)

Wharton’s gritty and unembellished story – an amalgam of boat building manual and memoir of expatriate life – is fascinating. “ –Kirkus Review or [Houseboat on the Seine](#)

[Join the debate Seine vs Yonne -- which is the main river and which the tributary?](#)

The argument goes like this: if we consider the flow rates at their confluence, it is not the Seine that flows in Paris, but the Yonne!

Indeed, at the confluence when two

ivers meet, it is generally considered that the one with the smallest flow dumps into the other and yields its name to the higher power. In Montereau-Fault-Yonne (where the name Fault-Yonne means “end of the Yonne”, 75 kilometers south of Paris, the Seine has a flow of 80 m³ / second when it meets the Yonne which has a flow of 93 m³ / second. The Seine therefore hydro-graphically speaking terminates into the Yonne and loses its name. And there you have it -- Paris is actually traversed by

the Yonne, which then flows into the English Channel. Roll over Monsieur Apollinaire: *Sous le pont Mirabeau coule l’Yonne....*

As you might imagine, there are similar debates at many a confluence. One in particular in the United States concerns the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

So why do we call the river that runs through Paris the Seine? The answer may well lie in antiquity and in Gallo-Roman history. Back then there

weren’t any flow charts for rivers and nobody spoke hydro-graphically, did they? We can speculate that the commercial traffic on the Seine was historically more important than the traffic on the tributary Yonne, and that the people of the Seine maintained cultural and political sway over those bozos of the Yonne. Thus when the two rivers met the Seine was the winner. At any rate, today, the Seine has had too big of an influence on Parisian history to change its name. **That would be in-Seine!**

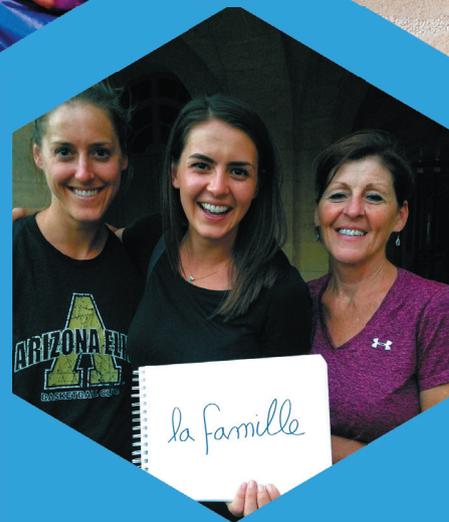
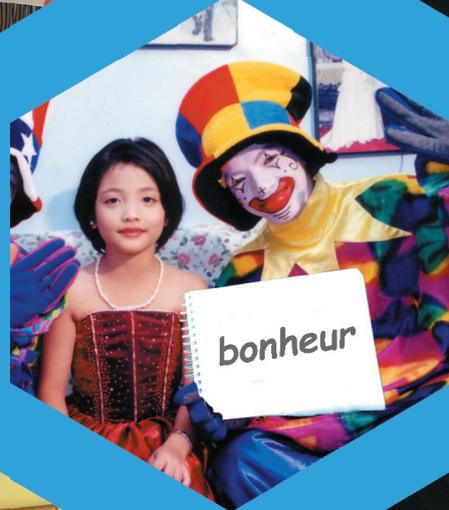


My Favorite French word is

...



I can't decide.
Je suis un
cheval
à cheval !



How do you know you're Becoming French?!

20 more ways

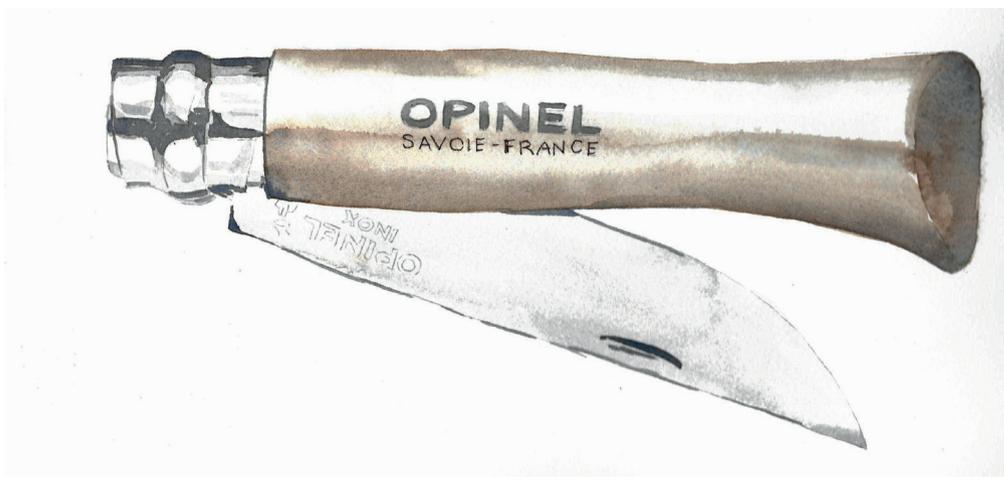
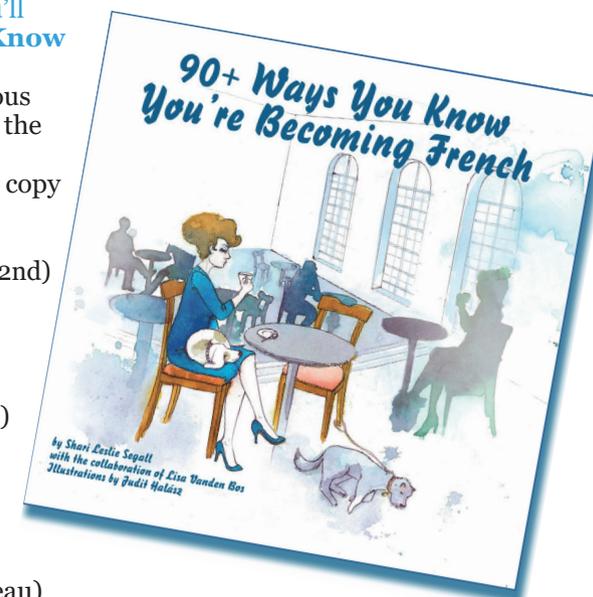
When you...

1. know that seeing and hearing a rumbling mass of military planes and helicopters in the Paris sky around July 11 does not mean an invasion but a rehearsal for the Bastille Day parade and that Bastille Day not only is not what the French call the holiday but are words that mean absolutely nothing to them. (see page 9)
2. have at least two pairs of espadrilles in your closet
3. find creative, inspiring solutions to any problem...but only at the last minute
4. know what *Système D* is (and what the D stands for!)
5. iron your plain white t-shirts and jeans — then wear them with outrageously expensive perfume and know that “perfume” (*parfum*) is used to described scents for men as well as women
6. drink your morning coffee (or hot chocolate) from a bowl (Yes! A real bowl. [Tea, somehow, stays in a cup.])
7. have an Opinel or three
8. eat pizza (and, while you're at it, chicken legs and hamburgers) with a knife and fork
9. no longer switch your knife and fork for cutting/eating purposes (That's how German spies were caught in the U.S. during WWII: Their spymasters had forgotten to tell them that Americans switch.)
10. have underwear items that match not only each other but also what you're sporting on top of them
11. know what PSG stands for, the full name of the SG in question, what OM has to do with PSG, and what OM stands for
12. give up on Doe (as in John) and use Dupont or Durand
13. make the last item on your grocery list a gigantic bouquet of flowers
14. do not — that's: not — ask for ice in your cola or water
15. say *bon appétit* to everyone you see with food
16. have a favorite chef — and a favorite film director
17. are shocked when Christmas decorations appear as early as November
18. do not respond to an e-mailed question until you have the answer: if you never have the answer, you never respond!
19. feel that one scoop of ice cream (the size of a golf ball) is enough, one cup of coffee (the size of a thimble) is enough, one muffin (that is not the size of a dinner plate) is enough
20. figure out how to wash your entire back with a “washcloth” that is really a small terrycloth glove while not spraying the whole bathroom with the hand-held telephone-shower head

by Shari Leslie Segall,
a writer who lives in Paris

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Do you know that...

the unofficial national flowers of France are blue, white and red. They are: the blue bell, daisy and poppy - *le bleuet, la marguerite et le coquelicot*.



French was officialized as the language of France by an addendum to the constitution only in 1992.

mainland France's hexagonal form fits in a circle 1000km in diameter. No point is more than 500km from the coast.

to French kiss is "rouler une pelle"
 a French letter or tickler is a "capote anglaise"
 a French horn is a "cor d'harmonie"
 a French window is a "porte-fenêtre"
 French fries are "les frites"
 French dressing is "vinaigrette"
 French toast is "pain perdu"
 the French Riviera is "La côte d'Azur"

Voltaire's tomb is in the Pantheon, but his heart is inside a metal box in the base of the statue by Houdon in the National Library. The box is inscribed with: "His heart is here but his spirit is everywhere."

in French "risqué" and "promiscuité" do not refer to sex.

Le France is a cruise ship and *La France* is the country.

joke about why the French only eat one egg in the morning? Because one egg is "un oeuf". (Very punny!)

joke about what happens when you throw a grenade into a French kitchen? You get linoleum blown apart! (hear the emperor pun?)

there are town names in France that will make an English speaker giggle: Condom, Anus, Tendon, Ars, Seix, Grouchy, Brainville, Bust, Rye, Cudos, Rancon, Le Bugue and Y. And how about these for French laughs (say them outloud): Trécon, Conas, Verdelaix, Marans, Achiet-le-Grand, Arnac-la-Poste, Corps-Nuds, Le Déluge, Bellebrune, Bidon, Plaisir.

there were two cats who swam a race across the English Channel? The French cat was named "un deux trois cat" and the British, "one two three cat". Which cat won the race? The British cat, because everyone knows that un deux trois cat cinq.

the etymology of the phrase "Ca va?" goes back to the Middle Ages? It is probably a shortened version of "comment ça va (or comment allez-vous)... à la selle?" Bowel movements being the principle gauge of health at the time. How do you do?

France has 5 mountains ranges, 13 regions, 43 World Heritage sites, 101 departments, 677 members of parliament, 1243 museums and more than 1300 types of cheese?

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Speak Easy Puzzle: « Stick together »

Match the English bi- or tri-nomial phrase with its French equivalent.
Trouver la phrase correspondante.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Hue and cry | a. Cesser et de s'abstenir |
| 2. Huff and puff | b. Être à cran |
| 3. On pins and needles | c. Seul et unique |
| 4. Flotsam and jetsam | d. Sans attache |
| 5. Wear and tear | e. Clandestin |
| 6. Nice and slow | f. La bannière étoilée |
| 7. All and sundry | g. Usure |
| 8. Wash-and-wear | h. Se réconcilier en s'embrassant |
| 9. Loud and clear | i. Se tourner et se retourner |
| 10. Wine and dine | j. Le ban et arrière ban |
| 11. Breaking and entering | k. Donnant donnant |
| 12. Footloose and fancyfree | l. Faire ouf et pouf |
| 13. Kiss and make up | m. Introduction par effraction |
| 14. Cash-and-carry | n. En père peïnard |
| 15. Cease and desist | o. Clameur |
| 16. The Stars and Stripes | p. Sans entretien |
| 17. Cloak-and-dagger | q. Enfer et damnation |
| 18. Fast and loose | r. Cinq sur cinq |
| 19. Give and take | s. Quoi de neuf |
| 20. Show and tell | t. Déchets flottants |
| 21. The birds and the bees | u. Les quatre cents coups |
| 22. Lock, stock and barrel | v. Effervescence |
| 23. Hustle and Bustle | w. Les cigognes et les choux |
| 24. Fire and brimstone | x. Libre-service |
| 25. Toss and turn | y. En bloc |
| 26. One and only | z. Chouchouter |



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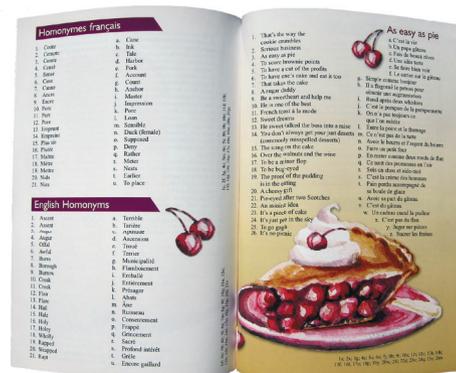
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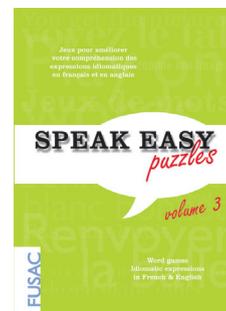


Looking for advice on how to infiltrate French culture and stop feeling like an outsider in Paris? INSPIRE/LE offers unique insights and expert advice to help women conquer life in and around the City of Light.

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The Speak Easy Puzzles book of 50 puzzles is available on <http://store.fusac.fr>



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

Who incarnates France?

FUSAC asked some readers, here's what they said...



Photo notes:
 Voltaire. Jean-Antoine Houdon, 1812, Panthéon in Paris.
 Napoléon Bonaparte. Ivory miniature bust, Musée de Dieppe.
 Charles de Gaulle. Jean Cardot, 2000, Paris.
 Jeanne d'Arc. Alexandre Mathurin Péche, 1899, Champagneux.
 Charlemagne. Charles et Louis Rochet, 1878, In front of Notre-Dame, Paris.
 Louis Pasteur. Alexandre Falguière, 1904. Paris.
 Jean de La Fontaine. Charles Corréia, 1984, Jardin de Ranelagh, Paris.

Louis XIV. Louis Petitot, 1838, Versailles.
 Victor Hugo. Auguste Rodin, 1890. Paris 16th.
 Saint Genevieve. Paul Landowski, 1928. Pont de la Tourelle, Paris.
 Coluche, represented by his signature overalls. Guillaume Werle, 2011. Montrouge.
 Simone Veil. Political rally organized by the UMP at the Japy Gymnasium on February 27, 2008 on the theme "France and Israel's friendship at the service of peace", during the campaign for the 2008 town elections. © Marie-Lan Nguyen / Wikimedia Commons.

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Speak Easy - Idiomatic Expressions

What is a Speak Easy?

Becoming bilingual requires attending classes to learn grammar, language structure and vocabulary, but even after years of classroom learning and having mastered these three pillars we are still not really bilingual. Language needs depth and color which come with idiomatic expressions. Because these expressions describe what is familiar, they are central to everyday language and are the cultural part of a language. Without knowledge of the idiomatic expressions the speaker cannot become completely integrated.

The Speak Easy puzzle is a game where you match French idiomatic expressions with English ones. The purpose of these games is the translation and the transposition of idiomatic expressions helping you become truly bilingual. FUSAC has been creating and publishing Speak Easys for nearly 30 years in the magazine, online and in books. The Speak Easy Puzzles book is a collection of 50 matching puzzles with themes and watercolor illustrations. The books are a fun way to learn French or English and helpful for students and teachers. Available online in the FUSAC Boutique <http://store.fusac.fr> or ask for it at these fine shops:

- Librairie Eyrolles Travel dept. (61 bd Saint-Germain, 75005)
- Librairie-Papeterie Du Champs de Mars (28 Avenue de Tourville, 75007)
- Reel Books (9 Rue de Ferrare, Fontainebleau)

Puzzle: « Et toc! »

Match the French word with the English equivalent.

Trouver la phrase correspondante.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Ric-rac | a. Riffraff |
| 2. Racaille | b. Rinky-dink |
| 3. Rikiki | c. Nincompoop |
| 4. Raplapla | d. So there! |
| 5. Rififi | e. Frilly |
| 6. Un micmac | f. A creepy-crawly bug |
| 7. Flon flon; flafla | g. Flat as a pancake |
| 8. Fric-frac | h. A game similar to backgammon |
| 9. Frou-frou | i. Glug glug |
| 10. Glou glou | j. Oompah; Tiddly-om-pom-pom |
| 11. Train train | k. Burglary |
| 12. Trictrac | l. Just barely |
| 13. Et toc! | m. Ho hum |
| 14. Nunuche | n. Trouble |
| 15. Une b  b  te | o. Sofa bed |
| 16. Un clic-clac | p. A muddle |

Answers - R  ponses: 1l; 2a; 3b; 4g; 5n; 6p; 7j; 8k; 9e; 10i; 11m; 12h; 13d; 14c; 15f; 16o

FRANCE

Culture

Quiz :

21 questions

to measure the extent of your knowledge

(answers on page 43)



1.

Where did Julius Caesar defeat Vercingétorix in 52 BC ?

2.

Parisian revolutionaries in 1789 were called

- Les sans-culottes
- Les passe-muraille
- Les rabat-joie

3.

Who is at the origin of the abolition of slavery in French colonies in 1848 ?

- Victor Hugo
- Victor Schoelcher
- Lamartine

4.

Bonaparte said this about a certain honor : « *C'est avec un hochet que l'on mène les hommes.* » To what honor was he referring ?

5.

What river does this bridge / aqueduct in the photo above cross? Hint: It was built by the Romans to bring water to the city of Nîmes.

FRANCE Culture Quiz :

6. This popular car from the 1930's included in its specifications:
Carries 4 people,
50 kilos of potatoes or
a small cask of wine
at a speed of up to 60
kilometers per hour with
a consumption rate of 3
liters per 100 kilometers.
What car is it?

- La 2 CV
- La 4 CV
- La 4L



7. What island sold to France in 1768 by the Genoese is called the "Island of Beauty" ?

8. In which year was the Euro introduced?

- 1993
- 1997
- 2002

9. What factory installed in Boulogne-Billancourt was long considered a bastion of the working class?

10. What is the oldest known document written in French?

- Le traité de Verdun
- Le Serment de Strasbourg
- La chanson de Roland

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FRANCE Culture Quiz :

11. Of foreign extraction (immigrant families or born outside France) they contributed to the construction and cultural influence of France. Match these important French people with their countries of origin.

Alain Mimoun
Léon Gambetta
Vassily Kandinsky
Yves Montand
Missak Manouchian
Raymond Kopa
Georges Charpak
Marie Curie
Marc Chagall
Albert Uderzo
Serge Gainsbourg
Max Ernst
Blaise Cendrars

Armenia
Germany
Italy (3)
Poland (3)
Algeria
Russia (3)
Switzerland

12. What expression expresses an invitation in all simplicity?

- A la bonne franquette
- A la va-comme-je-te-pousse
- A bon entendeur, salut !

13. Which 5-letter word, attributed to General

Cambronne, is one of the most used in the French language to signify anger, impatience, contempt, or refusal?

INTERVIEW

with **Doctor Bouaziz**, a new English-speaking dentist

Where do you come from?

Tunisia is my birth and homeland, but I have been living in France for a very long time and I became a real Titi Parisien.

You speak fluent English as does your staff; how did you acquire mastery of Shakespeare's tongue?

My staff and I are representing what the world is now: a little village. We are French, Latvian, Portuguese and Tunisian. We speak 6 different languages and the main communication language in our office is English.

I learned English through my studies and my travels. English is a simple and a very important way to connect with the whole world, that is the reason I chose to have a significant part of my studies in English.

How did you become a dentist?

Since I was young, I wanted to become a surgeon. Growing up, I discovered dentistry with one of my nearest friends and I literally fell in love with it. It is a mixture of art, engineering, medical knowledge and delicate surgery. I obtained my basic degree in Dentistry in 2006, then I did 3 specializations in Implantology, Periodontology and Prosthodontics.

You practice currently rue Magdebourg in Paris 16th. How did you come to this office?

As a member of the American Academy of Periodontology, I met Dr Germain (who was American and Canadian), the former dentist in Magdebourg, Paris 16. And when she decided to move to London, we thought I was the



best person to continue the care of her patients as I was familiar with American procedures and standards.

What is your forte in dentistry?

To be honest, I excel in my three specialities. But, my most valuable proficiency is helping my patient to be more confident and give them the high quality treatment they need in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

What is your favorite dentist joke?

You don't have to brush all your teeth, just the ones you want to keep.

Your motto?

When kindness and dentistry meet, happiness is achieved one tooth at a time.

Do you have a message for the anglophones of Paris ?

You are all very welcome!

Dr. Wiem BOUAZIZ
Dental surgeon
Periodontist
Implantologist



18, Rue de Magdebourg
75116 Paris

Office : +33 (0)1 47 64 31 72

Email : contact@pearldental.paris

FRANCE Culture Quiz :

14. Who is the author of the painting entitled « *Liberté guidant le peuple* » ?

- Géricault
- Delacroix
- Ingres

15. In which château is found the *Galerie des Batailles* (paintings covering 14 centuries of French history)?

- Fontainebleau
- Versailles
- Vaux-le-Vicomte

16. What is the name of the brothers who perfected the cinematograph in 1895 ?

17. Which French film broke the record – long held by *La Grande Vadrouille* – for the most spectators ?

18. What game, often played in the south of France, consists of placing balls as close as possible to a *cochonnet* (target ball) ?

19. He was the first aviator to cross the Mediterranean in a plane. His name was given to a tennis stadium where a Grand Slam tournament is held every May. Who is he ?

20. Mayor of Dijon after the liberation, this Reverend Canon gave his name to a famous aperitif of white wine and blackcurrent. His name ?

- Kir
- Lillet
- Martini

21. Which popular dish from the Southwest region of France is composed mostly of beans?

- La garbure
- La pipérade
- Le cassoulet



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FRANCE Culture Quiz :

Answers:

1. Alésia (The line 4 metro station is named for the Alésia battlefield in Burgundy not far from Dijon.)
2. *Les sans-culottes*. Not because they didn't wear underwear but because they wore striped pants as opposed to breeches.
3. Victor Schoelcher
4. *La Légion d'honneur*
5. The photo is of the Pont du Gard or Bridge over the Gard. The river's name is thus Le Gard
6. *La 2 CV*
7. Corsica
8. 2002
9. Renault
10. Le Serment de Strasbourg dates from 842 was an alliance between Charles the Bald and Louis the German rulers of West and East Francia respectively.
11. Alain Mimoun Algeria, Léon Gambetta Italy, Vassily Kandinsky Russia, Yves Montand Italy, Missak Manouchian Armenia, Raymond Kopa Poland, Georges Charpak Poland, Marie Curie Poland, Marc Chagall Russia, Albert Uderzo Italy, Serge Gainsbourg Russia, Max Ernst Germany, Blaise Cendrars Switzerland
12. *A la bonne franquette*
13. *Merde*
14. Eugène Delacroix
15. Versailles
16. Les frères Lumière
17. *Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis*
18. *La pétanque* aka "*Les boules*"
19. Roland Garros the first to fly across the Med (from Marseille to Bizerte Tunisia in 1913). Garros loved sports and played tennis for fun. His plane was shot down in WWI and his friend, who held the purse-strings of the 1928 tennis stadium construction, insisted that the new stadium be named in his honor.
20. (Félix) Kir. First a person, then a drink!
21. Le cassoulet

Hogtied in France?

15 Books to help you better understand the hexagon.

Dictionnaire amoureux de l'Histoire de France

Max Gallo

Max the historian works the alphabet from A to Z with entries ranging from Alésia to Jean Zay, touching along the way on Bernard de Clairvaux, Dreyfus, François Ier, Gambetta, Geneviève de Gaulle-Anthonioz, Henri IV, les intellectuels, la laïcité, le maquis, Saint Louis and Verdun. When Monsieur Gallo says he loves French history he means it. Listen to him:

« J'aime l'histoire de France, cette immense forêt. Voilà plus de cinquante années que je la parcours. Je connais les massifs qui la composent et les essences diverses qui la peuplent. Chaque lettre est comme un massif forestier, chaque fait ou personnage retenu, est un arbre...cette diversité rassemblée dans une même et indestructible forêt, c'est cette France dont je suis amoureux, que je ne me lasse pas de contempler et de parcourir. »

This book has its place in every francophile's francophone library.

Paris to the Moon

Adam Gopnik who is a contributing writer to The New Yorker since 1986 may also be one of the best journalists ever to have reported regularly from the City of Lights. This Nineties memoir moves from the particular (wife, children, domestic arrangements) to the general (French culture, politics, economics) with ease, wit and penetrative insight.

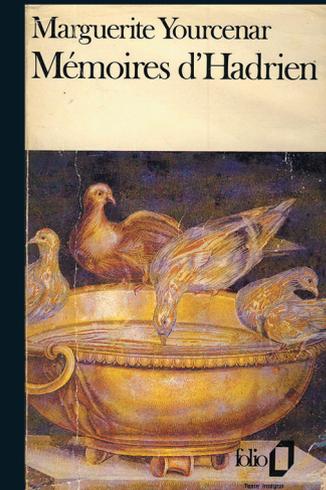
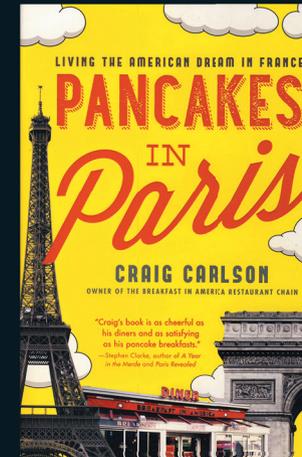
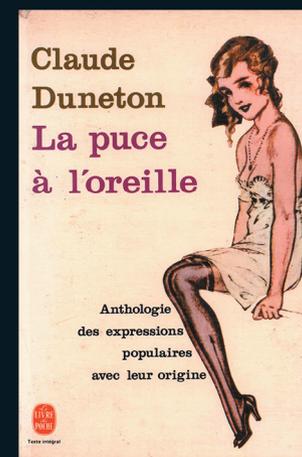
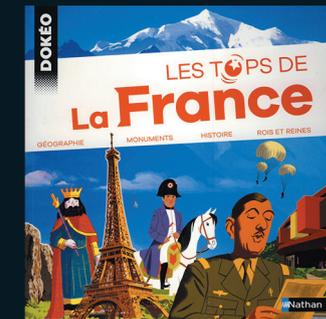
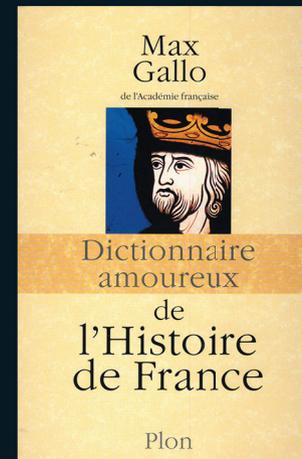
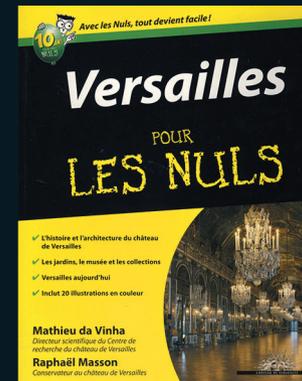
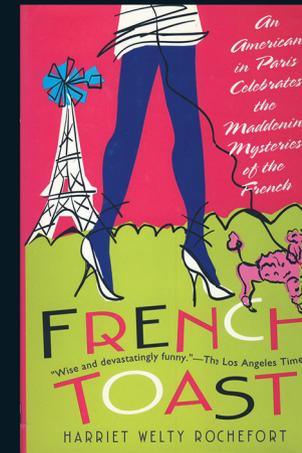
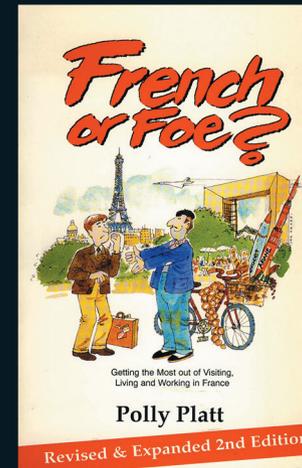
Les Liaisons dangereuses

Dangerous Liaisons is a French epistolary novel by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, first published in 1782.

It is the story of the Marquise de Merteuil and the Vicomte de Valmont, two rivals (and ex-lovers) who use seduction as a weapon to socially control and exploit others, all the while enjoying their cruel games and boasting about their manipulative talents. A tasty sample :

« Adieu, mon ange, je t'ai prise avec plaisir, je te quitte sans regret : je te reviendrai peut-être. Ainsi va le monde. Ce n'est pas ma faute. » --Lettre CXLI

It is often claimed to be the source of the saying «Revenge is a dish best served cold», a paraphrased translation of «La vengeance est un plat qui se mange froid» (more literally, «Revenge is a dish that is eaten cold»). However, the expression does not actually occur in the original novel in any form.



Pancakes in Paris, Living the American Dream in France

Imagine going to the planet Mars. The chances of that happening to you are inexistant. Now think about getting in between a grizzly bear sow and her cubs while out hiking the backcountry of Wyoming. Your chances of coming away from that bruin encounter unscathed are slightly better. But slim, very slim indeed. Now ponder starting a food-related business from scratch in France sans funds, sans restaurant experience and for all knowledge of the country's culture and language consisting of a meager college junior-year-abroad in pretty, provincial Rouen. The chances of coming away from such an entrepreneurial folly are about the same as those of the grizzly attack. Only one in ten thousand.

Enter Craig Carlson, the pancake kid from Frenchtown USA (really!). His fantastic story of building Breakfast in America, a trio of American-style diners in Paris, is nothing short of remarkable. Craig prevails but it nearly kills him. In his book *Pancakes in Paris*, Monsieur Carlson, laden with a *prénom*, unheard of in the land of the long bread - Craque, Greig-err, Crec, Greq, or Grack - skillfully and humorously recounts the challenges he faced. And no doubt continues to face – nightmarish *contrôleurs*, nasty *lettres recommandées*, kafkaesque employment laws, insane language police leading to numerous panic attacks. *Sacré merde* !

Sacré bouquin ! This fun and fascinating account of one man's passion for pancakes, one man's eternal determination and one man's huge dose of luck in the Paris is both heartwarming and highly entertaining. And no doubt it will have you headed over to Breakfast in America to enjoy the results. With a little luck of your own you'll run into « Grack » himself.

Le Nouveau Guide France

de G. Michaud

A great introduction to different aspects of France clearly and concisely presented in six chapters in French

- . Les visages de la France
- . Les témoins du passé
- . La vie culturelle
- . La vie politique
- . La vie économique
- . la vie sociale

Memoirs of Hadrian

Marguerite Yourcenar

Memoirs of Hadrian is a novel by the Belgian-born French writer Marguerite Yourcenar, the first woman ever elected to the Académie française (1980). It is about the life and death of Roman Emperor Hadrian.

The book takes the form of a letter to Hadrian's cousin and eventual successor «Mark» (Marcus Aurelius). The emperor meditates on military triumphs, love of poetry and music, philosophy, and his passion for his lover Antinous.

«*Les poètes nous transportent dans un monde plus vaste ou plus beau, plus ardent ou plus doux que celui qui nous est donné, différent par là même, et en pratique presque inhabitable.*»

You could skip reading this book but you would miss out on some of the best French writing in the past 100 years.



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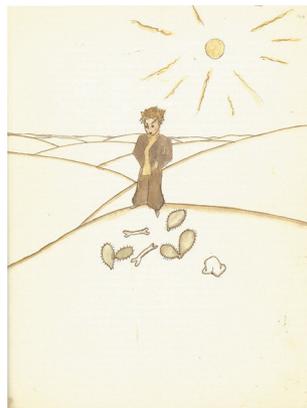
Le Petit Prince

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

A tender tale of loneliness, friendship, love, and loss, in the form of a young prince fallen to Earth.

The Little Prince, first published in 1943, is a novella, the most famous work of French aristocrat, writer, poet, and pioneering aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900–1944).

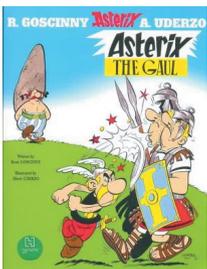
Voted the best book of the 20th century in France, The Little Prince has been translated into 300 languages and dialects (as well as Braille), selling nearly two million copies annually with sales totaling over 140 million copies worldwide; it has become one of the best-selling books ever published.



Drawing from the Le Manuscrit du «Petit Prince» d'Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Fac-simile et transcription. Editions Gallimard, 2013.

Asterix the Gaul

René Goscinny (stories) and Albert Uderzo (illustrations)



Asterix the Gaul is the first volume of the Asterix comic strip series.

The year is 50BC, and all Gaul is occupied. Only one small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. But how much longer can Asterix, Obelix and their friends resist the mighty Roman legions of Julius Caesar? Anything is possible, with a little cunning plus the druid Getafix's magic potions!

In *Le Monde's* 100 Books of the 20th Century list Asterix the Gaul is listed as the 23rd greatest book of the century.

Les tops de la France

Olivier Bauer, Sandrine Mirza and Jean-Michel Billioud

A gold mine of information ! 320 flash pages take you on a geographical and historical tour de France. Landscapes, regions, cities, natural parks, key dates, remarkable monuments and major characters. Fun and convivial for the 7 to 77.

French or Foe?: Getting the Most Out of Visiting, Living and Working in France

Polly Platt, cultural diva.

Polly-vous francais? If you've ever wanted to know why the French do what they do then you should definitely read this book. Platt covers many facets of French life a visitor would encounter: male/female relationships, entertaining, the office, education, food, a little history and even more. It is a few years old but there are some great basics here that any visitor to France would do well to know. A fascinating look at France and its culture!



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La puce à l'oreille: anthologie des expressions populaires avec leur origine

Claude Duneton

Fistfuls of everyday expressions are analyzed in their social and historical contexts. A marvel of curiosity, this book will teach you a great number of things about popular expressions. *Tomber en quenouille, avoir la poisse, la veuve poignet, être un pigeon, rouler une pelle, pas piqué des hannetons, avoir du pain sur la planche* -- all that and on and on. A delight.

French Toast: An American in Paris Celebrates the Maddening Mysteries of the French

Harriet Welty-Rochefort

Peter Mayle may have spent a year in Provence, but Harriet Welty Rochefort writes from the experience of over twenty years in Paris. From a small town in Iowa to the City of Lights, Harriet did what so many dream of - she picked up her entire life and moved to France - permanently. But it has not been twenty years of fun and games, Harriet has endured her share of cultural bumps, bruises, and psychic adjustments. In «French Toast», Harriet makes sense of Parisians and their ever-so-French thoughts on food, money, sex, love, marriage, manners, and much, much more. Read an excerpt from Harriet's second book *Joie de Vivre* on page 56.

Le bonheur d'être français

François Hauter

What strange composition makes 67 million Frenchmen and women -- 1% of the world's population living on 1% of the world's surface -- so singular? Avoiding any clichés, François Hauter, a journalist having lived most of his life abroad in China, the United States, Africa and the Middle East, evokes this atypical planet France in 30 episodes. These petits tableaux showcase France's unusual manners, baffling doubts, inexplicable tears, but also the solid underpinnings and profound qualities of an old people.

France : An Illustrated Miscellany

Denis Tillinac

This handsome volume presents France and its rich culture in all its bounty—from landscape and tradition to literature and legend. Eminent French author Denis Tillinac takes the reader through provincial French villages to deluxe Riviera retreats and on to the City of Lights, providing insight into Henri IV, the origins of champagne, and the development of the high-speed (TGV) train along the way. From Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* to the infamous Napoleon Bonaparte, and from La Fontaine's fables to the early feminist Joan of Arc, this book provides an insider's tour of the Hexagon.

Versailles Pour les nuls

Mathieu DAVINHA and Raphaël MASSON

Centuries after its modest start as a hunting lodge, events that took place at Versailles ultimately helped shaped the world we live in today. Versailles then, as major theater in the history of France, is well worth a long study and multiple visits. But it can be somewhat intimidating and complicated at first. Hence a good place to start learning about Louis' hangout is this fine French-language edition of the **For Dummies** series. Simple and direct prose style will lead you through the haughty Hall of Mirrors and out to the sumptuous gardens. My favorite place, *le parterre d'eau*, is in the crack of transition -- where one leaves the architecture of stone to move to the architecture of the vegetal world.

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Cooking: 10 minutes

Freezing: 1 hour

- 1 silicone financier mold with 7.5 x 4 cm imprints
- 2 pastry bags
- 1 paper cornet

FINANCIER BATTER

- 130 g powdered sugar
- 50 g ground almonds
- 20 g unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tsp honey
- 4.5 egg whites (135 g)
- 30 g flour
- 1 pinch baking powder
- 70 g butter, melted

CHOCOLATE GANACHE

- 150 g dark chocolate 70%
- 150 ml whipping cream

COATING

- 300 g dark chocolate glaze

METHOD

FINANCIER BATTER

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C. In a bowl, place the powdered sugar, ground almonds, cocoa powder and the honey.
2. Mix half the egg whites in with a whisk, followed by the second half and mix well.
3. Whisk in the flour and baking powder and lastly melted butter.
4. Transfer the batter to a pastry bag, without a tip and pipe the batter to ¾ fill each financier imprint. Bake for 10 minutes, remove from the oven and cool for a few minutes before turning out onto a rack.



CHOCOLATE GANACHE

1. Chop the chocolate and place into a bowl. Bring the cream to the boil in a saucepan. Pour immediately onto the chopped chocolate. Leave the chocolate to melt, then stir with a spatula until a smooth texture is obtained. Cool.
2. Transfer the ganache to a pastry bag, without a tip and half fill each financier imprint. Position a chocolate financier into each imprint, rounded side against the ganache.
3. Freeze for 1 hour. Set aside ganache for the decoration.

COATING AND DECORATION

1. Melt the dark chocolate glaze. Remove the ganache coated chocolate financiers from the imprints. Place the point of a knife into the center of a chocolate financier and dip the chocolate ganache side into the dark chocolate glaze. Gently shake to remove excess chocolate glaze. Place on baking parchment lined baking sheet to set.
2. Repeat with the remaining financiers. Place the reserved ganache into a paper cone and streak each chocolate financier with fine lines of ganache.



This recipe is one of the 100 delicious recipes from the book *L'École de la Pâtisserie* by Le Cordon Bleu institute and Larousse editions.
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Perspectives

Cultural differences : vive la différence !

As the French manager of a hotel in Paris and married to an American, I have a front row seat on cultural differences, especially those between the French and the Americans. Many cultural misunderstandings can be explained by a basic difference in communication styles : Americans prefer « explicit » communication (as in the expression « say what you mean and mean what you say »), while the French communicate in a more « implicit » manner. In « implicit » communication, the context (situation, status of those involved...) can be more important than the words themselves. For example, a French friend invited me and an American friend to a New Year's Eve party held at her parents' home in a fancy suburb. Not wanting to commit a « faux pas », I asked my French friend how I should dress for the event. The response : « normal ». I erred on the side of caution and wore a suit. When I arrived, all the guests were wearing suits or cocktail dresses, while my American friend wore jeans...he felt a bit out of place. My French friend did not mean to make him uncomfortable ; to her, the context of the invitation made the dress code clear. An American would have probably said « wear a suit »... How many times have American clients or friends lamented that they totally misread a situation ?

Some other cultural differences I have observed :

Ways of discussing : the French are much more at ease with expressing disagreement. Discussions among friends can get very animated and people can speak loudly. This is considered part of the fun. Americans are less comfortable about expressing disagreement with their friends and will bend over backwards to avoid offense. From the French point of view, this can lead to tepid exchanges...

Priorities for spending money : many American tourists are fine with spending 100€ for a show or to take their family to a theme park, but find that 30€ is really a lot for a meal.

Humor : this is very difficult to translate across cultures ! The French appreciate irony, while most Americans do not.

While everyone spends hours looking at their smart phones, Americans are more addicted to technology than the French. Looking at a map and discovering a new area do not interest them ; they are « results oriented » and want to get from point A to point B using their smart phones. This is a pity, since one of the pleasures of being a tourist in Paris is getting lost and finding something new ! One might say the same about cultural differences : they are unexpected discoveries to be appreciated...

by Roland Keniger, Manager, Hotel Marignan (Paris V)

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Perspectives

The Art of the Enigmatic

If there's one thing that can drive an American, a German, or a Swede straight up the wall, it's lack of clarity. Where are we going? What are we doing? Has the game plan been spelled out? We of the northern cultures love the clear-cut, the unambiguous, the definitive, and the specific.

Not the French. The French may be world experts on form, but conversely they are comfortable in situations that are vague, and ill at ease in situations where all is spelled out to the letter. They love the unclear, the implied, the inferred, and the enigmatic. Part of this is because for the French, explaining things point by point is an insult to intelligence: it means, quite simply, that the person you are talking to is unable to figure things out. I can't tell you how many parties, social occasions, school affairs I've been to in France where no one knows what's going on and that's just fine. Either everyone knows because of customs or codes or, well, they'll figure things out. For example, dinnertime. What time shall we come for dinner? I once asked my sister-in-law in my first days in France. Oh, anytime, she replied airily. I pressed her: Anytime? You mean six? She was secretly horrified but equably suggested that anytime from eight on would be great. Why didn't she say that in the first place? Because for her no civilized person in his right mind would eat before eight. And note the "anytime from" in her phrase. Translation: don't you dare show up right at eight, and certainly not before! Recently we were invited to a birthday party, except we didn't know it was a birthday party. By some miracle we found out in extremis and showed up with a hastily chosen present. Other guests obviously knew more than we did and had gone in together on a group gift, a golf club. No problem, we figured. Forewarned is forearmed and we hadn't been forewarned. The people giving the golf club knew the fellow well; we didn't. Everyone was free to do his or her own thing (if, that is, they had ferreted out the initial information, which was that it was a birthday!).

Another example: signs. When I had an operation in a French clinic, I was pleased by the cleanliness and hygiene, the courtesy and efficiency of the personnel, the professionalism of the medical team, the work of the ophthalmologist, who's been our family doctor for almost forty years, and his anesthetist, who in addition to being serious and competent is a nice person to look at as you gently phase out (sexist remark? I can say that: this is France). Filling out the satisfaction form, I criticized only one thing: the "welcome." When you arrive at the clinic, you see a sign saying *accueil* (reception) and a waiting room. But you don't know whether you're to sit in the room waiting to be called or to first go to the not-so-welcoming *accueil*, where a rather forbidding lady is sitting. So you ask, and depending on who answers, you may get lucky and get the right information. In that particular case it turned out that you first went to the *accueil*, signed in, and then waited in the waiting room. Guess what: a simple sign would end confusion and solve the problem.

But that would be taking people for fools.

An excerpt from the chapter *Savoir-Vivre : Life as an Art Form in Joie de Vivre : Secrets of Wining, Dining, and Romancing Like the French* by Harriet Welty Rochefort (St. Martin's Press)

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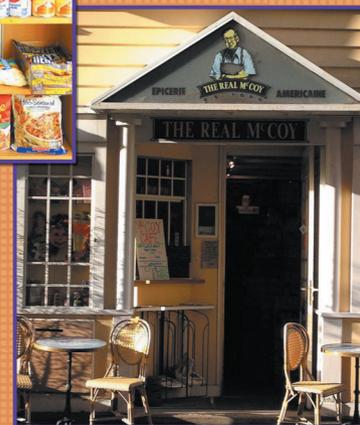
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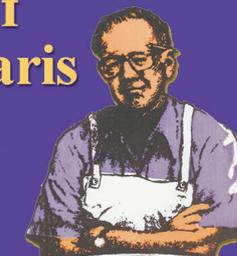
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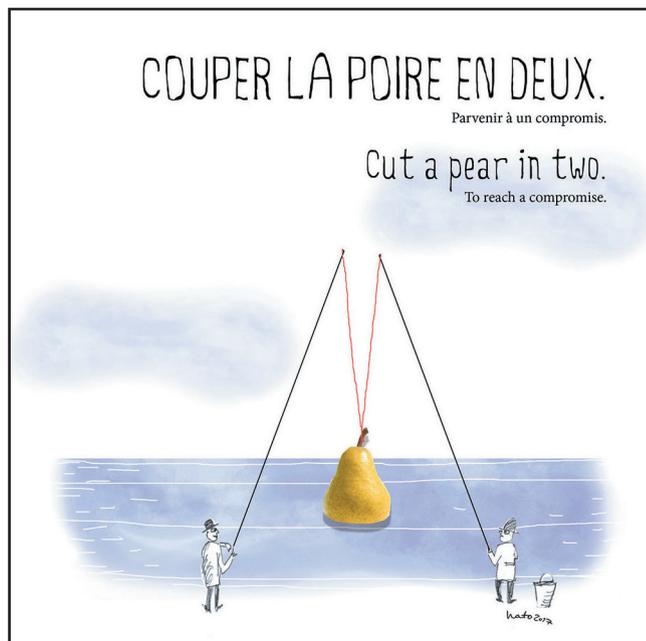
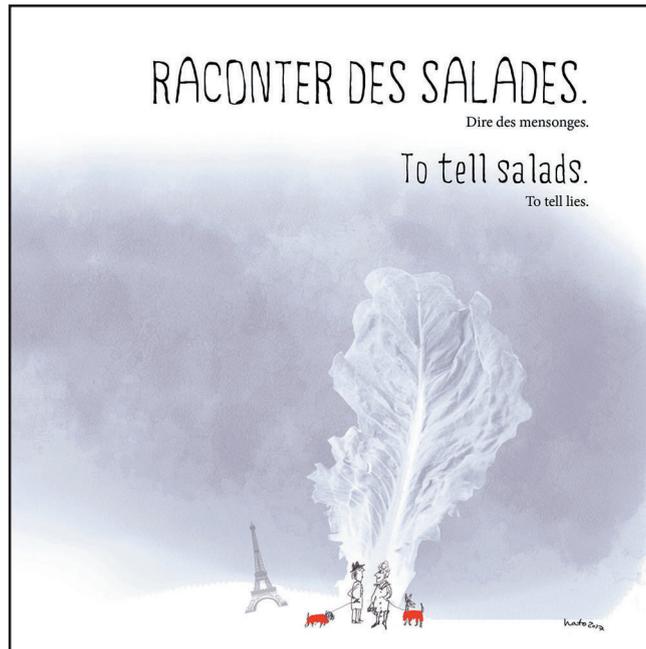
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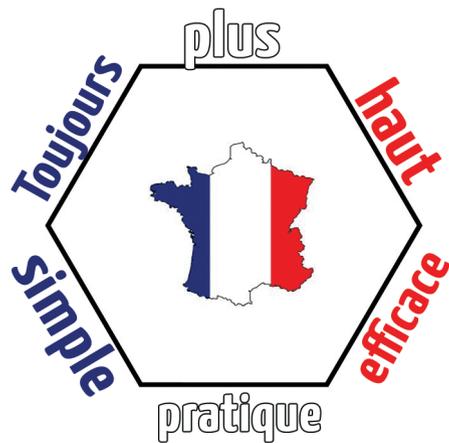
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