



Prêt-à-Parler Français

To use this program you will need a PC
and a microphone

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What ifs (FAQs)

“Do I really need a microphone?”

Yes. Otherwise you never have a go yourself. If you do not have an internal microphone with your PC or laptop, you will need to plug in an external one. They are not expensive and are available from most highstreet shops selling electronic goods.

“How do I reduce the screen when I want to look at something else on my PC?”

Press Windows logo and D to reduce the screen to the toolbar.

“My PC will not let the CD install properly”

If the CD appears to jam when installing, it has probably failed to find the C drive. So ...

Remove the CD.

Look in D:\Programs for the Lingua directory

Drag the Lingua directory into C:\Programs.

Re-insert the CD and it should start up.



Scroll down for
user guide



Record / playback facility

record

stop

play

If you do not have an internal microphone with your PC or laptop, you will need to plug in an external microphone – and it is very worth your while. For this is your chance to do the talking and a key part of your progress.

Record yourself after you hear French words spoken and see how you measure up. Then have another go.

Technical specifications and requirements

700Ghz processor - 1GB processor is preferable

Windows 95 or later

128 MB of RAM

Colour Monitor

Video Card - (24 bit colour recommended)

1024 - 768 pixels (advised screen setting)

Sound card

Microphone (recommended for interactive exercises)

CD - ROM drive.

Learning Paths

There are several Learning Paths to choose from. You may wish to start by listening to the film, or try the interactive exercises, or if you prefer look at the step-by-step guide and master the rules up front.

Listen

Watch the films, with the option to follow the script in French or in English.

The film can be watched several times, and once you are fully confident with the dialogues and detail you are ready to move on to the next stage.

Why not use the Record facility to say some of the words and phrases yourself?



Your turn

If you have not so far, now is the time to use the Record facility. Measure your sounds with the onscreen speakers. These interactive exercises will soon have you sounding like the French.



Tips & Rules

The nuts and bolts of the language are laid out in easy-to-follow explanations and step-by-step guidance, with listening, speaking and more interactive activities.



WordBuild

This Learning Path focuses on the assimilation of vocabulary and consolidates learning with interactive practice. Word recall, reading speed and pronunciation are all enhanced.

The screenshot shows the 'Sounding French' activity. On the left is a navigation menu with buttons for Listen, Your Turn, Tips & Rules, WordBuild, Practice, Rating, WordFind, and France. The main content area features a cartoon character of a man with a large white beard and a striped shirt. Below the character is a table of French words and their English meanings:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| non non non | no no no |
| ah bon? | really? |
| comme ça | so so |
| je vous en prie | my pleasure (in reply to merci) |
| voilà | there you have it |
| peut-être | perhaps |
| mais oui | but yes |
| je ne sais pas | I dunno |

At the bottom right, there are buttons for 'Click on the words to hear the sound', 'previous', and 'next'.

Practise



Rating

Time to test your knowledge or for rusty returners to check their skills. Check - and beat - your score each time.

The screenshot shows the 'Practise' activity. The main content area displays the text '"see you on Thursday"' followed by a large question mark. To the right of the question mark are four French phrases: 'à demain', 'à tout à l'heure', 'à bientôt', and 'à jeudi au revoir'. The interface includes the same navigation menu as the previous screenshot.

WordFind

The electronic dictionary provides instant access to the meaning of individual words, both English to French and French to English.

If you key in a word and the display does not show the one you want, use the   arrows to find your word.

See also the key phrases and the grammar support, with a 'jargon-buster' to explain technical names.

The screenshot shows the 'WordFind - English to French translator' interface. It features a search field with the text 'accountant' entered. Below the search field, the French equivalent 'comptable, un (une)' is displayed. The interface includes the same navigation menu as the previous screenshots.

France

More about France. History, culture, the regions ... learn something you didn't know about France.

The screenshot shows the 'About France' activity. The main content area features a photograph of the Eiffel Tower. To the right of the photograph is a list of topics: Art, Economy, Food, Government, History, Landscapes, Literature, People and Politics, Places to see, and Wine. The interface includes the same navigation menu as the previous screenshots.