

LEARN FRENCH FAST TIPS

by linguajunkie.com

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So... you want to learn French fast, eh?

Warning: it's worth mentioning that people that constantly look for tips and advice and never take action are not exactly going to learn fast... let alone learn at all. Which brings us to the first tip (and rule).

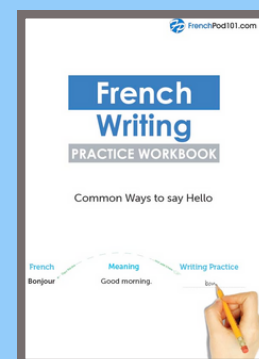
#1 PRACTICE MORE THAN YOU "LEARN"

Many of us mistake learning as... constantly reading and watching. Sure, it's important. But just taking in information is only 20% of the battle. Just because you came across a new word or grammar rule, doesn't mean you've "LEARNED" it. The other 80% is ACTION and PRACTICE — that will help you master parts of French. You should be spending 80% of your time on practicing what you've learned - writing, speaking out loud, getting tested, creating your own sentences, and so on.

So, never mistake reading and taking in new info as "learning." Picking up new info (like new French words) is 20% of the battle, practicing is it 80%.

NOTE: That's why I also ALWAYS recommend resources like FrenchPod101's writing workbooks (where you can practice writing)

[You can get French Workbooks for free here.](#)



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#2 Set SPECIFIC Goals

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Here's what you can't do fast - climb a mountain. And as such, neither can you master a whole dang language fast. BUT... you can learn small, specific parts of it quite fast. Like, introducing yourself in French, learning to say where you're from, counting to 100, speaking for 3 minutes.

Aim for these small specific goals and you WILL reach them fast... and bit by bit... you'll know a whole ton of French.

#3 INVEST

You want to learn French... which means you're fairly serious about it. Do you know what people who are serious about their goals do? They invest in them — they invest their time and money. They buy books, sessions with teachers and so on. They invest time after time after time.

So, make sure that you're at least investing some time into French. No time means no progress. If you're a beginner, I'd say 20 to 30 minutes a day or at least a few days of the week.

#4 LEARN FROM CONVERSATIONS

Want to speak French? But you're learning random words through random apps? I am sure your DingoLingo app is fun with the colorful sounds and cute animals... but you won't learn to speak from vocab apps.

I recommend learning via dialogues... because 1) you learn words anyway, 2) you learn grammar anyway, 3) you get used to how French sounds, 4) you'll be able to speak that same French, and 5) you'll be able to understand native speakers. All in one shot — much faster and more efficient than learning words alone.

For learning through conversations, I recommend

FrenchPod101.com (click here to visit)

but any other audio-based program is just as good.

#5 ASK QUESTIONS CONSTANTLY

I wonder how you say “how are you?” in French? How would I say my name in French? How do I say “I’d like to order a burger” in French?

When you ask questions... you set yourself to discover the answers. You might know this as **curiosity** and you FOR SURE know that curious people learn faster and better. This is along the lines of setting specific goals as well. So, every time you sit down to learn French, ask yourself a question and try and get the answer by the end.



#6 LISTEN A LOT

Listening is the key to... speaking and... well, umm, listening (meaning, understanding) real French. If you can listen and pick up the sounds, you can replicate them... and that means you can speak. So, listening is everything.

The problem? Most people jump into vocabulary apps and play games... but never get used to how French actually sounds... and then wonder why they can't understand native speakers.

Your job? If you're a beginner, find beginner listening material (Again, FrenchPod101 covers this well with their audio lessons). You can also watch French TV shows... but you may not understand as much... so, make sure you're listening to stuff that you can learn from.

#7 CONSTANTLY TEST YOURSELF



You know why most people don't learn fast? They're SCARED of tests and being tested.

So, what does this mean? How can you test your French? Simple. You spend time to... 1) listen to French that's far above your level, 2) you try and have a conversation with a native speaker, 3) you sign up for an actual French test... and you see how far your French holds up. This is like the whole karate master who goes to other dojos to challenge everyone – he got better by putting himself against others. Learning a language is no different. Can you handle ordering a coffee in French? Can you open a bank account in French? Can you introduce yourself in French? Test yourself. For this, you'll need a native speaker...

#8 WANT TO SPEAK French? DO THIS.

Listen first. But listening aside... there are ways to practice speaking, even if you're learning on your own. 1) **Shadow** - repeat what you hear as you hear it — if you're learning through conversations/audio, you can apply this easily. 2) **Read out loud** — reading out loud is essentially speaking, so read out loud when you can. You can also read out loud slowly... and then try to get faster... which will help you with speaking faster. 3) **Just say the damn things out loud** — whenever you come across a new word or phrase, say it 10 times.

Point is... if you want to speak but you're not speaking (not practicing speaking), you'll never actually speak. So, if you want to speak, you gotta speak.

#9 LEARN WITH NATIVE SPEAKERS



A lot of the prior tips essentially point to this, so let's say it in simple English — **you'll learn faster with native French speakers.** So, if you can get yourself a tutor or teacher, you should.

When you can't or don't have the time, you should at the very least listen to native speakers (see tips on Listening and Learning from Conversations)... which you can with a program like FrenchPod101.

#10 REMEMBER TO REMEMBER

The best way to remember anything... like French words or grammar? Close your book or app. Close your eyes. And try to remember. YES. The simple act of trying to remember... actually helps you remember better. This is called “active recall” and this is exactly what happens when you take a test (which is why tests are great learning tools — remember, that was the other tip in this cheat sheet.)

Anytime, you're put on the spot and have to remember (without the answer in front of you), your memory gets better. So, after you're done learning, ask yourself “what did I learn today? What was that new French word I learned today?” Doing that will help you remember things better. And that's why all schools constantly quiz and test you.

#11 LOOK FOR WHAT'S SIMILAR

If you're trying to learn French fast... one of the smartest shortcuts is spotting what looks familiar. Think hotel, animal, minute, restaurant, color, doctor—they mean what you think they mean. That's because they're cognates, words that are nearly the same in English and French.

Even big words follow patterns. English words ending in -tion often stay exactly the same in French: nation, information, invitation—easy, right?

French verbs match up too, just in a different way. “I want” is je veux, and “you want” is tu veux. See the match? “I have a problem” becomes j'ai un problème—you already recognize the words.

You're not starting from zero. Spot patterns, and French starts clicking fast.

Here are some examples...

English Ending	French Ending	Examples (English → French)
-tion	-tion	nation → nation information → information
-ty	-té	activity → activité university → université
-ic	-ique	public → publique basic → basique
-ist / -icist	-iste	artist → artiste pianist → pianiste
-al	-al (often same)	hospital → hôpital animal → animal
-ous	-eux / -euse	curious → curieux delicious → délicieuse
-ent / -ant	-ent / -ant (same)	different → différent important → important
-ive	-if / -ive	active → actif creative → créative
-icist / -ist → -ista	-ive → -ivo / -iva	
artist → artista	active → activo	
pianist → pianista	creative → creativo	

EXTRA RESOURCES ON LEARNING FAST

You may be interested in some of my other guides as well...



What is this? It's a beginner's guide on how to learn French. You won't learn the words and phrases here. But, **you will learn "HOW TO LEARN" French.** The rules and ways to approach learning languages so you don't fail.

You'll find this one on my French PDF Lessons page... so, [click here.](#)

Want to listen to native French speakers and learn from their conversation?



Listen to this free French conversation lesson at [FrenchPod101](#) — where you learn through conversations and get the French explained.

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