

How to Study for French Class

When you study, you always need to practice four different skills:
listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Listening	Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice vocabulary and conversations with a friend in person or over the phone.• Use online audio flashcards at hampfrench.org.• Listen carefully whenever anyone speaks in class. Try hard to understand.• Ask for clarification when you don't understand the teacher or a friend.• Listen to French radio by downloading mp3s at www.radiofrance.fr/services/aide/difflive.php#mp3• Watch French programming on digital cable stations like SCOLA, History International, and the International Channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice with flashcards to recognize vocabulary.• Create a mnemonic, a motion, or a mental picture to remember new vocabulary.• Reread conversations and stories in the textbook, looking for new words and phrases.• Do practice activities online at hampfrench.org.• Look for French instructions on products at home and in the store.• Read French newspapers, stories or magazines online. Go to lemonde.fr, wings.buffalo.edu/litgloss/list-of-texts.shtml, or fr.yahoo.com.
Writing	Speaking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look at English side of vocab lists or flashcards and write the French.• Write out responses to conversation questions from the textbook.• Do your homework carefully and consistently.• Re-do a difficult homework or in-class activity. Check your answers against your corrected paper.• Make French signs for objects at home.• Use “fake-phonetics” to spell difficult words. Ex. Think of [oh-ree-ill-ee] to spell “oreille”• Do practice activities online at hampfrench.org.• Write a note to a classmate in French (not during class, please).• Email or IM your friends in French.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice vocabulary and conversations with a friend in person or over the phone.• Look at French side of vocab lists or flashcards and carefully pronounce the French.• Break a difficult word into pieces, say them slowly, then put them back together.• Look at English side of vocab lists or flashcards and say the French.• Touch objects and name them as you walk around the house.• Speak as much French as possible during class. Participate often.• Translate TV commercials when you watch your favorite shows.• Repeat pronunciation from audio flashcards at hampfrench.org.• Use French as your secret code with friends.

Other Things to Keep in Mind

- Come after school for extra help as soon as you start having trouble. Don't wait until right before the test.
- Speak only French in class. It is easier to stick to one language than to switch back and forth.
- Email madame (barbarabitgood@comcast.net) if you have questions overnight or during the weekend.
- Don't practice with inaccurate information. Look up the spellings of words when you do your homework. There's no point in learning a word incorrectly.
- Ask questions whenever you don't understand. Learn how to say "I don't understand," "How do you say...," and "Please repeat that."
- Get used to making mistakes. We make errors all the time in English, so why wouldn't we mess up in French, too? Just try to learn from them.
- Study vocabulary and verb conjugations for 5-10 minutes every night, even if you don't have a homework assignment.
- Write vocabulary in different colors to learn genders, or use different colored flashcards.
- Mnemonic devices can be rhymes, songs, raps, mental pictures, or acronyms. Use them to remember groups of words with a similar theme.
- Use cognates to remember vocabulary. For example, un ordinateur = computer. Think of it taking orders, or organizing your files.
- Study vocabulary in chunks of 5 to 7 words at a time. Once you've mastered those, add 5 more. Repeat until you've memorized the whole list.
- Your brain works extra hard to understand and produce French. Get a good night's sleep so your brain will be well rested. Expect to leave class tired.