

TRAVEL WORDS IN PICTURES



French

Visual Dictionary



for
dummies
A Wiley Brand



French

Visual Dictionary

for
dummies®



WILEY

French Visual Dictionary For Dummies®

Published by

John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

111 River St.

Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774

www.wiley.com

Copyright © 2021 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Sections 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without the prior written permission of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions>.

Trademarks: Wiley, For Dummies, the Dummies Man logo, The Dummies Way, Dummies.com, Making Everything Easier, and related trade dress are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and other countries, and may not be used without written permission. WQA and the WQA logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of the Water Quality Association. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

LIMIT OF LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY: THE PUBLISHER AND THE AUTHOR MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS WORK AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO WARRANTY MAY BE CREATED OR EXTENDED BY SALES OR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS. THE ADVICE AND STRATEGIES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR EVERY SITUATION. THIS WORK IS SOLD WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PUBLISHER IS NOT ENGAGED IN RENDERING LEGAL, ACCOUNTING, OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. IF PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED, THE SERVICES OF A COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL PERSON SHOULD BE SOUGHT. NEITHER THE PUBLISHER NOR THE AUTHOR SHALL BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES ARISING HEREFROM. THE FACT THAT AN ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE IS REFERRED TO IN THIS WORK AS A CITATION AND/OR A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF FURTHER INFORMATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE AUTHOR OR THE PUBLISHER ENDORSES THE INFORMATION THE ORGANIZATION OR WEBSITE MAY PROVIDE OR RECOMMENDATIONS IT MAY MAKE. FURTHER, READERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INTERNET WEBSITES LISTED IN THIS WORK MAY HAVE CHANGED OR DISAPPEARED BETWEEN WHEN THIS WORK WAS WRITTEN AND WHEN IT IS READ.

For general information on our other products and services, or how to create a custom *For Dummies* book for your business or organization, please

contact our Business Development Department in the U.S. at 877-409-4177, contact info@dummies.biz, or visit www.wiley.com/go/custompub. For information about licensing the *For Dummies* brand for products or services, contact BrandedRights&Licenses@Wiley.com.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2021933246

ISBN: 978-1-119-71719-5; ePDF: 978-1-119-71701-0; ePub: 978-1-119-71725-6

French Visual Dictionary For Dummies®

To view this book's Cheat Sheet, simply go to www.dummies.com and search for “French Visual Dictionary For Dummies Cheat Sheet” in the Search box.

Table of Contents

[Cover](#)

[Title Page](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Introduction](#)

[En route !](#)

[Let's go!](#)

[À l'aéroport](#)

[L'avion](#)

[Le train](#)

[Les transports en commun](#)

[La voiture](#)

[Le taxi](#)

[The bike](#)

[La communication de base](#)

[Basic Communication](#)

[Dire bonjour](#)

[Demander poliment](#)

[Remercier](#)

[Dire au revoir](#)

[S'excuser](#)

S'orienter

Orienting yourself

[Demander sur un plan](#)

[Les directions](#)

[Les rues et quartiers](#)

[Les lieux importants](#)

[Les toilettes publiques](#)

[Les directions](#)

[La météo](#)

[La géographie et les paysages](#)

[Quelques points de repère](#)

Bon appétit !

Enjoy your meal!

[Les différents repas](#)

[Les viandes/les poissons/les fruits de mer](#)

[Les légumes](#)

[Les féculents](#)

[Les desserts](#)

[Les fruits](#)

[Autres types de nourriture](#)

[Les assaisonnements/les herbes aromatiques/les épices](#)

[Réserver et passer commande](#)

[Sur la table](#)

[Les spécialités locales](#)

[Les menus spécifiques](#)

[Sans alcool](#)

[Avec alcool](#)

Bonne nuit !

Good night!

L'hôtel

La maison d'hôte et le gîte

L'auberge de jeunesse

Le camping

Séjour chez l'habitant

Les types de lit

Les meubles et les équipements

Le bain/la douche

Les toilettes

Les sorties

Let's go out!

Combien ça coûte?

La monnaie/les billets/la carte bleue/le distributeur automatique

Les boutiques

Le supermarché

Les cadeaux

L'artisanat

Les vêtements

Les chaussures

Les accessoires

En plein air

En salle

Dans l'eau

Le cinéma

Le théâtre

L'opéra

Le musée

La musique

En cas d'urgence

In case of emergencies

[La description du corps](#)

[La description du visage](#)

[Le médecin](#)

[Pharmacie et médicaments](#)

[L'hôpital](#)

[La police](#)

[Les pompiers/l'ambulance](#)

Connect with Dummies

End User License Agreement

Introduction

This *Visual Dictionary For Dummies* is your ideal travel companion. It can be carried conveniently and consulted quickly; all you have to do is show the picture of the thing you're talking about or of the situation you wish to describe, and presto! And since the pictures are accompanied by the corresponding English words and their French translations, you will also be able to learn a lot of new vocabulary!

Sounds, rhythm and intonation

French and English have a lot in common, including a common history. French is a Romance language descended from Latin with German and English influences, while English is a Germanic language peppered with French and Latin borrowings. Thus, they share some similarities, most notably the same alphabet and a number of true cognates — words that are the same in both French and English, such as **original**, **final**, and **mental**.

The sounds: the vowels

Simple vowels

In English, the vowels are divided into two groups: the so-called long or tense vowels and the so-called short or lax vowels. French has a similar system, with a few twists. For example, vowels in French are what are known as *pure vowels*; that is to say they are not diphthongs as in British and American English. Most English speakers pronounce the letters “a” and “e” with an extra *yuh* sound at the end, and their “o’s” and “u’s” with an extra *wuh* sound at the end. You must not do this in French.



REMEMBER

The distinction between long and short vowels exists in French, but two of the English short vowels do not exist (the short “i” in **did** and the short “u” in **put**) so make sure to never pronounce these vowels when speaking French.

Here’s a listing of the vowel sounds found in French:

- **acheter (short a):** The French sound in **acheter** is kind of like American English’s short “o” sound, as in **hot**, but in French the lips are spread more widely. It may be spelled A or À (an *accent grave*). In one word — **femme** — it is spelled with an “e.”



REMEMBER

Only three French vowels can take the *accent grave*: à, è, and ù. The purpose of the accent depends on the letter in question, although it generally indicates that the vowel should be short.

- **pâtes (long a):** This sound is pronounced with more rounded lips and is slightly elongated; it falls somewhere between the French short “a” and the “au” sound in the English word **pauper**.



REMEMBER

The *accent circonflexe* (here on the â) can be found on a, e, i, o, or u. It often means that, in the original Latin form of the word, the vowel was followed by the letter “s.” It can be used to distinguish between two words — **sur** (on) versus **sûr** (sure), for example — or to change pronunciation.

- **école (long e):** The French “e” sound in **école** matches the sound we have for the “a” in **gate**. The annoying thing about the long “e” sound is that there are at least 6 different spellings for this sound in addition to the **é** in **école**:

- *er*: At the end of an infinitive verb (*chanter*)
- *ez*: Second person plural verb ending (*vous chantez*)
- *ez*: At the end of a word (*nez*)
- *e (ss)*: At the beginning of a word (*essence*)
- *ed*: At the end of a word (*piéd*)
- *e (ff)*: At the beginning of a word (*effort*)



REMEMBER The *accent aigu* (**é**, acute accent) can only be added to the letter “e.” At the beginning of a word, “é” is usually a sort of linguistic marker, indicating that the Old French or Latin word started with *es* or *s*. For example, you can trace the French word **école** back to the Middle French **escole** and the Latin **schola**.

- **pêche (short e):** To get the short French “e” sound, just think of the “e” sound in **pet**. Again, the one sound has multiple additional spellings:
 - *è*: nouns, adjectives, and so on (*mère*)
 - *e*: before a consonant (*elle*)
 - *ei*: nouns, adjectives, and so on (*reine*)
 - *et*: at the end of a word (*carnet*)
 - *ai*: nouns, adjectives, and so on (*raisin*)
 - *aî*: nouns, adjectives, and so on (*maître*)
- **(short i):** Don’t worry about the short “i” sound. It doesn’t exist in French.
- **petit (long i):** Think **ski** when you want to say a long French “i” sound.

- **sonner (short o):** The sound of the French **sonner** is a good match for the short “o” sound in the English word **not**.
- **rose (long o):** The sound of the French **rose** is similar to English’s long “o” sound as in **go**, but without the diphthong transition to a “w” sound at the end.
- **(short u):** Don’t worry about the short “u” sound. It doesn’t exist in French.
- **loupe (long u):** The long “u” sound in French closely matches the vowel sound we have in the English word **boot**.
- **samedi (e instable or e muet/schwa):** In French, words like **samedi** can be pronounced two ways — as a three-syllable word (*sahm-uh-dee*) or a two-syllable word (*sahm-dee*). As a three-syllable word, you have a long “a” sound in the first syllable and an *unaccented schwa* sound in the second syllable. (“Unaccented” here just means that you don’t emphasize that syllable at all; the “schwa” sound is, believe it or not, the most common vowel sound in the English language.) For the second syllable (the *schwa* syllable), think of the sound in the English word **uh** — that word we say when we are trying to think of a word — or the last syllable in a word like **banana**.

Blending your words

Yes, French speakers tend to talk fast! That means words tend to blend together — you sometimes don’t make a clear distinction from the end of one word and the beginning of another:

- **Vowel/Vowel:** When a word ends with a vowel and the following word also starts with a vowel, both vowels form two syllables, and you don’t add a pause.

- For example, with the phrase **Tu as un vélo** (“You have a bike”), you’d say the entire phrase as if it were one word without any pauses, and the sounds of **Tu as** seem to merge.
- **Consonant/Vowel:** When a word ends with a consonant and the following word starts with a vowel, the last consonant of the first word becomes the first letter of the second word, as in **Il arrive** (“he arrives”), pronounced “eelareev.” You link the consonant to the vowel to form a syllable.

The sounds: the consonants

Most French consonants match the sound of English exactly, but you’ll need to pay particular attention to some consonants that are tricky for English speakers to pronounce.

- **“c”:** In French, the letter “c” has two pronunciations — hard and soft. The hard pronunciation (**le cadeau**) uses the “c” sound found in the English word **carrot**. The soft pronunciation (**une cerise**) uses the “c” sound found in the English word **ceremony**. Use the soft pronunciation when the “c” comes right before an “e,” “i,” or “y.” Use the hard pronunciation when the “c” comes right before an “a,” “o,” or “u.”



REMEMBER When a “c” precedes a hard vowel but needs a soft pronunciation (in the case of **ça va?**, for example), you change the “c” to a “ç” (*cédille*) to make the “c” soft.

- **“ch”:** The French “ch” (**chien**) almost always has the “sh” sound found in the English name **Sherlock**. The “ch” sound in the English word **cheese** only occurs in

words borrowed from English, like **cheap** and **le match**. The only other pronunciation you might run across is the “k” sound you find in the word **le chaos** — it appears in the English word **chaos** as well.

- **“g”**: Just like the French “c,” the French “g” has two pronunciations — hard and soft. The hard pronunciation (**le gare**) uses the “g” sound found in the English word **gold**. The soft pronunciation (**gérer**) uses the “g” sound found in the English word **massage**. Again, use the soft pronunciation when the “g” comes right before an “e,” “i,” or “y.” Use the hard pronunciation when the “g” comes right before an “a,” “o,” or “u.”



REMEMBER When a “g” precedes an “e,” “i,” or “y,” but needs a soft pronunciation, you add a “u” to make it soft (**guérir**, for example). When a “g” precedes an “a,” “o,” or “u,” but needs a hard pronunciation, you add an “e” to make it hard (**nous mangeons**, for example).

- **“h”**: The letter “h” is always silent in French, as in **l’homme**, **heureux**, and **haut**.
- **“j”**: The French “j” is always soft. In fact, it sounds exactly like the soft French “g” in **gérer**. So, if you can pronounce the “g” sound in an English word like **massage**, you can pronounce the French “j” in a word like **jeudi**.
- **“q”**: For all intents and purposes, a “q” in French is going to be followed by a “u” — just like in English. In French, however, the “qu” combination can sound like an English “k” (as in **quand**) or it can have the “kw” sound found in the English word **quiz** (think **l’équateur** or **l’aquarelle**.)



REMEMBER

The one exception to the “q followed by u” rule is when a French word ends in “q,” as in **cinq** and **le coq**.

- **“r”**: The French “guttural R” (**rouge**) poses particular problems for English speakers, since the sound doesn’t really exist in the English language. The closest we come is when we try to imitate a dog by saying **Grrrrrrr, grrrrrrrrr!** The idea is to get that throaty, guttural sound and put it at the front of the word — kind of like the **rrrrruff rrrrrruff** English speakers use to imitate a dog barking.
- **“s”**: The letter “s” in French has two distinct pronunciations — just like English, by the way. Think of the “s” sound in **sensibility** versus the “s” sound found in the word **vision**. In French, the “s” sound is almost always the **sensibility** sound; the **vision** sound only occurs when you have a single “s” between two vowels (**visage**) or when you are blending two words (**ils ont**).
- **“th”**: The “th” sound found in an English word like **theater** does not exist in French. That means a word like **le thé** starts with the same “t” sound as the English word **tea**.

The non-sounds: silent letters

French words end with all kinds of letters that, to English speakers, seem to be randomly pronounced or ignored. However, it’s not as random as it appears. Here are some tips to help you understand when letters should be silent.

- **C, R, F, L**: If a French word ends with “c,” “r,” “l,” or “f,” the final letter is usually pronounced.

- **Un truc**
- **Un dortoir**
- **Le chef**
- **Avril**

There's one big exception to the CRFL rule: Verbs ending with the letters "er" have a silent "r."

- **Aimer**
- **Manger**
- **Tuer**
- **B, K, Q:** In addition to the CRFL words, words ending with "b," "k," and "q" also have their final letter pronounced.
 - **Le club**
 - **Un steak**
 - **Cinq**

All other consonant letters found at the end of words are usually *not* pronounced:

- **Froid** (*exceptions: sud, proper names like David and Alfred*)
- **Le poing** (*exceptions: le grog*)
- **Un dragon** (*exceptions: amen*)
- **Le parfum** (*exceptions: aquarium or forum*)
- **Un coup** (*exceptions: un slip, un cap*)
- **Le marais** (*exceptions: un fils, un autobus, le tennis*)
- **Elle mangeait** (*exceptions: brut, huit, words ending in -ct and -pt, like direct and sept*)
- **Deux** (*exceptions: six, index, Aix*)
- **Le riz** (*exceptions: le gaz*)



REMEMBER

The logic behind the one exception to the "M" rule has to do with French words taken straight from

the Latin — like **aquarium** or **forum**, as pointed out above. In such cases, the final “m” is pronounced.

En route !

Let's go!



À l'aéroport

At the airport



Aéroport
Airport



Compagnie aérienne
Airline



**Comptoir
d'enregistrement**
Check-in counter



Sécurité
Security



Douanes
Customs



Vol
Flight



Panneau d'affichage
Departure/Arrival board



Correspondance
Connecting flight



Bagage à main
Hand/Carry-on luggage



Bagages
Luggage, baggage



Valise
Suitcase



Sac à dos
Backpack



Chariot (à bagages)
(Luggage) trolley



**Récupération
des bagages**
Baggage claim



Passeport
Passport



Billet
Ticket



Carte d'embarquement
Boarding pass



Porte d'embarquement
Gate



Embarquement
Boarding

Phrases clés

Merci de présenter votre passeport et votre carte d'embarquement à la porte d'embarquement.

Veuillez sortir votre ordinateur portable de votre sac à la sécurité.

Le vol AF22 pour Paris est prêt pour l'embarquement.

Dernier appel pour les passagers du vol BA354 à destination de Nice.

Key phrases

Please present your passport and boarding pass at the gate.

Please take your laptop out of your bag at security.

Flight AF22 to Paris is now ready to board.

This is the final call for passengers on flight BA354 to Nice.



L'avion

The plane



Steward/Hôtesse de l'air
Flight attendant



Pilote
Pilot



Siège
Seat



Ceinture de sécurité
Seat belt



Huilot
Window



Couloir
Aisle



Piste
Runway



Sortie de secours
Emergency exit



Masque à oxygène
Oxygen mask



Gilet de sauvetage
Life vest



Décoller
To take off



Atterrir
To land



Aile
Wing



Moteur, réacteur
Engine



Toilettes
Bathroom, lavatory



Tablette
Tray table

Phrases clés	Key phrases
Veillez attacher votre ceinture de sécurité.	Please fasten your seat belt.
Nous vous rappelons que ce vol est non-fumeur.	We remind you that this is a non-smoking flight.
Nous allons vous montrer les consignes de sécurité.	We will be showing our safety demonstration.
Tous les appareils électroniques doivent être en mode avion ou éteints.	All electronic devices must be switched to airplane mode or switched off.
Veillez vous assurer que le dossier de votre siège est remonté et que votre tablette est rangée.	Please make sure your seat backs and tray tables are in their full upright position.



Le train
The train



Gare
Train station



Train
Train



Voie (fermée)
(Railway) track



Quai
Platform



Train à grande vitesse
High-speed train



Compartment
Compartment



Voiture, wagon
Carriage, coach, car



Wagon-restaurant
Dining-car



Wagon-lit
Sleeping-car



Passage à niveau
Level crossing



Guichet
Booking/Ticket office



Billetterie automatique
Ticket machine



Aller simple
Single/One-way ticket



Aller-retour
Return/Round-trip ticket



Consigne
Left luggage office, checkroom



Bureau d'informations
Information desk



Contrôleur
Ticket inspector



Train de nuit
Overnight train



Couchettes
Berths



Tarif
Fare



Composter (un billet)
To punch (a ticket)



Monter dans le train
To get on the train



Descendre du train
To get off the train

Phrases clés

Je souhaiterais acheter un aller simple pour Marseille.

À quelle heure part le prochain train pour Nantes?

Le train à destination de Paris dessert les gares de Rouen et Giverny.

Le train en provenance de Calais entre en gare voie 2.

Key phrases

I'd like to buy a single ticket to Marseille.

When does the next train for Nantes leave?

The train to Paris stops at Rouen and Giverny.

The train from Calais is arriving at platform 2.



Les transports en commun

Public transportation



Transports en commun
Public transportation



Bus
Bus



Autobus
Coach



Bus à impériale
Double-decker



Navette
Shuttle bus



Arrêt de bus
Bus stop



Chauffeur de bus
Bus driver



Prix du trajet
Fare



Siège
Seat



Billetterie automatique
Ticket machine



Carnet de tickets
Book of tickets



Itinéraire
Route



Métro
Underground (UK)/Subway (US)



Station de métro
Underground/Subway station



Train de banlieue
Commuter/Local train



Tramway
Tram



Quai
Platform



Réseau
Network



Ligne
Line



Présenter son ticket
To produce one's ticket



Rater le bus
To miss the bus

Phrases clés	Key phrases
Où est l'arrêt de bus le plus proche?	Where is the nearest bus stop?
Quel bus dois-je prendre pour aller à l'aéroport?	What bus do I take to get to the airport?
À quelle heure le bus part-il?	What time does the bus leave?
Dois-je descendre ici pour aller au musée?	Do I get off here for the museum?
Combien y a-t-il d'arrêts pour aller à la plage?	How many stops are there to go to the beach?
Prendre le métro aux heures de pointe est une mauvaise idée : c'est bondé !	Riding the subway during peak hour is a bad idea: it is crammed!



La voiture

The car



Voiture
Car



Permis de conduire
Driving licence, driver's license (US)



Réservoir
Tank



Essence
Petrol, gas (US)



Station essence
Petrol/Gas station



Voiture de location
Rental car



Phares avant
Headlights



Feux arrière
Tail lights



Feux de stop
Brake lights



Feux de détresse
Warning lights



Moteur
Engine



Ceinture de sécurité
Safety belt



Carrosserie
Body



Portière
Door



Pare-brise
Windscreen, windshield (US)



Pare-chocs
Bumper



Capot
Bonnet, hood (US)



Coffre
Boot, trunk (US)



Roue de secours
Spare wheel



Embrayage
Clutch



Frein
Brake



Accélérateur
Accelerator



Levier de vitesse
Gear lever, gear shift (US)



Volant
Steering wheel