

How to revise French

Communicating in a foreign language is a **skill** that you need to **practise** to develop your **spontaneity** and the ability to **'think on your feet'**. Your brain acts like a muscle and needs regular workouts.

Little and often is the key.

You need to know:

- Key **High Frequency Structures** in **3 tenses**.
- Key **Topic Vocabulary**.

You need to develop:

- The Receptive skills of **Listening** and **Reading**.

RECEPTIVE SKILLS - Listening and Reading

ONLINE RESOURCES

To develop vocabulary / Listening + Reading practice - (see website list)

1. www.1jour1actu.com for articles and animated videos on a range of current affairs.
2. French TV websites and online Magazines.
3. Choose a topic you're interested in (sport/cinema/music/history, etc.) and research a French personality from that world or follow them on Twitter.
4. You tube - listen to French music / watch French film trailers / watch French films (with or without subtitles).
5. Tune into a French radio station.

Remember! Don't worry if you understand very little, you will still be developing

- the ability to recognise familiar sounds

- your comprehension skills

Context / Cognates / Calculated guesses

PRODUCTIVE SKILLS - Speaking and Writing

FLASH CARDS

For remembering chunks of content

1. Write a topic question on one side of your piece of paper/card;
eg: *"Quel est ton gadget préféré? Pourquoi?"*
2. On the back write key vocab/structures to prompt your response.
3. Your challenge is to remember enough information to produce a developed response (exploiting "OLD RAT" ingredients as fully as you can).
4. Keep testing yourself until your response is as spontaneous as it can be.

Remember! Getting someone else to test you is more fun!

TAKE YOUR PICK!

For remembering key vocab (spellings + understanding)

1. Cut up lots of bits of paper and write key topic vocabulary in French on one side with the English meaning on the reverse.
2. Fold each piece of paper small and place in a bowl/box, etc.
3. Whenever you pass by the container pick one out and test yourself!
4. If you open it up on the French side, give the English meaning. If you read the English side first your challenge is to try and spell the French equivalent correctly.

Remember! Stick to one topic at a time!

WALLPAPER

For remembering key vocab and structures (spellings + understanding)

1. Make Flash cards and write key topic vocabulary or H.F.S. (French on one side, English meaning on the reverse).
2. Stick them on your bedroom wall perhaps so that you see them all the time.
3. Change the language every now and again - to test meanings (in English) and spellings (in French).
4. Once you've mastered one set/topic create another to build up a bank.

Remember! Make the print large and clear so it can be seen from a distance.

ONLINE RESOURCES

For remembering key vocab (spellings + understanding) and chunks of content

1. www.quizlet.com - create your own account and design your own set of online flash cards. There are lots of activities to help you memorise your content which can be printed out as a resource too. You can even check correct pronunciation.
2. www.textivate.com – all login details and resources are on the VLE (Resources/French/Textivate). This is a useful device to help learn chunks of content, as well as key vocab/ structures/ tenses.

Choose the most effective games to help you develop your memory and spontaneity!

TALKING TO YOURSELF

A great way to memorise key topic information for the Speaking Exam and develop spontaneity

1. Practise your topic content as you walk around the house (out loud or in your head) or record your information and listen back regularly.
2. As you talk through ideas in your head (we all do it) translate it back into French. This will really help develop your spontaneity in using H.F.S and Tenses.

Regular practice is what really makes a difference here!

DROP-IN SESSIONS

To help overcome specific barriers to your learning

Miss Knight and Miss Garnier will be available for specific lunchtime and after school 'drop-in' sessions. Create a French study group to practise together.

Don't be shy!

Key things to remember when revising:

- ✓ Revision is different for everyone. Find something that works for you.
- ✓ Revise little and often – 20 minutes a day is far better than hours in a row!
- ✓ Don't just revise the easy things – target the things you find difficult.
- ✓ Practising writing and saying your answers is just as important as trying to remember information.
- ✓ Time yourself writing exam style answers – this will help you manage your time in the exam.
- ✓ You have to do something with the information – don't just read it! Make something then test yourself on the information.
- ✓ Help your friends – you may find something easy that they find difficult.
- ✓ Create a French study group to practise together.
- ✓ Keep in contact with your penfriend.

Don't give up! You won't remember everything at first - don't sweat the small stuff - eventually it will stick.