

Second Language Training Options for Learning and Maintaining French

There are many effective tools and methods to assist you in learning and maintaining your second language. Fortunately, many are free, available to everyone, accessible whenever you have time, and allow you to proceed at your own pace. Consider one or more of the options below, and feel free to discuss with your manager to gain support, advice and encouragement to speed you on your language learning journey.

Please note: Some formal training requires an approved budget (\$), though many options are free!

With passion and commitment, your learning journey is limitless!

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Contact your manager or the language training coordinator within your department for more information related to language training, especially where there are associated costs.

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Language Schools



Individual or Group Language Training \$

Check out the [Standing Offer List](#) to see what school can be used. Associated costs and hourly rates will vary.



Canada School of Public Service

The CSPS has courses and resources available for learning and improving your second official language skills.

[Learning catalogue \(csps-efpc.gc.ca\)](https://csps-efpc.gc.ca/)



Language Research Development Group \$

This is an [online self-study tool](#) to help you develop your second language. This resource is helpful for employees as a flexible and accessible approach to second official language training. There is a cost associated with this tool.

***“The most important ingredient in language learning is to enjoy it.”
~ Carl Dundas***

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Practice Tools

Read everything you can get your hands on

Read the classics, paperbacks, newspapers, websites, emails, your social media feeds, cereal boxes: if they are written in French, read them.



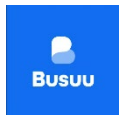
Language Portal of Canada

Access free tools to improve your knowledge of French. Polish your [writing skills](#) with our [quizzes](#), contribute to the [Our Languages blog](#) and explore a selection of [language-related Canadian links](#).



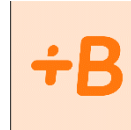
Bonjour de France

An [interactive magazine](#) that reviews grammar through lessons and games.



Busuu

[Busuu](#) is a language app available in 12 different languages, including English and French. The first part of each lesson focuses on vocabulary, after which the same vocabulary is used in short dialogues adapted to your level. The lesson wraps up with a recap test. Your exercises are corrected by members of the community. Participants help one another and correct one another's exercises.



Babbel

Suited to beginner and intermediate levels, Babbel shares [more ways to explore](#), more ways to learn. Learn a new language through quick lessons, live online classes, podcasts and more.

BBC Languages

Intended for beginner and intermediate levels. [Online audio course](#) with games, vocabulary, crosswords, explanations and exercises on grammar points, links to French news, radio and television.



TV5Monde

This site [offers a variety of free online tools](#) such as articles, videos, quizzes, games, dictation and a dictionary. Chose exercises based on your fluency level and interests.

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Le Conjugueur

[Le conjugueur](#) will help you conjugate a verb or find its infinitive. It also contains synonyms, definitions, exercises, grammar and conjugation rules, verb and conjugation quizzes and a forum.



Français facile

[Français facile](#) is a free site for learning French. It contains lessons, exercises, a question-and-answer forum and essential tools for learning French.



The French Tutorial

This [site includes online French](#) lessons that cover the fundamentals, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary and everyday French. It offers audio and video support.



Tex's French Grammar

This [site has explanations of grammar](#) concepts, self-correction and fill-in-the-blank exercises, a verb conjugator and a verb tutor.



About-France.com

A free, [clearly explained and copiously illustrated](#) grammar of modern French for intermediate and advanced learners in high school, university and college, and further education.



Ortholud

This site [contains many games](#), exercises and dictations to help you with grammar, vocabulary, verb conjugation, spelling and reading.



Official Languages Hub®

[The Official Languages Hub®](#) has new resources on official languages, provided by various departments and organizations. Consult the Hub to find all the information you need in one place!

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“Learning a second language not only has cognitive and academic benefits, it also supports a greater sense of openness to an appreciation for other cultures.”

~ Tochon, 2009

Apps and Podcasts

Podcasts for learning French

Do you like humour, politics, blogs, cooking? With topics covering every conceivable interest, you are sure to find a French-language podcast or YouTube channel that interests you. Subscribe to a few of them and listen to them in your car or while going for a walk.



Duolingo

Learning with [Duolingo](#) is fun! Earn points for correct answers, race against the clock and level up. The bite-size lessons are effective.



News in SlowFrench

This [podcast](#) is a great way to learn a language through current events.



Binge — Balado

A series of French podcasts on [Binge Audio, Project](#).



Polyglot Perspective

This is a [youth-led community](#) that aims to inspire international youth to dive into the realm of languages by publishing articles, artwork, conducting podcast interviews, and more through the means of media.



Lyric Training

You can [learn the words to songs](#) in French and have fun doing so.

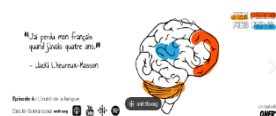
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Tandem

[Tandem](#) is the language learning app where millions of people teach each other.



French Podcast — J'en perds mes mots

[In this episode](#), we meet people who no longer have the words, but also people who enlighten us on how to preserve them.

[In this episode](#), four former French immersion students speak out about how they went from zero to bilingual.



The InnerFrench Podcast

[Intermediate French podcast](#) with topics such as sports, economics, learning, culture, history, politics, literature, psychology, science and technology, society and more.



Mauril

Le [Mauril](#) is a free platform to learn English or French through a wide range of stimulating and entertaining content from CBC/Radio-Canada.



Coffee Break French

[This program offers a series of 15 free lessons](#) and lessons on subscription thereafter. The pace is slow and good for beginners; the didactic sessions progressively increase in difficulty and take the form of lessons.



Memrise

Beginner and intermediate levels.

[Memrise](#) offers thousands of video examples of French used in real life. Fun tests that boost memory and build your language ability quickly.



French Podcast – Vivre en pleine conscience

[A podcast](#) that was designed by Dr. Marie-Claude Roy to create mindfulness in its different facets. This podcast is for beginners as well as for people who would like to enhance their knowledge and practice of mindfulness.

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French Podcast Series – Canada School of Public Service

[The series features](#) a range of learning content on topics such as public service innovation, project management, Indigenous learning and much more!

Episodes are produced by and for public servants and contain expert advice, interviews, analyses, and stories that will pique your interest and support your learning needs.

“A different language is a different vision of life.”

~ Federico Fellini

TV Shows, Movies and YouTube (short videos)



Français Avec Pierre

[Pierre Lévesque is a French Canadian](#) polyglot, sharing a deep passion for linguistics and language learning. Speaking five languages, including Arabic and Persian, Pierre is also a French language trainer at Au fil d'Ariane language school.



TOUT TV

[ICI Tou.tv](#) is an entertainment web TV offering a video-on-demand experience by Radio-Canada and some 20 partner broadcasters and producers.

Francophone Humorist, Author and Comedien Rolly Assal

Several short [French videos](#) on his website.

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My French Teacher – Ma prof de français

[Geneviève Breton](#) would like to be your French teacher. She offers short videos explaining different expressions in French to help you better understand people who speak Québec French.



Movies or Series

Remember you can always watch your favorite [movie or show in French](#). Thanks to digital format, you can switch from English to French audio. Doing this on a movie you already know makes it considerably easier to make sense of it, which helps the learning process. There are several French films and documentaries available on the [National Film Board of Canada](#). Check it out!



Pascal Marquis – The Adventurer

[Pascal Marquis](#) has travelled all over the world and documented every trip with short episodes.



Radio-Canada

Consult the [Radio-Canada website](#) for information and entertainment. Check out new shows or radio stations live and on demand.



TEDx Talks (in French)

[TED](#) is a non-profit association dedicated to the dissemination of ideas, usually in the form of short presentations (18 minutes or less) that will help you develop your active listening skills. Also, it is important to note that the most popular Ted Talks are available with French transcription, an excellent way to develop your reading skills.



Star Trek – The New Generation in French

Season 1 – [Episode 1 Part 01](#); [Episode 1 Part 02](#), [Several other episodes](#) and seasons are available on the internet.



Enquête – Radio-Canada

[Enquête](#) is a Canadian French-language television newsmagazine series that airs weekly on Ici Radio-Canada Télé and Ici RDI. The show is anchored by Marie-Maude Denis and includes contributions from several other journalists.

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Se Donner le Mot.TV

[Comedians](#) will take you on a journey through the everyday life of a small neighbourhood theatre where anything can happen. A pretext to help you discover the meaning of the most colourful idiomatic expressions of the French vocabulary and to push you to test your knowledge of French.

“To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world.”

~ Chinese Proverb

Media and Radio Stations



MSN and Sympatico Portal

[Canada's customizable](#) and curated collection of Canadian and world news plus coverage of sports, entertainment, money, weather, travel, health, etc.



La Presse

The most comprehensive [French-language news](#) site in North America: regional, provincial, national and international news.

LEDEVOIR

Le Devoir

[Le Devoir](#) is a French-language newspaper published in Montreal and distributed in Quebec and throughout Canada.



NewsDesk – InfoMedia

If your organization is part of the [NewsDesk Cluster](#), you will have access to several media articles that are part of different French newspapers.

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Yahoo – News Portal

[Breaking local](#), national and global news, finance, sports, music, movies and more.

List of Montreal Radio Stations

[List of radio stations](#) broadcasting in the Montreal region, with associated hyperlinks to listen to them online.



News – Government of Canada

[Check out what is](#) being featured in the news, in French, within the Government of Canada. You can use filters to select the department and type of news you want to read.

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“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.”

~ Frank Smith

Tools for Conversation Practice



My Language Exchange

Become fluent in French while making friends. This is the [only website](#) with a proven language exchange method and lesson plans so you can have fun and effective practice. Created by a qualified language teacher specializing in language exchange learning. It fosters a safe and supportive learning environment during your practice.



FrenchPod 101

[FrenchPod](#) takes you by the hand and guides you through real French conversations.



Learn French with Alexa

Exclusive [beginner to advanced](#) video courses and more than 100 live lessons that include worksheets and support guides.

facebook

GC French Tests Preparation (unofficial)

The purpose of this [facebook group](#) is to share French-language learning resources plus tips, tricks, and advice to help prepare you for the Government of Canada French Second Official Languages exams, including reading comprehension, written (grammar) and oral interaction.



Toastmasters

[Toastmasters](#) is an environment of mutual support where every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills in both English and French. [Here is the link to a French Club](#). The meetings are hybrid (in person in Caraquet and virtual) and are held the first and third Tuesday of every month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Atlantic Standard Time).

“Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things, but learning another way to think about things.”

~ Flora Lewis

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Tips for Language Conversation Groups

- Limit the number of people in the group or groups (6 to 8 is ideal).
- Give everyone the opportunity to speak.
- Meet regularly to practice; the more practice the better.
- Have a facilitator or a conversation leader for the group. It could be rotational depending on the level of the group:
 - Ensure everyone gets a chance to speak and to keep the conversation going.
 - Make it the first person to start the conversation.
 - Ensure the group keeps the conversation going in French.
- Chose topics based on the skill level of the group. It can sometimes be planned, to give participants time to prepare and do some research:
 - Choose simple topics such as movies and the weather.
 - Explore more advanced topics and those that can be debated.
- Establish group rules.

Dictionaries and Guides

[Merriam-Webster](#)

[Grand dictionnaire terminologique](#)

[Clés de la rédaction](#)

[Writing Tips Plus](#)

[TERMIUM Plus®](#)

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