

HOW FRENCH IS RANKED

Those of us who are English speakers, and have learned, or are learning the French language are too often called to defend its relative value. Relative value can have many variants, because it is calculated from different statistical resources or at different times. Since the value of all languages as core to learning is being challenged, I feel compelled to offer a list showing how French is ranked for a variety of functions, a variety of places. In all but six, I have named a source, with the knowledge that sources I have not seen may show a different rank. The collection establishes, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that French is a useful language, worthy of being studied to the point of mastery. The ranking statements are in no particular order:

More English words were derived from French (Anglo-Norman, etc.) than from any other language.

French is always in the top 5 for target language in translation (multiple sources)

Official in 29 independent countries and spoken on 5 continents, it is geographically the most widely used language other than English.

French is the language of the 3rd largest international television station in the world (TV-5) 55 million viewers.

French is a category 1 language in difficulty to learn for Anglophones: easiest kind generally considered 3rd easiest language to learn

Africa

Kinshasa (DRC) is the world's largest French-speaking city, Africa's 2nd largest city, population over 10,200,000.

French is an official language of 23 African countries (widely spoken in 31)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_French

How many people truly speak French in Africa? Quora (130 million, making it 3rd most spoken)

<https://www.quora.com/How-many-people-truly-speak-French-in-Africa>

French ranks 2nd as a native language in the European Union

<https://www.francophonie.org/Le-francais-2e-langue-maternelle.html>

French is the 2nd foreign language in the EU after English (status of English is eroding)

<https://www.francophonie.org/Le-francais-2e-langue-etrangere-au.html>

2nd among the "10 Most Requested Languages for Translation Services"

<https://www.altalang.com/beyond-words/2008/12/09/10-most-requested-languages-for-translation-services/>

What Are the Most Requested Languages for Translation? (tied for 2nd)

<http://dcuils.dcu.ie/dcu-language-services-news/what-are-the-most-requested-languages-for-translation/>

For Books, French is the most translated language in the US, before German and Spanish

<http://frenchculture.org/books/news/why-do-french-books-sell-abroad>

For Books, French is the second most translated language in the world, after English.

<http://frenchculture.org/books/news/why-do-french-books-sell-abroad>

3rd for number of articles in Wikipedia

<https://www.wikipedia.org/>

6th in content languages for web sites.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_used_on_the_Internet

The number of French-language accounts on Twitter ranks third

https://books.google.com/books?id=VcQ0CwAAQBAJ&pg=PT479&lpg=PT479&dq=%22french+ranks+third%22&source=bl&ots=2Xj9LIKQs4&sig=BDvW8RkRT_vDqLpcwEhsFiNuj4s&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj17_7Ri4TRAhUE1oMKHT6UDygQ6AEIGzAA#v=onepage&q=%22french%20ranks%20third%22&f=false

Facebook languages after US English: Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, UK English, French

<http://www.oneskyapp.com/blog/top-10-languages-with-most-users-on-facebook/>

French ranked 6th for content language of web sites

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_used_on_the_Internet

French is the 3rd used language on blogs

<https://frenchcrazy.com/2014/11/worldwide-importance-of-french-language.html/>

French is 2nd among The App Store's Top 5 Languages

<https://applingua.com/top-5-most-translated-app-languages/>

8th according to INTERNET WORLD USERS BY LANGUAGE

<http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm>

France is the second largest producer of video games in the world

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/france/paris/articles/how-france-became-a-world-leader-in-video-games/>

6th internet language for number of sites visited by month (2014 OIF report)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIgy8APXFyI>

3rd language on Amazon.com (2014 OIF report)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIgy8APXFyI>

Google Trends - French, the most searched for language in Mexico, and it shares 1st with Spanish in the UK

<http://blog.bab.la/sprache/what-is-the-most-popular-language-in-your-country/>

French is the 2nd most studied second language in the world

<http://www.mosalingua.com/en/most-studied-languages-in-the-world/>

French is the 2nd most popular second language

<http://mymodernmet.com/second-languages-of-the-world-infographic/>

New study puts French in 3rd place in the world for number of speakers

<https://www.location-francophone.com/blog/culture-francaise/>

same study - number of French speakers grew by 7% and those studying French by 6% between 2010 and 2014

<https://www.location-francophone.com/blog/culture-francaise/>

By 2050, there will be 700 million French speakers, ranking it 2nd or 1st in the world

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/francophony/the-status-of-french-in-the-world/>

In US 3rd foreign language for jobs in the US (after Spanish and Mandarin)

<https://www.indeed.com/>

France has the world's sixth-largest economy by nominal figures

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_France

In 13 of the 50 fastest-growing economies of the world, French is an official language

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_real_GDP_growth_rate

French is the 2nd business language of the European zone after English

<https://frenchcrazy.com/2014/11/worldwide-importance-of-french-language.html/>

French is one of three filing languages at the European Patent Office

<http://ipkitten.blogspot.com/2009/01/english-language-of-choice-at-epo.html>

French ranked several years ago the sixth most widely spoken language in the world

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/francophony/the-status-of-french-in-the-world/>

Le français serait la troisième langue du monde, selon une nouvelle étude

<http://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1006677/le-francais-serait-la-troisieme-langue-du-monde-selon-une-nouvelle-etude>

French ranks second among the world's official second languages

https://books.google.com/books?id=xG9_cN9Ndy8C&pg=PA39&lpg=PA39&dq=%22french+ranks+second%22&source=bl&ots=KKFqQhtHxo&sig=tFDOsRZjcMo9DB_xwvWitueH0w0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjoipbliYTRAhWHxYMKHSEkDzsQ6AEINjAF#v=onepage&q=%22french%20ranks%20second%22&f=false

French is the most commonly spoken language other than English or Spanish in 11 states of the US

http://www.laobserved.com/archive/2014/05/most_common_languages_by.php

Today French ranks second as the world's diplomatic language, a testimony to the French government's past efforts.

<https://www.buffalolib.org/vufind/Record/1712736/Reviews>

French is third for the non-English language most spoken at home

<http://images.classwell.com/pdf/olpresources/FN1YD10AD.pdf>

French is the third most important language for business, after English and Chinese? language magazine (6/12/16)

<http://languagemagazine.com/?p=125752>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/b/27e9aa92-47f4-4827-abf0-676d3cd31552>

5e langue mondiale (2014 OIF report) 6th by other sources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIgy8APXFyI>

4th internet language for number of users (2014 OIF report)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIgy8APXFyI>

It is the second official language of international organizations (International Journal of Development and Management Review)

<http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ijdmr/article/view/137840>

English and French are the 2 permanent official languages of the Olympics

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_Games

French is one of 4 official languages of FIFA

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA>

French is foundational to and number one in use in ballet

http://dance.about.com/od/typesofdance/f/Ballet_French.htm

French is one of three procedural languages of the European Union

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/francophony/the-status-of-french-in-the-world/>

One of the working languages of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/francophony/the-status-of-french-in-the-world/>

French ranks 2nd as the language of Nobel Laureats in Literature

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Nobel_laureates_in_Literature

The British Council said French was number 3 among languages needed for the UK

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/languages-for-the-future-report.pdf>

French is ranked the 2nd most influential language in the world (many references)

<http://www.losmonitos.com/language-instruction/learn-french/>

<http://theamericaninstitute.in/french/>

French is #3 - Power Language Index (2016, multi-criteria study), by Kai L. Chan, PhD

http://www.kailchan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/KC_Power-Language-Index_May-2016.pdf

French is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture.

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/francophony/promoting-french-around-the-world-7721/article/10-good-reasons-for-learning>

In US public library collections, French is the most common language other than English and Spanish in public library collections in 32 of the 50 states.

<https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/what-languages-do-public-library-collections-speak.html>

French is one of 5 official languages of the FIFA World Cup

<http://www.globallanguages.com/es/global-communicator/articles/the-most-popular-sports-in-the-world>

France is the number one tourist destination in the world (multiple sources)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourism_in_France

According to Baby Name Wizard founder Laura Wattenberg, French names are deemed the sexiest for women

http://thestir.cafemom.com/love_sex/181954/sexiest_names_attractive_men_women

A CNN poll makes French the 2nd sexiest accent in the world

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/17/travel/sexy-accents/>

BRITONS believe French is the world's sexiest language, a new study reveals.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/663183/French-sexiest-language-world-Italian-Irish-Spanish-Johnny-Depp>

French is the sexiest, according to a New York Daily News poll

<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/french-sexiest-language-poll-article-1.1498834>

La France, 4ème pays d'accueil des étudiants étrangers

<https://www.souscritoo.com/blog/non-classe/france-4eme-pays-daccueil-etudiants-etrangers/>

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