

France is the most visited tourist destination in the world. Paris has been named by *Fortune Magazine* as one of the top ten "global cities." When you speak French, you can be an educated tourist, ask for directions, get your own hotel room, or tell a French friend about the U.S.

Learning French will also increase your problem-solving skills and self-esteem. Because progress is very easy to measure, you can quickly take pride in your new abilities. Learning French can help you acquire a number of important skills.

As you quickly realize when you look at the foreign film section of the most popular store, France is one of the most prolific producers of international films. The Cannes International Film Festival annually attracts the attention of the world when the best films, directors, and actors are named. When you understand French, you don't have to rely on subtitles to enjoy a French film.

People around the world are familiar with *Les Misérables*, *The Three Musketeers*, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, *The Little Prince*, and *The Stranger*. In fact, France has won more Nobel Prizes for literature than any other country. The French are also admired for their great philosophers, such as Descartes and Pascal, Rousseau, Voltaire, Carnus, and Sartre. When you read French, you can enjoy these works and authors in the original.



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Reasons
To
Learn
French

1 In many European countries, a second language is introduced in elementary school. Job and a third language in middle school. In at least two languages who are proficient in applicants will be at a distinct advantage in the global marketplace. When you know French, you can communicate in transactions occurring daily in French on every continent.

2

In many scientific fields, most American institutions at the graduate level require a reading knowledge of French or German in order for scholars to be able to conduct research. France continues to be a leader and innovator in science and technology. Civil engineering (the TGV—the world's fastest train, the Viaduct of Millau—between England and France, the aeronautics world's highest bridge), the Ariane Rocket, the world's highest and the Ariane Rocket, the (the Airbus 350 and the HIV virus), Franco-European initiative), medical technologies (the isolation of the HIV virus), and telecommunications (fiber optics, the smart card) are just a few areas in which the French are leaders. Knowing French can open the doors to graduate school and to important research.

3 French is the first or second language in more than 55 countries and is spoken by 250 million people around the world, on every continent. Because French is a foreign language of choice for so many people in the world, knowing French will also increase your chances of communicating in a non-English-speaking country. You can use French to develop international friendships as well as to communicate via the Internet.

4

Knowledge of a second language is essential in over 60 occupations. Canada, officially bilingual, is our most important trading partner and requires labeling in English and French on all products. More than 2,400 French companies have subsidiaries in the U.S., and France is our largest foreign investor. France is also a world leader in the development of modern telecommunications, a market with explosive growth potential. The European Union, the second largest trading bloc in the world, recognizes French as an official language. Job opportunities abound with airlines, import-export companies, and other international businesses. French is also useful if you are thinking of working at the second most widely used language after English) or for the U.S. Government as a foreign service officer. Here in the U.S., when you know French, you could become a French teacher, interpreter, or translator.

5

Some 40 to 50% of English vocabulary comes from French. The study of French will also enhance your grammar skills, and your increased proficiency in English will improve your scores on the verbal section of the SAT and the ACT. As you develop greater skills in French, you also sharpen your skills in English.

6

French is always an official language used to announce events, winners, and medals at the Olympic Games, including the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada. If you live near the Quebec border, you can also follow hockey and baseball games in French. Automobile races (Le Mans), Monte Carlo, horse racing (Longchamps), tennis tournaments (French Open), the Tour de France (long-distance bicycle race) engage fans around the globe. When you know French, the international world of sports is open to you.