






















The *BonPatron* Vocabulary Guide

pro.bonpatron.com/xpress/1

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Facebook Twitter YouTube User Profile

XPress: French in 40 Hours

 Basic Expressions	 Animals	 The Body	 Business	 Clothing	 Colours and Characteristics	 Dates and Time
 Food	 Greetings	 Health	 Household	 Numbers	 People	 Restaurant
 School	 Sports	 Travel	 Weather	 Pronunciation hints	 Practice	 Final Exam

The *BonPatron* Vocabulary Guide

- Who is it for?
- What is it?
- How can I use it with my students?



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Who is it for?

- Core French students of all ages
- It is especially helpful for beginner and intermediate learners.
- It can be used in a classroom setting or for individual study



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What is it?

- It's an interactive resource for vocabulary building
- You can base an entire course on it
- It contains 500 frequent words/expressions
- It promotes deep learning of the words



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What is Deep Learning?

- In order to really learn a word, students need to:
- Link the word to meaning
- Link the word to sound
- Link the word to writing
- Produce the word spontaneously



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What is it?

- The guide's 500 words are divided into familiar thematic units, e.g.:
- Greetings, health, sports, school, household, etc.
- Here's a screenshot...



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What is it?

XPress: French in 40 Hours

Household






On this page: [Description](#), [Exercises](#), [Guide Contents](#)

Description

- [Household \(la maison\)](#)
- [Helpful verbs](#)
- [Grammar Point: object pronouns](#)

Household (la maison)



English 🗨️	French 🗨️	Listen and Repeat	Write (r = response; f = first letter)
the door	la porte		<input type="text"/> ?
a bedroom	une chambre		<input type="text"/> ?
a room	une pièce		<input type="text"/> ?
the basement	le sous-sol		<input type="text"/> ?
the kitchen	la cuisine		<input type="text"/> ?
the window	la fenêtre		<input type="text"/> ?



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What is it?

- In addition to word tables, you'll find:
 - Simple exercises (with answers)
 - Key grammatical points
 - A game
 - Simple translation tasks (with answers)
- Here's a screenshot...



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What is it?

Grammar Point: object pronouns

Object pronouns (e.g.: "me", "it", "him", etc. in English) come BEFORE the verb in French. For example, "David sees her" = *David la voit*; "Laura wants it" = *Laura le veut*. Consult our Grammar Guide to learn more about [direct object pronouns](#), [indirect object pronouns](#) and the [order of pronouns](#).

Exercises

Give the English equivalent:

- un lit = ?
- une cuillère = ?
- la douche = ?
- un verre = ?

Give the French equivalent:

- a knife = ?
- a plate = ?
- the window = ?
- the door = ?
- the ceiling = ?
- a towel = ?

Go to [BonPatron.com](https://www.bonpatron.com) and translate the following:

1. My house has three bedrooms and a big kitchen.
2. I need a big spoon.
3. I think your daughter is in the bathroom.



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Here's the demo!

- Let's go have a look:

<https://bonpatron.com/xpress/1/>



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The Tennis Game

- Tests ability to quickly produce a word
- See the word, type it and get a point
- You can control the speed at which words appear
- Idea: create two teams, but have the teacher be the typist.



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Learning in 9 Steps (or X steps)

- Here's one possible sequence to consider (and an idea for classroom activities)
- Step **1**: reveal English and French (initial association)
- Step **2**: hide English (memory exercise; $L2 > L1$)
- Step **3**: hide French (memory exercise $L1 > L2$)



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Learning in 9 Steps

- Step **4**: hide French, write out word (production + writing; L1 > L2)
- Step **5**: reveal Eng./French and listen to sound (link written to spoken)
- Step **6**: listen and repeat sound (spoken production)



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Learning in 9 Steps

- Step **7**: hide French, listen to sound, write out word (production; link sound to written)
- Step **8**: hide English and French, listen to sound, write word (production; link sound to word)
- Step **9**: play the game (improve spontaneous production)



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Integrating vocabulary acquisition with grammatical acquisition

- grammar doesn't exist by itself
- “grammar” is what happens when you put words into action
- only then do we know it's *ma* + *maison*; *je* + *suis*
- In French, grammar is mainly **word order** and **agreement**, e.g.: number, gender, tense, mood



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From vocabulary to grammar

- Even beginners can take knowledge from *BonPatron's* vocabulary site, and:
- Produce grammatical sentences with *BonPatron's* grammar helper (and lexical tool and conjugator)
- Consider a student who has learned the “Household words”, e.g.: *house, bedroom, kitchen* (you know, simple stuff)



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From vocabulary to grammar

- how might relative beginners produce a grammatical sentence like *Ma maison a trois chambres et une grande cuisine*
- (“My house has three bedrooms and a big kitchen”)?



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From vocabulary to grammar

- They already have acquired the following:
- *My maison has three chambre and a big cuisine.*



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Integrating grammar (Household)

- What they lack is:
 - a) a few more words
 - b) grammar (agreement, etc.)
- *My maison has three chambre and a big cuisine.*



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Integrating grammar (“Household”)

- Let’s go over to BonPatron.com (the grammar helper) and see what might happen if they use the dictionary:
- *Mon maison avoir trois chambre and un grand cuisine.*
- If you run this through BonPatron.com, the red errors will all be explained
- This should lead to the correct changes

Integrating grammar (composition)

- The goal is not to produce flawless texts
- It is to put learned words into action
- And, learn grammar through this process



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Practice Link

- based on frequency
- this is for extra vocab learning
- a list of 105 nouns (with articles)
- 105 verbs (infinitives)



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Practice Link

- 100 adjectives
- 60 prepositions and adverbs
- feedback is given
- answers can be revealed



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Final Exam

- Unlike the *Practice* link,
- The *Final exam* is based entirely on the vocabulary guide
- It should be a goal for any beginner French programme



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Function words

- Remember, the vocabulary guide focuses on content words (nouns, verbs, adjectives)
- For function words (e.g.: prepositions, pronouns)
- Use the *BonPatron Grammar Guide*:
- <https://bonpatron.com/guide/1/>



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Pronunciation hints

- Help with basic problems, like:
- Liaison
- Nasals
- French “u”
- French “R”



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Free versus PRO?

- The PRO version allows for longer texts
- Has a larger editing window
- You avoid ads
- You get a writing portfolio
- You support the project



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General conclusions

- No need for random vocabulary lists
- Learning an L2 should begin with vocabulary
- BonPatron's Vocabulary Guide provides an interactive tool, available to all.
- Learned vocabulary should be the gateway to grammar



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