

A1/A2

Grammaire contrastive

FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS

**MARCELLA DI GIURA - RICHARD HUW THOMAS
ANURADHA WAGLÉ**

**DIRECTEUR D'OUVRAGE : JEAN-CLAUDE BEACCO
PROFESSEUR, UNIVERSITÉ PARIS 3 - SORBONNE NOUVELLE**

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FOREWORD

Learning by understanding the similarities and differences between languages

This is not just another French grammar book. This book has been specifically designed for English speakers wanting to learn French and uses the differences and similarities between the two languages to help you learn better.

Organisation

- The book contains **80 grammar sheets**, each of which deals with a single topic of French grammar.
- The book focuses on the characteristics of the French language, the formation of words (*morphologie*) and the ways in which they combine to form sentences (*syntaxe*).
- The grammar sheets tackle grammar at levels A1 and A2 as defined in the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and the Niveaux de référence pour le français* (A1 and A2, Chapter 5). These European references specify the Framework for languages and give clear and firm indications regarding the forms of French that should be taught at these levels.
- The grammar sheets have been written in a graded order from level A1 to A2 and they become increasingly detailed as the book progresses. If you are using the book for individual study we recommend that you follow the order of the files.
- The index allows you to find a specific grammar sheet as and when required.

Content

- We have used English for grammar explanations, instructions and some of the exercises.
- We have included language topics, such as the conjugation of verbs and spelling rules that present difficulties for learners in general. However, the book focuses on those elements of French that are particularly difficult for English speakers and lead to frequent mistakes that are hard to correct.
- The grammar descriptions are simple. We have avoided using too many technical terms; those used are listed in the grammar glossary. Grammar terms used in the grammar sheets are always illustrated with the help of several examples.

Learning approach

- We have incorporated a large number of activities that place French and English in parallel. This approach highlights the differences as well as also the similarities between the two languages. These comparative and contrastive approaches have been used by teachers for a long time but they have been generally absent in most textbooks. The activities in this book have been specially developed based on the many years of experience of teachers teaching French in an English-speaking context. They have been created by a team of authors with French or English as their native language.

Exercises

- As you might expect, the book contains a wide range of exercises. These exercises are varied and also include several translation exercises that involve a number of skills necessary for using a language. We have included commonly used sentences in everyday spoken French that are found in real life situations and we have used vocabulary appropriate for levels A1 and A2. These exercises also cover the spelling of grammatical terms and the phonetics of grammar, such as elision, liaison or word combination.
- In the second part, the exercises become more advanced and have a greater emphasis on communication. In each chapter, the exercises appear in a logical order from simple to complex. Generally, the first few exercises reinforce comprehension of the grammar rule presented and are aimed at recognizing correctly-formed phrases. The next level of exercises involves understanding sentences or joining two phrases to make sentences. The final exercises for each grammar sheet involve transforming or creating French sentences.
- The grammar sheets are supplemented by an audio CD, two assessment tests, conjugation tables, a grammatical terminology glossary and a phonetic table. The answers to the exercises and the transcriptions of the audio CD are in a booklet provided with the book.
- It would be unrealistic to expect miracles from grammar explanations alone. But we know that they do help learners to understand the working of languages and, in the long run, support learning. Language learning requires patience: we recommend that you memorize the examples, tables, remarks and do the exercises carefully. This book cannot replace reading or listening to French in a classroom, on the internet or on television, but exposure to the language coupled with the grammar exercises in this book can definitely help you progress.

Bonne route vers le français !