

Oxford Dictionaries

Premium

French

[Oxford Dictionaries French](#) is more than just a dictionary. Discover our additional French language resources and learn more about French language and culture.

Navigating an entry

On every entry page in our Premium dictionary, you will see the headword, pronunciation, part of speech, translations and labels where necessary.


Translation of *help* in French:
noun



¹ (assistance)


[aide](#) (f) 



(in an emergency)

[secours](#) (m) 

to need some help with the cooking/gardening
avoir besoin d'aide pour faire la cuisine/le jardin 

with the help of
[à l'aide de](#)  (stick, knife)
[avec l'aide de](#)  (person)

can I be of help (to you)?
puis-je faire quelque chose pour vous? 

to be of help to somebody
(person)
[rendre service à quelqu'un](#) 
(information, map)
[être utile à quelqu'un](#) 

¹ (home)

[maison](#) (f) 

.....

Translations

The different senses of the headword itself are translated, with information to help you find which sense you need. In addition, many examples of a sense in use are provided and translated, especially when the main translation does not work in all contexts, or when unexpected verbs or prepositions may be needed.

Whenever a translation is a headword on the other side of the dictionary, it is blue and hyperlinked. You can click the hyperlink to go to that entry.


Links are provided to the same word in other dictionaries.


Definition of house in:

- [British & World English](#) dictionary
- [US English](#) dictionary
- [English synonyms](#)
- [US English synonyms](#)
- [Spanish](#) dictionary

Translate **house** [into Arabic](#) | [into Chinese](#) | [into German](#) | [into Italian](#) | [into Portuguese](#) | [into Russian](#) | [into Spanish](#)

Pronunciations

montagne 

Pronunciation: /mɔ̃taɲ/ 

feminine noun

1 (élévation)
mountain


A detailed
guide to the
dictionary can
be found
here

Pronunciation is given using audio and IPA (symbols that show the sound that each letter represents in the word in question). Click on the IPA for an explanation of the symbols. Click on the speaker buttons to hear the word spoken aloud.


You can also click on the speaker button next to any French word or phrase on either side of the dictionary to hear it spoken aloud.

Translation of *herb* in French:
noun


(plant)


herbe (f) 

(for cooking)


herbe (f) **aromatique** 


(with medicinal properties)

plante (f) **médicinale** 


herbe (f) **médicinale** 

(Pharmacology)


plante (f) **officinale** 

herbe (f) **officinale** 

mixed herbs

≈ **herbes de Provence** 

fresh herbs

finest herbs 

drive forward

Translation of *drive forward* in French:

(in football)

attaquer 

See parent entry: → **drive**

Phrases, phrasal verbs, and derivative entries


Phrases, phrasal verbs, and derivative entries are given at the end of relevant entries, and also as standalone entries which link back to the parent.

spaghetti junction

Translation of *spaghetti junction* in French:

noun

(British) [informal] (Transport)

échangeur (m) **à niveaux multiples** 

Labels

You will see a region label such as US if the word is not used in all varieties of English, a domain label if the word is only used when speaking or writing about a particular subject (such as sport), or a register label if the word is not neutral, but rather informal, offensive, or humorous, etc.

Learn how to access Oxford Dictionaries Premium
via an institution

Usage guidance

Notes are provided to explain culturally specific terms, and grammar and usage notes are given for tricky entries.

Cultural Note: département

An administrative unit (of which there are 96 in Metropolitan France) based on a division dating from the Revolutionary period. Most are named after rivers or mountains within their border. The main town is the seat of the *préfet*, and is often called the *préfecture*. Each *département* has a number and this appears as the first two digits in postcodes for addresses within the *département* and as the two-digit number at the end of registration numbers on motor vehicles.

Difficulties in French: False friends and *franglais*



FALSE FRIENDS (FAUX AMIS)

English belongs to the Germanic family of Indo-European languages, as can readily be seen from everyday words such as *make, can, go, man, wife, son, daughter, sister, brother, house, garden, door*—to name but a handful. French, on the other hand belongs to the Romance family which has its roots in the vulgar Latin of the Roman conquest of Europe and the Middle East. Nonetheless, the influence of French on the English language has been considerable and goes back to the year 1066, when William, Duke of Normandy, invaded England, starting off what is now called the Norman Conquest. Within a very short time, virtually all the land in England was owned by Normans. The result was that Norman French entirely replaced English as the language of the ruling classes and so the situation was to remain for the next 300 years, French being the language of the English parliament until 1363.

After the English defeat at the hands of the French in the Hundred Years War, the English language underwent a major revival based on patriotism coupled with francophobia. Nevertheless, the influence of French continued through the cultural and intellectual cross-fertilization of the Renaissance and then later due to the fact that French was the official language of international diplomacy from 1714 until the First World War.

So it is that the English of the present day is rich in words that have come into the language from French and have changed little in spelling or meaning: *intelligence, instinct, situation, absent, accident* are identical in both languages, whilst others such as *diplomacy (diplomatie), adventure (aventure), address (adresse)* have changed but little. These are *vrais amis*—true friends—also called true cognates. However, there are also a great many false cognates—*faux amis*—that often cause problems. These fall into three broad categories:

Click 'read more' from the French homepage or '**GRAMMAR**' at the top of any page to [explore language resources](#), including a grammar glossaries in English and French, pronunciation information, useful phrases, cultural information, sample letters and emails.

Verb tables for regular verbs and the most common irregular verbs can be found by clicking 'French verb tables' at the bottom of any French verb entry:

Grammar and usage help for French:

[French Grammar Notes for English speakers translating into French 11: GO](#)

[French verb tables](#)

[Sample letters](#)

[Vocabulary related to email and the internet](#)

Quizzes

You can find quizzes to test your language skills on the [French dictionary homepage](#), and in the side bar for every entry.

TEST YOURSELF

Test Your French

1) What is the English word for *beau-frère*?

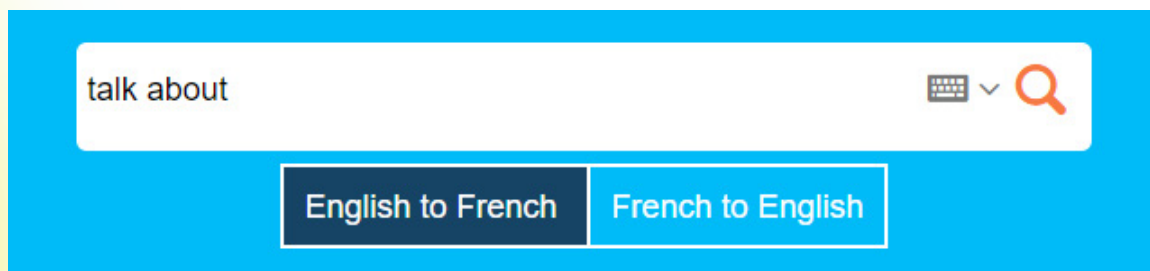
☐ brother-in-law

☐ brother

Next 0/0

Ways of searching

You can search for phrases by typing the phrase in the search box.



If that phrase is in the dictionary, it will take you to the entry and highlight the relevant section, as in this example: typing 'talk about' will take you to 'to talk about' in the entry for 'about'.

preposition

1 (concerning, regarding)
a book/film about somebody/something
un livre/film sur quelqu'un/quelque chose

to **talk about**
parler de (problem, subject)

what's it about?
(of book, film etc)
ça parle de quoi?

it's about...
il s'agit de...

Type parts of an idiom and you will be taken to the closest one.
E.g. type 'comme chien et chat' and you will be taken to the idiom
'être comme chien et chat'.

être comme chien et chat

to be always at each other's throats

See parent entry: → [chien](#)

Homographs

There are 2 entries that translate *cat* into French:

cat

British English: /kat/

American English: /kæt/

You can jump quickly between homograph entries (entries which have the same spelling but different origins) by clicking the numbers at the top of the page.

If you would like to know more about Oxford Dictionaries Premium,
[contact us](#)