

FRENCH 1410-1420
GETTING STARTED ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE CAN BE FUN AND NOT AS DIFFICULT AS IT MIGHT SEEM IF YOU FOLLOW AT LEAST SOME OF THE TIPS BELOW.

1. Never underestimate the value of 10 minutes. Looking over vocabulary or verbs for as little as 5 or 10 minutes between classes, while waiting for a train to go by or a long red light, or waiting for a friend to show up can make the difference between a C and a D.
2. Do NOT fall behind on your studying. Review, even for only 15 minutes, daily, including Saturdays and Sundays. That one little trick alone can make the difference between passing and failing.
3. Buy an easy-to-carry notebook. Ideal is a 3-subject 9 1/2 x 6 inch spiral. Divide it up in 3 categories: Verbs, Vocabulary, Rules. Every time you learn a new verb, write it in the appropriate section along with one or two others of its kind.

EX. Désirer, travailler, and danser should be in your spiral by now.

In the rule section you might note:

verbs in g (manger, voyager) do not drop the e on the 3rd person

Nous Mangeons

Nous Voyageons

and in the vocabulary section you might have

bien - well souvent - often, etc.

NOTE: Don't feel compelled to write EVERY new word in the vocabulary section. Just include frequently used words or words that seem to be particularly difficult for you to remember.

As you learn new verbs, keep adding them to your verb section—likewise helpful rules and vocabulary.

4. Now you have a handy personal reference guide that you can easily carry with you and look over whenever you have 5 or 10 minutes free. Throw it on the car seat, put it in your pocket, have it where you can easily see it and pull it out. When you need to study for a test, you'll have most of the information you need in your notebook.
5. Get to know your textbook; you'd be surprised at how much helpful information it contains! If you're in 1410, you'll probably cover the first 13 leçons. Take 30 minutes. Look over the ground you will be covering. When you know what's ahead of you, it becomes less scary when you get to it. If you're in 1420, take time to review those first 13 leçons. That's material your 1420 teacher will assume you know; it won't be covered in that class. If you need help brushing up, come to the Student Learning Assistance

Center (SLAC).

6. Every time you're assigned a new chapter, look for the verb or verbs you will need to study in that chapter and learn how to conjugate them.

EX. Leçon 2, pp. 7 & 8: "Parler," "Apprendre," and "Rencontrer."

Leçon 3, p. 13: "Comprendre," and p. 16: "Discuter," "Choisir," and "Espérer."

Knowing how to conjugate the new verbs will make learning the new chapter much easier.

7. Work out ways that are meaningful to you to help you remember words:

EX. When do you use "ou" and when "où"?

Où with an accent takes longer to write than plain "ou" and also means the longer English word "where."

Ou, no accent, short and quick, is the word you want for "or," the short, two letter word.

So, "ou" → or, "où" → where.

8. The "cedille" only appears on the letter c if it precedes the letters a, o, and u.

This gives c a soft, s sound.

EX. Français

Leçon

Reçu

9. The study guide lists all verbs and nouns as well as other important information that you will need to study for each chapter. Reviewing these periodically will be beneficial.
10. Visit your instructor during office hours even to ask questions that you feel are trivial or dumb. If a classmate can't explain what the assignment is or a point you missed, don't just say, "Oh well, forget that!"

If you need help studying or getting started on an assignment, come to SLAC early on. Waiting to get help after your 2nd "D" on a test is too late.

**BONNE CHANCE
A BIEN TÔT**

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