

TWENTY LESSONS IN FRENCH CONVERSATION

THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

Note—These lessons have been prepared for the Oregonian's Home Study Circle by Prof. Seymour Eaton, of the University of Oregon. They are intended primarily for Americans who are studying French in the home. The lessons will include (1) common French words and phrases, (2) easy conversation and (3) simple reading lessons.

LESSON NO. 5.

Something About Pronunciation.

1. There are certain vowels, which though double, as: *ai, au, oi, eu, etc.*, have the sound of only one vowel. These vowels, which are called "compound vowels," the most important of these are:

ai, au, oi, eu, are pronounced like *e* in *note*, as: *ai* (morning glow); *eu* (note).

oi, au, are pronounced like *o* in *but*, as: *oi* (people); *au* (note).

eu is pronounced like *u* in *wood*, as: *eu* (road); *eu* (root).

A Few Practical Hints.

2. As there are but two genders in French, masculine and feminine, things which are masculine in English are masculine in French. It is hard to give a positive rule as to which nouns are masculine and which feminine. We will try to give as far as possible a guide to gender in each lesson. In case of doubt, however, consult your dictionary and memorize the noun with its proper article.

3. The following few useful notes will materially aid the student in case of doubt as to the gender of a noun. Therefore remember, that—

- (a) the name of God and all supernatural beings are masculine: *Dieu*; *angel*; *angel*.
- (b) nouns which end in *-ion* are feminine: *la dévotion*; *la passion*; *la religion*.
- (c) nouns which end in *-age* are masculine: *l'usage*; *l'usage*.
- (d) the seasons and cardinal points are masculine: *l'été*; *l'hiver*; *l'été*; *l'hiver*.
- (e) the names of months are feminine: *la mai*; *la mai*.
- (f) the names of days of the week are masculine: *le dimanche*; *le dimanche*.
- (g) the names of colors are feminine: *la couleur*; *la couleur*.
- (h) the names of metals are masculine: *l'or*; *l'or*.
- (i) the names of minerals are masculine: *le fer*; *le fer*.
- (j) the names of plants are feminine: *la fleur*; *la fleur*.
- (k) the names of animals are masculine: *le chien*; *le chien*.
- (l) the names of birds are feminine: *la oiseau*; *la oiseau*.
- (m) the names of insects are masculine: *le insecte*; *le insecte*.
- (n) the names of fish are masculine: *le poisson*; *le poisson*.
- (o) the names of reptiles are masculine: *le serpent*; *le serpent*.
- (p) the names of mammals are masculine: *le mammifère*; *le mammifère*.
- (q) the names of birds are feminine: *la oiseau*; *la oiseau*.
- (r) the names of insects are masculine: *le insecte*; *le insecte*.
- (s) the names of fish are masculine: *le poisson*; *le poisson*.
- (t) the names of reptiles are masculine: *le serpent*; *le serpent*.
- (u) the names of mammals are masculine: *le mammifère*; *le mammifère*.
- (v) the names of birds are feminine: *la oiseau*; *la oiseau*.
- (w) the names of insects are masculine: *le insecte*; *le insecte*.
- (x) the names of fish are masculine: *le poisson*; *le poisson*.
- (y) the names of reptiles are masculine: *le serpent*; *le serpent*.
- (z) the names of mammals are masculine: *le mammifère*; *le mammifère*.

Memory Exercises.

1. I am hungry: *J'ai faim*; *J'ai faim*.

2. I am thirsty: *J'ai soif*; *J'ai soif*.

3. I am sleepy: *J'ai sommeil*; *J'ai sommeil*.

4. I am tired: *J'ai fatigué*; *J'ai fatigué*.

5. I am cold: *J'ai froid*; *J'ai froid*.

6. I am hot: *J'ai chaud*; *J'ai chaud*.

7. I am sad: *J'ai triste*; *J'ai triste*.

8. I am happy: *J'ai content*; *J'ai content*.

9. I am angry: *J'ai en colère*; *J'ai en colère*.

10. I am surprised: *J'ai étonné*; *J'ai étonné*.

11. I am surprised: *J'ai étonné*; *J'ai étonné*.

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1. An egg; un out; un out.
2. A couple of eggs; une couple d'œufs; une couple d'œufs.
3. I wish some toast; Je désire un peu de pain grillé.
4. To desire a glass of beer; Je désire un verre de bière.
5. What have you for breakfast? Qu'avez-vous pour déjeuner?
6. Soft boiled eggs; Des œufs à la coque; Des œufs à la coque.
7. All you eat is cake; Tout ce que tu manges est du gâteau.
8. Does she have a cup of coffee? Elle a-t-elle une tasse de café?
9. He prefers chocolate; Il préfère le chocolat.
10. I like to eat chocolate; J'aime à manger du chocolat.
11. I will take some soup; Je prendrai du soup.
12. I prefer to eat soup; J'aime à manger du soup.
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BOER AND KAFFIR.

The Slavery Question in the South African Colonies.

PORTLAND, March 29.—(To the Editor.)

At divers times communications and extracts from other publications, principally by clergymen, dealing with the oppression of the blacks by the Boers, have appeared in your columns. These communications have been published in the Christian Science Monitor and other newspapers, and have been widely read.

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