My First French Picture Dictionary
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How to use this book

Children love playing with words, and learning a new language can be lots of fun. This colorful dictionary is specially designed to help you introduce your child to French. With your help, your child will learn key words from a range of familiar situations, discovering new sounds along the way. They will also start to recognize some of the differences and similarities between French and English.

First steps to learning French

As soon as they are comfortable expressing themselves in their own language, children are ready to learn a new one. To get the most out of this book, sit with your child and encourage them to look at the pictures, to say the French words as often as possible, and to answer all the questions. Come back to the book time and time again, so your child absorbs the new sounds and learns to associate the French words with the pictures.

Questions and answers

Nick Sharratt’s lively scenes will help your child to memorize the French words by putting them into context. They also offer plenty of scope for further questions, so you can encourage your child to practice speaking their newly learned words. For your own guidance, there is a pronunciation guide at the back of the book.

Read the heading out loud so your child knows the context of the French words.

Point to the picture, then run your finger along the French words, from left to right, saying the words out loud. Ask your child to repeat the words, not forgetting to say the short word in front.

Compare the French word with the English, pointing out the similarities as well as the differences between the two languages.

Look for me on every page – sometimes you will have to look very hard! It’s fun to see what I’m doing.

[Image of characters: Taz, Amy, Lucy, Elisha, Jake, Tom]
Fun and games at home

la porte
door

la fenêtre
window

la chaise
chair

le canapé
sofa

le coussin
cushion

la pendule
clock

la télévision
television

le téléphone
telephone

What has been thrown out of the window?

What do you use to tell the time?
Look at me!

Name the different parts of your body.

What do you smell things with?

- la tête: head
- les cheveux: hair
- le nez: nose
- les oreilles: ears
- la bouche: mouth
- le visage: face
- les yeux: eyes
- les dent: teeth
- le cou: neck
- l'épaule: shoulder
- le doigt: finger
- le doigt: thumb
- la main: hand
- le bras: arm
- le ventre: tummy
- le derrière: bottom
- le genou: knee
- la jambe: leg
- l'orteil: toe
- le pied: foot
Come to my birthday party

le ballon
balloon

le masque
mask

le cadeau
present

le chapeau en papier
party hat

la glace
ice cream

le gâteau
cake

le jus de fruit
fruit juice

les bonbons
candies

What is the baby eating?

What is Dad carrying?
Having fun at preschool

l'ordinateur
computer

la maîtresse
teacher

le livre
book

les ciseaux
scissors

la peinture
paint

le pinceau
paintbrush

les crayons
crayons

la colle
glue

What do you use to cut things up?

What is the little boy reading?
What do we like to wear?

What do you wear on your hands?

- la veste: jacket
- la chemise: shirt
- le pyjama: pajamas
- la chemise de nuit: nightgown
- le pantalon: pants
- la jupe: skirt
- la robe: dress
- le caleçon: boxers/underpants
- la culotte: panties
- le short: shorts
- les chaussettes: socks
- les chaussures: shoes
- le pull: sweater
- le bonnet: hat
- les gants: gloves

What do you like to wear best?
Let's play in the yard

la tondeuse
lawnmower

la brouette
wheelbarrow

le papillon
butterfly

l'oiseau
bird

l'arrosoir
watering pail

le vélo
bike

la pataugeoire
kiddie pool

la fleur
flower

What has wings and likes to sing?

What do you use to cut the grass?
Take a walk down our street

What has four wheels and an engine?

Where do you go to buy things?

la maison
house

la voiture
car

le magasin
shop

le lampadaire
street light

l'agent de police
policeman

le fauteuil roulant
wheelchair

les feux
traffic light

la route
road
Things that go

les rollers
rollerblades

le camion
truck

l'avion
airplane

l'hélicoptère
helicopter

la moto
motorbike

l'ambulance
ambulance

le camion de pompiers
fire engine

le bus
bus

la montgolfière
hot air balloon

le train
train

l'excavateur
backhoe

le camion benne
dump truck

 Which of these travels on tracks?

le bateau
ship

le skateboard
skateboard

la fusée
rocket
Let's go to the toy store

le puzzle
jigsaw puzzle

le camion
truck

le garage
garage

la maison de
poupées
dollhouse

l'ours en peluche
teddy bear

la poupée
doll

la marionnette
puppet

les cubes
blocks

What does the salesman have on his hand?

Which toy do you like best?
At the supermarket

le bocal
jar

le sac
bag

la boîte de conserve
can

le panier
basket

le caddy
shopping cart

l'argent
money

la caisse
checkout counter

la bouteille
bottle

What do we use to pay for things?

What do you carry your groceries in?
Food to help me grow

What's white and good to drink?

What do you eat for breakfast?
Take me to the pet store

- le lapin: rabbit
- le hamster: hamster
- le chaton: kitten
- le chiot: puppy
- le poisson rouge: goldfish
- le panier: basket
- la cage: cage
- la perruche: parakeet

Who is sitting in the puppy's basket?

What sort of pet do you like best?
What's in the park?

- le toboggan: slide
- la balançoire: swing
- la poussette: stroller
- la cage à grimper: jungle gym
- le banc: bench
- l'arbre: tree
- le chien: dog
- le canard: duck

What sort of bird is swimming in the pond?

What is Grandpa sitting on?
Down on the farm

le fermier
farmer

le tracteur
tractor

la poule
hen

l’agneau
lamb

le cheval
horse

la vache
cow

la barrière
gate

le foin
hay

Which of these animals gives us milk?

What is a baby sheep called?
A sunny day at the seashore

What sort of bird lives at the seashore?

What can you build with sand?
See what we can do!

il saute
he jumps

il marche
he walks

elle court
she runs

il chante
he sings

il rit
he laughs

elle applaudit
she claps

elle brosse
she brushes

elle coupe
she cuts

elle mange
she eats

elle boit
she drinks

What is the
unhappy boy
doing?

What is the
girl with the box
doing?

elle porte
she carries

il peint
he paints

ils dansent
they dance
Colors are everywhere

What color are your pajamas?

violet purple

rouge red

noir black

vert green

rose pink

bleu blue

jaune yellow

orange orange

marron brown

blanc white

What color is the bouncy castle?
Come and count with me

1 un
How many windows does this house have?

2 deux

3 trois

4 quatre

5 cinq

6 six
Count the spots on the ladybug.

7 sept

8 huit

9 neuf

10 dix

5 butterflies
All year round

What makes you put up your umbrella?

What day of the week is it?
How the words sound

A guide to pronunciation

French pronunciation is different from English, and some French sounds do not exist in English. Pronunciations are shown in italics, with some of the main differences highlighted in bold as follows:

- an is close to phone as in "orange" – man
- e is close to elevator as in "it", "ie" and "due" – de
- in is close to song as in "tapin" – lapin
- j is close to pleasure as in "genius" – jenoo
- on is close to song as in "bonbon" – bonbon
- u is close to Luke as in "pendule" – pendule

French nouns are masculine or feminine and should be learned with "le" or "la" in front of them. "Les" is used for plural.

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A

airplane l'avion – l'avion
ambulance l’ambulance – l’ambulans
arm le bras – le bra

B

backhoe l’excavateur – l’excavater
bag le sac – le sak
balloon le ballon – le balon
basket le panier – le pargay
beach ball le ballon de plage – le balon de plaj
bee l’abeille – l’abaj
beetle le scarabée – le scarabay
bench le banc – le ban

c

cage la cage – le kaj
cake le gâteau – le gato
can la boîte de conserve – la bawt de komaw

car, carries, she la voiture – la vawtew
carry, carries, she elle porte – el port

caterpillar la chenille – la shenay
cereal les céréales – l’ay sarytayhul

chair la chaise – la shez

checkout counter le fromage – le fromaj

cloak, she le poupé – le poodle

clock l’horloge – l’orloge

clover, computer l’ordinateur – l’ordnaytew

cousin, she la cousine – la koozine

cuts, she elle coupe – el coop

D
dance, they ils dansent – eel dans

day le jour – le jow

dog le chien – le sheen

doll la poupee – la poopy

dollhouse la maison de poupee – la mayzon de poopy

door la porte – la port

dress elle boit – el baw

duck le canard – le kaner

dump truck le camion benne – le komajen ben

E

ears les oreilles – l’ay zoral

eats, she elle mange – el man

eight le cuis – le waet

F

elephant l’éléphant – l’elphay

eyes les yeux – lauzy

G

goat le mouton – le moutan

garage le garage – le garaj

gift le cadeau – le kafay

give la donne – la don

H

homework l’ami – l’aym

I

ice cream la glace – la glass

J

jump, he il saute – eel saut

K

kangaroo le kangoouro – le kangooroo

L

ladybug la coccinelle – la coccinell

M

mask le masque – le mask

N

eye le ney

O

one un – an

P

poil le seau – le so

Q

question le question – le kwestew

R

rain le pluie – le pluay

S

sailboat le yacht – l’ayt

T

ten le dix – le dig

U

under, we under, we

V

drive les voitures – l’ay vurtyew

drive, we drive, we

W

wind le vent – le vand

Y

yell le cri – l’ayl

Z

zebra le zèbre – l’ay zebra
panda
puppies
pants
parakeet
party hat
pen
pink
pizza
policeman
present
puppet
puppets
purple
rabbit
rain
red
rice
road
rocket
rollerblades
runs, she
sand castle
Saturday
scissors
seagull
seven
shell
ship
shirt
shoes
shop
shopping cart
shorts
shoulder
shovel
sings, he
six
skateboard
skirt
slide
snail
snow
socks
sofa
le panda - le panda
la cuillère - le cuiller
le pantalon - le pantalon
la perruche - la perruche
le chapeau en papier - le chapeau en papier
les crayons - les crayons
rose - rose
la pizza - le pizza
l'agent de police - agent de police
le cadeau - le cadeau
la marionnette - la marionnette
le chiot - le chiot
violet - violet
le lapin - le lapin
la pièce - la pièce
dix - dix
le doigt - le doigt
la fusée - la fusée
les rollers - les rollers
elle court - elle court
le château de sable - le château de sable
samedi - samedi
coucou - coucou
la mouette - la mouette
sept - sept
coucou - coucou
le bateau - le bateau
la chemise - la chemise
les chaussures - les chaussures
la maison - la maison
le canne - le canne
la pêche - la pêche
il chante - il chante
six - six
le skateboard - le skateboard
la jupe - la jupe
le toboggan - le toboggan
le canapé - le canapé

spaghetti
spider
street light
stroller
sun
Sunday
sweater
sweets
swing

les spaghetti - les spaghetti
l'araignée - l'araignée
le lampion - le lampion
la poussette - la poussette
le soleil - le soleil
dimanche - dimanche
le pull - le pull
les bonbons - les bonbons
la balançoire - la balançoire

T
teacher
teddy bear
teeth
telephone
television
ten
three
thumb
Thursday
toe
tractor
traffic light
train
tree
truck
T-shirt
Tuesday
tummy
two

la maîtresse - la maîtresse
l'ours en peluche - leours en peluche
les dents - les dents
le téléphone - le téléphone
la télévision - la télévision
les dix - les dix
le pouce - le pouce
le jeudi - le jeudi
l'oreille - l'oreille
le tracteur - le tracteur
les feux - les feux
le train - le train
l'arbre - l'arbre
le mardi - le mardi
le ventre - le ventre
deux - deux

vegetables
walks, he
waxing pole
wave
Wednesday
whole
wheelbarrow
wheelchair
wind
window
warm

les légumes - les légumes
il marche - il marche
l'arrosier - l'arrosier
la vague - la vague
mercredi - mercredi
la balançoire - la balançoire
le foudre - le foudre
blanc - blanc
le vent - le vent
la fenêtre - la fenêtre
le ver - le ver
terre - la terre
tuyau - le tuyau

yellow
gyorg

jaune - jaune
le yaourt - le yaourt
FOR AGES 3 AND OLDER

Helps young children learn simple French words through word and picture association.

Contains more than 200 common, everyday nouns grouped in familiar themes, such as “In the park,” “At preschool,” and “Down our street.”

Also introduces kids to simple concepts such as colors, numbers, and weather.

Presents questions throughout that encourage kids to use the new French words they have learned.

Includes a pronunciation guide.

Illustrated by the award-winning artist Nick Sharratt.

Barron’s Dictionaries for Children