

French Cognates (1)

French and English have an **abundance** of cognates, so English speakers have a huge head start before ever putting forth any **effort**.

It should come as no **surprise** that you already speak French. You have a lot of **information** already. Without **préparation**, you will be able to improve your **communication** without **réservation**.

During the **évolution** of the English language,* a lot of French found its way into English. Therefore, French shares a lot of **vocabulaire** with English. Some estimates say that about 10,000 words came to English via French.

You may have a sense of **déjà vu** as you read this article, as you have already seen these words before.

If you know cities in the United States, you might know **Boisé** (wooded), **Bel Air** (beautiful air), **Détroit** (a straight), **Montclair** (clear mountain), **Des Moines** (River of the Monks). If you know the states, you are familiar with **Vermont** (green mountain), or **Ouragan** (the word for hurricane from French via the Taino language), used to describe the windy river there.

If you work in journalism, you might work in a **bureau**. Regardless of your **profession**, you likely use a **téléphone** and a **calendrier**. A **professeur** helped you learn the skills you needed somewhere along the way. Perhaps you work for yourself and are an **entrepreneur**.

No doubt you have an **adresse**. Without **question**, you visit the **pharmacie**, **banque**, **dentiste** and **restaurant** at times. Every city has a place where the **police** are located.

Do you wish people **bon voyage** as they travel to new **destinations**? Do they collect **souvenirs**? What do they do when they are **en route**?

What gives you **joie de vivre**? Perhaps on **le weekend**, you watch **télévision**. Do you enjoy **littérature**? A certain **genre**? A book with an **immense nombre** of **pages**?

Perhaps you enjoy **culture** and the **arts**. **Ballet**? Travelling, and seeing all kinds of **architecture**? Do you enjoy a good **festival** – a **fête** that is **estival** (takes place in summer)? Or maybe creating with **papier mâché** helps you unwind.

What about fashion? Do you think certain things are **chic**? **Sport** more your thing? Do you like **rugby**, **golf**, **ski**?

French Cognates (2)

During our **éducation**, we take many **classes: histoire, biologie, maths, arts, latin, religion, or géographie**. Most people hated **révision** before exams.

In the military, we use many of the words from the French system. There are **cadets** in **académies**. We have **colonels** and **lieutenants**.

Do you like to eat? Perhaps you love a meal prepared for you by a **chef**? Do you read the **m e n u** when you go to a **c a f é**? Do you like to **picnic**? **Salade** with **vinaigrette** is a great lunch option, and so is **soupe**.

A popular breakfast dish is an **omelette**.

Do you like **fruits**? **Oranges**? When you receive an **invitation**, do you **R.S.V.P.**? In English, we know this means that we should “Respond So Very Promptly.” This came from an **abréviation** of **Répondez s’il vous plaît** (please respond). Not exactly the same, but you get the **point**.