

## Some Tips

I'm convinced that this is the way to improve your French. With all these tips, look them up if you don't know them or think you might be wrong; cf. #2.

- 1) As you walk around, try to name the things or people you see.
- 2) Look up English expressions that would be hard for a foreigner to remember (e. g. idioms that don't make sense literally).
- 3) You know about *Google Translate* (good for one word; if you want to translate a sentence, go from English to French, then reverse it; if the resulting English is different from your first English sentence, maybe it's better! Try *Word Reference* for whole sentences and for idioms. *Reverso* is also good. *dict.cc* is a German site, but you can look up Fr-Eng and Eng-Fr. I'll bring my iPad and show you some of these.
- 4) Try writing an imaginary letter to a friend in France. This may give you some additional important vocabulary. You could profit from a handy picture dictionary; I'll bring one tomorrow. A picture is worth a thousand words!
- 5) Test yourself once in a while; I'll give you some hints about that.
- 6) Listening is extremely important; you should hear native speakers on the Internet. There are a few web sites that are meant for language learners.
- 7) Don't be afraid or embarrassed to make mistakes. I myself have that problem; in the Italian group, I have asked the leader to correct me every time I make a mistake, even if it is a little one.