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Pocket Oxford–Hachette French Dictionary

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Third edition

French → English

English → French

Chief Editor

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Preface

This new edition of the *Pocket Oxford-Hachette French Dictionary* has been extensively updated to reflect recent additions to both the French and English languages, with the needs of both the general and school user in mind. The dictionary provides comprehensive coverage of core vocabulary across a broad spectrum of contemporary written and spoken language, incorporating many idiomatic phrases and expressions. The wordlist is further enhanced by the addition of new words and phrases generated by recent developments in information technology, science, and popular culture, for effective and up-to-date communication.

Essential information on grammar, style, and pronunciation is provided in a convenient and accessible format, making the dictionary an ideal reference tool and study aid. The user is guided in selecting appropriate translations by clear examples of usage and construction and by information on the register of language, where required.

All grammatical terms used are explained in a glossary at the back of the dictionary, and French verbs are cross-referenced to a set of verb tables.

New features of the dictionary include an expanded and updated A – Z of French life and culture, providing information on contemporary French society, a calendar of traditions, festivals and holidays in France, a new section on text messaging, and a practical guide to writing letters in French. A series of sample letters illustrates the differences between French and English usage, highlighting important features of style and format in a variety of situations.

Designed to meet the needs of a wide range of users, from the student at intermediate level and above to the enthusiastic traveller or business professional, the *Pocket Oxford-Hachette Dictionary* is an invaluable practical resource for learners of contemporary, idiomatic French at the start of the twenty-first century.

The Editors

DDASS /das/ *nf* (abbr = **D**irection **d**épartementale de l'action **s**anitaire et **s**ociale) regional social services department

de (**d'** before vowel or mute *h*) /də, d/

■ **Note** You will find translations for expressions such as *d'abord*, *de travers*, *pomme de terre*, *chemin de fer* etc, at the entries **ABORD**, **TRAVERS**, **POMME** and **CHEMIN** etc.

[1] *prep* (a) from; **venir ~ Paris** to come from Paris; **il est ~ père italien** his father is Italian

(b) by; **un poème ~ Victor Hugo** a poem by Victor Hugo

(c) of; **les chapeaux ~ Paul** Paul's hats; **le 20 du mois** the 20th of the month; **deux heures d'attente** a two-hour wait; **deux heures ~ libres** two hours free

(d) than; **plus/moins ~ dix** more/less than ten

(e) in; **d'un ton monocrorde** in a monotone

(f) with; **pousser qch du pied** to push sth aside with one's foot

(g) **travailler ~ nuit** to work at night; **ne rien faire ~ la journée** to do nothing all day

(h) **être content ~ faire** to be happy to do

[2] *det* **de, de l', de la, du** some; any; **voulez-vous ~ la bière?** would you like some beer?;

je n'ai pas d'argent I haven't got any money

dé /de/ *nm* (a) dice; **les ~s sont jetés** the die is cast

(b) ~ (**à coudre**) thimble

DEA /deə/ *nm* (abbr = **d**iplôme **d'**études **a**pprofondies) postgraduate certificate (prior to doctoral thesis)

déambulateur /deābylatœr/ *nm* zimmer® (frame)

déambuler /deābyle/ [1] *vi* to wander (about)

débâcle /debakl/ *nf* (a) (Mil) rout

(b) (figurative) collapse

déballage /debalaz/ *nm* (colloq) jumble; outpouring

débaler /debale/ [1] *vtr* (a) to unpack

(b) to display

débandade /debādad/ *nf* (a) stampede

(b) disarray

débarbouiller /debarbuje/ [1] [1] *vtr* to wash

[2] *se débarbouiller* *v refl* (+ *v être*) to wash one's face

débarcadère /debarkadœr/ *nm* jetty

débardeur /debardœr/ *nm* tank top

débarquement /debarkēmā/ *nm*

(a) (of goods) unloading

(b) (of passengers) disembarkation

(c) (Mil) landing

débarquer /debarke/ [1] [1] *vtr* to unload (goods)

[2] *vi* (a) to disembark

(b) (Mil) to land

(c) (colloq) to turn up (colloq) (**chez qn** at sb's place)

débarras /debara/ *nm inv* (a) junk room

(b) **bon ~!** (colloq) good riddance!

débarrasser /debarase/ [1] [1] *vtr* (a) to clear (out)

(b) ~ (**qn**) **de** to free [sb] from (complex);

~ **qn** (**de son manteau**) to take sb's coat

[2] *se débarrasser* *v refl* (+ *v être*) **se ~**

de to get rid of; to dispose of

IDIOMS ~ le plancher (colloq) to clear off (colloq)

débat /deba/ *nm* debate

débattre /debatr/ [61] [1] *vtr* to negotiate

[2] *débattre de or sur* *v+prep* (a) ~ **de or sur** to discuss

(b) ~ **de or sur** to debate

[3] *se débattre* *v refl* (+ *v être*) to struggle

débauche /deboʃ/ *nf* (a) debauchery

(b) profusion

débaucher /deboʃe/ [1] *vtr* (a) to corrupt

(b) to lay [sb] off

(c) (colloq) to tempt [sb] away

débile /debil/ [1] *adj* (colloq) daft (colloq)

[2] *nmf* ~ **mental** (Med) retarded person

débilité /debilite/ *nf* (a) debility

(b) (colloq) stupidity

débîner (colloq) /debîne/ [1] [1] *vtr* to

badmouth (colloq)

[2] *se débîner* *v refl* (+ *v être*) to clear off

(colloq); to make oneself scarce (colloq)

débit /debi/ *nm* (a) debit; **la somme est**

inscrite au ~ the sum has been debited

(b) (when speaking) delivery

(c) (of river) rate of flow

(d) (of liquid) flow; (of gas) output

(e) (Comput) **haut ~** broadband

■ ~ **de boissons** bar

débité /debite/ [1] *vtr* (a) to debit

(b) to reel [sth] off; ~ **des bêtises** to talk a

lot of nonsense

(c) to cut [sth] up

débiteur, -trice /debitœr, tris/ [1] *adj*

compte ~ debit account; **pays ~** debtor

nation

[2] *nm,f* debtor

déblayer /debleje/ [21] *vtr* (a) to clear

away (earth, snow)

(b) to clear (place)

débloquer /deblœke/ [1] [1] *vtr* (a) to

unlock (steering wheel); to unjam

(mechanism)

(b) to unfreeze (prices); to end the deadlock

in (situation)

(c) to make [sth] available (credit)

[2] *vi* (colloq) to be off one's rocker (colloq)

déboires /debwar/ *nm pl*

(a) disappointments

(b) trials, difficulties

(c) setbacks

déboiser /debwaze/ [1] *vtr* to deforest

déboîter /debwate/ [1] [1] *vtr* to

disconnect (tubes)

[2] *vi* (car) to pull out

[3] *se déboîter* *v refl* (+ *v être*) **se ~ le**

genou to dislocate one's knee

débinaire /debœnr/ *adj* good-

humoured (GB); kindly

A–Z of French Life and Culture

Culture

Académie française A learned body, founded by Cardinal Richelieu in 1634, whose main role nowadays is to monitor new developments in the French language. It is not always taken entirely seriously by the public at large. Its 40 members are elected for life on the basis of their contribution to scholarship or literature, and are known as '*les Immortels*'.

Agence France Presse ► PRESSE

agrégation This qualification, attained through competitive examination or **CONCOURS**, entitles the holder to teach at the highest level in secondary and tertiary education.

Air France Created in 1933, the French national airline merged in 2004 with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines to become the world's largest airline group by turnover. The French state no longer holds a majority stake in the group. The company once operated five supersonic Concorde jets, but the last ever Air France Concorde passenger flight was from New York to Paris on 31 May 2003.

Alliance Française A private organization that aims to spread awareness of French language and culture. It has centres in cities throughout the world, providing language classes and a variety of cultural activities.

Allocations familiales Known colloquially as *les allocs*, *les allocations familiales* (family allowances) are paid to any French family with two or more children. A range of other *allocations* (benefits) are also available: for single parents, to help with childcare, to pay towards housing, etc.

Alps, The A mountain range that runs north to south along the border between France, Switzerland, and Italy. It is 350 km (219 miles) long and 50–60 km (31–37.5 miles) wide. The highest peak in western Europe, Mont Blanc (4,808 m [15,774 ft]) lies in the Alps, straddling the French/Italian border. The Alpine region is home to many popular ski resorts.

Alsace Lying on the frontier of Germany and Switzerland in the northeast of France, Alsace has long been the object of territorial disputes between Germany and France. French during the **RÉVOLUTION**, German after the Franco-German war (1871), French in 1918, German in 1940, the region has been French again since 1945. Since 1949, Strasbourg, the capital of Alsace, has been the seat of the **CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**. Alsatian white wines are highly regarded, as is its traditional cabbage dish, *choucroute* (*sauerkraut*).



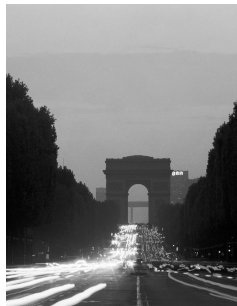
année scolaire School holidays are fixed nationally, and each *académie* (local education authority or school district) falls into one of three zones, so that the starts and ends of holidays are staggered. The year lasts from early September to late June, and main breaks occur in early November (*Toussaint*), at Christmas and New Year, in February and in Spring.

ANPE The national agency providing services for the unemployed as well as for employers seeking workers. In order to qualify for unemployment benefits (*allocations chômage*), job hunters must have been unemployed for at least six months. Benefits, paid by the ASSEDIC (*Association pour l'emploi dans l'industrie et le commerce*), are calculated according to the last salary earned by the job seeker and the duration of his/her period of unemployment. In the initial period of unemployment, a job seeker receives a high percentage of his/her last salary. This figure is gradually reduced to the point where the job seeker no longer qualifies for benefits and is known as a *chômeur/-euse en fin de droits*.

antisémitisme ► RACISME

Arc de Triomphe This Paris monument stands at the centre of the radiating spokes formed by 12 avenues including the CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES. It was commissioned by NAPOLEON to commemorate his victories, and completed in 1836. In 1921 it became a war memorial, and the site of the tomb of the 'unknown soldier'; a flame is lit there every evening in memory of those who have fallen in battle.

architecture Since the 1970s, the French state has promoted several major architectural projects, particularly in Paris, including the 1977 Pompidou Centre (also known as BEAUBOURG), the glass pyramid of the Louvre designed by American architect I. M. Pei and built in 1989, the Grande Arche de la Défense in western Paris, and the Institut du Monde Arabe, designed by Jean Nouvel. In 2004 the Millau viaduct, the tallest in the world, was opened by the French president, Jacques Chirac. Designed by English architect Lord Norman Foster, the 2.5 km (1.6 mile) long, 340 m (1,122 ft) high structure was dubbed 'the bridge in the clouds'.



Ariane The name of the European Space Agency's rockets, produced and operated by the private company Ariane Espace and launched from Kourou in French Guiana (Guyane française). The Ariane rockets have been used to put commercial satellites into space, but have met with mixed fortunes. Ariane 5-ECA, whose maiden flight ended in an explosion, is being relaunched; it can carry 10 tonnes of payload into geostationary orbit.

Armistice ► FRENCH TRADITIONS, FESTIVALS, AND HOLIDAYS

arrondissement A subdivision of a DÉPARTEMENT. Each *arrondissement* has a *sous-préfet* representing the state administration at local level. In

Letter-writing in French

Holiday postcard

■ **Beginnings (informal):** *Cher* is used for a man, *Chère* for a woman. A letter to two males or to a male and female begins with *Chers*. For two female correspondents: *Chères Madeleine et Hélène*. For friends and relatives: *Chers amis*, *Chers cousins*, etc. For a family: *Chers tous*.

■ **Address:** On an envelope *Mr*, *Mrs* and *Miss* can be abbreviated to *M.*, *Mme*, *Mlle*, although the full forms are considered preferable in more formal letters. There is no direct equivalent for *Ms*. If you do not know a woman's marital status use *Madame* (*Mme*).

Road names such as *rue*, *avenue*, *place* are not generally given capital letters.

The name of the town comes after the postcode and on the same line.

14.7.2005

Cher Alexandre,

Grosses bises d'Edimbourg! Cela fait trois jours que nous sommes ici et nous n'avons pas encore vu la pluie! Espérons que ça va durer. La vieille ville est très belle et du château on a une vue splendide jusqu'à l'estuaire. Et en Normandie, comment ça va?

A bientôt pour des retrouvailles parisiennes,

Marie et Dominique

M. A. Pilnard

38 rue Glacière

75013 Paris

■ **Endings (informal):**
Bien amicalement,
Amitiés; *A bientôt* =
 see you soon.

~ **about sth** réserver son jugement sur qch;
to know one's own ~ avoir des idées bien à
 soi; **to speak one's** ~ dire ce qu'on a à dire
 [2] **vtr** (a) surveiller (*manners, language*);
 faire attention à (*hazard*)

(b) **I don't** ~ ça m'est égal, ça ne me
 dérange pas; **I don't ~ the cold** le froid ne
 me dérange pas; **I don't ~ cats, but I prefer
 dogs** je n'ai rien contre les chats, mais je
 préfère les chiens; **will they ~ us being late?**
 est-ce qu'ils seront fâchés si nous sommes
 en retard?; **would you ~ keeping my seat for
 me?** est-ce que ça vous ennuyait de garder
 ma place?; **I wouldn't ~ a glass of wine** je
 prendrais volontiers un verre de vin; **if you
 don't ~** si cela ne vous fait rien; **never ~**
 (don't worry) ne t'en fais pas; (it doesn't matter)
 peu importe; **he can't afford an apartment,
 never ~ a big house** il ne peut pas se
 permettre un appartement encore moins
 une grande maison

(c) s'occuper de (*animal, children*); tenir
 (shop)

[3] **in mind** *phr* I have something in ~ for
 this evening j'ai une idée pour ce soir; **to
 bear sth in ~** (remember) ne pas oublier qch;
 (take into account) prendre qch en compte
IDIOMS to read sb's ~ lire dans les pensées
 de qn; **to see sth in one's ~'s eye** imaginer
 qch; **to have a ~ of one's own** savoir ce
 qu'on veut

mind-blowing *adj* (colloq)
 époustouflant/-e (colloq)

mind-boggling *adj* (colloq) stupéfiant/-e

mindless *adj* (person, programme) bête;
 (work) abrutissant/-e; (vandalism)
 gratuit/-e; (task) machinal/-e

mine¹ *pron*

■ **Note** In French, possessive pronouns reflect
 the gender and number of the noun they are
 standing for. So *mine* is translated by *le mien, la
 mienne, les miens, les miennes*, according to
 what is being referred to.

his car is red but ~ is blue sa voiture est
 rouge mais la mienne est bleue; **which
 (glass) is ~?** lequel (de ces verres) est le
 mien or est à moi?; **his children are older
 than ~** ses enfants sont plus âgés que les
 miens; **the blue car is ~** la voiture bleue est
 à moi; **she's a friend of ~** c'est une amie à
 moi; **it's not ~** ce n'est pas à moi

mine² [1] *n* mine *f*

[2] **vtr** (a) extraire (*gems, minerals*); exploiter
 (area)

(b) (Mil) miner (area)

minefield *n* champ *m* de mines; (figurative)
 terrain *m* miné

miner *n* mineur *m*

mineral [1] *n* (substance, class) minéral *m*;
 (for extraction) minerai *m*

[2] *adj* minéral/-e; ~ **ore** minerai *m*

mineral water *n* eau *f* minérale

mingle *vi* (a) to ~ **with** se mêler à (*crowd,
 guests*)

mind-blowing ... mirror ...

(b) (*sounds*) se confondre (**with** à); (*smells,
 feelings*) se mêler (**with** à)

miniature [1] *n* miniature *f*

[2] *adj* (gen) miniature; (*dog, horse*) nain/-e

minicab *n* (GB) taxi *m* (non agréé)

minidisc *n* minidisque *m*

minimalist *adj* minimaliste

minimum [1] *n* minimum *m* (of *de*)

[2] *adj* minimum, minimal/-e

mining [1] *n* exploitation *f* minière

[2] *adj* (*industry, town*) minier/-ière;
 (accident) de mine

mini-skirt *n* mini-jupe *f*

minister [1] *n* (a) (GB) ministre *m*; ~ **of** or
 for Defence, Defence ~ ministre de la
 Défense

(b) (clergyman) ministre *m* du culte

[2] *vi* to ~ to donner des soins à (person); to
 ~ to sb's needs pourvoir aux besoins de qn

minister of state *n* (GB) ministre *m*
 délégué

ministry *n* (GB) ministère *m*

mink *n* vison *m*

minor [1] *n* (Law) mineur/-e *m/f*

[2] *adj* (gen, Mus) mineur/-e; (*injury, burn*)

léger/-ère; ~ **road** route secondaire

minority *n* minorité *f*; **to be in the ~** être
 en minorité

minstrel *n* ménestrel *m*

mint [1] *n* (a) (herb) menthe *f*

(b) (sweet) bonbon *m* à la menthe

(c) (for coins) hôtel *m* des Monnaies

[2] *adj* in ~ **condition** à l'état neuf

[3] **vtr** (a) frapper (coin)

(b) forger (word, expression)

minuet *n* menuet *m*

minus [1] *n* (a) (in mathematics) moins *m*

(b) (drawback) inconvénient *m*

[2] *adj* (symbol, button) moins; (number,
 quantity, value) négatif/-ive; ~ **sign** signe
 moins

[3] *prep* (a) moins; **what is 20 ~ 8?** combien
 font 20 moins 8?; **it is ~ 15 (degrees)** il fait
 moins 15 (degrés)

(b) (without) sans

minuscule *adj* minuscule

minute¹ [1] *n* minute *f*; **five ~s past ten**
 dix heures cinq; **it's five ~s' walk away** c'est
 à cinq minutes à pied; **the ~ I heard the
 news** dès que j'ai appris la nouvelle; **any ~**
 now d'une minute à l'autre; **at the last ~** à
 la dernière minute

[2] **minutes** *n* pl compte-rendu *m*

minute² *adj* (particle) minuscule;
 (quantity) infime; (risk, variation) minime

minute hand *n* aiguille *f* des minutes

miracle *n* miracle *m*; **to work or perform**
 ~s faire des miracles

miraculous *adj* (a) (escape, recovery)
 miraculeux/-euse

(b) (speed, strength) prodigieux/-ieuse

mirror [1] *n* (a) (gen) miroir *m*, glace *f*; (Aut)
 rétroviseur *m*

(b) (figurative) reflet *m*