

Top 14 Most Common Mistakes In French Made By Beginners

Raphaël Pesquet

Copyright © 2022 Raphaël Pesquet

The content contained within this book may not be reproduced, duplicated or transmitted without direct written permission from the author or the publisher. Under no circumstances will any blame or legal responsibility be held against the publisher, or author, for any damages, reparation, or monetary loss due to the information contained within this book, either directly or indirectly.

Legal Notice : This book is copyright protected. It is only for personal use. You cannot amend, distribute, sell, use, quote or paraphrase any part, or the content within this book, without the consent of the author or publisher.

Disclaimer Notice : Please note the information contained within this document is for educational and entertainment purposes only. All effort has been executed to present accurate, up to date, reliable, complete information. No warranties of any kind are declared or implied. Readers acknowledge that the author is not engaged in the rendering of legal, financial, medical or professional advice. The content within this book has been derived from various sources. Please consult a licensed professional before attempting any techniques outlined in this book

By reading this document, the reader agrees that under no circumstances is the author responsible for any losses, direct or indirect, that are incurred as a result of the use of the information contained within this document, including, but not limited to, errors, omissions, or inaccuracies.

Picture on cover : https://fr.freepik.com/vecteurs-libre/composition-ronde-paris_9462291.htm

Table of Contents

Raphaël Pesquet	1
Table of Contents	3
Introduction	4
#1. Paying attention to false cognates.....	5
#2. Say "Connaître" instead of "Savoir".	6
#3. Not using the right gender	6
#4. Pronunciation.....	7
#5. Putting the adjective in the wrong place.....	8
#6. Pronounce the "n" at the end of "bien"	8
#7. Do not use contractions	9
#8. Study too much	9
#9. Use an online translator.....	10
#10. Not having a clear plan.....	11
#11. Just read French materials	12
#12. Do not prepare ready-made sentences	13
#13. Do not talk to a local	13
#14. Not taking action.....	14
Congratulations.....	15

Introduction

The devil is in the details. If you want to speak French fluently and be understood perfectly by the locals, you must avoid these mistakes as much as possible. These mistakes will make the difference between a person who can communicate in French... and a person who will impress people in French-speaking countries with precise and sharp French.

In this short report, I will get right to the point. We'll quickly go over the 21 most common mistakes that beginners make in French. And even if you are making these mistakes right now, don't worry. At the end of this report, I'll give you a little tip on how to naturally avoid these mistakes without having to spend hours in grammar books.

#1. Paying attention to false cognates

When you start learning French, you will notice that there are many words that sound like English. And this is not surprising because about 60% of English vocabulary shares Latin roots like French. So a lot of words are similar... nevertheless some of them do not mean the same thing ! I'll give you some examples just below :

English	French	Don't confuse with	Translation
Actually	En fait	Actuellement	Now, Currently
Caution	Prudence	Caution	Guarantee
Rest	Se reposer	Rester	To stay
Stage	Étape	Stage	Internship

Unfortunately, there is no rule for finding false cognates. But the best way to avoid making this mistake is to read stories in French over and over again. This way, by maximizing your number of inputs your brain will be able to define more precisely a definition for each word in French. That's why I recommend that beginners who want to learn French read short stories written in French to start or conversation written in French.

#2. Say "Connaître" instead of "Savoir".

This is a common mistake that most French beginners make. So it's far from being the most serious one, but you can tell a foreigner right away by these small mistakes.

Generally, the basic rule for using the verb "connaître" is when the continuation is a proper noun like a first name or a place. Examples :

- Je connais Paris.
- Je connais Jean.

And the verb "savoir" is to be used for factual information often followed by a common noun or verb. Here are some examples :

- Je sais danser.
- Je sais que demain c'est son anniversaire.

A simple mistake to correct... to have a perfect French !

#3. Not using the right gender

In French, each common noun has a gender. Either it is masculine or feminine. And this is very important in French ! Here are some examples of masculine and feminine nouns :

- Un homme - A man
- Une femme - A woman
- L'homme - The man
- La femme - The woman

You see, when the noun is masculine we use : “Un/Le/L”.

And when the noun is feminine, we use : “Une/La/L”.

When the noun is in the plural, we use these determiners “Les/Des”.

Here are some examples :

- Des exemples - Some examples
- Les chevaux - The horses

So now you're probably wondering how to tell the gender of a common noun. There are some exceptions, but the general rule is to find the gender of the common noun.

Let me give you an example. The word “femme” means a person of female gender, so “femme” is a feminine noun. And it's the same for the word “homme” which designates a person of masculine gender so it's a masculine noun.

Again, the best way to learn these little details is NOT to learn rules by heart... but to read or listen to French and everything will come naturally without you having to force it. That's why short stories in French work so well.

#4. Pronunciation

As soon as possible in your learning process, you should confront the pronunciation of French words. If you develop bad pronunciation habits because you only read stories in French and you have never heard a word of French... well it will be much more difficult for you to adopt the right pronunciation.

So a simple tip for all beginners who want to become fluent in French...

at the very beginning of your learning, listen to podcasts or watch videos in French just to educate your ear (*even if you don't understand everything*).

#5. Putting the adjective in the wrong place

A super easy mistake to correct... and yet very common among English people who want to learn French : the place of the adjective. In French, the adjective is after the common noun unlike in English. Let me give you a simple example :

- Le pull **rose** - The **pink** sweater
- Le chien **blanc** - The **white** dog
- La Maison **Blanche** - The **White** House

Honestly, if you get it wrong and put the adjective before the noun... we'll still understand you ! But if you're aiming for perfection, then you need to take this rule into account.

#6. Pronounce the "n" at the end of "bien".

The "n" at the end of the word "well" is not pronounced !

In French, the rule is that the final consonant of a word is silent (unless the word ends with the letter "e").

[>>> Here is a short video \(40 seconds\) to show you the correct pronunciation](#)

#7. Do not use contractions

In English we also use contractions, here are some examples :

- I am $\Rightarrow$ I'm
- I can not $\Rightarrow$ I can't

In French it's the same thing but we also use them for common nouns that start with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u, y) or a silent -h. Here are some examples :

- Le avion $\Rightarrow$ L'avion
- Le ours $\Rightarrow$ L'ours
- La avenue $\Rightarrow$ L'avenue

A simple rule to learn to become truly fluent in French !

#8. Study to much

Now, let's look at some of the more general mistakes you can make in learning French.

The first mistake is to study too much. This may seem counter-intuitive, but many people have a lot of motivation at the beginning so they spend hours every day learning French... then these people get burned out and when the motivation drops they stop learning.

If you really want to learn French, the best way is to study just a few minutes a day and make it a habit. If studying French becomes a habit just like having coffee in the morning is a habit for you... then **you will OBVIOUSLY succeed**, it will only be a matter of time.

So I recommend that you find a 15 minutes slot in your schedule. It can be just before bedtime or even while you are taking your bath for example. That way, you know that you are going to learn French at that particular time. And I promise you, it makes a difference.

#9. Use an online translator

Whether you are reading a story in French or listening to a YouTube video in French, don't rush to the translator right away. In fact, when you discover a new word, you can try to understand it based on the context.

So the first few times you hear the word, you will vaguely understand its meaning. But the more you hear it in different contexts... the more you'll have a clear idea of what it means. So, by understanding the word and its context, you will be able to use it in the right situation.

Because the problem with online translators is that if you only type one word in, the translator doesn't take the context into account. Let me give you a concrete example : the verb "Think", its meaning is a bit special, the verb "Réfléchir" can be used instead of "Think" in some situations... but most of the time it is a mistake. However, most translators translate "Think" as "Réfléchir".

So if you want to get off to a GOOD start, I recommend you avoid the translator as much as possible and let your brain do the work. You'll be amazed at how fast you'll progress.

#10. Not having a clear plan

This is the plan I teach to my students who want to learn French :

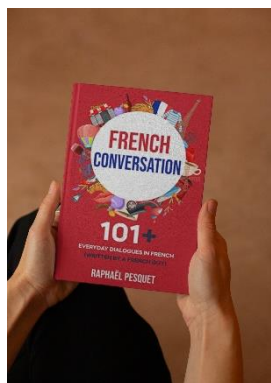
1. **Read books in French/English.** First you read the text in French, then you try to understand it, and finally you read the English version to check if you have understood it well.
2. **Watch videos or series in French with English subtitles.** By having the subtitles in English you understand the series, and it allows you to get used to the French language. Moreover, you will recognize some words in speech.
3. **Watch videos or series in French with French subtitles.** This is the next logical step. You force your brain to understand the spoken French, and if you have any doubt you can watch the subtitles.
4. **Watch videos or series in French without subtitles.** At this stage, you will probably have difficulties following everything. And again, it's not a big deal. Your brain learns anyway, it recognizes the context and discovers the true meaning of the words. This step is a bit long but it is the last one to have perfect French !

You can follow this step-by-step plan by reading, watching Youtube or even series. In fact, all the content you consume should help you learn French. This way, you won't even feel like you're working on your French, yet you'll learn much more than someone who attends a classic French course !

#11. Just read French materials

Spoken French is very different from written French, just like English. If you listen to Youtube videos you have probably already noticed it. On the other hand, the dialogues of the series are far from the conversations of real life.

So in order not to be surprised when talking to a French person, I recommend you to read conversations between French people to see the words they use between them.



If you want to discover even more everyday conversations to improve your French... then I recommend my book "French Conversation".

Click on the button below to get your copy right now :



Click HERE to grab your copy now !

#12. Do not prepare ready-made sentences

Sometimes, when you are faced with a local who does not speak your native language, you can quickly lose your temper. That's why I recommend that you write a list of "emergency phrases" on a sheet of paper or on a computer document.

If you get confused or stressed, you can use these backup phrases that you have practiced several times. Among these phrases, you can learn to introduce yourself and say what you do because this is a question that is often asked in discussions.

These phrases are extremely important because they allow you to enter a conversation with confidence. Then you are more relaxed and because you have prepared yourself well, everything should flow easily !

#13. Do not talk to a local

Many sites of this kind have appeared in recent years. I don't have to recommend any in particular, most of them are very good. In fact, these sites will put French and English speakers in relation so that each one can improve in the language of the other.

Thus, you will be able to speak directly with a local who will be understanding because he is in the same situation as you. This is a perfect exercise before the big jump into a French speaking country. Moreover, you will be able to discover the personality of the French ! (grumpy but funny for the most part haha)

#14. Not taking action

No matter how much you learn by reading or watching videos, at some point you have to take the plunge. You have to travel to a French-speaking country and meet the locals. At the beginning, it will be a little difficult, you will surely be a little stressed, but quickly you will become comfortable and your French will improve, just like your accent.

If you have followed the previous secrets, then you should have no problem. What if you have a little trouble ? Knowing that the French people are on the whole nice, we will surely help you, so don't panic !

Congratulations

That's it, you've reached the end of this special report ! I hope you've learned a few things. Before we leave, I would like to say one thing. You can NOT think of all the grammar and conjugation rules when you talk to a French person. The ONLY way to speak French well is to deal with reality.

You don't need a grammar book, you don't need a French dictionary... if you want to learn French ? Read short stories in French, then little books in French, you can also read conversations in French. And of course, watch youtube videos, movies and also podcasts.

And I assure you, if you study for ten minutes every day... yes, you will be able to speak French in just a few months !

Congratulations for staying until the end.
I wish you a wonderful day.

Raphaël - *The French Guy* – Pesquet

