

# Teaching Tips

## *Mes mots*

### Mon dictionnaire personnel

#### Elementary French

Revised and updated 2018.  
Please see the last page  
of this document for the  
Table of Contents.

*Mes mots* contains high-frequency words and expressions designed for Canadian students learning French. It also supports teachers who are not specialists or are new to the subject. Students can easily add a new word of personal interest, and will remember it because they've written it down themselves. To encourage student independence, some English explanations and translations are provided.

At first, some students might need only a few, very basic words. They might concentrate on vocabulary for basic conversation, parts of the head and body, clothing, family, colours, pronouns, verbs, numbers, time, days, months, seasons, and weather. On the alphabet pages, starting on page 44, beginning students might choose to highlight, underline, circle, or check off words as they encounter them. As their language confidence grows and their vocabulary builds, they will refer to other words and pages. *Mes mots* is designed to be used by the same student from one grade to the next.

At the beginning of a task, the teacher can ask all students to take out *Mes mots* and keep it nearby for reference. Students can independently look for a word or expression, or a classmate or teacher can quickly point it out. If they want to add a new word, they can write it in the space provided. For example, a student can find *le doigt* on page 5. Can't find *la jointure*? Add it to page 5.

*Mes mots* includes up-to-date Canadian French spelling and use, according to the Office québécois de la langue française. For example, *s'il vous plait* no longer includes a circumflex. The number *vingt-et-un* now includes hyphens. Many words appear in French only. An example would be the page title for *Ma famille*. Words in the alphabetical list, starting on page 44, include English translations to encourage student independence.

### Teaching with *Mes mots*

Topic	Page	Basic Lesson	Extension
Basic phrases	2-3	Role-play conversations.	Add new expressions.

*Mes mots* supports teachers who are not specialists or are new to the subject.

Topic	Page	Basic Lesson	Extension
Parts of the head	4	Label the diagram. Use each phrase in a sentence.	Add new words, such as <i>la narine</i> .
Parts of the body	5	Label the diagram. Use each phrase in a sentence.	Add new words, such as <i>le mollet</i> .
Outdoor clothing	6	Label the diagram. Use each phrase in a sentence.	Add new words, such as <i>une capuche</i> .
Indoor clothing	7	Label the diagram. Use each phrase in a sentence.	Add new words, such as <i>une sandale</i> .
My family	8	Draw your parents and siblings. Label your drawing.	Draw and label a family tree that includes aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents.
Colours	9	Using the matching pencil crayon, shade in the corresponding bubble. Talk about your favourite (or least favourite) colours.	Describe objects that you see, paying attention to the gender of the noun and its colour.
Pronouns (singular and plural)	10-11	Say simple sentences that begin with a pronoun.	Experiment with possessive pronouns.
Regular verbs	12-13	Say simple sentences with common regular verbs in the present tense. Act them out.	Experiment with new verbs, such as <i>regarder</i> .
Irregular verbs	14-15	Say simple sentences with common irregular verbs in the present tense. Act them out.	Sort verbs according to endings. Do you see patterns?
Numbers	16-17	Draw a number line. Label it with number words. Count objects or people.	Physically arrange students in a line to understand <i>premier</i> , <i>deuxième</i> , etc.
Time	18	Practise telling basic one-hour time, such as <i>Il est une heure</i> .	Practise telling time for the half-hour or quarter-hour, such as <i>Il est trois heures et quart</i> .
Days of the week	19	What is today's day?	What came yesterday? What comes tomorrow?
Months	20	What is today's date?	What is your birth date? Discuss other special days of the year.
Seasons and weather	21	Describe today's season and weather.	What are useful weather words for each season?

Topic	Page	Basic Lesson	Extension
Food	22-23	Describe today's breakfast or school lunch. Separate produce into <i>les fruits</i> and <i>les légumes</i> .	Read and write a simple recipe. Describe the ideal sandwich or a holiday meal.
Animals	24-25	Describe your favourite animal.	Draw a picture with required elements, such as <i>deux poissons, une méduse, et une tortue dans l'océan</i> . Separate animals into <i>les animaux de compagnie, les animaux de ferme, and les animaux sauvages</i> . List animals from other countries, such as <i>un tigre</i> .
Sports	26	Act out activities.	What is your favourite sport to play or watch?
In my desk	27	What items are on your desk right now?	Sketch and label what is inside your desk.
In my classroom	28	Students can make actual labels for objects, such as <i>une porte</i> and <i>une fenêtre</i> .	Sketch and label a bird's-eye view or one wall of your classroom.
My school	29	Tour the school and name each room and area.	Map and label a bird's-eye view of the school.
My home	30-31	Mentally "tour" your home and name each room and area, inside and out.	Draw and label a bird's-eye view or cross-section of your home and yard from memory.
In my bedroom	32	Mentally "tour" your bedroom and name each object in it.	Make five labels to take home.
In the bathroom	33	Discuss the elements of a typical bathroom at home.	Make five labels to take home.
In the kitchen	34	Tour the staffroom and name each object in it.	Make five labels to take home.
In the street	35	Stand on the sidewalk. What do you see?	Draw and label a street.
Shapes	36	Describe shapes that you see.	Draw an abstract picture with required elements, such as <i>trois cercles verts, un carré noir et une étoile jaune</i> .
Opposites	37	Describe objects and situations with opposites.	What opposites could you add?
Pronunciation	38-39	Talk all the time!	Learn a song. Listen to audio.
Punctuation	40	Learn basic punctuation.	Examine a sentence without punctuation, and add it.
Capital letters	41	How does French capitalization differ from English?	Examine a sentence without capitals, and add them.

Topic	Page	Basic Lesson	Extension
Prepositions	42	Act them out.	Use prepositions in sentences.
Who speaks French?	43	Find these countries on a map of the world.	Label a map of Canada with the proper names for francophones in each province and territory. For example, Alberta's French speakers are called Les Franco-Albertans.
"Ô Canada"	inside cover	Learn the all-French version.	What does each line mean?

### *General Learning Ideas for Mes mots*

Explain appropriate use for definite articles (le, la, les) and indefinite articles (un, une, des). You'll find many examples on the clothing and food pages. Note that French speakers use the definite article to refer to body parts. If we think of this idea in English, a French speaker would say "This is the knee," rather than "This is my knee." Look: *Voici le genou.*

Research francophone communities in your province or territory. What does the community call itself? For example, Alberta's francophones are called Les Franco-Albertans. In Saskatchewan, the francophone community is called Les Fransaskois. Nunavut's francophones are called Les Franco-Nunavois. Do they live all over the province or territory, or are they concentrated in specific towns or neighbourhoods?

Research and explore the francophone community right where you live. What schools, bookstores, restaurants, events, etc., celebrate French language and culture?

Collect French words in your classroom. Read the labels on classroom supplies, such as staples, exercise books, and paper towels. Examine clothing and backpack labels. Look for phrases such as "fabriqué en Chine" or "100% laine." Did anyone bring a pre-packaged juice box or other lunch food with a bilingual label?

Collect French words from home. Examine bilingual labels on cereal boxes, milk cartons, toys, etc.

Listen to French radio, TV, or internet videos. Can you recognize a few key words?

Investigate French-Canadian celebrations such as Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day (also known as "la Saint-Jean" or "la Fête nationale"), Festival du Voyageur, and the Carnaval de Québec. Celebrate!

Examine the similarities between words of various Latin-based languages. For example, look at the words for the numbers 1 to 10 in French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese. Compare them to English. Does any student know 1 to 10 in another language?

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