

A silhouette of Sherlock Holmes in his iconic deerstalker hat and trench coat, standing on a cobblestone path and smoking a pipe. The background is a dark, atmospheric scene of London at night, featuring the Big Ben clock tower and the Houses of Parliament reflected in the River Thames. A street lamp is visible on the left, and a bridge is in the distance. The overall mood is mysterious and classic.

Churvaness!

BILINGUAL CLASSICS

SHERLOCK HOLMES

Les Aventures de Sherlock Holmes

Arthur Conan Doyle

ENGLISH
FRANÇAIS

English • Français Parallel Text Edition

Pour les apprenants de français

Read the classic novel side-by-side in both languages

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Sentence-by-sentence bilingual reading for French learners

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French Cheat Sheet

Pronunciation

French spelling can be irregular, but the rules are learnable. Silent letters are common — especially at word endings.

Vowels & Key Sounds

Letter(s)	Sound (English approximation)	Example
a	<i>a</i> as in father	bateau (boat)
e (schwa)	<i>e</i> as in brother (muted)	le (the)
é	<i>ay</i> as in say (pure)	bébé (baby)
è / ê	<i>e</i> as in bet	mère (mother)
i	<i>ee</i> as in see	vie (life)
o	<i>o</i> as in go	mot (word)
u	No English equivalent — round lips, say “ee”	tu (you)
ou	<i>oo</i> as in fool	bouche (mouth)
oi	<i>wa</i> as in wash	moi (me)
ai / ei	<i>e</i> as in bet	mais (but)
au / eau	<i>o</i> as in go	beau (beautiful)
eu	<i>er</i> — like “er” in her with rounded lips	peu (little)
an / en	Nasal <i>ah</i>	enfant (child)
in / ain	Nasal <i>eh</i>	vin (wine)
on	Nasal <i>oh</i>	bon (good)

Consonants

Letter	Sound	Example
c (+e,i,y)	s	cinq (five)
c (+a,o,u)	k	café (coffee)
ç	s (always)	ça (that)
ch	sh	chat (cat)
g (+e,i,y)	s as in pleasure	gens (people)
gn	ny as in canyon	monta gne (mountain)
h	Always silent	homme (man)
j	s as in pleasure	je (I)
qu	k	quoi (what)
r	Guttural — back of throat	rue (street)
s (between vowels)	z	ma ison (house)
final consonants	Usually silent (except c, r, f, l)	pet it (t silent)

Liaison

A normally silent final consonant may be pronounced before a vowel:
les amis → “lezami”.

Stress

French has no word-level stress — stress falls on the last syllable of each phrase group.

* * *

Basic Grammar

Default **Subject-Verb-Object** order.

Negation: *ne ... pas* around the verb: *Je ne vois pas la baleine.* (I don't see the whale.)

Questions: Inversion (*Voyez-vous?*), *Est-ce que*, or simple intonation (*Vous voyez?*).

Pronouns before the verb: *Je la vois.* (I see it.)

Articles

	Masc.	Fem.	Plural
Definite	le	la	les
Indefinite	un	une	des
Partitive	du	de la	des

The partitive (*du/de la/des*) = "some" and is required where English omits it.

Nouns

All nouns have gender. Plural usually -s (silent). Irregulars: *cheval* → *chevaux*.

Adjectives

Agree in gender and number. Most add -e (fem.) and -s (pl.). Most **follow** the noun; a few common ones precede: *beau, bon, grand, petit, jeune, vieux, nouveau*.

Verbs

Three conjugation classes: -er, -ir, -re.

Key irregulars: être (suis), avoir (ai), aller (vais), faire (fais), pouvoir (peux), vouloir (veux), devoir (dois), savoir (sais), voir (vois), venir (viens), prendre (prends), dire (dis).

Compound past: *avoir/être* + past participle: *J'ai vu la baleine.* (I have seen the whale.)

Pronouns

Person	Subject	Direct Obj	Indirect	Possessive
1 sg	je	me	me	mon/ma/mes
2 sg	tu	te	te	ton/ta/tes
3 sg	il/elle	le/la	lui	son/sa/ses
1 pl	nous	nous	nous	notre/nos
2 pl	vous	vous	vous	votre/vos
3 pl	ils/elles	les	leur	leur/leurs

Impersonal **on** (“one,” “we,” “people”) is very common.

* * *

Function Words

These words never get superscript numbers.

Articles & Demonstratives

le, la, les, l', un, une, des, du, de la, ce, cet, cette, ces, ceci, cela, ça

Pronouns

je, me, moi, tu, te, toi, il, elle, le, la, lui, nous, vous, ils, elles, les, leur, se, on, qui, que, quoi, dont, lequel, en, y

Prepositions

à, après, avant, avec, chez, contre, dans, de, depuis, derrière, devant, durant, en, entre, envers, hors, jusqu'à, malgré, par, parmi, pendant, pour, près de, sans, selon, sous, sur, vers

Negatives

ne ... pas (not), ne ... jamais (never), ne ... plus (no longer), ne ... rien (nothing), ne ... personne (nobody), ne ... que (only)

Conjunctions

et, ou, mais, car, donc, ni, que, comme, quand, lorsque, si, parce que, puisque, tandis que, bien que, pour que

Question Words

qui, que/quoi, quel(le)(s), où, quand, pourquoi, comment, combien

Common Adverbs

bien, mal, très, trop, beaucoup, peu, plus, moins, assez, presque, toujours, souvent, jamais, parfois, déjà, encore, maintenant, alors, ici, là, tôt, tard, vite, lentement, ainsi, vraiment

Numbers 1-10

un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept, huit, neuf, dix

* * *

Common Phrases

English	French
Hello	Bonjour
Goodbye	Au revoir
Yes / No	Oui / Non
Please	S'il vous plaît
Thank you	Merci
Sorry	Pardon / Désolé
How are you?	Comment allez-vous? / Ça va?
Oh! / Alas!	Oh! / Hélas!
God!	Mon Dieu!

* * *

Language Notes

- Every noun has gender (m./f.) — affects articles, adjectives, pronouns
- *On* is ubiquitous: “one,” “we,” “people,” “they” (impersonal)
- Nautical terms: *baleine* (whale), *navire* (ship), *voile* (sail), *mât* (mast), *ancre* (anchor), *pont* (deck), *proue* (bow), *poupe* (stern), *tribord* (starboard), *bâbord* (port), *harpon* (harpoon), *capitaine* (captain), *équipage* (crew)
- False friends: *actuellement* = currently (not actually), *attendre* = to wait (not attend), *blessé* = to wound (not bless), *demandé* = to ask (not demand), *librairie* = bookstore (not library)

* * *

Now turn to Chapter 1 and begin reading.

CHAPTER 1. A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA

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