

HS French I

Curriculum Guide (including Course Objectives, Weekly Content, and Scope and Sequence)

Course Description

Students begin their introduction to French with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. The course consists of 180 lesson days formatted in an intuitive calendar view, which can be divided into two 90-day semesters. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. As students begin the course, they construct their own Avatar that accumulates “Avatar bucks”—by performing well on course tasks—to use to purchase materials (clothing, gadgets, scenery, etc.) at the “Avatar store”. Each week consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major French-speaking areas in Europe and across the globe. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Course length: Two semesters

Materials: French-English dictionary is recommended

Prerequisites: None

Overall Course Objectives

The High School French I course helps students:

- Engage in language learning
- Master common vocabulary terms and phrases
- Comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns
- Instigate and continue simple conversations, and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts
- Generate language incorporating basic vocabulary and a limited range of grammar patterns
- Read, write, speak, and listen for meaning in basic French
- Analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries
- Regularly assess progress in proficiency through quizzes, tests, and speaking/writing submissions

Recurring Content

- **Vocabulary Theme**
 - Each week presents a new set of vocabulary words through various self-correcting activities. A printable vocabulary list, which includes pronunciation, is also provided.
- **Grammar Concept**
 - Each week introduces a new grammatical pattern. The concept is introduced through sentence comparisons and presented in a printable explanation of the pattern.
- **Reinforcement Activities**

- A range of interactive games (incrementally increasing in challenge) helps students reinforce vocabulary and grammar concepts. These activities may be completed multiple times so that students can better retain and apply the new information. Students accumulate “Avatar bucks” by performing well on these and other interactive challenges.
- **Diglot Weave™ Story**
 - Each week students follow a new episode of an immersive Diglot Weave™ story. The story is told several times, each time with more French woven in. (Diglot comes from the roots "di" meaning *two* and "glot" meaning *language*. These stories weave together the students' native language and the target language.) These stories provide a narrative structure to the course as well as a fun and linguistically-rich context for optimal comprehension.
- **“Stretch” Activities**
 - Each week students work through an inventive and challenging activity to comprehend involved passages in French, or to generate their own sentences in French. Stretch activities include zany performances, core content-based instruction, familiar folktales presented in French, simple narratives that students string together from basic building blocks, and many more. These activities help students work creatively in French to communicate and make meaning.
- **Presentation of Culture through CultureGrams™ and Culture Videos**
 - Each week students learn about various cultural aspects (e.g. practices, products, and perspectives) of a French-speaking country. CultureGrams™ are multi-media cultural presentations that cover a wide range of topics such as gestures, etiquette, history, food, and more. Culture videos present students with short video explanations about cultural aspects of various French-speaking countries from a native of that country.
- **“Gameshow” Review**
 - Each week students review material from the week’s content in a “Gameshow” that builds on the motivations and friendly competition of familiar television game shows. Students are pitted against a virtual opponent and earn “Avatar bucks” as they demonstrate their mastery of the week’s material. The burden of review for the weekly assessment is thus transformed to a fun and engaging game.
- **“Out of Seat” Activities**
 - Several times during the year, students are given opportunities to use the language “outside” the course. These are specific assignments directing students to interact in a genuine way with the French language or French-speaking cultures.
- **Realia**
 - Several times during the year, students work to decipher the key messages and significant details in Realias. In Realias, students confront authentic or semi-authentic texts in real-world, everyday situations. These encounters are neither trivial, nor far beyond a student's comprehension level, but are texts to which students can respond and that move them to a deeper understanding of the target language and culture at the same time. Sample texts include a restaurant menu, a grocery store receipt, a student class schedule, etc.
- **Oral and Written Activities**
 - Each week, students complete oral and written activities. These activities give students a chance to become more familiar with the speaking and writing patterns of French by applying them in communicative situations.
- **Listening and Reading Comprehension Activities**

- Each week contains either a focused listening or a focused reading comprehension practice. These practices help students to develop listening and reading comprehension skills. They are based on the vocabulary, grammar, or culture concepts presented that week, and follow up assessments challenge students to identify the main ideas and significant details of texts based on everyday communicative situations.
- **Assessments**
 - Diglot Weave™ comprehension quizzes verify that students are following the ongoing immersive Diglot Weave™ story and that they are picking up key ideas and vocabulary as they work along.
 - Focused Listening or Reading quizzes verify that students comprehend the main ideas or significant details of target passages or conversations.
 - Culture comprehension quizzes verify that students have captured facts and understandings from the cultural presentations.
 - End-of-week quizzes assess students’ mastery of the vocabulary words and grammar concept presented that week, and include an oral or written assessment.
 - Midterm and Semester Exams assess students’ mastery of the semester’s contents up to their current place on the calendar, and include oral and written assessments.

Course Scope and Sequence

Semester 1

	Vocabulary Topic	Grammar Pattern	“Stretch” Activity*	Culture
Week 1	Greetings	Parts of Speech Nouns, definite articles & gender Definite articles <i>Tu vs. Vous</i>	<i>Puzzle Sentences</i>	France
Week 2	School Alphabet Guide to French Rhythm & Accents	Indefinite Articles	<i>Thinking en Français</i>	France
Week 3	Descriptions Colors	French subject pronouns	<i>The Broken Window</i>	France
Week 4	Countries and Nationalities Numbers 0-30	Present tense of the 3 major verb groups	<i>Points, Lines, and Figures</i>	Monaco
Week 5	Common verbs #1	Making compound sentences	<i>Toward Fluency</i>	Monaco
Week 6	Common verbs #2 Telling Time	The Imperative	<i>The Key of the Key’s Kingdom</i>	Switzerland
Week 7	Common verbs #3 Conjunctions	Simple negative <i>ne...pas</i>	<i>Chatter at a Royal Ball</i>	Switzerland
Week 8	Days, Months, and Seasons	Expressions with <i>Avoir</i>	<i>Toward Fluency</i>	Rwanda

	Numbers 30-100			
Week 9	Midterm Review and Test - no topics			
Week 10	Hobbies	Asking questions	<i>Focus on the Language 1-8</i>	Rwanda
Week 11	Food (part 1)	“de” and “à” and their contractions	<i>Points, Lines, and Figures</i>	French Polynesia
Week 12	Food (part 2)	<i>Faire versus jouer</i>	<i>From Word to Discourse</i>	French Polynesia
Week 13	Family	Selected adverbs	<i>Chatter at a Royal Ball</i>	Canada
Week 14	Places	<i>C’est versus Il est...</i>	<i>Focus on the Language 9-14</i>	Canada
Week 15	Animals	Comparatives/Superlatives	<i>Creating Your Own Mini-Story Plots</i>	Mali
Week 16	Shopping	Expressions with <i>faire</i>	<i>Stringing Together Your Own Narratives</i>	Mali
Week 17	Weather Expressions	Forms of <i>quel</i> and <i>lequel</i>	<i>Chatter at a Royal Ball</i>	Chad
Week 18	Final Review and Test- no topics			

Semester 2

	Vocabulary Topic	Grammar Pattern	“Stretch” Activity*	Culture
Week 1	Professions	Ordinal Numbers The verb <i>Etre</i>	<i>Points, Lines, and Figures</i>	Burundi
Week 2	Clothing	Adjectives: agreement & placement (#1)	<i>Une Mère Parle à Son Bébé</i>	Burundi
Week 3	At Home	Possessive adjectives	<i>From Word to Discourse</i>	Guinea
Week 4	The Body	The near future tense	<i>In the Classroom: A French Lesson</i>	Guinea
Week 5	Reflexive Verb List	<i>Il y a ...</i>	<i>Lecture on Geography</i>	Haiti
Week 6	Cognates Numbers 1- 1 million	<i>Etre</i> + nationality	<i>More on Numbers</i>	Haiti
Week 7	On Vacation	Partitive articles	<i>Thinking en Français</i>	Belgium
Week 8	Telephone	Expressions with <i>Avoir</i>	<i>L’Alphabet Romain</i>	Belgium
Week 9	Midterm Review and Test - no topics			
Week 10	Directions	Adjectives: agreement & placement (#2)	<i>Chatter at a Royal Ball</i>	Madagascar
Week 11	Transportation	Demonstrative articles	<i>Focus on the Language 15-23</i>	Madagascar

Week 12	Medical Terms	Sickness & <i>avoir</i> expressions	<u>Ma Première Visite au Québec</u>	Martinique
Week 13	Sports	Demonstrative particles	<i>The Key of the King's Kingdom 2</i>	Martinique
Week 14	Outdoor Activities	Direct object pronouns	<i>Communication With Limited Means</i>	New Caledonia
Week 15	Travel	<i>Y</i> and <i>En</i>	<i>Focus on the Language 24-28</i>	New Caledonia
Week 16	Computers (part 1)	Passed tense with <i>Avoir</i> (<i>passé composé</i>)	<i>Stringing Together Your Own Narratives</i>	Luxembourg
Week 17	Computers (part 2)	Passed tense with <i>Etre</i> (<i>passé composé</i>)	<i>Points, Lines, and Figures</i>	Luxembourg
Week 18	Final Review and Test- no topics			

*For a general description of "Stretch" Activities, see heading under