

Study Strategies for French Class

Learning a new language can be a daunting experience for some, but there are several proven study techniques that will help you along the way. The key is to do your part at home as very few students are able to become excellent language students without working on their French outside of class.

1. Don't get behind! It is infinitely more difficult to catch back up than it is to stay on top of the class concepts as we go along. Everything we do will build on itself, much like in math. If you miss something along the way, it's going to be extremely hard for you to master future objectives.
2. When in class, focus all of your energy on the class activities. Make every effort to pay attention and do your best on everything we do in class. These activities have been designed to help you, but they will only work if you give them your utmost attention. Additionally, test questions are often formatted like the activities we do in class.
3. Study your vocabulary and grammar every night, in addition to your homework assignment. The simple habit of reviewing what we went over in class for just 5 to 10 minutes a night before or after you do your homework will greatly enhance your French.
4. Do your homework! Although Madame Elrod only checks your work for completion, doing the assignment well will raise your quiz grades. When we go over the assignment in class the next day, check your work and ask questions over anything that you got wrong.
5. Use our class website!

http://mysite.cherokee.k12.ga.us/personal/tiffanie_elrod/site/default.aspx

I have spent many hours creating and linking activities that you can use to practice and reinforce what we learn in class.

- On our website, locate your level's homepage using the tabs across the top.
- On each level's homepage, there are links for each unit of our textbook grouped together. To see more links for a particular unit, click "more links".
- These activities use the vocabulary of the Leçon and Unit in a game-like interface. You can play battleship, Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, use flashcards, do word searches, play hangman, and all sorts of activities.
- You can find activities for the particular Leçon we are studying by looking at the prefix of the activity title. Ex. "L05" = Leçon 5; "L12" = Leçon 12; etc.
- This way of studying is interactive and typically more fun than staring at your textbook. Also, the computer will correct you when you make a mistake, so you can't study something incorrectly. This is a huge advantage!
- Keep track of how much time you spend on the class website practicing. You may want to set a goal of spending a certain amount of time each night practicing online. Even 5 minutes a night will help you.

- All of the PowerPoint presentations used in class are also found on our class site. They are listed under the heading “Notes” and labeled by Leçon. Some students like to print these out, while others just use them online to review.
6. Some study techniques that previous students have used with great success:
- Review the yellow (vocabulary) and green (grammar) boxes in your textbook nightly.
 - Write out the vocabulary words multiple times to help you memorize the spelling.
 - When practicing vocabulary, always include the article (le, la, un, une, etc) so that you will easily learn which words are masculine and feminine.
 - Make flashcards of your vocab words. Put the masculine words on blue cards and the feminine words on pink, or use different colored ink.
 - List the vocab words in French on one side of a piece of paper and put the English on the other side. Fold the paper to hide one side and use this to quiz yourself.
 - Have someone in your house quiz you on the vocabulary using the textbook or a list that you’ve made.
 - WordChamp
 - As you know, WordChamp is a site with interactive flashcards. In addition to the assignments I ask you to do for homework credit, you can use this site to study.
 - Log into your WordChamp account (www.WordChamp.com) and search for the flashcards that I’ve made or redo the activities I’ve assigned in prior weeks.
 - You can find the flashcards I’ve created by clicking on my name when you log in. Everything is labeled by the unit and leçon that it accompanies.
 - You can also look for random flashcard lists using their search engine.
 - The flashcards usually have audio with them so this site can also help your listening and pronunciation.
 - You can also print the lists or download the audio versions to your iPod!
 - Write out all of the textbook activities for the Leçon. Even if we do the activity orally in class, you could benefit from writing it out at home. You can bring your work in for Madame Elrod to look over, if you’d like.
 - Teach someone in your home what we are learning in class. You can teach the vocabulary and explain the grammar concepts as if you were a French teacher. In order to explain it well enough to teach it, you will have to really think about the material.
 - Check out a tutorial CD from Madame Elrod. You may keep the CD at home throughout the year, but will be responsible for returning it at the end of the school year.
 - Use Rosetta Stone to enrich your vocabulary. The link and login information are found on our class website. Note that Rosetta Stone does not follow along with our textbook. It will improve your French, but the vocabulary and grammar are not in the same order as your book.
 - Read passages from your book or the internet out loud. Try to sound as French as possible, even if you don’t have a clue what the words mean. You can even do this with English and speak with an exaggerated French accent. This will greatly improve your pronunciation even if you feel a little silly doing it.

- Listen to French music online or download some French songs to your iPod.
- The internet is full of resources in French. You can read authentic French articles, listen to French radio, find French tutorials and all sorts of things.
- Tutorial with Madame Elrod is available on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:45. This time is best spent when you know what you need to work on and have been giving your best effort in and outside of class. Tutorial isn't a magic hour that will teach you everything you need to know, but it can help you with things that you have been struggling with.
- Be excited! This is key. The more excited you are about learning French, the easier it will be for you to study without it feeling like a chore. Students who fall in love with the French culture typically do really well in class because they spend extra time at home investigating aspects of the French culture and their desire to learn grows exponentially.