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Prior to our big move, rather than scrambling for French learning tapes or making panicked attempts to go over the basics, I relaxed in the feeling that we'd all get by just fine. Alongside my assumption that someone would be able to always speak English, I'd previously excelled in French at school and I'd been told by my teachers that I had perfect pronunciation. My parents shared my confidence, and right up until moving day, none of us so much as glanced at a French-English dictionary. My illusion was shattered, however, when a few days after we moved I was taken to a local music school for a piano lesson. I strode confidently up to the lady, and in my best accent said "Bonjour, je m'appelle Jøve". Silence ensued, and it dawned on me: I had absolutely no idea what to say after that. 6 years of French lessons, and I didn't even know how to make basic social chit-chat. I couldn't answer a single one of her questions, nor did I understand them. My frustration turned to disappointment in the French lessons I'd taken at school in the UK. All those hours spent conjugating verbs and learning farm animals on flashcards – all of that information felt completely useless to us there. I'd always taken pride in my ability to impress people with my talkative personality, and I was anxious that my broken French would render me an idiot in the eyes of my fellow residents. After a week or so of feeling low, I decided to take matters into my own hands. I needed to learn French – and fast. RELATED: WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT MOVING OVERSEAS Step 1 – Frenchify the home The first step of learning a language is complete and utter immersion. We stuck labels on every object around the house, and useful phrases remained on a whiteboard in our living room until we knew them by heart. French TV was always on in the background, and we made a policy to speak as much French to each other as we could. I filled my iPod with French music, and stacked French magazines on my desk. I chose an easy French book, and read a chapter every day – even though I didn't understand the words yet. The aim here was to normalise the French language in our daily life. Step 2 – Set up a language exchange It can be exhausting for those around you to be constantly asked what something means. A language exchange is more mutually beneficial: find someone who is keen to learn the language that you speak, and you can help each other! Fortunately, the girl who lived next door was a similar age to me, and I straight away made it my mission to become her friend. She spoke fairly good English, but I asked her to speak French to me anyway. She was happy to translate anything I needed, so long as I was willing to teach her some English too. Step 3 – Fill your home with people There were a lot of English speaking expatriates in France, but we were cautious not to fall into the bubble of an English speaking community. We began hosting dinner parties in our home for neighbours and other French speaking friends. Meals, birthday parties, cocktail nights, afternoon tea – these events meant that we could interact with our community, immerse ourselves in the culture and show people that we valued their friendship – even if we couldn't verbally express it (because we didn't know how!). It also became the perfect way to practice our French in a comfortable and familiar environment. Never pass up the opportunity to socialise when learning a language! Step 4 – Talk to children Finally, I talked to children as often as I could. That's not to say I went up to random children in the middle of the street (that would be creepy), but I found ways to converse with children before I had the courage to spark up convo with my peers. Luckily for me, my brother and sister are both younger, so our home typically resembled a crèche on the weekends. Babysitting and au pairing are also really good ways to practice a language. Kids are super un-judgemental, and engaging in play with them is a far less intimidating way to build your confidence. For months, the concept of fluency in French felt intangible to me. Then, one day about 6 months after arrival, I went out with my next door neighbour and 4 of her friends who I'd never met before. Usually I would avoid having to spend too much time with new people, but I decided to do anyway. Suddenly, I was talking to them. And they were talking to me. Not only that, but I was thinking in French too. We could understand each other in complete fluency. Learning a language isn't about sitting in front of textbooks conjugating verbs, or even learning vocabulary using flashcards. Learning a language should be intrinsically social, as language is about communication and connection. For a short time, you have to truly believe that you belong to that culture: eat the food, sing along to the songs (even if you have no idea what the lyrics mean at first), integrate into the community and be confident in your mistakes. Most of the time, locals will be impressed and encouraging – once you do finally crack it, you'll realise it wasn't so hard after all! Do you have any tips on how to learn a language fast? Share them in the comments below. Are you tired of feeling like you're stuck in language limbo, struggling to make progress in your French learning journey? You're not alone! Many of us have been there, frustrated by the slow pace of traditional learning methods and unsure of how to structure our learning for maximum efficiency. Target Audience This guide is perfect for: Motivated language learners who want to achieve rapid French proficiency Busy professionals seeking efficient language acquisition methods Students preparing for French exams or study abroad programs You might be thinking, "But I don't have the time or resources to learn French quickly." Fear not! With the right strategies and mindset, you can master French in just 6 months. Introduction Learning French in 6 months is a challenge, but it's also an incredible opportunity to unlock a new world of culture, connections, and personal growth. In this guide, we'll take you on a journey through the essential strategies and techniques you need to succeed. From setting a realistic roadmap to mastering grammar and vocabulary, we'll cover it all. Main Sections 1. Laying the Foundations: Your French Learning Roadmap A clear plan is key to achieving rapid fluency. In this section, we'll explore how to: Create a realistic 6-month plan tailored to your goals and learning style Assess your current level and set achievable milestones Choose the right learning resources and tools to support your journey Think of your roadmap as a treasure map, guiding you through the twists and turns of language learning. With consistency and daily practice, you'll be amazed at how quickly you can progress. For example, let's say you're a beginner. You might start by dedicating 30 minutes a day to French learning, focusing on grammar and vocabulary in the first month. As you progress, you can adjust your plan to include more speaking and listening practice. 2. Immersion Techniques: Surrounding Yourself with French Immersion is a powerful tool for language learning. By surrounding yourself with French, you'll pick up the language naturally and accelerate your progress. In this section, we'll explore: Strategies for creating a French-rich environment at home, from TV shows to podcasts How to leverage French media for passive learning Tips for finding and participating in French conversation groups Imagine waking up to French music, sipping coffee while listening to a French podcast, and chatting with native speakers at a local language exchange. That's the power of immersion! 3. Rapid Vocabulary Acquisition Vocabulary is the building block of language learning. In this section, we'll dive into: Techniques for rapid vocabulary expansion, from flashcards to spaced repetition The importance of context in vocabulary retention How to create personalized vocabulary lists that stick Think of vocabulary acquisition like a game of memory match. The more you practice, the more connections you'll make, and the faster you'll remember new words and phrases. 4. Mastering French Grammar Without the Headaches Grammar can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. In this section, we'll explore: Simplified approach to essential French grammar rules Practical exercises for internalizing grammar concepts Common pitfalls and how to avoid them Imagine being able to effortlessly conjugate verbs, navigate complex sentence structures, and impress native speakers with your grammar skills. That's what we'll help you achieve. 5. Speaking French with Confidence Speaking is the ultimate test of language proficiency. In this section, we'll explore: Techniques for overcoming the fear of speaking How to improve pronunciation and accent Finding and maximizing speaking opportunities What's holding you back from speaking French with confidence? Is it fear of mistakes, lack of practice, or something else? Whatever it is, we'll help you overcome it and unlock your full speaking potential. 6. Measuring Your Progress: Milestones and Assessments Tracking your progress is crucial to staying motivated and adjusting your strategy. In this section, we'll explore: Setting realistic benchmarks for each month Self-assessment techniques and online tests Adjusting your strategy based on progress Regular progress checks will help you stay on track, celebrate your successes, and identify areas for improvement. It's like taking a snapshot of your language learning journey – you'll be amazed at how far you've come! Visuals and Multimedia To make your learning journey even more engaging, we've included: Infographic: 6-month French learning roadmap Video: Pronunciation guide for challenging French sounds Interactive quiz: Test your progress at different stages Engagement and Call-to-Action Now it's your turn! Share your personal experiences, tips, and questions in the comments section below. Don't forget to hit those social media sharing buttons to spread the word about French language learning. Ready to take your French learning to the next level? Sign up for our French language learning newsletter for weekly tips, resources, and motivation. Conclusion Mastering French in 6 months is a challenge, but with the right strategies, mindset, and support, it's achievable. Remember, language learning is a journey, not a destination. Stay consistent, stay motivated, and most importantly, stay engaged. You got this! Au revoir for now, and à bientôt for your French language learning success! Here are my actual results, expectations and how I did it, and what you can roughly expect too. Let me start by saying that French language is different and the results will vary on your background, time, and experience level. For example, if you're a native English speaker, some people say German is likely going to be easier than learning Spanish or Romance languages as German is closer to English grammatically than Spanish. Truly, it doesn't depend on that but on the passion behind the language you're learning. Anyway, to be fair, I grew up bilingual. My first language is English but I grew up hearing Spanish all my life. I understand 97% of Spanish when spoken to, but talking it is sometimes a struggle with a lot of pauses and still "Como se dice?" (how do you say... ) since I don't actively use it. That being said, I fell in love with French in high school. It's similar to both English and Spanish, but still unique enough to be neither. However, although I learned some vocabulary and could remember a couple of phrases, I didn't understand the grammar, could not make my own sentences, and worse, I couldn't understand it when spoken too! I felt I failed and could never get past that level. I took two semesters, with two different teachers because I moving at the time. Before I even had classes, I used a bit of Duolingo to be ahead of the class, which did help with vocabulary. But alas, I could write a bit in French but my two semesters didn't extend to actual French in practice. I recall that a French guy offered to help me online, to tutor me without qualifications, and I couldn't understand barely a thing. This discouraged me. But the real halt came after I had visited a friend who had a friend who spoke genuine French. I could say my three phrases I remembered, "What do you like to do?" "How old are you?" and of course "What is your name?" and that was it. I couldn't speak and worse, when he spoke to me I couldn't understand a word let alone answer back... My motivation zapped from me. This was in 2018. Since then, I dropped French cold turkey. I had completely forgotten most everything about French and moved on to other pursuits, dabbling a little in Portuguese, German, and ASL, and eventually canceling to learn most languages. Fast forward, it's been four years since I truly studied French. One day I was sitting down and thought, if I could do anything, what would I do? And learning French was on my list. Not just learning it, but truly understanding it and "getting it." Although afraid of the same result and failure, I was determined to find a way to truly make it stick this time. This time I tried something new... No teachers, just apps. Could someone really learn a language through their phones? Resorting and trying the bazillion apps off the App Store that all claim to get you fluent, from Fluent Forever, Babbel, Rosetta Stone (very established but not as updated), Pimsleur, etc. – I was overwhelmed at what to choose. Some offered only audio which was a bummer for me as I wanted to know how to write it as well. Some offered no speech exercises. I wanted an app that was structured but still flexible, fun, immersive, and had a bit of everything. After my search, which came at the cost of a couple of days and my sanity, I was swept away with Speaky after just one day of using it. Speaky used methods rooted in linguistics and memory, such as spaced repetition with common sentences, relevant highly-used words, and lots of vocal and listening exercises. Not to mention, a bonus section of easy grammar and music suggestions in your target language. I used two apps (Duolingo and Speaky, an app I never used before). I made my own goals within them. In Speaky, I would learn ten new words a day. That's it. Sometimes doing the listening exercises when tired or needing a break from learning new words and sometimes the speaking exercises. With Duolingo, I'd do one or two lessons a day. Each two to three months, I wrote out what I had achieved. Here are my results. In one week, I was able to recover a lot of the lost vocab I had forgotten. In my placement test on Speaky, I was a beginner but level two but for once, I felt a confidence I hadn't felt before. With Duolingo, they started me from the beginner level, which was fine as I needed to re-remember a lot of vocab. With the combination of the two, I felt much more comfortable with the language. I started listening to French music that was recommended on Speaky, one artist being Angèle. I absolutely adored her music such as "La Thune" (the money/dough) "Balance ton Quoi" and "Demons." I'd look up the lyrics since I had no idea what she was saying. She became my go-to music in my car rides and my favorite artist, of all time ☺ even replacing my favorite American artists! She still is my favorite. During this time, just three days, I started downloading other apps to see if they were just as good but I still stuck it out with Duolingo and Speaky. I found Chatterbug which had live video lessons in French and other languages. They were both fun to listen to and watch, seeing real French people explain concepts. If I had spare energy, I'd look at one or two videos a month. Not consistently as my two other apps took roughly 20-30 minutes together. Let's just say I got obsessed. Three days after starting Speaky and Duolingo, I found Speaky (not to be confused with Speakey). Speaky connects you with real foreigners in your target language. It's free to use but can be filled with a lot of perverts and people wanting to hit on you (other females complained about this in the app too). You can get bombarded with hundreds of messages in less than ten minutes, that are foreigners that are thirsty to speak English but aren't in your target language, and there's no way to filter them. However on the plus side, there are a lot of great people who are genuinely wanting to learn your language, you just have to choose correctly. I started speaking to a girl called Thais, from France. I'd speak to her in English and French, and she'd do the same. We would send each other voice messages through Instagram, so we'd have buffers of time to listen and respond given the six-hour time difference between us. What I realized was, this was way more advanced than I anticipated being beginner level 2. And a lot more draining given how we had to translate what we said in both languages. If I'm being honest, I often used Google Translate's "transcribe" feature with my iPad to translate directly what she was saying. My brain lit up anytime I'd get a message from her. It was exhilarating. It was more than fun, but very challenging and exhausting. I'd hear about her hobbies, things she wanted to do, her history, etc. After a week or two, we both burnt out majority and she ghosted, which was okay and expected. It was too much to maintain long-term. I continued to learn with my apps. I continued to find some short-lasting friendships but they eventually fizzled out too. I felt constrained by the lack of words I knew versus the ones I wanted to communicate with and the constant need to translate so many moving parts. Throughout the month, I continued to talk to at least one or two French people a month. And for once in my life, I was able to think in the language, not just make copy and paste phrases. I would think of sentences in the shower, try translating short sentences in my head, and the language would surprise visit me in my dreams! At four months, I reached intermediate level and started to listen to stories from Beelinguapp, but only a few as learning with two main apps would consume most of my time. I also wanted to avoid language burnout which is a real thing and can hinder your studies. At six months, I was in intermediate but tier two. I was able to watch Osmosis, a 2019 show that is originally from France without subtitles, which had me beaming with joy. (The show is about AI finding your soulmate, if you're interested). I would also hear Duolingo podcasts which are more tailored to intermediate level and focused on culture which is neat (like Belgium chocolate and the "La Bise" the formal cheek kiss greeting, not French kissing with tongue!) While going on Speaky again (not Speaky, but the other app), I was finally able to hear a French person without needing parts transcribed to me, nor having them explain what they had said or a word, which was huge to me. Sometimes learning is so gradual that you don't know it hits you, until it does. The takeaway! Although I had learned a little French before, how and what you use for language learning matters a lot more than you think. A little bit goes a long way, like compound interest, and a variety of language-learning diet will keep you coming back for more. Before I had the right motivation, just not the right teachers or way of learning. Although high school is hell-bent on grammar and vocabulary lists (which are important but can get overwhelming if too much), listening exercises and speaking are more essential than grammar and writing, which come more naturally later. The love for the language, whether the history, the sound of it, connecting with natives, the thrill, knowledge, and culture will be the foundation that will keep you going, not grades, streaks, or an ego boost. It's also important to set goals for yourself like after reaching a certain level or levels, you'll cook a croissant or write an article about your experience... As for me, I plan to read more French stories that make me smile, travel to France next year, and who knows, maybe make a YouTube on languages. I've been watching JP's Speaky, Beelinguapp, Speaky, Duolingo, and other apps mentioned on this article are not sponsored by me, but should be. It was just me genuine experience. – A Year Update – Time flies! It has been a year since I started my French language journey. A year since all the apps I had used during these months... Speaky is still by far my favorite. From day one it was, and even after a year it's still the app I love the most that keeps me engaged, keeps me coming back, and helps me learn the best. I use it everyday, and it offers a whole bunch of variety that no other app matches quite as well. Meanwhile, after about six months of Duolingo, I started getting bored with the exercises and dreading it. I even had a premium subscription with them! The over emphasis on "streaks" and scores became extremely obnoxious, not to mention, I could barely remember what I had learned after my lessons! With Speaky that wasn't a problem. Thanks for reading my article! I hope it inspired you and if you have any questions or comments please leave comments below. Follow for more, if you're interested in languages, business, and more! #Speakyapp Shoutout to Speaky! Babbel provides more of a challenge than most other language learning apps, so it's most suitable if you already speak a language related to the one you want to learn. For example, if you speak German and want to learn Dutch, Babbel is great, and its online Babbel Live classes are very useful and affordable. That said, Lingoda's classes are even more thorough, earning it our Editors' Choice award for group language learning. We also recommend Fluenz for video instruction alongside interactive exercises and Rosetta Stone for building a base grammar and vocabulary. Finally, nearly everyone should use the free Duolingo for daily practice. What Languages Can You Learn With Babbel? Babbel offers programs in 13 languages, assuming your language of instruction is English. You can learn Danish, Dutch, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, and Turkish. There's also a trial course for learning English with instruction in French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, or Swedish. Live classes are available for English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish only. How Much Does Babbel Cost? Before you buy a Babbel membership, you can try a minuscule part for free. It's not much, though. A seven-day free trial exists, but you have to pretend you're going to pay for the app and then change your mind for the option to read a section of the PDF aloud, or otherwise participate. My instructor was dynamic and didn't say much in English, but she was able to help when I dropped in an English word when I didn't know the Spanish equivalent. Babbel's classes are 55 minutes long. Lingoda's are a full hour—and I've been in classes that went on longer with an enthusiastic instructor. The PDFs Babbel uses are fairly short at just a few pages. For Lingoda's classes, the PDFs are so long that I've never been in a class that got to the end of one (even though I've taken dozens of classes). Additionally, you can download the Lingoda class PDF in advance, which is really useful for reviewing challenging materials in advance. Lingoda also offers more information in advance about the instructor in case you want to look for someone who specifically speaks Mexican Spanish as opposed to, say, Argentine or European Spanish. Although I like Lingoda's classes a little more, there's no denying that Babbel's are an incredible value—and they're very similar. Taking classes is an invaluable way to progress faster, especially for intermediate and advanced students. Rosetta Stone also offers small group classes, which it calls tutoring. However, these classes offer only 25 minutes of instruction at a time and are not as helpful as Babbel's or Lingoda's overall. Learn by Listening to Podcasts Babbel has some bonus content in the form of podcasts. There are quite a few for people learning English, French, Italian, and Spanish. I listened to two to get a sense of what they contain. A-Zero to A-Hero is Spanish for beginners. It's a conversation between two people who both use English to help guide the listener. The hosts discuss a simple conversation they might have in Spanish and talk out loud as they break down what they want to say in Spanish. Palabras Bravas is for intermediate to advanced speakers. It's entirely in Spanish, thus giving you the opportunity to practice extensive listening and hopefully pick up a few new words in the process. The show I listened to was about language: One person introduced foreign words or phrases, and the other hosts guessed what language it came from and what it meant, all in Spanish. Babbel isn't the only program with podcasts, however. Duolingo has podcasts for intermediate to advanced learners of Spanish and French. Unlike Babbel's podcasts, which focus on language, Duolingo's podcasts tell real stories (they're short radio documentaries, really), and each episode uses a mix of English and the language you're learning to take you along. Rosetta Stone's bonus content includes videos that help teach you how to use the language in everyday situations. These videos are very much structured for beginners. Games? Skip 'Em! Babbel has some games that are meant to help you practice your language learning in a fun way, but they're all overly simplistic. One shows a train on the screen going along a track that's damaged, and you have to correctly complete a language exercise within a time frame to repair the track. The games are about as sophisticated as you might have expected them to be in 1980. Verdict: Lessons Tailored to Every Language The minds behind Babbel have clearly spent time crafting a learning program that's unique to each language. Some of the exercises can feel boring or repetitive, but the content is quite thorough and pushes your understanding. The online Babbel Live classes are a great experience even by themselves and a better value than those from Lingoda, though the latter remains our Editors' Choice because its sessions are a bit more comprehensive. If you're a beginner, meanwhile, we recommend Rosetta Stone and Fluenz, respectively, for building a base vocabulary and getting video instruction. We also recommend Duolingo, a free app that's unbeatable for daily practice. You want to learn French but you wonder how long it will take for you to cope with it? Or maybe even to master it? Is 6 months doable? How much time per day would that be? This article will answer your question. First of all, you need to define what is your end goal. A1 DISCOVERY LEVEL: I can understand a few words, I can communicate in a simple way. A2 SURVIVAL LEVEL: I can understand the main points of a conversation, when it is on subjects that are close to me (family, work, hobbies...). Speaky speaking, I can cope in familiar contexts. B1 TRESHOLD LEVEL: I can follow a conversation without big troubles and understand most of the news, films. I can give my opinion, and cope in unpredictable situations. B2 ADVANCED LEVEL: I can defend a point of view, present arguments, and negotiate. I can understand speeches, the news, and movies in French. C1 AUTONOMOUS LEVEL: I can understand any kind of speech, news or movies, without much effort. I can speak easily and spontaneously. I have enough vocabulary to express my opinion in a precise way. C2 EXPERT LEVEL: My have no difficulties understanding French, even in high speed, and I feel at ease with the most common idiomatic expressions. I can express myself in a clear and structured way in the appropriate language register, and I am capable of express subtle nuances. If you are still not sure what level is for you, I would say that a good goal to have (and the case for most of the students) is level B. The A levels are only good if you need to spend a week in France and want to order a baguette and stuff like that. But from B levels, you really enter the interesting part of the learning where you can have conversations without much effort! Getting to C levels is a high goal, hard to reach unless you live in France for a while, or have a French-speaking partner. Besides, the C level is usually not needed to work in international organisations (B2 is usually sufficient). Now, let's define your current level. Are you a complete beginner (A0)? Or do you already have some bases of French (A1), from school for example? Depending on that, look at one of the table below to know how many hours of French you need to reach your goal, and see to how many hours per month and per day, that correspond to. My goal Total hours neededTime per month (during 6 months)Time per day (during 6 months)A160 to 80 hours10 to 13 hours20 to25 minutes A2160 to 200 hours26 to 33 hours 1 hourB1300 to 350 hours50 tp 58 hours1,5 to 2 hoursB2480 to 550 hours80 to 91 hours2,5 to 3 hoursC1680 to 800 hours 113 to133 hours3,5 to 4,5 hours My goal Total hours neededTime per month (during 6 months)Time per day (during 6 months)A2100 to 120 hours16,5 to 20 hours30-40 minutesB1240 to 270 hours40 to 45 hours1,3 to 1,5 hoursB2420 to 470 hours70 to 78 hours2,3 to 2,5 hoursC1620 to 720 hours103 to120 hours3,4 to 4 hours In short, you can learn French with roughly 2 to 3 hours of French per day for 6 month, or 1 to 1,5 hours per day for a year. Which is feasible! It can sound bit much on a daily basis, especially if you work full time. But remember you can follow a crash course during your holidays, or even better: spend some time in a French-speaking country and practice every day! Also, out of those 2-3 hours, you can spend 1 hour watching a movie or some news, or a podcast (while noting new words)... Always try to keep it fun! And remember it is not a race, and you can always reorganize your initial planning to a more flexible one! Good luck! Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Learning French in 6 months is achievable with focus and strategy. Unlike vague language guides, this plan combines expert methods like spaced repetition, immersive learning, and speaking practice to fast-track fluency. Whether you're preparing for travel, work, or personal growth, this guide adapts to your lifestyle while addressing common roadblocks. Let's dive into your roadmap! Define why you're learning French. Is it for travel, career growth, or connecting with family? Break your goal into monthly milestones: Month 1-2: Master pronunciation and 500+ core words (e.g., greetings, numbers). Month 3-4: Build sentences using present/past tense and engage in simple conversations. Month 5-6: Refine fluency through advanced dialogues and cultural nuances. Consistency trumps cramming. Use micro-learning tactics: Morning: 10-minute vocab drills (apps like Memrise or Anki). Afternoon: Grammar exercises (focus on French verb conjugations). Evening: Watch a 5-minute French YouTube clip (inner French is beginner-friendly). Surround yourself with French: Label household items with sticky notes ("La fenêtre" = window). Switch phone settings to French. Listen to podcasts (Coffee Break French) during commutes. Avoid getting stuck on perfection. Prioritize high-frequency words (e.g., être, avoir, faire) and use them in context. For grammar: Week 1-4: Present tense + articles (le, la, un, une). Week 5-8: Past tense (passé composé) + common irregular verbs. Overcome the fear of errors: Use language exchange apps (Tandem, HelloTalk) for 15-minute chats. Record yourself describing your day. Mimic native speakers' intonation (try Shadowing Technique). Celebrate small wins: Weekly self-assessments (e.g., "I can order food in French!"). Join online communities (r/French on Reddit). Reward milestones (e.g., watch a French film without subtitles). Overloading on apps – Stick to 1-2 tools to prevent burnout. Ignoring pronunciation – Use Forvo to mimic native sound. Skipping cultural context – Learn idioms ("C'est la vie") to sound natural. Q: Can I really become fluent in 6 months? A: "Fluent" varies by goal. You'll confidently handle daily conversations with focused effort. Full professional fluency may take longer. Q: How much time should I study daily? A: 30-60 minutes (e.g., 15 mins morning/evening + immersive activities). Q: What's the hardest part of learning French? A: Gendered nouns and verb conjugations. Tackle them early with spaced repetition. Q: How do I stay motivated? A: Pair learning with hobbies (e.g., French cooking recipes or songs). Learning French in 6 months demands strategy over luck. By blending daily habits, immersive exposure, and speaking practice, you'll unlock confidence faster than traditional methods. Ready to start? Bookmark this guide and revisit your progress weekly. Share on X (Twitter) Share on Facebook Share on LinkedIn Share on WhatsApp Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy.

Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. "We're moving where?" This was my response upon hearing my parent's announcement that we would be leaving London and moving to the South of France. I was 15 at the time, and to me it all seemed like a certain inspired fantasy gone too far. I knew they liked the picturesque hills of Provence, but was this really necessary? Prior to our big move, rather than scrambling for French learning tapes or making panicked attempts to go over the basics, I relaxed in the feeling that we'd all get by just fine. Alongside my assumption that someone would be able to always speak English, I'd previously excelled in French at school and I'd been told by my teachers that I had perfect pronunciation. My parents shared my confidence, and right up until moving day, none of us so much as glanced at a French-English dictionary. My illusion was shattered, however, when a few days after we moved I was taken to a local music school for a piano lesson. I strode confidently up to the lady, and in my best accent said "Bonjour, je m'appelle Jøve". Silence ensued, and it dawned on me: I had absolutely no idea what to say after that. 6 years of French lessons, and I didn't even know how to make basic social chit-chat. I couldn't answer a single one of her questions, nor did I understand them. My frustration turned to disappointment in the French lessons I'd taken at school in the UK. All those hours spent conjugating verbs and learning farm animals on flashcards – all of that information felt completely useless to us there. I'd always taken pride in my ability to impress people with my talkative personality, and I was anxious that my broken French would render me an idiot in the eyes of my fellow residents. After a week or so of feeling low, I decided to take matters into my own hands. I needed to learn French – and fast. RELATED: WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT MOVING OVERSEAS Step 1 – Frenchify the home The first step of learning a language is complete and utter immersion. We stuck labels on every object around the house, and useful phrases remained on a whiteboard in our living room until we knew them by heart. French TV was always on in the background, and we made a policy to speak as much French to each other as we could. I filled my iPod with French music, and stacked French magazines on my desk. I chose an easy French book, and read a chapter every day – even though I didn't understand the words yet. The aim here was to normalise the French language in our daily life. Step 2 – Set up a language exchange It can be exhausting for those around you to be constantly asked what something means. A language exchange is more mutually beneficial: find someone who is keen to learn the language that you speak, and you can help each other! Fortunately, the girl who lived next door was a similar age to me, and I straight away made it my mission to become her friend. She spoke fairly good English, but I asked her to speak French to me anyway. She was happy to translate anything I needed, so long as I was willing to teach her some English too. Step 3 – Fill your home with people There were a lot of English speaking expatriates in France, but we were cautious not to fall into the bubble of an English speaking community. We began hosting dinner parties in our home for neighbours and other French speaking friends. Meals, birthday parties, cocktail nights, afternoon tea – these events meant that we could interact with our community, immerse ourselves in the culture and show people that we valued their friendship – even if we couldn't verbally express it (because we didn't know how!). It also became the perfect way to practice our French in a comfortable and familiar environment. Never pass up the opportunity to socialise when learning a language! Step 4 – Talk to children Finally, I talked to children as often as I could. That's not to say I went up to random children in the middle of the street (that would be creepy), but I found ways to converse with children before I had the courage to spark up convo with my peers. Luckily for me, my brother and sister are both younger, so our home typically resembled a crèche on the weekends. Babysitting and au pairing are also really good ways to practice a language. Kids are super un-judgemental, and engaging in play with them is a far less intimidating way to build your confidence. For months, the concept of fluency in French felt intangible to me. Then, one day about 6 months after arrival, I went out with my next door neighbour and 4 of her friends who I'd never met before. Usually I would avoid having to spend too much time with new people, but I decided to do anyway. Suddenly, I was talking to them. And they were talking to me. Not only that, but I was thinking in French too. We could understand each other in complete fluency. Learning a language isn't about sitting in front of textbooks conjugating verbs, or even learning vocabulary using flashcards. Learning a language should be intrinsically social, as language is about communication and connection. For a short time, you have to truly believe that you belong to that culture: eat the food, sing along to the songs (even if you have no idea what the lyrics mean at first), integrate into the community and be confident in your mistakes. Most of the time, locals will be impressed and encouraging – once you do finally crack it, you'll realise it wasn't so hard after all! Do you have any tips on how to learn a language fast? Share them in the comments below. Are you tired of feeling like you're stuck in language limbo, struggling to make progress in your French learning journey? You're not alone! Many of us have been there, frustrated by the slow pace of traditional learning methods and unsure of how to structure our learning for maximum efficiency. Target Audience This guide is perfect for: Motivated language learners who want to achieve rapid French proficiency Busy professionals seeking efficient language acquisition methods Students preparing for French exams or study abroad programs You might be thinking, "But I don't have the time or resources to learn French quickly." Fear not! With the right strategies and mindset, you can master French in just 6 months. Introduction Learning French in 6 months is a challenge, but it's also an incredible opportunity to unlock a new world of culture, connections, and personal growth. In this guide, we'll take you on a journey through the essential strategies and techniques you need to succeed. From setting a realistic roadmap to mastering grammar and vocabulary, we'll cover it all. Main Sections 1. Laying the Foundations: Your French Learning Roadmap A clear plan is key to achieving rapid fluency. In this section, we'll explore how to: Create a realistic 6-month plan tailored to your goals and learning style Assess your current level and set achievable milestones Choose the right learning resources and tools to support your journey Think of your roadmap as a treasure map, guiding you through the twists and turns of language learning. With consistency and daily practice, you'll be amazed at how quickly you can progress. For example, let's say you're a beginner. You might start by dedicating 30 minutes a day to French learning, focusing on grammar and vocabulary in the first month. As you progress, you can adjust your plan to include more speaking and listening practice. 2. Immersion Techniques: Surrounding Yourself with French Immersion is a powerful tool for language learning. By surrounding yourself with French, you'll pick up the language naturally and accelerate your progress. In this section, we'll explore: Strategies for creating a French-rich environment at home, from TV shows to podcasts How to leverage French media for passive learning Tips for finding and participating in French conversation groups Imagine waking up to French music, sipping coffee while listening to a French podcast, and chatting with native speakers at a local language exchange. That's the power of immersion! 3. Rapid Vocabulary Acquisition Vocabulary is the building block of language learning. In this section, we'll dive into: Techniques for rapid vocabulary expansion, from flashcards to spaced repetition The importance of context in vocabulary retention How to create personalized vocabulary lists that stick Think of vocabulary acquisition like a game of memory match. The more you practice, the more connections you'll make, and the faster you'll remember new words and phrases. 4. Mastering French Grammar Without the Headaches Grammar can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. In this section, we'll explore: Simplified approach to essential French grammar rules Practical exercises for internalizing grammar concepts Common pitfalls and how to avoid them Imagine being able to effortlessly conjugate verbs, navigate complex sentence structures, and impress native speakers with your grammar skills. That's what we'll help you achieve. 5. Speaking French with Confidence Speaking is the ultimate test of language proficiency. In this section, we'll explore: Techniques for overcoming the fear of speaking How to improve pronunciation and accent Finding and maximizing speaking opportunities What's holding you back from speaking French with confidence? Is it fear of mistakes, lack of practice, or something else? Whatever it is, we'll help you overcome it and unlock your full speaking potential. 6. Measuring Your Progress: Milestones and Assessments Tracking your progress is crucial to staying motivated and adjusting your strategy. In this section, we'll explore: Setting realistic benchmarks for each month Self-assessment techniques and online tests Adjusting your strategy based on progress Regular progress checks will help you stay on track, celebrate your successes, and identify areas for improvement. It's like taking a snapshot of your language learning journey – you'll be amazed at how far you've come! Visuals and Multimedia To make your learning journey even more engaging, we've included: Infographic: 6-month French learning roadmap Video: Pronunciation guide for challenging French sounds Interactive quiz: Test your progress at different stages Engagement and Call-to-Action Now it's your turn! Share your personal experiences, tips, and questions in the comments section below. Don't forget to hit those social media sharing buttons to spread the word about French language learning. Ready to take your French learning to the next level? Sign up for our French language learning newsletter for weekly tips, resources, and motivation. Conclusion Mastering French in 6 months is a challenge, but with the right strategies, mindset, and support, it's achievable. Remember, language learning is a journey, not a destination. Stay consistent, stay motivated, and most importantly, stay engaged. You got this! Au revoir for now, and à bientôt for your French language learning success! Here are my actual results, expectations and how I did it, and what you can roughly expect too. Let me start by saying that French language is different and the results will vary on your background, time, and experience level. For example, if you're a native English speaker, some people say German is likely going to be easier than learning Spanish or Romance languages as German is closer to English grammatically than Spanish. Truly, it doesn't depend on that but on the passion behind the language you're learning. Anyway, to be fair, I grew up bilingual. My first language is English but I grew up hearing Spanish all my life. I understand 97% of Spanish when spoken to, but talking it is sometimes a struggle with a lot of pauses and still "Como se dice?" (how do you say... ) since I don't actively use it. That being said, I fell in love with French in high school. It's similar to both English and Spanish, but still unique enough to be neither. However, although I learned some vocabulary and could remember a couple of phrases, I didn't understand the grammar, could not make my own sentences, and worse, I couldn't understand it when spoken too! I felt I failed and could never get past that level. I took two semesters, with two different teachers because I moving at the time. Before I even had classes, I used a bit of Duolingo to be ahead of the class, which did help with vocabulary. But alas, I could write a bit in French but my two semesters didn't extend to actual French in practice. I recall that a French guy offered to help me online, to tutor me without qualifications, and I couldn't understand barely a thing. This discouraged me. But the real halt came after I had visited a friend who had a friend who spoke genuine French. I could say my three phrases I remembered, "What do you like to do?" "How old are you?" and of course "What is your name?" and that was it. I couldn't speak and worse, when he spoke to me I couldn't understand a word let alone answer back... My motivation zapped from me. This was in 2018. Since then, I dropped French cold turkey. I had completely forgotten most everything about French and moved on to other pursuits, dabbling a little in Portuguese, German, and ASL, and eventually canceling to learn most languages. Fast forward, it's been four years since I truly studied French. One day I was sitting down and thought, if I could do anything, what would I do? And learning French was on my list. Not just learning it, but truly understanding it and "getting it." Although afraid of the same result and failure, I was determined to find a way to truly make it stick this time. This time I tried something new... No teachers, just apps. Could someone really learn a language through their phones? Resorting and trying the bazillion apps off the App Store that all claim to get you fluent, from Fluent Forever, Babbel, Rosetta Stone (very established but not as updated), Pimsleur, etc. – I was overwhelmed at what to choose. Some offered only audio which was a bummer for me as I wanted to know how to write it as well. Some offered no speech exercises. I wanted an app that was structured but still flexible, fun, immersive, and had a bit of everything. After my search, which came at the cost of a couple of days and my sanity, I was swept away with Speaky after just one day of using it. Speaky used methods rooted in linguistics and memory, such as spaced repetition with common sentences, relevant highly-used words, and lots of vocal and listening exercises. Not to mention, a bonus section of easy grammar and music suggestions in your target language. I used two apps (Duolingo and Speaky, an app I never used before). I made my own goals within them. In Speaky, I would learn ten new words a day. That's it. Sometimes doing the listening exercises when tired or needing a break from learning new words and sometimes the speaking exercises. With Duolingo, I'd do one or two lessons a day. Each two to three months, I wrote out what I had achieved. Here are my results. In one week, I was able to recover a lot of the lost vocab I had forgotten. In my placement test on Speaky, I was a beginner but level two but for once, I felt a confidence I hadn't felt before. With Duolingo, they started me from the beginner level, which was fine as I needed to re-remember a lot of vocab. With the combination of the two, I felt much more comfortable with the language. I started listening to French music that was recommended on Speaky, one artist being Angèle. I absolutely adored her music such as "La Thune" (the money/dough) "Balance ton Quoi" and "Demons." I'd look up the lyrics since I had no idea what she was saying. She became my go-to music in my car rides and my favorite artist, of all time ☺ even replacing my favorite American artists! She still is my favorite. During this time, just three days, I started downloading other apps to see if they were just as good but I still stuck it out with Duolingo and Speaky. I found Chatterbug which had live video lessons in French and other languages. They were both fun to listen to and watch, seeing real French people explain concepts. If I had spare energy, I'd look at one or two videos a month. Not consistently as my two other apps took roughly 20-30 minutes together. Let's just say I got obsessed. Three days after starting Speaky and Duolingo, I found Speaky (not to be confused with Speakey). Speaky connects you with real foreigners in your target language. It's free to use but can be filled with a lot of perverts and people wanting to hit on you (other females complained about this in the app too). You can get bombarded with hundreds of messages in less than ten minutes, that are foreigners that are thirsty to speak English but aren't in your target language, and there's no way to filter them. However on the plus side, there are a lot of great people who are genuinely wanting to learn your language, you just have to choose correctly. I started speaking to a girl called Thais, from France. I'd speak to her in English and French, and she'd do the same. We would send each other voice messages through Instagram, so we'd have buffers of time to listen and respond given the six-hour time difference between us. What I realized was, this was way more advanced than I anticipated being beginner level 2. And a lot more draining given how we had to translate what we said in both languages. If I'm being honest, I often used Google Translate's "transcribe" feature with my iPad to translate directly what she was saying. My brain lit up anytime I'd get a message from her. It was exhilarating. It was more than fun, but very challenging and exhausting. I'd hear about her hobbies, things she wanted to do, her history, etc. After a week or two, we both burnt out majority and she ghosted, which was okay and expected. It was too much to maintain long-term. I continued to learn with my apps. I continued to find some short-lasting friendships but they eventually fizzled out too. I felt constrained by the lack of words I knew versus the ones I wanted to communicate with and the constant need to translate so many moving parts. Throughout the month, I continued to talk to at least one or two French people a month. And for once in my life, I was able to think in the language, not just make copy and paste phrases. I would think of sentences in the shower, try translating short sentences in my head, and the language would surprise visit me in my dreams! At four months, I reached intermediate level and started to listen to stories from Beelinguapp, but only a few as learning with two main apps would consume most of my time. I also wanted to avoid language burnout which is a real thing and can hinder your studies. At six months, I was in intermediate but tier two. I was able to watch Osmosis, a 2019 show that is originally from France without subtitles, which had me beaming with joy. (The show is about AI finding your soulmate, if you're interested). I would also hear Duolingo podcasts which are more tailored to intermediate level and focused on culture which is neat (like Belgium chocolate and the "La Bise" the formal cheek kiss greeting, not French kissing with tongue!) While going on Speaky again (not Speaky, but the other app), I was finally able to hear a French person without needing parts transcribed to me, nor having them explain what they had said or a word, which was huge to me. Sometimes learning is so gradual that you don't know it hits you, until it does. The takeaway! Although I had learned a little French before, how and what you use for language learning matters a lot more than you think. A little bit goes a long way, like compound interest, and a variety of language-learning diet will keep you coming back for more. Before I had the right motivation, just not the right teachers or way of learning. Although high school is hell-bent on grammar and vocabulary lists (which are important but can get overwhelming if too much), listening exercises and speaking are more essential than grammar and writing, which come more naturally later. The love for the language, whether the history, the sound of it, connecting with natives, the thrill, knowledge, and culture will be the foundation that will keep you going, not grades, streaks, or an ego boost. It's also important to set goals for yourself like after reaching a certain level or levels, you'll cook a croissant or write an article about your experience... As for me, I plan to read more French stories that make me smile, travel to France next year, and who knows, maybe make a YouTube on languages. I've been watching JP's Speaky, Beelinguapp, Speaky, Duolingo, and other apps mentioned on this article are not sponsored by me, but should be. It was just me genuine experience. – A Year Update – Time flies! It has been a year since I started my French language journey. A year since out of all the apps I had used during these months... Speaky is still by far my favorite. From day one it was, and even after a year it's still the app I love the most that keeps me engaged, keeps me coming back, and helps me learn the best. I use it everyday, and it offers a whole bunch of variety that no other app matches quite as well. Meanwhile, after about six months of Duolingo, I started getting bored with the exercises and dreading it. I even had a premium subscription with them! The over emphasis on "streaks" and scores became extremely obnoxious, not to mention, I could barley remember what I had learned after my lessons! With Speaky that wasn't a problem. Thanks for reading my article! I hope it inspired you and if you have any questions or comments please leave comments below. Follow for more, if you're interested in languages, business, and more! #Speakyapp Shoutout to Speaky! Babbel provides more of a challenge than most other language learning apps, so it's most suitable if you already speak a language related to the one you want to learn. For example, if you speak German and want to learn Dutch, Babbel is great, and its online Babbel Live classes are very useful and affordable. That said, Lingoda's classes are even more thorough, earning it our Editors'