

France—Australia links...

In recent years there has been an increase in French commercial ventures in Australia which are providing employment opportunities for Australians with a knowledge of the French language. More than 40 000 Australians are employed by French companies in areas as diverse as education, international law, fashion, tourism, leisure, telecommunications, translating and interpreting, medical and scientific research, agriculture (wine, wool, sheepskins, cheese-making) and, of course, sport.

Some of the French companies established in Australia are La Lyonnaise des Eaux, Banque Nationale de Paris, Pechiney, Le Groupe Chargeur, Thomson, Remy Martin, Club Med, Accor-Chaine Novotel, Air Liquide, Renault MACK and AXA.

Some of the Australian companies established in France are Rip Curl, Brambles, TNT, Airship Industries, Sola International and ACI.

Teaching of French in Victoria

The long tradition of French being taught in Victorian schools continues with many primary and secondary government and non-government schools providing strong, innovative French programs, including a French-English bilingual program. French is also provided by the Victorian School of Languages in four centres and through distance education.

French continues to be a popular study at Year 12 level, with approximately 1300 students studying the language annually.

Multimedia programs for primary and Years 11-12 students of French are also provided through the Primary and Secondary Access to Languages (PALS and SALS) project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For assistance in establishing and developing a French language program contact:

LOTE, ESL and Multicultural Education Branch
Department of Education, Employment and Training
Telephone: 9637 2455 Fax: 9637 2040
Website: <http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/lem>

French Consultant
Telephone: 9637 2086

French Adviser
Telephone: 9637 2093

Association of French Teachers in Victoria Inc. (AFTV)
Telephone/Fax: 9836 4505

Visit the *Frenchlinx* website:
<http://www.netspace.net.au/~aftvinc>

**LOTE, ESL &
Multicultural Education Branch**



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Why learn French?

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France and French-speaking countries

French is one of the most widely used languages in the world. There are forty-nine countries throughout the world that either use French as their official, second or priority language. This represents one quarter of the world's nations.

An estimated 120 million students throughout the world study French, making it the most widely taught second language after English. French is widely taught in Asia and is the official language of many of Australia's nearest Pacific neighbours, including New Caledonia, which is only two hours flying time from Sydney.

cinema	rendezvous
champignons	tennis
croissant	avenue
chic	cul-de-sac
garage	par avion
fete	aerogramme
concert	restaurant
ensuite	menu
omelette	ballet
theatre	quiche
boutique	cafe
boulevard	adore
bon voyage	parliament
tournament	Grand prix
premiers	casseroles



quiche

So you think you don't speak French?

Australians *adore* shopping in *chic boutiques*. We go to the *theatre* and even to the *Grand Prix!* We cook *casseroles* but we prefer eating in *restaurants* or *cafes* where, we might choose a *croissant*, a *quiche* or even an *omelette* with *champignons* from the *menu*. We sometimes *rendezvous* with friends to go to a *tennis tournament*. We go to school *fetes* and *concerts*. Our houses and apartments sometimes have *ensuite* bathrooms and a *garage* and are situated in an *avenue*, *boulevard*, or *cul-de-sac*. We send *aerogrammes* and letters *par avion* to overseas friends and we wish travellers *bon voyage*. We are governed by a *parliament*, and the winning football team are *premiers*.

COULD YOU READ THIS?

The above paragraph includes many words that have come into English through French.

Look at the list on the left!

English and French have the same alphabet, share the majority of sounds and have a similar sentence structure. More than 20 000 English words have their origins in French. In fact English speakers already know about 55 per cent of French words. Likewise, many English words have found their way into the French language. Most Australians do not realise just how much they already know when they start learning French!

Why learn French?

France has a rich cultural history. Its lifestyle, art, food, wine, fashion, sporting events, architecture and scenic beauty attract some 70 million tourists each year.

French is an official language of the United Nations and of more than fifty international organisations such as the Red Cross, UNESCO, Médecins sans frontières and the International Telecommunications Union, providing a range of employment opportunities for speakers of French.

French, with English, is one of the two official languages of the Olympic Games. All announcements and documentation are presented in both languages.

France is a leader in science and technology, having produced many inventions essential to the modern world in such areas as photography and cinema, space, aviation and transport technology, physics and medicine.

Knowledge of the French language can open doors to a wide range of employment possibilities in the commercial, educational, scientific, chemical, automotive and hospitality fields. It also provides access to a rich culture known throughout the world for its contribution to art, architecture, music, ballet, literature, film, fashion and, of course, gastronomy.

