

**READY GUIDE TO FRENCH COMPOSITION, OR
THE FRENCH GRAMMAR BY EXAMPLES,
GIVING MODELS, AS LEADING STRINGS,
THROUGHOUT ACCIDENCE AND SYNTAX;
AND PRESENTING A COMPARATIVE VIEW OF
THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH IDIOMS, IN THEIR
PRINCIPAL DIFFERENCES**

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Ready Guide to French Composition, or the French Grammar by Examples, Giving Models, as Leading Strings, throughout Accidence and Syntax; And Presenting a Comparative View of the English and French Idioms, in Their Principal Differences by Mons. Le Page

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MONS. LE PAGE

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BY **MONS. LE PAGE,**
PROFESSOR OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE,
AUTHOR OF "L'ECHEC DE PARIS," "THE FRENCH PROMPTER," ETC.

"We should not think of describing an object to make it known, when we can show it at once. Why should we think of teaching by precepts and rules, when a model can be set forth?"



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PREFACE.

A GRAMMAR is always expected to develop a theory, and to give the student rules to guide him in the difficulties of the language. Therefore, to offer one in which theory is laid aside or made an object of secondary consideration, and its rules, in accidence and syntax, are superseded by models for the declension and construction of words, may be thought an act of boldness, which is likely to be reproved by many persons; and those attached to the old system, who think that theoretical precepts are the best lessons, and should be the first in every art or science, will find nothing to praise, I am afraid, in this little new work.

But those will judge differently, no doubt, who believe, as I do, that the lessons of example, in all arts and sciences as well as in morals, are always the most intelligible and powerful, and that it is much better, in general, to show than to tell how to do a thing. Those persons, I am confident, will approve of the plan of the book; and if they blame me, it will be only for the faults I may have shewn myself guilty of in its execution.

If, however, I have made a point in these Lessons to lead the pupil by the eyes, as it were, I have not discarded the Rules entirely; as each model in the accidence is followed by questions and exercises, the object of which is to bring the young learner to shape a rule himself from what he has seen, and then to practise it. This might have been extended to the Syntax; but it would have increased the thickness and cost of the book too much, without adequate advantage, as the summary of the models and remarks on the phrases throw sufficient light on the matter to dispense with any question or further exercise on it.

To grown up persons desirous of writing French, this little book is proposed as a ready guide to correctness in composition; and it is recommended for the young who study the language, as a complete and truly practical grammar, on whose phrases they need only be exercised, to become familiar with the idiom.

13, *Upper Baker-street, Regent's Park.*

19th October, 1848.

FRENCH GRAMMAR BY EXAMPLE,

ETC., ETC.

ACCIDENCE.

ARTICLES.

THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE IN EACH GENDER.

MODEL.

(Observe what the indefinite article is in each gender.)

Masc. Un père, d'un père, à
a father, of a father, to
un père.
a father.

Masc. Un fils, d'un fils, à un
a son, of a son, to a
fils.
son.

Masc. Un enfant, d'un enfant,
a child, of a child,
à un enfant.
to a child.

Masc. Un oncle, d'un oncle,
an uncle, of an uncle,
à un oncle.
to an uncle.

Masc. Un précepteur, d'un
a tutor, of a
précepteur, à un précep-
tutor, to a tu-
teur.
tor.

Fem. Une mère, d'une mère,
a mother, of a mother,
à une mère.
to a mother.

Fem. Une fille, d'une fille,
a daughter, of a daughter,
à une fille.
to a daughter.

Fem. Une enfant, d'une
a child, of a
enfant, à une enfant.
child, to a child.

Fem. Une tante, d'une tante,
an aunt, of an aunt,
à une tante.
to an aunt.

Fem. Une gouvernante, d'une
a governess, of a
gouvernante, à une gou-
governess, to a go-
vernante.
verness.

- Masc.* Un champ, d'un champ,
a field, of a field,
à un champ.
to a field.
- Masc.* Un arbre, d'un arbre,
a tree, of a tree,
à un arbre.
to a tree.
- Masc.* Un verger, d'un verger,
an orchard, of an orchard,
à un verger.
to an orchard.
- Masc.* Un jardin, d'un jardin,
a garden, of a garden,
à un jardin.
to a garden.
- Masc.* Un palais, d'un palais,
a palace, of a palace,
à un palais.
to a palace.
- Masc.* Un lit, d'un lit, à un
a bed, of a bed, to a
lit.
bed.
- Masc.* Un sofa, d'un sofa,
a sofa, of a sofa,
à un sofa.
to a sofa.
- Fem.* Une prairie, d'une
a meadow, of a
prairie, à une prairie.
meadow, to a meadow.
- Fem.* Une fleur, d'une fleur,
a flower, of a flower,
à une fleur.
to a flower.
- Fem.* Une pomme, d'une
an apple, of an
pomme, à une pomme.
apple, to an apple.
- Fem.* Une cour, d'une cour,
a yard, of a yard,
à une cour.
to a yard.
- Fem.* Une maison, d'une
a house, of a
maison, à une maison.
house, to a house.
- Fem.* Une table, d'une table,
a table, of a table,
à une table.
to a table.
- Fem.* Une chaise, d'une chaise,
a chair, of a chair,
à une chaise.
to a chair.

QUESTIONS.

(The pupil must copy the questions with the answer to each, and fill up the blanks).

What can we infer from these examples with regard to the genders?

That there are but in French: the and the

And with regard to the indefinite article?

That it is for masculine nouns, and for feminine.

EXERCISE.

(Let the pupil copy the English and put the French to it.)

A boy, of a boy, to a boy; a girl, of a girl, to a girl;
garçon, m. fille, f.
a brother, of a brother, to a brother; a sister, of a sister,
frère, m. sœur, f.
to a sister; a book, of a book, to a book; a lesson, of a
livre, m. leçon, f.
lesson, to a lesson; a picture, of a picture, to a picture;
tableau, m.
an engraving, of an engraving, to an engraving; a gentleman,
gravure, f. monsieur, m.
of a gentleman; a lady, to a lady; a walk, of a walk;
dame, f. promenade, f.
a park, to a park; of a wood; to a forest; a hill; to a
parc, m. bois, m. forêt, f. colline, f.
grove; a butterfly; of a bee; to a fly; a brook; to a
bosquet, m. papillon, m. abeille, f. mouche, f. ruisseau, m.
river; of a boat; to a village; a visit; an hour; of
rivière, f. bateau, m. village, m. visite, f. heure, f.
a moment; of a minute; a desire; to a fear; an idea;
moment, m. minute, f. désir, m. crainte, f. idée, f.
of a thought; a talent; of a quality; of an art; to
pensée, f. talent, m. qualité, f. art, m.
a science.
science, f.

THE DEFINITIVE ARTICLE

IN EACH GENDER AND NUMBER.

MODEL.

(Observe what the definite article is in each gender and number; how *le* and *la* are shortened before vowels and *à* mute; how *de le* and *à le* are changed before consonants; and how *de les* and *à les* before all letters.)

Singular.

<i>Masc.</i> Le père,	du père,	<i>Fem.</i> La mère, de la mère,
the father,	of the father,	the mother, of the mother,
au père.		à la mère.
to the father.		to the mother.