

**THE FRENCH STUDENT'S COMPANION:
CONTAINING THE MOST NECESSARY
RULES FOR CONSTRUCTION; A
GUIDE TO THE USE OF FRENCH VERBS,
WITH A COMPLETE LIST OF THE
IRREGULAR AND DEFECTIVE VERBS**

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The French Student's Companion: Containing the Most Necessary Rules for Construction; A Guide to the Use of French Veres, with a Complete List of the Irregular and Defective Veres by P. L. Armand de Potter

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P. L. ARMAND DE POTTER

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THE MOST NECESSARY RULES FOR CONSTRUCTION ; A GUIDE
TO THE USE OF FRENCH VERBS, WITH A COMPLETE LIST
OF THE IRREGULAR AND DEFECTIVE VERBS ; WORDS
FOR CONVERSATION ; PROPER NAMES, AND THE
MOST USEFUL GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES.

BY

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INTRODUCTION.

I have written the following pages because I felt the need of such a book of reference for my own pupils, but it is not intended to take the place of a grammar, although it may do so with the *natural* methods of teaching.

Albany, 1880.

ARMAND DE POTTER.

ABBREVIATIONS.

adj.	stands for	adjective.
ant.	" "	anterior.
aux.	" "	auxiliary.
chap.	" "	chapter.
def.	" "	definite.
ex.	" "	example.
f.	" "	feminine.
fut.	" "	future.
i.	" "	impersonal.
irr.	" "	irregular.
m.	" "	masculine.
n.	" "	nous.
part.	" "	participle.
pers.	" "	person.
pres.	" "	present.
pl.	" "	plural.
reg.	" "	regular.
subj.	" "	subjunctive.
v.	" "	vous.
w.	" "	wanting.

* The author is indebted for some valuable suggestions to his friend, Prof. E. Gastineau, of New York.

REMARKS ON THE GENDER OF NOUNS.

1. There is no neuter gender in French, and consequently the names of inanimate objects are either *masculine* or *feminine*. It may be observed here that *practice* and *dictionaries* are the best means to master the gender of nouns of inanimate objects; however, a few general observations are here given, which will be found of great assistance to the student.

2. **Masculine:** 1st. Names of towns, as Paris (except those ending in *e* or *es*, as Rome). 2d. Names of *metals*, *minerals*, and *colours*, as *or*, *fer*, &c. 3d. Names of *days*, *months*, and *seasons*; as *lundi*, *avril*, *hiver*, &c. 4th. Names of *trees* and *shrubs*; as *chêne*, *rosier*, &c. (except: *ébène*, *épine*, *aubépine*, *ronce*, *vigne*): 5th. *Adjectives*, *verbs*, and *prepositions* used substantively; as *l'utile*, *le boire*, *le contre*, &c. 6th. All names designating a *man*; as *père*, *roi*, &c. 7th. All names designating the male of an animal, as *le cheval*, *chat*, *lion*, &c. 8th. All names ending in one of the eleven letters *b*, *c*, *d*, *g*, *h*, *k*, *l*, *p*, *q*, *y*, *z*; as *le plomb*, *le banc*, *le bord*, *le rang*, *l'almanach*, *le carrick*, *le bal*, *le camp*, *le coq*, *le jury*, *le nez*, &c.

2. **Feminine:** 1st. All names designating a *woman*; as *la mère*, *reine*, &c. 2d. All names designating a female of an animal; as *jument*, *chatte*, *lionne*, &c.

4. Sometimes the same word is used for male or female of an animal, in which case the word is either masculine or feminine, according to its termination; as *buffle*, *castor*, *chameau*, &c., *always masculine*; *girafe*, *souris*, *tortue*, &c., *always feminine*.

N. B.—When, in speaking of these animals, we wish to distinguish their sex, we are obliged to designate it by

adding the word *mâle* or *femelle*; as *le mâle de la girafe*, *la femelle du chameau*; or *la girafe mâle*, *le chameau femelle*.

5. Nouns having the following terminations are feminine :

ace : *la glace*, &c.

ade : *ambassade*, &c.

ance, ence : *constance*, &c. (*except silence*).

ande, ende : *demande*, &c.

esse : *adresse, caresse*, &c.

eur : *chaleur*, &c. (*except bonneur, honneur, malheur, labour*).

ise : *bêtise, franchise*, &c.

rie : *barbarie, furie*, &c.

sion : *pension*, &c.

té : *bonté*, &c. (*except côté, pâté, comité, traité, été*).

tion : *portion*, &c.

ude : *étude, solitude*, &c.

une : *lune, fortune*, &c.

ure : *brûlure, culture*, &c.

xion : *réflexion*, &c.

CAPITAL LETTERS.

Capital letters (*les majuscule*) are used at the beginning of every sentence in prose; of every verse in poetry; of all Christian and proper names of persons, as *Napoléon, Pierre Corneille*; of places, as *l'Amérique, la France, Paris, le Louvre*; of people, as *les Anglais, les Parisiens*; of seas, rivers, mountains, &c., as *la Méditerranée, le beau Rhin, les Alpes*.

RULES FOR CONSTRUCTION.

I. THE SUBJECT.

1. The subject of a verb is generally a noun : *Dieu récompense la vertu, l'oiseau vole* ; or a pronoun : *je travaille, tu lis*.

2. We find the subject by means of the question *qui est-ce qui ?* for persons, and *qu'est-ce qui ?* for things. *Une mère aime son enfant. Qui est-ce qui aime ? Une mère ; mère* is the subject of *aime*. *La charité honore l'homme. Qu'est-ce qui honore ? La charité ; charité* is the subject of *honore*.

3. As a general rule, the *subject* is placed at the beginning of the phrase, except in the interrogative form.

4. In the interrogative forms the *subject* is placed at the beginning of a phrase if it is a noun, and the pronoun is repeated after the verb : *Le père a-t-il le livre ?*

5. If the subject is a pronoun, in the interrogative form, it is usually placed after the verb. But in interrogative sentences beginning with the form *est-ce-que*, the subject precedes the verb : *Est-ce-qu'il parlera ?*

II. THE COMPLEMENTS OR OBJECTS.

1. If they are *nouns*, they stand after the verb to which they belong. If they are *pronouns*, they are placed before the verb, except in the imperative affirmative.

2. There is a *direct* and an *indirect* object.

3. The *direct* completes the signification of the verb, without the aid of any other word ; it answers to the ques-

tion *qui?* for persons, and *quoi?* for things: *J'instruis mes élèves. Je chéris l'étude. J'instruis qui? Mes élèves. Je chéris quoi? L'étude. Mes élèves, l'étude,* are the direct objects of *j' instruis* and *je chéris*.

4. The *indirect* object is that which completes the meaning of the verb with the aid of a preposition; it answers to the questions *à qui? de qui? pour qui? avec qui?* etc., for persons, and to the questions *à quoi? de quoi?* etc., for things: *J'obéis à mon maître. Je m'occupe d'histoire. J'obéis à qui? À mon maître. Je m'occupe de quoi? D'histoire. À mon maître, d'histoire,* are of course the indirect objects of *j'obeis* and *je m'occupe*.

5. If nouns, the direct object generally precedes the indirect: *J'envoie les livres à votre frère.*

6. When both pronouns are of the same person, the direct object precedes the indirect: *Je le lui prêterai.*

7. When both pronouns are of different persons, the indirect precedes the direct: *Je vous le promets.*

8. In the imperative used affirmatively the direct invariably precedes the indirect object, and both follow the verb; and then the pronouns *moi* and *toi*, are used instead of *me* and *te*: *Donnez-le-moi. Donnez-moi du vin.*

9. But when the imperative is negative, the pronoun object precedes the verb, and follows rules 6 and 7. Ex.: *Ne la remerciez pas.*

10. SIGNIFICATION OF THE PRONOUN OBJECTS BEFORE THE VERBS.

me = me or to me.

te = thee or to thee.

le = him, it.

la = her, it.

les = them.

lui = to him, to her.

leur = them, to them.

vous = us, to us.

vous = you, to you.