

**THE FIRST STEP IN FRENCH.  
BEING AN ESSAY METHOD  
OF LEARNING THE ELEMENTS  
OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE**

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The First Step in French. Being an Essay Method of Learning the Elements of the French Language by Léon Contanseau

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THE  
FIRST STEP IN FRENCH

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AN EASY METHOD OF LEARNING  
THE ÉLÉMENTS OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

BY

LÉON CONTANSEAU

PROFESSOR OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
IN THE LATE ROYAL INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE, ADDISCOMBE, AND  
EXAMINER FOR MILITARY APPOINTMENTS:  
AUTHOR OF "THE PRACTICAL FRENCH AND ENGLISH DICTIONARY" ETC.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE present work is intended to supply a first book or introduction to grammar, carefully adapted to the requirements of English pupils about to commence the study of the French language. It comprises a VOCABULARY of words in common use, selected chiefly with a view to exemplify the rules of pronunciation, and to be learnt by heart for repetition. To this succeed a few GRAMMATICAL RULES applying to the declensions, the use of the pronoun and the participle, and two or three points of construction in which the French syntax puzzles beginners; each rule numbered for reference. A series of easy EXERCISES in both languages follows, graduated in order to develop the pupil's capacity and confirm his progress step by step, and accompanied by some familiar CONVERSATIONS on ordinary events and topics; each phrase referred by number to the rule which explains its construction. A selection of short, simple EXTRACTS is added for exercise in reading, — passages taken from the best modern French writers, whose works are appropriate for the study of youth. All these exercises are subdivided into lessons of suitable length, and each set is preceded by the rules which bear upon it, conspicuously printed to fix the learner's attention to his task and aid his memory, conformably with a plan adopted with success in the Author's other elementary works.



This volume completes the Author's course of studies of the French tongue for the use of English pupils, which consists of a *Compendious French Grammar* (Third Edition), *Guide to French Translation* (Fifth Edition), with *Key*, *Prosateurs et Poètes Français* (elegant extracts, chronologically arranged, with brief biographical notices—Sixth Edition), *Précis de la Littérature Française*, *Abbrégé de l'Histoire de France*, *Practical French-English and English-French Dictionary* (now in its fourth edition), and the present *First Step in French*. For the favour with which these various works have been received by the English public, the scholastic profession, and the periodical press, testified by the frequent calls for fresh editions, the Author desires to express his grateful thanks.

UPPER NORWOOD:

*Asquith*, 1861.

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