

FRENCH FOR SOLDIERS

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French for Soldiers by Arthur F. Whitem & Percy W. Long

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ARTHUR F. WHITTEM & PERCY W. LONG

**FRENCH
FOR SOLDIERS**

FRENCH FOR SOLDIERS

PREPARED FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
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*WITH THE COLLABORATION OF OFFICERS OF
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PREFACE

FRENCH FOR SOLDIERS was prepared in the summer of 1917 for the classes then being organized by the Massachusetts State Department of University Extension. Issued originally in mimeographed form, it is now printed in order to meet the demand from outside as well as within the state.

The authors have endeavored to present in simple fashion the essentials of French pronunciation and grammar with as large a vocabulary of a practical and military nature as possible. The lessons are intended primarily for beginners and for use in classes. Teachers of French have everywhere shown themselves ready to volunteer to help those intending to serve in France. For those who already know some French the book will serve for private study in reviewing their knowledge and in familiarizing them with military terms.

The reading passages, drawn chiefly from the French manual for platoon commanders, provide valuable information on modern formations and methods of warfare

which our American troops are now learning in France. Because of the technical nature of some of this matter and in order to make it available to all, it was thought best to accompany it with an interlinear translation. Smoothness of translation has been at times subordinated to literalness for the sake of aiding the student in the understanding of the original.

The lessons will be used in different ways by different teachers to meet the needs of their classes. Much work should be done orally to accustom the students to hear and recognize French words. Questions and answers in French may be based on the exercises and on the reading passages.

The authors wish here to acknowledge their indebtedness to the following books, which they also recommend to those who wish to do further study: Grandgent, *Essentials of French Grammar* (Heath and Co., Boston, Mass.), Fraser and Squair, *Shorter French Course* (Heath and Co., Boston, Mass.), *Vade-Mecum, French and English Technical and Military Terms*, by E. Plumon (Hachette and Co., London, or Brentano's, New York), *French Daily Life* (Newson and Co., New York), *Recueil provisoire français-anglais de termes militaires*,

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par la mission militaire française à l'Université Harvard avec l'approbation de l'Army War College (*in preparation*).

The authors wish to express their gratitude to all those who aided them in the preparation of this volume and especially to the officers of the French Military Mission to Harvard University, and to Captain Fernand Baldensperger, professor at the Sorbonne and exchange professor at Columbia University.

A. F. W.
P. W. L.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
December, 1917.

PRONUNCIATION

The student should not attempt to memorize the following rules but should keep them for reference.¹ He should practise those sounds which are different from English, observing very carefully the pronunciation of the teacher. Frequent repetition of the model words, or of others, may be made at any time. Students should try on one another the new words and phrases that they learn. In this way they can train their vocal organs and also train their ear in catching new words. Pronounce each word distinctly; do not be afraid to open your mouth or to make faces; it is necessary to do so in order to pronounce some French sounds.

Letters, Accents, Syllables

French letters are the same as English.

On looking at a page of French one notices certain marks or accents not found in English. There are three accents written over vowels: the acute accent (é); the grave accent (è); the circumflex (ê); as in *éperon, frère, même*.

The letter *c* is sometimes written with a cedilla (*ç*) under it to indicate the "soft" sound of *c* before *a, o, u*; as in *façon, français*. Soft *c* = *s* in English *sale*. To indicate the "soft" sound of *g* before *a, o, u*, an *e* is inserted just after the *g*, as in *mangeons*. Soft *g* = *si* in English *vision*.

¹ For a fuller treatment of the pronunciation the student is referred to Grandgent, *Essentials of French Grammar* (Heath & Co., Boston, Mass.), from which much of the matter in this lesson has been taken.