

**THE FRENCH LANGUAGE WITH OR
WITHOUT A TEACHER: THE EXACT
PRONUNCIATION IN ENGLISH SOUNDS
UNDER EVERY WORD; FRENCH VERBS
CONQUERED, IN THREE PARTS. - PART III**

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The French Language with or Without a Teacher: The Exact Pronunciation in English Sounds Under Every Word; French Verbs Conquered, in Three Parts. - Part III by Alfred Sardou

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ALFRED SARDOU

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THE
FRENCH LANGUAGE

WITH OR WITHOUT A TEACHER

THE EXACT PRONUNCIATION IN ENGLISH SOUNDS UNDER EVERY WORD

FRENCH VERBS CONQUERED

ALL VERBS, REGULAR AND IRREGULAR, AT A GLANCE, AND THE
DIFFICULTIES OF TENSES SIMPLY SOLVED

*A Practical Method for Learning to Speak, Read and Write
French Correctly, Arranged in 50 Conversation-Lessons.*

BY

ALFRED SARDOU

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PART III.

GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX

Exercises to be translated and corrected, and
all the French Verbs at a glance—reduced
to a single conjugation.

PART III.

GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX

I. — The Article.

DEFINITE. — ITS CONTRACTION. — PARTITIVE.

| ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS. | SINGULAR. | | | PLURAL |
|---|---|-----------|--|-------------------------|
| | Before a consonant or <i>h</i> aspirate. | | Before a vowel or <i>h</i> mute. | Before all Nouns. |
| | Masculine. | Feminine. | Masculine or Feminine. | |
| the, | le, | la, | l', | les. |
| to the, at the, | au, | à la, | à l', | aux. |
| of the, or, from the; also, some, or, any, before a noun, either expressed or understood. | du, | de la, | de l', | des. |

EXAMPLES.

Le maître est dans la bibliothèque (ber-dlee-o-fayk) avec les élèves, the master is in the library with the pupils; *Pavare est pauvre au milieu (mee-lee-uh) de ses richesses,* the miser is poor among his riches; *Je vais au marché,* I am going to market; *J'ai écrit à l'avocat,* I have written to the lawyer; *nous avons parlé aux vieux (see-uh) militaires,* we have spoken to the old soldiers; *il vient (vee-ang) du lac (la-lak),* he comes from the lake; *nous venons de l'hôpital,* we come from the hospital; *envoyez-moi (ahng-coah-eeay-moah) du thé (tay) et de la cannelle,* send me some tea and (some) cinnamon; *apportez de l'huile (lu-ee) et des olives,* bring some oil and (some) olives.

II. — Formation of the plural of Nouns and Adjectives.

1. To form the plural of French nouns and adjectives, add **s** to the singular; **le bon livre**, the good book; **les bons livres**, the good books.
2. Those ending in **s, x, z** do not change in the plural; **le corps** (*kor*), the body; **les corps**, the bodies; **un gros nez** (*gro-nāz*), a big nose; **de gros nez**, big noses.
3. Those ending in **au** or **eu** take **x** in the plural; **un tableau**, a picture; **des tableaux**, some pictures; **un feu**, a fire; **des feux**, some fires.

EXCEPTIONS.

- Feu**, late, deceased; **bleu**, blue, and **landau**, a sort of carriage, take **s** in the plural.
4. Those ending in **al** change this termination into **aux**; **le cheval**, the horse; **les chevaux**, the horses; **national, nationaux**, national.

EXCEPTIONS.

- Bal**, ball; **carnaval**, carnival; **régal**, a treat; **chacal**, jackal; **cal**, callosity; **sandal**, sandalwood, take **s** in the plural.
5. The following nouns ending in **ou** take **x** for the plural; **bijou**, a jewel; **caillon**, a pebble; **chou**, a cabbage; **genou**, the knee; **joujou**, a toy; **hibou**, an owl, and **pou**, a louse.
 6. The following in **ail** have **aux** in the plural; **baill** (*bah-ēē*), a lease; **corail** (*ko-rāh-ēē*), coral; **émaill** (*ay-māh-ēē*), enamel; **vitrail**, a large pane of glass for churches; **plumail**, a feather-brush; **soupirail**, an air-hole; **vantail**, a leaf of a door; **baux, coraux**, etc.

IRREGULAR PLURALS.

7. **Le ciel**, the sky; **les ciels**, the skies; **ciel**, tester of a bed, sky, in painting, or meaning climate, has the plural **ciels**. **L'œil** (*uh-ēē*), the eye; **les yeux** (*lāy-zee-uh*), the eyes: **Œil** is **œils** in **œils-de-bœuf**, oval windows, or in any compound substantive beginning with **œil**.

Aïeul (*ah-œuîl*), meaning grandfather, from paternal or maternal side, has the plural **aïeuls**; when ancestry are meant, **aïeux**.

Bétail has no plural; it is synonymous with **bestiaux**. Both mean *cattle*.

Monsieur (*muh-see-uh*), sir, Mr., gentleman; **madame**, madam, Mrs.; **mademoiselle**, miss, have the plural thus: **messieurs**, **mesdames**, **mesdemoiselles**.

III. — Formation of the Feminine in Nouns.

1. Nouns ending with a consonant, or with the vowels **é**, **l**, **u**, and susceptible of having both a masculine and feminine form, add **e** mute to the masculine. Those ending in **er** change this termination into **ère**: **un idiot**, **une idiote**, an idiot; **le bienvenu**, **la bienvenue**, welcome; **le marchand**, **la marchande**, the store-keeper; **le jardinier**, **la jardinière**, a male or female gardener.
2. Those ending with **e** mute do not change their termination in the feminine: **un esclave**, **une esclave**, a male or female slave.
3. A few, however, although ending with a mute **e**, change this **e** into **esse**: **âne**, **ânesse**, an ass; **tigre**, **tigresse**, a tiger; **un nègre**, a negro; **une nègresse**, a negress, etc.
4. Nouns in **en**, **on**, **et**, double their last consonant and add **e**: **un indien**, **une indienne** (*uhn-nang-dee-ang*, *uhnang-dee-ang*), an Indian; **un lion** (*ung-leeong*) a lion; **une lionne**, a lioness.

EXCEPTIONS.

Compagnon, a companion, and **patron**, a patron, make in the feminine: **compagne** and **patronne** (or, **patronesse**).

5. Nouns expressing situation in life, or qualities most possessed by men, are alike in the masculine and feminine; **auteur**, author; **peintre**, painter; **graveur**, engraver.