

**ECLECTIC EDUCATIONAL
SERIES; FIRST LESSONS
IN FRENCH: ILLUSTRATED**

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EMMA E. BULLET

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ECLECTIC EDUCATIONAL SERIES.

FIRST LESSONS

IN

FRENCH.

Illustrated.

BY

EMMA E. BULLET.

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PREFACE.

WITHOUT doubt the best place to teach a child French is in the nursery, by means of an intelligent nurse or competent governess, but, as this is not always practicable or convenient, the question as to the next best method immediately presents itself.

Too frequently the study of French is left so late in the child's school course that a perfect accent, if not an impossibility, is at least of very difficult acquisition. This delay has been mainly caused, perhaps, from the lack of proper text books on the subject. Because it is an impossibility for a young child to understand the technicalities of a foreign grammar, it does not necessarily follow, as many seem to think, that the language based on that grammar is also out of reach. Children, like parrots, learn to speak by imitation. In this little work, therefore, the author has introduced as few rules as possible. A vocabulary, a list of phrases, and, sometimes, a tense of some verb compose the material of a lesson. This material is presented (after the first few lessons) in three forms:

(1) The *Dialogue* or *Leçon*, always illustrated; the former should be committed to memory, and recited in the class in the form of conversation; it should also be used as an exercise in *dictée*, the only way of learning to spell in French.

(2) The *Exercice*, to be translated into French.

	PAGE
La Petit Boudeuse	94
Les Examens	98

CHOIX DE POÉSIES.

A Une Petite Fille	102
Le Diamant	102
L'Enfant et sa Mère	102
La Chanson de Jeannette	103
Pour rendre les Enfants Sages	103
Le Corbeau et le Renard	104
L'Ecole Buissonnière	104
L'Ecole de Maître Corbeau	106

LESSONS IN FRENCH.



LA PREMIÈRE LEÇON.

The girl, la fille.

The boy, le garçon.

The hat, le chapeau.

The gate, la porte.

The book, le livre.

The slate, l'ardoise (f).

The basket, le panier.

The head, la tête.

And, et; on, sur; there, là.

I have, j'ai.

Thou hast, tu as.

He has, il a.

She has, elle a.

We have, nous avons.

You have, vous avez.

They have, ils ont.

They have, elles ont (f).

The is represented by three words in French: *le* before a masculine word, as—*the book*, *le livre*; *la* before a feminine word, as—*the door*, *la porte*; and *les* plural for both *le* and *la*, as—*the books*, *les livres*; *the doors*, *les portes*.

There is no word in French to express *it*. It is represented by *il*, *he*, and *elle*, *she*; if, for example, we want a word to stand for *book*, we must use *he*, *il*,—*he is on the slate*, *il est sur l'ardoise*. If we want a word to stand for *gate*, we use *she*, *elle*,—*she is there*, *elle est là*.

EXERCICES.

Le garçon a le panier. Il a le panier. La fille a le livre. Elle a le chapeau sur la tête. La fille a l'ardoise et le livre. Vous avez l'ardoise, le livre, et le panier. Il a le chapeau sur la tête. J'ai le chapeau.

Have you the book? I have the book and the slate. The girl has the slate. The boy has the hat on his (*la*) head. The girl has the hat on her (*la*) head. Has he the book? The girl has the book, and the boy has the basket. We have the basket, the slate, and the book.

CONVERSATION.

A-t-elle le livre? Avez-vous l'ardoise? A-t-il le panier? Avez-vous le chapeau sur la tête? Le garçon a-t-il le panier? La fille a-t-elle le livre? A-t-elle le chapeau? Avons-nous le panier? Ont-ils le livre?

*The *t* in *a-t-il* and *a-t-elle* is to prevent the harsh sound in the pronunciation of *a-il*, *a-elle*.

LA SECONDE LEÇON.



Le Père et la Fille.

A father, un père.
A girl, une fille.
A dog, un chien.
A mantel-piece, une cheminée.

A grate, une grille.
A chair, une chaise.
A table, une table.
A fire, un feu.
A cane, une canne.

Under, sous; *where*, où; *my*, mon; *here is*, voilà.

I am, je suis.
Thou art, tu es.
He is, il est.
She is, elle est.

We are, nous sommes.
You are, vous êtes.
They are, ils sont.
They are, elles sont (*f*).

A or *an* is represented in French by *un* for the masculine