

**FRENCH WITH OR WITHOUT A
MASTER. A PRACTICAL COURSE
IN FRENCH CONVERSATION FOR
SELF-INSTRUCTION AND
SCHOOLS, PART 1**

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French with or Without a Master. A Practical Course in French Conversation for Self-Instruction and Schools, Part 1 by M. D. Berlitz

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FRENCH

WITH OR WITHOUT A MASTER

A PRACTICAL COURSE IN FRENCH CONVERSATION

FOR SELF-INSTRUCTION AND SCHOOLS

BY

M. D. BERLITZ

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PART I

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PREFACE.

THE advantages claimed for this method are :

(a) The lessons are mostly based on object-teaching ; this results in the student's associating perception with the foreign expressions ; he thus is soon able to think in the foreign idiom.

(b) Nearly all the lessons are in shape of conversation, in order to continually drill the student's ear and tongue.

(c) The most useful is always taught first, so that the student's mind is not encumbered with rules and word forms that he cannot immediately use and will forget again before needing them.

(d) Where rules are to be given, they are illustrated by striking examples, so that even those who are not good grammarians can fully understand them.

(e) The pronunciation of all difficult words or expressions is carefully transcribed, so that the students need not constantly rely on their teacher and can, if necessary, progress entirely without him.

(f) All idioms or other difficulties are carefully explained in order to emancipate the intelligent students from their teacher.

The method is designed :

(1) For self-instruction : the student in such case reads over aloud and several times each lesson and then asks himself the questions of the book, answering them.

(2) For reciprocal instruction in clubs or parties of

friends, each member alternately taking the role of the teacher, asking the questions and letting the others alternately answer. This has the advantage over self-instruction that the ear is more thoroughly drilled in catching the foreign sounds by hearing other people's voices, and as several heads know more than one, each student will be able in his turn to correct mistakes made by his fellow-students.

(3) For schools in which a course in conversation is desired, besides the ordinary course in grammar and translation, both courses being followed in this book.

(4) For schools that have large classes or cannot give a great deal of time to French; as in this book the students find all pronunciation and other difficulties thoroughly explained, so that they can do a great deal of work outside of their recitations.

By editing this work I, of course, do not at all mean to contradict my opinion, so frequently expressed and defended, that in schools where French is taught by native instructors and where the classes are small, it is far better to avoid all translation. Consequently, such schools I advise to employ not this book, but the regular Berlitz method as it has been used so far, containing no English whatever, and based still more on object-teaching.

The key to all exercises contained in this book is published separately.

Price, \$0.25.

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INTRODUCTION.

RULES FOR PRONUNCIATION.

Most of the French sounds have no exact equivalent in English; we can therefore only approximately describe French pronunciation, and not speak at all of minor shades of sound. For this reason we advise the students, if possible, to have some educated Frenchman pronounce for them at least the most peculiar sounds, such as the *u*, *eu*, *gn*, the nasals, and the "liquid *l*."

ACCENT: Lay the same stress on every syllable of the word, but if the latter ends in *r* lay a trifle more stress on the last syllable.

THE VOWELS: *a* is as in *father* (we shall represent it by *ah*); examples: *chat*, *rat*, *pas*, *étalage*, *table*; pronounce: *shah*, *rah*, *pah*, *ettah-lah-ah*, *tahbl*.

i is (1) as in *fit* (we shall represent it by *ÿ*, at the end of words by *y*); examples: *lit*, *fini*, *sorti*, *fidèle*, *fier*; pronounce: *ÿ*, *fÿnny*, *sorty*, *fÿddail*, *fÿ-air* (nearly like: *fÿair*).

(2) like *ee* in *meet*; examples: *venir*, *lire*, *lle*, *vive*; pronounce: *v'neer*, *leer*, *eel*, *veeve*.

y is generally like the French *i*.