

LE PILOTE: THE KEY TO THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

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Le Pilote: The Key to the French Language by Georges Grégoire

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GEORGES GRÉGOIRE

**LE PILOTE: THE KEY
TO THE FRENCH
LANGUAGE**

Le Pilote

The Key to the French Language

BY

GEORGES GRÉGOIRE

FOR TWENTY-TWO YEARS INSTRUCTOR IN FRENCH AND AN
AUTHORITY ON THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

New and simple method, making clear the fundamental
principles of French pronunciation and reading

PUBLISHED BY

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Only after a thorough familiarity with the rules formulated in the following lessons can one lay claim to an intelligent and useful knowledge of the French language.

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE

DURING twenty-two years' experience as a French instructor the author has had occasion to meet every year, either professionally or socially, scores of people of every walk of life. Some of them have studied French in the schools, or privately, for years, or even during all their lives. Every year, too, a number of parents have brought their children asking me why they make no progress in the language.

Notwithstanding their ambition and eagerness to master the beautiful French language I have seldom had the pleasure of finding even a few who could carry on a conversation logically and comprehensibly.

The chief cause of their failure I have always found to be the erroneous system of teaching French without first giving the pupil a thorough grounding in pronunciation, together with the following of too many incoherent text-books, which cause mental indigestion and discouragement. During all their years of study these unfortunate ones have tried to fill a bottomless basket.

The French language is logically constructed and easily mastered, but let no one expect to acquire a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of its fundamentals unless, first of all, he devotes at least three months to learning the contents of the scientifically constructed lessons in this volume, which embody all the rules governing French pronunciation. Then he will find that he has opened wide the door leading to intelligent conversation.

To all who thus show their earnestness the author, knowing the beauty of *la langue française* and the joy in its study, wishes "Godspeed."

GEORGES GRÉGOIRE.

SUGGESTIONS

1. It should be clear to the student that the correct pronunciation of French is really the keynote of the language.
2. These lessons are most important and each should be given diligent study and patient practice before attempting the next.
3. These lessons are not merely rules for pronunciation and guides to conversation and translation; they are the basic principles of the French language.
4. After mastering these lessons, the beginner is prepared to accomplish more in his first three months' work in conversation than he would be able to do in three years under the old tedious and baseless systems of teaching.
5. Observant students will notice that the practice exercises of each lesson embody not only the principles of that particular lesson but also those of the preceding lessons. This blends each separate lesson into the final perfect whole.
6. Inasmuch as the backbone of the language is here set forth, students should, in order to assure a foundation for the future, spend at least three months mastering these lessons before attempting conversation or translation.
7. While the lessons are extremely simple in statement and so arranged that one may undertake their study alone, it will be found more advantageous to learn them under the guidance of a competent instructor.
8. In addition to the definite rules for pronunciation, students will find in this volume a complete and useful vocabulary. There are also abundant sentences for conversation, and scores of selected short stories for their educational value and moral content or for their spark of humor.