

Diarmuid Brittain

CCEA | GCSE

# FRENCH VOCABULARY BOOK 4

Verbs, Conjunctions & Other Useful Phrases



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**The Author**

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He lives with his wife and three children in Belfast and remains a Francophile through and through.

This book has borrowed inspiration from hundreds of pupils over the years and it is dedicated to each and every language student and teacher that has graced the doors of Grosvenor Grammar School.

This book has been written to help students preparing for the GCSE French specification from CCEA. While Colourpoint Educational and the author have taken every care in its production, we are not able to guarantee that the book is completely error-free. Additionally, while the book has been written to closely match the CCEA specification, it is the responsibility of each candidate to satisfy themselves that they have fully met the requirements of the CCEA specification prior to sitting an exam set by that body. For this reason, and because specifications change with time, we strongly advise every candidate to avail of a qualified teacher and to check the contents of the most recent specification for themselves prior to the exam. Colourpoint Educational therefore cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions in this book or any consequences thereof.

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## Introduction

This is one of four books that form a resource for English-speaking students of French and which seeks to promote **student-led vocabulary acquisition**. It is designed to **promote independent learning** and **free up teacher time**. While it is tailored for GCSE students, it is a powerful resource for all English-speaking students of French.

### What do the books cover?

Various GCSE French syllabi (CCEA, WJEC, Edexcel, AQA, OCR) have common vocabulary lists. While this resource makes specific reference to the CCEA specification, it covers the vocabulary listed in all these syllabi and can be used with all of them.

The resource is divided into four books, the first three of which cover the three areas of core vocabulary as presented in the GCSE syllabi:

1. Identity, Lifestyle and Culture
2. Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
3. School Life, Studies and the World of Work

The resource is completed by a fourth book (this book):

4. Verbs, Conjunctions and Other Useful Phrases, which includes an alphabetical list of the most common verbs in French, as well as a list of common connectors, *la Colle Française* (French glue).

### Why these books?

- These books are designed to be used independently by students.
- Traditionally, students have been given lists of vocabulary to learn without pronunciation guides and without *aide-mémoires*. With these books, teachers can hand vocabulary learning over to their students, giving the teacher more time to focus on the challenging grammar that requires teacher-led pedagogy.
- Research shows that pupils prefer to learn from hard copies.
- Pupils can have a sense of ownership of this a resource because they can annotate it.
- The most recent GCSE CCEA specification (first examined in 2017) places more emphasis on Listening and Reading, demanding a higher level of vocabulary acquisition.
- This resource can be used independently by students from Year 8 onwards, building over five years to GCSE success. This is particularly useful for schools that need to use remote learning from time to time.

### What is the structure of this book?

The vocabulary in the book is presented in the same order as it is presented in the CCEA GCSE syllabus, i.e. in alphabetical order by the English meaning.

Each word has a **pronunciation guide**. The benefits of this are the following:

- Learners can check their pronunciation of the word.
- Learners can test understanding from looking only at the pronunciation guide, thereby improving their listening skills.
- Learners can test themselves on how to write – in correct French – the phonetically described word, thereby improving the accuracy of their writing.
- Learners can work in pairs to test each other orally from English to French and/or French to English.

Most words also have an **aide-mémoire**. *Aide-mémoire* is French for ‘memory aid’. People often struggle under the burden of learning vocabulary, and take little pleasure from the task.

It is the author’s belief that if a student can find links between their own language and a foreign one, it makes the process of vocabulary acquisition more of a journey of discovery than a drudgery, and importantly, it allows the learner to hook the foreign words onto words that have already been assimilated in their brain.

The author likes to work with the premise ‘words can make you laugh!’ There are a number of attempts to be humorous throughout the book, in an effort to link words to the mind of the student. Learners may describe these attempts as ‘dad jokes’ – but the author believes that learners secretly like them!

The book also includes sections entitled **Practise!** These allow students to practise what they have learned, embedding their learning. Teachers will also find these sections useful in order to set homework or cover work.

### What are the tick boxes for?

Each word has three tick boxes. These are provided in order to give the student a way to track their progress and organise their learning. The author suggests the following approach, though you can use whatever method works for you:

- Tick the first box when you have learned the word for the first time. When you are organising your revision use this tick to indicate to yourself what you have covered.
- When you come back later to check that you have retained the word, you can tick the second box.
- By the time you go in to your GCSE exams, you should have been able to tick the third box, to show that you have embedded that word in your brain.

### Abbreviations

The book uses the following abbreviations:

(m)	masculine	e.g. <i>Un garçon</i> , a boy
(f)	feminine	e.g. <i>Une fille</i> , a girl
(m/f)	masculine or feminine	e.g. <i>Un/une professeur</i> , a teacher
(mpl)	masculine plural	e.g. <i>Des garçons</i> , (some) boys
(fpl)	feminine plural	e.g. <i>Des filles</i> , (some) girls

# 1. Les verbes les plus importants

[The most important verbs – alphabetically ordered by French]

**Note:** Not all parts of every verb are given because you don't need them if you know the following rules for the present tense:

- If the *je* part ends in **e**, then the rule for *il/elle* is as shown in this example:  
Je joue **e** → Il/Elle joue
- If the *je* part ends in **ds** or **cs**, then the rule for *il/elle* is as shown in these examples:  
Je vend**ds** → Il/Elle vend  
Je convain**cs** → Il/Elle convainc
- If the *je* part ends in **is**, **rs**, **ts** or **ns**, then the rule for *il/elle* is as shown in these examples:  
Je cro**is** → Il cro**it**  
Je sor**rs** → Il sor**t**  
Je met**ts** → Il met  
J'atte**ns** → Il atteint  
(Note: the *il/elle* part **never** ends in **s**.)
- The *tu* part always ends in **s**, apart from two exceptions, 'tu veux' (you want) and 'tu peux' (you can).
- If the *nous* part ends in **ons**, then the *vous* part ends in **ez**. The only exceptions are 'nous faisons' (vous faites), 'nous disons' (vous dites) and 'nous sommes' (vous êtes).
- The *ils* part and the *elles* part are the same and always end in **nt** (most often ending in **ent**).
- Irregular subjunctive forms are noted in brackets.

Word or phrase	Key forms of the verb	Aide-mémoire	English meaning	Check
Abandonner	J'abandonne, nous abandonnons, ils abandonnent, j'abandonnerai, j'ai abandonné,	Abandon the ship, give it up	Abandon, give up	
Absenter, s'	Je m'absente, nous nous absentons, ils s'absentent, je m'absenterai, je me suis absenté(e)	Absent oneself	Absent oneself, stay away	
Accepter	J'accepte, nous acceptons, ils acceptent, j'accepterai, j'ai accepté		Accept	
Accompagner	J'accompagne, nous accompagnons, ils accompagnent, j'accompagnerai, j'ai accompagné		Accompany	
Acheter	J'achète, nous achetons, ils achètent, j'achèterai, j'ai acheté	A <b>purchase</b> is linked. 'I bought an <b>achtray</b> and then I stopped smoking'. What an idiot!	Buy	
Admirer	J'admire, nous admirons, ils admirent, j'admirerai, j'ai admiré		Admire	

Word or phrase	Key forms of the verb	Aide-mémoire	English meaning	Check
Adopter	J'adopte, nous adoptons, ils adoptent, j'adopterai, j'ai adopté		Adopt	
Adorer	J'adore, nous adorons, ils adorent, j'adorerai, j'ai adoré		Love, worship	
Affluer	J'afflue, nous affluons, ils affluent, j'affluerai, j'ai afflué	Flood in, flow in. A <b>flux</b> is a flow, a rush.	Rush in	
Agir	J'agis, il agit, nous agissons, ils agissent, j'agirai, j'ai agi	To <b>agitate</b> is to act in an <b>agitating</b> way	Act	
Agir, s... de, Il s'agit de	Il s'agit de, agissons, agissent, il s'agira de, il s'est agi de	Literally 'it acts itself of', e.g. 'It acts itself of working' – il s'agit de travailler, 'it's about working'.	It's about	
Aider	J'aide, nous aidons, ils aident, j'aiderai, j'ai aidé	Aid	Help	
Aimer	J'aime, nous aimons, ils aiment, j'aimerai, j'ai aimé	Amiable is kind, you like your ami, friend	Like, love	
Ajouter comme ami	J'ajoute <i>Sam</i> comme ami, nous ajoutons, ils ajoutent, j'ajouterai, j'ai ajouté	An adjunct is something that is added on. <b>Ajouter</b> , <b>addition</b> .	Add (as a friend)	
Aller bien	Je vais, tu vas, il/elle va, nous allons, ils vont, j'irai, je suis allé (aille, ailles, allons, aillent)	Go down the <b>alley</b> . Benign, benefit, benevolent. Ben is good, well.	Go well	
Aller à la pêche	Je vais, tu vas, il/elle va, nous allons, ils vont, j'irai, je suis allé (aille, ailles, allons, aillent)	Go down the <b>alley</b> . Pêche – Poseidon (Greek God of the Sea), pisces (zodiac sign, fish), <b>pescatarian</b> .	Go fishing	
Allumer	J'allume, j'ai allumé	To illuminate, light up, switch on	Switch on	
Améliorer	J'améliore, nous améliorons, ils améliorent, j'améliorerai, j'ai amélioré	To ameliorate is to improve. Meilleur – better (make better – ameliorate). Meilleur ami – bestie.	Improve	
Amuser, s' ...	Je m'amuse, nous nous amusons, ils s'amusent, je m'amuserai, je me suis amusé	Amuse, amusement	Have a good time	
Annuler	J'annule, il annule, nous annulons, ils annulent, j'annulerai, j'ai annulé	If you annul a marriage, you cancel it	Cancel	
Apparaître	J'apparaîs, il apparaît, nous apparaîssons, ils apparaissent, j'apparaîtrai, j'ai apparu	Apparition, appearance	Appear	
Appeler, s' ...	Je m'appelle, nous nous appelons, ils s'appellent, je m'appellerai, je me suis appelé	To appeal to someone is to call to them	Call, be called	
Apprécier	J'apprécie, nous apprécions, ils apprécient, j'apprécierai, j'ai apprécié		Appreciate	