

# Transition work from GCSE French to A Level

Votre nom \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Bienvenue à tous !***

Like any subject you are taking up at A level, there is a big step between the expectations at GCSE and what you will need to learn and produce for A Level.

The great news is that you will be fluent in French by the end of this 2 year A Level course!

Let's start with grammar. If you're not keen on grammar, it is not all we will be doing in this Sixth Form in French but it will be a large part of it. So, if you love grammar (or just don't mind it too much), you'll be fine! Anyhow, grammar is good because it is something you can learn and work out on your own. A lot of it will be independent work because grammar is best learnt when you work it out yourself. Too much explanation often makes it sound so confusing...

Thus, because grammar is something for you to work out (with guidance from your teachers obviously), we will give grammar a large place in this transition work. Bear this in mind: we will do other things too!

For this transition booklet, you are expected to use a French-English dictionary. Your digital options remain: Word.Reference / Linguee / Collins-Roberts bilingual. Over the first two weeks of the course in September, we will give you feedback on the completion of this transition booklet.

Any question? Just email me! *Jean-Philippe*

*Petit*

KS5 & KS4 French Lead [jppetit@huishepiscopi.net](mailto:jppetit@huishepiscopi.net)

## **1. Match the French and the English for these infinitives:**

Espérer		Choose from:
Souhaiter		1. To be able to
Penser		2. To have to
Compter		3. To know how to swim
Oser		4. To hope
Désirer		5. To dare
Pouvoir		6. To wish
Devoir		7. To desire, want
Savoir nager		8. To want
Vouloir		9. To think
	10. To count, to bank on	

## **2. Work out the first person singular of the present tense:**

I hope I dare I think I desire, want I want	<i>Ex: j'espère</i>	I wish I know how to swim I have to I count I can	
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### 3. Work out the third person plural feminine of the present tense:

They hope They dare They think They desire They want	<i>Ex : elles espèrent</i>	They wish They know how to swim They have to They count They can	
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### 4. Work out the third person singular of the present tense:

she hopes he dares she is thinking he desires she wants	<i>Ex: elle espère</i>	she wishes he knows how to swim She has to She is counting he can	
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#### What's the fuss about infinitives in French?

First, it is very frequently used in French and very typically so. It's often not too different to English but sometimes very different indeed. You can string three infinitives together and it sounds elegant in French but clunky in English (*il faut détester devoir mentir pour obtenir une promotion = one has to hate to have to lie to obtain a promotion*).

Second, infinitives formulate **intentions** and **purpose**: in French, when you express a **possibility**, a **necessity** or the **ability** to do something, you will have to use an infinitive most of the time.

#### Examples:

Je peux nager. Je sais nager. Je peux sortir ce soir. Je ne peux pas faire du cheval demain. Je dois faire mes devoirs. Je souhaite m'inscrire. Elle souhaite t'inscrire. Elle n'ose pas parler. Tu peux compter sur moi Ne compte pas sur lui.	I am able to swim. I know how to swim. I am allowed to go out tonight. I can't go horse riding tomorrow. I have to do my homework I want to register. She wants to register you. She dares not to speak. You can count on me Don't count on him.
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RE-write the French example sentences above in the most appropriate column below:

Possibilité et intention	Nécessité	Capacité (ability)

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<p><b>Real French: usual everyday language</b></p> <p><b>Désirer:</b> this verb doesn't just mean 'to desire'. In French, it is used as a polite way to say someone wants something (intention more than wish). It is frequently used in shops for instance.</p> <p><b>Souhaiter:</b> this verb is not just 'to wish'. It also means 'to want' (intention more than wish).</p> <p><b>Compter:</b> to count on, to expect</p> <p><b>Oser:</b> means to dare, to be bold but does not mean to be defiant like 'dare'.</p>	<p>'Can I help you?'</p> <p>'I would like to buy those earrings, please'</p> <p>'What would you like?'</p> <p>She wants to talk to the boss.</p> <p>I do not want to go to university this year.</p> <p>I'm expecting to go to Tuscany next summer</p> <p>He's counting on getting a pay rise soon.</p> <p>Tu n'oses pas lui dire, n'estce pas ?</p>	<p>= Vous désirez ?</p> <p>= Je désire acheter ces boucles d'oreille.</p> <p>= Que désirez-vous ?</p> <p>= Elle souhaite parler au patron</p> <p>= Je ne souhaite pas aller à l'université cette année</p> <p>= Je compte aller en Toscane l'été prochain</p> <p>= Il compte obtenir une augmentation bientôt</p> <p>= you don't feel strong enough to tell him, don't</p>
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		you? [NOT Don't you dare tell him!]
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5. Translate the sentences below into English:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Je ne peux pas venir ce soir.</li><li>2) Ils peuvent attendre dans le couloir.</li><li>3) Elle ne peut pas venir demain soir.</li><li>4) Elle doit arriver vers seize heures.</li><li>5) Mathilde ne sait pas nager.</li><li>6) Tu n'oses pas parler de tes problèmes avec moi ?</li><li>7) Je te souhaite un bon anniversaire !</li><li>8) Je souhaite acheter un drone avec l'argent de mon anniversaire.</li><li>9) Nous désirons parler au patron du restaurant, s'il vous plaît.</li><li>10) Nous voulons manger maintenant.</li><li>11) Ils veulent partir demain matin.</li><li>12) Elle n'ose pas demander une augmentation à son patron.</li><li>13) Je désire acheter un collier pour ma petite copine.</li><li>14) Ils n'osent pas en parler.</li><li>15) Ne compte pas sur moi.</li><li>16) Elle ne souhaite pas faire de sport. Elle préfère lire.</li></ol> |  |
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**6. Translate the following sentences into French. Use the verbs given in the first column**

Souhaiter / parler	He doesn't want to talk to me	<i>Exemple: il ne souhaite pas me parler.</i>
Détester / travailler	She hates working in a restaurant	
Pouvoir / venir	She can come tonight.	
Pouvoir / regarder	We can watch a film tomorrow night.	
Savoir / faire du cheval	I don't know how to ride.	
Souhaiter / organiser	I want to organise a party for my birthday.	
Vouloir / aller	She wants to go to the Maldives.	
Désirer / acheter	I would like to buy those shoes.	
Détester / devoir / aller	They hate to have to go to school.	
désirer / acheter	What would he like to buy?	
Espérer / acheter	I hope to buy a house next year	
Espérer / aller	We hope to go to France in the summer	
Aimer / écouter	They don't like listening to music	
Compter / acheter	I'm counting on buying a new car	
Compter / venir	He's not counting on coming on Thursday	
Souhaiter / participer	They (fem) don't want to take part.	
Préferer / lire	They (fem) prefer reading.	

## 7. Verbs using 'de'

Some French verbs need to be used with 'de'. They are normally followed by an infinitive.

Examples:

Il a enfin accepté de lui parler = he eventually accepted to talk to him.

Elle a refusé d'accepter la promotion = she refused to accept the promotion. Je ne

me souviens pas d'elle = I don't remember her.

**A** – Learn the following verbs that need to be followed by ‘to’. Create your own set of flashcards for instance or copy the list twice.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accepter de</li> <li>2. Avoir besoin de</li> <li>3. Accuser de</li> <li>4. En avoir assez de</li> </ol>	<p>To accept to            To need to            To accuse of            To have enough of</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. avoir l’intention de</li> <li>6. manquer de</li> <li>7. se souvenir de</li> <li>8. avoir peur de</li> <li>9. rêver de</li> <li>10. empêcher de</li> <li>11. venir de</li> <li>12. être en train de</li> <li>13. essayer de</li> <li>14. oublier de</li> <li>15. défendre de</li> <li>16. avoir envie de</li> <li>17. promettre de</li> <li>18. demander de</li> <li>19. mériter de</li> <li>20. menacer de</li> </ol>	<p>To intend to            To lack            To remember, to recall            To be scared of            To dream of            To prevent from            To have just done            To be in the process of            To attempt to, to try            To forget to            To forbid to, to ban            To fancy, to eagerly want to            To promise to            To ask to            To deserve, to merit            To threaten to</p>

**B** – Translate the following sentences into English (to help you, verbs in boxes A and B have the same number)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Elle a accepté de parler à son beau-père.</li><li>2. Nous avons besoin de commander de nouveaux stylos pour l'école.</li><li>3. La prof m'a accusé de voler son portable.</li><li>4. J'en ai assez des colères votre fille, Carla !</li><li>5. Est-ce que tu as l'intention de répondre à leur email ?</li><li>6. Il manque de bon sens dans cette situation. 7. Tu te souviens de Monsieur Leblanc, notre prof de dessin ?</li></ol> |  |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>8. J'ai peur d'inquiéter mes parents si je rentre trop tard.</li><li>9. Je rêve de travailler pour les Affaires Etrangères.</li><li>10. Carla ne va pas m'empêcher vivre ma vie !</li><li>11. Il vient d'appeler sa belle-mère sur son portable.</li><li>12. Ils sont en train de discuter avec Carla.</li><li>13. Il essaye de comprendre Carla mais elle est folle !</li><li>14. J'ai oublié de te dire que Carla est enceinte.</li><li>15. Il m'a défendu de parler à Carla.</li><li>16. Il n'a pas envie de rencontrer Carla.</li><li>17. Elle a promis à Carla de lui donner une nouvelle voiture à Noël.</li><li>18. Je vais vous demander d'attendre dans le couloir, s'il vous plaît.</li><li>19. Il ne mérite pas gagner cette compétition.</li></ol> |  |
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20. Carla me menace de tout raconter à la police.	
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### 8. 'Il faut...' + infinitive

The expression 'il faut' expresses a need or a necessity. In English, it could be translated by 'one has to', 'it is necessary to', 'you must', 'you have to' or 'you should', all English phrases expressing need and necessity.

#### A - Examples (present tense)

Il faut manger sain. Il ne faut pas t'inquiéter. Il me faut un marteau. Il faut être patient.	= one has to eat healthily (= you should eat...) = you shouldn't worry (= one mustn't worry) = I need a hammer (= I should get a hammer) = one has to be patient (= you have to be patient)
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#### B - Examples (past tense / imparfait)

Il fallait accepter leur décision. Il ne fallait pas m'attendre Il ne fallait jamais accepter ces conditions.	= You had to accept their decision. = You shouldn't have waited for me. = one should never have accepted these conditions.
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#### C - Examples (future tense)

Il faudra repasser ta chemise. Il ne faudra pas râler. Il faudra écrire une lettre d'excuse.	= You will have to iron your shirt. = You won't be in a position to whinge. = it will be necessary to write a letter of apology.
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#### D – Practice: translate the following sentences into English

1. Il faut acheter une voiture neuve pour éviter les ennuis.  2. Il faut manger cinq fruits ou légumes par jour.  3. Il faut apprendre un nouvel alphabet pour étudier l'arabe.	
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4. Il faut parler au patron pour obtenir une augmentation.	
5. Il faut protéger les îles Galapagos.	
6. Il ne faut pas jeter de plastique dans la mer.	
7. Il ne fallait pas partager ton opinion avec Carla.	
8. Il fallait te méfier de lui : c'est un voleur.	
9. Il faudra installer une meilleure serrure pour éviter un autre cambriolage.	
10. Il faudra terminer le projet le mois prochain.	

### 9. To be or to have? Être ou avoir?

You must have come across a series of expressions that use 'avoir' when English uses 'to be'. For instance: "J'ai seize ans" could be translated word for word as 'I have 16 years'. In correct English, you know that means 'I am 16 years of age'.

In a nutshell, if it can change, it probably is something you have (in French) rather than be. Here follows a list of those expressions:

1. Avoir faim	To have hunger / to be hungry
2. Avoir soif	To have thirst / to be thirsty
3. Avoir peur	To have fright / to be scared
4. Avoir le droit	To have the right to
5. Avoir un âge / avoir seize ans	To have an age
6. Avoir raison	To be right (to have good reasons)
7. Avoir tort	To be wrong
8. Avoir chaud / froid	To be hot / cold
9. En avoir marre de	To be fed up with
10. En avoir assez de	To have enough of

**A - Translate these ten examples into English:**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. J'avais souvent faim le soir après la gym.</li> <li>2. Le chien n'avait pas soif.</li> <li>3. Carla a vraiment peur des araignées.</li> <li>4. Nous n'avons pas le droit de manifester devant le ministère.</li> <li>5. Napoléon aurait eu cent ans en 1869.</li> <li>6. Il est parfois préférable de rester silencieux même si on a raison.</li> <li>7. Il n'a pas complètement tort mais j'ai décidé ne pas suivre son avis.</li> <li>8. J'avais très chaud hier mais aujourd'hui je tremble parce que j'ai froid.</li> <li>9. J'en ai vraiment marre de tes bêtises !</li> <li>10. Carla en a assez de toutes les critiques que ses parents expriment.</li> </ol>	
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**B – Now translate the following sentences into French.**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. She is never hungry in the morning.</li> <li>2. He was so thirsty after the marathon!</li> <li>3. I am older than you since you are 16.</li> </ol>	
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. She is not right.</li><li>5. I was wrong to think that you loved me...</li><li>6. Everyday she is very hot since she works in a kitchen.</li></ol> |  |
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## 10. Make me... Faire + infinitive / rendre + adjective

You can make someone speak or make someone work. You can also make someone sad or someone happy. If I make you work, I'm using an infinitive to express it in English (make + work, two infinitives combined). If I make you sad, I'm using an infinitive + an adjective.

How does it work in French?

### A. Faire + infinitive – Examples:

1. Je vais le faire parler.	1. I'm going to make him speak.
2. Le prof fait travailler les étudiants.	2. The teacher makes the students work.
3. Ils essayeront de lui faire croire que ce n'est pas possible.	3. They will try to make him believe that it is not possible.
4. Je te fais marcher.	4. 'I am making you walk' (idiom meaning 'I am winding you up')
5. Ne me fais pas pleurer !	5. Don't make me cry !

### B. Rendre + adjective – Examples:

1. A cause de mes allergies, le poisson me rend malade.	1. Because of my allergies, fish makes me ill.
2. Voir tant de corruption en politique me rend fou (masc) (folle, fem) !	2. Seeing so much corruption in politics make me crazy!
3. Lire rend intelligent.	3. Reading makes you clever.

### C. Practice. Translate the sentences below into French

1. He is making me worry (use the adjective 'inquiet / inquiète').	
2. Fortunately, she made me understand physics (use the verb 'comprendre').	
3. The Maldives make me dream of a holiday (use the verb 'rêver').	
4. It made me happy to hear that she had a baby.	

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Singing makes you happy.</li><li>6. Seeing so much poverty make you want political change.</li><li>7. A big risk must make you cautious.</li><li>8. Swimming makes people more robust.</li><li>9. Drinking water makes me more alert.</li><li>10. The bird makes its nest more comfortable.</li><li>11. The new off-side rule makes football less interesting.</li><li>12. Carla made me believe that she can drive.</li><li>13. Carla made me cry yesterday.</li><li>14. The French teacher makes us work very hard.</li><li>15. The French teacher doesn't make me laugh.</li></ol> |  |
|--|--|