LANGUAGE

Country's language

Belgium has three official languages: Dutch, French and German. A number of non-official minority languages are spoken as well. As no census exists, there are no official statistical data regarding the distribution or usage of Belgium's three official languages or their dialects. However, various criteria, including the language(s) of parents, of education, or the second-language status of foreign born, may provide suggested figures. An estimated 59% of the Belgian population are native speakers of Dutch (often referred to as Flemish), and 40% of the population speaks French natively and only 1% of the population speaks German. French-speaking Belgians are often referred to as Walloons, although the French speakers in Brussels are not Walloons.

In this document we will focus on the French language.

Alphabet

The French alphabet has 26 letters and is similar to the English one. Only the pronunciation varies.

French Alphabet	**Pronunciation Example**
A a	a as in **smart**
B b	b as in **banana**
C c	c as in **card or city**
D d	d as in **do**
E e	e as in **very**
F f	f as in **flower**
G g	g as in **go**
H h	h is not pronounced in French. When used next to the letter C [ch], it's pronounced as in cherry. When used next to the letter P [ph],it's pronounced as is photo

French Alphabet	Pronunciation Example
I i	ee as in **bee**
J j	j as in **job**
K k	k as in **keep**
L l	l as in **love**
M m	m as in **man**
N n	n as in **no**
O o	o as in **origin**
P p	p as in **power'**
Q q	q as in **quality** In French the letter Q is always followed by the letter U which is not pronounced
R r	r as in **robot**
S s	s as in **snake**
T t	t as in **tomato**
U u	u as in
V v	v as in **very**
W w	
X x	x as in **box**
Y y	

French Alphabet	Pronunciation Example
Z z	z as in **zebra**

Numbers

English Numbers	French Numbers
numbers	**chiffres**
one	un
two	deux
three	trois
four	quatre
five	cinq
six	six
seven	sept
eight	huit
nine	neuf
ten	dix
eleven	onze
twelve	douze
thirteen	treize

English Numbers	French Numbers
fourteen	quatorze
fifteen	quinze
sixteen	seize
seventeen	dix-sept
eighteen	dix-huit
nineteen	dix-neuf
twenty	vingt
twenty one	vingt et un
twenty two	vingt deux
twenty three	vingt trois
tirthy	trente
fourthy	quarante
fifty	cinquante
sixty	soixante
seventy	septante
eighty	quatre vingt
ninethy	nonante
hundred	cent

English Numbers	French Numbers
one thousand	mille
million	million

DAYS: The days of the week in French

Days **Jours**	**Monday** **Lundi**
Tuesday **TMardi**	**Wednesday** **Mercredi**
Thursday **Jeudi**	**Friday** **Vendredi**
Saturday **Samedi**	**Sunday** **Dimanche**

PERSONNES: family members in French

people  **personne(s)**	**husband**  **mari**
wife  **femme**	**father**  **père**
mother 	**son** 

mère	**fils**
daughter  **fille**	**brother**  **frère**
grandfather  **grand-père**	**grandmother**  **grand-mère**

COLORS: the main colors in French

colors  **couleur(s)**	**black**  **noir**
white  **blanc**	**gray**  **gris**
blue  **bleu**	**green**  **vert**
brown  **brun**	**purple**  **mauve**
red	**orange**



rouge



orange

yellow
jaune

Phrases: common everyday phrases - words in Greek

English	French
Greetings	
Hi!	**Salut !**
Good morning!	**Bonjour**
Good afternoon!	**Bonjour**
Good evening!	**Bonsoir**
Welcome! (to greet someone)	**Bienvenue**
Hello my friend!	**Bonjour mon ami !**
How are you? (friendly)	**Ça va ?**
How are you? (polite)	**Comment allez-vous ?**
I'm fine	**Je vais bien**
And you? (friendly)	**Et toi ?**
And you? (polite)	**Et vous ?**
Good	**Bien**

English	French
Not so good	Ça peut aller
Thank you (very much)!	Merci (beaucoup)
You're welcome! (for "thank you")	De rien
Come in! (or: enter!)	Entre (polite :Entrez)
Farewell Expressions	
Have a nice day!	Passe une bonne journée polite : Passez une bonne journée
Good night!	Bonne nuit
See you later!	À plus tard
See you soon!	À bientot
See you tomorrow!	À demain
Good bye!	Au revoir
Have a good trip!	Bon voyage
I have to go	Je dois y aller
I will be right back!	Je reviens tout de suite
Holidays and Wishes	
Good luck!	Bonne chance
Happy birthday!	Joyeux anniversaire
Happy new year!	Bonne année

English	French
Merry Christmas!	Joyeux Noël
Happy Easter!	Joyeuse Pâques
Congratulations!	Félicitations
Enjoy! (or: bon appetit)	Bon appétit
How to Introduce Yourself	Se présenter
What's your name?	Comment tu t'appelles ?
My name is …….	Je m'appelle…….
Nice to meet you!	Enchanté(e)
Where are you from?	D'où viens-tu ?
I'm from ……..	Je viens de……
Where do you live?	Où est ce que tu vis ?
I live in …….	Je vis à……..
Do you like it here?	Est-ce que ça te plait ici ?
What do you do for a living?	Que fais-tu dans la vie ?
Do you speak (English/ French)?	Est-ce que tu parles anglais/français ?
Just a little	Juste un peu
I'm trying to learn French	J'essaie d'apprendre le français
It's a hard language	C'est une langue difficile

English	French
How old are you?	Quel âge as-tu ?
I'm ……. years old	J'ai….. ans
It was nice meeting you!	Ravi(e) de t'avoir rencontré
This is my wife	Voici ma femme
This is my husband	Voici mon mari
Solving a Misunderstanding	
Sorry! (or: I beg your pardon!)	Excuse-moi Excusez –moi (polite)
Sorry (for a mistake)	Désolé(e)
No problem!	Pas de problème
Can you repeat please?	Peux-tu répéter ? Pouvez-vous répéter (polite)
Can you speak slowly?	Peux-tu parler plus lentement ? Pouvez-vous parler plus lentement ? (polite)
Can you write it down?	Peux-tu l'écrire ? Pouvez-vous l'écrire ? (polite)
Did you understand what I said?	As-tu compris ce que j'ai dit ?
I don't understand!	Je ne comprends pas
I don't know!	Je ne sais pas
What's that called in French?	Comment cela se dit en français ?

English	French
What is this?	Qu’est-ce que c’est ?
My French is bad	Mon Français est mauvais
I agree with you	Je suis d’accord avec toi
Is that right?	C’est correct ?
Is that wrong?	C’est faux ?
Asking for Directions	
Excuse me! (before asking someone)	Excusez-moi !
I'm lost	Je suis perdu(e)
Can you help me?	Pouvez-vous m’aider ?
I'm not from here	Je ne suis pas d’ici
How can I get to (this place, this city)?	Comment faire pour aller à…… ?
Go straight	Allez tout droit
Then	Ensuite
Turn left	Tournez à gauche
Turn right	Tournez à droite
Can you show me?	Pouvez-vous me montrer ?
Come with me!	Venez avec moi !
How long does it take to get there?	Combien de temps il faut pour se rendre là ?

English	French
Downtown (city center)	Dans le centre-ville
Historic center (old city)	Le centre historique (la vieille ville)
It's near here	C’est près d’ici
It's far from here	C’est loin d’ici
I'm looking for ……	Je recherche……..
One moment please!	Un instant s’il vous plait
Hold on please! (when on the phone)	Patientez s’il vous plait
He is not here	Il n’est pas là
Airport	Aéroport
Bus station	Gare routière / Arrêt de bus
Train station	Gare
Taxi	Taxi
Near	Près
Far	Loin
Emergency Survival Phrases	
Help!	À l’aide
Stop!	Arrêtez or Stop
Fire!	Au feu

English	French
Thief!	Au voleur
Run!	Courrez !
Watch out! (or: be alert!)	Attention
Call the police!	Appelez la police
Call a doctor!	Appelez un docteur
Call the ambulance!	Appelez une ambulance
Are you okay?	Est-ce que ça va ?
I feel sick	Je ne me sens pas bien
I need a doctor	J’ai besoin d’un docteur
Accident	Accident
It hurts here	J’ai mal ici
It's urgent!	C’est urgent
Calm down!	Calmez-vous
You will be okay!	Ça va aller !
Can you help me?	Pouvez-vous m’aider ?
Can I help you?	Puis-je vous aider ?
Daily Expressions	
What time is it?	Quelle heure est-il ?

English	French
It's … o'clock	Il est….. heure
Give me this!	Donnez-moi cela
Take this! (when giving something)	Prenez cela
It's freezing (weather)	Il fait un froid glacial
It's cold (weather)	Il fait froid
It's hot (weather)	Il fait chaud
Do you like it?	Est-ce que tu aimes ?
I really like it!	J’aime vraiment
I'm hungry	J’ai faim
I'm thirsty	J’ai soif
In The Morning	Le matin
In the evening	Le soir
At Night	Pendant la nuit
Hurry up!	Fais vite
Short Expressions and words	
Good	Bien
Bad	Mal
So-so (or: not bad not good)	

English	French
Big	Grand
Small	Petit
Today	Aujourd’hui
Now	Maintenant
Tomorrow	Demain
Yesterday	Hier
Yes	Oui
No	Non
Fast	Rapide
Slow	Lent
Hot	Chaud
Cold	Froid
This	Ceci
That	Ce, cette
Here	Ici
There	Là-bas
Me (ie. Who did this? - Me)	Moi
You	Toi

English	French
Really?	**Vraiment ?**
Look!	**Regardes, regardez**
What?	**Quoi ?**
Where?	**Où ?**
Who?	**Qui ?**
How?	**Comment ?**
When?	**Quand ?**
Why?	**Pourquoi ?**

Language Certification Procedure

Beside the **integration pathways** (see point 9 IMMIGRATION) where the newly arrived immigrants must follow a 400 hours of French lessons you have official organization offering French courses as:

Promotion sociale : which gives the opportunity to follow French courses as a foreign language but also several training in several professional sectors.

These courses are provided for workers, jobs seekers, students, seniors and everybody who wishes to learn.

There are day or evening courses in general 6 to 8 hours per week.

There is a fee of around 100 €/year but which could be refunded if you are unemployed, asylum seekers new arrived migrants.

The condition to register are to be at least 15 years old and having finished the 2 first year of Secondary School. To pass an exam to assess your level of knowledge.

Links:

Promotion Sociale in Brussels:

https://www.prosocbru.be/liste_langues.php?sql=francais

www.CPSU.be/langues

www.itnpromotionsociale.be

www.iepsevere.be

www.cpsoc.be

www.institut-machtens.be

In Wallonia:

Namur: www.iepsef-namur.be

Liège: www.ecolesfps.be

Tournai: www.iepsef-tournai.be

You have also French and other language courses provided by the private sector but which could be expensive.

CLL languages Centres: www.cll.be

Berlitz: www.berlitz.be