

So, why should YOU study French?

There are more than 70 good reasons...

1. French is the eleventh most widely spoken language in the world.
2. French is the official language of 33 countries in the world.
3. French is spoken in two of the G7 countries.
4. French is the mother tongue of 75 million people.
5. 200 million people around the world understand, speak, read or write French.
6. French is the official language of postal services across the world.
7. French is one of the official languages of the International Red Cross.
8. Along with English, French is the official working language of the United Nations, UNESCO, NATO, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund, the International Labour Bureau, and the International Olympic Committee.
9. French is the dominant working language at the European Court of Justice, the European Tribunal of First Instance, the European Court of Auditors in Luxembourg, and the Press Room at the European Commission in Brussels.
10. French-speaking Africa represents an area larger than the USA.
11. French is the most widely taught second language after English.
12. Over 20,000 English words have their origins in French.
13. In terms of number of words, French is the second largest language after English.
14. In the humanities and the social sciences many of the most important writings have come from France. Students and researchers who know French have access to these works for several years before they are translated into English. Many significant works are never translated and remain accessible only to those who know the language.
15. France is one of the world's major foreign tourist destinations (60 million tourists a year).
16. France is Europe's foremost investor abroad.
17. France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany have the lowest rates of inflation in the European Union. This is an indicator of the health of these countries.
18. France is in fourth position in terms of world power and it does not have the debt problems facing many other major industrialised nations. (A positive sign for joint projects, business and scientific co-operation.)
19. France has the fourth largest economy in the world after the U.S., Japan and Germany.
20. France is the fourth largest producer of automobiles in the world (Renault, Peugeot, Citroën) and the third largest exporter.
21. France is the second largest exporter of agricultural products in the world after the U.S.
22. The French export more per capita than the Japanese and more than twice as much as the Americans. Overall, France is the fourth largest exporting nation of the world.
23. France is the world's leader in the production of luxury goods.
24. France is renowned for the quality of its high tech. It has the world's fastest train, the TGV, and is a leader in aerospace, engineering, physics, and many other sciences.
25. France offers a range of generous scholarships to our graduate students.
26. Paris had 1,100 congresses in 1993 (including 400 international congresses) - a

- world record.
27. France has the world's greatest number of Nobel Prize winners in literature (12).
 28. Paris is considered the capital of the world in terms of quality of life (Healey and Baker 1991)
 29. Trade with Australia in 1995 totalled the following (figures obtained from the French-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry):
 - Imports 6,366,000,000 francs (the highest level recorded)
 - Exports 4,393,000,000 francs (1 Australian dollar = 3.5 French francs)
 30. Megabucks for trade: In 1994 the United States did business / trade with the following countries in order of importance: 1. French speaking countries; 2. Japan; 3. Spanish speaking countries.
 31. A good knowledge of French enables you to fully enjoy, at the cinema or on TV, the best films from the French speaking world.
 32. Learning French can help you improve the interpersonal skills you bring to your international career.
 33. You can do so many more interesting things on the internet if you speak French. There are many high quality internet sites available in French ranging from fashion to finance, society to science, music to medicine... just to mention a few.
 34. For those with the appropriate skills there are also possibilities for work in the following fields:
 - international business.
 - international agencies.
 - the tourism and hospitality industries.
 - the diplomatic service.
 - French research institutes.
 - as a teacher.
 - as a translator or interpreter.
 35. And don't forget the other 42 or so good reasons: **Due to France's past colonial power, there are now at least forty-two different countries, spread over five continents, where you can use the language...**

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