

How can I practice/study French outside of class?

1. Practice French ALOUD.

You double your efficiency when you add auditory memory to visual memory- which means words will "stick in your head" easier with regular auditory practice. Look at pictures in your notes or things/people in front of you and practice naming things in French. As you advance, describe situations or thoughts in French.

2. Read French ALOUD.

Reading aloud builds fluency. Words will come out easier and you won't feel like you "sound funny" if you get used to hearing your own voice in French. Read sentences from your notes or the workbook aloud. Focus on correct pronunciation.

3. Practice writing until you can spell the word without looking.

Writing accurately is part of learning a language and you will be assessed on it. Just as you practiced writing and spelling in elementary school to master English, you need to do the same to learn a foreign language. Writing also helps a person remember better than if someone only looks at a word. If you want to quadruple your efficiency when studying, look at a picture for example, say the word, and write the word- then check for accuracy. As you move into upper levels, you can challenge yourself by using complete sentences to describe a picture.

4. Use flashcards to memorize words and grammar concepts.

Flashcards can be created on paper or online (Quizlet) by students to assist in memorizing words or grammar concepts. You can write the French word on one side and the English on the other. Or you can write the French word on one side and draw a picture of what it represents on the other.

5. Listen to teacher-suggested audio sources.

Listening to French outside of the class will help reinforce what you have already learned. The more you listen, the less "weird" and more "normal" the language will sound. Using resources I suggest to you will be most helpful as they will contain vocabulary that we have been practicing. Practice repeating what you hear to develop an authentic accent!

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