

*Sites, Writing in French in the 90s: Vol 3, Issue 2 [Roger & Dalmolin, Eliane Celestin] on calendrierdelascience.com*  
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Julie Baker, and Dr. Writing in a first language is difficult. Writing in a second language proves to be even more of a challenge. This page is intended to help those students who face the task of writing in French. Tips for getting started: The first idea that professors suggest is to always write in French! To become a better writer, you must begin to think in French, letting your thought process help you with the writing, not hold you back by trying to translate in your head. Use simple French if you must, but get in the habit of putting your thoughts down on the page in the language. This will be difficult at first, but here are some ways to organize your thoughts and to help you with the process. Make an outline of your thoughts Brainstorm any ideas that come to mind and write them on the page Use vocabulary lists to trigger your creativity and thought Cluster your ideas in groups and use lines to connect your thoughts on paper. Do not get caught up in trying to do a word for word translation from English. There are different syntaxes and different grammatical structures in French than in English. If you try to do a direct translation of your thoughts, you will get frustrated when you cannot find the idiomatic expressions that you want to use. Instead, use grammatical structures that you know. To make your paper better without being overwhelmed with structure, vary your vocabulary. Be sure to consult a French-English dictionary and then to check the definition in a French dictionary. Here are some more specific tips to keep in mind while writing. Avoid general words like *tres* or *choses* Do not use the passive voice unless there is a special situation. More ways to improve your writing: A good idea to keep in mind is that your writing can only be as advanced as your reading level. Therefore, read in French as much as possible! As you read, you will begin to notice certain patterns of structure that the French tend to use. As you write, keep these patterns in mind and use them in your own writing. Doing this will help to diminish the English accent that not only appears in your voice but also in your writing. Using your peers for help is also a good idea when writing. Some words of caution: Plagiarism is much easier to fall into within a foreign language than in your native language. Students tend to find information on the internet and copy and paste it into essays without citing it. Plagiarism is illegal no matter the language! Be sure to give a full citation for every source that you use in the correct format of the langue. Different professors will require you to cite in different formats, so be sure to ask your professor which format he or she prefers.

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Gaul was overrun by Germanic tribes, in the north principally by the Franks who gave France its name and by the Visigoths and Merovingians in the south. But the Latin speech survived: While it retained relatively few Celtic words, the developing language had its vocabulary greatly enriched by Germanic borrowings, and its phonetic development was influenced by Germanic speech habits. The 9th-century Norse incursions and settlement of Normandy, by contrast, left few traces in the language. The Romans had introduced written literature, and until the 12th century almost all documents and other texts were in Latin. A German version also survives. Only a few other texts, all religious in content, survive from before about 500. Early texts show a broad division between the speech of northern Gaul, which had suffered most from the invasions, and that in the more stable, cultured south, where the Latin spoken was less subject to change. From the last one stemmed Anglo-Norman, the French used alongside English in Britain, especially among the upper classes, from even before the Norman Conquest until well into the 14th century. Each dialect had its own literature. But, for various reasons, the status of Francien increased until it achieved dominance in the Middle French period after 1400, and from it Modern French developed. Old French was a fine literary medium, enlarging its vocabulary from other languages such as Arabic, Occitan, and Low Latin. It had a wide phonetic range and, until the decay of the two-case system it had inherited from Latin, syntactic flexibility. The context and nature of French medieval literature Whatever Classical literature survived the upheavals of the early Middle Ages was preserved, along with pious Latin works, in monastic libraries. By encouraging scholars and writers, Charlemagne had increased the Latin heritage available to educated vernacular authors of later centuries. He also left his image as a great warrior-emperor to stimulate the legend-making process that generated the Old French epic. There one finds exemplified the feudal ideal, evolved by the Franks, that was the means of establishing a hierarchy of dependency and, thereby, a cohesiveness that would lead to a national identity. As stability increased under the Capetians, windows opened onto other cultures and elements: The Roman Catholic church grew in wealth and power, and by the 12th century its schools were flourishing, training generations of clerks in the liberal arts. Society itself became less embattled, and the nobility became more leisured and sophisticated. The machismo of the epics was tempered by the social graces of courtoisie: By the 13th century an additional source of patronage for writers and performers was the bourgeoisie of the developing towns. New genres emerged, and, as literacy increased, prose found favour alongside verse. Much of the literature of the time is enlivened by a rather irreverent spirit and a sometimes cynical realism, yet it also possesses a countercurrent of deep spirituality. In the 14th and 15th centuries France was ravaged by war, plague, and famine. Along with a preoccupation in literature with death and damnation, there appeared a contrasting refinement of expression and sentiment bred of nostalgia for the courtly, chivalric ideal. At the same time a new humanistic learning anticipated the coming Renaissance. The jongleurs, professional minstrels, traveled and performed their extensive repertoires, which ranged from epics to the lives of saints the lengthy romances were not designed for memorization, sometimes using mime and musical accompaniment. Seeking an immediate impact, most poets made their poems strikingly visual in character, more dramatic than reflective, and revealed psychology and motives through action and gesture. Such oral techniques left their mark throughout the period. Most are anonymous and are composed in lines of 10 or 12 syllables, grouped into *laissez strophes* based on assonance and, later, rhyme. Their length varies from about 1, to more than 18, lines. The genre prospered from the late 11th to the early 14th century, offering exemplary stories of warfare, often pitting Franks against Saracens, that fire the emotions with their insistent rhythms. Under the influence of the genre known as romance, however see below The romance, the *chansons de geste* lost some of their early vigour. Their story lines became looser, their adventures more exotic, and their tone often amatory or even humorous. Many were eventually turned into prose. Cycles formed as new songs were composed featuring heroes, families, or themes already familiar. The epics in the *Geste de Doon de Mayence*

deal with rebellious vassals, among them Raoul de Cambrai, in a gripping story of injustice and strained loyalties. The First Crusade is handled, with legendary embellishment, in a minor cycle. Controversy surrounds the origins of the genre and its development and transmission. It is not known how most of the poems came to contain elements, somewhat garbled, from Carolingian history some years before their composition. Some scholars believe in a continuous process of oral transmission and elaboration. Others suppose the historical facts were retrieved much later by poets wishing to celebrate certain heroes, many of whom were associated with pilgrim routes that the jongleurs could then ply with profit. In fact, very few texts belong to the period before the romance. The romance, which came into being in the middle of the 12th century in France and flourished throughout the Middle Ages, was a creation of formally educated poets. The earliest romances took their subjects from antiquity: Alexander the Great, Thebes, Aeneas, and Troy were all treated at length, and shorter contes were derived from Ovid. The standard metre of verse romance is octosyllabic rhyming couplets. It differs from the *chanson de geste* in concentrating on individual rather than communal exploits and presenting them in a more detached fashion. It offers fuller descriptions, freer dialogue, and more authorial intervention. There is more interest in psychology, especially in the love situations. The universally popular legend of Tristan and Isolde had evolved by the mid-12th century, apparently from a fusion of Scottish, Irish, Cornish, and Breton elements, beginning in Scotland and moving south. The main French versions both fragmentary are by the Anglo-Norman poet Thomas c. His first known romance, *Erec et Enide*, is a serious study of marital and social responsibilities and contains elements of Celtic enchantment. *Yvain ; ou, le chevalier au lion* The Knight with the Lion treats the converse of the situation depicted in *Erec et Enide*. The grail, first introduced here, was to become, as the Holy Grail, a remarkably potent symbol. The unique *Aucassin et Nicolette*, a charmingly comic idyll told in alternating sections of verse to be sung and prose to be recited, pokes sly fun at the conventions of epic and romance alike. Its first exponents were the Occitan troubadours, poet-musicians of the 12th and 13th centuries, writing in medieval Occitan, of whom some are known by name. Among them are clerics and both male and female nobles. The troubadours no longer considered women to be the disposable assets of men. The *canso*, French *chanson*, made of five or six stanzas with a summary *envoi*, was the favourite vehicle for their love poetry; but they used various other forms, from dawn songs to satiric, political, or debating poems, all usually highly crafted. Guilhelm IX, duke of Aquitaine see William IX, the first known poet in the Occitan language, mixed obscenity with his courtly sentiments. Among the finest troubadours are the graceful Bernard de Ventadour; Jaufre Rudel, who expressed an almost mystical longing for a distant love; the soldier and poet Bertran de Born; and the master of the hermetic tradition, Arnaut Daniel. Rutebeuf wrote verse in personal, even autobiographical mode though the personal details are probably fictional on a variety of subjects: It appears in pious and didactic literature and, as authorial comment, in other genres but more usually in general terms than as particular, corrective satire. Human vice and folly also serve purely comic ends, as in the *fabliaux*. These fairly short verse tales composed between the late 12th and the 14th centuries—most of which are anonymous, though some are by leading poets—generate laughter from situations extending from the obscene to the mock-religious, built sometimes around simple wordplay and frequently elaborate deceptions and counterdeceptions. They are played out in all classes of society but predominantly among the bourgeoisie. Many *fabliaux* carry mock morals, inviting comparison with the didactic fables. Realistic in tone, they paint instructive pictures of everyday life in medieval France. They ultimately yielded in importance to the farces, bequeathing a fund of anecdotes to later writers such as Geoffrey Chaucer and Giovanni Boccaccio. Inspired partly by the popular animal fable, partly by the Latin satire of monastic life *Ysengrimus*; Eng. *Ysengrimus*, the collection of ribald comic tales known as the *Roman de Renart* Renard the Fox began to circulate in the late 12th century, chronicling the rivalry of Renart the Fox and the wolf Isengrin, and the lively and largely scandalous goings-on in the animal kingdom ruled by Noble the Lion. By the 14th century about 30 branches existed, forming a veritable beast epic. Full of close social observation, they exude the earthy humour of the *fabliaux*; but, particularly in some of the later branches, this is sharpened into true satire directed against abuses in church and state, with the friars and rapacious nobility as prime targets. Allegory, popular from early times, was employed in Latin literature by such authorities as Augustine,

Prudentius , Martianus Capella , and, in the late 12th century, Alain de Lille. But the most influential allegorical work in French was the Roman de la rose The Romance of the Rose , where courtly love is first celebrated, then undermined. Guillaume, however, left the poem unfinished, with the dreamer frustrated and his chief ally imprisoned. Courtly idealism is shunned for a practical, often critical or cynical view of the world. Love, only one of many topics treated in the completed version, is synonymous with procreation; and a misogynistic tone pervades the writing. The Treasure of the City of Ladies sets out in detail the important social roles of women of all classes. Lyric poetry in the 14th century Allegory and similar conceits abound in much late medieval poetry, as with Guillaume de Machaut , the outstanding musician of his day, who composed for noble patronage a number of narrative dits amoureux short pieces on the subject of love and a quantity of lyric verse. A talented technician, Machaut did much to popularize and develop the relatively new fixed forms: A prolific writer, he dealt with public and private affairs, sometimes satirically; but he composed little love poetry, and his work was not set to music. Jean Froissart , the chronicler, also wrote pleasantly in a variety of lyric forms, as did Christine de Pisan, whose poetry had a greater individuality. There is an elegiac tone to much of his graceful courtly verse. At the University of Paris, where he became Master of Arts in , he acquired some learning but also became involved in rioting, robbery, and manslaughter. The Testament and Other Poems. It uses the octets of the Lais interspersed with ballades and rondeaux and is similarly packed with personal gossip, often tongue-in-cheek but leaving a bitter aftertaste. Following more brushes with justice , Villon disappeared for good, narrowly escaping hanging. Commonly considered to have been the first modern French poet, he brings a personal note to the familiar lyric themes of age, death, and loss and mixes elegy with irony, satire, and burlesque humour. His verse shows great technical skill, a keen command of rhythmic effects, and an economy of expression that not only enhances his lively wit but produces moments of intensely focused vision and, in individual poems, moving statements of human experience. None of his contemporaries or immediate successors was able to match the vigour of his verse. Often obsessed by metrical ingenuity, extravagant rhymes, and other conceits, they favoured Italian as well as Classical models, thus heralding the Renaissance. It is unfair, however, to judge them by their words alone, since music was, for most, a vital ingredient of their art. Prose literature Prose flourished as a literary medium from roughly Other Arthurian romances adopted it, notably the great Vulgate cycle written between and , with its five branches by various hands. The Tristan legend was reworked and extended in prose. As well as traditional material, new fictions appeared in prose, taking a very different view of love, and often in the form of short comic tales.

## Chapter 3 : Numbers in French

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In , the ending of the civil war and the return to political normalcy in Lebanon began. With the peace among all factions in Lebanon, the rebuilding of Lebanon and its capital, Beirut, started. Israeli military forces withdraw from the Palestinian territories in compliance with the accord, which marked the end of the First Intifada a period of violence between Palestinian Arab militants and Israeli armed forces from to The Palestinian National Authority is created in in accordance with the Oslo Accords, giving Palestinian Arab people official autonomy over the Gaza Strip and West Bank , though not official independence from Israel. In , a peace treaty is signed between Israel and Jordan. He remained in the cabinet as Senior Minister. In July , North Korean leader Kim Il-sung died, having ruled the country since its founding in His son Kim Jong-il succeeded him, taking over a nation on the brink of complete economic collapse. In the Philippines two Presidents were elected, Fidel V. Ramos in and Joseph Estrada in Indonesian president Suharto resigned after ruling for 32 years " German reunification " Germany reunified on 3 October as a result of the fall of the Berlin Wall and after integrating the economic structure and provincial governments, focused on modernization of the former communist East. People who were brought up in a socialist culture became integrated with those living in capitalist western Germany. Less than two years later on the infamous Black Wednesday of September , the pound sterling crashed out of the system after the pound fell below the agreed exchange rate with the Deutsche Mark. The restructuring of the Soviet Union destabilizes, as nationalist and separatist demagogues gain popularity. Boris Yeltsin , then chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Russia , resigns from the Communist Party and becomes the opposition leader against Mikhail Gorbachev. Yeltsin became president of the successor Russian Federation and presided over a period of political unrest, economic crisis, and social anarchy. On 31 December , Yeltsin resigned leaving Vladimir Putin as acting president. The European Union forms in under the Maastricht Treaty. It affirmed both the right of the people of Ireland to self-determination , and that Northern Ireland would be transferred to the Republic of Ireland from the United Kingdom only if a majority of its population was in favour of such a move. It included, as part of the prospective of the so-called "Irish dimension", the principle of consent that the people of the island of Ireland, had the exclusive right to solve the issues between North and South by mutual consent. This marked the beginning of the end of 25 years of violence between the IRA and the United Kingdom, and the start of political negotiations. The Belfast Agreement a. A total of 1, ballots were spoiled. The National Assembly for Wales established following the Welsh devolution referendum, was held on 18 September in which voters approved the creation of the National Assembly for Wales by a majority of 6, votes, or His administration is marked by economic development but also by numerous human rights violations La Cantuta massacre , Barrios Altos massacre , and a rampant corruption network set up by Vladimiro Montesinos. Notable world leaders[ edit ].

## Chapter 4 : How to Describe Yourself in French: 9 Steps (with Pictures)

*In French, a space is required both before and after all two- (or more) part punctuation marks and symbols, including: ; Â«Â»!? % \$ # Colon or Les Deux-Points ":" The colon is much more common in French than in English.*

## Chapter 5 : Top French Songs You Must Hear - FrenchCrazy

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## Chapter 6 : Learn French Numbers

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*Not all the singers are French, but the music is nonetheless in French and recognized by Francophones. Most of the music has been played on French radio, on French television, or in French clubs/bars. Here is a playlist containing all of the YouTube videos. For the latest French songs from and , see our other list.*

### Chapter 7 : BBC - Culture - The 1990s: The decade that never ended

*French counting words to count from 0 (zero) to (cent) 1: un 2: deux 3: trois 4: quatre 5: cinq 6: six 7: sept 8: huit 9: neuf dix.*

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### Chapter 9 : Writer's Web: Writing in French

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