

Top Ten Translanguaging Tips: French & English



Adjective-Noun Order

French

- Adjectives largely follow the noun they modify
- Only adjectives of beauty, age, goodness, and size precede nouns

"Le client silencieux est ici."

English

- Adjectives precede the noun they modify
- Adjectives have no pluralization or gender

"The silent client is here."

French

- Only infinitives are used to express a verb in a noun form or function
- Gerunds (-ing forms) do not exist

"J'aime écrire"

English

- Gerunds are more often used to express verbs in a noun form or function

"I love writing" or "I love to write"



Infinitives v. Gerunds



Negation

French

- Double negation is used
- Double negative elements surround verbs with one on either side

"Le client ne va pas en thérapie."

English

- Single negation is used; double negation is a grammatical error
- Auxiliary 'do' may be used where tense (the time of the verb) is unclear

"The client does not go to therapy."

French

- Does not use question words frequently
- Uses subject-verb inversion and intonation to indicate a question

"Veux-tu participer?"

English

- Uses auxiliary verbs to form questions
- The tense of the question is indicated by the 'do' auxiliary and removed from the verb

"Do you want to participate?"



Question Formation



Adverb Placement

French

- Adverbs are often placed between a verb and its object

"Je parle très bien l'anglais."

English

- Adverbs may be placed before verbs, before elements they modify, or sentence-finally

"I speak English very well."

Top Ten Translanguaging Tips



Articles

French

- Almost all nouns require articles, most of which are definite
- General concepts, feelings, and ideas utilize definite articles

"*Les vendredis, nous étudions la grammaire.*"

English

- Specific, countable nouns require definite articles
- General, plural nouns and noncount nouns do not require articles:

"*On Fridays, we study grammar.*"

French

- The prepositions 'at' and 'to' are expressed with one word, with the difference denoted contextually:

"*Je vais à l'école.*"
"*Je suis à l'école.*"

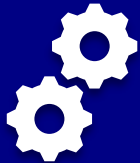
English

- 'At' represents a static location
- 'To' represents movement toward an object

"*I go to school.*"
"*I am at school.*"



At/To



Auxiliary Verb: Do

French

- Verb tenses are all indicated in sets of inflectional endings
- Auxiliary "do" does not exist

"*Il étudie l'anglais.*"

English

- Many verb tenses are expressed in two-part structures of an auxiliary verb, expressing the tense, and another verb, expressing the meaning:

"*He does study English.*"

French

- Possessive adjectives match the gender and number of the noun possessed, not the possessor's gender

"*Elle promene son chien.*"

English

- Possessive adjectives match the gender and number of the possessor, not the possessed noun's gender

"*She walks her dog.*"



Possessive Adjectives



Progressive Tenses

French

- French does not contain a progressive tense
- Adverbial elements indicate ongoing events

"*Je suis en train de lire.*"

English

- Ongoing activities are expressed with a progressive tense (e.g., present progressive)

"*I am reading.*"

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Multilingual Writer Support