

# Welcome to the Alliance Française d'Adelaide

French Language and Cultural Centre  
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## Opening hours

Monday to Thursday: 9.00am to 6.30pm

Friday: 9.00am to 6.00pm

Saturday: 9.30am to 1.00pm

(subject to change during holiday periods)

The Alliance offers courses given by **native speakers** and based on a **communicative method**. Our primary goal is giving learners enough confidence to be able to cope with real life situations. The focus is on **functional language** and classroom activities that maximise opportunities for students to use French in a communicative way for meaningful activities. They provide opportunities for rehearsal of real-life situations as well as providing opportunities for real communication. The emphasis is on creative role-plays, simulations, surveys, projects, discussions, etc.

The communicative approach emphasises conversation without neglecting the area of grammar. As the correctness of language and the language structure are essential, our teachers will occasionally give you some grammar explanations.

As the best way to learn a foreign language is to be immersed, our teachers will speak as much French as possible in the classroom.

## STUDENT MATERIAL

With its focus on developing communicative competence, the textbook **Campus** offers students lots of opportunities to speak, along with a reasonable approach to grammar. It follows the standards of the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages**.

The exercise book provides students with grammar exercises to practice and strengthen their skills.

A correction booklet is provided, which enables students to correct themselves. Instead of spending time on exercise correction, teachers can spend time clearing up any doubts.

For those who want/need more support materials, audio CDs and a CD-ROM are also available. Ask reception for more information.

## LEARNING PROCESS

Learning a foreign language can be a rewarding challenge. With good teachers and a supportive environment like the Alliance Française, the challenge can be both stimulating and enjoyable. Our teachers are always here to help you throughout the learning process. However, learning a foreign language takes time, effort and persistence - the secret rules. Motivation is surely the best trick to get you going.

Not understanding and making mistakes are a natural part of the language learning process and it is essential that you accept the fact that you will not understand everything.

There will be an initial period of adaptation when your ear and your mind are adjusting to the sounds of French. You will not understand all of what is being said. However, through more practice, you will be amazed at your increasing ability to make sense of the language.

# WHAT MAKES A GOOD LANGUAGE LEARNER?

A good language learner:

☞ **is willing to experiment and take risks.** Leave perfectionism at the door and allow yourself to make mistakes because you will learn from your them.

☞ **sets realistic expectations.** It takes time and effort to become proficient in French and expect periods when you do not seem to be making much progress. Identify your needs before you get started and set yourself achievable goals.

☞ **is proactive, independent and organised.** You will not speak French fluently just by sitting in the classroom. Develop an organised approach to your language learning. Keep a list of your language learning achievements spaces (ie *last week I have learned... I am now able to...*) to encourage and motivate yourself. Develop your own personal system for highlighting items, for example, underline, use different colour highlighters, draw circles, etc.

☞ **studies frequently and for shorter periods of time.** It is more efficient to break study time into smaller chunks than study infrequently for extended periods of time. Try to do a few homework exercises every day or every second day rather than doing all homework the night before the class. In addition, make the most of mentally "idle" moments during the day when you can fit in some study. For instance, you can review the alphabet while having a shower, count your steps in French as you walk, name as many objects as you can in French at the office or anywhere.

## Your opinion is always welcome

*Our teachers are always willing to know your opinion about what is going on in the class, so please do not hesitate to talk to your teacher directly if you have any comments, questions, special requests or suggestions.*

*If you need help or advice regarding your learning or progress, do not hesitate to ask your teacher or our teaching coordinator (Sandrine).*

*We rely on your opinions and experiences to help us improve our services to students. Once a year, students are given an anonymous feedback form to fill in. Please note that we welcome any constructive criticism at anytime by mail, email or telephone.*

## PARKING

A car park is located at the back of the building. On-street parking is available from time to time.

## MAKING THE MOST OF LEARNING RESOURCES...

- ?? **Don't forget what you are eligible for...** to help you practise French at home, the Alliance provides you with a wide range of materials and resources. As a student, you have access to the Resource Centre, which includes books, magazines, videos, and CDs. You can borrow one item per week: either a book, a CD or a video. You can also become a member at any time throughout the course. Membership entitles you to many more benefits. For example, you will get discounts with our Alliance partners (see the list of our partners at <http://www.af.org.au>). You will also receive 5% discount on our French language courses and greater access to our Resource Centre, as well as automatically receiving our monthly newsletter, Echanges.
- ?? **Use the internet...** to practise reading authentic, up-to-date language material, go to French pages on the Internet. The Alliance website [www.af.org.au](http://www.af.org.au) provides you with lots of useful links to help you practise your skills (online newspapers, specialist dictionaries, grammar exercises and explanations, chatrooms, radio and TV stations, etc.).
- ?? **Need help with your French?** If you have any problems, if you're unclear on a grammatical rule, give us a buzz or come to the Alliance and we will do what we can to help you. Sandrine is at your service by telephone, fax, email or in person to answer all the questions you may ask on Tuesdays from 4pm to 6pm and Wednesdays from 10am to 12noon. Don't hesitate to clear up any doubts! It's our pleasure to help you.

## FORM STUDY GROUPS

Everyone has strengths and weaknesses when it comes to language learning. You might find it useful to meet regularly with classmates to work together on homework or just to practise French. Studying with others helps decrease knowledge gaps and gives you opportunities to actively discuss concepts and material covered in class.