French Composition and Grammar Review

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FRENCH COMPOSITION
AND
GRAMMAR REVIEW

BY

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TO A LOVER OF FRANCE

DR. RAYMOND WEEKS
Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur
Professor of Romance Languages
At Columbia University
This book is gratefully dedicated
PREFACE

This book has been written to provide a simple review of the essentials of French grammar; and to afford suitable composition material for second year classes. It is conveniently divided into (1) Lecture Française; (2) English Exercises based upon the French; and (3) Grammar Review.

The Lecture Française contains thirty-six short sketches on interesting phases of French thought and French life. An earnest effort has been made to present strikingly modern material that the average student will find interesting.

Some of the sketches are in the form of description; others are in the form of dialogue, according to the nature of the topic treated. In all cases they are in the language of every day,—the language that is employed in informal conversation. The past definite is sparingly used, so that practice in the proper conversational past tense, the past indefinite, may be emphasized. The simple style of the sketches will direct and encourage the student to use in a natural manner the unstilted and informal language forms that are so truly characteristic of French conversation.

The English Exercises for translation into French are based directly on the thirty-six units of the Lecture Française. They cover quite thoroughly the vocabulary and grammatical content of the French text, and are arranged in the form of connected discourse. Special care has been taken to make no unnecessary demands on the capacity of the student. The English Exercises are simple and clear and will permit the average student to feel encouraged with his efforts. In the relatively few instances where explanatory notes were deemed necessary, the
student is referred to the Grammar Review for the explanation of the point under consideration.

The Grammar Review is made up of twenty-four Lessons. Each of these divisions takes up in a methodical way one or more of the simple grammatical problems of elementary French in combination with the more usual tense forms of auxiliary and of regular verbs. The student is then gradually led up to the more extended problems of first year French, always and continually studying verbs, — first, regular verbs, then, verbs with orthographical peculiarities, and finally, the most important of the everyday irregular verbs.

The Exercises accompanying each Lesson are conveniently divided into four sections of ten sentences each. Each individual section contains material for translation that requires a knowledge of the grammatical points explained in that Lesson or in the preceding ones. The teacher, therefore, will find that the adaptability of this arrangement lends itself very easily to the varying conditions and needs of the classroom, and permits the greatest latitude in the method of assignment of work.

The general vocabulary employed in this book is the vocabulary of everyday French, — the vocabulary that the student learned in his first year of the study of French. An everyday expression, a common verb, an important grammatical point, taken up in one assignment, is not dropped at the end of that lesson. It continually appears in the succeeding lessons, either in conjunction with new words or in combination with new material. It can thus be said that repetition of the commonest everyday words and expressions is the keynote of this book.

The author wishes to acknowledge his gratitude and indebtedness to his former colleagues, Casimir D. Zdanowicz, of the University of Wisconsin, for invaluable suggestions and criticisms of the Grammar Review; Barry Cerf, of Reed College, Frederick Ernst, of the University of Wisconsin, and to his former teacher,
Jacob B. Segall, of the University of Maine, for general suggestions in the preparation of the sketches of the *Lecture Française*; to his colleagues at Syracuse University, Arthur S. Patterson, Vincent Guilloton, and Mrs. Paul D. Evans, for criticisms and suggestions; to George McCune, of Princeton University, for proof reading of the English sections; to his former students at Grove City College, Miss Katherine Anderson, Miss Lucie Battista, and Miss Helen Calderwood, for verifying the accuracy of the Vocabularies.

*JULY, 1922*

J. S. G.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I
LECTURE FRANÇAISE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Un voyage en France</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Préparatifs de voyage</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. En route pour New-York</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. A New-York</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Sur mer</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. La vie à bord du paquebot</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Arrivée au Havre</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. A la gare</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. La campagne française</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Arrivée à Paris</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Arrivée à l'hôtel</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Dans la chambre d'hôtel</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Dans la salle de restaurant</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Au bureau de tabac</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. A la pension</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. En famille</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Au petit déjeuner</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. La place de la Concorde</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Sur la rive droite</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Sur la rive gauche</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Le Quatre Juillet en France</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Le Théâtre-Français</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Les sports en France</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. La liberté en France</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. L'exportation franco-américaine</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. La nature artistique des Français</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Les journaux français</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. A Château-Thierry</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>