

Online translators & resources



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Upholding academic integrity means demonstrating honesty and responsibility in a scholarly environment. For example, citing sources is an ethical academic practice. Your work is expected to reflect your own abilities, but sometimes you may need outside support. If you use skills or ideas that are not yours, you should give credit. As a language teacher, I want to foster a community that supports and fosters integrity as part of the following values:

- Respect - we are considerate to ourselves and others; we credit ideas that are not ours
 - Resiliency - we try our best; we accept that mistakes are unavoidable and valuable
 - Kindness - we encourage ourselves and others; we help one another
 - Patience: we acknowledge that learning takes time and effort; we may not see results right away
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FOCUS ON COMMUNICATION

Learning a language is hard. You are not expected to produce perfect language, far from it! Mistakes demonstrate that you made efforts to communicate on your own. They give me an opportunity to give you constructive feedback. In this class, communication matters more than accuracy. Using the language imperfectly may in fact accelerate proficiency development; fearing mistakes slows it down.




ONLINE TRANSLATORS

Online translators aren't inherently good or bad. You need to evaluate your situation and goals to make an informed decision as to whether you should use one. Translators can help you learn new phrases. [Google Translate](https://translate.google.com/)  (<https://translate.google.com/>) produces high quality translations that you can also listen to. However, if you rely on translators every time you don't know a word, you lose the habit of paraphrasing, which is an essential skill to develop proficiency. To benefit from this resource and uphold the standards of academic integrity listed above, follow these guidelines:

1. Before translating, try to express the same idea with words you already know, even if they are imprecise.
 2. Only use a translator if you're interested in learning a phrase, not to find the "correct answer".
 3. Translators save time, but deprive you of time spent working in the target language. What is your goal?
 4. If you use a translator, check its output: does it make sense to you? Translate it back into English to check.
 5. If you use a translator, click on the "listen" icon to hear the phrase and practice pronouncing it.
 6. If you use a translator, cite it at the end of your submission (e.g., "I used Google Translate for the following:") and list the phrases you searched with the French translations. Rewriting helps you memorize.
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TRANSLATION DICTIONARIES

Online translation dictionaries are another resource. They are similar to translators but they only accept single words, not entire sentences. One advantage over translators is that they provide example sentences, synonyms, and grammatical information for each word. I recommend [Word Reference](https://www.wordreference.com/)  (<https://www.wordreference.com/>) because you can listen to the word in different French varieties and the phonetic transcription is also provided. Cite any translation dictionary that you use in your work. (e.g., "I used Word Reference for the following:")



SPELLING AND GRAMMAR CHECKERS

Unlike the citation guideline for translators and dictionaries, you do not need to acknowledge support from built-in spelling and grammar checkers as they are ubiquitous and applied by default. Not only are they a common professional practice, they also help you notice mistakes and choose how to improve them. Do not blindly accept the first suggestion: use your background knowledge before you click.

OTHER RESOURCES

There are many online services that support language learning and translation that were not mentioned here. If you use one, always cite it along with what you learned from using it.