



## Language Training

A Guide to...

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# French TV – Watch On-line

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When learning a language it is important that you try and get yourself accustomed to the way in which the language is spoken by a native speaker, you can do this by watching French TV or the appropriate country's national TV channel. Not only will it give you an understanding of the speed in which the language is spoken but will also help you to learn about the country's culture.

### Technical requirements

To watch TV online you will need the following software, Windows Media Player and Real Player, both are available for free. Windows Media comes as standard with any Windows operating system but you will have to download Real Player. For a step by step guide, please visit BBC Webwise: [bbc.co.uk/webwise/askbruce/articles/download/](http://bbc.co.uk/webwise/askbruce/articles/download/)

Please note that it may take slightly longer for video to start playing. You may also experience break-ups in reception caused by heavy traffic on the internet. This not only depends on the speed of your connection, but also on the quality threshold the signal is sent out by the broadcaster.

### French TV

#### Before watching

- International news and universal issues such as the environment, the economy, science, technology or sport may be easier to understand than intricate domestic stories requiring previous knowledge
- Select a story that suits your interests and time requirements
- You may find text versions of the story elsewhere on the site. These may linking to a related video clip, but it won't be a full word-by-word transcript.
- Euronews does offer the script of the video story, but some words may have changed as the journalist reads it. It also offers an English version, but this is not a word-by-word translation.

#### Get the most out of the news

- Take notes and keep them in a notebook, binder or folder
- Make it easy for yourself - a bit at a time in your own time
- Make a regular date, based on how long and how often you can make it
- Be realistic about what you'll get out of it. It could be something as simple as hearing the language and train your ear to the way it sounds or picking out a couple of words

#### Here are some suggestions if you've got extra time

- Read the text version of the story on the channel's website or try and find it in an English website to find out a bit about the detail
- When reading, make a note of key words that you think will appear in the video, such as key issues or names for people and places. You may want to look up some of these words in a dictionary to find their translation.
- Jot down a list of basic questions to reveal key aspects of the story: who, what, when, where, why, how
- Then watch the clip or the relevant section of the news bulletin

#### While watching

- You'll hear more than you can understand. Some may find this frustrating but remember you may watch and listen again.
- Try watching through before going back and watching in smaller parts.

- News delivery tends to be faster than in English.
- Watch more than once. It may take you a while to get your ear used to the language.
- As you watch, try and answer the questions who, what, when, where, why, how.

### After watching

- How much can you understand every time you listen again? Keep a short record of your session
- Decide when your next session will be
- After four or five sessions, and if possible, try and watch one of the earlier clips again, if available, using your notes. How much more can you understand?

## Online video news

### Euronews

Produced by a consortium of European national broadcasters, each story on its website is the original script of the relevant video. You can also switch to the English version, but this is not a word-by-word translation, <http://www.euronews.net/>

### France 2, France 3 Journaux télévisés

News from public broadcaster France Télévisions. Top headlines are transcribed for France 2's 13 Heures and France 3's Le Soir - they need a bit of searching for. A seven-day archive is available via a dropdown menu. France 3 also includes regional and local bulletins.

<http://jt.france2.fr/>

<http://jt.france3.fr/>

### TF1: Les JT à la carte

News from the privatised first channel. The headline for each story is transcribed on the right-hand side as it comes up. You can also jump between stories using the headline links below the window frame,

<http://videos.tf1.fr/video/news/lesjt/>

### TF1: News par thèmes

Also from the first channel, a vast archive of news arranged by genre. Use the links on the left to delve deeper, or enter a search term in the box Rechercher, <http://videos.tf1.fr/video/news/newsthemes/>

### TV5 informations

TV5 is a consortium of public TV channels from French-speaking countries. Here you can watch its news bulletins, [http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/info/actualite\\_internationale.php](http://www.tv5.org/TV5Site/info/actualite_internationale.php)

## Other programmes

### TF1 Vidéos

As well as news, the first channel offers clips from its entertainment, music and factual programmes, including full editions of flagship documentary [Ushuaïa](#), weather forecasts in La Météo or TV blunders on Le Bétisier,

<http://videos.tf1.fr/video/>

### M6 - Cinéma - Bandes Annonces

Film trailers in French, including Hollywood productions. Easier to understand if you're already familiar with the film, [http://www.m6.fr/html/evenements/cinema/bandes\\_annonces.shtml](http://www.m6.fr/html/evenements/cinema/bandes_annonces.shtml)

### Canal +

Mostly an entertainment channel. You can watch Le Zapping, a five-minute compilation of daily highlights from different channels or Les Guignols de l'Info, a satirical view at current events with rubber puppets à la Spitting Image, <http://www.canalplus.fr/>

**France Truc**

Children's cartoons from public broadcaster France 3. Click on Vidéos to see a selection of clips and full programmes, <http://www.mon-ludo.fr/>

**Arte TV**

Mostly an arts and documentary channel. You can watch short clips from many of its programmes., <http://www.arte-tv.com/fr/70.html>

**France 5**

The website of the educational, factual and children's channel from public broadcaster France Télévisions offers clips and full editions of some of its programmes, <http://www.france5.fr/videos/>

**France 2: Top of the Pops**

Video clips from this classic BBC format which has been given a French treatment. Many videos in English but some in French, <http://taratata.france2.fr/Default.aspx>

Good luck, have fun and enjoy!

**The Team at Babel**

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