The AhaBulb Party Game

STUFF EVERY TRAVELER SHOULD SAY IN FRENCH

How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek.

Cards 1 to 50 of 51. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-14.

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'Hello' to a shopkeeper in France during the day?

- **A** Bonjour
- **B** Bonsoir
- **C** Bonne nuit

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Bonjour

WHY Bonjour works all day, from morning through afternoon. Bonsoir is for the evening, and bonne nuit is said when someone is going to bed.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do French people eat only one egg for breakfast? Because one egg is un oeuf.

SESK.INFO #9517

LANGUAGES

You walk into a restaurant in Lyon at 8 PM. Which greeting means 'Good evening'?

- **A** Bonne nuit
- **B** Bonsoir
- **C** Bonjour

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Bonsoir

WHY Bonsoir is the evening greeting when you arrive somewhere. Bonne nuit means good night, said when someone heads to bed, and bonjour is the daytime hello.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the owl say bonsoir to everyone? It was a real night owl.

SESK.INFO #9518

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'Thank you very much' in French?

- **A** De rien
- **B** S'il vous plaît
- **C** Merci beaucoup

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Merci beaucoup

WHY Merci means thank you, and beaucoup adds 'a lot'. De rien is the reply, you're welcome, and s'il vous plaît means please.

STRAIGHT FACE
What does a French cat say after dinner? Meow-ci beaucoup.

SESK.INFO #9519

LANGUAGES

Ordering a croissant from a stranger, how do you politely say 'please' in French?

- **A** S'il vous plaît
- **B** S'il te plaît
- **C** Merci bien

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A S'il vous plaît

WHY Both mean please, but s'il vous plaît uses vous, the polite form for strangers. S'il te plaît is for friends, family and kids.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the croissant say s'il vous plaît? It was raised with good manners and lots of butter.

SESK.INFO #9520

LANGUAGES

You need to ask a stranger a question in Paris. What polite phrase gets their attention first?

- A Enchanté
- B Excusez-moi
- C De rien

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Excusez-moi

WHY Excusez-moi is the polite excuse me before a question. Enchanté means pleased to meet you, and de rien means you're welcome.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the polite volcano say before asking for directions? Excusez-moi, I lava question.

SESK.INFO #9521

LANGUAGES

You bump into someone on the Paris metro. What quick French word says 'Sorry!'?

- A Merci !
- B Bonjour !
- C Pardon !

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Pardon !

WHY Pardon is the short, polite sorry when you bump someone or squeeze past. It also works as 'Pardon?' when you didn't hear something.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the French teacher keep apologizing in class? She kept saying pardon my French.

SESK.INFO #9522

LANGUAGES

Someone says 'Merci !' to you. What is the usual French reply meaning 'You're welcome'?

- A De rien
- B Bonne nuit
- C Au revoir

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A De rien

WHY De rien literally means 'of nothing', like 'it was nothing'. Bonne nuit means good night and au revoir means goodbye.

STRAIGHT FACE
I held the door for a French snail. It said merci, I said de rien, and twenty minutes later it was through.

SESK.INFO #9523

LANGUAGES

Leaving a shop in France, what do you say for 'Goodbye'?

- A Bonjour
- B Au revoir
- C Enchanté

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Au revoir

WHY Au revoir is the standard goodbye, polite with anyone. Bonjour is hello, and enchanté is said when you meet someone.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the French boomerang never say au revoir? It always came back.

SESK.INFO #9524

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'My name is Sam' in French?

A Je suis appelé Sam

B Je m'appelle Sam

C J'appelle Sam

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Je m'appelle Sam

WHY Je m'appelle literally means 'I call myself'. J'appelle Sam means 'I am calling Sam', like on the phone.

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked a French snail its name. It said, Je m'appelle Escargot, but my friends call me Speedy.

SESK.INFO #9526

LANGUAGES

Talking to a hotel clerk you just met in France, which word for 'you' should you use?

A Tu, always

B Toi, always

C Vous

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Vous

WHY Vous is the polite you for strangers, staff and older people. Tu is for family, friends, kids and pets, so wait until someone invites you to use it.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the owl in Paris sound so polite? It only ever said vous, vous.

SESK.INFO #9525

LANGUAGES

How do you politely ask an adult 'How are you?' in French?

A Comment vous appelez-vous ?

B Où allez-vous ?

C Comment allez-vous ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Comment allez-vous ?

WHY Comment allez-vous uses vous, so it is polite with adults you don't know well. Où allez-vous means where are you going, and the first one asks someone's name.

STRAIGHT FACE
How is the French bakery doing? Great, it is making a lot of dough.

SESK.INFO #9528

LANGUAGES

Someone introduces you to their friend in France. How do you say 'Pleased to meet you!'?

A Enchanté !

B Bon appétit !

C À demain !

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Enchanté !

WHY Enchanté means delighted, and it is what you say when you meet someone. Bon appétit is for meals, and à demain means see you tomorrow.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the magician love meeting people in Paris? Everyone said he was enchanté.

SESK.INFO #9527

LANGUAGES

In France, what number is quatre-vingts?

A 24
B 80
C 420

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 80

WHY Quatre means four and vingt means twenty, so four twenties make 80. The s appears in quatre-vingts, but drops before another number.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the French number 80 feel so strong? It was made of four twenties.

LANGUAGES

In France, how do you say the number 70?

A Soixante-dix
B Soixante
C Dix-sept

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Soixante-dix

WHY French in France counts 70 as sixty plus ten: soixante-dix. Soixante is 60 and dix-sept is 17, both easy to mix up at a cash register.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why is six afraid of seven? Because seven ate nine.

LANGUAGES

At a market stall in France, how do you ask 'How much is it?'

A C'est où ?
B C'est combien ?
C C'est quand ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B C'est combien ?

WHY Combien means how much. C'est où asks where it is, and c'est quand asks when it is.

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked a French cheese seller c'est combien. He said it was a gouda price.

LANGUAGES

In Belgium and Switzerland, what simpler French word is used for 70?

A Septante
B Sept cents
C Soixante

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Septante

WHY Belgium and Switzerland say septante for 70 and nonante for 90, instead of soixante-dix and quatre-vingt-dix. Sept cents is 700 and soixante is 60.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do Swiss watches count so fast? They skip the sixty-ten and go straight to septante.

LANGUAGES

A museum sign in France says 'Fermé le mardi'. Which day is mardi?

- **A** Tuesday
- **B** Monday
- **C** Wednesday

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #9536

A Tuesday

WHY Mardi is Tuesday. Monday is lundi and Wednesday is mercredi. French writes the days with a small letter.

STRAIGHT FACE
What day do eggs hate most? Fry-day.

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'Where is the bathroom?' in a French café?

- **A** Où est la salle à manger ?
- **B** Où sont les toilettes ?
- **C** Où est la sortie ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #9535

B Où sont les toilettes ?

WHY In French, the public restroom is les toilettes, plural, so you say où sont. La salle à manger is the dining room, and la sortie is the exit.

STRAIGHT FACE
I learned où sont les toilettes before anything else in French. Some phrases are just more urgent.

LANGUAGES

A local says 'C'est tout droit.' Which way do you go?

- **A** Straight ahead
- **B** To the right
- **C** Back the way you came

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #9534

A Straight ahead

WHY Tout droit means straight on or straight ahead. Watch out: à droite, which sounds similar, means to the right.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the French GPS never turn? It only knew tout droit, and it was a very straight talker.

LANGUAGES

Someone giving you directions says 'Tournez à gauche'. What should you do?

- **A** Turn right
- **B** Go straight
- **C** Turn left

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #9533

C Turn left

WHY Gauche means left, so tournez à gauche is turn left. Right is à droite, and straight ahead is tout droit.

STRAIGHT FACE
I took every gauche turn in Paris. Now I'm right back where I started.

LANGUAGES

A museum door in France has a sign saying ENTRÉE. What does it mean?

- **A** Exit
- **B** Open
- **C** Entrance

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Entrance

WHY Entrée on a sign means way in. Exit is sortie and open is ouvert. Entrée libre means free admission at a museum, or no obligation to buy in a shop.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the chef make a grand entrance? He was serving the entrée.

SESK.INFO #9538

LANGUAGES

In the Paris metro you see a sign that says SORTIE. What does it mean?

- **A** Entrance
- **B** Exit
- **C** Tickets

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Exit

WHY Sortie means exit or way out. Follow it to leave a station, museum or theater. The entrance is l'entrée.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tourist follow every SORTIE sign? He was told it was the way out of any problem.

SESK.INFO #9537

LANGUAGES

A door in France says POUSSEZ. What should you do?

- **A** Pull it
- **B** Ring the bell
- **C** Push it

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Push it

WHY Poussez means push. The other side of the door often says tirez, which means pull. Poussez looks like 'pull', so it fools many English speakers.

STRAIGHT FACE
I spent ten minutes pulling a door that said poussez. In my defense, it looked like pull.

SESK.INFO #9540

LANGUAGES

A shop door in France says FERMÉ. What does it mean?

- **A** Closed
- **B** Open
- **C** Sale

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Closed

WHY Fermé means closed. The opposite sign is ouvert, open. Many small shops in France close for lunch or one day a week, so check the hours.

STRAIGHT FACE
I went to a French store that sells only jokes. It was fermé, they said I'd heard them all.

SESK.INFO #9539

LANGUAGES

What is the difference between la carte and le menu in France?

- **A** La carte lists individual dishes; le menu is a fixed-price meal.
- **B** La carte is a fixed-price meal; le menu lists individual dishes.
- **C** Both words mean the restaurant bill.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A La carte lists individual dishes; le menu is a fixed-price meal.

WHY In France, la carte is the list of individual dishes. Le menu is often a fixed-price meal with several courses.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the French menu break up with la carte? It wanted a fixed-price relationship.

SESK.INFO #9541

LANGUAGES

How do you ask for the check in French?

- **A** Le billet, s'il vous plaît.
- **B** L'addition, s'il vous plaît.
- **C** La monnaie, s'il vous plaît.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B L'addition, s'il vous plaît.

WHY L'addition is the standard French word for a restaurant check. Le billet is a ticket or banknote, and la monnaie is change.

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked for l'addition and the waiter brought me a math test.

SESK.INFO #9542

LANGUAGES

How do you ask for a free pitcher of tap water in a French café?

- **A** Une bouteille d'eau, s'il vous plaît.
- **B** Un verre d'eau, s'il vous plaît.
- **C** Une carafe d'eau, s'il vous plaît.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Une carafe d'eau, s'il vous plaît.

WHY Une carafe d'eau is a pitcher of tap water, free when you eat or drink at a French restaurant or café. Bouteille means bottle and verre means glass.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the carafe get invited to every café table? It was pour-fect.

SESK.INFO #9543

LANGUAGES

What does 'service compris' on a French restaurant bill mean?

- **A** Service is included in the bill.
- **B** You must tip extra.
- **C** Water is included.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Service is included in the bill.

WHY Service compris means the service charge is already include. You do not need to add an extra tip.

STRAIGHT FACE
With service compris, the only tip I give is that the croissant was great.

SESK.INFO #9544

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'I would like...' when ordering in French?

- **A** Je veux...
- **B** Je voudrais...
- **C** Je vais...

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Je voudrais...

WHY Je voudrais is the polite conditional form of vouloir. Je veux is correct but blunt, and je vais means I am going.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the verb go to finishing school? To learn to say je voudrais instead of je veux.

SESK.INFO #9545

LANGUAGES

How do you ask if a hotel has a room available?

- **A** Avez-vous une salle disponible ?
- **B** Avez-vous un lit disponible ?
- **C** Avez-vous une chambre disponible ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Avez-vous une chambre disponible ?

WHY Chambre is the standard word for a hotel room. Salle is a hall or room in another sense, and lit means bed.

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked for a chambre with a view. They gave me a window and said voilà.

SESK.INFO #9546

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'I would like to book a room for two nights'?

- **A** Je voudrais réserver une chambre pour deux nuits.
- **B** Je voudrais acheter une chambre pour deux nuits.
- **C** Je voudrais louer un lit pour deux nuits.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Je voudrais réserver une chambre pour deux nuits.

WHY Réserver means to book or reserve. Acheter means to buy, and louer un lit means to rent a bed.

STRAIGHT FACE
I booked a hotel room for two nights. It was a suite deal.

SESK.INFO #9547

LANGUAGES

What does 'À quelle heure est le petit-déjeuner ?' mean?

- **A** What time is lunch?
- **B** What time is breakfast?
- **C** Where is breakfast?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B What time is breakfast?

WHY Le petit-déjeuner is breakfast in France. Le déjeuner is lunch there, and où asks where.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the croissant go to the morning meal? It wanted to be the petit-déjeuner star.

SESK.INFO #9548

LANGUAGES

How do you ask which metro line goes to the Eiffel Tower?

A Quelle ligne va à la tour Eiffel ?

B Quelle porte va à la tour Eiffel ?

C Quelle route va à la tour Eiffel ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Quelle ligne va à la tour Eiffel ?

WHY Ligne is the word for a metro line. Porte means door or gate, and route means road.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the metro line go to the Eiffel Tower? It wanted a tall order.

SESK.INFO #9552

LANGUAGES

How do you ask what time the train leaves?

A Le train arrive à quelle heure ?

B Le train s'arrête à quelle heure ?

C Le train part à quelle heure ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Le train part à quelle heure ?

WHY Partir means to leave or depart. Arriver means to arrive, and s'arrêter means to stop.

STRAIGHT FACE
What time does the train leave? Whenever it can no longer wait for you to finish your croissant.

SESK.INFO #9551

LANGUAGES

How do you ask for a round-trip train ticket to Paris?

A Un aller simple pour Paris.

B Un billet pour Paris, aller-retour.

C Un ticket pour Paris, retour.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Un billet pour Paris, aller-retour.

WHY Aller-retour means round trip. Un aller simple is one way, and retour alone is only the return.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the train ticket come back? It was aller-retour.

SESK.INFO #9550

LANGUAGES

What is the hotel front desk called in French?

A La salle de bain

B La chambre

C La réception

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C La réception

WHY La réception is the hotel desk where you check in. La salle de bain is the bathroom, and la chambre is your room.

STRAIGHT FACE
The hotel front desk is so friendly. It always gets a warm reception.

SESK.INFO #9549

LANGUAGES

How do you ask someone to call a taxi for you?

A Pouvez-vous conduire un taxi ?

B Pouvez-vous m'appeler un taxi ?

C Pouvez-vous me montrer un taxi ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Pouvez-vous m'appeler un taxi ?

WHY Appeler un taxi means to call a taxi. Conduire means to drive, and montrer means to show.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the taxi answer the phone? It was cab-able of taking calls.

SESK.INFO #9553

LANGUAGES

How do you ask the price in a French shop?

A Quand ça coûte ?

B Combien de temps ?

C Combien ça coûte ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Combien ça coûte ?

WHY Combien means how much, and coûter means to cost. Quand means when, and combien de temps asks how long.

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked the baker combien ça coûte. He said bread prices are on a roll.

SESK.INFO #9554

LANGUAGES

What does 'Quelle taille faites-vous ?' mean in a clothing shop?

A What size do you wear?

B What color do you want?

C What is the price?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A What size do you wear?

WHY Quelle taille asks what size. To ask about color you would use couleur, and for price, prix.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the shirt ask about my taille? It wanted to know my size, not my story.

SESK.INFO #9555

LANGUAGES

How do you ask for a bigger size in French?

A Avez-vous la taille au-dessous ?

B Avez-vous un prix au-dessus ?

C Avez-vous la taille au-dessus ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Avez-vous la taille au-dessus ?

WHY La taille au-dessus is the size above. Au-dessous means below, and un prix au-dessus means a price above.

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked for la taille au-dessus. The small one was a tight squeeze.

SESK.INFO #9556

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'Call the police!' in French?

A Appelez la police !

B Appelez le pompier !

C Demandez la police !

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Appelez la police !

WHY Appeler la police means call the police. Les pompiers are firefighters, and demandez means ask.

STRAIGHT FACE
Appeler la police means call the police, not invite them to a pizza party.

SESK.INFO #9560

LANGUAGES

How do you ask where the pharmacy is?

A Où est la ferme ?

B Où est la pharmacie ?

C Où est la papeterie ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Où est la pharmacie ?

WHY La pharmacie is the pharmacy. La ferme is a farm, and la papeterie is a stationery shop.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the pharmacy cross the road? To reach the patient on the other side.

SESK.INFO #9558

LANGUAGES

What does 'Au secours !' mean in an emergency?

A Stop!

B Please!

C Help!

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Help!

WHY Au secours is a cry for help in danger. Arrêtez means stop, and s'il vous plaît means please.

STRAIGHT FACE
Au secours means help, not a score in a French football match.

SESK.INFO #9559

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'It's too expensive' in French?

A C'est trop cher.

B C'est très cher.

C C'est trop chaud.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A C'est trop cher.

WHY Trop means too, and cher means expensive. Très cher means very expensive, and chaud means hot.

STRAIGHT FACE
C'est trop cher is what the wallet screams in a fancy French boutique.

SESK.INFO #9557

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'What time is it?' in French?

A Quel âge avez-vous ?

B Quel jour sommes-nous ?

C Quelle heure est-il ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Quelle heure est-il ?

WHY Heure means hour or time on the clock. Quel âge avez-vous asks how old someone is, and quel jour sommes-nous asks what day it is.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the French clock get in trouble? It ticked too much in class.

SESK.INFO #10646

LANGUAGES

In France, how do you say the number 90?

A Dix-neuf

B Soixante-dix

C Quatre-vingt-dix

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Quatre-vingt-dix

WHY France builds 90 as four twenties plus ten: quatre-vingt-dix. Dix-neuf is 19 and soixante-dix is 70.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do French kids get good at math early? Saying 90 is already a word problem.

SESK.INFO #10645

LANGUAGES

How do you ask someone to speak more slowly in French?

A Pouvez-vous parler plus lentement ?

B Pouvez-vous parler plus fort ?

C Pouvez-vous marcher plus lentement ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Pouvez-vous parler plus lentement ?

WHY Parler plus lentement means to speak more slowly. Plus fort means louder, and marcher means to walk.

STRAIGHT FACE
Pouvez-vous parler plus lentement is polite French for please slow down, my ears need subtitles.

SESK.INFO #9562

LANGUAGES

What is the single European emergency number to call in France?

A 911

B 112

C 999

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 112

WHY 112 is the single European emergency number, valid in France and across the EU. 911 is the US number and 999 is used in some other countries.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did France pick 112? It is easier than multiplying emergency numbers.

SESK.INFO #9561

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'Can I pay by card?' in French?

- **A** Puis-je jouer par carte ?
- **B** Puis-je payer par carte ?
- **C** Puis-je payer avec l'argent ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B **Puis-je payer par carte ?**

WHY Payer par carte means to pay by card. Jouer means to play, and avec l'argent means with money.

STRAIGHT FACE
I tried to pay with a map of Paris. The cashier said wrong carte.

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'Where is the train station?' in French?

- **A** Où est la gare ?
- **B** Quand est la gare ?
- **C** Pourquoi est la gare ?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **Où est la gare ?**

WHY Où means where, and la gare is the train station. Quand means when, and pourquoi means why.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the traveler ask Où est la gare? He had lost the train of thought.

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AhaBulb POINT

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