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# Voyage En France (French Stories For Beginners)



## Synopsis

Two English people decide to look for an old friend in France. Will they find him after forty years of absence? This story is perfect for beginners: you'll be able to enjoy a whole story in French, grow your vocabulary in a natural way, and improve your comprehension whilst learning the correct pronunciation. The story is narrated by the author with special emphasis on early text comprehension practice and pronunciation. To maximize study effects, we recommend listening to this audiobook together with a paperback or ebook edition of "French Stories for Beginners - Voyage en France", which contains useful French-English glossaries and a large French-English dictionary at the end of the book. For students from beginner to intermediate level (A1-B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What luck I found this author !It is a very well crafted story. Fun to read so you learn from motivation - hard to put the book down. And what I like is that the story is very contemporary in setting and aimed at adult learners.A good mix of grammar constructs and tenses are used, yet the book is still easy to read for beginners. After each few paragraphs of the story there is a summarised explanation of key vocab and grammar.To get even more out of the book I'd suggest getting a French to English dictionary kindle ebook as well. Then as well if you get stuck on a word or expression, it's just a matter of putting your kindle cursor on the word to get the meaning from your dictionary.But again, thanks to this author. One of the few learning "tools" I've enjoyed. Definitely the best introductory reader I've come across for adults.

These readers are promoted as being suitable for beginners but I would add they are very useful for those with a higher level of a French (low intermediate - plus) who want to review key vocabulary, related expressions and structure focused on common situations (travelling, booking hotels, ordering food and eating, driving and renting a car, making purchases, etc). It is much more fun than drilling yourself with lists, phrase books and grammars. The technique of constantly recycling language throughout the narrative builds knowledge through recognition. The placement of vocabulary key on each page allows the reader to increase his or her pace, and subsequently enjoyment of the text. I ripped through both "novellas". Even though my French is fairly good I still found quite a bit of new vocabulary and structure. (Perhaps my French isn't as good as I thought?) Louis and his wife, Melba, are delightful characters. Passionate Louis creates some hilarious situations with his beginners French and long suffering Melba (modestly fluent) steps in when necessary to sort out the mess and misunderstandings. It takes great skill to incorporate humor into a simple text but the author successfully peppers jokes throughout both stories while keeping the language relatively uncomplicated. I actually found myself laughing aloud at some of the French faux-pas: In the bus someone leaves his "over coat" behind (le "manteau") behind, Louis chases after him ..."you have forgotten your chin" (votre "menton"): Sur le siège, il a oublié son petit manteau noir. Louis prend le manteau et appelle : " Monsieur ! Vous avez oublié votre menton !" >"Melba lève les yeux au ciel ." ... (Melba rolls her eyes) They rent a car from a guy in some hick town who only knows the names of animals in English ... he reels off a long list of the animals to impress, the last being "une araignée" (spider) -- Il a vraiment une araignée au plafond , pense Melba. "It's a play on words ...loosely translated : "this guy's got bats in the belfry". These readers are of excellent quality and perfect for adults learning the language. Bis! Bis! Sylvie Laine. I am looking forward to reading the further adventures of Louis and Melba.

I've allowed my French to get pretty rusty, so I'm trying to polish it up a bit. Ms. Laine's book offers a simple, enjoyable story broken into short chapters -- and at the end of each chapter, an all-important lexicon so you can look up any words that you might have trouble retrieving from your dusty francophone memory banks. However, this probably isn't the ideal learning resource for a rank beginner. The writing assumes a basic knowledge of French grammar. It's up to you, the reader, to figure out how to decline the words you find in the lexicons. Likewise, you won't gain much sense of how new words should be pronounced unless you already have some command of French

phonics. Kindle indexing works very well. Links allow you to look up new or forgotten words; on my Samsung Nexus Galaxy or my Acer Iconia A500, it's easy to get back and forth between the main text passages and the lexicons. Overall, an enjoyable divertissement and a great little tool for polishing up rusty French reading skills.

As an intermediate level French student (self-taught -- I'm a retired senior) I enjoyed this book thoroughly. It is a story which will engage you, one in which you may very well find yourself relating to the central character who, with his skeptical wife, decides to set off in search of a long-ago friend. The setting is in France and you will recognize the culture and the atmosphere as classic French. The reading level is moderately challenging but still at a upper elementary/middle school level. I had to look up only a few words per page, on average.

I haven't finished reading the entire story, but I find this book to be well crafted, and an excellent for review and brush up of French vocabulary, including syntax. While the entire book is not translated, key words are marked and followed with translations and definitions, throughout the story. In my opinion it's really not meant for raw beginners as I think you would have to have had some French lessons to be able to read the book. While it's true you can find many resources for free on the Internet, you will be hard pressed to find anything better than this little story to help you augment your French; therefore I feel my money was well spent. I wish these books were for sale as Google Play Books because Google Play Books have the "Text to Speech" feature which would enable you to listen to the book albeit with a computer voice. This is something that is sorely lacking in the Kindle app for many Android phones.

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