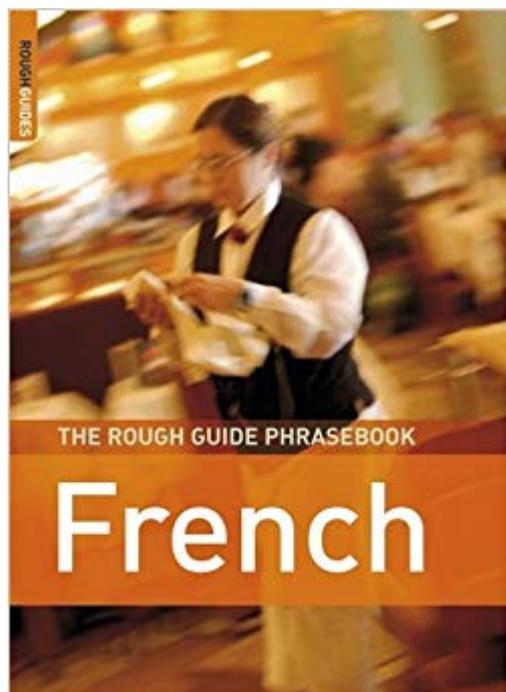


## The Rough Guide to French Dictionary Phrasebook 3 (Rough Guides Phrase Books) *by* Lexus,Rough Guides



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The Rough Guide phrasebook will have you speaking French as soon as you arrive. This fully revised third edition includes 16-pages of additional scenario material, from asking for directions and ordering a glass of wine to checking train times and reserving a hotel room. Recorded by native French speakers, the scenarios are available as downloadable audio files either to your computer or iPod ☐ perfect for practicing your pronunciation. With A-Z English to French and A-Z French to English translations, this pocket-sized phrasebook is like taking along your own personal translator!



**Reviews of the The Rough Guide to French Dictionary Phrasebook 3 (Rough Guides Phrase Books) *by* Lexus,Rough**

# Guides

## **Viashal**

I am still becoming familiar with the book but must admit that it is user friendly for the most part. The only objection I have thus far is that I do not like portions written in white ink on a colored background. I find them hard to read. The print is on the small side but in black ink it is readable; in the white, I find it a problem. Thankfully, not much of the book is presented this way.

I like the organization of the book and can tell that it will be useful in many circumstances. I am pleased that I purchased the book and will bring it to France with me. The size of the book is good in that it will fit in a jacket pocket as well as not being too noticeable when I consult it and try not to look like the tourist I will be.

## **Cointrius**

I bought this book over the Berlitz because of some great reviews. Unfortunately the fact that different fonts are used to separate languages was not mentioned. Looking at the book on the "look inside" feature does show this, but it's much bigger than the actual book so I didn't realize how difficult it would be to read until I got the actual book. Because the fonts are necessarily small, to keep the book small, the different-colored fonts were almost impossible for me to read, rather negating the "handiness" of the layout or anything else. If you can't read it, what's the point. Luckily a friend lent me the Berlitz, and side by side, I could easily read the Berlitz but not the Rough Guide. I'd have to be in very good light AND put on reading glasses - neither of which is necessary with the Berlitz. If I had known this, I wouldn't have bought the book. For anyone "of a certain age" who may have trouble with this feature, I would definitely pass on this book.

## **anonymous**

While no guide to a foreign language will cover all the circumstances or contain all the words one will encounter on a trip where one is more or less on one's own (as opposed to a guided tour), The Rough Guide to French Dictionary Phrasebook 3 covered almost each situation I encountered on a one-week trip through the Midi (southern France) and another 3 days in Paris. Often in these smaller cities, towns, and villages, one encounters citizens who speak no English or very little. Being able to converse, if only haltingly, with these folks--especially if one is in need of something--helps out immensely...plus, they appreciate it when one makes the attempt to deal with them in their language on their turf. Having a passing acquaintance with the French language from high school or college certainly helps, but this phrasebook bridged the enormous gaps between what was retained from those classroom so long ago & today. The book's size and weight made it easy to have at the ready during the entire trip.

## **Gravelblade**

Just got back from about 10 days in France--Paris, Loire Valley, and Normandy. This little pocket guide fit in my purse and was extremely helpful, especially with menus and conversational phrases. A great little investment.

## **Wyameluna**

The best French phrasebook I've ever used. Just came back from two weeks in Paris and it was invaluable!!

## **Keramar**

Rough Guide French is structured completely different from most phrase books: The first several dozen pages gives you numbers, days of the week, time, etc., and a 20 minute course in French grammar. Oh no, you might be saying, but it is presented very simply. For instance it presents a handful of common verbs and their conjugations. So on one page you can see how to say "I have," "he has, " etc. and "I like," "he/ she likes," etc.

The rest of the book is split between an English-French dictionary, a French-English dictionary, and a multi-page menu reader. What makes the English-French dictionary pages unique, though, is that most every other page (at least) has dialogue boxes relating to the most useful word(s) on that particular page. For instance, when you thumb through the book for the word "live," you get the word itself, but also the phrases "I live in..." and "Where do you live?" It'll take you 10 minutes to find such a phrase in Berlitz or Lonely Planet in their "getting to know others' section. But because Rough Guide is structured as a dictionary, with hundreds of really useful phrases highlighted in boxes within, you can access something you want to say rather swiftly...and actually deliver it just a minute or so after looking for it. Add the grammar section, where you learn useful verbs and how to conjugate their past tenses, and the number section, and you can easily learn to chat with someone about where you are from, where you are going, where you have traveled thus far, what you like/liked, and so on. Likewise, knowing how to say "have" makes it easy to ask whether a hotel has rooms, whether the room has a shower (after thumbing through the book for the word for shower), etc. And when the answer comes back that the hotel doesn't have, or say "we have," you can actually catch what they are saying.

If still not persuaded, next time you're in a bookstore compare a Berlitz, a Lonely Planet, and a Rough Guide language phrase book side by side. Lonely Planet French, for example, is basically several pages of basic grammar followed by many sections of phrases you won't likely ever use. For instance, the guide provides several pages each of lists of occupations, nationalities, college majors, items of stationary, jewelery, colors, insects, flowers, aquatic sports(!), electrical appliances, camping terms, and so on. Also provided are pat phrases to employ at a hotel's front desk, at a doctor's, at the optometrist, and eating out, among other mini-sections. The book, in effect, is set up to be taken out to be used once a day, if that. It's an improvement on Berlitz phrase books, but not by much. (Berlitz simply divides their books into 10 or so color coded sections such as: "sightseeing," "relaxing," "shopping," traveling around," "money," "eating out," etc.)

So, if you just want a book for emergencies (say, breaking a leg, etc.) then Berlitz and/or Lonely Planet phrase books will serve you well...in your pocket until you are faced with such a situation, since they do have many more specific terms (like 50 different parts of the the body), but if you really want to be able to say some things in French on a daily basis during your trip you'll be much better served by Rough Guide French. Cheers

## **Zelevance**

Excellent guide. Small and convenient to carry. I also purchased the Berlitz phrase book & dictionary but found myself referring to the Rough guide most of the time. In my opinion the Rough guide is more user friendly.

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