

**Chapter 1 : Book Review: Xenophobe's Guide to the Dutch | Expat Arrivals**

*The Xenophobe's Guide to the French is a review of French attitudes towards different aspects of life. It's discussion is rather abstract. It appears to be describing the attitudes of upper middle class people from Paris.*

Last Words 60 Introduction When abroad you have to expect foreigners. Most of these foreigners will not speak English. Worse, to them, you are the foreigner. This book aims to help you overcome this setback and cope with the unexpected difficulties that may arise should you need to communicate with the natives. Phrases are given in English. Then French in italics. Then pronunciation for the English tongue is set out in bold type. Fast French can make all the difference. The quicker you say the bits in bold, the bolder you will become, and the more likely you are to convince the natives that what they are hearing is in fact their own language. Pronunciation The French that is spoken varies all over the country and the intonations heard in Paris are not the same as those heard in Lyons or Bordeaux or Marseilles, so it is not easy trying to understand what is said to you. Far more unsettling than this however is trying to be understood, for the French make totally different sounds from anyone else. For instance, the sentence: Les plumes de ma tante chatouillent son nombril. The feathers of my aunt tickle her tummy button. It is tricky for anyone over the age of ten to alter the shape of their nasal cartilage, palate, tongue, throat or vocal chords to cope with French enunciation. En is the same. Les femmes aiment les fleurs. He is very nasty. Forget trying to sound French and go for sounding like someone who normally speaks English. Thus should you comment: Il faisait tellement froid dans la maison de mon ami pendant cinq jours que son chien est devenu bleu. This will not only simplify matters, but may encourage the French to make an effort and listen to what you are trying to say. Ah toot ah lerr. For this you should know the sounds of individual letters: No notice is taken of whether a person is male or female. In French this matters, so much so that animals, vegetables, minerals and all sorts of other things are given a male or female gender. For example, a cat is male LE chat â€” lur shah , but a mouse is female LA souris â€” la sue ree. A cabbage is male LE chou â€” lur shoo but a potato is female LA pomme de terre â€” la pom duh tare. Sand is masculine LE sable â€” lur saab blur but beach is feminine LA plage â€” la plarj. Grammar rules abound, and exceptions to these rules abound even more. Ends of words differ the whole time, some letters are pronounced, others disappear entirely â€” all of which will divert you from what you want to say. So the best thing is to ignore grammar altogether and sleep at night. Essential Words to Remember Very nearly everything can be mimed. You can hold up fingers for numbers, and point rudely at anything you wish to indicate. You cannot, however, mime colours, the past, the present or the future. If you lost a yellow hold-all at an airport yesterday, you can convey lost by looking desperate, hold-all by drawing a rectangle in the air and miming a hand gripping it. You can convey an airport by making a noise like an aeroplane and extending your arms, but yellow and yesterday are tricky. The following should therefore be kept handy. That is not mine. Toilets always an embarrassing one to mime: I beg your pardon. Je vous demande pardon. The Family Sooner or later you will be invited to a gastronomic event in a restaurant at which there will rarely be less than ten people around the table. As all of them will somehow be related, it will be helpful to understand who is who when introduced. Pleased to make your acquaintance. Why does your mother look at me that way? Neuf heures et quart. Neuf heures et demi. Dix heures moins vingt. Dix heures moins le quart. Dix heures du matin. Dix heures du soir. With the confidence you have now acquired by using English to speak French you should be able to tackle the following: On Wednesday 2nd July last summer, at half past three in the afternoon, Pierre surprised his wife in bed with the postman but forgave her because she served him an exceptional fish soup for supper. Work out the pronunciation for yourself. Call for a doctor. Call for an ambulance. Call for the police. Call for a funeral director. I am about to be sick; give birth; collapse literally: I have not been drinking, but I am allergic to chitterlings, giblets, and tripe in white wine sauce. Their address is in my pocket. Je suis avec la femme de mon meilleur ami. My car has been towed away. My car has been broken into and they have stolen: Une caisse de champagne. Le caniche de ma femme. I have been mugged and they have taken my: Everything I have in the whole wide world. Je nur comp prong pah. Take me to the Consulate. Amenez moi au consulat. I wish to speak to your President who is a personal friend of mine. At all times you can always claim that you

cannot understand anything anyone is saying: Je ne comprends pas. I do not understand. For minor problems consult them first: I have a pain here [then point]. Can you give me something? I need a packet of plasters. I have a sore throat. I have a nasty cough. Are suppositories really the answer? What remedy would you recommend for: Les douleurs de la menstruation. My urine has turned a deep green. I think I am going to die. Je crois que je vais mourir. Are you sure that all these symptoms are caused by a liver attack? Could I have morphine? Puis-je avoir de la morphine?

### Chapter 2 : Xenophobe's Guides: How the French see themselves " and you | Insider Views | Expatriation

*'Amusing, if thin, book about points of French behaviour and culture. Many French are very much like those described in this book, but let's face it, all French aren't.*

They can be chauvinistic and be racist, chauvinistic and xenophobic, but always xenophobic, but always with great charm. They see the English as small-minded, uncultured, badly dressed; a nation of people who spend most of their time gardening, playing cricket and drinking sweet, warm beer in pubs. The Scots are viewed in an entirely different light: They find the Spanish proud but noisy, and believe they produce more wine than is healthy for the vineyards of the Midi. The French see nothing glamorous or romantic in being in charge of a sinking ship. This is not discrimination. In their view, every other culture is inferior to their own. The French may no longer own much of the world, but French law, language and culture persist in every continent. Despite their reservations and however uncomfortable they find the thought, the French have much in common with the Germans " a sense of formality, a reserve, a concept of racial purity, a belief in an historical destiny. In contrast to this admiring "disliking axis is their attitude towards the Swiss and the Belgians. The Swiss are objects of merciless satire in French television commercials. They may be hospitable, but they are obsessively clean and speak French in a most odd fashion. Two Belgian soldiers are sleeping under a tree. Suddenly a terrible rumbling sound awakes them. Special relationships Historically, the French have had a special relationship with the United States and Canada, having owned much of the former and populated much of the latter. But complications have arisen. When a French film is shown at a French-Canadian cinema it has to have subtitles because the Canadians cannot understand the soundtrack since their accent is so different. Yet they go to considerable lengths to stave off the corrupting influence of American culture " restricting the number of American fast-food outlets, limiting imports of goods from the United States, and dumping Euro Disney sufficiently far from Paris to give it a sporting chance of failure. Curiously, the French have successfully persuaded generation after generation of Americans to fall in love with them, without reciprocating that love. How others see them Views vary: But, in the eyes of many, the trouble with the French is that they are inconsistent. This is because others fail to see that the French decide all big issues on the basis of self-interest, a feature of peasant ideology. This trait is to be seen in all They produce the aspects of French life. They most beautiful paintings exasperate with their lumbering in the world and the approach to the delights of a ugliest wallpaper. They produce the most beautiful paintings in the world and the ugliest wallpaper. They grow the finest vegetables and never serve them in their restaurants. They work hard, but are never seen to be working. What others need to understand is that the French regard consistency as boring, and to be boring is to be avoided at all costs. And what most endears Cyrano to all Frenchmen is that, to the end, he maintained his panache. The French love their heroes, real or fictional, to have had a past that is depraved, deprived or delinquent " an outsider who They love the latest " forces his or her way in. Hollywood system where the screen image of the star was idolised. Depardieu is a man first, a film star second. What matters is being up-to-date. People will happily accept the hard sell if they think the paint on the item is still wet. They love to feel that life is fast moving, energetic and stylish. In this, as in everything they do, the French frequently seesaw from the superb to the absurd. Take the erection of the glass pyramid at the Louvre. The French see this as something that had to be done, not only because it eased the flow of visitors and inspired debate, but What matters is being because not to plonk a up-to-date. It is avant garde. That alone is worth knocking down some old buildings for. It is impossible not to admire such courage. Farmers at heart Intellectually and spiritually, the average French citizen still identifies very much with the land, romanticising rural and village life Intellectually and to a wholly improbable spiritually, the average degree. French citizen still identifies To the urban French, the very much with the land, burly farmer " gunning romanticising rural and down the local squirrels, village life to a wholly fattening geese for his foie improbable degree. Even as the sophisticates fume at the wheels of their Peugeots and Renaults in traffic jams caused by agricultural industrial action the throwing up of barricades of old tractors, rioting, lobbing stones at the police , they feel deep empathy and spiritual communion with the perpetrators,

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among whom could well be their grandfathers. Inside every Bordeaux businessman, Parisian restaurateur or Grenoble academic still beats the heart of a genuine paysan.

### Chapter 3 : The Xenophobe's Guide to the French

*Reviews 'Many French are very much like those described in this book, but let's face it, all French aren't. France is a complex society with a complex history on an amazing piece of soil and with a multi-tribal origins.*

### Chapter 4 : - The Xenophobe's Guide to the French by Michel. Nick Yapp; Syrett

*The Xenophobe's Guide to the French has ratings and 12 reviews. Virginie said: I am French and my first reaction while reading this book is that it n.*

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*The Xenophobe's Guide to the French This book highlights the unique character and behaviour of the French nation. Frank, irreverent and funny it is almost guaranteed to cure Xenophobia.*

### Chapter 8 : Xenophobe's Guide To The English Download

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