

The French language in comparison to English



Read the questions carefully!

Answer with the questions one at a time!

Please answer in full sentences!

1. You, your languages and the Little Prince.

a) What is your name?

b) Which languages and dialects do you speak?

A tip:

If you need to translate some words into English, then use the German-English translator on the web: <http://www.leo.org>.


c) Do you remember your last trip with the Little Prince? What did you do?

2. Today you are going again on a virtual trip through the world with the Little Prince. But this time you will compare the English language to the French language. Before you start, think of the countries in which French is spoken as the first language.

a) Which countries are these?

b) Have you ever been to any of these countries? Which?

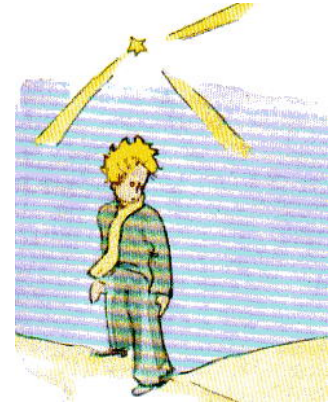
c) When and why did you visit these countries?

3. To start your journey around the world, please visit the website of the Little Prince <http://www.germanistik.uni-halle.de/prinz>. Click on the little world map .
4. First of all, please travel to France. There you will find two recordings of the French language. Listen to them while reading the text.
5. Look at the two web pages. There you will find additional information about the language and the speakers.

- a) To which family of languages does French belong?

- b) From which city do the two speakers come from?

<i>recording</i>	<i>city</i>
1 st	
2 nd	



- c) Which version do you prefer? Why do you prefer it?

6. What do you think?

- a) Which version represents the French standard and which one is a dialect?

standard : _____ (name of the city)

dialect : _____ (name of the city)

- b) Why do you think so?

- c) Choose one of the two French recordings. Write down the text.

- d) Listen to the chosen recording several times and try to read the text with the same pronunciation as the speaker.

7. French is not only spoken in France. Look for another example of French in Africa.

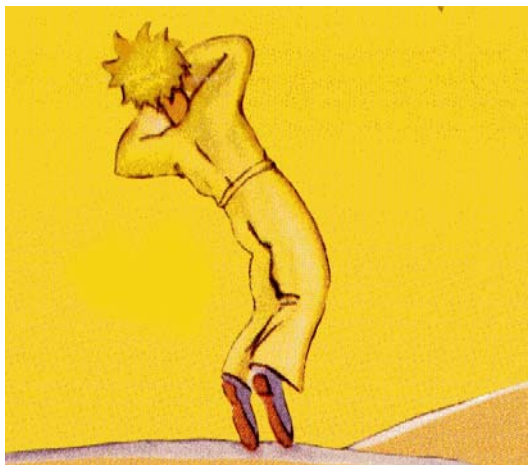
a) What is the name of the country and the city from where the speaker comes?

b) Why is French spoken in this country? Do you have any idea? Explain.

c) Can you hear any differences between the two French recordings? yes no

d) If “yes”, explain them?

e) Are any other languages spoken in this African country? Look at the map!



8. Now go to Great Britain and look for the English recording in Nottingham that you already know.

a) To which family of languages does English belong?

b) Compare the family of languages of English to the family of languages of French (cf. task number 5a). What can you say?

9. Open a new browser window and go to the French recording of Lyon once again. Listen to the French and the English recording several times.

- a) Describe the differences in the sound of both languages.

- b) Compare the English text with the original French text. Underline the words that have the same origin. Use a different color for each pair of words.

Original French text:

Ah! petit prince, j'ai compris, peu à peu, ainsi, ta petite vie mélancolique. Tu n'avais eu longtemps pour distraction que la douceur des couchers de soleil. J'ai appris ce détail nouveau, le quatrième jour au matin, quand tu m'as dit: J'aime bien les couchers de soleil.

English translation:

Ah! little prince. Bit by bit I came to understand your sad little life... For a long time, your only entertainment had been the pleasure of watching sunsets. I learned that new detail on the morning of the fourth day, when you said to me: I am very fond of sunsets.

- c) Do both languages have structures and words in common? Look for English semantic equivalents of the following French expressions:

<i>French</i>	<i>English</i>
prince	
peu à peu	
longtemps	
les couchers de soleil	
ce détail nouveau	
au matin	

- d) Comparing these word groups, what can you say about these two languages? Are they really so different from each other? What do you think?



