

FRENCH DEFINITIONS PHONETIC PRONUNCIATIONS

(ALL TITLES WILL BE ACCENTED ON FINAL SYLLABLE)

Voyageurs Militaire make no claim to speaking or writing French. In fact, their version of the French language would probably surprise and amaze any Frenchman, if he could understand it at all. It is remarkable how much the French language has been improved and simplified by Voyageurs who have never taken a French lesson in their lives.

Some of the newer Voyageurs, not to mention many of the older ones, may be a bit confused by the various French terms in the Ritual and Manual of Ceremonies of La Societe. Therefore, the following compilation of the "Forty and Eight French" was furnished courtesy of Voyageur Joseph Petron, Voiture Locale 518. Voyageur Petron was well qualified as an authority, not only by his French name, but by the fact tht he was an original and charter member of Voiture #1, Philadelphia, and served as Garde-Frein (Brakeman) des Etats Unis, in 1920.

French – Definition/Equivalent – Phonetic Pronunciation

Aidez-moi (Ay-dah mwah) - Aid, assist, help me
Attention (At-ten-see-on) - Be Careful/Attention
Aumonier (Oh-mohn-yea) - Chaplain
Avocat (Ah-voh-kah) - Legal Aid Officer/Lawyer
Chapeau (Shah-poh or Sha-po) - Hat, cap
Chapeaux (plural) (Shah-poh or Sha-po) - Hats, caps
Chateau (Shah-too or Shah-toh) - Castle/Voiture Home
Chef (Shef) - Chief, Leader/Commander
Chef de Chemin de Fer (Shef deh Shur-man deh Fare) - Railroad Pres./Nat'l Commander
Chef de Gare (Shef deh gare or Shef der gahr) - Depot Station Master/Post Commander
Chef de Train (Shef deh tran) - Train Master/Vice Commander
Cheminot (Shem-ee-no) - Railroad Worker/Member of Exe. Comm., Meeting of Exec. Comm.
Cheminot Locale (singular) (Shem-ee-no Lo-kal) - Local Railroad Worker/Post Exec. Comm.
Cheminots Locaux (plural) (Shem-ee-no Lo-koh) - Local Railroad Workers/Post Exec. Comm.
Cheminot National (singular) (Shem-ee-no Na-sion-al) - Nat'l Railroad Worker/Nat'l Exec. Comm.
Cheminots Nationaux (plural) (Shem-ee-no Na-sion-oh) - Nat'l Railroad Workers/Nat'l Exec. Comm.
Chevaux (Sher-voh or Shev-oh) - Horses
Comment-Allezvous (Komm-ahng-tal-lay voo) - How go you/How are you
Commis Voyageur (Kom-mee Vwa-yahj-ur) - Commercial Traveler/Property Man
Commissaire Intendant (Kom-mee-sair-ahn-than-dahnt) - Treasurer/Finance Officer
Conducteur (Kon-duc-tur) - Master of Ceremonies
Correspondant (Ker-ee-spahn-dahnt) - Secretary/Adjutant
De (used with feminine) (Deh or Der) - Of
Du (used with masculine) (Deh or Der) - Of
Des (used in the plural) (Day) - Of The
Des Etats-Unis (Day zay-tah-zou-nee) - Of the United States
Drapeau (Drah-po or Drah-poh) - Flag/Keeper of the Flag

Et (Eh) - And
Excuse Moi (Ex-kuz-ah-mwah) - Excuse Me
Grad-a-vous (Guard-ah-voo or Garrd-ah-voous) - On Guard/Attention
Garde (Garrd or Guard) - Guard
Garde de la Porte (Guard deh (or der) lah Porte) - Inner Door Guard/Sergeant at Arms
Garde des Prisonniers (masculine) (Garrd day-pree-zon-nair) - Prisoner's Guard
Gare (Gahrr or Gar) - Station/Railroad Depot
Gendarme (Hjaun-derm) - Policeman/Patrolman
Grand (masculine, singular) (Grahnd) - Large/State Organization
Grande (feminine, singular) (Grahnd) - Large/State Organization
Grands (masculine, plural) (Grahnd) - Large/State Organization
Grandes (feminine, plural) (Grahnd) - Large/State Organization
Grand Chef de Gare (Grahnd-Shef deh gar or gahr) - Chief Station Master/State Commander
Grand Cheminot (singular) (Grahnd-Shem-ee-no) - State Railroad Worker/District Commander or State Executive Committee
Grands cheminots (plural) (Grahnd-Shem-ee-no) - State Railroad Workers/District Commanders or State Executive Committees
Grande Voiture (feminine, singular) (Grahnd Vwature) - State Organization
Hommes (plural) (Ohm or Omm) - Men
Huit (Weet or Wheet) - Eight
Je ne peux pas (jzuh-nuh-puh-pah) - I can not
La (feminine, singular) (Lah) - The
Le (masculine, singular) (Ler or Luh) - The
Les (plural) (Lay) - The
Lampiste (Lom-peest) - Lamp Tender/Outer Door Guard
La Societe des (Lah So-see-i-tay day) - The Society Of
Quarante Hommes et (Care-aunt ohm za) - Forty Men And
Huit Chevaux (Weet Shev-oh) - Eight Horses
Local (masculine, singular) (Lo-kal) - Local
Locale (feminine, singular) (Lo-kal) - Local
Locaux (masculine, plural) (Lo-koh) - Locals
Locales (feminine, plural) (Lo-kals) - Locals
Medicin (May-de-san or Med-ee-san) - Doctor/Physician
Militaire (Mil-ee-tair) - Military
Monsieur (Mus-year or Mer-se-er) - Sir, Gentleman/Mister
National (masculine, singular) (Na-sion-al) - National
Nationale (feminine, singular) (Na-sion-al) - National
Nationaux (masculine, plural) (Na-sion-oh) - National
Nationales (feminine, plural) (Na-sion-oh) - National
Non (Non or Nong or Naung) - No
Oui (We or Wee, Wui, Oo'e) - Yes

Passe (Pas-say, Pa-sey, Pah-say) - Last/Past
 Porte (Port) - Door, Gate
 Premier (Prer-me-eh) - First
 Publiciste (Pub-li-sist) - Publisher, Writer/Editor
 Prisonnier (Pree-son-nee-ay or Pree-zon-yair) - Prisoner
 Prisonnier de Guerre, P.G. or Poor Goof (singular) (Pree-zon-yair deh gare) - Prisoner of War
 Prisonniers de Guerre, P.G.'s or Poor Goofs (plural) (Pree-zon-yair deh gare) - Prisoners of War
 Promenade (Prom-nod) - Meeting
 Promenade National (Prom-nod Na-sion-al) - National Meeting
 Quarante (Care-aunt, Car-rant, Kah-rahngt) - Forty
 Salute (Salute or Sa-luy) - Salute/Greeting
 Societe (So-see-i-tay) - Society
 Sous (Soo) - Assistant/Vice (under)
 Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer (Soo Shef deh Shuh-man deh fare) - National Vice Commander
 Sous Cheminot Locale (Soo-Shem-ee-no- Lo-kal) - Asst. Local Railroad Worker/Asst. Post Executive Committeeman
 Sous Grand Cheminot (Soo-Grahnd Shem-ee-no) - Asst. State Railroad Worker/Asst. District Commander or Asst. State Executive Committeeman
 Train (Tran or Train) - Train
 Voiture (feminine, singular) (Vwa-ture - not Voy-ture) or Vwa-teur or Vu-ah-teer) - Box Car/Post
 Voitures (feminine, plural) (Vwa-ture) - Box Cars/Posts
 Voiture Locale (feminine, singular) (Vwa-ture Lo-kal) - Local Organization
 Voitures Locales (feminine, plural) (Vwa-ture Lo-kal) - Local Organizations
 Voiture Nationale (Vwa-ture Na-sion-al) - National Organization/National Headquarters
 Voyageur (Vwa-yahj-ur) - Traveler, Passenger
 Voyageur Militaire (Vwa-yahj-ur Mil-ee-tair) - Military Traveler, Military Passenger

NOTES:

1. In speaking French an “e” at the end of a word makes it feminine; no “e” at the end of a word makes it masculine. Therefore, since a Voiture is considered to be feminine (similar to a ship or plane), it is properly a Grande Voiture, a Grande Promenade, a Grande Cheminot (meeting), etc. However an officer is a Grand Chef de Gare, a Grand Cheminot, etc. Similarly, Voiture Nationale and Promenade Nationale are correct. And a national officer would be National Aumonier, National Directeur, etc.
2. Either “de” or “du” may be used; but, based on the above; “de” is considered more correct.

Please remember this was put together a long time ago, but it is very helpful in pronouncing the French words we use today.