Fourth Edition

ACTION GRAMMAIRE!

French Grammar for A-level

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CONTENTS

Introduction 7

1 Grammar — what is it? 9

1.1 Spelling; 1.2 Parts of speech; 1.3 Sentence structure; 1.4 Verbs; 1.5 Style and register; 1.6 French grammar terms

2 Nouns 15

2.1 Gender; 2.2 Plural of nouns

3 Articles and expressions of quantity 22

3.1 The definite article; 3.2 The indefinite article; 3.3 The partitive article; 3.4 Expressions of quantity

4 Adjectives 30

4.1 The agreement of adjectives; 4.2 Position of adjectives; 4.3 Purposes

5 Adverbs 40

5.1 Formation of adverbs; 5.2 Adverbial phrases; 5.3 Adjectives used as adverbs; 5.4 Adverbs of degree; 5.5 The position of adverbs

6 Comparative of adjectives and adverbs 46

6.1 Adjectives; 6.2 Adverbs

7 Superlative of adjectives and adverbs 52

7.1 The superlative of adjectives; 7.2 The superlative of adverbs

8 Demonstratives 56

8.1 *Ce/cet/cette/ces*; 8.2 *Ceci* and *cela*; 8.3 *Celui-ci/celui-là*

9 Possession 61

9.1 No 'apostrophe s'; 9.2 Possessive adjectives: my, your etc.; 9.3 Mine, yours etc.; 9.4 Parts of the body, clothing and personality

10 Personal pronouns 68

10.1 Subject pronouns; 10.2 Direct object pronouns; 10.3 Indirect object pronouns; 10.4 Reflexive pronouns; 10.5 Disjunctive pronouns; 10.6 *Tu* or *vous*; 10.7 *Y* and *en*; 10.8 Order of object pronouns when used with verbs

11 Other determiners 79

11.1 *Chaque* and *chacun*; 11.2 *Tout*; 11.3 *Tel/tels/telle/telles* — such; 11.4 *Plusieurs*, *quelque(s)* and *quelques-uns/quelques-unes*, *certain(s), certaine(s)* — several, some; 11.5 *Autre(s)* — other; 11.6 *Aucun(e)* — no, not any

12 Numerals 85

12.1 Cardinal numbers: counting 1, 2, 3…; 12.2 Ordinal numbers: 1st, 2nd, 3rd…; 12.3 Collective (approximate) numbers; 12.4 Decimals and fractions

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13 Measures and dimensions 92

13.1 Length, breadth, depth, height, thickness, diameter; 13.2 Area, volume, capacity; 13.3 Shapes; 13.4 Measures; 13.5 Percentages

14 Times, days, dates 97

14.1 Time of day; 14.2 Days of the week; 14.3 Months and dates; 14.4 Years; 14.5 *Année*, *journée*, *matinée*, *soirée*; 14.6 Time

15 The present tense 102

15.1 Uses; 15.2 Formation; 15.3 Irregular verbs

16 The imperative 114

16.1 Uses; 16.2 Formation; 16.3 The imperative with object pronouns; 16.4 Other ways of expressing commands

17 The future tense 119

17.1 Uses; 17.2 Other ways of expressing the future; 17.3 Formation; 17.4 Irregular verbs

18 The conditional 126

18.1 Uses; 18.2 Formation

19 The perfect tense 131

19.1 Uses; 19.2 Formation

20 The imperfect tense 140

20.1 Uses; 20.2 Formation

21 Other compound tenses 145

21.1 The pluperfect tense; 21.2 Past anterior; 21.3 Future perfect; 21.4 Conditional perfect

22 The past historic tense 151

22.1 Uses; 22.2 Formation

23 Past tenses contrasted 156

23.1 The perfect or past historic v. the imperfect

24 Reflexive verbs 161

24.1 Uses; 24.2 Formation

25 The infinitive 168

25.1 Uses

26 Modal auxiliaries 174

26.1 Must, to have to, to have got to; 26.2 Ought/ought to have, should/should have; 26.3 Can/could/could have; 26.4 May/might; 26.5 Some points about *vouloir*

27 The infinitive after prepositions 183

27.1 Linking the infinitive without a preposition; 27.2 Linking with *à*; 27.3 Linking with *de*; 27.4 Linking with other prepositions

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28 Verbs and their objects 193

28.1 Verbs taking a direct object in French; 28.2 Verbs taking an indirect object with the preposition *à*; 28.3 Verbs linked to their object with *de*; 28.4 Verbs + other preposition + object

29 Participles 200

29.1 Present participle; 29.2 Past participle

30 The passive 209

30.1 The passive; 30.2 Alternatives to the passive; 30.3 When using the passive in the past tenses

31 Impersonal verbs 216

31.1 The weather; 31.2 Time of day; 31.3 Other common impersonal verbs; 31.4 *Il*…; 31.5 *Il est* + adjective + *de* or *que*…

32 The subjunctive: introduction 222

32.1 The present subjunctive; 32.2 The perfect subjunctive; 32.3 The imperfect subjunctive; 32.4 The pluperfect subjunctive; 32.5 Use of the subjunctive tenses; 32.6 The meaning of the subjunctive

33 The subjunctive: influence 229

33.1 The subjunctive after verbs of wanting, requiring etc; 33.2 Impersonal expressions indicating necessity, importance etc.; 33.3 *Que* + subjunctive

34 The subjunctive: emotional and mental reactions 234

34.1 Emotional reactions; 34.2 Mental reactions and value judgements

35 The subjunctive: doubt, disbelief and possibility 239

35.1 After expressions indicating doubt and uncertainty; 35.2 Expressions of disbelief and denial; 35.3 Possibility

36 The subjunctive: after conjunctions 244

36.1 Purpose; 36.2 Condition; 36.3 Time; 36.4 Concession; 36.5 Fear; 36.6 *Sans que*; 36.7 Subjunctive or infinitive?

37 The subjunctive: other main uses 251

37.1 After certain types of antecedent; 37.2 Equivalents of English words ending in '-ever'; 37.3 'Whether… or…'

38 Negatives 258

38.1 Making verbs negative; 38.2 Other negative expressions; 38.3 Position of negative words; 38.4 Negatives without a verb; 38.5 *Sans* + infinitive + negative object; 38.6 *Si* for 'yes'; 38.7 Further observations about *ne*

39 If… 268

40 How long for? 273

40.1 The present; 40.2 The past; 40.3 The future

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41 Prepositions 279

41.1 *À*; 41.2 *Dans* and *en*; 41.3 *De*; 41.4 *Par* — by, through, via, per; 41.5 *Pour* — for; 41.6 *Sur* — on, about; 41.7 Other prepositions; 41.8 Related adverbs and conjunctions

42 Relative pronouns 288

42.1 *Qui*; 42.2 *Que*; 42.3 *Dont*; 42.4 *Lequel/laquelle/lesquels/lesquelles*; 42.5 *Ce qui, ce que, ce dont, ce à quoi*; 42.6 *Celui qui/celui que/celui dont*

43 Questions: the interrogative 294

43.1 Yes/No questions; 43.2 Interrogative (question) words

44 Exclamations 300

44.1 *Quel/Quels/Quelle/Quelles !*; 44.2 *Que/que* + verb (usually *être*) + adjective/adverb; 44.3 *Que de… !*

45 Direct and indirect speech 302

45.1 Direct speech; 45.2 Indirect (or 'reported') speech; 45.3 Indirect questions

46 *C'est, il est, il y a* 307

46.1 Identification and description; 46.2 *Il est… que* or *C'est… que* ?; 46.3 *C'est…* + noun or pronoun or infinitive; 46.4 Branching out

47 French pronunciation and spelling 312

47.1 Vowels; 47.2 Consonants

48 Hints to develop your French vocabulary, while avoiding the traps 317

48.1 The French language; 48.2 Recognising French words; 48.3 Build words and thereby build your vocabulary; 48.4 Prefixes and suffixes

Verb list 328

Index 348

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this new edition of *Action Grammaire !* — the fourth!

Action Grammaire ! aims to provide a systematic presentation of grammar points with sufficient back-up practice to ensure that the points are adequately reinforced. It assumes that students will have 'discovered' most points in previous — probably topic-based — study, and therefore goes straight to the explanation of them.

We have retained the three-section format of the previous editions:

Mécanismes — the 'mechanics' of the language

The first section of each chapter sets out a grammatical rule or usage, with a clear explanation in English. This section can also be used purely for reference.

Mettez-vous au point ! — 'tune yourself up'

This provides practice and reinforcement exercises on a particular grammatical point. Where possible, these exercises are set within a realistic context and most are designed to be suitable for individual study. The answers are available online for self-correction. Apart from a few translation exercises, this section is in French.

… Et en route ! — 'off you go to exploit the freedom of the road!'

This section offers a range of more open-ended communicative activities in French, ranging from the fairly elementary to the more sophisticated, both oral and written. The activities are set in a variety of contexts in which the grammar point is likely to occur.

However, we have made a number of changes in view of the new specifications for the AS exams from 2018 and A-levels from 2019.

Some existing exercises and activities have been updated or replaced, as is usual with a new edition.

You will find that most chapters now have a passage or sentences for **translation**, French to English or vice versa and the occasional summary exercise. These are usually to be found in the ***… Et en route !*** section.

We have also included exercises to give you an opportunity to use your knowledge of the novel or film you are studying.

Many of the new exercises use vocabulary and scenarios relevant to the new specifications. Others use vocabulary of a general nature accessible to the average A-level student. All the content is fully relevant to all students with this level of French, and exercises and activities cover all practical aspects of the language, both spoken and written.

You will find the **Answers** to all the ***Mettez-vous au point !*** exercises and some of the other exercises at **www.hoddereducation.co.uk/mfl-grammar-answers**.

Nouvelle orthographe

This grammar book follows the revised spellings recommended by the *Académie française* in 1990, which have recently been adopted in French schools. The changes were designed to smooth some of the irregularities of French spelling, for example by removing the circumflex

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accent on the vowels *i* and *u* in words where it does not convey a distinction in meaning. Here are some examples of the changes:

Old spelling	New spelling	Comment
le coût	*le cout*	Circumflex accent is superfluous
vingt et un	*vingt-et-un*	All compound numerals now hyphenated
des après-midi	*des après-midis*	Most compound nouns now have plural in *-s*
je céderai	*je cèderai*	Verbs like *céder* keep the *è* when followed by a mute vowel
le week-end	*le weekend*	Certain hyphenated nouns lose their hyphen
aiguë	*aigüe*	The *tréma* is now placed on the sounded vowel
s'asseoir	*s'assoir*	The traditional spelling is anomalous

A further explanation of the changes can be found at **www.orthographe-recommandee.info/enseignement/regles.pdf**. Please be reassured that in GCE and GCSE examinations students will be allowed to use either old or new spellings for the foreseeable future.

Phil Turk, series editor

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5 Adverbs

MÉCANISMES

Chapter 4 looked at adjectives, which describe nouns and pronouns. Adverbs qualify other parts of speech, most commonly:

- verbs (We **finished** it **quickly**.)
- adjectives (We found the journey **amazingly easy**.)
- other adverbs (We got here **amazingly quickly**.)

Adverbs have two main forms:

- those which are single words in their own right. They can be, among other things:

adverbs of degree: ***très*** — very, ***assez*** — enough, ***peu*** — not very, ***beaucoup*** — a lot
adverbs of time: ***souvent*** — often, ***déjà*** — already, ***bientôt*** — soon
adverbs of place: ***ici*** — here, ***là*** — there, ***partout*** — everywhere
adverbs of situation: ***ensemble*** — together, ***debout*** — standing up

- those which are formed from adjectives. In English you add '-ly' to adjectives, with or without minor spelling adjustments: easy → easily, quick → quickly.

5.1 Formation of adverbs

To make an adjective into an adverb in French, in the majority of cases, you add ***-ment*** to the feminine of the adjective.

franc	→	***franche***	→	***franchement***	→	frank	→	frankly
heureux	→	***heureuse***	→	***heureusement***	→	happy	→	happily
doux	→	***douce***	→	***doucement***	→	gentle	→	gently

! Note the following, however:

- The majority of adjectives ending in ***-ant*** and ***-ent*** change ***-nt*** to ***m*** before adding ***-ment***:

apparent	→	***apparemment***	apparent	→	apparently
violent	→	***violemment***	violent	→	violently
courant	→	***couramment***	current	→	currently/fluently
patient	→	***patiemment***	patient	→	patiently
but not: ***lent***	→	***lentement***	slow	→	slowly

- Adjectives ending in ***-i*** or ***-u*** add ***-ment*** to the masculine form:

absolu	→	***absolument***	absolute	→	absolutely
vrai	→	***vraiment***	real/true	→	really/truly
joli	→	***joliment***	nice	→	nicely

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- Some adjectives change the 'mute' ***-e*** to ***-é***: and this change is sounded:

aveugle	→	***aveuglément***	blind	→	blindly
commode	→	***commodément***	convenient/handy	→	conveniently/handily
commun	→	***communément***	common	→	commonly
confus	→	***confusément***	confused	→	confusedly
énorme	→	***énormément***	enormous	→	enormously
précis	→	***précisément***	precise	→	precisely
profond	→	***profondément***	deep, profound	→	deeply, profoundly

! Note also these common exceptions:

bon	→	***bien***	good	→	well
mauvais	→	***mal***	bad	→	badly
meilleur	→	***mieux***	better (adjective and adverb)		
moindre	→	***moins***	less/least (adjective and adverb)		
petit	→	***peu***	little (adjective and adverb)		
bref	→	***brièvement***	brief	→	briefly
gentil	→	***gentiment***	kind	→	kindly
vif	→	***vivement***	warm/quick	→	warmly/quickly

5.2 Adverbial phrases

Sometimes a whole phrase is used instead of an adverb:

*Maigret examina **avec soin** les traces de sang.*
Maigret **carefully** examined the traces of blood.

*Nous attendons **avec impatience** votre prochaine visite.*
We await your next visit **impatiently.** (= We are looking forward to your next visit.)

A few adjectives do not have an adverbial form (for example, ***charmant***, ***enthousiaste***, ***fâché***, ***irrité***, ***intéressant***). In these cases you have to use an adverbial phrase such as ***d'une manière/façon*** or ***d'un ton*** + adjective or ***avec*** + noun:

*Elle a présenté le bouquet de fleurs **d'une manière charmante**.*
She presented the bouquet of flowers **charmingly.**

*Le président de la réunion réagit **avec enthousiasme**.*
The chairperson of the meeting reacted **enthusiastically.**

5.3 Adjectives used as adverbs

Some adjectives are used as adverbs in combination with certain verbs:

*Je **parlais** très **fort** mais il ne comprenait rien.*
I was **speaking** very **loud(ly)** but he didn't understand anything.

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! Note also:

aller tout droit	to go straight on	***parler bas***	to speak quietly, keep one's voice down
chanter faux	to sing out of tune	***refuser net***	to refuse point blank
couter cher	to cost dear(ly)	***travailler dur***	to work hard
payer cher	to pay dear(ly)	***voir clair***	to see clearly

- ***Soudain*** is often used as an adverb:

  Soudain, *nous étions dans Paris.*
  Suddenly we were into Paris.

- ***Fort*** can be used as a slightly more emphatic form of ***très***:

  Ils étaient tous ***fort*** *fatigués.*
  They were all **very** tired **indeed.**

! Note, however, that ***vite*** is an adverb and cannot be used as an adjective (which would be ***rapide***):

Le TGV est un train très ***rapide****. Il roule très, très* ***vite****!*
The TGV is a very **fast** train. It travels very, very **fast!**

5.4 Adverbs of degree

There are a number of adverbs that are used to qualify an adjective or another adverb, indicating the degree of the quality described:

très joli	very pretty	*extraordinairement bien*	extremely well
assez bon	quite good	*bien cuit*	well cooked

! Note also the following construction with ***si*** or ***tellement*** (so):

La foule était ***si*** *grande qu'il était impossible de rien voir.*
The crowd was **so** large (that) it was impossible to see anything.

Peter parle ***tellement*** *bien qu'on le prendrait pour un vrai Français.*
Peter speaks **so** well that you would take him for a real Frenchman.

5.5 The position of adverbs

In French, adverbs which qualify a verb come as close to it as possible, usually directly after it (there is far less flexibility in their position than in English):

Nous ***allons souvent*** *au théâtre.*
We **often go** to the theatre./We **go** to the theatre **often.**

Le professeur ***expliquait soigneusement*** *le problème à ses élèves.*
The teacher **was explaining** the problem to his pupils **carefully.**/ The teacher **was carefully explaining** the problem to his pupils.

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Adverbs of time usually come before a past participle:

*J'ai **déjà vu** ce film-là.*
I've **already seen** that film.

*Nous sommes **bientôt arrivés** à Bruxelles.*
We **soon arrived** in Brussels.

METTEZ-VOUS AU POINT !

1 L'appareil photo numérique à la portée de tous

Complétez ces phrases sur l'appareil photo numérique en formant des adverbes à partir des adjectifs qui sont sur la droite. Placez l'adverbe après le verbe.

1	Vous enverrez des photos de vacances à vos amis.	facile
2	Vous stockerez des dizaines de photos sur votre carte mémoire.	rapide
3	Vous effacerez vos mauvaises photos.	commode
4	Vous enregistrerez vos photos sur votre disque dur.	aisé
5	Vous imprimerez vos photos.	simple
6	Vous recadrerez vos photos.	rapide
7	Vous recommanderez l'application « Photoshop » à vos amis.	vif
8	Vous ferez des petits montages photo.	naturel

Bref, en un petit clic de souris, vous pourrez revivre toutes vos vacances de façon fort agréable, et les faire partager à vos amis.

2 L'éducation des jeunes enfants

Transformez les locutions adverbiales en adverbes. Placez l'adverbe au bon endroit dans la phrase.

Exemples :

Il faut que les enfants mangent d'une façon saine.
Il faut que les enfants mangent sainement.

Il faut parler aux enfants avec douceur.
Il faut parler doucement aux enfants.

1 Il faut qu'ils dorment d'une façon paisible.
2 Il faut leur expliquer les choses avec lenteur.
3 Il faut répondre à leurs questions avec franchise.
4 Il faut leur raconter des histoires avec simplicité.
5 Il faut leur enseigner le vocabulaire avec précision.
6 Il faut s'assurer qu'ils sont en bonne santé avec régularité.
7 Il faut leur apprendre à obéir avec gentillesse.
8 Il faut qu'ils jouent avec d'autres enfants avec fréquence.

3 *Les 400 coups*

Voici quelques commentaires sur le film *Les 400 coups* de François Truffaut. Vous compléterez les phrases à l'aide des adverbes de la colonne de droite. Il y a de nombreuses possibilités.

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Exemple :

« Les 400 coups » est un film réaliste. incroyablement

« Les 400 coups » est un film incroyablement réaliste.

1	Le destin d'Antoine Doisnel est touchant.	extrêmement
2	Je trouve que François Truffaut est un réalisateur merveilleux.	absolument
3	Son film est bien fait.	superbement
4	Jean-Pierre Léaud interprète bien le rôle d'Antoine Doinel.	extraordinairement
5	F. Truffaut était jeune lorsqu'il a fait ce film.	étonnamment
6	Le spectateur s'identifie aisément à Antoine Doisnel.	incroyablement
7	Antoine Doisnel est malchanceux lorsqu'il met le feu au rideau.	terriblement
8	Antoine Doisnel et son camarade René sont complices.	très/fort
9	Le prix de la Mise en Scène du Festival de Cannes est mérité.	tellement

… ET EN ROUTE !

4 Changements rapides

Travaillez à deux ou à trois. Partez de la phrase suivante : « Il courait lentement ». L'un/l'une d'entre vous change l'adverbe, l'autre le verbe, le plus vite possible. Celui qui répète deux fois le même mot est éliminé.

Exemples :

Il courait lentement, il courait vite, il mangeait vite, il mangeait soigneusement, il parlait soigneusement…

5 À l'agence de publicité

Vous travaillez dans une agence de publicité, et vous inventez des slogans publicitaires pour une variété de produits.

a Voici une liste de quelques adverbes et de quelques produits. Essayez de les assortir : vous pouvez utiliser chaque adverbe ou produit plus d'une fois si vous le voulez.

Les adverbes :	*Les produits* :
silencieusement	une confiture
soigneusement	une pâte dentifrice
efficacement	un lave-vaisselle
exactement	un fromage
rapidement	un DVD
étonnamment bien	un autoradio
franchement bien	une promotion de voyages
vraiment beau/belle	une tondeuse à gazon

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spécialement content(e)	un rasoir
facilement	un dictionnaire de français
confortablement	un ordinateur
clairement	un téléphone portable

Exemple:

Vous travaillerez facilement avec notre nouveau dictionnaire de français.

b Travaillez en deux équipes. En utilisant encore d'autres adverbes, une équipe fait un slogan contenant un adverbe, l'autre équipe doit deviner le produit.

c Continuez dans vos équipes. Une équipe doit nommer un produit, l'autre doit répondre avec un slogan contenant un adverbe.

6 La Nouvelle Vague

Et maintenant, traduisez le texte suivant sur « La Nouvelle Vague ».

The expression « Nouvelle Vague » initially appeared in 1957 in the French magazine « L'Express ». It mainly refers to films, although it originally referred to the sociological aspects of French society. It actually reflects the incredibly new phenomena taking place in France in the 1960s: the Thirty Glorious Years, the War of Algeria and women's liberation movements which definitely changed the image of a terribly ageing French society.

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