

Unforgettable French, 2nd edition

Memory Tricks to Help You Learn and
Remember French Grammar

Maria Rice-Jones

Maria Rice-Jones is a French national with a Master's Degree in Modern Languages from the Sorbonne University in Paris. Since 1990, she has taught French to both children and adults in Paris, Milan and London. She has also written *Hexagonie: An Innovative Way of Teaching French*, a comprehensive method for teaching French in primary and lower secondary schools using memory tricks. For more details, please see page 88.

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Introduction

Unforgettable French uses memory tricks to teach and reinforce major points of French grammar from the basics up to GCSE level, to learners of all ages. It may be used:

- * By anyone who wishes to gain confidence in speaking French
- * As a revision aid, to consolidate the learner's grasp of grammatical points
- * To complement whatever French scheme you are using
- * By French teachers at all levels, from primary through to adult.

Unforgettable French is full of memory tricks to help you engage your memory and remember key grammatical points. Over the years, I have developed my tried-and-tested memory tricks based on sound and idea associations. I have found that using memory tricks to explain "tricky" bits facilitates the learning process and what seemed difficult before is suddenly much easier to remember.

My memory tricks in *Unforgettable French* are presented in a highly visual, page-by-page format, with practice exercises. The sheets can be enlarged to make mini-posters or used as "aide-mémoires". My memory tricks are deliberately funny or shocking so that our brains can remember. Let me give you some examples:



The verb "to hide" in French is "cacher". To remember it, imagine that you hide your cash, and "cash" reminds us of "cacher".



"Cher" means "expensive" and if something is expensive then we want to "share" the expense.



= o = "au"



The way to remember that we say "au" with ball sports – "je joue **au** football" (I play football) – is to remember that "au" sounds like "o" – which looks like a ball.

If you are an adult, the illustrations and the stories about the imaginary land of Hexagonie might seem childish. This is on purpose as children seem to have greater imaginations than adults. So, please don't be put off by the illustrations and stories as they will help you to visualize the language better. Instead, think like a child again and start to enjoy playing with the language.

My method of teaching is now used successfully in many schools in the UK. For more information on *Hexagonie*, my scheme for introducing French to primary and lower secondary pupils, please see page 88.

Enjoy!

Maia

Maria Rice-Jones

