

Organizing a Crossword Contest

There are many ways to organize a contest in and out of the classroom. For National French Week, the objective is to organize a competition outside the French classroom, but either option will show students how closely French is related to English and how much general knowledge relates to French.

The puzzle itself is 43 squares wide by 44 squares long. Students can draw four-inch squares on rolls of paper to create a wall-sized grid and fill them in and number them to match the blank puzzle. Smaller copies of grids can also be distributed for students to compete in teams.

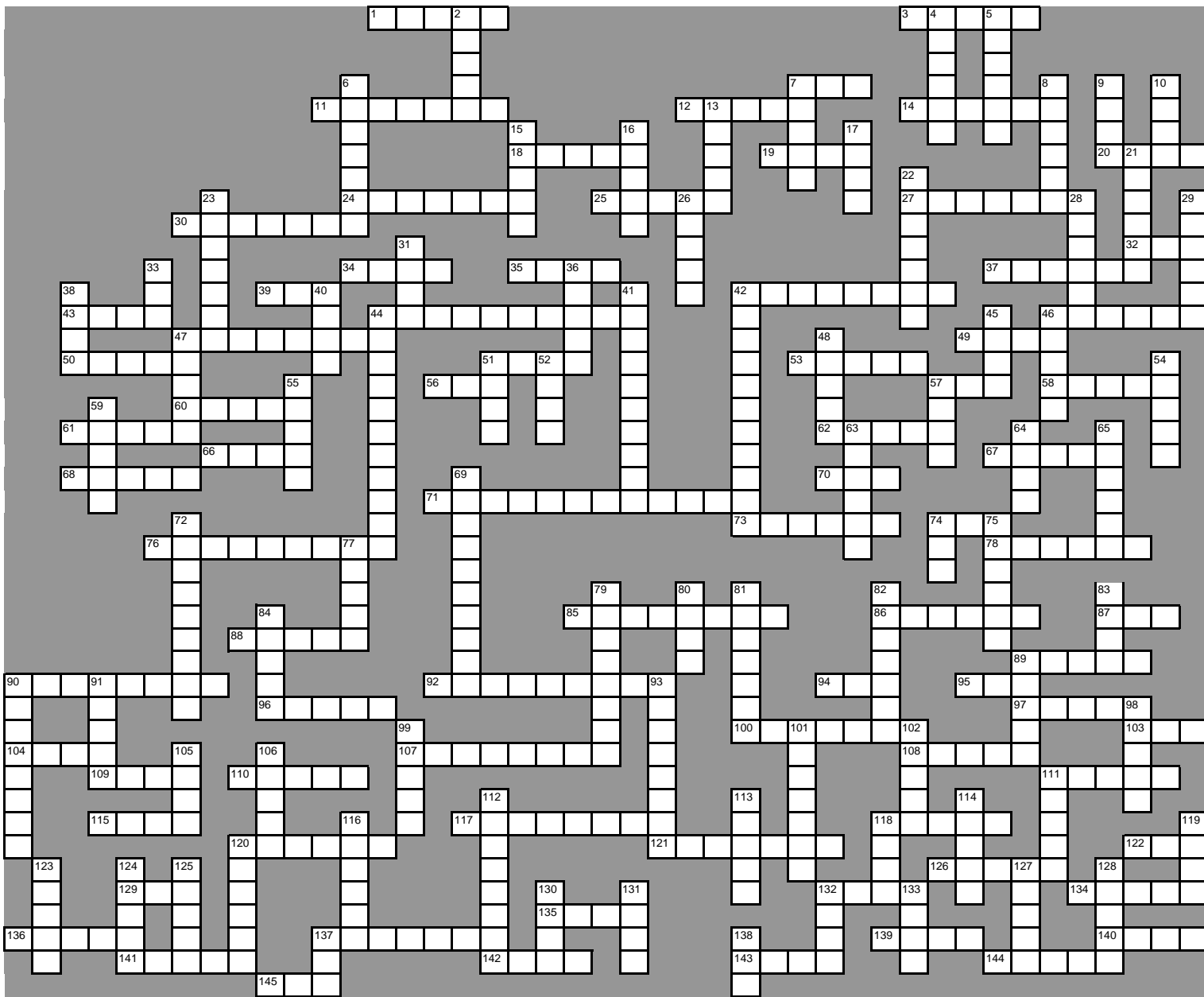
Clues can be disseminated in a number of ways. Depending on how long the contest will last, they can be divided up so that a portion of the clues are announced each day. The first person or team to find the correct responses will then be allowed to inscribe their answers on the wall-size puzzle. These groups of clues can be printed and given out as handouts, announced over the school loudspeaker, or even published in the school newspaper.

Prizes can be awarded for the individual or team who gets the most correct answers or who completes the entire puzzle correctly.

The following pages include:

- a blank crossword grid
- the clues
- the crossword answer key
- activities which use categorize and use the terms from the puzzle
- the answer key to the activities

These are just a few suggestions for how a contest can be organized. Teachers and students are welcome to come up with their own and are invited to share them by sending an e-mail to: [staff@frenchteachers.org].



ACROSS

1. Blanc and St. Michel.
3. Capital of Morocco.
7. Metric measure.
11. 20th-century painting style.
12. Brimless cap.
14. Movie house.
18. *Turandot* is one.
19. Section in a theater.
20. Without.
24. Sustenance.
25. Rachmaninoff piece.
27. Artist's studio.
30. Public honors.
32. Jeanne d'Arc's title.
34. Mardi _____.
35. She sang "La Vie en rose."
37. Young swan.
39. _____ de triomphe.
42. Tops in Evian.
43. Mt. Blanc range.
44. Michelin introduced it in 1946.
46. Tussaud's title.
47. Hare's challenger.
49. Venus de _____.
- 50 French goodbye.
51. Distinctive flair.
53. Secret store.
56. Fond du _____, WI.
57. Ballet step.
58. Grenoble's river.
60. Birthplace of De Gaulle.
61. Fry lightly.
62. Causes one to yawn.
66. Composer Satie.
67. Word at an unveiling.
68. Neighbors Quebec.
70. Aix-les-Bains.
71. French miss.
73. Evening party.
74. Nice summer.
76. Joliet's companion.
78. His nose was famous.
85. He founded Detroit.
86. Lauder and Chandler.
87. Tahiti or Guadeloupe.

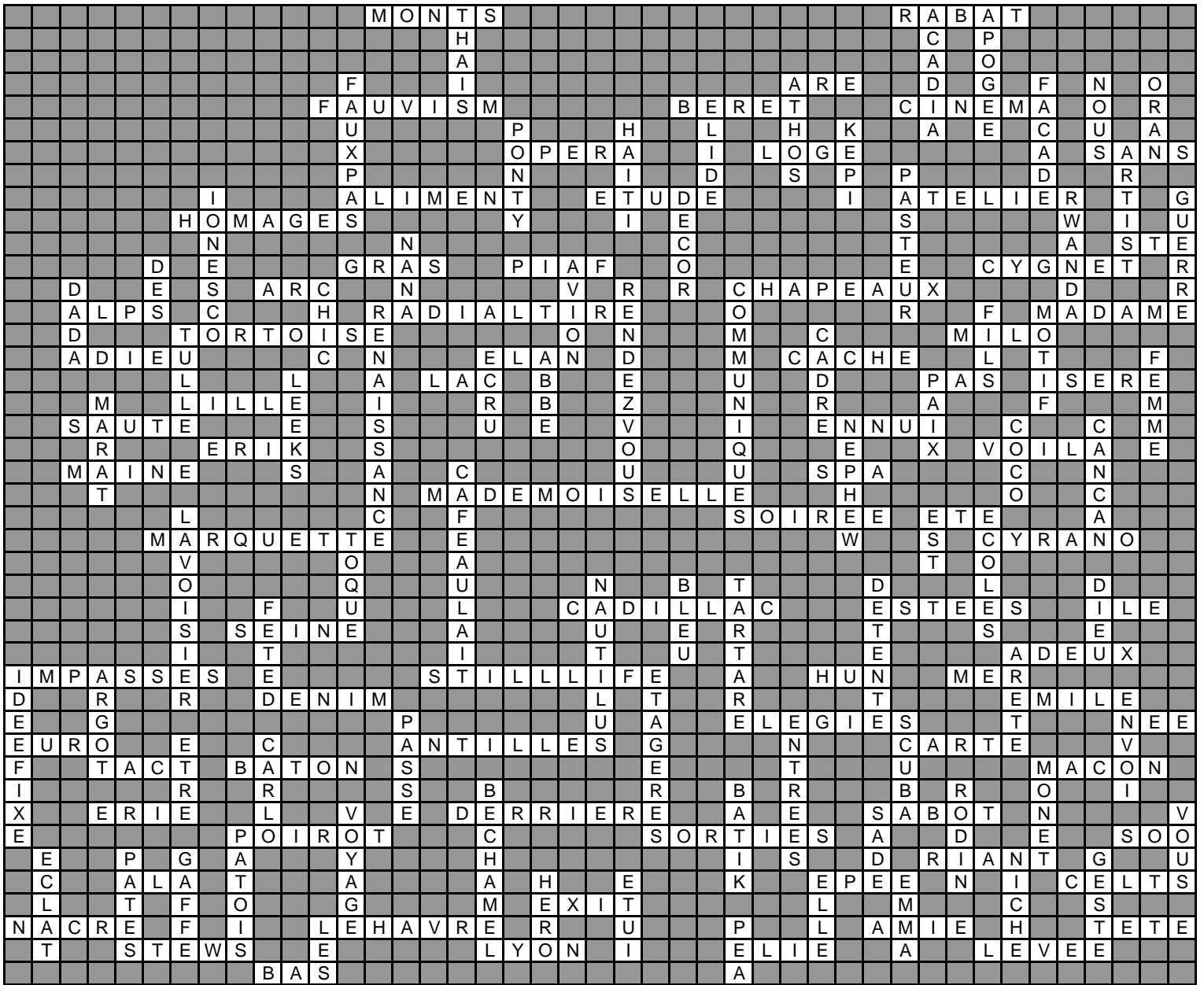
88. Its Left Bank is famous.
89. Describes an intimate dinner.
90. Dead ends.
92. Cezanne's speciality.
94. Ostrogoth's enemy.
95. French sea.
96. Jeans fabric.
97. Writer Zola.
100. Mournful poems.
103. Word on the social register.
104. Continental coin.
107. West Indies vacation spot.
108. Food list.
109. Savoir-faire.
110. Conductor's tool.
111. Town in Georgia or France.
115. Joliet discovered it in 1669.
117. Rear.
118. Carved shoe.
120. Agatha Christie's detective.
121. Military actions.
122. _____ Locks (Sault Ste. Marie canal).
126. Pleasingly mirthful.
129. In the style of.
132. Fencing weapon.
134. Pre-Roman occupants of Britain and Brittany.
135. Sartre's *No* _____.
136. Mother of pearl.
137. French port city.
139. Friend on the Riviera.
140. Head of France.
141. Cassoulet and haricot.
142. City on the Saone and the Rhone.
143. Author Weisel.
144. Embankment.
145. _____-relief.

DOWN

2. Opera from a novel by Anatole France.
4. Former French colony in N. America.
5. Point on an orbit.
6. Error.
7. Dumas swashbuckler.
8. Superficial behavior.
9. Between ourselves: entre _____.
10. Algerian port.

13. Leave out a vowel.
15. Jazz violinist, Jean-Luc _____.
16. Half of Hispaniola.
17. French military hat.
21. Manet or Monet.
22. French vaccine developer.
23. *Rhinoceros* playwright Eugene _____.
26. Interior design.
28. Neighbor of Burundi.
29. Nom de _____ (pseudonym).
31. Zola novel.
33. _____ Moines, IA.
36. Word on an envelope.
38. Anti-art art movement.
40. Fashionable.
41. Meeting.
42. Official messages.
44. Rebirth.
45. Dumas, _____.
46. Recurring theme.
47. Veil material.
48. Core military advisors.
51. Color of linen.
52. Cleric in Calais.
54. _____ fatale.
55. Vichychoise vegetables.
57. Rue de la _____.
59. Victim of Charlotte Corday.
63. Napoleon III to Napoleon I.
64. Gabrielle Chanel's nickname.
65. French dance.
69. Breakfast drink.
72. Founder of modern chemistry.
74. C'_____ la vie!
75. Sorbonne and others.
77. Close-fitting woman's hat.
79. Verne ship.
80. Moldy cheese.
81. Served raw.
82. Lessening of political tensions.
83. Mon _____!
84. Threw a party for.
89. Glacial ridge.
90. Obsession.
91. Specialized vocabulary.
93. Place for knickknacks.

98. Conclusion of a poem.
99. No longer current.
101. Menu heading.
102. Jacques Cousteau invented it.
105. Raison d'_____.
106. Monte _____.
111. He painted haystacks.
112. White sauce.
113. Dyed fabric.
114. He sculpted "The Thinker."
116. Long journey.
118. Marquis of *Quills*.
119. Part of RSVP.
120. Regional dialect.
123. Critical success.
124. Party spreads.
125. Blooper.
127. Cubbyhole.
128. "Beau _____."
130. Croix de guerre recipient.
131. Small case for toiletries.
132. Popular fashion magazine.
133. Madame Bovary.
137. _____ *Misérables*.
138. Fabled princess was annoyed by one.



I. FRENCH WORDS THAT ARE FAMILIAR TO WELL EDUCATED PEOPLE

A. Following are some French expressions that someone who has been exposed to French might be expected to know.

i. How many of these can you figure out?

1. French sea. (3 letters)
2. Head of France/What a logical Parisian uses/French noggin. (4 letters)
3. Juillet is part of it/Summer to a Frenchman. (3 letters)
4. Pluvial month. (5 letters)
5. You, to Yves. (3 letters)
6. Friend abroad. (3 letters)
7. Evening abroad. (4 letters)
8. It means nothing to some people. (4 letters)
9. Femme's pronoun. (4 letters)
10. The king of France. (3 letters)

ii. With a partner, make up ten clues for your classmates following the above pattern.

B. All the following French expressions appear in the American Heritage Dictionary.

i. How many of them do you know?

1. Christmas. (4 letters)
2. Without. (4 letters)
3. Fashionable. (4 letters)
4. Evening party. (6 letters)
5. Specialized vocabulary. (5 letters)
6. Carved shoe. (5 letters)
7. Descriptive of an intimate dinner. (5 letters)

8. Ecclesiastic title in France. (4 letters)
9. Born/Born as/Family tree word. (3 letters)
10. Throw a party for (4 letters)/Rolls out the red carpet for. (5 letters)

ii. Using the above words, design a word search for your classmates.

C. Many French terms are used in English.

i. Show how many of these you already know by filling the blanks.

1. _____ fatale. (5 letters)
2. Steamer _____ vapeur. (3 letters)
3. Raison d' _____. (4 letters)
4. _____ de plume. (3 letters)
5. Nom de _____. (pseudonym). (6 letters)
6. _____-relief. (3 letters)
7. Beau _____. (5 letters)
8. _____ fixe. (4 letters)
9. C' _____ la vie! (3 letters)
10. Mardi _____. (4 letters)

ii. Working with a partner, find ten more French expressions that are borrowed by English speakers. You may wish to consult a book such as John Ayto's Dictionary of Foreign Words in English (Wordsworth Reference).

D. English speakers sometimes know the English equivalent of French expressions.

i. Do you know the English equivalent of these five French expressions?

1. Derrière. _____ (4 letters)
2. Commit a faux pas. _____ (3 letters)
3. Savoir faire. _____ (5 letters/4 letters)
4. Communiqués. (8 letters)

5. Clique. (7 letters)

ii. Make up 3 clues for your classmates, using French expressions for which they must supply the English equivalent.

E. Some expressions may not be in the dictionary but are expected to be known by well educated speakers of English who have had some exposure to French.

Do you recognize the two expressions alluded to by these three clues?

a. Word at unveiling perhaps. (5 letters)

b. Invitation word. (5 letters)

c. Part of RSVP. (4 letters)

**II. ENGLISH WORDS OF FRENCH ORIGIN
(THE KIND THAT SHOW UP ON VERBAL TESTS LIKE THE G.R.E.)**

A. Following are French words that are in current usage in English.

i. How many of these do you know?

1. Ballet step. (3 letters)
2. Secret stash. (5 letters)
3. Wine bottle. (6 letters)
4. Critical success/Brilliant success. (5 letters)
5. Interior style. (5 letters)
6. Superficial behavior. (6 letters)
7. Cubby hole. (5 letters)
8. Rachmaninoff piece/piano students' assignments. (5 letters)
9. Recurring theme. (5 letters)
10. Holder of combs, perfumes, etc/Small toiletry case. (4 letters)
11. Conductor's prop. (5 letters)
12. Brimless cap. (5 letters)
13. Utter boredom/Cause of many yawns. (5 letters)
14. Long slender sword. (6 letters)
15. Pizzazz/Distinctive flair/Dashing style. (4 letters)
16. Theater section. (4 letters)
17. Some military actions. (7 letters)
18. Bridal veil material perhaps. (5 letters)
19. Olympic weapon/fencing blade/dueler's choice. (4 letters)
20. Narrow mountain ridge/Mountain crest/Glacial ridge. (5 letters)

ii. Make up alternate clues for élan, épée, étude, ennui and étui.

III. FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE GEOGRAPHY

A. Knowing that some places are in France helps you solve a certain kind of crossword puzzle clue.

i. See how many of the following you can figure out.

1. Nice season/Summer on the Côte d'Azur/Sèvres summer. (3 letters)
2. April in Paris. (5 letters)
3. Springtime in Paris. (3 letters)
4. Vichy water. (3 letters)
5. Here in Le Havre. (3 letters)
6. To be in Toulouse. (4 letters)
7. Cannes farewell/Bye at the French Open/Bye bye in Burgundy. (5 letters)
8. Friend on the Côte d'Azur. (4 letters)
9. Gallic sea. (3 letters)
10. Born in Burgundy. (3 letters)

ii. Following the above model, make up 10 clues for your French teacher.

B. Well educated people are expected to be familiar with world geography.

i. Using a map of France, can you identify the following locations from their clues?

1. French seaport. (5 letters)
2. City on the Saône and Rhône. (5 letters)
3. Mt. Blanc range. (4 letters)
4. Town in Georgia or France. (5 letters)
5. French port city. (7 letters)

ii. Using the map, make up 5 clues for your classmates.

C. The geography of the francophone world

i. Can you identify these places from the French-speaking world?

1. Burundi neighbor. (7 letters)

2. West Indies vacation spot. (8 letters)

3. Algerian port. (4 letters)

4. Tahiti, e.g. (3 letters)

5. Half of Hispaniola. (5 letters)

ii. Tahiti and Haiti are both French-speaking islands. What other French speaking islands can you name?

IV. TERMS RELATED TO FRENCH CULTURE

A. Knowledge of French literature is sometimes called upon in crossword puzzles. You may need to consult the Internet to find all the answers.

Which of these works, fictional characters or authors can you identify?

1. _____ Misérables. (3 letters)
2. Sartre's « No _____ ». (4 letters)
3. Zola novel. (4 letters)
4. First among those with famous noses. (6 letters)
5. Verne captain. (4 letters)
6. Madame Bovary. (4 letters)
7. Writer Zola. (4 letters)
8. Author Weisel. (4 letters)
9. Marquis de _____/Infamous marquis. (4 letters)
10. Rhinoceros playwright Eugène _____. (7 letters)

B. Educated people can be expected to know about French fashion, movies set in France, French art, French history, and famous French people

See how many of these you know.

1. Gabrielle Chanel's nickname. (4 letters)
2. Oscar de la _____. (5 letters)
3. Popular fashion magazine. (4 letters)
4. Lauder and Chandler. (5 letters)
5. Marquis portrayal in « Quills ». (4 letters)
6. Role for Leslie Caron. (4 letters)
7. The Thinker sculptor. (5 letters)
8. Rodin sculpture. (4 letters)

9. Haystacks painter (5 letters)
10. Manet or Monet, e.g. (7 letters)
11. Some French paintings. (6 letters)
12. Cézanne speciality. (9 letters)
13. Anti-art movement. (4 letters)
14. 20th century painter. (5 letters) /Early 20th century art style (7 letters)
15. Charlotte Corday's victim. (5 letters)
16. Founder of modern chemistry. (9 letters)
17. French chemist and vaccine developer. (7 letters)
18. La Vie en Rose singer. (4 letters)
19. Jazz violinist Jean-_____ Ponty. (3 letters)
20. Composer Satie. (4 letters)

C. French expressions related to food and drink

Reflecting the influence of French cooking, many terms in English are borrowed from French. Some may not appear in the dictionary but are often known to well educated people.

i. Do you know the following terms?

1. Food list. (5 letters)
2. Menu phrase/Pie connector/Pie mode link. (3 letters)
3. Café additive. (4 letters)
4. It may be served with beignets. (10 letters)
5. Some party spreads. (5 letters)
6. Diet buster. (6 letters)
7. Fry a little. (5 letters)
8. Soupe du jour perhaps/Soupe du jour sometimes. (5 letters)

9. Vichyssoise veggies. (5 letters)
 10. Moldy cheese. (4 letters)
 11. Small rum cake. (4 letters)
 12. Cassoulet or haricot. (5 letters)
 13. Pâté de foie _____. (4 letters)
 14. White sauce. (8 letters)
 15. Course for a gourmet. (7 letters)/ Menu heading (8 letters).
 16. Served raw. (7 letters)
 17. A Bordeaux wine. (5 letters)
 18. Cassis flavored drink. (3 letters)
 19. _____ de menthe. (5 letters)
 20. Dry to a wine taster. (3 letters)
- ii. What are the other ingredients of Vichyssoise? Can you name them in French?
 - iii. What are the ingredients of French onion soup?
 - iv. What are the ingredients of café au lait?
 - v. Find a recipe for rum babas and try them out.

Answers:

- I. A. 1. mer; 2. tête; 3. été; 4. avril; 5. toi; 6. ami; 7. soir; 8. rien; 9. elle; 10. roi.
B. 1. Noël; 2. sans; 3. chic; 4. soirée; 5. argot; 6. sabot; 7. à deux; 8. abbé; 9. née;
10. fête/fêtes.
C. 1. Femme; 2. à la; 3. être; 4. Nom; 5. guerre; 6. Bas; 7. geste; 8. Idée;
9. est; 10. gras.
D. 1. rear; 2. err; 3. style/tact; 4. messages; 5. coterie.
E. 1. voilà; 2. plaît; 3. vous.
- II. A.1. pas; 2. cache; 3. carafe; 4. éclat; 5. décor; 6. façade; 7. niche; 8. étude;
9. motif; 10. étui; 11. baton; 12. beret; 13. ennui; 14. rapier; 15. élan; 16. loge;
17. sorties; 18. tulle; 19. épée ; 20. arête.
- III. A. 1. été; 2. avril; 3. mai; 4. eau; 5. ici; 6. être; 7. adieu; 8. amie; 9. mer; 10. née.
B. 1. Brest; 2. Lyons; 3. Alps; 4. Macon; 5. Le Havre.
C. 1. Rwanda; 2. Antilles; 3. Oran; 4. île; 5. Haiti.
- IV. A. 1. Les; 2. Exit; 3. Nana; 4. Cyrano; 5. Nemo; 6. Emma; 7. Emil; 8. Elie; 9. Sade;
10. Ionesco.
B. 1. Coco; 2. Renta; 3. Elle; 4. Estée; 5. Sade; 6. Gigi; 7. Rodin; 8. Adam;
9. Monet; 10. artists; 11. Manets; 12. still life; 13. dada; 14. fauve/fauvism;
15. Marat; 16. Lavoisier; 17. Pasteur; 18. Piaf; 19. Luc; 20. Erik.
C. 1. carte; 2. à la; 3. lait; 4. café au lait; 5. pâtés; 6. éclair; 7. sauté; 8. onion;
9. leeks; 11. baba; 12. stews; 13. gras; 14. béchamel; 15. entrée/entrées;
16. tartare; 17. Médoc; 18. kir; 19. crème; 20. sec.