

How up-to-date is your French?

How up-to-date are you with the everyday language of the French? The following test is based on information contained in the book *Pardon My French* by Charles Timoney which has been reviewed in this month's Library Room. Send your answers to me at mjlavergne@verizon.net for results.

A. You are in Paris, and you overhear the following bits of conversation. What are the people talking about?

1. Je te souhaite bonne fête, mon pot.
2. J'aimerais un hamburger avec oeuf à cheval.
3. On va se voir après les fêtes.
4. Et comment va ton petit Médor?
5. Allez les bleus pour ce soir!
6. J'ai vendu ma bagnole à l'Argus.
7. J'accepte même les pièces jaunes.
8. Mais tu as l'accent parigot.
9. Quelle pièce montée splendide!
10. Vous viendrez dîner à la rentrée.
11. Je te paie un coup sur le zinc?
12. Il a séché son épreuve de philo au bac.
13. On a bien bouffé ce soir.
14. Tu veux que je sabre le champagne?
15. Attends. Il faut suivre l'ouvreuse.
16. On va fêter le réveillon chez mes parents.
17. Tu n'as pas de carte orange?
18. Ce bistro offre un beau café gourmand.
19. Vous voulez des gâteaux avec votre déca?
20. On a la priorité à droite à tous les ronds points.

B. You are reading *L'Express* and you come across the following acronyms. What do they mean?

1. ENA
2. RTT
3. SAMU
4. HLM
5. SDF
6. VTT
7. CAC 40
8. BCBG
9. VO/VF
10. SMUR
11. FNAC

12. OMS
13. OTAN
14. BD
15. SMIC

C. How much do you know about French culture? Answer the following questions.

1. What flowers are traditionally put on graves at La Toussaint?
2. Which female figure is the symbol of the French Republic?
3. On which two evenings do the French celebrate *le réveillon*?
4. On which two days do the French eat crêpes traditionally?
5. What do the last two numbers of a French number plate signify?
6. What is the French equivalent of mpg?
7. What is *le périph*?
8. When does one fill out a *constat à l'amiable*?
9. To whom do the French refer as *un énarque* and *un gadzart*?
10. When do the French bake *la galette des rois*?
11. When the waiter asks *Et la cuisson?* What are the four choices?
12. What are the two choices of water that most restaurants offer?
13. In a restaurant, what does *la formule* refer to?
14. If a French person says that someone lives *au neuf-trois*, is that an insult or a compliment?
15. How would a French person react to the statement "*Il y a beaucoup de photographes dans mon album*"?