

Debating the world's biggest problems

AP French Language and Culture · Lesson

This AP French lesson explains **AP French global challenges vocabulary** step by step, with examples in French and English. Then practise with the worksheet on AP French global challenges vocabulary and check yourself with the quiz.

Quick answer: The Global Challenges theme covers the environment, health, human rights, economic issues, and peace and war, seen from francophone and world perspectives. To discuss them, learn sub-theme vocabulary, link ideas with connectors, state solutions with *il faut que* plus the subjunctive, and imagine results with *si* clauses.

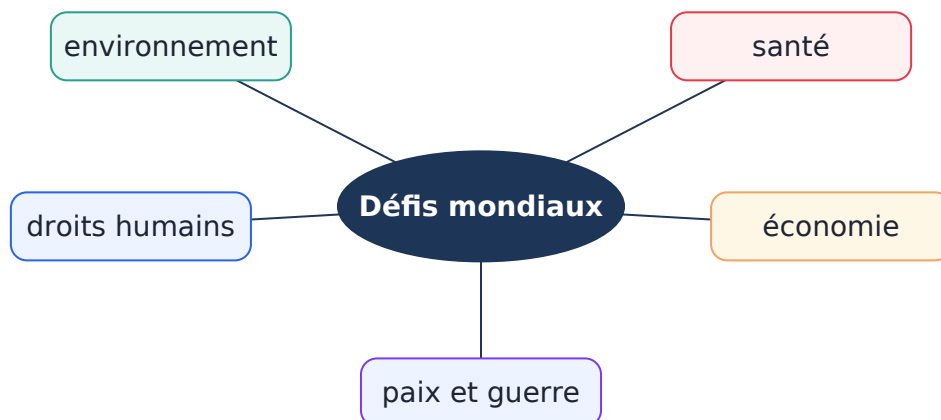
Level: AP French Language and Culture · **Standards:** AP French Language and Culture (College Board CED), Theme: Global Challenges

AP French global challenges vocabulary: the lesson

Which words describe global challenges?

AP French sources on this theme come from news reports, interviews and articles. Sort your vocabulary by sub-theme so you can retrieve it quickly when you speak or write.

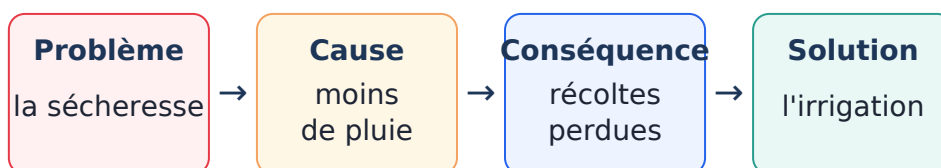
Sub-theme	Key words	Meaning
Environment	le réchauffement climatique, la sécheresse, les énergies renouvelables	global warming, drought, renewable energy
Health	une épidémie, un vaccin, l'accès aux soins	an epidemic, a vaccine, access to care
Human rights	l'égalité, un réfugié, la liberté d'expression	equality, a refugee, freedom of speech
Economy	le chômage, les inégalités, le commerce équitable	unemployment, inequality, fair trade
Peace and war	un cessez-le-feu, la diplomatie, un traité	a ceasefire, diplomacy, a treaty



The five sub-themes of Global Challenges.

How do you build an argument about a global problem?

Follow four steps: state the problem, give its cause, describe the consequence, propose a solution.



Problem, cause, consequence, solution.

Function	Expressions	Example
Cause	parce que, à cause de, grâce à	Grâce à l'aide des voisins, le village a un puits.
Consequence	donc, par conséquent, c'est pourquoi	Les prix montent ; par conséquent, certains achètent moins.
Contrast	pourtant, cependant, en revanche	Le pays est riche ; pourtant, la pauvreté y reste forte.
Purpose	pour que + subjunctive, afin de + infinitive	Les ONG agissent pour que les enfants aillent à l'école.

How do you propose solutions?

Solutions with the subjunctive and si

Il faut que, il est important que, pour que and bien que take the subjunctive. Je pense que takes the indicative, but je ne pense pas que takes the subjunctive. For a hypothesis, use si + imperfect, then the present conditional.

Model sentences

Il faut que les gouvernements investissent dans l'énergie solaire. — Governments must invest in solar power.

Si chaque pays réduisait ses émissions, le climat se stabiliserait. — If every country cut its emissions, the climate would stabilize.

Common mistakes of English speakers

- Actuellement means "currently", not "actually"; for "actually", say en fait.
- After il faut que, never use the indicative: Il faut que nous réduisions, not réduisons.
- Use grâce à for a good cause and à cause de for a bad one.

A francophone perspective

Lake Chad, shared by Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria, has shrunk sharply since the 1960s. Millions of people who depend on its fishing and farming have been affected, which makes it a frequent example in French-language reports on water and climate.

Zoé's tip

For a presentational essay, write one paragraph per step: problem, causes, consequences, solutions. Add one francophone example, such as the Sahel or Haiti, to show cultural awareness.

Key points to remember

- Five sub-themes: environment, health, human rights, economy, peace and war.
- Argument pattern: problem, cause, consequence, solution.
- Il faut que, pour que and bien que take the subjunctive.
- Si + imperfect leads to the present conditional: Si on recyclait, on polluerait moins.
- Cite francophone examples (Sahel, Haiti, Québec, the Pacific) to show cultural breadth.

Debating the World's Biggest Problems: frequently asked questions

Which topics belong to the Global Challenges theme?

The theme covers the environment, health issues, human rights, economic issues, and peace and war. Texts often show francophone perspectives, for example drought in the Sahel or rising seas

along coasts.

How do I structure a presentational essay on a global issue?

Open with the problem, explain its causes and consequences, then propose realistic solutions. Finish with a short conclusion. Use one paragraph per idea and a connector to start each one.

When do I use the subjunctive in arguments?

Use it after il faut que, pour que, bien que, je doute que and je ne pense pas que. Use the indicative after je pense que and il est évident que.

How can I link ideas in an AP French essay?

Use cause words (parce que, grâce à), consequence words (donc, par conséquent) and contrast words (pourtant, en revanche). Vary them instead of repeating one.

How do I bring in francophone perspectives?

Mention a concrete example from a French-speaking region, such as the Sahel, Haiti, Québec or Pacific islands. Say what the problem is there and what people are doing about it.