

Reading strategies for AP print sources

AP French Language and Culture · Lesson

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

Quick answer: To interpret AP French print texts, identify the source and purpose first, read the questions before the text, skim for the main idea, then reread only the paragraph a question targets. Guess unknown words from cognates, word families, and context, and read charts by title, axis, and unit before comparing numbers.

Level: AP French Language and Culture · **Standards:** AP French Language and Culture (College Board CED), Interpretive Communication: Print Texts

AP French print texts: the lesson

What kinds of print texts appear on the AP exam?

The reading part of the AP French Language and Culture exam uses authentic-style sources linked to the six course themes. Expect a news article, an advertisement, an email or letter, a literary excerpt, and a chart or table. Each source comes with multiple-choice questions, so the goal is understanding, not translating every word.

Titre : Le vélo reprend la ville	1. Titre et source
Source : journal régional, 2024	
	2. Premier paragraphe
	3. Graphique

Check the title, source, first paragraph, and any chart before answering.

How should the reading be organized?

1. Read the title, the source line, and the date: they reveal text type and purpose.
2. Read the questions, not the answer choices yet, to know what to look for.
3. Skim the text for the main idea.

4. Return to the paragraph each question targets and read it slowly.
5. Eliminate options that are too extreme, off-topic, or only partly true.

Question types

Type	Typical stem
Main idea	Quel est le sujet principal du texte ?
Detail	Selon l'article, combien de pistes a-t-on ajoutées ?
Vocabulary	Que signifie « pourtant » ici ?
Inference	Que laisse comprendre l'auteur ?
Purpose or tone	Quel est le ton du texte ?

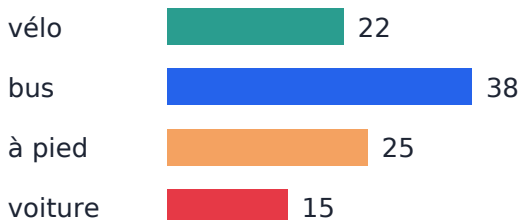
How can unknown words be guessed?

Three tools

- Cognates: la consultation looks like *consultation*.
- Word families: s'inquiéter is related to inquiet (worried).
- Prefixes: re- again, dé- undo, in- not (inconnu, unknown).

Le nombre de cyclistes a augmenté de 18 %. — The number of cyclists rose by 18%.

Comment les élèves vont au lycée (en %)



Read the title and unit first, then compare the bars.

How do you answer the questions on a print text?

Read the questions before the text, then read the text once for the main idea and once for details. Most answers paraphrase the text: the question may say augmenter when the article says être en hausse. Look for synonyms, not identical words.

For a chart, check the title, the source, the unit and the date before comparing values. For an article, identify who writes, for whom and why: to inform, to persuade or to entertain. A question

about tone often hides in adjectives such as inquiétant (worrying) or encourageant (encouraging).

False friends

actuellement means *currently*, not *actually*. assister à means *to attend*, not *to assist*. une librairie is a bookstore, not a library (une bibliothèque).

Culture note

In French, a space separates thousands (1 450), a comma marks decimals (12,5), and a space precedes the percent sign (18 %). The same number in a chart can look different from an American one.

Zoé's tip

Underline the words that signal opinion or change, such as pourtant, cependant, and malheureusement. They often reveal the author's purpose.

Key points to remember

- Print sources include articles, ads, emails, literary excerpts, tables, and charts.
- Read the title, source line, and questions before reading the full text.
- Typical question types: main idea, detail, vocabulary in context, inference, purpose or tone, and audience.
- False friends such as actuellement (currently) and librairie (bookstore) cause many wrong answers.
- French numbers use spaces and decimal commas: 1 450 and 12,5 %.

Reading Strategies for AP Print Sources: frequently asked questions

What types of print texts are on the AP French exam?

The sources include articles, ads, emails, literary excerpts, and charts or tables. They connect to the six AP themes such as families and communities or science and technology.

Should the text or the questions be read first?

Skim the title and source, then read the questions, then read the text. Knowing what is asked makes each paragraph easier to process.

How can an unknown word be guessed?

Look for a cognate, a related word, or a prefix, then test the guess against the sentence. If it still

does not fit, keep reading and return to it.

What makes an inference question different?

The answer is not stated directly. It must be supported by clues in the text, so avoid options that add outside opinions.

How should charts be read?

Start with the title, units, and legend, then find the highest and lowest values. Compare the chart with the claim in the question before choosing.