TRANSLATION FOR KEY STAGE 3
FRENCH WORKBOOK I

Pupil name: ________________________
Teacher: __________________________

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About the author

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Preface

This workbook was made following curriculum changes that added translation to GCSE Modern Languages. It is designed to support teachers as they start teaching translation at the earlier stage of Key Stage 3. The workbook contains exercises for both direct (French-English) and inverse (English-French) translation. The worksheets of each section get progressively more difficult, with more challenging vocabulary and grammar.

This workbook is designed with Year 8/Year 9 pupils in mind and is based on the *Allez 1* textbook, while Workbook II is based on *Allez 2*. They should, however, be compatible with an array of different textbooks.

Some exercises are accompanied by “Des Phrases Utiles”, which provide support for more challenging vocabulary, as well as some words and phrases that may be specific to the *Allez* series. The “Pour En Savoir Davantage” sections are intended to make students think in more depth about French, the structures they are using, as well as some translation issues.

Chris Jardine
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Translation Top Tip Tweets

Translating into English should be easier - you’re able to tell naturally if what you’ve written is grammatically correct!

Before starting to translate, read the original a few times to make sure you understand it. You can’t translate it without understanding it!

Translation is more about conveying ideas than individual words. Literal translations rarely work!

In French you use different structures and tenses than in English. E.g.: "je mange" can mean "I eat" or "I am eating". Context is important!

Translating is a great way to revise and learn new grammar and vocab. Take a note of new words - you never know when they’ll crop up again!

When translating into English, re-read what you’ve written. It should read as though it was originally written in English.
Translating into French is trickier - it'll be harder to spot mistakes you make. (But understanding the original should be easier!)

When translating into French, check things that you don't need to check in English, like past participle agreements.

Sometimes re-reading your translation a few hours later can be helpful - a fresh perspective can help you spot mistakes.

Remember that word order is different in French: "a blue car" would be "une voiture bleue".

Translation isn't as hard as you think - you often do it in your head when reading in French. It's only a matter of writing it down!
Translation Worksheets
Direct Translation – French to English

Exercise 1
*Clare has just moved to a school in Paris. She hasn’t learnt a lot of French yet; can you help her by translating what her new classmates are saying?*

**Clare has just moved to a school in Paris. She hasn’t learnt a lot of French yet; can you help her by translating what her new classmates are saying?**

- **Je m’appelle Louise. J’habite à Paris.**
  
- **Je suis Albert. J’ai douze ans.**
  
- **Je m’appelle Céline. Mon anniversaire, c’est le dix octobre.**
  
- **Je m’appelle Jeanne. Je suis sportive.**
  
- **Je suis Luc. J’adore l’histoire, c’est ma matière préférée.**
  
- **Je m’appelle Claude. Je suis fils unique.**
Exercise 2
You’ve just got an email from your new French pen pal. Can you translate it, so your family can understand it?

Frédéric

Exercise 3
Charles is introducing himself, what is he saying?

Salut ! Je suis Charles et j’ai quatorze ans. J’habite dans un appartement à deux kilomètres du collège. À la maison, j’ai un cochon d’Inde qui s’appelle Étienne et un lapin qui s’appelle Paco. Après les cours, je retrouve mes copains et nous jouons au baby-foot.
Exercise 4
Your French pen pal, Frédéric has sent you another email. Can you translate it?

À plus !
Frédéric

1. If “ce n’est pas mon truc” means “it’s not my thing”, how would you say that something is your thing?

2. What is the “ils” in “ils me font vomir” referring to?

3. In the sentence “Elle est super bonne”, what is “elle” referring to?
Arcueil est une ville dans la banlieue de Paris. À Arcueil, il y a beaucoup de magasins, un marché et deux gares. En plus, il y a un centre commercial, qui s’appelle « La Vache Noire » où on peut acheter des vêtements. Pour finir, il y a beaucoup de boulangeries où on peut acheter des spécialités françaises. Habiter à Arcueil, c’est fantastique parce qu’on peut aller facilement au centre-ville de Paris.

POUR EN SAVOIR DAVANTAGE...

1. If “pour finir” means “finally”, what do you think “pour commencer” means?
2. What does the name of the shopping centre literally mean in English?
3. If “Habiter à Arcueil” means “living in Arcueil”, what do you think “Jouer au foot, c’est fantastique !” means?
Exercise 6
Can you translate Yann’s Saturday routine into English?

Bonjour ! Je suis Yann et j’ai treize ans. Le samedi, je me lève à huit heures et demie. Ensuite, je joue au foot avec mes frères. Quelquefois, je vais à la plage avec ma famille, s’il fait beau. Le soir, je parle sur Internet avec mes copains. Après ça, je joue sur ma console de jeux vidéo.

Exercise 7
You are going to a colonie de vacances with your French friend. What is she saying?

Salut! Qu’est-ce que tu vas prendre à la colonie de vacances ? Moi, je vais prendre mon maillot de bain, mes BD et mon frisbee. Cependant, je ne vais pas prendre mon lecteur MP4 – c’est trop cher ! Il faut aussi prendre de la crème solaire !
Exercise 8
Translate this postcard you got from your French pen pal.

J'ai visité
I visited
Après
After
Je suis allée (if female)
Je suis allé (if male)
I went
J'ai acheté
I bought
Le soir
In the evening

POUR EN SAVOIR DAVANTAGE

1. If “après” means “after”, what do you think “avant” means?

2. If “le soir” means “in the evenings”, what do you think “le matin” means?

3. If we didn’t already know that a girl wrote this postcard, is there a way we could tell that it was a girl, just from looking at the words?
Exercise 9

Your French exchange partner has just sent you a Facebook message about his favourite sports, can you translate it?


1. If “pour la première fois” means “for the first time”, what do you think “pour la deuxième fois” and “pour la troisième fois” mean?

2. If “beau-frère” can either mean step-brother or half-brother, what do you think “beau-père” means? It’s tricky – there are also two different meanings! But remember, there’s no such thing as a “half-father”.

3. What do you think “ce soir” and “ce matin” mean?
Exercise 10
You are about to go on a French exchange to Dijon. Your exchange partner has sent you a WhatsApp message to tell you about what he usually does during the day. Can you translate it?

J’habite à Dijon. C’est une ville très pittoresque et assez peuplée. Tu habites à la campagne, n’est-ce pas ? Pour aller au collège, il faut me lever à sept heures. Après les cours, je fais du travail bénévole. Je rentre à la maison à seize heures et je fais mes devoirs. À vingt et une heures, je me couche.

1. What do you think “avant les cours” means?

2. Why does “heures” have an “-s” at the end of it in this WhatsApp message?
Inverse Translation – English to French

Exercise 1

There’s a new student in your class called Marie. She has just moved from Paris. Can you translate into French what her new classmates are saying to her?

Hello, my name is Danielle. I love listening to music.

I’m Derek. I am thirteen years old.

My name’s Carl. I live in the countryside.

I’m Nicola. My favourite subject is German.

I’m Daniel. I have a dog called “Matt”.

My name’s Erica. I love playing football.
Exercise 2

Your friend was to introduce himself to your French friend, can you translate for them?

Hello! I’m Ciaran and I am a chatty and hard-working person. I live with my mother and my brother because my parents are divorced. My favourite subject is art because I love drawing. My best friend is called Stephen, I’ve known him since primary school. He is sporty and shy.

Exercise 3

Can you translate Danielle’s Saturday routine into French?

Hello! My name is Rachael and I am fourteen years old. On Saturdays, I get up at seven o’clock. After eating breakfast, I go horse-riding. I love animals. After that, I play tennis with my friends. However, if it’s raining we go to the cinema. In the evening, I watch television with my family.
Exercise 4
You have just been sent someone’s opinion of a local restaurant, can you translate it into French?

The food in Willow Grove is delicious. Meat isn't my thing, but I love the beef at the restaurant; it is perfect! I am also a fan of the pizza. It is great with a glass of wine. For dessert, I like the crème brûlée - a French speciality!

Exercise 5
You’re in Belfast and have just been approached by French man who is lost. Can you translate these directions and help him out?

In Belfast, there is a fantastic bowling alley, where you can have dinner too. To get to the cinema, go straight ahead and take the first road on the right. Then, take the first road on the left. It’s beside the bank.
Exercise 6
You want to send a message about clothes to your French friend, Colette. Below is a draft, can you translate it into French?

---

Bomber jacket  
*Un blouson*

Scarf  
*Une écharpe*

Designer clothes  
*Des vêtements de marque*

---

Clothes are my thing. When it’s sunny, I like to wear a dress, but when it’s cold, I prefer to wear a bomber jacket with a scarf and a jumper. I love designer clothes, but I find them too expensive! I like being fashionable, but I also like being practical!

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**POUR EN SAVOIR DAVANTAGE**

1. When translating, do you think it’s a good idea to translate brands, street names and names of products? Do you think it’s better to translate “Place de la République” into “Republic Square” and “Eau de Toilette” into “Toilet Water” or to leave them in French?
Exercise 7
You’re going to write a postcard to your French pen pal. Here’s a draft of it in English, can you translate it into French?

Hi! I am on holiday in London and it’s great! I visited Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London. I also bought some souvenirs. After that, I had dinner with my family. I had pizza, it’s my favourite dish. Finally, we went to the theatre and saw Wicked, it was fantastic!
See you soon!
James

Exercise 8
You are going to your local sports centre with your French friend. The receptionist is telling you all about the facilities at the centre; can you translate it into French for your friend?

Which sports do you prefer? Here, you can go swimming, do archery, boxing and diving. Also, you can play football, tennis and basketball. This summer, there is also a tap class.

DES PHRASES UTILES
Archery
Le tir de l’arc
Tap class
Un cours de claquette
Diving
La plongée
Exercise 9
Amy is about to write her first letter to her new pen pal in Québec. Here is a draft in English; can you translate it into French?

Hello!

My name is Amy and I live in a boring and unattractive village in Northern Ireland. I live on a farm; I wake up every morning at 7:30am because I have to look after the animals. I love animals, but I don’t like getting up early. After school, I play sport with my friends. Sport is my passion!

Amy

Exercise 10
This is Cameron’s daily routine; can you translate it into French?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>I get up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>I eat my breakfast and I shower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>I take the bus to go to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>I leave school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>I collect money for a charity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>I return home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hello!

My name is Amy and I live in a boring and unattractive village in Northern Ireland. I live on a farm; I wake up every morning at 7:30am because I have to look after the animals. I love animals, but I don’t like getting up early. After school, I play sport with my friends. Sport is my passion!

Amy