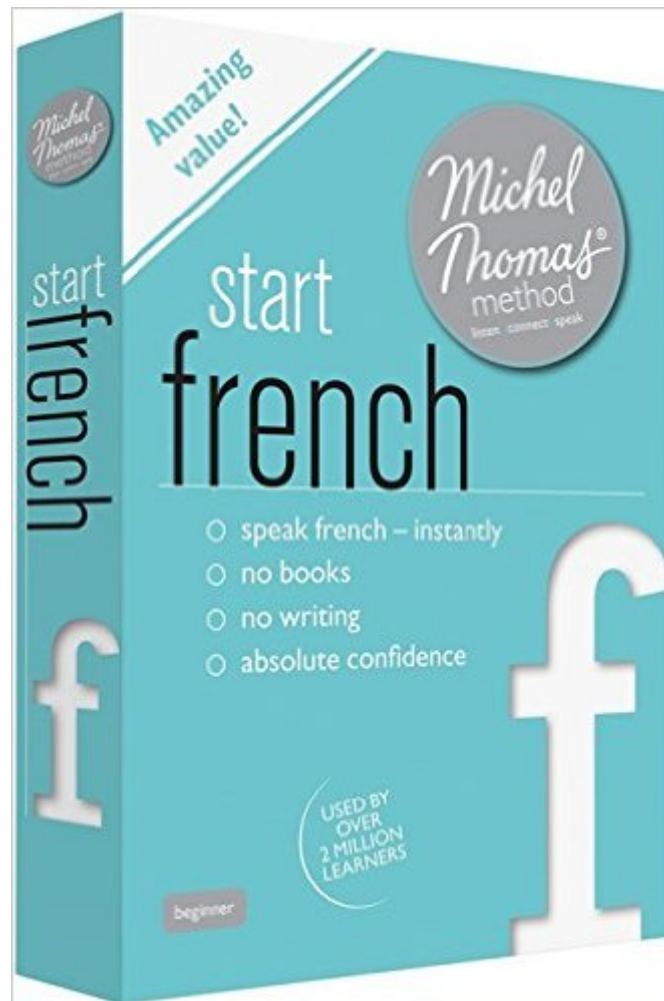


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# Start French With The Michel Thomas Method



## Synopsis

Learn 50 essential words at the heart of French and how to put them together to make yourself understood. This 1-hour introduction to the Michel Thomas method will have you speaking real French straight away. There are no books, no pens, and no memorizing - just listen, connect and speak. You learned your own language naturally and enjoyably: now you can learn Dutch in the same way. Use the unique method perfected over fifty years by the celebrated psychologist and linguist Michel Thomas. This method works with your brain, helping you to build up your French in manageable, enjoyable steps by thinking out the answers for yourself. You learn through listening and speaking without the pressure of writing or memorizing. You pick up the language naturally and unforgettably. You also aren't tied to chunky books or your computer, Michel Thomas Method audio courses let you learn whenever you want: at home, in your car, or on the move with your MP3 player. Start French with the Michel Thomas Method is an hour of essentials taken from Total French with the Michel Thomas Method. (Total is the classic Michel Thomas Method course, now enhanced with extra vocabulary, on-screen learning, and exercises.) You will join Michel and two students in a live lesson and within the one hour you will be able to construct simple phrases. You will learn the language with the students, hearing both their successes and their mistakes to keep you motivated and involved throughout the course. By the end, you will have the confidence to understand and speak many essentials of French.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This hour long intro session is a whirlwind of language learning, and provides what is missing in many language classes--the instant gratification of making a few sentences on your own, and discussion of the similarities in languages that can help you figure out what is going on. I normally listen to language lessons while commuting in my car, but this hour long lesson is much too intense to do anything else. The hour does hover on information overload, and I had to break it up into 3 twenty minute sessions and will probably need to repeat these a few times. However, Michel Thomas is so engaging that I look forward to repeating the lesson (and already bought the Total French series). I can't say I ever looked forward to repeating a Pimsleur session (sorry Pimsleur, I love you but Excitement is not your middle name). You won't be fluent at the end of an hour, but you will understand more words than the standard one hour lesson of hello, goodbye, thank you, excuse me, and please. This method does not focus on pronunciation. For practicing pronunciation, I like Pimsleur method. To get used to 'real life' French in 'real time' speeds, look on the internet for free videos called 'French in Action', created by Pierre Capretz.

This is pretty much a repeat of CD1 and parts of CD2 of Total French. So if you already know for sure you wanna purchase the more advance titles of the series, you can skip Start French. Now about the contents. Michel Thomas gives a 1 hr intro of his teaching style. There are two students in the classroom, and we are the third listener. He introduces us to common words and gives us a taste of the French grammar. He mixes up the sentences, using a variety of words, and we have the opportunity to pause the audio and try 'think it out' how to say the sentences. It's surprisingly easy to remember the phrases after a lot of repetition. Very impressive of how much French you can learn in 1 hr. Definitely better than a classroom/lecture environment.

Michel's method makes learning easy. The cd's bring you into his discussion group where you are taught everything from common phrases to complex conjugations. The intro tape leverages the French words you may know, "Comme si comme sa" and builds them into sentences that you can easily create-building your confidence immediately. His teaching style insists there is no memorization and he provides thoughtful connections to support your quick learning; "the verb to go is 'aller' this is where the English work alley comes from." You become part of the classroom experience with 2 other students; one that appears to be catching on quite well and the other that seems to require more support. There are a few things to prepare for: 1. You need to be alone with no distractions-my daily commute worked well for me 2. You need to be able to "pause" your cd. He

will ask you to translate a phrase and you need to pause to work through it. The tape does not grant you time to think.<sup>3</sup> Follow the process, don't rewind and go back. Michele will frequently press for you to remember items from previous tracks, keeping your learnings top of mind. Heading to France in a month, I feel confident that I will be able to communicate and feel comfortable on my first trip to Paris!

This is immersion French. Really appreciate the way the author just jumps right in with French words and gives the student a sense of being confident that you can do it. Needs to be repeated several times to get the ease the students on the CD have. Will look for next level by this teacher for more depth.

Held off on buying this for over a year because we were using Rosetta stone for home schooling. I am so mad at myself for not getting this sooner. My kids were able to start basic sentences and were excited about learning after just using this starter CD. It requires just listening, no writing or books. Even I learned a few things about pronunciation a syntax and I have studied French for years and my husband is a native French speaker.

This is just a very short introduction to the Michel Thomas method. I'd suggest you just go for the Total French program that includes these Start French lessons. It's an excellent system that will have you speaking French faster than you thought possible.

I borrowed a copy of Michel Tomas (MT) French before I bought it. I have used different systems over the years to refresh and relearn French. I learn French in high school, and lived in France for a short while some decades ago. What I like most about MT is how he sets the lessons. He has a couple of students as tools for teaching. One is better than the other. He will drill the information as if you had a private tutor. I am a scientist, and enjoy learning languages in general. MT lessons include more than just learning sentence construction and vocabulary. The lessons include information about the origins of French and why French and English shared so much vocabulary. I am fluent in English and Spanish, so the language lessons blended in the French lessons have been entertaining and educational for me. I recommend MT method, and recommend you start a few months before you travel to a French speaking country. Best wishes learning or relearning French.

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