LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

FRENCH

“En vérité, le chemin importe peu, la volonté d'arriver suffit à tout.”
- Albert Camus

“Truthfully, the way taken matters very little; the will to get there is enough for it all.”

Acing Your Language Class
Tips & Best Practices

Language of the Month
Film Discussion

Student Spotlight

Eating Authentically in Boston
Restaurant recommendations and recipes to try

Add to Your Playlist and Watchlist
Songs and Movies

Study Abroad

Literature and Authors

ISSUE NO. 9
The ERC offers Language Link for French! Language Link hosts several informal, half-hour discussions over Zoom each week. Sessions are led by a native speaker and are offered at three different levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. New sessions will be available starting in September!
BU’s Paris Internship program, offered during the fall and spring semesters, provides eight weeks of intensive French-language study and liberal arts courses, followed by seven weeks of full-time internships with organizations in the greater Paris area. Visit BU Study Abroad to learn more about the program.
Meet our French Language Link Leader, Seynedhee. In her free time, she loves watching movies and critiquing them with her friends and family. Creating vlogs is something that she does at BU during the academic year to show her friends back in France what it is like to go to school in the United States.
Q: Why did you become a Language Link Leader?
A: I wanted to keep my connection to the French language while also connecting with other people at BU who enjoy the culture. I wanted to show the advantages and perks of learning French while also breaking down stereotypes. It is a good way to get to know about other people's cultures and why they started to learn French as well.

Q: What's one tip you have for learning a new language?
A: I suggest watching movies in the language. Start by watching a show that you are already familiar with in the language of interest. Watch with closed captioning or French subtitles to target reading and listening skills so you can learn words at the same time. Once you are immersed, you might not even realize the language barrier.

I also suggest studying abroad. When I was learning English, I visited America every summer and got to practice a lot. Practicing the language that you are learning is very important, and if you cannot study abroad, practice with a tutor or Language Link leader.

Q: What would you tell someone who's considering coming to Language Link for the first time?
A: GO FOR IT! Learning a language is so easy when you speak with someone who is here to help you and wants to get to know you better. Don't feel insecure! It is just a discussion in the language of interest, not a class, and we're here to talk about subjects YOU like. Je vous attends! [I am looking forward to meeting you]

Q: What's your favorite aspect of French culture?
A: I like how French culture is very outspoken and has a strong emphasis on freedom of expression. France had a lot of great philosophers, promoting freedom of discussion and expression. People care a lot about each other's thoughts and debates, and the country and schools allow a place for people to say what they think.
BASTILLE DAY
From Revolution to Celebration

Who celebrates this holiday?
Bastille Day, commonly referred to as 14 juillet in France, is celebrated all over the world. French speaking countries such as Belgium and Canada celebrate this special day as well.

History of the holiday
It commemorates July 14, 1789, when French revolutionaries stormed the Bastille in Paris, marking the beginning of the French Revolution. As a result, both King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, French rulers at the time, fled the stronghold and hid at the palace of Versailles.
HOW TO CELEBRATE BASTILLE DAY

Morning:
Watch the military parade and planes that paint the sky blue, white, and red (the colors of the French flag).

Afternoon:
Eat at a cafe or on a terrasse [outdoor pavement or deck of a cafe where people eat when the weather is nice].

Night:
In major cities, concerts are often organized before fireworks in the evening. During the concerts, French artists and musicians from all over the world can be found in one place. At the end, you can watch the feux d'artifices [fireworks].
Eating Authentically

**Little Crepe Cafe**  
Cambridge, MA

You can never go wrong with Parisian crepes.

**Colette Bakery**  
Medford, MA

This bakery sells traditional jambon-beurre sandwiches, which are a classic ham, butter, and cheese sandwich in a crunchy baguette. It’s a great snack when you’re on the go!

**Praliné French Patisserie**  
Belmont, MA

Be sure to check out the pastries from Praliné

**Paris Creperie**  
Brookline, MA and Boston, MA

This creperie has funny menu names like the "Great Eggspectations" and "Berrie Antoinette" crepe! Their fusions (such as mixing berries and lemon) would be unexpected in a French creperie, but they sound great!

**Mamadou's Artisan Bakery**  
Winchester, MA

If you are looking for an authentic French tradition of classic baking honed over centuries, Mamadou's Artisan Bakery is the place to be! And the cherry on top is it is a tradition that traveled from France to Mbaye's native Senegal and finally to Massachusetts.
Bistros

Bistros are a big part of French culture; they are small restaurants, serving moderately priced, simple meals in a modest setting with drinks.

1. Aquitaine Boston, MA
2. Petit Robert Boston, MA

Chic Restaurants

1. Ma Maison Boston, MA
2. Troquet on South Boston, MA
3. Menton Boston, MA
Featured Recipes

Cordon bleu & coquillettes in **French** and in **English**

Hachis Parmentier in **French** and in **English**

Steak Frite in **French** and in **English**
How to make crepes: 3 steps in pictures

CHECK OUT THESE VIDEOS IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE CREPES
A MEAL'S DELIGHTS
BY SEYNEDEHE AVENIE

APPETIZERS TO START
$5.00  VEGETABLE BROCHETTE (3 PCS.)
$5.50  QUICHE LORRAINE
$6.00  TOULOUSE TAPAS (5 PCS.)
$6.50  FISH SOUP WITH CROUTONS
$7.00  DRY SAUSAGE AND CHEESE PLATTER

FIRST COURSE OPTIONS
$17.00  FILET MIGNON & BUTTERED GREEN BEANS
$15.50  OMELET
$16.00  ROAST CHICKEN & FRENCH FRIES
$16.00  SMOKED SALMON & GREENS QUICHE
$14.50  HACHIS PARMENTIER

SECOND COURSE OPTIONS
$22.00  FOIE GRAS
$25.00  SAINT-JACQUES, TOPINAMBOURS & NUTS
$28.00  CAVIAR WITH CHESTNUTS
$28.00  POT AU FEU (RAGOUT)

SWEETEST ENDINGS
$5.00  PROUST'S MADELEINE
$5.50  CATALAN CREME BRULÉE
$6.00  BRITTANY'S CRÈPES
$6.50  CHERRY CLAFOUTIS
$16.50  CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES
$10.00  MINI BUCHES (5 PCS.)
MA FRANCE GROCERY SHOP
Want to start your day with a French snack or invite your friends to a classic *apéro* [appetizer]? Visit the MA France grocery shop to stock up! This grocery store has all the things in the typical French *épicerie du coin* [corner shop or bodega].
Look out for traditional french snacks, including Lu's Petit Prince cookies for the *apéritif* or breakfast.

MA France also has *viennoserie* [pastries]. If you look closely at their menu, you will see they serve *chocolatines*, which is another way to say *pain au chocolat*. Check out these funny French parodies of a street interview on the question of *chocolatine vs pain au chocolat*. 
If you are in Boston and wish to celebrate Bastille Day with the Francophone community, you can attend their July 13th celebration, taking place at La Voile Brookline. For an entry fee ($65), you can enjoy French appetizers, French songs, storytime en français, trivia, dancing, mini pétanque fields, as well as a live accordéoniste. For more info, visit the French Cultural Center/Alliance Française of Boston & Cambridge.

Art and museums are a central part of the French culture, here are two museums with French art in Massachusetts:

FOGG ART MUSEUM
The museum's collections illustrate the history of Western art from the Middle Ages to the present, with major focus on Italian early Renaissance, British pre-Raphaelite, and 19th-century French art. The museum features a major collection of Impressionist and post-Impressionist work, including works by Picasso.

FRENCH CABLE STATION MUSEUM
One of the most significant developments of the 19th century was the transatlantic cable connecting North America to Europe by telephone. This museum houses the original equipment used to lay that cable.
If you're traveling to Paris, France,

Look for these!

**Max Poilane** Go to this French bakery for breakfast to buy croissants, *pain au chocolat*, and baguettes

**Arc de Triomphe** The traditional destination of the Bastille Day celebration and parade

**Le Louvre** Art is highly regarded in France, and France is known for its art collections in museums across the country. The Louvre is the most famous art gallery in the world.

On many street corners, one delicacy to enjoy is sweet *marrons chauds* [hot chestnuts]

On many street corners, there are also tasty *hot corncobs* for sale

You can also find many different varieties of *crêpes* on the street corners of Paris

France is known for its cosmetics stores, including *Nocibe* and *Sephora*.

**Beaugrenelle Shopping Center** is a famous mall in Paris where you can find French shops for makeup, clothing, and more

Be sure to check out the *French Statue of Liberty*, right in front of the Eiffel Tower!
Watchlist: Films

1. **School Life**  A new vice principal at a Parisian middle school tries to help a disillusioned student. Watch via Netflix.

2. **The African Doctor**  A French film, originally titled *Bienvenue a Marly-Gomont*, The African Doctor tells the true story of Seyolo Zantoko, a Congolese native and his struggles to serve as a doctor in a small French village in order to obtain French nationality and to expose his family to wider world. Watch via Netflix.

3. **Let’s Dance**  After his crew breaks up, a gifted but insecure hip-hop dancer teaches at a top ballet school in Paris, where he falls for an aspiring ballerina. Watch via Netflix.

4. **What’s In A Name**  Vincent tells his childhood friends that he plans to name his child Adolf, and it causes unpleasant memories to surface for some of them. Watch via Amazon.

5. **Les heritières**  Sanou, an excellent student of a Parisian suburb enters the tenth grade at the prestigious Lycée Henri-IV in Paris. We see her evolve as she struggles to familiarize herself with her new environment. Watch via Arte.

TV Shows

6. **Call My Agent**  At a top Parisian talent firm, agents scramble to keep their star clients happy (and their business afloat) after an unexpected crisis. Watch via Netflix.

7. **Lupin**  The show stars Omar Sy in the role of Assane Diop, a man who is inspired by the adventures of master thief, Arsène Lupin, a character created by Maurice Leblanc in the early 1900s. Watch via Netflix. Check out this review of the show on Instagram.
Aimlessly passing their days in the concrete environs of dead-end suburbia, Vinz, Hubert, and Said--a Jew, an African, and an Arab--give human faces to France's immigrant populations. Their bristling resentment at their marginalization slowly simmers until it reaches a climactic boiling point.

LA HAINE is a gritty, unsettling, and visually explosive look at racial and cultural volatility in modern-day France, specifically the low-income banlieue districts on the outskirts of Paris.
Literature RECOMMENDATIONS

Le Petit Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (beginner)

En attendant Godot by Samuel Beckett (intermediate)

Les Misérables by Victor Hugo (advanced)

Le Pere Goriot by Balzac (advanced)

Check out BU Libraries Research Guides on French Language and Literature and Francophone Studies
Check out our French Language of the Month playlist on Spotify, created by Seynedhee, our French Language Link Leader.
Activity

TRY YOUR HAND AT FRENCH CROSSWORDS AT THE BEGINNER OR INTERMEDIATE LEVELS.

Clues Across
1 ______-Antoinette
2 ______ Louis XVI
7 The king and queen spent too much ______
10 In 1789 the people of France began the French ______
11 Nobles and churchmen did not pay ______
12 Peasants served lords under a practice called ______

Clues Down
2 ______ of Terror
3 The Third ______
4 Peasants had to follow some rules that were ______ to them
5 Oath of the ______ Court
8 France spent a large amount of money to help American ______
9 A mob stormed and captured the ______
Did You Know?

• The most famous cooking school in the world was founded in France and is called The Cordon Bleu.

• Auguste Gustau, from the animated film Ratatouille (available via Disney Plus), was actually inspired by two famous, real-life French chefs: Bernard Loiseau and Paul Bocuse.

• Artists Beyonce and Jay-Z recorded one of their most famous music videos at the Louvre Museum, home to the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo.

• 88% of those living in France speak French as their first language. But there are many other language in different regions of France, including Occitan in southwest France and Breton in Britany.