En avant! Beginning French

Students learn best when they are connecting with authentic culture, with each other as a community, and with the language as used in real-world settings. En avant! sparks the curiosity that builds these connections as students advance toward communicative and cultural confidence and proficiency in the introductory classroom.

The En avant! program is built around the following distinctive principles:

- a focused approach with systematic review and recycling,
- active learning,
- integration of culture.

With the second edition of En avant!, McGraw-Hill is offering Connect French, a mobile-enabled digital teaching and learning environment that allows students to engage in their course material via the devices they use every day. The digital tools available in the Connect French platform include LearnSmart®, a revolutionary adaptive technology that builds a learning experience unique to each student's individual needs. These powerful tools support the goals of the En avant! program and facilitate student progress by providing extensive opportunities to practice and hone their developing skills so that students are prepared to come to class ready to communicate.

A Focused Approach with Systematic Review and Recycling

Many instructors tell us that it’s a challenge to “get through all the grammar” in their Introductory French courses. From Day One, it’s a race to the finish line—and at what cost? Students get only shallow coverage, without adequate opportunities for review or cultural exploration—there simply isn’t time.

En avant! takes a distinctive approach to this issue. We know that language learning proceeds developmentally; that is, certain grammatical structures appear to be acquired in a set order regardless of instructional sequence, and the route of acquisition is probably not changeable, although its rate may vary quite a bit among learners. This explains why learners will not acquire a past tense before they have a way to convey the present tense and why object pronouns will not be acquired until late in the acquisition process, despite their presentation and practice at earlier stages. En avant!’s organization allows for many late-acquired structures to be presented either for recognition only or in the Par la suite section (the supplemental grammar section following Chapitre 16) with practice activities in Connect French and in the print Workbook / Laboratory Manual. Presenting such later-learned structures in these ways easily allows instructors to adapt and expand their instruction for learners who can move more rapidly through the sequence. By focusing on a realistic and reasonable scope and sequence, En avant! promotes a deeper comprehension and a more well-rounded experience.

Because instructors aren’t having to race to the finish line, a more manageable pace affords the opportunity to review and recycle the material that’s been covered previously, thus allowing students to practice putting it together and to truly acquire the language. As in the first edition of En avant!, Chapitres 4, 8, and 12 feature a recycling section that appears before each new grammar point, pulling in a related point from earlier in the sequence that shows students how concepts are interrelated. The grammar of Chapitre 16 is all review, which allows instructors to use new vocabulary to recycle key structures from the first-year program, such as the use of the passé composé and imparfait.
use of direct and indirect objects. This interweaving of old with new allows for better retention and more fluid opportunities to tie it all together.

New to the second edition is an engaging feature called **Le coin beaux-arts**. This section, which appears at the end of every even-numbered chapter, uses *En avant!*’s beautiful fine art chapter openers as a means to incorporate vocabulary and grammar review, while introducing students to masterpieces of French and francophone art.

With **LearnSmart**, students’ precious study time is focused and directed, maximizing the impact of each minute a student devotes to studying. With over 2.5 billion questions answered since its launch in 2011, **LearnSmart** has proven to significantly improve students’ learning and course outcomes—by as much as a full letter grade. As students work through each chapter’s vocabulary and grammar modules, **LearnSmart** identifies the learning objectives behind each of the main grammatical structures and vocabulary words that warrant more practice, based on each student’s performance. It then provides an individualized study program, one that’s unique to each student, based on the student’s strengths and weaknesses. The **LearnSmart** reports provide students with details about their own learning and give instructors the ability to understand the strengths and weaknesses of individual students as well as those of the entire class.

**Active Learning**

*En avant!* puts students in the driver’s seat, engaging them in their own learning process and inspiring them to learn more and do more with French. The vocabulary and grammar presentations do not simply provide translations or explain the rules, but instead challenge students to pause, think critically, and use meaning-based, contextual clues to figure things out. In this way, students’ attention is directed toward their expanding vocabulary, the *why* behind the grammar presentations, and the functions these phrases and structures serve in the language. Each chapter begins with **Communication en direct** videos, shot on the street in Paris and Montreal. These videos present “chunks” of authentic language in real-life settings that students can use immediately to communicate. The **Vocabulaire interactif** sections use a variety of appealing photos, line art, and texts to present new words and expressions in context. The embedded activities in each encourage students to make form-to-meaning connections in French, rather than English. Each **Grammaire interactive** section begins with a short inductive presentation activity, **Analysons!**, which prompts students to think about and identify the grammatical rule. The form-focused **Mise en pratique** activities give students an opportunity to practice the structural forms before they begin to use them in meaningful contexts in the activities that follow. There is no room for passive bystanders in *En avant!*

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**Rappel:**

*La Noce* (c. 1905), Henri Rousseau

Henri Rousseau (1844–1910) was nicknamed **Le Douanier** because of his job as a tax collector in Paris. He never formally studied art and painted mostly on his days off. His paintings depict exotic animals and forests (even though Rousseau never left Paris!) or portraits of people who seem frozen in time. Rousseau’s style—his use of primary colors and clearly delimited lines, with odd proportions and little or no perspective—is therefore referred to as **art naïf** (naïve or primitive art). *La Noce*, an oil painting done in 1904 or 1905, was likely based on a photograph, which would explain the stiffness of the characters. It is one of his most famous works and is currently exhibited at the Musée de l’Orangerie in Paris.

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*En avant!* is an innovative pedagogical approach where students are empowered and actively engaged in the learning process.

STÉPHANIE ROULON
Portland State University

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The idea of “sparking curiosity” is what I always seek when approaching an assignment. I love the idea that a textbook has this same philosophy of generating thirst for knowledge . . . Many students do not see the relevance of studying a foreign language until they can connect with the culture.

JEFFREY ALLEN
North Carolina State University

Integration of culture

En avant! has been carefully constructed around an extensive video program that serves a dual purpose: It introduces new language structures and high-frequency expressions, and it provides a window into the cultures of the French-speaking world. This focus on cultural exploration has the additional advantage of making the communicative activities in the classroom more meaningful. The emphasis throughout is on culture “from the inside,” that is, from the perspective of French speakers themselves. This perspective often includes comparisons with the students’ own lives and leads students to the discovery that French speakers are in many ways similar to themselves. Activities and instructor’s annotations further encourage self-reflection, as students are asked to consider how their own cultural perspectives might look to people from other cultures.

Culture is integrated throughout each chapter, embedded in presentations and activities, notes and videos, and ultimately culminates in the end-of-chapter section called Culture en direct, where students bring together what they have learned thus far to continuously develop their abilities in listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

Each Culture en direct section contains the following integrative sections that provide instructors with a wide variety of ways to integrate culture into their programs:

- **Le coin vidéo:** These new cultural presentations, which open the Culture en direct section of every chapter, are presented by a dynamic French actor using images and visual word prompts. These three- to seven-minute video presentations, which expand upon the cultural theme introduced in the chapter, give students the opportunity to practice their newly acquired listening skills.

- **Le coin lecture:** These sections, occurring in every chapter, provide students with successful interactions with a variety of authentic readings from the very beginning of their language studies. In response to reviewer feedback, more literary texts, including excerpts from Le Petit Prince (Chapitre 6), Le Petit Nicolas (Chapitre 8), and La Cantatrice chauve (Chapitre 16) are featured in this edition. Additional readings and guided writing activities, accompanied by reading and writing strategies, are available in Connect French and in the print Workbook / Laboratory Manual.

- **Le coin chanson:** Students listen to a French-language song related to the thematic and/or linguistic aspect of the chapter. A short biography of each artist is provided, and active listening is developed in the accompanying activities. This feature appears in the student edition in the odd-numbered chapters. Additional song activities for the even-numbered chapters are posted in the instructor’s resource section in Connect French. Note: All songs are readily available online through iTunes and/or on YouTube. Due to permissions limitations, the songs are not provided by McGraw-Hill Education.

- **Le coin ciné:** Students watch a scene from a French-language movie that relates to the chapter theme, vocabulary, and grammar. Supported by pre- and post-viewing activities, students have the satisfaction of applying what they have learned throughout the chapter in an authentic language context. This feature appears in the student edition in the even-numbered chapters. Additional film activities for the odd-numbered chapters are posted in the instructor’s resource in section Connect French. Note: All films are available at major online and in-store video retailers. Due to permissions limitations, the clips are not provided by McGraw-Hill Education.
• **Le coin conversation:** At the end of every odd-numbered chapter are engaging conversation activities. These pair- and group-based activities bring together the vocabulary and structures of the two preceding chapters in interesting real-life contexts that encourage students to start talking.

• **Le coin beaux-arts** (see detailed description above): At the end of every even-numbered chapter, students are given an opportunity to acquire an appreciation of French and francophone fine art as they review key vocabulary and structures from the two preceding chapters. Thought-provoking questions provide opportunities for lively in-class discussion.

**Mobile Tools for Digital Success**

*Connect French* is now mobile-enabled, allowing students to engage in their course material via the devices they use every day. Students can access *Workbook / Laboratory Manual* activities, the eBook, *LearnSmart*, video and audio materials, and grammar tutorials on their tablets.

Additional key features of *Connect French* include:

• **Connect-only** interactive activities using drag-and-drop functionality, embedded audio, voice recording, and videos targeting key vocabulary, grammar, and cultural content for extra practice;

• a comprehensive gradebook, including time-on-task measurements, the ability to quick grade, drop the lowest score, and view student grade-to-date calculations;

• powerful reports that provide instructors insight into classroom and student performance with data and information that can be used to decide how the valuable class time is to be spent;

• the ability to customize assignments using the Assignment Builder’s user-friendly filtering system, allowing instructors to create unique assignments targeting specific skills, learning objectives, ACTFL standards, and more;

• access to all instructor’s resources, including pre-made exams and a test bank for online delivery of exams;

• **Tegrity™**, McGraw-Hill’s video capture software, which allows instructors to post short videos, tutorials, and lessons for student access outside of class;

• **Voice Board and Blackboard IM**, two powerful tools integrated into *Connect French*, promote communication and collaboration outside of the classroom. *Voice Board* activities allow students to participate in threaded oral discussion boards, while *Blackboard IM* activities facilitate real-time interaction via text instant messaging and voice or video chat. The white-board and screen-sharing tools provide opportunities for collaboration, and virtual office hours allow instructors to meet online with students either one-on-one or in groups. Instructors can deliver voice presentations, voice e-mails, or podcasts as well. Whether for an online or hybrid course or a face-to-face course seeking to expand oral communication practice and assessment, these tools allow student-to-student or student-to-instructor virtual oral chat functionality.

• **MH Campus** and **Blackboard** integration simplifies and streamlines course administration by integrating *Connect French* with any learning management system. With features such as single sign-on for students and instructors, gradebook synchronization, and easy access to all of McGraw-Hill’s language content (even from other market-leading titles not currently adopted for your course), teaching an introductory language course has never been more streamlined.