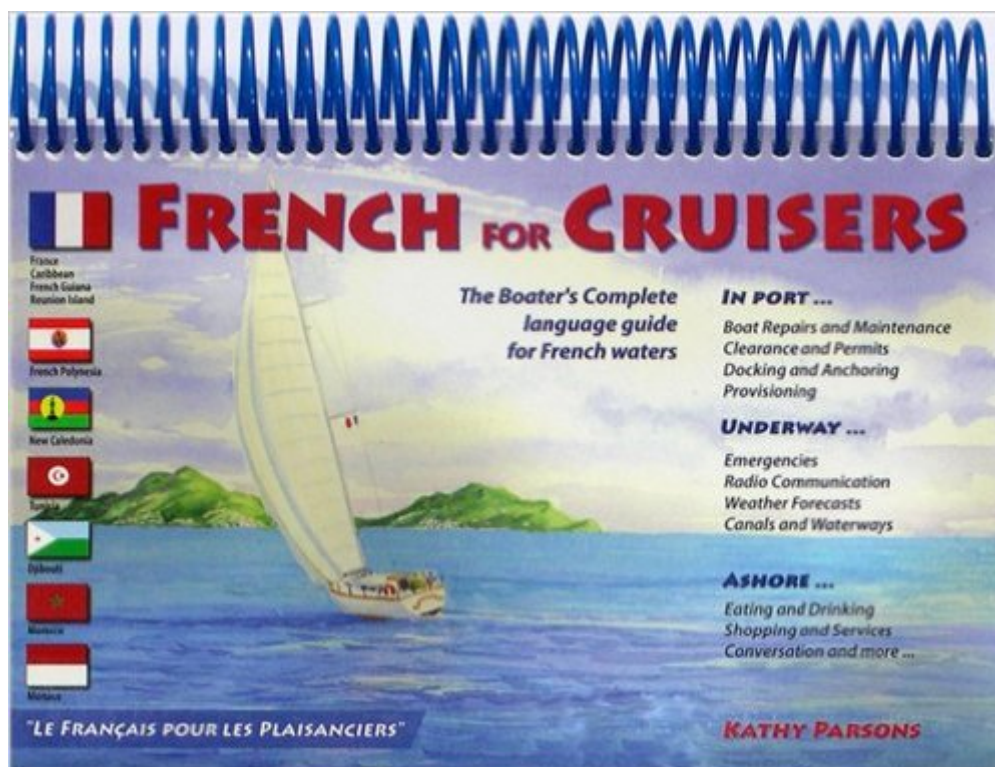


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French For Cruisers: The Boater's Complete Language Guide For French Waters



Synopsis

This practical, easy-to-use guide provides the vocabulary and language skills necessary to cruise in French-speaking waters. Whether your boating plans include the Caribbean, French Polynesia, Mediterranean or the canals of France, French For Cruises gives you the tools you need to communicate.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

French for Cruisers, Kathy's newly completed follow-up to Spanish for Cruisers, is at the top of my list of books I wish I'd had when I began my first circumnavigation. Thankfully, I've got them both now. French is bedeviled with complicated rules of grammar, pronunciation, and bizarre spelling that all but silences the average English-speaking sailor. Whether you're sailing for the Caribbean, French Polynesia, Madagascar and the Mascarene Islands of the Indian Ocean, the Med, or canals of France, this book will quickly enable you to communicate with the locals and find everything from baguettes to boat parts. As she did in Spanish for Cruisers, Kathy tackles French in a similar way that's geared specifically to boater's needs. This book is also spiral-bound and compact enough to carry with you ashore and covers everything from basic conversation to shopping to needs specific to boaters such as emergency radio communications, weather, marine hardware, boat repair, and fishing and diving. The similar format has a quick reference guide inside the cover flap and illustrations and detailed diagrams allow you to point to the hardware or boat materials needed when words alone don't quite do it. A complete Index in English and French quickly get you to the

word you want. The numerous silent letters in French words makes their pronunciation exasperatingly difficult for English speakers. Kathy solved this problem better than other phrase books I've used, by arranging columns with the English subject on the left, French spelling in the center with silent letters in light gray color, and an easy to understand phonetic pronunciation column on the right. With *French for Cruisers* in hand, never again will you be among the ranks of English-speaking tourists who slowly and loudly repeat over and over what they need in English to a cornered French speaker staring blankly back. Do yourself a favor by adding both these books to your onboard reference library before your next cruise to foreign waters. They will surely pay for themselves by preventing expensive misunderstandings and lost time.

Kathy has got it all. We used this guide in the French islands in the Caribbean and we knew what we were ordering, could ask for certain foods or products at the market, find the boat parts we need replacements for, and explain what the engine was doing. Kathy's pages help to make complete sentences. Nouns are nice but who wants to go into a market and just say "ham". How about "I would like twelve thin slices of ham"? Didn't need to know all the names for the pastries (although many are in the book). With Kathy's help I could point to the case and say "this one, no the one behind it, yes, that one"! Asking directions was possible. Understanding them wasn't a bad experience either! grin. Occasionally we would find detailed weather reports posted on land. Hoorah! We could read them. Not a bad book for landlubbers visiting the French islands either.

This has been a tremendous aid in learning useful French. Because the French language has pronunciation rules that are sometimes difficult, this book is a great tool for increasing useful vocabulary.

Kathy Parson's *French for Cruisers* has helped us immensely in the last 8 years. We were living in Belgium so had several French dictionaries, but while outfitting our new sailboat, we could not find the words for so many boat related things. Then we found this book. What a difference! No more taking photos or catalog clippings into shops or bumbling along with less than ideal words. Then we went sailing... I cannot tell you how many times this book saved me! From getting a haircut in Boulogne to having our dinghy repaired in Martinique to finding a doctor in New Caledonia to treat my severely infected finger. Checking in with officials in the Marquesas, I tried (and butchered) speaking French and could not understand what he wanted. The uniformed man was exasperated and I feared we were at an impasse until I pulled out the book and let him find the words in French. I

recommend this book to anyone sailing in the Caribbean or across the Atlantic, Pacific or Indian oceans as the French have territories in all those places.

Kathy Parsons, experienced cruiser, world traveler and teacher, has written the best book ever for anyone who boats in French waters. Boaters have a unique language that standard translation dictionaries and travel guides seldom include. Parsons' success with Spanish for Cruisers prompted the demand for a similar book of French terms. Her initial challenge was to help English speakers pronounce and use the French words well enough to be understood. Using a clever printing method, where silent letters are printed in gray, and a columnar layout that includes the correct article (le, la, l' or les) that precedes masculine, feminine and plural nouns, one can easily communicate without knowing a word of French. The wrap-around cover provides a quick reference to each section, with icons to help the non-English speaker. An extra summary and table of contents is written in French to help a French speaker use the book. Spiral binding allows the book to be opened flat for sharing across the hardware store counter. Hundreds of drawings, diagrams and illustrations are included. Twenty-eight topics and plenty of useful information cover every situation imaginable for the sailor, pleasure boater, and marine worker. One topic per page reduces shuffling around, and extensive indices get from French to English and back quickly and easily. Communication is the goal, laughter the by-product, friendship the reward. Flawless accents and perfect grammar are less important than giving a dockmaster the correct hull dimensions. Those who do speak French might not know the words unique to boating and will also find French for Cruisers invaluable in port, underway and ashore.

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