

THE SECTION BELOW is to be studied ONLY BY candidates seeking high marks at H.S.C.

1. Leave no gaps. Make intelligent guesses. Some aids:
 - (a) Substitute s for ^ (crête) or for initial é (étrier, épice)
 - (b) Look for the adjective or noun round which the new word is built (déraciner, entasser, fourmiller)
 - (c) Use Latin knowledge (aubépine: alba spina, white thorn)
 - (d) Remember the force of standard suffixes - diminutives (siffloter); - ish ending (verdâtre); “contents” ending (bouchée)
 - (d) Remember the force of standard prefixes – re (reparaître) en, em (emmener, emporter)
2. Bring out the force of the imperfect tense but don't feel obliged to use: “I was seeing” or “I used to see” where it is just bad English
 1. Try to avoid translating “on” by “one”, by using the passive or “you”
 2. Watch out for “false friends” (faux amis) – words which look alike in French or like an English word while having a different meaning.

FOUR CLASSES:

- (a) Words spelt similarly in French (le côté, la côte, la part, le parti, la patrie, alléger, alléguer, prétendre, raisin, rude, sensible, vicairie, blesser)
- (b) Inflected forms of words in French resembling each other (du,dû, bâti, battu, je vis (voir), je vis, je suis, je suis (suivre))
- (c) Nouns whose meaning changes with difference in gender (le poêle, la poêle, cf, le poil, le poste, la poste)
- (d) Most insidious, apparently friendly groups – word with exactly or almost exactly the same spelling in both English and French

AGAIN IN THREE GROUPS:

- (a) Words (ombrelle, raisin) of completely different meaning;
- (b) Words sometimes meaning the same as their English equivalents, sometimes meaning something quite different (parent, unique, place);
- (b) Words with roughly the same meaning but where the English equivalent sounds stilted (sauvage, profound, voyage)

USE THE FOLLOWING TECHNIQUES FOR DEFENCE AGAINST “Faux Amis”:

- 1) Specially list words with similar spelling (baiser, baisser, la justice, la justesse, le point, la pointe, le poison, le poisson, répondre, répandre, la tache, la tâche)
- 2) Think out memory devices to distinguish la voile (a in la and sail) from le voile (e in le and veil), le poêle, from la poêle (frying-pan is feminine), le pendule from la pendule
- 3) Check meanings of actuel, appointements, avertir, blessé, établi, ignorer, laboureur, prétendre, prévenir, rude, sensible, vicaire