



French Food and Drink Words You Should Know

KS4 FRENCH

LANGUAGE LEARNING

VOCABULARY

Ages 11-14



3 min read

Why Learn Food Words First?

When you're learning **French**, one of the most useful topics is food and drink. Why? Because you eat every day, and you'll use these words constantly if you ever visit **France** or speak to French speakers. Food vocabulary is practical, fun, and connects to real life.

Learning food words also helps you understand how **French grammar** works, because foods have different genders (masculine and feminine) and you'll practise saying "I like" and "I don't like" with real examples.

Think of it like learning the controls of your favourite video game first—once you know the basics, everything else becomes easier to learn.

Common French Foods

Let's start with everyday items. **Bread** is **pain** (pronounced "pan"). **Cheese** is **fromage** ("fro-mazh"). **Milk** is **lait** ("lay"). **Eggs** are **œufs** ("urf").

Some foods you might eat for lunch: **chicken** is **poulet**, **fish** is **poisson**, **beef** is **bœuf** ("buf"), and **rice** is **riz**. **Apple** is **pomme**, **banana** is **banane**, and **orange** is **orange**—yes, the English word comes from French!

Drinks and Snacks

Water is **eau** ("oh"). **Coffee** is **café**, **tea** is **thé**, and **juice** is **jus**. **Wine** is **vin**, though you won't be ordering that at **14 years old!**

For snacks, **chocolate** is **chocolat**, **biscuits** are **biscuits** (very similar!), and a **croissant**—that flaky pastry—keeps its French name in English too.

Think of it like how some of your favourite clothes brands keep their original names from other countries, even when you're speaking English.

Useful Phrases

Just knowing the words isn't enough—you need sentences. "**Je voudrais...**" ("zhuh voo-dreh") means "I would like..." This is how you order in a restaurant. "**J'aime...**" ("zhem") means "I like," and "**Je n'aime pas...**" ("zhuh nem-pah") means "I don't like."

So you could say: "**Je voudrais du café et une croissant, s'il vous plaît**" (I would like a coffee and a croissant, please).

The best way to learn food vocabulary is to use it in real conversations—whether that's ordering food at a French restaurant, watching French cooking shows, or playing language games online. Food connects language to real experience, which makes it stick in your memory much better than just reading a list.