

Understanding and Using Grammar

- ✓ Make sure to read the assigned pages on time, and before doing your homework. And don't forget that exercises in the book usually directly follow the grammar explanations that apply to them. When you come to class, I expect that you have read the assignment and prepared your homework for the day. You cannot leave it until a latter day and expect to understand what is going on in class.
- ✓ When you feel lost, get help as soon as possible. Visit my office hours or go to the language lab for free (yes, free!) tutoring.
- ✓ Reading the rules helps, but actually using the grammar structures in sentences is more important. (This is the purpose of much of the homework.)
- ✓ Self-test when learning new verb tenses or moods by using substitution drills. (I *live*, you _____, he _____, etc.)
- ✓ Whenever you feel unsure about the form of a verb, double check the form in the appendix of the book.
- ✓ Make flash cards for verbs. Write the forms of the verb in French on one side (je parle, tu parles...), underlining ending (-e, -es), along with 2-3 sample sentences (copy sentences from your book, modify sentences from the book, or write your own—and if you have any question as to it being correct, check with me: you don't want to have incorrect forms on your study guides.) Write the meaning of the verb in English on the flip side.
- ✓ Make up mnemonic devices (memory devices, like “Every Good Boy Does Fine” to help remember the musical scale EGBDF, or “HOMES” to help remember the names of the Great Lakes—Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior) to help you remember grammar rules, and use the mnemonic devices I give you.
- ✓ Remember that homework is NOT busy work, done for no reason than to keep you from doing other things you would rather do. It is the chance for your brain to use new structures or vocabulary so that it will become more natural for you to use the material correctly.
- ✓ If you are an 1101-1102 student, visit the Rendez-Vous website, where you can register using the code that came with your book to have access to tutorials, sample tests and other exercises.
- ✓ Visit <http://french.about.com/> for online quizzes and other activities.
- ✓ If you need a quick review of grammar terms, or want to check out the differences between English and French usage, look at the English Grammar for Students of French book, which is a supplement to the class.