



Bonuses: English Story Translations

Companion Guide for
Mini Short Stories in French for Beginners

Full English translations for all stories in the book

By MindSmith Books

Introduction

Welcome to the translations for: *Mini Short Stories in French for Beginners!*

You've been enjoying our French mini-short stories book — thanks for making us a small part of your French language-learning journey. These complete English translations are designed to be a companion for the original free book, helping you unlock every detail, cultural reference, and linguistic nuance from the 3 stories you've been reading.

We know that sometimes you might need translations to fully digest some parts of the book, confirm your understanding, or just to satisfy your curiosity about a particular phrase. That's exactly why we created this translation document — **so you can learn with confidence and never feel stuck.**

Each section contains the complete English translations of the stories, plus all the comprehension questions translated as well, maintaining the same formatting and structure as your French book, to make it easy to refer back.

How to Use This Translation Guide

- **Read the French first** — always attempt to understand the story in French before checking the translation (in the original book!). Look up specific sentences or paragraphs rather than reading the entire English version.
- **Check your comprehension** — after reading in French, you can then double-check your understanding in English
- **Learn cultural context** — use the translations to understand French cultural references and expressions that might not be obvious
- **Review the vocabulary** — compare how French expressions translate into natural English

Important Note: These translations are meant to support, not replace, your French reading practice. The magic happens when you read in French first, then use these translations to confirm, clarify, and deepen your understanding.

This guide pairs perfectly with your main French stories book — keep them together and use this translation guide whenever you need an extra boost.

Bonne lecture et bon apprentissage !

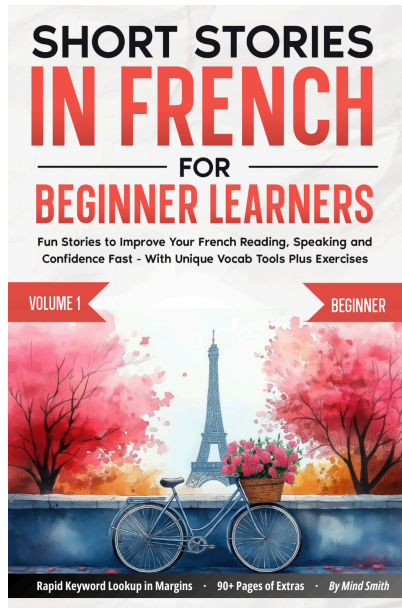
— *The MindSmith Books Team*

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Now... on to the the translations! →

1. A Walk in Paris

Camille **meets** her friend Sophie near the Trocadéro metro station. The weather is beautiful today and the two friends decide to **take a walk** through Paris. The sky is blue and there are no clouds.

--Hi Camille! says Sophie. Are you **ready** for our adventure?

--Of course! replies Camille with a big smile.

They **walk** toward the Eiffel Tower. The **streets** are full of tourists who are **taking** photos. Camille and Sophie **laugh** when a man **asks** for directions in very loud English.

--Excuse me, where is the Eiffel Tower? **shouts** the man in English, with a map of Paris in his hands.

Sophie **shows** him the big tower right in front of them. The man says "thank you" and leaves quickly with his family. The girls continue their walk and **cross** the Seine on the **Bir-Hakeim bridge**. The water **shines** under the afternoon sun.

--I'm **thirsty**, says Camille. Shall we go to a café?

--Good idea! replies Sophie. I know a little café near here.

They **enter** a traditional café with red tables and wooden chairs. The **waiter** is very nice and wears a white apron. Camille **orders** a croissant and a café au lait. Sophie **chooses** a pain au chocolat and green tea.

--Your croissants are delicious! says Camille to the waiter.

--Thank you miss, they are **fresh** from this morning, replies the waiter with pride.

The friends **sit down** at a table near the **window**. They watch people pass by in the street. A group of Japanese tourists are **looking for** the **way** to the Louvre museum. They look a bit **lost** with their maps and cameras.

--Look at these tourists, says Sophie while **smiling**. They're cute.

Camille and Sophie **leave** the café after a pleasant hour. They **pay** the bill and leave a small **tip**. The two friends continue their walk along the Seine. **Tourist boats** pass by on the river with passengers waving.

The **sunset** arrives and the sky becomes orange and pink. The Eiffel Tower **begins** to **sparkle** with its golden lights. It's a magnificent **sight** that Parisians never tire of seeing.

--What a magnificent **view**! says Camille while taking a photo.

--It's true, replies Sophie. Paris is really beautiful in the evening.

The two friends **take** photos together in front of the **landscape**. They **enjoy** this perfect moment in their favorite city. The day ends well with this beautiful walk through the streets of Paris.

Comprehension Check

1. Where does Camille meet Sophie?
a) At the Eiffel Tower b) Near the Trocadéro metro station c) At the café d) On the bridge
2. What does the tourist man do in the story?
a) He takes photos b) He drinks coffee c) He asks for directions d) He crosses the bridge
3. What does Camille order at the café?
a) Tea and a pain au chocolat b) A croissant and a café au lait c) Black coffee and a pastry d) Hot chocolate and a croissant
4. At what time of day does the story end?
a) Morning b) Noon c) Afternoon d) At sunset
5. What do the friends do at the end of the story?
a) They go home b) They take photos c) They return to the café d) They look for other tourists

Answers: 1.b, 2.c, 3.b, 4.d, 5.b

2. The Picnic in the Park

Thomas **wakes up** Saturday morning. The weather is very beautiful and the **sun shines** in the blue sky. He calls his **classmates** to organize a picnic at the Tête d'Or park in Lyon.

--Hi Marie! says Thomas. Do you want to come to the **picnic** today?

--Yes! replies Marie with enthusiasm. What do we **bring**?

Thomas prepares a list. He's going to **buy** fresh baguettes, goat **cheese**, red **apples** and orange **juice**. Marie **promises** to bring a **blanket** and plastic **plates**.

At noon, the friends **meet up** at the park **entrance**. There's Thomas, Marie, Julien and Sophie. They **look for** a good **spot** under a big **tree**. The **shade** is perfect to **escape** from the **heat**.

--Here's a perfect spot! says Julien while **putting down** his bag.

Marie **spreads out** the blanket on the green **grass**. Thomas **takes out** the food from his bag. The cheese **smells** very good and the apples are **crispy**. The friends **sit down** in a circle and **begin** to eat.

--This cheese is delicious! says Sophie while **smiling**.

After the **meal**, the friends decide to play frisbee. Julien **throws** the disc toward Marie, but the **wind** carries it toward a little brown **dog**. The dog **catches** the frisbee in its **mouth** and **runs** everywhere in the park.

--Come back here! **shouts** Thomas while **laughing**.

The dog's **owner** arrives running. It's an elderly man with a blue **cap**.

--Sorry! says the man. Rex **loves** to play!

The dog finally **returns** the frisbee, but there are **teeth marks** on it. Everyone **laughs** at this amusing adventure.

The friends continue to play and **chat** under the sun. They **share** their school stories and their projects for the summer. The afternoon passes very quickly.

At five o'clock, they **pack up** their things. They **pick up** all the **trash** and **clean** their spot. It's important to respect nature.

--Thank you for this beautiful day! says Marie.

--Shall we do it again next week? asks Sophie.

Everyone says yes with joy. The friends **part ways** with beautiful **memories** of this perfect day at the park.

Comprehension Check

1. What day does Thomas organize the picnic?
a) Friday b) Saturday c) Sunday d) Monday
2. What does Thomas buy for the picnic?
a) Sandwiches and coke b) Cakes and coffee c) Baguettes, cheese and apples
d) Croissants and tea
3. What does the dog do during the frisbee game?
a) It sleeps under the tree b) It catches the frisbee and runs everywhere c) It eats the food d) It barks very loudly
4. What is the dog's name?
a) Max b) Rex c) Felix d) Alex
5. What do the friends do before leaving?
a) They eat more b) They play football c) They pack up and clean their spot d) They feed the dog

Answers: 1.b, 2.c, 3.b, 4.b, 5.c

3. The First Cooking Class

Clara has been **living** in Bordeaux for six months. She loves French cuisine but she doesn't know how to cook. Today, she **enrolls** in her first **cooking class** at a small **school** near her home.

--Hello! says chef Pierre while smiling. Are you a **beginner**?

--Yes, **replies** Clara. I'm very **nervous**!

--Don't **worry**, says the chef. We're going to **learn** together.

In the **kitchen**, there are six **students**. Clara observes the **utensils** on the table: **knives, pots, bowls** and wooden **spoons**. Everything is very **clean** and well organized.

The chef explains the menu of the day. They're going to prepare a traditional ratatouille and sweet crêpes. Clara **takes** notes in her little notebook.

--First, we're going to **cut** the **vegetables**, says chef Pierre.

Clara **receives eggplant, zucchini**, tomatoes and **onions**. She **begins** to cut the eggplant with **care**. It's more difficult than she **thought**!

--Careful! says the chef. **Hold** the knife like this.

He **shows** the correct technique. Clara **tries** to **follow** his instructions. Little by little, she **improves** and feels more **confident**.

In a large pot, she **heats up olive oil**. The smell is delicious! She **adds** the onions which **sizzle** in the hot oil. The chef **watches** her work and **gives** advice.

--Perfect! he says. Now, **add** the other vegetables.

Clara **mixes** everything **gently**. The colors are magnificent: red, purple, green and white. She **seasons** with salt, **pepper** and herbs de Provence.

For the crêpes, Clara **beats** the **eggs** in a bowl. She **pours** the **milk** and **flour** little by little. The batter must be **smooth** without lumps.

--Your batter is perfect! says the chef with **pride**.

Clara **cooks** her first crêpe in the **pan**. She **flips** the crêpe with a spatula. It works!
The other students **applaud**.

At the end of the class, Clara **tastes** her ratatouille. It's delicious! The **flavors blend** perfectly. Her crêpes are **golden** and **fluffy**.

--**Congratulations!** says chef Pierre. You have talent!

Clara feels very **proud**. She **puts away** her utensils and **cleans** her **work surface**. The other students **exchange** their phone numbers and talk about the next class.

--Thank you so much! says Clara to the chef. I can't **wait** to come back!

She **goes home** with her dishes and much more **confidence**. Now, she can **impress** her friends with her new **skills!**

Comprehension Check

1. How long has Clara been living in Bordeaux?
a) Three months b) Six months c) One year d) Two years
2. What is the chef's name in the cooking class?
a) Pierre b) Paul c) Philippe d) Patrick
3. What dishes do they learn to prepare?
a) Soup and salad b) Ratatouille and crêpes c) Quiche and tart d) Omelet and bread
4. What does Clara do with the olive oil?
a) She drinks it b) She heats it up in the pot c) She puts it on the salad d) She saves it for later
5. How does Clara feel at the end of the class?
a) Tired b) Sad c) Proud d) Worried

Answers: 1.b, 2.a, 3.b, 4.b, 5.c

4. At the Café With a Friend

Sophie finishes her **classes** at three o'clock in the afternoon. She **sends** a message to her friend Julien to **meet up with** him at the café "Les Deux Magots" near Saint-Germain-des-Prés.

--Hi Julien! says Sophie arriving. Have you been **waiting** for long?

--No, I just arrived, replies Julien with a smile. How **did your day go**?

They **choose** a table near the **terrace** to **enjoy** the autumn sun. The café is **lively** with many customers who are **chatting** and **reading** their newspapers.

The **waiter approaches** their table with his order **notebook**.

--Hello! What would you like? he asks politely.

--I **would like** a café crème, please, says Sophie.

--And for me, a **hot chocolate** with whipped cream, **adds** Julien.

--Perfect! says the waiter. And to go with it?

Julien looks at the **display window** filled with colorful pastries.

--We're going to **share a plate** of macarons, he says.

The waiter notes their order and **goes back** toward the kitchen. Sophie and Julien observe the **passersby** in the street. Tourists take photos in front of the café's historic façade.

--Tell me about your **morning**! says Sophie with curiosity.

--I had a very difficult mathematics exam, explains Julien. And you?

--Me, I **attended a fascinating** literature class on Molière.

The waiter **comes back** with their steaming **drinks**. The hot chocolate smells delicious and the café crème has perfect foam. The macarons are **arranged** elegantly: pink, green, yellow and brown.

--Taste these macarons! says Sophie. They're exquisite!

Julien **bites into** a **raspberry** macaron. His **eyes light up** with pleasure.

--It's incredible! he exclaims. The texture is perfect!

They continue to discuss their plans for the weekend. Sophie suggests going to the market Sunday morning. Julien accepts with enthusiasm.

--This break was exactly what I needed, says Sophie while **sipping** her coffee.

--Me too, replies Julien. **Nothing beats** a good moment between friends.

They **stay** at the café for an hour, **savoring** their **friendship** and the **sweetness** of this Parisian moment. When they **pay** the bill, the waiter **thanks** them warmly.

Comprehension Check

1. What time does Sophie finish her classes?
a) At two o'clock b) At three o'clock c) At four o'clock d) At five o'clock
2. Which café do Sophie and Julien choose?
a) Café de Flore b) Les Deux Magots c) Café Procope d) Café de la Paix
3. What does Julien order?
a) Black coffee b) Green tea c) Hot chocolate with whipped cream d) Coffee with milk
4. What do they share for dessert?
a) An apple tart b) Croissants c) A plate of macarons d) A chocolate cake
5. What does Julien talk about concerning his morning?
a) A literature class b) A mathematics exam c) A trip to the movies d) A doctor's appointment

Answers: 1.b, 2.b, 3.c, 4.c, 5.b

5. The Trip to the Movies

Marc **waits for** his **cousin** Thomas in front of the "Pathé Bellecour" cinema in Lyon. It's seven o'clock in the evening and the city **lights** are beginning to **light up**.

--Hi Marc! says Thomas arriving. **Sorry** for the **delay**!

--No problem! replies Marc. I already **bought** the **tickets** online.

They enter the cinema and **head toward** the candy **counter**. The **smell** of popcorn **fills** the air and **makes you want** to **snack**.

--Do you want popcorn? asks Marc.

--Yes! And also **gummy candies**, replies Thomas with **indulgence**.

They buy a large container of **salted** popcorn and colorful candies. Marc also gets two soft drinks to go with their **snacks**.

The **hostess** checks their tickets and shows them to theater **room** number three.

--The film starts in five minutes, she says **kindly**.

They **go up** the stairs and **find** their seats in the middle of the theater. The **screen** is huge and the sound is perfect. Other spectators **settle in** quietly.

--I can't **wait** to see this film! **whispers** Thomas.

The film is a very **funny** French comedy. Marc and Thomas **laugh loudly** during the **funniest** scenes. They share their popcorn and comment **discreetly** on the action.

After two hours of **entertainment**, the **lights come back on**. The spectators slowly leave the theater discussing the film.

--It was fantastic! says Marc with animation.

--The main character was **hilarious**! adds Thomas.

They leave the cinema and walk toward the tram stop. The **evening** is cool and pleasant. The streets of Lyon are **lit up** and full of life.

--Which scene did you prefer? asks Marc.

--The one where he **falls** in the fountain! replies Thomas while **laughing** again.

The tram arrives and they get on board. During the **journey**, they continue to analyze the film and laugh about the most memorable moments.

--Shall we do it again next week? suggests Thomas.

--With pleasure! says Marc. It was an excellent evening.

They get off the tram near their homes, satisfied with this **successful outing** between cousins.

Comprehension Check

1. What time does Marc wait for his cousin?
a) At six o'clock b) At seven o'clock c) At eight o'clock d) At nine o'clock
2. How did Marc buy the tickets?
a) At the ticket window b) By phone c) Online d) At the last minute
3. What do they eat during the film?
a) Sandwiches b) Popcorn and candy c) Chips d) Fruit
4. What type of film do they watch?
a) An action film b) A horror film c) A French comedy d) A documentary
5. How do they get home?
a) On foot b) By car c) By metro d) By tram

Answers: 1.b, 2.c, 3.b, 4.c, 5.d

What's next? See the next page →

Thank You & What's Next?

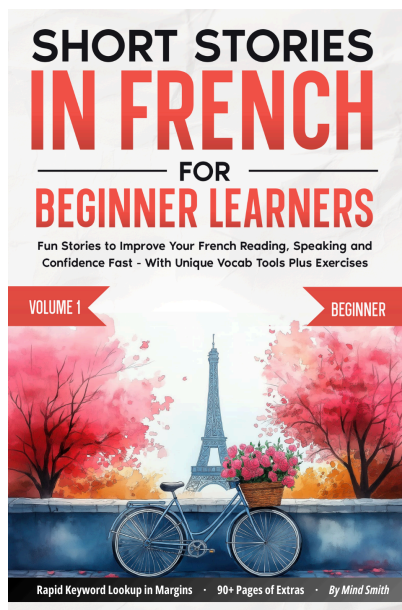
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