

Andrew J Betts

Understanding Core French Grammar

VERNON SERIES IN LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

"This lucid, accessible and user-friendly book fills an unfortunate gap in the literature on French grammar.

I have no doubt that generations of students will be grateful to Andrew Betts for making their language-learning so much easier and more enjoyable."

Neil Smith is Emeritus Professor of Linguistics at University College London. He is a Fellow of the British Academy (FBA) and an Honorary Member of the Linguistic Society of America.

Summary

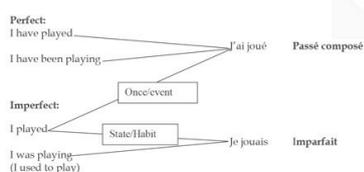
This book contains an explanatory treatment of the core areas of difficulty for the English speaking learner of French. It deals with the key issues in tense formation and use and verbal structures and processes such as negation, passives and subjunctives along with a highly exemplified treatment of pronouns and a section dealing with adjectives and other elements of the grammar.

It fills a gap between general text books of French in which grammatical issues are frequently treated piecemeal and scattered throughout the book in between more communicative information on one hand and exhaustive reference grammars aimed at graduate and research students on the other which would be beyond the level of intellectual maturity of most school children and some non-specialist undergraduates.

It has the advantage of treating each grammatical issue in detail but without being too long-winded, explaining the systems and processes which underlie the facts of the language. The emphasis is on explanation and not merely the listing of facts, enabling the learner to master the system and become an independent user of the language. It could be used highly successfully either as a classroom aid alongside the more usual textbooks which are organized typically around topics and themes in society or for self-study for the committed individual learner of any age. There are extensive exercises and answers for all topics covered.

About the author

Andrew Betts is currently Registrar at Lancing College, England. He holds a BA in English Language with Medieval Literature from Durham University, a Postgraduate Diploma in Linguistics from UCL, a Postgraduate Diploma in French translation from the Institute of Linguists and a PhD in German Linguistics, German Impersonal Passives from UCL. He lectured part-time in Historical Linguistics and Communications Studies at the Polytechnic of Central London and at Goldsmiths' College London and then became Research Officer at the University of Essex working on the EUROTRA Machine Translation project from 1986 to 1990. Since 1990 he has been teaching French and German to University scholarship and entrance level at Lancing College and was latterly Head of the French Department there.



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VERNON PRESS
SERIES IN LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Jul 2016 | Hardback 236x160mm | 165 Pages | ISBN: 978-1-62273-068-1

SUBJECTS Education, Language and Literature

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