Greetings EU!
Posted by Stefan - 2011/12/20 14:21

Hello Folks!

In honor of this new section Lulu and I have just bought Rosetta Stone- French level 1-5...and together we are studying french! Hopefully in 6 months we can show some progress and maybe even post something in French! Such a beautiful language and a beautiful country!
WooHoo!

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Re:Greetings EU!
Posted by morgar - 2011/12/20 16:05

Hi Stefan, what a great idea, learning french is easy. Only a little of grammar and no tricks. Lesson one: "Les poules du couvent couvent".
If Lulu speaks spanish she'll see there is several common rules...

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Re:Greetings EU!
Posted by HeroQuestFrance - 2011/12/27 01:58

OOOoooo seriously ?

Do you know french is harder than chinese ?
Well, I note this .... 6 mois tu as dit... et bien je vais attendre pour voir le résultat !

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Re:Greetings EU!
Posted by dr.elmo - 2012/01/07 11:59

Je n'apprends pas le francais depuis trop d'ans.

And I could never understand spoken French anyway. I am led to believe by linguistic-types that spoken and written French have diverged substantially, and that this has proceeded even more rapidly in the last couple of generations. (Clitic pronouns marking the verb means that noun phrases are very mobile and subject to pragmatic placement -- e.g. "A Marie-Claire le gateau je le lui donnais, moi" as a fairly extreme example.)

French and English (written) grammar are very similar, but French has extensive conjugation that you have to memorize, gender and gender agreement that you have to memorize, plus adverbs go in the wrong place, a few verbs here and there take different complements (I memorized obeir as "obeir a" so as not to forget), time expressions do not translate exactly, you must not mark parts of the body with a possessive pronoun ("les cheveux" instead of "my hair"), and getting the interactions between articles and prepositions correct (particularly le partitif) takes a lot of practice.

Once you get a handle on all that, French and English are very close.

Not that I actually know anything about French, really.

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