



## French resources for prospective applicants

### LinguaTute ([www.linguatute.com](http://www.linguatute.com)):

- **Online French literature course** (taking place summer 2024 – more details available on our website). This is a great opportunity to explore a wide range of French poetry, prose and plays spanning from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. This eight-week course consists of live classes every week, it includes two optional written assignments, and is taught by a PhD student from the University of Oxford. We offer a FREE taster session on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May to help you decide whether this course is right for you! Signup via website.
- Blog with articles on a range of language-related topics, and many useful articles for Modern Languages applicants to Oxbridge.
- Private language and/or literature tutoring with tutors who have studied at Oxford or Cambridge.
- Oxbridge admissions support for language applicants – personal statement support, MLAT (admissions test) preparation, and mock interviews.

**FREE 30-minute trial lesson** with any one of our Oxbridge-educated language tutors!

### Radio, podcasts and YouTube channels

- Radio France (app)
- TED talk – how language shapes the way we think (Lera Boroditsky)
- France musique (station - classical music but with a fair bit of speaking)
- France inter (talk radio)
- France Culture (talk station, they did a very good series on Marcel Proust)
- rfi (podcast, news - relatively easy to understand for all levels)
- Arte – YouTube channel
- France 24 - YouTube channel
- University of Oxford Podcasts:
  - **'Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages'** – a series on various foreign literatures (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese)
  - **'Linguamania'** – general discussions of language
  - **'Voltaire Foundation'** – a series of podcasts, with a particular focus on Rousseau, the French Enlightenment and the French Revolution.
  - **'Medieval French Research Seminar'** – just one podcast on 'Vouloir (Will) et nulloir (Nill) dans la philosophie médiévale'
  - **'Sade, l'inconnu? Nouvelles approches critiques'** – a series of lectures in French on the Marquis de Sade, a prominent and controversial French writer.
  - **'Les Liaisons dangereuses'**
  - **'Zaharoff lecture'** – lectures in French

### Films

- *A bout de souffle*, Jean-Luc Godard
- *La Haine*, Mathieu Kassovitz
- *Entre les murs*, Laurent Cantet

### Linguistics

- *The Wonders Of Language Or How To Make Noises and Influence People*, Ian Roberts (2017) – one of the most accessible and well-written introductions to the study of linguistics (useful for learning linguistics terminology and beginning the study of linguistics by yourself).
- *Language: The Basics*, R. L. Trask (1999) – an accessible overview of language study and linguistics, both theoretical and practical (more of a general introduction to the questions raised in language study – e.g. how language works in the brain, why languages change, child language acquisition, etc.)



# LinguaTute

## Additional useful language resources

- **The Queen's College Translation Exchange** – hosts a multitude of events about translation and languages, including the **Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators** (takes places in Spring).
- **Creative Multilingualism** – Oxford-founded resource for linguists (the project has now ended but there is still lots of good info on the website!)
- **Babel: The Language Magazine** – produces four issues annually on new linguistic research; the past, present and future of languages, and on the different uses of linguistics in the world.
- **UK Linguistics Olympiad** (UKLO.org) – competition for budding linguists to demonstrate their language skills (quite similar to the language aptitude test). The website also has lots of useful language resources and links!

## Suggested Reading

### Novels and novellas:

- Albert Camus, *La Peste* (1947 novel)
- Voltaire, *Candide* (1759 novella)
- Philippe Claudel – *La petite fille de Monsieur Linh* (2005 novella)
- Henri Troyat, *Aliocha* (1991 novel)
- Delphine de Vigan, *No et moi* (2007 novel)
- Leila Slimani, *Chanson douce* (2016 novel)
- Amelie Nothomb, *Métaphysique des tubes* (2000 novel)
- Annie Ernaux, *Les Années* (2008 novel by recent winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature)
- Monique Wittig, *les guérillères* (novel) or *La pensée straight* (essay) - queer, feminist.

### Short stories

- Theophile Gautier, '*La Cafetière*' (1831 short story)
- Guy de Maupassant, '*La Parure*', '*Boule de Suif*', '*Le Horla*' (short stories)
- Vercors, *Le Silence de la mer* (1942 short story, often available in an anthology of short stories under the name *Le Silence de la mer et autres récits* – we recommend reading them all, they are great!).

### Poetry

- Charles Baudelaire, *Les Fleurs du mal* (1857)
- Aimé Césaire, *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal* (1939)

### Plays

- Moliere - *Tartuffe*, *Le Misanthrope*
- Racine - *Phedre*

## Great general books on language

- *Is That a Fish in Your Ear?* – David Bellos. Very interesting introduction to the topic of translation.
- *Through The Looking Glass* – Guy Deutscher. Discusses how language shapes our thoughts and views.
- *The Language Lover's Puzzle Book* – Alex Bellos. The puzzles in this book are similar to the language aptitude test and extremely fun for those who enjoy linguistic puzzles!
- *The Etymologicon* - Mark Forsyth. Engaging and funny introduction to etymology (history of words)
- *Mother Tongue* - Bill Bryson. Great introduction to the history of the English language and linguistics.