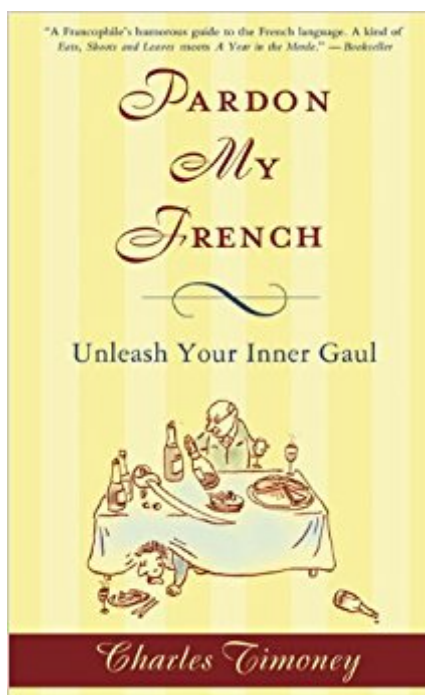


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# Pardon My French: Unleash Your Inner Gaul



## Synopsis

From getting the best value from the boulangerie to ordering a steak without getting sneered at, an A-to-Z guide to fitting in en Français Englishman Charles Timoney was thrown into French life headfirst twenty-five years ago when he and his wife moved to her native France. He had studied French in school, but his memory of vocabulary lists and conjugation drills proved no match for day-to-day living. As he blundered his way toward fluency, he kept a list of words and phrases that wonderfully (sometimes wickedly) epitomized aspects of the French culture-and were used only by native speakers. Pardon My French tackles the delightful absurdities of French life and language and steers readers past the potential embarrassments of speaking French in France. It is a book no student, traveler, or language maven should be without.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Coming to France? Forget the rest, read the best. This book will save you from being the butt of the Frenchman's humour." -French News "A Francophile's humorous guide to the French language. A kind of Eats, Shoots and Leaves meets A Year in the Merde." -Bookseller

A native of Oxford, England, Charles Timoney has lived in France for the past twenty-five years, working as a patent attorney. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In Pardon My French: Unleash Your Inner Gaul, Charles Timoney gives a new perspective on French colloquial expressions for those learning the language. The book uses strong organization, a

clear writing style, and quick humor to present its information, and for these reasons, I give it three stars. The organization is laid out in a way that is both easy to read and even easier to reference later. Each section is organized by subject matter, then alphabetically by French vocabulary word. Each vocabulary word is presented in bold, with its definition and often a story of how the author learned the word or phrase next to it. With the book laid out in this manner, the reader can easily move from section to section when looking for a specific word, or when wanting to only learn about a specific category of words. The strong organization by subject matter and the writing style are both helpful to bridge the gap between book and dictionary. The writing style is constructed in a prose or even essay-like manner, making the book feel more like a series of short stories than a dictionary with definitions. The author often tells stories along with giving the definition of the word, in order for the reader to get a better idea of the context in which to use the word or phrase, and to better explain idiomatic phrases. The clear writing style and the use of humor blend together to create a fun way to learn the information. The humor in *Pardon My French* is presented in a quick-witted form that helps to contribute to the essay-like writing style. A British English native, Timoney offers a dry, almost sarcastic humor that is targeted at British English audiences. However, American English natives can still have a laugh from the stories and sharp wit. The humor plays a large part in the story-telling parts of the book, and it helps to alleviate the feeling of reading from a dictionary. The strong organization, clear writing style, and quick humor help the book to present its information in an easy way. These elements bridge the gap between a dictionary and a book, and make *Pardon My French* a quick and fun read.

I really enjoyed this book. Having been to France on several occasions and having the pleasure of living in Paris for a few months I found a lot of the comments and descriptions spot on and quite humorous in a way that happened to me manner. I will admit that a lot of his description and events are stereotypical and are more of generalizations of the French, but if you've had the chance of spending time in this wonderful nation you'll be giggling and smirking at the author's description of his experiences as they most likely will have mirrored an event in your own life. What if your just going to France for the first time? Well, if your going to France for the first time I would recommend that you do not take this book at face value, but more as a tongue in cheek description of the French, as again many of the describe situations are once in a life events and situations. I still recommend the book as it is funny and does have a good layer of practical information about what you might expect in and around Paris and France.

Recommended for folks who like a light giggle along with some good information regarding France, French culture and a bit of history. The author takes the reader on a little journey that is put together well chapter by chapter. I personally enjoy reading a chapter or two per day, which allows me the opportunity to read a bit, put the book down, and come back to it in the next day (or two). Humor is good, light - for the most part, and when finished I felt a little more knowledgeable about language use and it all came in one nice package. 4 stars because it was "Very Good."

I've been going to Paris for 19 years and lived there 5 1/2 years. I saw this book at a friend's home and started to read it just for fun, but I soon realized that there was still a lot I didn't know about French customs and especially about some of the things to say and do that I had not been doing correctly. I ordered the book immediately so I could make note of all the things I needed to "brush up" on. The best part is that the author has an awesome sense of humor so I was laughing and learning at the same time.

I have been to France 8-9 times for short visits and have struggled with the language. Nothing really prepares you for the (typical) Parisian who claims that "You speak like a barbarian. Go home." Why is that typical I have always wondered? This book gives sufficient background and enough humorous anecdotes to parse out what is actually going on under those (unfriendly) Gallic eyes. They want to be friendly, just not with us. I was very entertained and want to visit France again.

When I ordered this book, I thought that it would be a narrative. When I received it, I was initially disappointed. Then, I started reading it and learned so much about individual words and phrases. It is a priceless addition to my French language learning and my French library. It has also provided much conversation and discussion in my French language group. We are all enjoying this book tremendously.

The book is not terribly exciting but it provides some good explanations why certain words are used and others are to be avoided. There were definitely some useful tips.

Enjoyed the book and it definitely had some useful hints about French language usage and customs. My wife and I recently spent 2 1/2 weeks in France, mostly in Paris as tourists. Learning some French and learning to say the correct phrases in the appropriate situation most definitely helped. We encountered very little rudeness, even in Paris. It's a book written by an Englishman,

so you will get an "Anglo-Saxon" point of view, which is good for English and Americans. He writes humorously, and thus the book isn't dry or boring. It was especially fun when I told an American lady that I spoke only a little English, in French. She gave up and asked someone else to take her photo - I just didn't want to be bothered at the moment.

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