



10 French Words You Shouldn't Trust

A Beginner's Guide to Les
Faux Amis (False Friends)

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Are you ready to learn to speak French without the stress of boring textbooks? Let's master these tricky words together! – Séverine

The Cognate Trap: Nouns & Verbs

Les faux amis are words that spell the same in English and French, but have totally different meanings! Let's decode the first five.

The French Word	What You Think It Means	What It Actually Means
Attendre	Not to attend	To wait
Assister	Not to assist	To attend
Une réunion	Not a reunion	A meeting
Déception	Not deception	Disappointment
Raisin	Not a raisin	Grapes

The Cognate Trap: Everyday Words & Time

The French Word	What You Think It Means	
Blessier	Not to bless	To injure / To offend
Un coin	Not a coin	A corner
Une journée	Not a journey	A day
Éventuellement	Not eventually	Maybe / Possibly
Actuellement	Not actually	Currently / Now



Seeing Them in Action

Context is everything. Notice how these words completely change the meaning of a sentence!

Everyday Life & Travel

J'**attends** le bus tous les matins.
I **wait** for the bus every morning.

Il y a une bonne boulangerie au **coin**
de la rue.

There's a good bakery around the
(street) **corner**.

Passez une bonne **journée**.
Have a good **day**!

At the Office & Conversations

Elle **assiste** à la **réunion**.
She is **attending** the **meeting**.

Actuellement, j'étudie le finlandais.
Currently, I study Finnish.

Simon arrive ce soir et il y a
éventuellement Julie avec lui.
Simon arrives tonight and there's
maybe/possibly Julie with him.

Test Your Knowledge

Let's practice what we've learned. (Answers at the bottom!)

You had a terrible meal at a restaurant. You say: "Ce restaurant est vraiment une..."

- ☐ [A] Réunion
- ☐ [B] Déception
- ☐ [C] Journée

"Do you prefer white or black grapes?"

"Est-ce que tu préfères le _____ blanc ou noir ?"

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. Currently | A. Éventuellement |
| 2. Maybe | B. Blessier |
| 3. To injure | C. Actuellement |