

FINDING THE TRANSLATION YOU NEED

Choose the appropriate meaning.

Words often have more than one meaning and can be expressed in more than one way. Each meaning often has a different translation in French. When you are trying to find the right word in French, be careful to choose the meaning you want. A dictionary offers you a lot of help with this, for example:

desk NOUN

- 1 le bureau *masc (PL les bureaux) (in office)*
- 2 le pupitre *masc (for pupil)*
- 3 la réception *fem (in hotel)*
- 4 le comptoir *masc (at airport)*

Imagine you need to find the French translation for the word *desk* in the following sentence:

The teacher gave me a new desk.

If you look above at the entry for *desk*, you can see that the second meaning tells you that *le pupitre* is the French term for a desk for students.

What about if you want to find the French translations for the word *desk* in this sentence:

We need to check in at desk 41.

In this case the last meaning covers the meaning of a desk at an airport, so the French translation you need is *le comptoir*.

Your turn! À ton tour!

Use your dictionary to find the appropriate French translation for the underlined word in each sentence.

Write your answer on the board.

I took a picture of her.

That's not fair!

My brother is a big sports fan.

We moved to Edinburgh.

She sent me a text to say she had arrived.

The program has a bug in it.

Tip: When you look up a word, make sure that you look for the meaning you need so that you can pick the correct translation.

Check for example sentences.

In many entries you'll find example sentences and phrases to show how the entry word is used. These are usually shown in **bold** type and are often at the end of the entry.

- Many of these phrases show common and useful set structures or expressions which will help you to translate into natural French.

kind ADJECTIVE

▷ see also **kind** NOUN

gentil (FEM **gentille**)

■ **to be kind to somebody** être [35] **gentil**
avec quelqu'un

■ **Thank you for being so kind.** **Merci pour**
votre gentillesse.

- Other phrases show a compound word that has a translation you might not expect or be able to work out.

exercise NOUN

l' **exercice** *masc*

■ **an exercise bike** **un vélo d'appartement**

■ **an exercise book** **un cahier**

le fauteuil MASC NOUN

armchair

■ **un fauteuil roulant** a wheelchair

- Sometimes the phrase has a meaning that doesn't seem to match the meaning of the entry word, which means that it can be difficult to work out the translation.

le dommage MASC NOUN

damage

□ **La tempête a causé d'importants**
dommages. The storm caused a lot of
damage.

■ **C'est dommage.** It's a shame. □ **C'est**
dommage que tu ne puisses pas venir. It's a
shame you can't come.

Your turn! À ton tour!

Use your dictionary to look up the underlined words. Check the examples and phrases in the entry to find the correct translation.

I don't mind.

a tool kit

to look like somebody

une voiture de function

C'est peu de chose.

Tip: It's important to check the examples and phrases carefully to see whether the word you want to translate is shown there.