**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:



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.



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





* 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.



### 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.