

Features of French outside of France

The French language is the official language of the population of France, as well as one of the state languages of some states of Western Europe, Canada, some African, Caribbean and French Guiana.

A feature of French spelling is the abundance of mute letters, digraphs and trigraphs. This is due to the conservatism of orthography, which fixed in general outline the medieval phonetic appearance of the word in the Old French language; Over the past centuries, a large number of sounds in real pronunciation has lost, and many combinations of sounds (especially diphthongs) have simplified or changed.

French is the official language of a significant number of international organizations (including one of the six working languages of the United Nations) and one of the most studied as foreign languages. As of 2012, the number of people on the planet who can speak in French is over 200 million people. Linguists call the French-speaking Francophones.

The geographical boundaries of the French language have always been wider than the borders of France itself. According to the number of people for whom the French language is native (about 90 million people), it ranks 11-12 in the world after Chinese, Hindi, English, Spanish, Russian and others. In Europe, except France, French is common in Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy (in the Aosta valley and the Alpine Valleys), in the UK.

In North America, it is the mother tongue of French Canadians (mainly Quebecers), as well as residents of certain US states (especially Louisiana) and overseas territories of France on the islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon off the

eastern coast of Canada. In South and Central America, French is widely spoken as an official language in the overseas departments of France in Guiana and the Antilles (Guadeloupe and Martinique), as well as in Haiti.

French is used in some independent states of the Indian and Pacific Oceans: in Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Vanuatu. In the French overseas territories and departments in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, he is present in Reunion, in French Polynesia, in New Caledonia.

In Africa, French in one form or another is represented in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mali, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Gabon, Mauritania, Senegal, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the People's Republic of the Congo, Djibouti.

In Asia, it is used in Lebanon, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

And now, let's look at the peculiarities of the French language outside of France in more detail.

The development of European variants of the French language is connected with the formation of the borders of European states and proceeds in parallel in the territories closely located to France. In the process of development, Romanesque dialects come into contact with Germanic (German and Flemish) languages and Romance (Italian). The volume of functions that the French language performs in Europe is not the same. In the Principality of Monaco, it is used in all areas of the country's life and society. In Switzerland and Belgium, the use of this language is limited to a certain territory. In Luxembourg territorial restrictions are supplemented by social ones, French is used only in certain areas of life of the inhabitants of this country. In other territories, the restrictions are even more significant.

In the United States, French is a variation of its Canadian version. It is the language of a few small population groups in several states, the most significant being Louisiana (about 800,000 French speakers). For a long time, Louisiana was a French colony. It was sold by the USA to Napoleon in 1803. The name of the state comes from the name of the King of France Louis XIV. Two cities are called in French: Baton Rouge and La Nouvelle Orléan.

The French language of Africa is the result of the import of language from France and Belgium during the colonization period, the influence of local African and neighboring Western European (English and Portuguese) languages.

Thus, the French-speaking world appears as a whole organism in which the features of individual varieties of French speech freely spread to other variants.

French borrowings of the XVII-XVIII centuries. To a certain extent, they also reflect the historical and cultural ties between the French and English peoples. Many of the borrowings of this period refer to the culture of the French aristocracy, to its tastes and customs.

Many words, borrowed by English from French during this period, became part of international vocabulary.

Words expressing concepts related to government, such as: government, royal, conviction, judge, sentence, court, justice, justification, prince.

Words expressing concepts related to the army and military life, for example: army, regiment, siege, banner, victory, mail (chain mail), harness (harness).

Words expressing concepts related to science and art: art, college, doctor, experiment, medicine, science.

Words related to trade and other activities of the society: money, allowance, merchant, profit, purchase, amount, value, profession.

Words expressing general concepts: despair, imagination, mention, spirit, example.

Words related to the way of life, customs and tastes of the aristocracy: joy, leisure, ease, fashion, present, holiday, elegance.

Words expressing concepts related to religion, the church: religion, saint, prayer, sermon, chapel.

As for me, French is one of the beautiful and romantic languages. It's too hard to study it, but it's worth it.