



# Reading Comprehension and Writing

Joshua Jacobs (Classics) and Adoette Vaughan (French, Italian)  
November 3, 2022



# Introduction



Adoette Vaughan

Major: International Studies and French

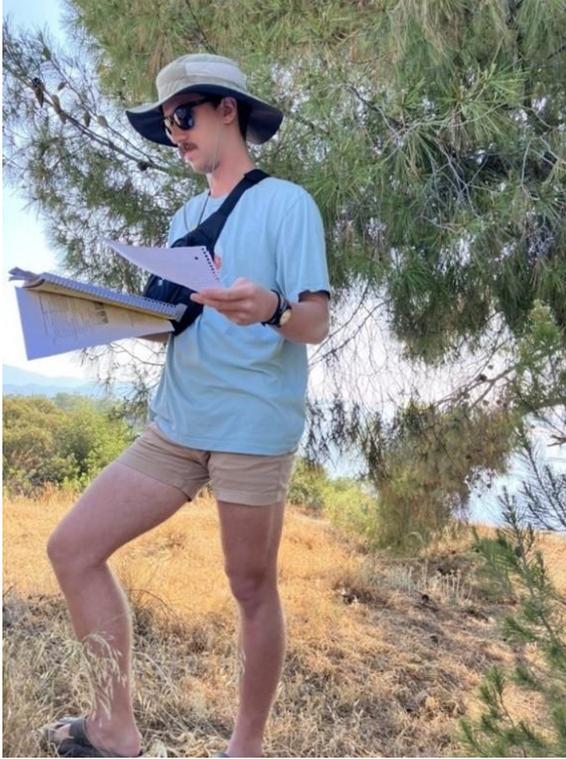
Minor: Sustainability

Languages: French, Italian

What interests me: experiencing different cultures

Simply being able to communicate in another language and fit in anywhere

# Introduction



Joshua Jacobs

Major: Classical Studies

Minor: Jewish Studies

Languages: Classical Hebrew, Old Aramaic,  
Latin, Ancient Greek

Why I study language: humans, past and  
present, are inherently interesting

I love to see continuities and differences  
between ancient and modern civilizations.

# Layers of Reading Comprehension

1. Vocabulary
2. Grammar
3. Approaching a text/Translating

# Reading Comprehension (Vocabulary Acquisition)

**Repetition:** a little work every day is better than prolonged sessions less frequently

**Flashcards:** learning vocabulary is very helpful with context, but rote memorization is an efficient way to acquire vocab

# Reading Comprehension (Vocabulary Acquisition)

**Media-** improving reading comprehension can involve many formats

**Phone:** setting your phone in another language forces you to interact with new vocabulary on a daily basis.

**Music:** frequently listening to music in your studied language can be a great vocabulary building tool especially if memorizing the lyrics works for you



# Reading Comprehension (Grammar Practice)



**Repetition:** again, spending time with grammatical topics a little bit every day will help to ingrain topics (noun/verb paradigms, verb synopses, etc.)

**Office Hours:** if there is a topic you do not understand, do not hesitate to bring it to your professor

**Quizzes and Tests:** take advantage of assessments as opportunities to remind yourself, or improve knowledge, of paradigms, grammatical structures, etc.

**WLLC (Weekly) Events:** add [wldhs@uark.edu](mailto:wldhs@uark.edu) to your Outlook calendar, or follow [uarkwldhs](https://www.instagram.com/uarkwldhs) on instagram

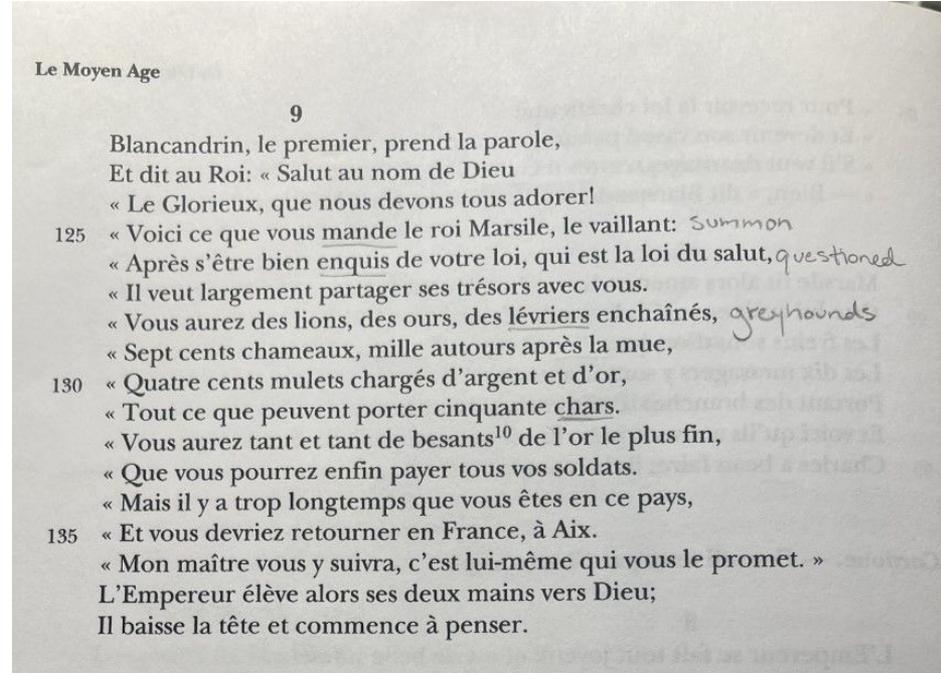
# Reading Comprehension (Approaching a text)

**Literature:** read through the assigned material once, underlying any words preventing you from essential understanding.

Aim to gain a sense of the mood, themes, and characters keeping in mind the genre and time period.

Read through the material again this time translating a few words that remain a problem.

Write the translations out in the margins so that you're forced to recall the word's meaning



# Reading Comprehension (Approaching a text)

**Textbook:** take notes on any rule you're unfamiliar with or that may take more practice

Try to rewrite what you've read in the textbook in your own words

In the end, repetition will be the key to mastery.

## 8.7 Variabilité du <e> «muet»: Les <e> «muets» successifs

À l'intérieur d'un mot ou d'un groupe rythmique, la tendance générale est de garder le premier <e> et de ne pas prononcer le deuxième. Cependant, si le deuxième <e> est précédé d'une consonne forte (voir chapitre 9), le deuxième <e> reste et le premier n'est pas prononcé.

Comparez les exemples suivants:

je me dis [ʒəmdi]  
je le sais [ʒəlsɛ]  
devenir [dəvniʁ]

je te dis [ʒtədi]      ([t] est plus fort que [ʒ])  
est-ce que [ɛskə]      ([k] est plus fort que [s])  
ressembler [ʁsɑ̃mlɛ]      ([s] est plus fort que [ʁ])

### REMARQUE 1:

Dans une phrase telle que **je le demande** où le deuxième <e> tend à tomber ([ʒəldəmād]), le troisième <e> doit rester pour éviter la rencontre des trois consonnes qui résulteraient de sa chute (\*[ʒəldmād]). Dans **je te demande** où le premier <e> tombe, le troisième <e> peut tomber également car il n'est précédé que d'une seule consonne: [ʒtədmād].

## Les <e> muets successifs

- Usually you pronounce the first e mute + drop the second, but if the second is preceded by une consonne forte, you pronounce the second + drop the first
  - je me dis [ʒəmdi], je le sais [ʒəlsɛ], devenir [dəvniʁ]
  - je te dis [ʒtədi], est-ce que [ɛskə] ressembler [ʁsɑ̃mlɛ]
  - ⊕ vs ʒ      ⊕ vs s      ⊕ vs ʁ
- je le demande [ʒəldəmād] vs je te demande [ʒtədmād]
- the e in ne usually stays even if second mute e is preceded by strong consonant
- ne te dispute pas [nɛt(ə)dispytɑ̃] when in initial position!

# Reading Comprehension (Approaching a text)

**Classroom:** look for keywords in an unfamiliar passage and use them as the basis of your interpretation.

**Testing:** if you're allowed to consult a dictionary, use it sparingly as it can be time-consuming. Read over question and any possible answers twice

**Outside Practice:** spend some time with texts outside of class on a daily basis (e.g., follow a news outlet in target language on social media)

**Translations:** this skill is a process

# Translation Example

gallicinia, lūna lūcēbat tamquam merīdiē. Vēnimus inter moni- 25  
menta: homō meus coepit ad stēlās facere, sēcēdō ego cantābun- 26  
dus et stēlās numerō. 27

Translationese: We come among the monuments: my man began to make at the tombstones, I withdraw singing, and I count tombstones.

English: We arrived at some monuments, and my friend began to relieve himself. I gave him some privacy, singing and counting the tombstones.

Culture and language inform each other: meaning is not only found in grammar and syntax!

# Reading Comprehension (Translating Tools)

WordReference.com | Dictionnaires de langue en ligne

Français-Anglais

**argotique** [argotik]

en espagnol | Conjugaison [FR] | Conjugator [EN] | en contexte | images

**Inflections of 'argotique'** (adj): f: argotique, mpl: argotiques, fpl: argotiques

WordReference Collins WR Reverse (3)

WordReference English-French Dictionary © 2022:

**Principales traductions**

Français	Anglais
<b>argotique</b> <i>adj</i>	slang <i>adj</i>
(qui appartient à l'argot) Pour votre dissertation, utilisez un langage soutenu, et aucun mot argotique surtout !	
Un oubli important ? Signalez une erreur ou suggérez une amélioration.	

Voir également : argentin, Argentine, argentique, argenton, argentine, argile, argileux, argon, argonaute, argot, argotique, argousier, argousin, arguer, argument, argumentaire, argumentatif

 Translation Context Grammar Check Synonyms Conjugation ...

French

argotique

Synonyms for argotique in French

**argotique** *adj*

**Adjective**

familier	simple	jargonnier	jargonnesque			
ANTONYMS						
châtié	académique	pompier	recherché	preppy	insolite	...

# Reading Comprehension (Translating Tools)

Another great thing about word reference is  
it gives multiple translations depending on  
intended use

The screenshot shows a web-based translation tool interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a dropdown menu set to 'Anglais-Français'. Below this, the title 'Principales traductions' is centered. The main content is a table with two columns: 'Anglais' and 'Français'. The table lists various uses of the word 'change' with their corresponding French translations and example sentences.

Anglais	Français
<b>change [sth] ⇒ vtr</b> (alter) Anna wants to change the agreement. Anna souhaite changer (or: modifier) l'accord.	changer ⇒, modifier ⇒ vtr (plus soutenu) altérer ⇒ vtr
<b>change [sth] to [sth]</b> (replace) vtr + prep Dan changed his profile picture to a photo of a monkey.	changer [qch] pour [qch] vtr + prep remplacer [qch] par [qch] vtr + prep
<b>change [sth] vtr</b> (transform) Throughout history, men haven't changed their true nature at all. À travers les âges, l'homme n'a absolument pas changé sa vraie nature.	changer ⇒ vtr
<b>change into [sth/sb]</b> (be transformed) vi + prep The larva changed into an adult. La larve s'est transformée en adulte.	se transformer en [qch/qqn] v pron + prep
<b>change [sth] vtr</b> (clothes) I need to change my clothes. Je dois changer de vêtements.	changer de [qch] vtr ind
<b>change [sth] vtr</b> (exchange, swap) The two passengers want to change seats with each other. Les deux passagers veulent échanger leurs sièges.	échanger ⇒ vtr
<b>change n</b> (alteration)	changement nm modification nf

# Writing (Modern)

**Circumlocution:** using more words where fewer would do can help build fluency in writing and speaking.

Use vocabulary and grammatical formations you're familiar with while writing.

**Translation:** Write out sticking-points in English and then do your best to communicate your message in the foreign language

Try not to rely too heavily on translating services

**Imitation:** read articles or literary works that resemble your written assignment



## Demain, dès l'aube

Demain, dès l'aube, à l'heure où blanchit la campagne,  
Je partirai. Vois-tu, je sais que tu m'attends.  
J'irai par la forêt, j'irai par la montagne.  
Je ne puis demeurer loin de toi plus longtemps.

Je marcherai les yeux fixés sur mes pensées,  
Sans rien voir au dehors, sans entendre aucun bruit,  
Seul, inconnu, le dos courbé, les mains croisées,  
Triste, et le jour pour moi sera comme la nuit.

Je ne regarderai ni l'or du soir qui tombe,  
Ni les voiles au loin descendant vers Harfleur,  
Et quand j'arriverai, je mettrai sur ta tombe  
Un bouquet de houx vert et de bruyère en fleur.



# Writing (Ancient)

**Imitation:** we are bound by the ways we see the language used in ancient texts, so imitate that style and content as much as possible

**Practice:** writing translations in an ancient language demonstrates an active mastery of grammar and vocabulary that can be very helpful

**Creative Assignments:** these are a great tool for students to get out of their comfort zone and use the target language in new ways

# Closing Thoughts

Have fun!

Learn the language in ways you enjoy

Do things in line with what motivated you to start learning the language

Look back on your growth

