



6-12 World Language - French

Adoption Guide Extended

For additional information (e.g. pricing, copyright, ISBN) and Idaho completed evaluations, please contact the curricular materials coordinator.

Materials in this guide are contracted from September 2017-December 31, 2023.

GRADES 6-12

Cengage Learning

Sur le Vif

- **Grades 9-12**
 - **Strengths:** Advanced text appropriate for college-level work. Some text could lead to higher-order thinking and analysis. Chapters outlined clearly and format easy-to-follow. Chapters divided by thematic units. Vocabulary clear for each chapter. Includes a passage from a current novel written by a nineteen-year-old girl. Lightweight. SAM provides exercised for reinforcement and practice.
 - **Weaknesses:** Some of the “lists” referenced in activities are unclear or difficult to access. It could draw from many more interdisciplinary skills and understanding. References to “one’s own culture” are lacking, as are varied instructional strategies. Limited opportunities to discuss different cultures. Presents information rather than requiring students to infer, discern and/or compare/contrast. Some standards are implied rather than directly addressed. Questions/Scenarios could be more open-ended to encourage richer discussion and points of view. Graphics seem tired/out-of-date. Overall, it seems limited, too advanced for 9-12 students and not very engaging.
 - **Other:** Textbook has potential and could be useful for generating discussions (verbal and written) but does not meet the requirements of a comprehensive or basic program.
 - **Key Features:** The key features of *Sur le Vif!* are that it completely meets the ACTFL Guidelines for Proficiency including the 3 Modes of Communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive, Presentational) as well as 21st Century Skills.

Print Student Edition

Digital resources for students include:

- VitalSource downloadable ebook
- Student Activities Manual (SAM)
- Quia eSAM (Student Activities Manual)
- Premium Website

- Video program
- Audio program

Print Annotated Teacher Edition

Digital Resources for Teacher include:

- Instructor Companion Site
- Music Manual
- Instructor Resource Manual
- Student Activity Manual
- Student Activity Manual Audio
- Situation Cards
- Testing program
- Testing audio
- Transparency bank
- Video scripts

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company

HMH Bien dit! Level 1A

- **Grades 6-12**

- **Strengths:** Bien Dit! Level 1A excels in its extensive repertoire of activities that foster student interaction and student speaking. The pacing of the book, with the separation into sections 1A and 1B as separate texts, is excellent for a Junior High/Middle School French class which has less time per period to spend on the exercises and instruction. The lesson plan guides in the beginning of each chapter of the Teacher’s Edition plan class periods and provide guidance on activities from class start to class end that make good use of class time and never leave a dull moment. The material in the book is age appropriate and engaging to students, providing examples of well-known and popular musicians, art, and literature. The presentation of grammar is straight-forward and easy to follow and there are good follow-up practice activities in the textbook as well as in the workbook ancillary materials. The Teacher’s Edition also provides good ideas for projects and group work for students. The online resources contain identical exercises to the text and workbook as well as video tutorials and further practice in a digital format that provides immediate correction and grading makes it easy to assign homework and mark grades. The photo and illustrated portions of the book are attractive and engaging and encourage the user to search more into the subject. In the “Exprimons-nous” sections, the book provides immediately applicable and overall useful expressions that make it easy to instantly employ the vocabulary and grammar from each section. The book then lists further activities to practice the vocabulary and those expressions. Bien Dit! also gives comprehensive grading rubrics for speaking projects, writing assignments, and presentations that make evaluation straight-forward and simple. The book excels in its “Application” sections because it encourages students to use what they’ve been learning in rehearsed and unfamiliar situations which fosters good familiarity as well as spontaneity that one would hope to achieve when learning a

language. The Teacher's Edition also lists extensive ideas for going more into depth with research projects on every subject and ties it to other discipline areas as well as gives counsel on how to differentiate the instruction to meet the needs of different intelligences and learning speeds.

- **Weaknesses:** Overall, Bien Dit! Level 1 excels in most respects, but its main flaw is its over-reliance on English for instructions and explanations. In a foreign language classroom, immersion with 90% in the target language being the goal, is the most effective way to learn a foreign language. Putting students into an environment where they are required to know at least basic phrases in order to succeed and survive will force learning in a constructive way. Bien Dit! allows for students to rely on the English instructions to get by and it creates too much of a lax environment. The other point where the curriculum struggles is the online portion. While the online portion does indeed include fantastic video tutorials, multimedia presentations of culture and conversation, and grammar practice, the formatting is cumbersome and hard to navigate. The advertised Page Zoom function is not available where one would normally expect it to be and it is otherwise very hard to locate. The banner that shows the publishing company's logo and the book title takes up over a quarter of the workspace and it makes the actual workspace very limited and tight. The homework and practice exercises are opened into a small new window in the bottom center of the screen for students to use, but they can neither be dragged to a new, more convenient location on the screen nor can they be expanded or minimized to allow access to other resources while working. The production quality of music and video resources is, at some points, rather low and the "Télé-roman" videos are not particularly engaging. The listening activities also contain an overly lengthy introduction of the chapter, section, and exercise number that appears choppy and is hard to follow and the separation between such activities is not always clear.
- **Key Features:** *Bien dit!* program is a French language program for levels 1A- Level 3 that blends culture, instruction, and interaction to motivate and support students in language learning. A comprehensive Student (SE) and Teacher Edition (TE) includes core content required for instruction. A wealth of ancillaries support the core instruction. Across levels, each chapter of the SE begins with a two-page photo spread, shot on location that introduces the theme of the chapter. Students learn vocabulary and functional expressions they need to engage in age-appropriate and topic-specific communication. In *Bien dit!*, frequent connections are made to ensure that students' prior knowledge is activated in pursuit of new language learning. Students engage in a sequence of manageable activities that move from easier closed-ended, discrete point practice to transitional practice, and finally into more open-ended speaking practice. Activities are designed to pique students' interest while they acquire the language. The Teacher's Edition includes Planning Guides, Pacing Suggestions, Lesson plans, and engaging visual representations, such as real-world photos, on-location video, animated grammar, and research-based pedagogy to appeal to all learners. Technology components correspond to each section of any chapter and provide additional

motivation for students at their language level: **News and Networking, Performance Space, French InterActive Reader, eReader, eTextbook, and French Vocabulary Apps.** Each level of *Bien dit!* is available as an eTextbook for eReader and tablet devices. The **eTextbooks** offer the content from the page on screen, with a variety of tools and capabilities that maximize the learning experience, including embedded audio and, when connected to wifi, videos at point-of-use.

HMH Bien dit! Level 1B

- **Grades 6-12**

- **Strengths:** Bien Dit! Level 1B excels in its extensive repertoire of activities that foster student interaction and student speaking. The pacing of the book, with the separation into sections 1A and 1B as separate texts, is excellent for a Junior High/Middle School French class which has less time per period to spend on the exercises and instruction. The lesson plan guides in the beginning of each chapter of the Teacher’s Edition plan class periods and provide guidance on activities from class start to class end that make good use of class time and never leave a dull moment. The material in the book is age appropriate and engaging to students, providing examples of well-known and popular musicians, art, and literature. The presentation of grammar is straight-forward and easy to follow and there are good follow-up practice activities in the textbook as well as in the workbook ancillary materials. The Teacher’s Edition also provides good ideas for projects and group work for students. The online resources contain identical exercises to the text and workbook as well as video tutorials and further practice in a digital format that provides immediate correction and grading makes it easy to assign homework and mark grades. The photo and illustrated portions of the book are attractive and engaging and encourage the user to search more into the subject. In the “Exprimons-nous” sections, the book provides immediately applicable and overall useful expressions that make it easy to instantly employ the vocabulary and grammar from each section. The book then lists further activities to practice the vocabulary and those expressions. Bien Dit! also gives comprehensive grading rubrics for speaking projects, writing assignments, and presentations that make evaluation straight-forward and simple. The book excels in its “Application” sections because it encourages students to use what they’ve been learning in rehearsed and unfamiliar situations which fosters good familiarity as well as spontaneity that one would hope to achieve when learning a language. The Teacher’s Edition also lists extensive ideas for going more into depth with research projects on every subject and ties it to other discipline areas as well as gives counsel on how to differentiate the instruction to meet the needs of different intelligences and learning speeds.
- **Weaknesses:** Overall, Bien Dit! Level 1 excels in most respects, but its main flaw is its over-reliance on English for instructions and explanations. In a foreign language classroom, immersion with 90% in the target language being the goal, is the most effective way to learn a foreign language. Putting students into an environment where they are required to know at least basic phrases in order to succeed and survive will

force learning in a constructive way. Bien Dit! allows for students to rely on the English instructions to get by and it creates too much of a lax environment. The other point where the curriculum struggles is the online portion. While the online portion does indeed include fantastic video tutorials, multimedia presentations of culture and conversation, and grammar practice, the formatting is cumbersome and hard to navigate. The advertised Page Zoom function is not available where one would normally expect it to be and it is otherwise very hard to locate. The banner that shows the publishing company's logo and the book title takes up over a quarter of the workspace and it makes the actual workspace very limited and tight. The homework and practice exercises are opened into a small new window in the bottom center of the screen for students to use, but they can neither be dragged to a new, more convenient location on the screen nor can they be expanded or minimized to allow access to other resources while working. The production quality of music and video resources is, at some points, rather low and the "Télé-roman" videos are not particularly engaging. The listening activities also contain an overly lengthy introduction of the chapter, section, and exercise number that appears choppy and is hard to follow and the separation between such activities is not always clear.

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HMH Bien dit! Level 1

- **Grades 6-12**

- **Strengths:** Bien Dit! Level 1 excels in its extensive repertoire of activities that foster student interaction and student speaking. The pacing of the book, with sections 1A and 1B combined into one text, is excellent for a High School French class which has more time per period to spend on the exercises and instruction. The lesson plan guides in the beginning of each chapter of the Teacher’s Edition plan for 50 and 90-minute block class periods and provide guidance on activities from class start to class end that make good use of class time and never leave a dull moment. The material in the book is age appropriate and engaging to students, providing examples of well-known and popular musicians, art, and literature. The presentation of grammar is straight-forward and easy to follow and there are good follow-up practice activities in the textbook as well as in the workbook ancillary materials. The Teacher’s Edition also provides good ideas for projects and group work for students. The online resources contain identical exercises to the text and workbook as well as video tutorials and further practice in a digital format that provides immediate correction and grading makes it easy to assign homework and mark grades. The photo and illustrated portions of the book are attractive and engaging and encourage the user to search more into the subject. In the “Exprimons-nous” sections, the book provides immediately applicable and overall useful expressions that make it easy to instantly employ the vocabulary and grammar from each section. The book then lists further activities to practice the vocabulary and those expressions. Bien Dit! also gives comprehensive grading rubrics for speaking projects, writing assignments, and presentations that make evaluation straight-forward and simple. The book excels in its “Application” sections because it encourages students to use what they’ve been learning in rehearsed and unfamiliar situations which fosters good familiarity as well as spontaneity that one would hope to achieve when learning a language. The Teacher’s Edition also lists extensive ideas for going more into depth with research projects on every subject and ties it to other discipline areas as well as gives counsel on how to differentiate the instruction to meet the needs of different intelligences and learning speeds.
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HMH Bien dit! Level 2

- **Grades 6-12**
 - **Strengths:** Well-paced scope and sequence. Easy-to-follow format. Eye-catching graphics. Engaging activities. Fun cultural components. Clear grammatical explanations. Chapters organized by thematic units. Varied instructional strategies for Multiple Intelligences in ATE. Diverse cultures represented. Interesting extracts from authentic texts. Age and grade-level appropriate. Supplementary materials provide opportunities for practice and reinforcement.

- **Weaknesses:** Could incorporate less English (e.g., perhaps directions could be in French more often at this level. Online resources clunky at times.
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HMH Bien dit! Level 3

- **Grades 6-12**

- **Strengths:** Bien Dit! Level 3 is a program that mixes culture, instruction and interaction to support and increase the student's knowledge of the French language. It is also an exemplary resource for advanced level grammar and writing. The "Exprimons-nous" activities are very useful and provide a good groundwork for students to become fluent speakers of French. The Level 3 text provides a myriad of activities, resources and examples of authentic French language and culture. This includes poetry, short stories, cultural exposés, photos, and music (via the program's multimedia content). Bien Dit! 3 functions best when used in a high school environment with more mature students rather than middle school or junior high classes.
- **Weaknesses:** Bien Dit ! Level 3 is an excellent example of a Comprehensive French text with few apparent weaknesses. The one detractor of this text is the reliance on English in the "Activités préparatoires" section of each Chapitre. One-sentence instructions are in English as well as more lengthy explanations. This section is designed to prepare students for the future AP curriculum; however, the AP Exam as well as its preparation exercises will not provide these instructions/directions in English. At level 3, students

should be expected to function in situations where they are capable of reading complex explanations in the target language. The use of English in these activities creates an environment that is reliant on English and denies the student the opportunity to function in an immersive environment.

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For Questions Contact

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