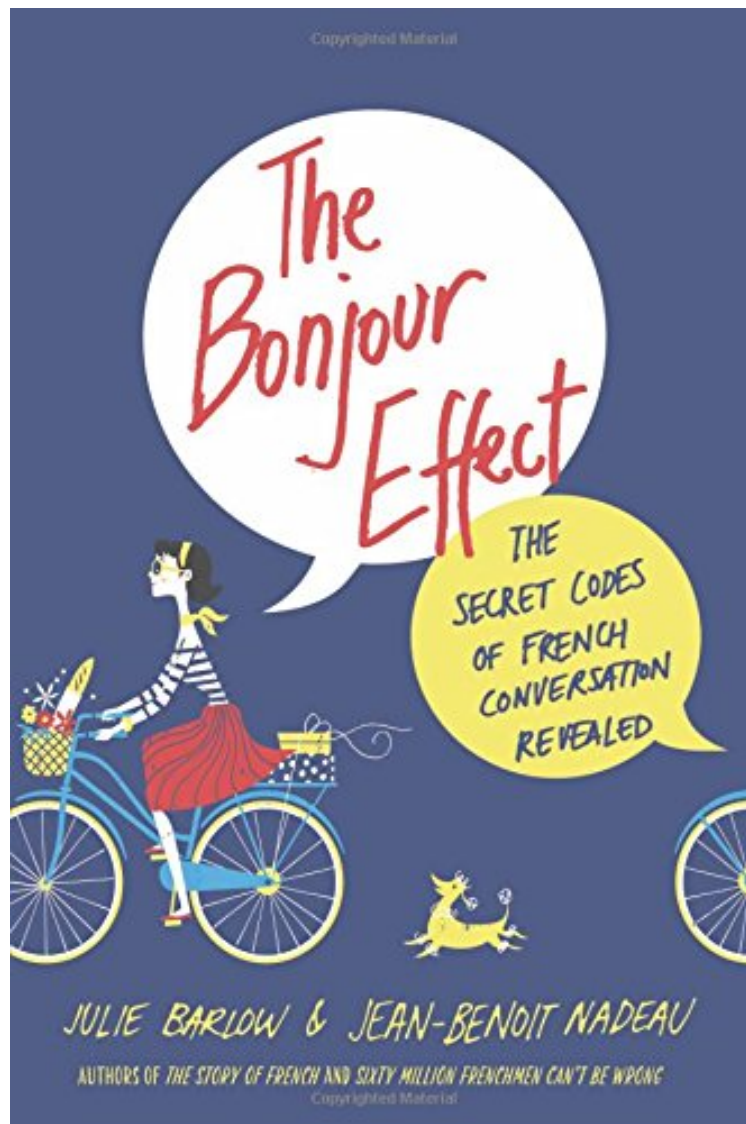


The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed

Julie Barlow, Jean-Benoit Nadeau
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#174280 in Books Barlow Julie 2016-04-19 2016-04-19Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .4 x 5.80l, .0 #File Name: 1250051851320 pagesThe Bonjour Effect The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed | File size: 49.Mb

Julie Barlow, Jean-Benoit Nadeau : The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed:

73 of 73 people found the following review helpful. Those French have a different word for everything. (Steve

Martin)By Mary Esterhammer-FicWhen I visited Paris with my high school French class--this was back in 1976--I was very shy, and afraid of making a pronunciation mistake. It took all my courage to address the proprietress of our hostel (who, like Madame DeFarge, was constantly knitting), and recite a phrase I had practiced all day. In my very best French, I said, "That's a beautiful scarf."She glared at me coldly, before saying, in perfect English, "I do not speak English."I blushed furiously and rushed to the room I shared with my friends. I did not speak French for the remainder of the trip.The lesson was not that I should have worked harder on my conversational skills, or that the French are as rude as stereotypes would have us believe--though both of those statements contain a kernel of truth. The lesson is that, in total ignorance, I committed a horrible faux pas, I did not first greet Madame with a sincere, "Bonjour," and I did not give her the chance to reciprocate with her own , "Bonjour."This funny and well-written book is not about the French language as much as it is about the culture of French language. There are certain topics you would never discuss in polite company, and there are certain key phrases that will open all kinds of doors."Bonjour" is a case in point: every social transaction, no matter how brief, should start with this word. If you know that, you can use your high school French to actually talk to people. If you don't know that, you will be treated like a pariah.There is much more to the book: the educational system, navigating bureaucracy, making friends (as opposed to acquaintances), etc. It is a must-read for anyone planning to visit the country, and it should be required reading in every high school French curriculum.It's fascinating, and I can't put the book down.It makes me want to visit Paris again. And stay at the same hostel, where Madame is probably still knitting. I would march up to her desk and say, with utter confidence, and in fairly good French, "Bonjour."And then when she replies with "Bonjour, " I would follow with, "Those are hideous colors for a scarf."24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. I learned that it is unprofessional to be self-derogatory or humble in business/academic settings that one should act like the eBy margotBecause I was leaving in 5 days for an academic conference in Toulouse where I was invited to give a talk, I grabbed at this book -- which was suggested by a friend who'd read the New York Times review --like a life preserver. It did save me a lot of anxiety. Even though it was understood that I would speak in English, I knew I would have language + cultural barriers to overcome. For example, it talked about how the French believe sincerely in the importance of English in the 21st century ... but they quickly lose interest in the hard work of speaking it. I noticed the use of "bonjour" everywhere, especially as the opening greeting in e-mails. I learned that it is unprofessional to be self-derogatory or humble in business/academic settings that one should act like the expert that has been invited to the meeting. I learned about the elitist attitude of the educated class. I learned that humor, especially the American casual style, is neither understood nor appreciated. Most important, I got an immersion in French culture that permeated my actions and gave me confidence in group settings. One exception to a dictate in the book: The French did NOT avoid talking about family to a mere acquaintance; I heard a lot about their children. For anybody -- at home or abroad -- wanting to know more about the French, and who love them as much as I do, this book is full of insights.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy connie garcesI ENJOYED THE BOOK ESPECIALLY IF YOUR ARE TRAVELING TO FRANCE

Jean-Benoit Nadeau and Julie Barlow spent a decade traveling back and forth to Paris as well as living there. Yet one important lesson never seemed to sink in: how to communicate comfortably with the French, even when you speak their language. In *The Bonjour Effect* Jean-Benoit and Julie chronicle the lessons they learned after they returned to France to live, for a year, with their twin daughters. They offer up all the lessons they learned and explain, in a book as fizzy as a bottle of the finest French champagne, the most important aspect of all: the French don't communicate, they converse. To understand and speak French well, one must understand that French conversation runs on a set of rules that go to the heart of French culture. Why do the French like talking about "the decline of France"? Why does broaching a subject like money end all discussion? Why do the French become so aroused debating the merits and qualities of their own language? Through encounters with school principals, city hall civil servants, gas company employees, old friends and business acquaintances, Julie and Jean-Benoit explain why, culturally and historically, conversation with the French is not about communicating or being nice. It's about being interesting. After reading *The Bonjour Effect*, even readers with a modicum of French language ability will be able to hold their own the next time they step into a bistro on the Left Bank.

Praise for *The Bonjour Effect*: "The authors clearly had a ball researching the book, and their glee is infectious. The writing is as light as it is substantive, and if that sounds like a contradiction, I would refer you to a soufflé" *New York Times Book Review* "Whether you're an expat in France, or simply dream of living there one day, *The Bonjour Effect* is a helpful resource to cracking the arcane cultural code. Engaging and often funny, filled with examples drawn from the authors' experiences, this is a guide to the most essential of French arts: conversation." Ann Mah, author of *Mastering the Art of French Eating* Whether *bonjour* is the beginning or the end of your French vocabulary, you'll find something fascinating, surprising, or just plain *fou* on nearly every page. Before reading this invaluable codebook to French language and culture, I feared that I'd somehow insulted every French waiter, shopkeeper, and clerk between Paris and Nice. Now I know I did, but at least I know why! William Alexander, author of *Flirting with French* I love this book!

Michael Patrick Shiels, *Michigans Big Show* Very funny. Rudy Maxas *World with the Careys* There's a lot more than irregular verbs in conversing with the French. Sonali Karnick, *All In a Weekend*, CBC Montreal Packed with fascinating insights. *49th Shelf* A lively and informative description of the countrys cultural habits and social codes. First-time travellers to France will find useful tips, and for most North Americans this is a good introduction to the long history and complex culture of the country. Lysiane Gagnon, *The Globe and Mail* Praise for *The Story of French*: A well-told, highly accessible history of the French language that leads to a spirited discussion of the prospects for French in an increasingly English-dominated world. William Grimes, *The New York Times* Exceptionally told, a celebration of the lasting influence of la langue francaise. Kirkus s (starred review) Excellent... An engaging and well-conceived book. Highly recommended. *Library Journal* Francophiles will be well-served by the care and detail with which the authors handle their subject, while English speakers will find an illuminating portrait of Gallic sensibility. *Publishers Weekly* Praise for *Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong*: Learning to love the French as they are. *The New York Times* finally there is a book which explains in non-romantic, lucid terms, better than anything else I have read, why the French are as they are *Sixty Million Frenchmen Cant Be Wrong* should be handed out at Calais and Charles de Gaulle airport to anyone hoping to get a grip on France and make a holiday or life work here. *The Daily Telegraph* *Sixty Million Frenchmen* does its job marvelously well. After reading it, you may still think the French are arrogant, aloof and high-handed, but you will know why. *The Wall Street Journal* simply marvellous. *Sixty Million Frenchmen* will interest those readers who want to understand what makes the French mind go tickety-tock. And it will definitely help smooth anyones introduction to this puzzling and beautiful country. *The Globe and Mail* a hard-eyed and mostly affectionate survey of what makes French society tick and why outsiders, and particularly North Americans, so often misread it. *The Toronto Star* a must read for Francophiles and surprise hit of the year *Sixty Million Frenchmen Cant Be Wrong* [is a] penetrating and witty enquiry by two Canadian journalists into the unique essence of being French. *Critics Choice*, *The Daily Mail* A surprising book written with a touch of humour, that combs through all the ticks and obsessions of the French. *Le Monde.fr* Its the story of two Canadians, who, coming out of nowhere, help us see ourselves in a different light. *Le Figaro* An invigorating read **Bernard Pivot** About the Author **JEAN-BENOIT NADEAU** and **JULIE BARLOW** are the award-winning authors of *The Story of French*, *The Story of Spanish*, and the bestselling *Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't be Wrong*. They live in Canada.