

/ Sprinkle your speech

with fun
french
phrases

Conversation here flows easily — in English, French and many other languages. While nearly everyone you cross paths with in Montréal will be able to assist you in English, it's always fun to have a few French phrases in your tool belt!

Simple stuff

Bonjour

(bon-zhoor)

Hello

(literal translation: "Good day")

Bonsoir

(bon-swahr)

Good evening

Merci

(mair-see)

Thanks!

De rien

(duh ree-en)

You're welcome

(literal translation: "of nothing")

S'il vous plaît

(seel voo play)

Please

Deeper cuts

Bienvenue à Montréal

(bee-en-ven-ew)

Welcome to Montréal

Je ne parle pas très bien français.

(juh nah parl pah
tray bee-en fran-say)

I don't speak French
very well.

D'où venez-vous ?

(doo ven-ay voo)

Where are you from?

Je viens de... Chicago.

(juh vee-en duh ...)

I come from Chicago.



Uniquely from Québec /

TERRASSE

The local word for “patio.” And anytime the sun is shining (and it’s not winter), you’ll find locals swarming to *terrasses* across the city.



DÉPANNEUR

From the French verb “dépanner” — which means to help out or to fix — this is the common term for corner stores. “Dep” is even more common shorthand.



5-À-7

Pronounced *sank-ah-set*, the term roughly translates as “happy hour” going from 5 pm to 7 pm — or beyond, if everyone’s having a good time!



LIQUEUR

No, it’s not alcoholic — in French a *liqueur* (pronounced *leek-huer*) is pop, aka soda, aka a soft drink.



MAGASINAGE

Perfect for those who consider shopping an international language! Based on the French word for shop (*magasin*), “*magasinage*” (pronounced *mah-gah-zi-naj*) is always a good idea in Montréal — especially for souvenirs you’ll genuinely love.



STATIONNEMENT

It’s a long word for something simple: parking. To ask where the hotel parking lot is, you can say: “Bonjour! Pouvez-vous m’indiquer le stationnement de l’hôtel?”