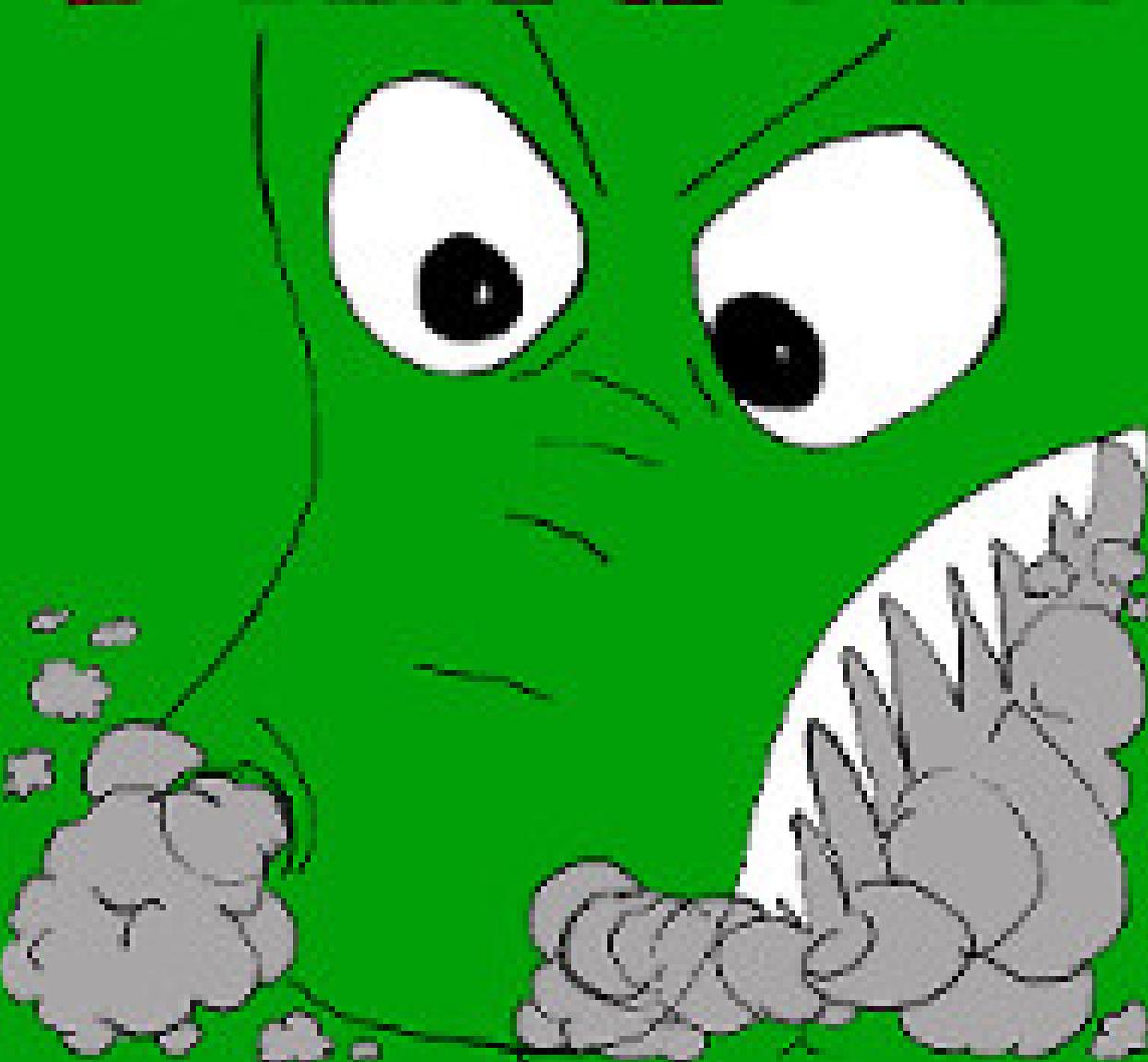


■ The  
"I Can't Believe I'm Reading French"

Gnomeville Comic Book Series!

# DRAGON!



Welcome to the “I Can’t Believe I’m Reading French” comic book series, the series that uses every trick in the book to make reading in French possible right now.

**How does it work?** If you’ve ever tried to read in a foreign language then you’ll know that it can be frustrating if you need to look up lots of words in the dictionary, let alone puzzle over slang and convoluted sentences before you’re ready.

French has over 1,000 words in common with English, so you already have quite a head start. However, the words you need to learn are those that occur frequently in French, so you get the best value per word learnt. This series does that. Using what you know, English, and introducing one or two words and concepts per page of story, allows you to be entertained and learn comfortably. In this first issue you will learn 12 of the most frequently occurring French words, giving you an understanding of at least 15% of the words occurring in any French text. Keep reading and eventually you’ll get the 95% coverage you need to fully understand native texts.

**The Stories** New words are introduced in the Gnomeville story (Page 5). This issue introduces common words like *the*, *of*, *and*, *is*, as well as simple sentence structures.

Following this is an article that allows you to practise reading the words learnt in the Gnomeville story (Page 19).

The Taxi stories (Page 21) provide you with further practice by introducing the language at a slower pace in each issue.

**The Activities** To reinforce the learning, you can:

- say the dialogue along with the recording,
- sing the songs that accompany each issue (Page 24), and
- complete the crossword (Page 23).

To improve your French listening skills you could listen to the recording until you understand it all without referring to the comic.

**Using This Series With Other Learning Methods** This comic book series can be used in conjunction with any other French teaching method as it assumes no prior knowledge of French. Its main focus is on reading skills to allow the reading of French for enjoyment. If conversation skills are the primary goal of the learner, then other methods that emphasise conversation should be incorporated into the learning process.

The  
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Comic Book Series!

Gnomeville series

# DRAGON!

Episode 1: Introductions

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### **National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry**

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Title: Gnomeville : dragon / Alexandra Louise Uitdenbogerd, author, illustrator, editor, composer, singer, arranger, instrumentalist.

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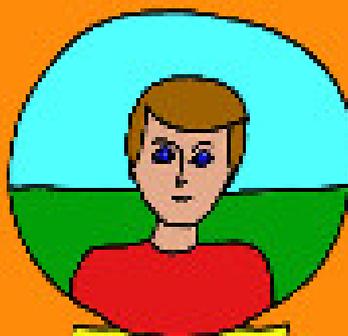
Thanks to Zahir Tari, the staff of the Alliance Française de Melbourne, and Jeremy Marozeau.

Dog audio samples on Fido downloaded from Freesound, including `bark.wav` by Deprogram and `Jazz the Dog Howl & Bark (195).wav` by Delphi-de-Brain, used with permission.

# Présentation



Magnifico



Jacques

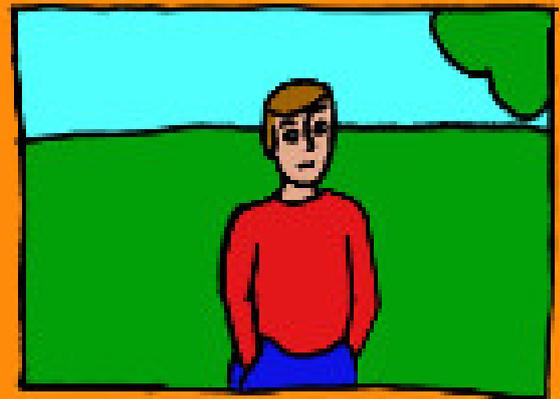
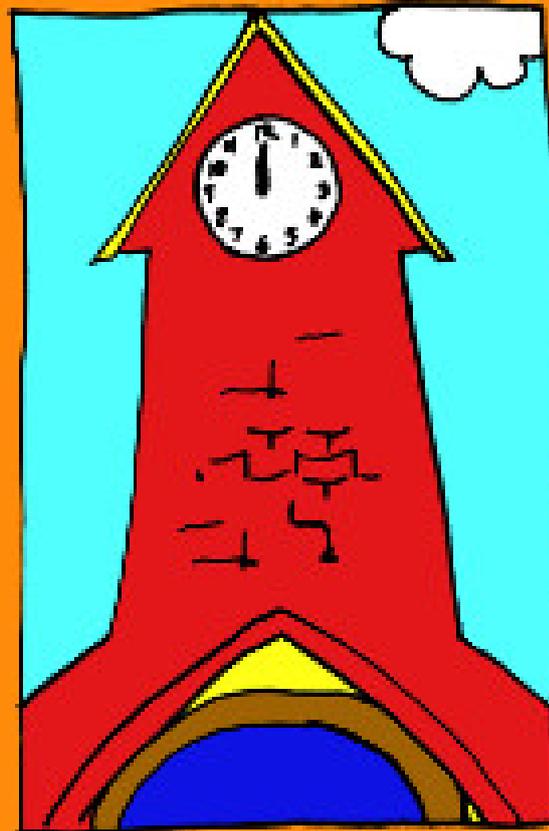


Didi



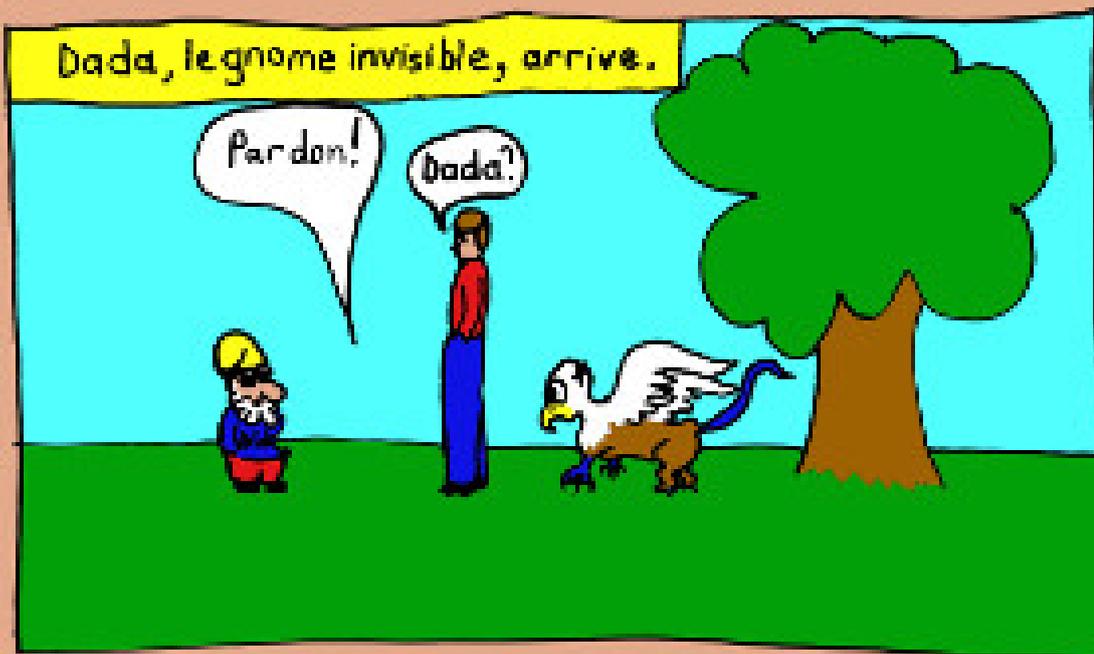
Dada



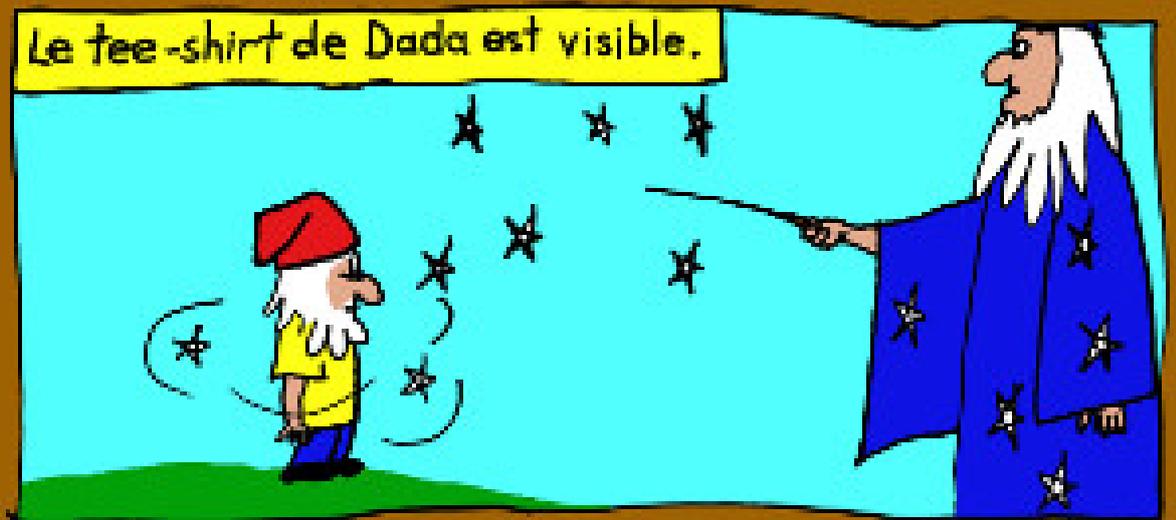


Grammatical Note:

The present tense of the most common type of verb ends in *-e* for 3rd person singular, eg. arrivee



Le = the (for masculine nouns like "gnome")  
Grammatical note: many adjectives appear after the noun, eg. "le gnome invisible".



est = is

## On-Line Materials

At the Gnomeville website you will find additional reading material at each episode level. Solutions to the puzzles can also be found there, or in the next issue.

## Buying Gnomeville Merchandise and Subscriptions

**Subscriptions** Gnomeville can be bought as an on-line subscription or as the physical books and CDs. Find out more on-line at the Gnomeville website.

**Gnomeville Mugs** Designs available include Gnomeville (pictured) and Le Tee-Shirt. For more details, visit the on-line Gnomeville store.



**Other Comics Series** Look out for “I Can’t Believe I’m Reading” German, Dutch and other languages. See the Gnomeville website or Facebook page for the latest news.

# Language Summary

Some people like to refer to a summary of language learnt and a list of words. That's what you'll find on this page.

## Frequent Words

de	of/from
du	of/from the (for masculine nouns)
des	of/from the (for plural nouns)
est	is
et	and
la	the (for feminine nouns)
le	the (for masculine nouns)
les	the (for plural nouns)
que	that
se	himself/herself/itself
un	a/an (for masculine nouns)
une	a/an (for feminine nouns)

## Common Cognates and False Friends

*Cognates* are words that are the same or very similar in both languages. Here are some very common ones you've seen so far.

arrive	moment	silence
certain	possible	situation
continue	question	six

*False Friends* and partial cognates look like a word in English but have a different meaning. The word "ignore" in French usually means "is unaware of", but can mean "ignore" in some contexts.

## Conversation

Pardon?	use this when you haven't heard what someone has said
Pardon!	use this to apologise for something you've done

## Grammar

You've learnt that in French, nouns are either masculine or feminine. You need to know the gender of the noun so that you can use the right form of "the", "a", and "of the".

Sometimes adjectives are placed after the noun and other times before it.

You've seen one pronoun so far: "se". This is placed immediately before the verb.

You've seen one verb form: third person singular for the most common type of verb in French. This form just ends in "-e". For example, "Jacques arrive."

## About the Author

Alexandra Uitdenbogerd has been interested in music all her life, and in languages for most of it. She studied music from the age of seven and French through her high school years. Despite her academic strengths in mathematics and French, her best final senior high school result was for Art. On realising that five years of high school French were not enough, she continued developing her skills via extensive reading and courses at the Alliance Française de Melbourne. During this time the idea for her comic book took form.

In her current work as an academic, Alexandra conducts music and language related computer science research. Her community work includes directing the RMIT Occasional Choral Society and associated vocal ensembles MANGA and CORP. When she has time, she also works on her solo music under the artist name Sandra Bogerd.

The “I Can’t Believe I’m Reading French” Comic Book Series  
Episode 1

- Learn the most frequently occurring French words by reading the Gnomeville story
- Only one new French word per page of story
- Discover words that are the same in French and English
- Reinforce learning by:
  - reading the extra stories
  - completing the crossword
  - singing the song
- Learn French pronunciation by listening to the recordings
- Take it easy by reading the easy Taxi story