

# Language

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Learning French

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The Canton of Jura is a French-speaking canton: people speak French. There is only one municipality where German is spoken: Ederswiler. Learning French is important for communicating with others, training or finding a job.

## Languages in Switzerland

There are four national languages in Switzerland: French, German, Italian and Romansh. Each region speaks one or more of these languages. In the Canton of Jura, French is spoken. French is also spoken in these other cantons: Neuchâtel, Vaud and Geneva. In the cantons of Bern, Fribourg and Valais, French and German are spoken depending on the region. The region of Switzerland that speaks French is called French-speaking Switzerland or Romandy (Romandie).

## French

Learning French is important for living and working in the Canton of Jura. It is the main language in administration, in schools and in everyday life.

## Interpreting and translation

When you arrive in Switzerland, you do not yet speak French, or you do not understand it well. But very often, it's important to understand each other.

For simple situations, you can ask friends, family or people in your community to help you translate.

But for important or private conversations (e.g. with a doctor, at school or for official documents), it is better to call a professional interpreter.

Caritas Switzerland's "Understanding" (se comprendre) Service offers professional interpreters.

They are community interpreters. Some are from your country. They speak your language and are also familiar with your culture. They work in person, by phone or by video. These interpreters can also help you with special procedures.

## Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

[www.bonjour-jura.ch/en/language/language](http://www.bonjour-jura.ch/en/language/language)

# Learning French

Learning French is important to understand each other well, to find a job or training. It also helps to solve everyday problems.

## French courses in the Canton of Jura

The COMUNICA programme offers French courses for foreigners, from Beginner level (A1) to Advanced level (B2). These courses are inexpensive. The COMUNICA programme also provides courses for people who are not familiar with our alphabet or have difficulty reading or writing: literacy courses.

Some municipalities pay part of the registration fee.

The Animation and training centre for women and families (Centre d'Animation et de Formation pour Femmes et Familles) (CAFF) offers French courses for women, with a childcare service on site. These courses are inexpensive.

There are other French courses in the area.

The AJAM also offers courses in languages specifically for people coming from asylum

## What level of French?

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages – Learning, Teaching, Assessing (CEFR) is often used to determine a person's level of French.

This framework ranges from level A1 (beginner) to level C2 (perfect mastery).

Vocational training often requires a B1 or B2 level.

The fide test checks the level of French for everyday life in Switzerland. It tests the level of oral (spoken) and written language. The results are given in a "language passport". This passport can be used to look for a job, apply for a residence or settlement permit, or apply for Swiss nationality.

## French and children

Children who speak a foreign language should be in touch with French-speaking children as soon as possible. It is important that they learn French before going to school. The nurseries, kindergartens or special offers for parents and children are great for this.

Parents also have to use their own language a lot with their children. This is very important too.

For example: talking to children a lot, listening to them, telling them stories in their own language.

Schoolchildren can also attend classes in their own language. These courses are called: the language and culture of origin courses (LCO courses). These courses are usually organised by the embassy or consulate or an association from the home country.

Schools provide full information about LCO courses.

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