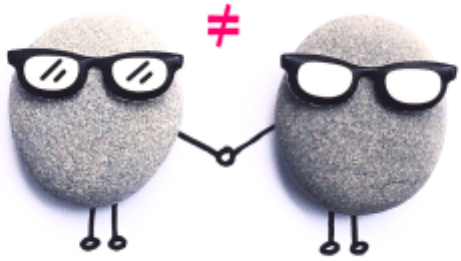
False friends between French and English



Here is a list of common false friends between French and English. The list is simplified – some words have more than one meaning, and the words aren't always perfect synonyms. If you have any doubts, you can check a good dictionary.

ENGLISH vs. FRENCH

English		French		French	English
actually	=	en fait	≠	actuellement	= at the moment, currently
an advertisement	=	une publicité	≠	un avertissement	= a warning
an agenda	=	un programme, un ordre du jour	≠	un agenda	= diary
to assist	=	aider	≠	assister à	= to attend
to attend	=	assister à	≠	attendre	= to wait
to achieve	=	accomplir	≠	achever	= to finish
agreement	=	accord	≠	un agrément	= authorisation, approval
a cave	=	une grotte	≠	une cave	= a cellar
a chance	=	une opportunité	≠	la chance	= luck
to charge	=	faire payer	≠	charger	= to load
circulation	=	circulation, diffusion, tirage	≠	circulation des véhicules	= traffic
a college	=	université (US)	≠	un collège	= a secondary school
confident	=	assuré	≠	un confident	= a confidant(e)
convenient	=	pratique, commode	≠	convenir à	= be suitable for
to control	=	gérer, diriger	≠	contrôler	= to verify, check
to demand	=	exiger	≠	demander	= to ask (for)
to dispose of	=	jeter	≠	disposer de	= to have available
dramatic	=	spectaculaire	≠	dramatique	= tragic, terrible
to elaborate	=	développer	≠	élaborer	= to devise, produce, create
effectively	=	efficacement	≠	effectivement	= actually, indeed
eventually	=	finalement	≠	éventuellement	= possibly, potentially
expertise	=	compétence	≠	une expertise	= an expert assessment
fabric	=	tissu	≠	fabrique	= factory
figure	=	chiffre	≠	une figure	= a face
furniture	=	meubles	≠	fournitures	= (office) supplies
genial	=	aimable, sympathique	≠	génial	= great, fantastic

gentle	=	doux, léger	≠	gentil	=	kind
a hazard	=	un danger	≠	le hasard	=	luck, fate
important	=	nécessaire, influent, principal	≠	important – grand, élevé	=	big, significant, considerable
to introduce	=	présenter	≠	introduire	=	to insert
a journal	=	une revue	≠	un journal	=	a newspaper
a journey	=	un voyage, un trajet	≠	une journée	=	a day
a lecture	=	une conférence	≠	lecture	=	reading
a library	=	une bibliothèque	≠	une librairie	=	a bookshop
a location	=	un endroit	≠	la location	=	rental
a manisfestation	=	un signe	≠	une manifestion	=	a demonstration, a protest
medicine	=	un médicament	≠	un médecin	=	a doctor
a mess	=	désordre	≠	une messe	=	a mass
money	=	l'argent	≠	la monnaie	=	change
normally	=	d'habitude, en général	≠	normalement	=	if all goes well; ‘should’ + verb
an odour	=	senteur désagréable	≠	odeur neutre	=	smell, fragrance
parking	=	le stationnement	≠	un parking	=	a car park, a parking lot
perfume	=	parfum artificiel	≠	parfum e.g. glace, vanille	=	flavour
pork	=	porc (viande)	≠	un cochon	=	a pig
a preservative	=	un conservateur	≠	un préservatif	=	a condom
to pretend	=	faire semblant	≠	prétendre	=	to claim
to prevent	=	empêcher	≠	prévenir	=	to warn
a process	=	un processus, un proceed, une procédure	≠	un procès	=	a trial
proper	=	correct	≠	propre	=	1. clean 2. own
a prune	=	un pruneau	≠	une prune	=	a plum
quid pro quo	=	un compromis	≠	un quiproquo	=	a mistake, a misunderstanding
to range	=	varier, aller	≠	ranger	=	to tidy, to clean up
to realise	=	se rendre compte de	≠	réaliser	=	to make, produce, carry out, fulfil
to report	=	rapporter	≠	reporter	=	to reschedule
to rest	=	se reposer	≠	rester	=	to stay
to resume	=	reprendre	≠	résumer	=	to summarise
sensible	=	raisonnable	≠	sensible	=	sensitive
sympathetic	=	compatissant	≠	sympathique	=	nice, pleasant, friendly

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