**HOW FRENCH IS RANKED**

Those of us who are English speakers, and have learned, or are learning the French language are too often called to defend it's relative value. Relative value can have many variants, because it is calculated from different statistical resources or at different times. Since the value of all languages as core to learning is being challenged, I  feel compelled to offer a list showing how French is ranked for a variety of functions, a variety of places. In all but four I have been able to name a source, with the knowledge that sources I have not seen may show a different rank. The ranking statements are in no particular order:

French is always in the top 5 for target language in translation (multiple sources)

Official in 29 independent countries and spoken on 5 continents, it is geographically the most widely used language other than English.

French is the language of the 3rd largest international television station in the world (TV-5)   55 million viewers.

French is a category 1 language in difficulty to learn for Anglophones: easiest kind
generally considered 3rd easiest language to learn

Kinshasa (DRC) is the world's largest French-speaking city, Africa's 2nd largest city, population over 10,200,000.

2nd among the "10 Most Requested Languages for Translation Services"
<https://www.altalang.com/beyond-words/2008/12/09/10-most-requested-languages-for-translation-services/>
What Are the Most Requested Languages for Translation? (tied for 2nd)
<http://dculs.dcu.ie/dcu-language-services-news/what-are-the-most-requested-languages-for-translation/>
3rd for  number of articles in Wikipedia
<https://www.wikipedia.org/>
6th in content languages for web sites.
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_used_on_the_Internet>
The number of French-language accounts on Twitter ranks third
<https://books.google.com/books?id=VcQ0CwAAQBAJ&pg=PT479&lpg=PT479&dq=%22french+ranks+third%22&source=bl&ots=2Xj9LlKQs4&sig=BDvW8RkRT_vDqLpcwEhsFiNuj4s&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj17_7Ri4TRAhUE1oMKHT6UDygQ6AEIGzAA#v=onepage&q=%22french%20ranks%20third%22&f=false>
Facebook languages after US English: Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, UK English, French
<http://www.oneskyapp.com/blog/top-10-languages-with-most-users-on-facebook/>
French is the 3rd used language on blogs
<https://frenchcrazy.com/2014/11/worldwide-importance-of-french-language.html/>
French is the 2nd most studied second language in the world
<http://www.mosalingua.com/en/most-studied-languages-in-the-world/>
In US 3rd foreign language for jobs in the US (after Spanish and Mandarin)
<https://www.indeed.com/>
French is the 2nd most popular second language
<http://mymodernmet.com/second-languages-of-the-world-infographic/>
French ranked the sixth most widely spoken language in the world
<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/francophony/the-status-of-french-in-the-world/>
Le français serait la troisième langue du monde, selon une nouvelle étude
<http://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1006677/le-francais-serait-la-troisieme-langue-du-monde-selon-une-nouvelle-etude>
French is 2nd among The App Store Top 5 Languages
<https://applingua.com/top-5-most-translated-app-languages/>
French ranks second among the world's official second languages
<https://books.google.com/books?id=xG9_cN9Ndy8C&pg=PA39&lpg=PA39&dq=%22french+ranks+second%22&source=bl&ots=KKFqQhtHxo&sig=tFDOsRZjcMo9DB_xwvWitueH0w0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjoipb1iYTRAhWHxYMKHSEkDzsQ6AEINjAF#v=onepage&q=%22french%20ranks%20second%22&f=false>
Today French ranks second as the world's diplomatic language, a testimony to the French government's past efforts.
<https://www.buffalolib.org/vufind/Record/1712736/Reviews>
French is third for the non-English language most spoken at home
<http://images.classwell.com/pdf/olpresources/FN1YD10AD.pdf>

French ranked 6th for content language of web sites
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_used_on_the_Internet>
French is the third most important language for business, after English and Chinese? language magazine (6/12/16)
<http://languagemagazine.com/?p=125752><https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/b/27e9aa92-47f4-4827-abf0-676d3cd31552>
5e langue mondiale (2014 OIF report) 6th by other sources
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lIgy8APXFyI>
4th internet language for number of users (2014 OIF report)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lIgy8APXFyI>
8th according  to INTERNET WORLD USERS BY LANGUAGE
<http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm>
6th internet language for number of sites visited by month (2014 OIF report)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lIgy8APXFyI>
3rd language on Amazon (2014 OIF report)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lIgy8APXFyI>
It is the second official language of international organizations (International Journal of Development and Management Review)
<http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ijdmr/article/view/137840>
French ranks 2nd as the language of Nobel Laureats in Literature
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Nobel_laureates_in_Literature>
The British Council said French was number 3 among languages needed for the UK
<https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/languages-for-the-future-report.pdf>
French is ranked the 2nd most influential language in the world (many references)
<http://www.losmonitos.com/language-instruction/learn-french/><http://theamericaninstitute.in/french/>
French is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture.
<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/francophony/promoting-french-around-the-world-7721/article/10-good-reasons-for-learning>
In US public library collections, French is the most common language other than English and Spanish in public library collections in 32 of the 50 states.
<https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/what-languages-do-public-library-collections-speak.html>
French is one of 5 official languages of the FIFA World Cup
<http://www.globallanguages.com/es/global-communicator/articles/the-most-popular-sports-in-the-world>