



Language

Language will be easy in England, of course. While British English varies from American English, it's easy enough to navigate those contrasts. The one thing we think you should know in advance: **watch for the abbreviation “W.C.” (for “water closet”) to mean bathroom.** Look for signs with that designation if you need a bathroom while you're out and about.

It takes very little French to get by while traveling in Paris. Most people you'll meet will speak at least some English. But to smooth your interactions and stand out as a polite and thoughtful visitor, we highly recommend being able to use at least a few words of French. In particular, the French really value being greeted with “bonjour,” even if your pronunciation is poor and even if you immediately then switch to English.

Hello: Bonjour (bohn-zhoohr)

Goodbye: Au revoir (ohr-vwahr)

Yes: Oui (wee)

No: Non (noh)

Please: S'il vous plait (seel vooh pleh)

Thank you: Merci (mehr-see)

Excuse me: Excusez-moi (eks-kew-zey-mwah) or **Pardon** (pahr-dohn)

Do you speak English?: Parlez-vous anglais? (pahr-ley voo ahn-gleh)

Trust us--this handful of phrases will get you far! (We use “Bonjour,” “Merci,” and “Parlez-vous anglais?” the most frequently.)

Let us know if you have any additional questions about communicating!