

COGNATES AND FALSE FRIENDS

Irish Aid has many focus countries in Africa. Did you know that French is spoken by many people in Africa as a second language? In fact, it is the fastest growing language on the continent!

If you want to learn French, it may interest you to know that French and English share many **cognates**: words in two languages that share a similar definition. This means you already know quite a few words in French because they look and mean the same thing in English -- you just need to work on pronunciation!

Play the [video](#) or read below for some examples:

English: *cousin* | French: *un cousin*
English: *fruit* | French: *un fruit*
English: *train* | French: *un train*
English: *nation* | French: *une nation*
English: *route* | French: *une route*

Some French and English words may look like cognates, but actually have a very different meaning! These are called 'false friends' or 'faux amis'. Can you match the French words to their English meaning? Test someone at home and find the answers together!

FRENCH	ENGLISH
Actuellement	Wide
Coin	Now/ currently
Large	Reading
Lecture	Insult
Injure	Corner

Can you think of more English/French cognates or faux amis? What about other languages with cognates or false friends? Come up with a creative way to show us! You might create a video or a matching activity or game that could teach someone these new words.

Send us your work via social or via email, for the chance to feature in our Global Goal Getters online children's magazine. You can send your email to:
ourworld@realnation.ie

