

Preface

How do you engage your students while helping them build a solid foundation in introductory French?

The fifth edition of *Vis-à-vis* addresses this question through its unique integration of contemporary culture with the building blocks of the four-skills approach. The proven qualities of *Vis-à-vis* are well known.

Its easy-to-navigate chapter structure, clear grammar explanations, abundance of practice activities, and diverse coverage of the Francophone world lay the groundwork for student success. But we all know that it takes more than this to truly engage students in language learning.

So what *does* it take? McGraw-Hill recently researched the study habits of thousands of college students across the United States and discovered that students of world languages want to connect on a personal level with the cultures they encounter. Yet, integrating culture into an already-packed language syllabus can be a challenge. That's why we've designed the fifth edition of *Vis-à-vis* to include innovative features such as **Le parler jeune**, which highlights contemporary vocabulary, **La vie en chantant**, which has pre- and post-listening activities for music available on an iTunes playlist, and **Le vidéoblog de...**, which introduces characters from around the French-speaking world. These features integrate culturally relevant material into a wide variety of reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities.

Foundations

The sixteen chapters of *Vis-à-vis* are each divided into four lessons, easily identified through a color-coded tabbing system, along with a central cultural spread. Vocabulary, grammar, cultural material, and skill-building activities are grouped into distinct and regular lessons for ease of use. The building blocks of the *Vis-à-vis* program include:

- vocabulary, grammar, and culture that work together as interactive units
- an abundance of practice materials ranging from form-focused to communicative
- a balanced approach to teaching the four skills
- current video segments focusing on a “day in the life” of nine Francophone cities: Paris, New Orleans and Cajun Country, Quebec City, Tunis, Dakar, Geneva, Brussels, Papeete, and Fort-de-France
- a complete program of print and digital materials that integrate seamlessly with the core text.



Innovation

The fifth edition of *Vis-à-vis* builds on the excitement of the successful fourth edition with an expanded emphasis on contemporary language, pronunciation, and the culture of the Francophone world. Students will be intrigued by the unique presentation of cultural content that will remind them of the websites they visit every day, such as blogs, online news outlets, and social networking sites. In addition, students will delight in the new pronunciation tips, mini-tutorials on French slang (always a hit), and a robust suite of digital components, all conveniently available in Centro, McGraw-Hill's digital platform for World Languages that brings together all the online resources of the *Vis-à-vis* program, including the online version of the workbook, the video program, and interactivities. New and updated features include the following:

- The **Le blog de...** section exposes students to contemporary language and to the vast diversity of life and culture in the French-speaking world.
- **Le parler jeune** introduces students to contemporary vocabulary as it is actually spoken by young people today.
- **Prononcez bien!** provides pronunciation tips to allow students to practice difficult sounds and words and perfect their accents.
- **Reportage** readings explore cultural, social, and historical topics that address current interests and technological advancements of the twenty-first century.

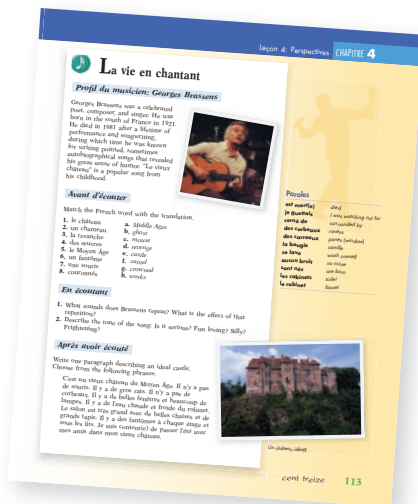
Engagement

In order to more actively engage students in the material found in each chapter of the *Vis-à-vis* program, the **Leçon 4: Perspectives** spread of each chapter has been completely revised to make it more dynamic and to give instructors more flexibility in their lesson planning. This section, which integrates the vocabulary, grammar, and themes of the first three **leçons**, now includes the following elements:

- **Lecture** readings that have been revised and include new headings as well as adjustments to length and content to help students navigate the text.
- The **Pour s'amuser** feature contains jokes, puzzles, quotations, and other brief activities.
- **La vie en chantant** includes links to the new iTunes playlist, brief biographies of singers and musical groups, and pre- and post-listening exercises for each song featured.
- Video activities in **Le vidéoblog de...** focus on vocabulary, comprehension, and cross-cultural comparisons.
- Images have been added to appeal to today's students who are increasingly visual learners.



Illustrated Walkthrough



The Four Skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing

A playlist of 16 songs has been created in iTunes to coordinate with the *Vis-à-vis* program and give students still more exposure to the vast diversity of music and culture in the Francophone world. These songs are introduced in **La vie en chantant**, which includes brief biographies of singers and musical groups as well as pre- and post-listening exercises and writing activities. Instructors can therefore instantly engage students in the chapter theme or grammar structures while simultaneously exposing them to authentic input and increasing their cultural awareness.

Prononcez bien! provides pronunciation tips to practice difficult sounds and words. These tips have also been recorded and are included in the *Vis-à-vis* audio program. In **Chapitres 1–8**, when learning proper pronunciation is so important, there are 2–3 marginal boxes per chapter; in **Chapitres 9–16**, there are 1–2 marginal boxes per chapter. Each **Prononcez bien!** includes 1 or 2 activities in the Instructor Edition annotations in order to expand student practice. These tips will improve oral proficiency and help build confidence in beginning speakers.

Prononcez bien!

The pronunciation of quand
Unlike English, in which *qu* is often pronounced [kw], in French, *qu* is generally pronounced [k], as in **que**.

[k]: **que, quand, quatre, Québec, physique**

Only when **qu** precedes **oi** is it pronounced [kw]: **pourquoi**.

In liaison, the **d** of **quand** is pronounced [t].
[t]: **quand est-ce que, quand on parle**

Le parler jeune

un appart	un appartement
un coloc	un colocataire
une piaule	une chambre
un pieu / un plumard	un lit
un proprio	un propriétaire

Mon **appart** est joli mais trop petit!
Ton **coloc** est un ami?
Max loue une **piaule** au Quartier latin.
Le matin, impossible de sortir de mon **pieu**!
Ton **proprio**, il est sympa?

In **Le parler jeune** boxes, students are introduced to thematically grouped, contemporary vocabulary to more actively engage them in the accompanying communicative activities as well as for general vocabulary development.

Pour s'amuser offers jokes, puzzles, or quotations related to the chapter theme. This allows instructors to engage students with a brief enjoyable activity if time is of the essence.

Pour s'amuser

Le rébus
Work with a partner and use the lexique to solve the puzzle.

Lecture readings have been revised using a purposeful design and the inclusion of heads and sub-heads to make them more user friendly and help guide students through the text. In some cases, readings have been simplified or shortened, all the while assuring that students are reading something that sounds authentic in terms of the language. There is one new reading on Morocco in **Chapitre 8**.

The Fifth Skill: French and Francophone Cultural Awareness

In the *Vis-à-vis* program, four units of four chapters each focus on a different French or Francophone character and region.

In each unit, the **Le blog de...** sections are written by one of four Parisian characters with different Francophone backgrounds. Following the blogs are commentaries by other French speakers from all over the world. Through these personal “online” journals, students are exposed to contemporary language and to the vast diversity of life and culture in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, Louisiana, North and West Africa, the French Antilles, and Tahiti. Follow-up questions are provided in the Instructor Edition annotations.

The image shows two pages from a French textbook. The left page is a blog titled "Le blog de Léa" with a post from March 25th. The right page is a reportage titled "Montréal: vivre en français" with a photo of a street scene and a list of questions.

The **Bienvenue** cultural spreads that introduce the textbook and follow **Chapitres 4, 8, 12, and 16**, encourage students to learn more about France or the region targeted in the preceding four chapters. These readings and their accompanying video segments focus on France, North America, North and West Africa, French-speaking Europe, and the islands of Tahiti and Martinique. A brief portrait of an important figure from each of these places is also included in this section. In the fifth edition, to complement these readings, four new video segments featuring footage from Louisiana, Tunisia, Switzerland, and Tahiti were added to the existing video program.

The image shows two pages from a French textbook under the heading "Bienvenue...". The left page is titled "Un coup d'œil sur la Nouvelle-Orléans et le pays des Cadiens, en Louisiane" and the right page is titled "Un coup d'œil sur Québec, au Canada". Both pages include text, photos, and a portrait of Samuel de Champlain.

Finally, each chapter opens with a beautiful photograph that sets the chapter theme and represents Paris or one of the French regions. Cultural notes on the city or region presented in the photo, as well as questions about the image presented, are provided in the Instructor Edition annotations.

The image shows a chapter introduction page for "À la maison". It features a large photo of a Parisian street scene, a list of chapter objectives, and a list of structures and culture notes.

Media and Print Supplements

As a full-service publisher of quality educational products, McGraw-Hill does much more than just sell textbooks to your students; we create and publish an extensive array of print, video, and digital supplements to support instruction on your campus. Orders of new (versus used) textbooks help us to defray the cost of developing such supplements, which is substantial. Please consult your local McGraw-Hill representative to learn about the availability of the supplements that accompany *Vis-à-vis: Beginning French*.

For Students

- The combined **Workbook/Laboratory Manual** contains a variety of exercises on vocabulary, grammar, and culture; a guided writing section as well as a journal writing feature; and complete listening and pronunciation programs.
- **Centro** (www.mhcentro.com), a digital platform that brings together all the online and media resources of the *Vis-à-vis* program, is available to all those who purchase the **Quia Online Workbook/Laboratory Manual**, the interactive version of the printed product that includes instant feedback, interactivities, and automatic grading and scoring.
- The **Audio Program**, available on audio CD, correlates with the Workbook/Laboratory Manual. The audio recording of the **Prononcez bien!** feature boxes and the chapter vocabulary from the textbook is also included on a separate audio CD.
- The Student Edition of the **Vis-à-vis Online Learning Center** (www.mhhe.com/visavis5) contains the following features:
 - self-correcting quizzes for each vocabulary presentation and structure point in every chapter
 - links, keywords, and search engines for the **On est connectés** feature referenced in the textbook
 - audio files for the complete **Audio Program**

For the Instructor

- The **Instructor's Edition** of the text includes teaching tips, suggestions for vocabulary recycling, and additional cultural information.
- The **Instructor's Manual**, which is available in downloadable Word or PDF versions, offers more detailed teaching suggestions, sample lesson plans, and videoscripts.
- The **Testing Program**, which is available in downloadable Word or PDF versions, consists of three sets of tests for each chapter of *Vis-à-vis*, as well as quarter and semester exams.
- The Instructor's Edition of the **Vis-à-vis Online Learning Center** (www.mhhe.com/visavis5) contains the same features as the Student Edition as well as the Testing Program, Instructor's Manual, Audioscript, and Digital Transparencies. A username and password can be obtained from your McGraw-Hill sales representative.
- The **Video Program** is available on DVD and in Centro.

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“I personally enjoy the readings, blogs, and cultural notes, along with the videos, to show students how real learning French is.”

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“The blog videos are an original addition. Students dig them.”

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