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FREE FRENCH READER · LEVEL ONE

# The Enigma Machine

A true story in easy French, written with words that look like English, so you can read it from day one.

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**82%** of the words in this story are cognates or names you can recognize from English, or one of the 60 little words listed on page 2.

## How to read this story

1. Read without stopping. Words like *information* look like English, so trust your guess.
2. A dotted word is explained in the box under its paragraph: first its meaning, then where it comes from. The origin is the link to English that makes it stick.
3. The little grammar words (the, of, and) are listed once, on the next page.

# Little words

These short words carry the grammar. They are everywhere, so learn them here and they will not be marked in the story.

**le** The (masculine); him, it

**la** The (feminine); her, it

**les** The (plural); them

**l'** the (before a vowel)

**un** A, an, one

**une** A, an, one; the counterpart of un used with a different set of words

**des** Some; of the (plural article)

**de** Of, from

**d'** of, from (before a vowel)

**du** Some; of the (a contraction)

**au** To the, at the

**aux** To the, at the (plural)

**et** And

**ou** Or

**à** To, at

**en** In, of it, some (of it)

**dans** In, inside

**sur** On, upon, over

**avec** With

**pour** For

**par** By, through

**que** That, which, than, what

**qu'** that, than (before a vowel)

**qui** Who, which

**ne** Not, the basic word of negation in French

**n'** not (n'... pas)

**pas** Step; not (in negation)

**plus** More

**il** He, it

**elle** She, her

**ils** they (masculine)

**elles** they (feminine)

**on** One, people, they, an impersonal way of saying someone did something

**se** Himself, herself, itself, themselves; a word placed before a verb to show someone does the action to themselves

**s'** himself, herself, itself (before a vowel)

**son** His, her, or its, used before a masculine or vowel-starting noun

**sa** His, her, or its, used before a feminine singular noun

**ses** His, her, or its, used before a plural noun

**leur** Their, theirs

**leurs** their

**ce** This, that (demonstrative)

**c'** it, that (c'est, "it is")

**cette** This, that (feminine)

**ces** These, those

**y** There; a pronoun standing in for a place or thing already mentioned

**est** Is (present of être: il est, "he is"); also east

**sont** they are

**était** was (imperfect of être)

**étaient** were (imperfect of être, plural)

**a** has (third person singular of avoir, "to have")

**ont** have, they have (present of avoir)

**avait** He, she, or it had (imperfect tense)

**avaient** They had (imperfect tense)

**été** Summer; also "been," the past form of être

**mais** But

**aussi** Also, too

**tout** All, every, everything

**toute** All, every, everything

**toutes** All, every, everything

**jusqu'** until, up to (before a vowel)

# The Enigma Machine

En 1918, un ingénieur allemand, Arthur Scherbius, a inventé une machine électrique pour protéger les messages secrets. Il l'a appelée Enigma. La machine ressemblait à une machine à écrire compacte. Quand l'opérateur pressait une lettre, le courant électrique passait par une série de rotors, des cylindres qui pivotaient à chaque lettre pressée, et une petite lampe indiquait une autre lettre. Cette lettre indiquée était la version chiffrée. Le rotor tournait, la configuration changeait, et la même lettre pressée une seconde fois produisait un résultat différent. Le message final était une longue séquence de lettres sans logique apparente.

**allemand** *german.* Allemand comes from the Alamanni, a Germanic tribal confederation on the Rhine whose name probably meant "all men."

**appelée** *to call.* Appeler comes from Latin appellare, "to address, to call upon," the root of English "appeal" and "appellation," a name.

**écrire** *to write.* Écrire comes from Latin scribere, "to write," the root of English "scribe," "script," and "describe."

**quand** *when.* Quand comes from Latin quando, "when."

**courant** (courir) *current; common, running.* Courir comes from Latin currere, "to run," the root of English "current," "course," and "courier," a running messenger.

**chaque** *each, every.* Chaque was shortened from chacun, "each one," which blends Latin quisque unus, "each one," with a late Latin cata unum, "one by one," built on Greek kata, "by."

**autre** *other.* Autre comes from Latin alter, "the other of two," the root of English "alter," "alternate," and "alter ego," "other self."

**même** *same, self.* Même comes from Vulgar Latin metipsimus, "the very self," built on ipse, "self," the ipse of "ipso facto," "by the fact itself."

**fois** *time, occasion (as in "once," "twice").* Fois comes from Latin vices, "turns," the root of "vice versa," "with the turns reversed."

**sans** *without.* Sans comes from Latin sine, "without," the sine of "sine qua non," "without which not," an essential condition.

Scherbius a présenté son invention aux banques et aux compagnies commerciales, mais le succès commercial a été limité. L'armée allemande, elle, a immédiatement compris le potentiel. Après la défaite de 1918, les officiers allemands savaient que leurs communications avaient été interceptées et décodées par les Alliés pendant toute la guerre. Ils voulaient une protection absolue. Ils ont adopté Enigma, l'ont modifiée, et l'ont rendue beaucoup plus complexe.

**allemande** *german.*

**après** *after.* Après comes from Latin ad pressum, "pressed close to," from premere, "to press," the root of English "press" and "pressure."

**allemands** *german.*

**savaient** (savoir) *knew (they).* Savoir comes from Latin sapere, "to taste, to be wise," the sapiens of Homo sapiens, "wise human."

**pendant** *during; a pendant (hanging ornament).* Pendant is the present participle of pendre, "to hang," from Latin pendere, the root of English "pendulum," "suspend," and "pending."

**guerre** *war.* Guerre comes from Frankish werra, "strife, confusion," and English "war" comes from the same Germanic word through Norman French werre.

**voulaient** (vouloir) *they wanted.* Vouloir comes from Latin velle, "to want," reshaped after its form volo, "I want," the root of English "voluntary," "volition," and "benevolent," "wishing well."

**rendue** (rendre) *given back, rendered (feminine past participle).* Rendre comes from Latin reddere, "to give back," reshaped under the influence of prendere, "to take," and English "render" is the same word.

**beaucoup** *a lot, much.* Beaucoup is beau, "fine," plus coup, "blow, stroke," literally "a fine stroke," a big haul.

Sur le terrain, trois soldats opéraient la machine. Le premier lisait le message original et pressait les lettres. Le deuxième notait les lettres indiquées, une par une. Le troisième transmettait le résultat en code Morse par radio. À l'autre bout, la procédure fonctionnait en sens inverse: avec la même configuration initiale, la machine retransformait les lettres chiffrées en texte normal. Chaque jour à minuit, toutes les unités allemandes changeaient de configuration selon un manuel secret: l'ordre des rotors, leur position de départ, et les connexions d'un tableau placé à l'avant de la machine. Le nombre de combinaisons possibles était presque infini. Les Allemands étaient absolument certains que personne ne pouvait déchiffrer Enigma. Cette confiance a duré presque vingt ans.

**trois** *three.* Trois comes from Latin tres, "three," the root of "trio" and "tri-," and English "three" is a Germanic relative of it.

**premier** *first.* Premier comes from Latin primarius, "of the first rank," from primus, "first," the root of English "prime" and "primary."

**lisait** (lire) *was reading, used to read (imperfect of lire).* Lire comes from Latin legere, "to read, to gather," the root of English "legible," "lecture," and "legend," literally "a thing to be read."

**deuxième** *second.* Deuxième is deux, "two," plus the ordinal ending -ième.

**troisième** *third.* Troisième is trois, "three," plus the ordinal ending -ième, "-th."

**bout** *end, tip.* Bout comes from the Old French verb bouter, "to strike, to push," a word of Germanic origin, so the end of a thing is where it strikes against something.

**jour** *day.* Jour comes from Latin diurnum, "daily," the root of English "journal," a daily record, and "journey," originally a day's travel.

**minuit** *midnight.* Minuit is mi, "mid," from Latin medius, plus nuit, "night," from Latin noctem, built just like English "midnight."

**allemandes** *german.*

**selon** *according to, in keeping with.* Selon probably comes from Latin sub longum, "along the length of," from longus, "long," as in English "longitude."

**avant** *before, in front of.* Avant comes from Latin ab ante, "from before," built on ante, "before," the root of "anterior" and "ante meridiem," a.m.

**presque** *almost, nearly.* Presque is près, "near," plus que, "as," so "nearly as."

**pouvait** (pouvoir) *he/she was able to.* Pouvoir comes from Latin posse, "to be able," the posse of posse comitatus, "the power of the county," the men a sheriff could call out, shortened in English to a "posse."

**duré** *to last, to endure.* Durer comes from Latin durare, "to harden, to last," from durus, "hard."

**vingt** *twenty.* Vingt comes from Latin viginti, "twenty," worn down in speech; the g is silent, put back in the spelling to recall the Latin.

**ans** *year.* An comes from Latin annus, "year," the root of English "annual," "anniversary," and "per annum."

En Pologne, la situation était différente. La Pologne, nation recréée en 1918, avait deux voisins puissants et hostiles: l'Allemagne et l'Union soviétique. Pour les services secrets polonais, comprendre Enigma était une question de survie nationale. En 1932, le Bureau du Chiffre a recruté un jeune mathématicien de vingt-sept ans, Marian Rejewski. On l'a installé dans une pièce isolée, séparé de ses collègues, et on lui a donné une seule mission: reconstruire la machine de l'intérieur.

**deux** *two.* Deux comes from Latin duo, "two," the English "duo," and the root of "dual" and "double."

**voisins** *neighbor.* Voisin comes from Latin vicinus, "nearby," from vicus, "village," the root of English "vicinity."

**puissants** *powerful.* Puissant comes from Old French poissant, the present participle of an old form of pouvoir, "to be able," from Latin posse.

**jeune** *young.* Jeune comes from Latin iuvenis, "young," the root of English "juvenile" and "rejuvenate," with the related iunior, "younger," giving "junior."

**sept** *seven.* Sept comes from Latin septem, "seven," the root of English "September," the seventh month of the old Roman year, and "septet."

**lui** *him, to him, her, to her.* Lui comes from Late Latin illui, "to that one," a form of ille, "that," the same word that gave le and il.

**donné** *to give.* Donner comes from Latin donare, "to give as a gift," from donum, "gift," the root of English "donate," "donor," and "donation."

**seule** *alone, only, single.* Seul comes from Latin solus, "alone," the root of English "sole," "solo," and "solitude."

Rejewski a utilisé les mathématiques pures, en particulier la théorie des permutations. Il a analysé la structure de centaines de messages interceptés. Les opérateurs allemands commettaient une erreur de procédure: ils répétaient la clé de chaque message deux fois au début de la transmission. Rejewski a exploité cette répétition. Il a aussi reçu une aide précieuse. Les services secrets français avaient un agent à l'intérieur du ministère allemand, un homme nommé Hans-Thilo Schmidt, qui vendait des documents techniques. Le capitaine français Gustave Bertrand a transmis ces documents à Varsovie. La combinaison des documents français et des calculs de Rejewski a produit le résultat: après plusieurs mois, il a reconstruit les connexions électriques internes des rotors, sans jamais avoir vu la machine militaire. C'est une des grandes performances intellectuelles du vingtième siècle.

**centaines** *about a hundred, a hundred or so.* Centaine is cent, "hundred," from Latin centum, plus -aine, a suffix for round numbers, as in douzaine, "dozen."

**clé** *key.* Clé comes from Latin clavis, "key," the root of the musical "clef," which French also spells clef.

**reçu** (recevoir) *received; a receipt.* Recevoir comes from Latin recipere, "to take back, to receive," from re- and capere, "to take," and English "receive" is the same word.

**français** *french.* Français comes from France, the land of the Franks, the Germanic people who ruled Gaul after Rome.

**homme** *man, human being.* Homme comes from Latin homo, "human being," as in Homo sapiens, "wise human."

**vendait** (vendre) *was selling (imperfect of vendre).* Vendre comes from Latin vendere, "to sell," a contraction of venum dare, "to give for sale," the root of English "vend" and "vendor."

**plusieurs** *several.* Plusieurs comes from a spoken Latin form built on plus, "more," the plus of English arithmetic and the root of "plural," "more than one."

**mois** *month.* Mois comes from Latin mensis, "month," the root of English "menstrual" and "semester," a period of six months.

**jamais** *never; ever.* Jamais is ja, "already, now," from Latin iam, plus mais, "more," from Latin magis, so it first meant "ever more, ever."

**avoir** *to have.* Avoir comes from Latin habere, "to hold, to have," and the habeas of habeas corpus, "you shall have the body," the writ that brings a prisoner before a judge, is another form of the same verb.

**vu** (voir) *seen (past participle of "to see").* Voir comes from Latin videre, "to see," the root of English "video," literally "I see," "vision," and "evident."

**vingtième** *twentieth.* Vingtième is vingt, "twenty," plus -ième, the ending of ordinal numbers, as in le vingtième siècle, "the twentieth century."

**siècle** *century.* Siècle comes from Latin saeculum, "age, lifetime, generation," and le vingtième siècle is "the twentieth century."

Avec ses collègues, Rejewski a ensuite construit des répliques d'Enigma et des instruments pour trouver la configuration du jour. Ils ont même inventé une machine électromécanique, la « bombe cryptologique », qui testait les positions possibles de façon automatique. Pendant six ans, en silence total, la Pologne a lu une grande partie du trafic secret allemand.

**ensuite** *then, next, afterward.* Ensuite is en, "in," plus suite, "what follows," from suivre, "to follow," from Latin sequi, the root of English "sequel" and "sequence."

**trouver** *to find.* Trouver probably comes from Latin tropare, "to compose a poem," from tropus, "figure of speech," the root of English "trope."

**façon** *way, manner.* Façon comes from Latin factio, "a making," from facere, "to do, to make," and English "fashion" is the same word taken from Old French.

**lu** (lire) *read (past participle of lire).*

**partie** (partir) *part; game, match.* Partir comes from Latin partiri, "to divide," built on pars, "part": to leave is to part from a place or group.

En décembre 1938, les Allemands ont ajouté deux rotors supplémentaires. L'opérateur choisissait maintenant trois rotors parmi cinq. Le nombre de possibilités a été multiplié par dix, et les Polonais n'avaient plus les ressources financières pour continuer. La guerre approchait rapidement.

**ajouté** *to add.* Ajouter comes from Vulgar Latin adjuxtare, "to put beside," from ad-, "to," and juxta, "next to," the root of English "juxtapose."

**maintenant** *now.* Maintenant is the present participle of maintenir, "to maintain," from Latin manu tenere, "to hold in the hand."

**parmi** *among.* Parmi is par mi, "through the middle," from par, "through," and mi, "middle," from Latin medius, the root of English "medium," "median," and "Mediterranean," the sea in the middle of the land.

**cinq** *five.* Cinq comes from Latin quinque, "five," the root of English "quintet" and "quintuplets."

**dix** *ten.* Dix comes from Latin decem, "ten," the root of English "decimal" and "decade."

En juillet 1939, cinq semaines avant l'invasion allemande, les Polonais ont invité des officiers français et britanniques à une réunion secrète dans une forêt au sud de Varsovie. Ils ont tout révélé: la méthode mathématique, les répliques, la bombe. Les Britanniques étaient stupéfaits. Ils considéraient Enigma comme impénétrable, et une petite équipe polonaise la lisait depuis six ans. Chaque délégation est repartie avec une réplique polonaise de la machine. Quelques semaines plus tard, l'Allemagne et l'Union soviétique ont envahi la Pologne, et Rejewski a fui vers la France.

**juillet** *july.* Juillet takes its name, like English "July," from Julius Caesar, who was born in this month.

**semaines** *week.* Semaine comes from Latin septimana, "a period of seven," built on septem, "seven."

**sud** *south.* Sud is one of few French words taken from English: it comes from Old English suth, "south," carried into French by sailors.

**comme** *as, like, how.* Comme comes from Latin quomodo, "in what way," built from quo, "what," and modo, "way," the modus of "modus operandi," a "way of working."

**depuis** *since, from (a point in time).* Depuis is de, "from," plus puis, "then, afterward," which comes from Latin post, "after," the "post-" of "postpone" and "post-war."

**quelques** (quelque) *some, a few.* Quelque is quel, "which, what kind," plus que, and quel comes from Latin qualis, "of what kind," the root of English "quality."

**tard** *late.* Tard comes from Latin tardus, "slow," the root of English "tardy."

**envahi** (envahir) *invaded.* Envahir comes from Latin invadere, "to go into, to attack," built on in, "into," and vadere, "to go."

**fui** *to flee.* Fuir comes from Latin fugere, "to flee," the root of English "fugitive," "refuge," and "centrifugal," fleeing the center.

**vers** *toward; also, a line of verse.* Vers comes from Latin versus, "turned toward," from vertere, "to turn," the root of English "convert" and "reverse."

Les Britanniques ont concentré leur effort dans un manoir victorien au nord de Londres, Bletchley Park. Ils ont recruté des mathématiciens, des champions d'échecs, des linguistes et des experts en mots croisés. Parmi eux, un jeune mathématicien de Cambridge, Alan Turing.

**échecs** *failure, setback; check (in chess).* Échec comes from Old French eschec, the cry announcing an attack on the king in chess, from Persian shah, "king," by way of Arabic.

**mots** *word.* Mot comes from Late Latin muttum, "a grunt, a mutter," the smallest sound a person can make.

**eux** (lui) *them (referring to men or a mixed group).*

Turing a vu un problème dans la méthode polonaise: elle dépendait entièrement de l'erreur de procédure allemande, la répétition de la clé. Si les Allemands corrigeaient cette erreur, et ils l'ont fait en mai 1940, toute la méthode devenait inutile en une nuit. Turing a cherché une solution plus

générale, indépendante des habitudes des opérateurs.

**si** *if; yes, used to contradict a negative.* Si meaning "if" is Latin si, "if," unchanged, and it hides in s'il vous plaît, "please," literally "if it pleases you."

**fait** (faire) *fact; also "done," the past form of faire.* Faire comes from Latin facere, "to do, to make," the root of English "fact," "factory," and "manufacture," literally "made by hand."

**devenait** (devenir) *he/she was becoming (imperfect of devenir).* Devenir comes from Latin devenire, de- plus venire, "to come," so to become is to "come to be" something.

**inutile** *useless.* Inutile comes from Latin inutilis, in-, "not," plus utilis, "useful," from uti, "to use," the root of English "utility" and "utilize."

**nuit** *night.* Nuit comes from Latin noctem, "night," the root of English "nocturnal" and "nocturne," and English "night" is a Germanic relative of it.

**cherché** *to search, to look for.* Chercher comes from Latin circare, "to go around," from circus, "circle," and English "search" is the same word, borrowed from Anglo-French sercher.

Sa solution s'appelait aussi une « bombe », en hommage à la machine polonaise, mais le principe était nouveau. Turing a exploité la prévisibilité du contenu. Les messages allemands contenaient souvent des phrases identiques: un rapport météorologique à la même heure chaque matin, des formules de politesse, la phrase « rien à signaler ». Les analystes devinaient un fragment de texte probable et l'appelaient un « crib ». La bombe de Turing testait mécaniquement des milliers de configurations pour identifier celle qui transformait le message chiffré en ce fragment probable. Un autre mathématicien, Gordon Welchman, a perfectionné la machine avec une addition, le « tableau diagonal », qui a énormément augmenté sa vitesse.

**appelait** *to call.*

**nouveau** *new.* Nouveau comes from Latin novellus, "new, young," a diminutive of novus, "new," the root of English "novel," "novelty," and "innovate."

**souvent** *often.* Souvent comes from Latin subinde, "immediately after, again and again," built from sub, "under, close after," and inde, "from there."

**phrases** *sentence.* Phrase comes from Greek phrasis, "way of speaking," from phrazein, "to tell, to point out," the source of English "phrase."

**matin** *morning.* Matin comes from Latin matutinum, "of the morning," linked to Matuta, the Roman goddess of dawn.

**phrase** *sentence.*

**rien** *nothing.* Rien comes from Latin rem, "a thing," the res of "res publica," the "public thing" behind English "republic."

**devinaient** *to guess.* Deviner comes from Latin divinare, "to foresee, to prophesy," from divinus, "of a god," since only a god or a seer could tell what was hidden.

**appelaient** *to call.*

**milliers** (millier) *thousands.* Millier is built on mille, "thousand," from Latin mille, the root of English "mile," first the Roman measure of a thousand paces.

**celle** (celui) *the one, that one (feminine).* Celui comes from a spoken Latin phrase ecce illui, "behold him," built on ille, "that," the same word that became le, "the."

**vitesse** *speed.* Vitesse is built from vite, "quickly," plus the noun ending -esse, and vite itself is of uncertain origin.

La première bombe a commencé à fonctionner en 1940. Bientôt il y en a eu des centaines, distribuées dans plusieurs bâtiments et opérées jour et nuit par des femmes de la marine, les Wren. Le travail était monotone, bruyant, mécanique et urgent. Les opératrices ne connaissaient jamais le contenu des messages qu'elles aidaient à ouvrir.

**bientôt** *soon.* Bientôt joins bien, "well," from Latin bene, as in "benefit," and tôt, "early," from Latin tostum, "roasted," the source of English "toast."

**eu** (avoir) *had (the past form of avoir, "to have").*

**bâtiments** *building.* Bâtiment is bâtir, "to build," plus the noun ending -ment.

**femmes** *woman, wife.* Femme comes from Latin femina, "woman," the root of English "feminine" and "female."

**travail** *work.* Travail is traditionally traced to Latin tripalium, a three-staked device used for torture, and the Old French verb meant "to suffer, to toil."

**bruyant** *noisy, loud.* Bruyant is the old present participle of bruire, "to rustle, to make a din," whose noun is bruit, "noise."

**connaissaient** (connaître) *knew, were acquainted with (imperfect of connaître).* Connaître comes from Latin cognoscere, "to get to know," the source of English "recognize" and "cognition."

**ouvrir** *to open.* Ouvrir comes from Latin aperire, "to open," the root of English "aperture," reshaped in speech as if it were operire, "to cover."

La marine allemande utilisait une version plus difficile d'Enigma, avec des rotors supplémentaires et une discipline beaucoup plus stricte. Ses sous-marins, les U-Boote, attaquaient en groupe les convois de navires qui transportaient les provisions et le matériel militaire vers la Grande-Bretagne. En 1940 et 1941, ces attaques risquaient d'isoler complètement l'île et de terminer la guerre. Le déchiffrer par les mathématiques seules était presque impossible.

**sous** *under, below.* Sous comes from Latin subtus, "beneath," built on sub, "under," the "sub-" of "submarine" and "subway."

**marins** *sailor; also of the sea.* Marin comes from Latin marinus, "of the sea," from mare, "sea," the source of English "marine," "maritime," and "mariner."

**navires** *ship.* Navire comes from Latin navigium, "vessel," from navis, "ship," the root of English "navy," "naval," and "navigate."

**seules** *alone, only, single.*

La solution est venue de la mer. Des marins britanniques ont capturé des documents secrets sur de petits navires météorologiques allemands et sur des sous-marins endommagés. En mai 1941, l'équipage du destroyer Bulldog a abordé le sous-marin U-110 avant qu'il ne coule et a récupéré une machine navale intacte avec ses manuels de codes. Ces captures ont donné à Bletchley Park les informations nécessaires pour lire le trafic des sous-marins pendant des périodes cruciales.

**mer** *sea.* Mer comes from Latin mare, "sea," the root of English "marine," "maritime," and "submarine."

**coule** (couler) *flows; sinks (present of couler).* Couler comes from Latin colare, "to strain, to filter," from colum, "sieve," the root of English "colander" and "percolate."

**lire** *to read.*

En février 1942, les sous-marins ont adopté un quatrième rotor. Bletchley Park a perdu l'accès à cette partie du trafic pendant presque un an. Le nombre de navires alliés détruits a augmenté de façon dramatique. En octobre 1942, dans la Méditerranée, des marins britanniques ont attaqué le sous-marin U-559 et l'ont forcé à la surface. Trois hommes sont entrés dans le sous-marin qui se remplissait d'eau pour récupérer des documents. Deux d'entre eux sont morts, emportés sous l'eau avec le sous-marin. Les documents sauvés ont permis de recommencer à lire le trafic naval.

**quatrième** *fourth.* Quatrième is quatre, "four," plus the ordinal ending -ième, from Latin quattuor, "four."

**perdu** (perdre) *lost.* Perdre comes from Latin perdere, "to destroy, to lose," from per-, "thoroughly," and dare, "to give," so "to give away completely."

**an** *year.*

**hommes** *man, human being.*

**remplissait** *to fill, to fill up, to fulfill.* Remplir is re- plus emplir, "to fill," from Latin implere, "to fill up," from plere, "to fill," the root of English "complete," "replete," and "plenty."

**eau** *water.* Eau comes from Latin aqua, "water," the root of English "aquarium" and "aqueduct," worn down over the centuries through Old French eve into a word pronounced simply "o."

**entre** (entrer) *between, among.* Entrer comes from Latin intrare, "to go in," from intra, "within," the source of English "enter."

**emportés** *hot-tempered, quick to anger; carried away.* Emporté is the past participle of emporter, en-, "away," plus porter, "to carry," from Latin portare, the root of English "portable" and "transport."

À partir de 1943, Bletchley Park lisait une grande partie des communications allemandes presque en temps réel. L'information produite portait le nom de code « Ultra ». Les commandants alliés connaissaient souvent la position exacte des sous-marins dans l'Atlantique, les plans de transport de l'armée allemande en Afrique du Nord, et la disposition des défenses allemandes avant l'invasion de la Normandie en juin 1944. Les historiens estiment que ce travail a réduit la durée de la guerre de deux ans environ et a sauvé des millions de personnes.

**partir** *to leave, depart.*

**temps** *time; weather.* Temps comes from Latin tempus, "time," the root of English "temporary," "contemporary," and "tempo," and of the motto "tempus fugit," "time flies."

**portait** *to carry; to wear.* Porter comes from Latin portare, "to carry," the root of English "portable," "transport," "import," and "export."

**nom** *name.* Nom comes from Latin nomen, "name," the root of English "noun," "nominate," and "nominal."

**environ** *about, around, approximately.* Environ is en, "in," plus viron, "a turn," from virer, "to turn," the source of English "veer."

Le secret a été absolu. À la fin de la guerre, presque neuf mille personnes travaillaient à Bletchley Park, en grande majorité des femmes. Aucune n'a parlé, ni pendant la guerre, ni après. Leurs familles ne savaient rien. Quand la victoire est arrivée, Churchill a ordonné la destruction des bombes. Les machines ont été démontées, les documents détruits ou classés secrets pour des décennies. Le gouvernement britannique a même vendu des machines Enigma capturées à d'autres nations pendant les années 1950, sans jamais révéler que le code était vulnérable.

**neuf** *nine; also, as a separate word, new.* Neuf, "nine," comes from Latin novem, the root of "November," the ninth month of the old Roman year.

**mille** *thousand.* Mille is Latin mille, "thousand," unchanged, the root of "million" and "millennium."

**travaillaient** *to work.* Travailler is traditionally traced to Latin tripalium, a three-staked device used for torture, and in Old French it meant "to suffer, to toil."

**aucune** *no, none, not any.* Aucun comes from Latin aliquis unus, "some one," fused into a single word.

**ni** *nor, neither.* Ni comes from Latin nec, "and not," built on ne, "not."

**autres** *other.*

**années** *year.* Année comes from Vulgar Latin annata, from annus, "year," the root of English "annual" and "anniversary," the year turning round again.

Le secret a tenu jusqu'en 1974, quand un ancien officier britannique a publié le premier livre sur Ultra. Beaucoup des hommes et des femmes de Bletchley Park étaient déjà morts, sans que personne, pas même leurs enfants, sache ce qu'ils avaient accompli.

**tenu** (tenir) *held.* Tenir comes from Latin tenere, "to hold," the root of English "tenant," the one who holds a property, "tenacious," and "contain," "maintain," and "obtain."

**livre** *book (and, as a different word, the pound, both in weight and currency).* Le livre, "book," comes from Latin liber, "book," the root of English "library."

**déjà** *already.* Déjà is dès, "since," plus jà, "already," from Latin iam, "now, already."

**enfants** *child.* Enfant comes from Latin infans, "unable to speak," from in-, "not," and fari, "to speak," the source of English "infant."

**sache** (savoir) *know, as in "that I may know.".*

# Words from this story

Every explained word, by its dictionary form. Cover the right side and test yourself.

**ajouter** To add
**allemand** German
**an** Year
**année** Year
**appeler** To call
**après** After
**aucun** No, none, not any
**autre** Other
**avant** Before, in front of
**avoir** To have
**bâtiment** Building
**beaucoup** A lot, much
**bientôt** Soon
**bout** End, tip
**bruyant** Noisy, loud
**celui** the one, him
**centaine** About a hundred, a hundred or so
**chaque** Each, every
**chercher** To search, to look for
**cinq** Five
**clé** Key
**comme** As, like, how
**connaître** to know, to be acquainted with
**couler** To flow; to sink
**courir** to run
**déjà** Already
**depuis** Since, from (a point in time)
**deux** Two
**deuxième** Second
**devenir** to become
**deviner** to guess
**dix** Ten
**donner** To give
**durer** To last, to endure
**eau** Water
**échec** failure, setback; check (in chess)
**écrire** To write
**emporté** hot-tempered, quick to anger; carried away
**enfant** Child
**ensuite** Then, next, afterward
**entrer** To enter
**envahir** to invade
**environ** About, around, approximately
**façon** Way, manner
**faire** To do, to make
**femme** Woman, wife
**fois** Time, occasion (as in "once," "twice")
**français** French
**fuir** to flee
**guerre** War
**homme** Man, human being
**inutile** Useless
**jamais** Never; ever
**jeune** Young
**jour** Day
**juillet** July
**lire** To read
**livre** Book (and, as a different word, the pound, both in weight and currency)
**lui** Him, to him, her, to her
**maintenant** Now
**marin** Sailor; also of the sea
**matin** Morning
**même** Same, self
**mer** Sea
**mille** Thousand
**millier** a thousand, thousands of
**minuit** Midnight
**mois** Month
**mot** Word
**navire** Ship
**neuf** Nine; also, as a separate word, new
**ni** Nor, neither
**nom** Name
**nouveau** New
**nuit** Night
**ouvrir** To open
**parmi** Among
**partir** To leave, depart
**pendant** During; a pendant (hanging ornament)
**perdre** To lose
**phrase** Sentence
**plusieurs** Several
**porter** To carry; to wear
**pouvoir** To be able, can; power
**premier** First
**presque** Almost, nearly
**puissant** Powerful

**quand** When
**quatrième** Fourth
**quelque** Some
**recevoir** To receive
**remplir** To fill, to fill up, to fulfill
**rendre** To give back, to render, to make someone or something a certain way
**rien** Nothing
**sans** Without
**savoir** To know
**selon** According to, in keeping with
**semaine** Week
**sept** Seven
**seul** Alone, only, single
**si** If; yes, used to contradict a negative
**siècle** Century
**sous** Under, below
**souvent** Often
**sud** South
**tard** Late
**temps** Time; weather
**tenir** To hold
**travail** Work
**travailler** To work
**trois** Three
**troisième** Third
**trouver** To find
**vendre** To sell
**vers** Toward; also, a line of verse
**vingt** Twenty
**vingtième** Twentieth
**vitesse** Speed
**voir** To see
**voisin** Neighbor
**vouloir** To want, to wish


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