

WHAT ARE THE DELF AND DALF?

DELF = *Diplôme Élémentaire de la Langue Française*

DALF = *Diplôme Avancé de la Langue Française*

The DELF and DALF are a set of official French proficiency tests administered by the *Centre international d'étude pédagogiques*. In addition to allowing you to opt out of a French university's language entrance exam, having one of these French certifications looks good on your resumé. If you are interested in obtaining an official document proclaiming your French language skills, keep reading.

The DELF and DALF are the French equivalent of the English proficiency test TOEFL,* but the tests for these two languages are quite different. TOEFL certification, which is offered by Educational Testing Services, requires that candidates take a 2- to 4-hour test, after which they receive a TOEFL score indicating their level of proficiency. In contrast, the DELF/DALF certification consists of multiple levels. Rather than a score, DELF/DALF candidates work to obtain one of seven diplômes from the Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche:

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|------------|------------|
| 1. DELF A1 | 4. DELF B2 |
| 2. DELF A2 | 5. DALF C1 |
| 3. DELF B1 | 6. DALF C2 |

Each of these certificates tests the four language proficiencies (reading, writing, listening, and speaking), based on the levels of the [Cadre européen de référence pour les langues](#). There is no score; the French speaker's proficiency is identified by the highest certificate s/he has obtained. The diplomas are independent, meaning you do not need to take all seven - proficient speakers can start at whatever higher level they qualify for. Younger French learners are offered similar but separate tests: [DELF, version junior](#) and [DELF scolaire](#).

For details about DELF/DALF, including descriptions of the tests in each unit; access to [sample topics](#); and information about test centers (in some 150 countries), schedules, and fees, please visit [official DELF/DALF website](#).

The [Alliance française](#) and many other French schools offer DELF/DALF preparation classes as well as the exams themselves, and the [Centre national d'enseignement à distance](#) (CNED) offers correspondence courses in DELF/DALF preparation.

BELOW IS THE LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING TESTING CENTERS IN THE NORTHWEST:

Oregon:

The DELF/DALF is offered at the French American International School of Portland (FAIS).

Contact information:

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(503) 292-9111 extension: 602

California:

The DELF/DALF is currently offered at:

Alliance Française de Pasadena

Information: <http://www.afdepasadena.org>

Class schedules and registration material can be found under "outreach programs". Offered fall, winter, spring, and summer quarters.

The DELF/DALF will be offered at the Alliance Française de Los Angeles in spring 2010:

<http://www.learnhowtospeakfrench.org/testsdiplomas.html>

as well as the Alliance Française de San Francisco in fall 2009: www.afsf.com

British Columbia:

The DELF/DALF is currently offered at:

Alliance Française de Vancouver

Information: http://www.alliancefrancaise.ca/french_vancouver/tests_exams/delf_dalf_vancouver.php

Brochure: http://www.alliancefrancaise.ca/french_vancouver/tests_exams/DELFDALF_Brochure.pdf