



## Revision of a Non-Specialised Translation: List of Error Categories for Candidates (English into French)

The translation includes errors at word, phrase or sentence level across the following categories:

Error Category	Examples of Errors
<p>1. <b>Distortion:</b> An element of meaning in the source text is altered in the target text.</p> <p>A distortion can occur in an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p><b>a) Source language text:</b> <i>This week</i> the government announced that all public servants would get a pay rise. <b>Correct version:</b> <i>Cette semaine, le gouvernement a annoncé que tous les fonctionnaires recevraient une augmentation.</i> <b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Le gouvernement a annoncé que tous les fonctionnaires recevraient une augmentation cette semaine.</i> (Moving 'cette semaine' at the end of the sentence changes the time reference of the pay rise announcement, thereby distorting the meaning of the target text.)</p>
	<p><b>b) Source language text:</b> The witness described the thief as a young man with <u>blond</u> hair. <b>Correct version:</b> <i>Le témoin a décrit le voleur comme étant un jeune homme aux cheveux <u>blonds</u></i> <b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Le témoin a décrit le voleur comme étant un jeune homme aux cheveux <u>blancs</u></i> (Incorrect translation of the adjective, thereby altering the meaning of the target text.)</p>
<p>2. <b>Unjustified omission:</b> An element of meaning in the source text is not transferred into the target text.</p> <p>An unjustified omission can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p><b>Source language text:</b> Net emissions of greenhouse gases <u>from human activities</u> increased by 35 percent from 1990 to 2010. <b>Correct version:</b> <i>Les émissions nettes de gaz à effet de serre <u>liées aux activités humaines</u> ont augmenté de 35 pour cent entre 1990 et 2010.</i> <b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Les émissions nettes de gaz à effet de serre ont augmenté de 35 pour cent entre 1990 et 2010.</i> (Omission of the underlined clause results in a major loss of meaning in the context of the whole sentence.)</p>



<p>3. <b>Unjustified insertion:</b> An element of meaning that does not exist in the source text is added to the target text.</p> <p>An unjustified insertion can occur with an individual word, phrase, clause or entire sentence.</p>	<p><b>Source language text:</b> <i>People leaving the workforce at 65 will enjoy a financially secure future.</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> <i>Les personnes qui prennent leur retraite à 65 ans bénéficieront d'un avenir sûr sur le plan financier.</i></p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Les personnes qui prennent leur retraite à 65 ans bénéficieront d'un avenir sûr sur le plan financier, <u>quelle que soit leur espérance de vie.</u></i></p> <p>(The underlined words were not found in the original text, nor were they implied, and inserting them has a major impact on the transfer of meaning.)</p>
<p>4. <b>Inappropriate register:</b> An expression or variety of language considered by a native speaker to be inappropriate to the specific context in which it is used.</p>	<p>a) <b>Source language text:</b> <i>The Court <u>handed down</u> a three-month suspended sentence.</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> <i>Le Tribunal <u>a prononcé</u> une condamnation de trois mois avec sursis.</i></p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Le Tribunal <u>a proposé</u> une condamnation de trois mois avec sursis.</i></p> <p>(‘Prononcer’ in French belongs to the legal register whilst ‘proposer’ doesn’t.)</p> <p>b) <b>Source language text:</b> [in minutes of board meeting] <i>The Chairman expressed his <u>extreme displeasure.</u></i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> <i>Le Président a exprimé <u>son extrême mécontentement.</u></i></p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Le Président a expliqué qu’il était très <u>en colère.</u></i></p> <p>(The phrase “qu’il était très <u>en colère</u>” conveys the correct meaning but is too informal in this context.)</p>
<p>5. <b>Unidiomatic expression:</b> An expression sounding unnatural or awkward to a native speaker irrespective of the context in which the expression is used, but the intended meaning can be understood.</p>	<p>a) <b>Source language text:</b> <i>Traffic is a <u>massive</u> issue in many cities.</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> <i>La circulation représente un problème <u>considérable</u> dans de nombreuses villes.</i></p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>La circulation représente un problème <u>massif</u> dans de nombreuses villes.</i></p> <p>(In this context, the word “<i>considérable</i>” is more commonly used, but “<i>massif</i>” can still be understood.)</p> <p>b) <b>Source language text:</b> <i>The GPS took him to the wrong place.</i></p> <p><b>Correct version:</b> <i>Le GPS l’a emmené au mauvais endroit.</i></p> <p><b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Le GPS l’a emmené à la mauvaise place.</i></p> <p>(The noun “<i>place</i>” in French refers to a “<i>seat</i>”, a “<i>town square</i>” or a “<i>space</i>”; the noun “<i>endroit</i>” in French should be used to refer to a location but the meaning can be understood if “<i>place</i>” is used instead.)</p>



<b>6. Error of grammar, syntax:</b> Error in structuring words, clauses and phrases of a language. E.g. incorrect word type/form; incorrect verb tense/form; agreement error between subject- verb, noun-pronoun, adjective- noun, etc.	<b>a) Source language text:</b> <i>The patient presented several symptoms among which <u>fever</u></i> <b>Correct version:</b> <i>Le patient présentait différents symptômes notamment de <u>la fièvre</u></i> <b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Le patient présentait différents symptômes notamment <u>fiévreux</u></i> (Incorrect word form, i.e. use of adjective instead of noun)
	<b>b) Source language text:</b> <i>Last month he <u>declared</u> that...</i> <b>Correct version:</b> <i>Le mois dernier, il <u>a déclaré</u> que...</i> <b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Le mois dernier, il <u>déclare</u> que...</i> (Incorrect verb tense, i.e. present tense instead of past tense)
	<b>c) Source language text:</b> <i><u>Side effects affect</u> many patients</i> <b>Correct version:</b> <i>Les effets secondaires affectent de nombreux patients</i> <b>Incorrect version:</b> <i><u>Les effets secondaire affecte</u> de nombreux patients</i> (Agreement error between noun and adjective and use of singular verb form instead of plural)
	<b>d) Source language text:</b> <i>He picked up a chair and put <u>it</u> on the table</i> <b>Correct version:</b> <i>Il a pris une chaise et l'<u>a mise</u> sur la table</i> <b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Il a pris une chaise et l'<u>a mis</u> sur la table</i> (Incorrect agreement of “mis” as it refers to “chaise”. The past participle compounded with “avoir” agrees with the direct object coming before the verb. In this case, the direct object is “l” and it refers to “chaise” that’s why the past participle “mis” should agree and be “mise”)
	<b>e) Source language text:</b> <i>They <u>provided them</u> with the required information</i> <b>Correct version:</b> <i>Ils <u>leur ont fourni</u> les informations requises</i> <b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Ils <u>les ont fourni</u> les informations requises</i> (The indirect object pronoun “leur” is required because “fournir à” is an indirect verb; the direct object pronoun “les” can only be used with direct verbs)



<p>7. <b>Error of spelling:</b> Error in forming words with letters or characters. E.g. misspelling of a word/character, incorrect capitalisation.</p>	<p><b>Source language text:</b> <i>He went to the United States last year.</i> <b>Correct version:</b> <i>Il est allé aux <u>États-Unis</u> l'année dernière.</i> <b>Incorrect version:</b> <i>Il est allé aux <u>États unis</u> l'année dernière.</i> (Capitalisation error, "États-Unis" bears 2 capital letters and is hyphenated in French.)</p>
<p>8. <b>Error of punctuation:</b> Error in use of marks that separate sentences and their elements, and clarify meaning. E.g. incorrect comma, full-stop, apostrophe, inverted commas, etc.</p>	<p><b>Source language text:</b> <i><u>The government</u> will change its policy on the taxation of companies.</i> <b>Correct version:</b> <i><u>Le gouvernement</u> changera sa politique sur la fiscalité des entreprises.</i> <b>Incorrect version:</b> <i><u>Le gouvernement,</u> changera sa politique sur la fiscalité des entreprises.</i> (Incorrect comma usage, i.e. the comma incorrectly separates the subject from its verb.)</p>