

GRAMMAR OF SOLRESOL

or

the Universal Language of François SUDRE

by BOLESLAS GAJEWSKI, *Professor*

[M. Vincent GAJEWSKI, professor, d. Paris in 1881, is the father of the author of this Grammar. He was for thirty years the president of the Central committee for the study and advancement of **Solresol**, a committee founded in Paris in 1869 by Madame SUDRE, widow of the Inventor.]

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I. Introduction

In all the business of life, people must understand one another.

But how is it possible to understand foreigners, when there are around three thousand different languages spoken on earth?

For everyone's sake, to facilitate travel and international relations, and to promote the progress of beneficial science, a language is needed that is easy, shared by all peoples, and capable of serving as a means of interpretation in *all* countries.

This common language would save the time and money that one has to spend if one wishes to learn only a few foreign languages--for merely choosing one to study is hard; the study is difficult, and it does no good if you have to go to another country whose language you do not know.

Today, with travel being so rapid, a second language, accessible to everyone, becomes more indispensable with every passing day.

This international language of universal communication exists, and all that is now needed is a little willingness on everyone's part to learn it, practice it, and spread it throughout the world.

II. General Concepts of Solresol

François SUDRE, who was born in Albi and died in Paris in 1862, invented a very simple language in order to eliminate the need to study foreign languages.

To avoid giving any national language an advantage, François SUDRE created a language that does not resemble any other, and, as a result, is absolutely neutral.

In order not to excite rivalry and jealousy among the Nations, he created a neutral language, built entirely on the seven syllables of Music, which are known in all countries: **Do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, si.**

It is absolutely unnecessary to be familiar with music to learn and to speak this language that will become common to all Nations, because it is neutral, very simple, very easy to pronounce, easy to read and write properly.

Indeed, everyone will realize that its orthography does not require more than a single minute's study.

This Language, called **SOLRESOL**, is no more French than German, no more English than Russian, no more Spanish than Turkish, no more Latin than Chinese.

Of course, the French will always speak French, the English will always speak English, the Russians will always speak Russian, etc., but **Solresol** will be the common link, the universal means of communicating one's thoughts, in speech or even without speech, from afar as well as up close, in secrecy as well as in broad daylight.

Thus by means of **Solresol**, the blind will be able to exchange ideas with foreign deaf-mutes and vice-versa, so everyone will be able to answer them and be understood by them.

There are in Europe more than 250,000 blind people and more than 210,000 deaf-mutes; there are thus 460,000 individuals, in Europe alone, who possess scarcely any means of communicating with everyone else, and who, thanks to Sudre's SOLRESOL, will be brought back into everyday life and see the inconveniences of their disability reduced.

The universal language, invented by François Sudre, has been approved by all the divisions of the Institut de Français, by the academies of Metz, Rouen and Bordeaux, by the Juries of the Universal Expositions of Byis in 1855 and of London in 1862, by several learned Societies, by nineteen official and governmental Commissions and by men such as: Arago, Tissot, de Lamartine, de Humboldt, Chérubini, Flourens, Auber, Halévy, Babinet, Baron Taylor, Littré, Victor Hugo, de Freycinet, etc., etc.

IIIa. Words of One Syllable

Words are formed from one, two, three and four syllables.

One can write just **d** for **do**; **r** for **re**; **m** for **mi**; **f** for **fa**; **so** for **sol**; **l** for **la**; **s** for **si**.

Here are the words of just one syllable:

Do means *no, not, neither, nor*;

Re, and, as well as;

Mi, or, or even;

Fa to

Sol, if;

La, the;

Si, yes, okay, gladly, agreed.

IIIb. Words of Two Syllables

Dore or **Dr**, I, me;

DI, one, someone;

Ds, other.

Dm, you [sg]

Dso, self, oneself;

Redo or **rd**, *my, mine*;

Rl, *your, yours [pl]*

Rs, *their*.

Rf, *his*;

Rm, *your, yours [sg]*;

Rso, *our, ours*;

Mido or **md**, *for, in order to/that*;

Mso, *well (adv)*;

MI, *here/there is, behold*;

Ms, *good evening/night*.

Mr, *who, which (rel pron); that (conj)*;

Mf, *whose, of which*;

Fado or **fd**, *what?*;

Fso, *why, for what reason*;

FI, *good, tasty, delectable*;

Fs, *much, very, extremely*.

Fr, *with, jointly*;

Fm, *this, that*;

Soldo or **sod**, *but*;

Sof, *because*;

Som, *wrong, ill (adv)*;

Sol (**solla**), *perpetually, always, without end, without ceasing*;

Sor, *in, within*;

Sos, *thank, thanks*.

Lado or **ld**, *nothing, no one, nobody*;

Lm, *here, there*;

Lf, *bad*;

Ls, *of*.

Lso, *never, at no time*;

Lr, *by*;

Sido or **sd**, *the same (thing)*;

Sso, *mister, sir*;

Sso⁻, *madame, lady*;

SI, *young man, bachelor*;

SI⁻, *young woman, etc.*

Sr, *each, every*;

Sr, *all*;

Sm, *good morning/afternoon*;

Sf, *little, scarcely*;

IV. Suppression of Synonyms

The same word in **Solresol** signifies all the words that mean the same thing.

Thus, there is just one word **solla** to express *always, without ceasing, perpetually, without end*. Just one word **mifala** (**mfl**) to express *desire, long for, wish for*. The one word **dosido** (**dsd**) signifies *aid, help, assist, come to one's aid*. The word **refasi** (**rfs**) means *respond, reply, answer, retort*. The word **ladomido** (**ldmd**) signifies *establish, institute, set up*.

V. Reversed meanings

Solresol offers an advantage not found in any other language: it expresses the opposite meaning by reversing the word, syllable by syllable.

EXAMPLES:

Misol , <i>good</i>	Solmi , <i>evil.</i>
Fala , <i>good, tasty</i>	Lafa , <i>bad.</i>
Solla , <i>always</i>	Lasol , <i>never.</i>
Fs , <i>much, very</i>	Sf , <i>little, scarcely.</i>
Msso , <i>good fortune, happiness</i>	Sosm , <i>misfortune.</i>
Sols , <i>climb, ascend</i>	Siso , <i>descend.</i>
Sosf , <i>laugh</i>	Fsso , <i>weep, sob.</i>
Sml , <i>ease</i>	Lms , <i>difficulty.</i>
Dldm , <i>accept, consent</i>	Mldd , <i>refuse, reject.</i>
Fsms , <i>advance</i>	Smsf , <i>draw back, retreat.</i>

VI. Important Note

When speaking **Solresol**, one should take great care to pause after every word; this slight pause is necessary to separate the words, so that the listener does not become confused but understands easily.

From the first lesson, one must get used to isolating every word distinctly. We advise students to learn to speak slowly.

(It is absolutely unnecessary to be familiar with music to learn SOLRESOL).

VII. Word groups

To make the words in **Solresol** easy to learn, François SUDRE classed them by order of ideas and by groups of six words.

Examples:

Doredo or drd , <i>time;</i>	Drso , <i>month;</i>
Drm , <i>day;</i>	Drl , <i>year;</i>
Drf , <i>week;</i>	Drs , <i>century.</i>
Dosoldo or dsod , <i>be hungry;</i>	Dsof , <i>be thirsty;</i>
Dsor , <i>eat;</i>	Dsol , <i>drink;</i>
Dsom , <i>bread;</i>	Dsos , <i>water.</i>
Domiredo or dmrdr , <i>the five senses;</i>	Dmrso , <i>taste;</i>
Dmrm , <i>see;</i>	Dmrl , <i>feel;</i>
Dmrf , <i>touch, feel, handle;</i>	Dmrs , <i>hear.</i>

Dofalado or **dfl**, *candor, sincerity*;
Dflr, *goodness, kindness*;
Dflm, *sensitivity, impressionableness*;

Dflf, *cordiality*;
Dflso, *generosity, unselfishness*;
Dfls, *humanity, mercy*.

Lafadore or **lfdr**, *counting*;
Lfdm, *addition*;
Lfdf, *subtraction*;

Ldfso, *multiplication*;
Lfdl, *division*;
Lfds, *division, share*.

VIII. Classification of ideas: 1° Simple notes

In the preceding examples, one can see that the words composed of one, two and three syllables are used for the particles, for the pronouns, and to express the most necessary and frequent ideas.

The words of four syllables are arranged by classes.

The class of **DO** belongs to man, to his faculties, to his good qualities and to food.

EXAMPLES:

Dmfd, *man, human being*;
Dmsof, *intelligence*;
Dmlr, *pronounce*;
Dfmr, *quality*;

Dfsf, *conscience*;
Dlfr, *food, nourishment*;
Dssof, *cooking*.

The class of **RE** is for clothing, the house, furniture, housekeeping and the family.

EXAMPLES:

Rdfs, *clothing, dress*;
Rdrf, *shirt, blouse*;
Rmfl, *house*;
Rmfs, *dwelling, habitation, residence,*
apartment;

Rfdm, *furniture*;
Rsosr, *work*;
Rldr, *washing, laundry*;
Rsdso, *family*;
Rdsd, *father*.

The class of **MI** is used for the words concerning man's actions, especially his flaws.

EXAMPLES:

Mdfl, *abandon, leave, desert*;
Mdsod, *fear, doubt, hold back*;
Mrdl, *undertake*;
Mfrd, *selfishness*;

Mfmf, *laziness*;
Mlrl, *slander*;
Msmf, *responsibility*;
Msfd, *indiscretion*.

[edit] **FA** are [edit] set apart for the country, agriculture, war, the sea, and travel.

EXAMPLES:

Fdrm , <i>country(side);</i>	Fmfl , <i>regiment;</i>
Fdsd , <i>gardening, horticulture;</i>	Fsomr , <i>strategy, tactic;</i>
Frdr , <i>agriculture;</i>	Fldr , <i>navigate, sail;</i>
Frdf , <i>work the land, furrow;</i>	Fsdr , travel;
Frmf , <i>harvest, gather, glean;</i>	Fssor , <i>travel through, sightsee.</i>

The words beginning with **SOL** have to do with theater, literature, fine arts, and science.

EXAMPLES:

Sodrm , <i>theater;</i>	Somsos , <i>harmony;</i>
Sodsd , <i>orchestra;</i>	Soldl , <i>painting, watercolor;</i>
Sodsr , <i>instrument;</i>	Solmf , <i>sculpture;</i>
Somsor , <i>music;</i>	Sosdr , <i>literature, letters.</i>

[edit] **LA** are reserved for expressions used primarily in industry and commerce.

EXAMPLES:

Ldrd , <i>industry;</i>	Lfsod , <i>cash [on hand], money;</i>
Ldrm , <i>make, manufacture;</i>	Lfsol , <i>franc;</i>
Ldrf , <i>material, substance;</i>	Lfsos , <i>centime;</i>
Ldrso , <i>produce;</i>	Lfld , @
Ldrl , <i>sell, retail;</i>	Lflf , <i>liter;</i>
Ldrs , <i>in bulk, wholesale;</i>	Lfsf , <i>gram;</i>
Ldmr , <i>shop, store;</i>	Lsorf , <i>meter;</i>
Lrdl , <i>buy, acquire, gain possession of;</i>	Lsomr , <i>sample;</i>
Lsofr , <i>exposition, exhibition;</i>	Lsofd , <i>display (area/things);</i>
Lrfr , <i>propose, offer;</i>	Lsofm , <i>assortment, set;</i>
Lmlf , <i>merchandise;</i>	Lsmso , <i>notions (store).</i>

[edit] **SI** words [edit]: the city, administration, government, politics, finance, and police.

EXAMPLES:

Sdms , <i>municipality;</i>	Srsl , <i>republic;</i>
Srdr , <i>government;</i>	Smdl , <i>newspaper, journal, gazette;</i>
Srdso , <i>election;</i>	Sfmr , <i>internationalism;</i>
Srsd , <i>diplomacy;</i>	Ssomr , <i>finance;</i>
Srsr , <i>politics;</i>	Slmd , <i>police.</i>

IX. Classification of Ideas: 2° Repeated notes

There are also words of two, three and four syllables, with two notes repeated immediately one after the other.

These words are listed separately in the dictionary; they are likewise arranged by order of action, by families, by classes.

The words **dd, rr, mm, ff, soso, ll, ss** serve to indicate the moods and tenses of verbs.
(See below under [XV. Verbs.](#))

The words of three syllables are employed for numbers, the months of the year, the days of the week, and temperature [weather conditions].

EXAMPLES:

Rdd , <i>one, first;</i>	Sosod , <i>Monday;</i>
Rmm , <i>two, second;</i>	Sosor , <i>Tuesday;</i>
Rff , <i>three, third;</i>	Lff , <i>snow;</i>
Drr , <i>January;</i>	Ssd , <i>rain;</i>
Dmm , <i>February;</i>	Ssl , <i>heat, warmth.</i>

The words of four syllables beginning with **DO** are dedicated to [religion].

EXAMPLES:

Ddsod , <i>gospel, bible;</i>	Dmss , <i>superstition.</i>
Dffd , <i>Easter;</i>	

The words of four syllables beginning with **RE** relate to construction and different trades.

EXAMPLES:

Rrdrr , <i>construction;</i>	Rsorr , <i>pliers, pincers;</i>
Rrdll , <i>masonry;</i>	Rsoff , <i>hammer;</i>
Rffm , <i>locksmiths;</i>	Rsdd , <i>equipment, tools.</i>
Rlld , <i>cabinet-work;</i>	

[edit] **MI** are employed for isolated adverbs, prepositions, and conjunctions.

EXAMPLES:

Mmdm , <i>however, nevertheless;</i>	Mdrr , <i>approximately, around, almost</i>
Mrrso , <i>gradually, imperceptibly, little by little</i>	

The words that contain repeated notes and begin with **FA** and **SOL** are employed for sickness and medicine.

EXAMPLES:

Ffdr , <i>be sick, feel ill;</i>	Fmrr , <i>camphor;</i>
Ffdm , <i>(medical) consultation;</i>	Fsll , <i>anatomy.</i>
Ffdf , <i>doctor;</i>	
Ffdso , <i>surgeon;</i>	Sosord , <i>migraine;</i>
Ffdl , <i>dentist;</i>	Soddf , <i>chillblain;</i>
Ffds , <i>oculist;</i>	Sollr , <i>@</i>
Ffrso , <i>pharmacist;</i>	Sofdd , <i>suffocation.</i>
Fmmd , <i>convalescence, recovery;</i>	

[edit] **LA** are used for commerce and industry, as in the simple (unrepeated) notes.

EXAMPLES:

Llrl , bookstore;	Lmmd , tinsmith's;
Llmd , printshop;	Lsodd , grocery store;
Llfd , watchmaker's;	Lsoss , flour;
Llrs , hardware store, iron-monger's;	Lsdd , butcher's.

The words beginning with **SI** are reserved for justice, the magistracy, and the courts.

EXAMPLES:

Ssdso , magistracy;	Ssif , imprisonment, incarceration.
Ssmd , testimony;	

X. Genders

The Universal Language has three genders:

Masculine, Feminine and Neuter.

One may distinguish between them very easily.

All *male* beings are of the *masculine* gender; All *female* beings are of the *feminine* gender; All material objects and abstractions, as well as beings whose sex is unknown, are of the *neuter* gender.

The words always remain invariable; they never undergo any change.

The feminine alone is indicated, in speech, by accenting the last vowel. One marks the feminine in writing by placing a small horizontal line (¯) over the final syllable. (Written here *after* the letter.)

EXAMPLES:

Masculine:	Feminine:
Sisol , Mr;	Sisool or Siso ¯ I, Mrs.;
Sila , Master [title], boy;	Silaa or Sila ¯ , Miss;
Msf , husband;	Msf ¯ , wife;
Ldm , pupil, student [m];	Ldm ¯ , pupil, student [m];
Dmfd , man;	Dmfd ¯ , woman;
Rsmr , brother;	Rsmr ¯ , sister;
Frsod , stallion;	Frsod ¯ , mare.

XI. Numbers

An acute accent (') placed on the final consonant marks the plural, and this accentuated consonant is pronounced by prolonging it, as if it were double.

EXAMPLES:

Singular:	Plural:
Rd _ˉ , <i>my, mine</i> [ms];	Rd' _ˉ , <i>my, mine</i> [mpl];
Rd _ˉ , <i>my, mine</i> [fs];	Rd' _ˉ , <i>my, mine</i> [fpl];
Sso _ˉ , <i>mister</i> ;	Ss'o _ˉ , <i>messers</i> ;
Sso _ˉ , <i>madame</i> ;	Ss'o _ˉ , <i>mesdames</i> ;
Fdso _ˉ , <i>signature</i> ;	Fds'o _ˉ , <i>signatures</i> ;
Fml _ˉ , <i>letter-carrier</i> ;	Fml' _ˉ , <i>letter-carriers</i> ;
Drmr _ˉ , <i>eye</i> ;	Drmr' _ˉ , <i>eyes</i> .

NOTE. -- When a word or phrase is preceded by one of the little words **f, l, rd, rm, rf, rso, rl, rs, mr, mf, fm**, these words alone take the mark of the feminine or plural; the other words that follow them do not need to receive this mark. They are perfectly understood.

EXAMPLES:

The stallions, l' frsod;
My brothers, rd' rsmr;
My sisters are dead, rd'ˉ rsmr frm rfmd;
These orphans (f) are not unhappy, fm'ˉ mdfso d frm sosm.

It is only when the noun is alone, isolated, that the sign of the feminine (ˉ) or of the plural (') is necessary on the noun itself.

EXAMPLES:

Horses, frsod'; *Sisters, rsmr'ˉ*;
Brothers, rsmr'; *Orphans [f], mdfs'oˉ* .

XII. Parts of speech

The same word in **SOLRESOL** expresses the verb, the noun or substantive, adjective and adverb. One distinguishes between them easily by an accent that moves according to the following fixed and invariable rule (in speaking, one prolongs the accented consonants, as if there were two) :

Mdf, *prefer* (no accent).
Mˉdf, *preference* (accent on the first syllable).
Mdˉf, *preferable* (accent on the next-to-last syllable).
Mdfˉ, *preferably* (accent on the last syllable).

Rsoml, *continuer* (no accent).

R̄soml, *continuation* (accent on the first syllable).

Rs̄oml, *one who continues* (accent on the second syllable).

Rsom̄l, *continual* (accent on the next-to-last syllable).

Rsoml̄, *continually* (accent on the last syllable).

XIII. Number of Words

Since a single word of **SOLRESOL** covers all the ideas that have the same meaning, with the two genders (masculine and feminine), and the principal parts of speech, it follows that with a few words, **SOLRESOL** contains all the ideas indispensable to man; it can express them clearly in all countries.

The Universal Language of SUDRE possesses:

7 words of one syllable;

49 -- of two syllables;

336 -- of three syllables;

2.268 -- of four syllables;

TOTAL 2.660 words that suffice to form a language that is quite complete, easily acceptable by all peoples for their most necessary international communications.

We repeat that it is unnecessary to be familiar with music to learn and speak the Universal Musical Language invented by M. François SUDRE.

We renew this recommendation:

In speech, it is necessary to pause slightly after every word in Solresol, so that the listener may distinguish the words.

XIV. Separation of Homonyms

When a word in a language has many **different** meanings, it is expressed in **Solresol** by just as many quite **different** words.

(Note: I [Rice] have left the homonyms in French and provided a translation; one could obviously find similar cases in English, but this would be beyond my knowledge of Solresol.)

EXAMPLES:

<i>Ton</i> (your), rm ;	<i>Le poste</i> (police station), sslfr ;
<i>Ton</i> (tone), somfso ;	<i>La bière</i> (beer), dsfr ;
<i>La poste</i> (mail), frl ;	<i>La bière</i> (bier), sosdd ;

XV. Verbs

Solresol verbs always have the same form (present infinitive).

EXAMPLE:

begin, sdf; *I begin, dr sdf*

To mark tenses and moods, one employs **dd, rr, mm, ff, soso, ll, ss**.

To abbreviate these forms in writing, one uses capital **D** in the place of **dd**, capital **R** for **rr**, **M** for **mm**, **F** for **ff**, **SO** for **soso**, **L** for **ll**, and **S** for **ss**.

D. indicates

1° The imperfect indicative: *I begin, dr D sdf*, etc.

2° The pluperfect indicative: *I had begun, dr D sdf*, etc.

R. indicates

1° The simple past: *I began, dr R sdf*, etc.

2° The anterior past: *[as soon as/when] I had begun, dr R sdf*, etc.

3° The imperfect subjunctive: *that I might/should begin, mr dr R sdf*, etc.

4° The pluperfect subjunctive: *that I might/should have begun, mr dr, R sdf*.

M. marks

1° The future: *I will begin, dr M sdf*, etc., etc.

2° The future perfect: *I will have begun, dr M sdf*, etc.

F. marks

1° The present conditional: *I would begin, dr F sdf*, etc.

2° The perfect conditional: *I would have begun, dr F sdf*, etc.

So. marks

The imperative: *Let's begin, SO sdf*.

L. indicates

1° The present participle: *beginning, L sdf*.

2° The past (perfect) participle: *having begun, L sdf*.

S. marks

The passive participle: *begun, S sdf*.

XVI. Subjunctive

The subjunctive mood is marked by placing the word **mr**, *that*, before the personal pronouns.

EXAMPLES:

That I should commence, mr dr sdf.

That you should finish, mr dm fds.

May he/it progress, mr df sdl.

May she learn, mr df⁻ sds.

That we should study, mr dr' sdso.

That you [pl] should accomplish, mr dm' dsf.

That they [not f] should work, mr df' rsosr.

That they [f] should come, mr df⁻ msod.

That you might write, mr dm R lmr.

We repeat this recommendation:

In speech, it is necessary to pause slightly after every word in SOLRESOL, so that the listener may distinguish the words.

XVII. Passive Verbs

We have just seen that the perfect tenses are conjugated without the aid of any auxiliary verb. Only in the *passive verbs* do we use the auxiliary verb *Be*, **frm**.

MODELS:

To be loved, frm mls.

To have been loved, frm mls.

I am loved, dr frm mls.

I have been loved, dr frm mls.

I was [being] detested, dr D frm slm.

I had been [being] detested, dr D frm slm.

I was detested, dr R frm slm.

I had been detested, dr R frm slm.

I will be understood, dr M frm flf.

I shall have been understood, dr M frm flf.

I would be understood, dr F frm flf.

I would have been understood, dr F frm flf.

Be accepted, frm dldm.

Let's be accepted, SO frm dldm.

That I should be refused, mr dr frm mdld.

That I should have received, mr dr frm msorso.

That I might be understood, mr dr R frm flf.

That I might have been understood, mr dr R frm flf.

Being understood, L frm flf. Having been understood, L frm flf.

Understood, S frm flf.

XVIII. Reflexive Verbs

One conjugates reflexive verbs by placing the second pronoun, that is, the pronoun complement, after the verb.

EXAMPLES:

I amuse myself, dr lsr dr.

You amuse yourself, dm lsr dm.

He amuses himself, df lsr dso.

She amuses herself, df⁻ lsr dso.

XIX. Impersonal Verbs

Here is the model for all impersonal verbs:

It is necessary, fld.

It is freezing/icy, lsoo.

It is raining, ssd.

It is windy, ssr.

It is snowing, lff.

It is foggy, lrr

There is thunder, ssoo

etc., etc.

It is [now] necessary, fld.

It will be windy, M ssr.

It was necessary, fld.

It will have been foggy, M lrr.

It was raining, D ssd.

It will be hot, F ssl.

It had snowed, D lff.

It shall have been cold, F lss.

It thundered, R ssoo.

It had been icy, R lsoo.

XX. (Interrogation and Negation)

To use a verb interrogatively, simply put the personal pronoun after the verb.

EXAMPLES:

Am I? frm-dr?

Do we study? sdso-dr?

Do you want [to/that]? fsf-dm?

Are you learning? sds-dm?

Does he understand? flf-df?

Do they love? mls-df'?

Negation is indicated by placing **d** before the word to be negated.

EXAMPLES:

I do not love, dr d mls.

Don't you want [to/that]? d fsf-dm?

Won't it rain? d M ssd so?

Why don't we continue this study? fso d F rsoml-dr' fm sd?

Let's not go there, d So frf lm,.

It is necessary never to act unwisely in order not to be sick, Lso fld fsol dsfd md d ffd.

XXI. Syntax

Solresol shortens phrases to make them logical, clear and easy to understand for all peoples:

1° Negation is indicated by a single word that is not repeated many times unnecessarily. (This relates to a quirk of French grammar irrelevant to English speakers (except those who use double negatives). I [Rice] have left the French originals to furnish example sentences.)

EXAMPLES:

Je ne veux pas partir, Dr d fsf fsor. I don't want to leave.

Nous n'allons jamais là, Dr' frf ls lm. We never go there.

Tu ne comprends pas leur lettre, Dm d flf rs fdm. You don't understand their letter.

2° One must be wary of phrases or constructions where one finds idioms and metaphors with figurative meanings; these phrases will not be understood by foreigners. **Solresol** must restore the proper, true, simple, clear meaning with precise words.

EXAMPLES:

Do not say: *get the drift (of)*, but: *understand*, **flf**.

Do not say: *how are you doing?* but: *Are you well?* **rdff?**

Do not say: *pass away*, say: *die*, **rfmd**.

Do not say: *have every hair in place*, say: *be correct*, **frm srso**.

On ne dira pas: *feel hollow*, say: *be hungry*, **dsod**.

3° One always places the adjective after the substantive.

So one never says: joyful baby, unhappy friend, honest citizen, good food; but:

Baby joyful, dmfsososr.

Friend unhappy, mdsossm.

Citizen honest, sdrd dfsso.

Food good, dlfr fl.

XXII. Fasi Sifa

Solresol uses these two words to indicate four modifications of the same idea.

1° **Fs** (*much, very*) placed before an adjective is *augmentative*.

Example: **fl**, *good*; **fs fl**, *very good*.

2° **Fs** placed after an adjective is the *superlative*.

Example: **fl fs**, *extremely good, the most delicious*.

3° **Sf** (*little, slight*), placed before an adjective is the *diminutive*.
Example: **Sf fl**, *somewhat good*.

4° **Sf** placed after an adjective is *double diminutive*.
Example: **fl sf**, *not very good, almost bad*.

It is the same for substantives.

EXAMPLES:

Ssr , <i>wind</i>	Sf ssr , <i>slight wind, breeze</i>
Fs ssr , <i>gale</i>	Ssr sf , <i>faint breeze, gentle breeze</i>
Ssr fs , <i>very strong wind, violent tempest,</i> <i>violent hurricane, cyclone</i>	

XXIII. Partitive

To express a certain indeterminate amount, a vague quantity, **Solresol** omits the partitive or indefinite words, as well as the article in the singular.

EXAMPLES:

*I would like **some** beer and **a** pastry,*
becomes:

*I would like beer and pastry, **dr mfl dsfr r dsrs**.*

*Give [me] a meter **of** muslin,*
becomes:

*Give [me] meter muslin, **rml rdd lsorf ldld**.*

The enemy has a very large number of troops,
becomes:

*enemy has troops much (in the superlative), **Sdm fmso fmfr fs**.*

To sum up, **Solresol** makes expression of thought concise and gives a brief, clear, true and precise translation that is perfectly accessible to all nations.

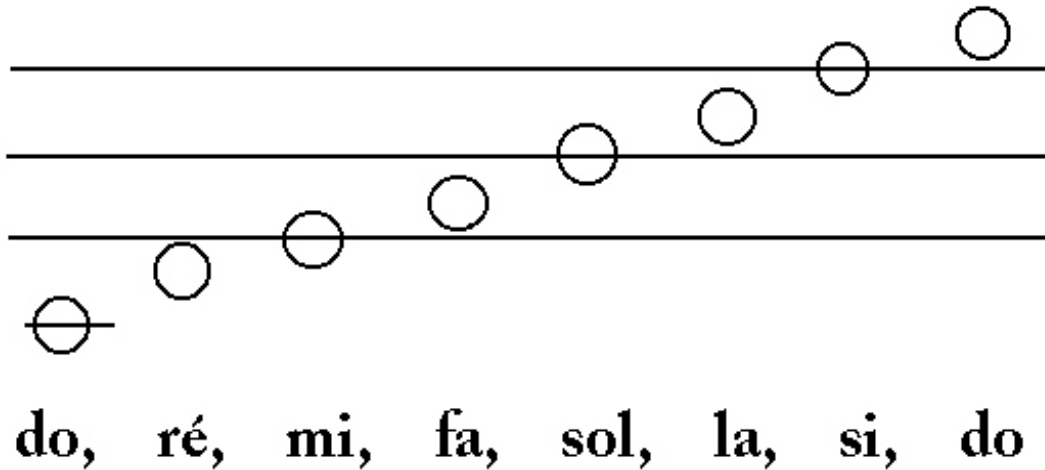
XXIV. Different Kinds of Writing

In **Solresol** one can write in many ways:

1° In all letters: **do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, si**

2° Omitting the vowels (except the **o** of **sol** to distinguish it from **si**): **d, r, m, f, so, l, s**.

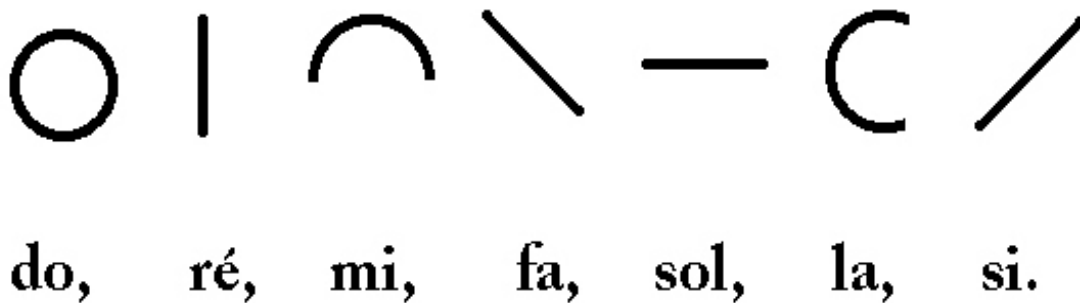
3° In notes on a musical scale of just three lines, without knowing music;




4° With the first seven numbers, representing the seven notes, the numbers being known in all countries.


1	2	3	4	5	6	7
do	re	mi	fa	sol	la	si


5° One can also write in a special **Solresol** stenography. This stenography, invented by Vincent Gajewski, is composed of only seven signs, one for every syllabe:





Note: These signs must be connected to form each word:


Mister, sso..... 

Language, sorso..... 


Want, fsf..... 


Give, rml..... 

Accomplish, dsf..... 

Experience, mssod... 

A double note is represented by crossing the sign:

Printshop, llmd..... 

December, rrs..... 

People who do not have the same letters that we do form the larger part of the earth's inhabitants, for example: Armenians, Russians, Turks, Egyptians, Persians, Arabs, Indians, Japanese, Annamites, Chinese, etc. etc., cannot write to us with French writing; these people cannot even decipher our French letters; but they can write very well in **Solresol** and read the musical scale, or in stenography that is extremely simple. For our part, we can read what they write or write to them by the same means.

XXV. Different ways of communicating

One can make himself understood in the Universal Language **Solresol**, not only by speaking out loud, but also without speaking, by night or by day, from near or far, on sea or on land.

This language provides a means for deaf-mutes of all countries to communicate with each other, with the blind, and with everyone else; and it does so likewise in many ways.

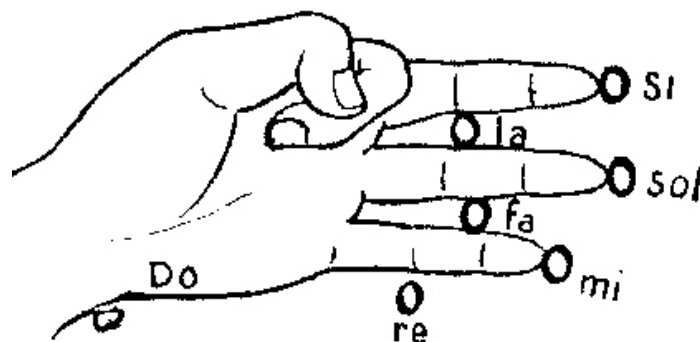
It can be spoken, written, silent and hidden; it can be practiced through mime, telegraphy, visual signs, stenography, sound, telephony, maritime signals and music:

1° It can be spoken aloud and no one will find its pronunciation difficult, in any country;

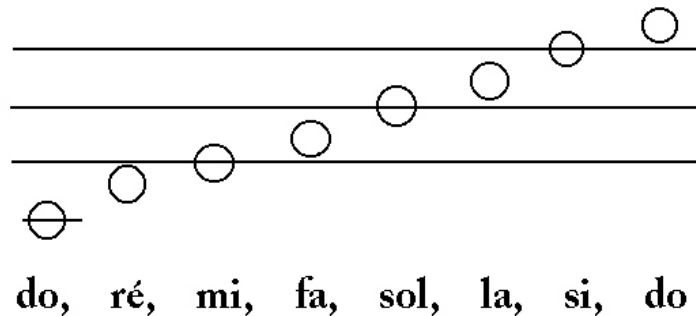
2° The preceding chapters give the five sorts of writing, all very easy;

3° **The Universal Mute or Sign Language** can be practiced by tracing in the air, with the hand, the seven stenographic signs. These signs are so simple that it is very easy. (For **do**, it is necessary to make a fist representing a ball or point. For the repeated notes, one makes the same sign two times with the hand.)

4° One can practice **Solresol** by touching with the right index finger the following places on the left hand:



One can see that the three extended fingers replace the three lines of the musical scale:



5° If communicating with someone who can hear, one can practice the Universal Language by making any kind of knocking or beating sound:

One knock for **d**.
Two knocks for **r**.
Three knocks for **m**.
Four knocks for **f**.
Five knocks for **so**.
Six knocks for **l**.
Seven knocks for **s**.

6° If dealing with someone who is familiar with music, one has an additional possibility, because he can practice **Solresol** by playing slowly, one by one, the notes on any kind of musical instrument, separating every word as needed;

7° The Universal Language can be practiced in some hidden way, that is to say covertly or secretly, in many circumstances. **First case.** -- To communicate the words he wishes to express, a deaf-mute can take the hand of a blind man and alternately press the fingers, as in the mute Universal Language;

8° **Second case.** -- Two people facing each other at a distance, as for example from one window to another, across a street or a square, can communicate using the stenographic symbols in such a way that only they can see them. In this manner, a prisoner can, through the bars of his window, express his thoughts to the outside world, and vice-versa.

9° One can make use of **Solresol** at sea, to communicate from one ship to another, or from a ship to a seaport, or vice-versa, and again in many ways: **First way.** -- By displaying from a distance enlarged versions of the stenographic signs or the first seven numbers--hollowed out and illuminated, if at night.

10° **Second way.** -- At night, by displaying bright lanterns or fires of these seven colors:

red for **d**.

orange for **r**.

yellow for **m**.

green for **f**.

blue for **so**.

indigo for **l**.

violet for **s**.

(These are, in order, the seven colors that one sees in a rainbow.)

11° **Third way.** -- At night, by shooting rockets of each of the seven colors listed above, always separating every syllable as needed, then pausing briefly between every word;

12° **Fourth way.** -- If one is something of a musician, he can be understood perfectly day or night by playing the notes, one by one, on a musical instrument loud enough to be heard to the required distance;

13° **Fifth way.** -- By knocking, whistling, sounding or beating a drum, a bell, a whistle, a hunting horn, a pistol, a rifle, a cannon, etc., depending on the distance, always one blow for **d**, two blows for **r**, three blows for **m**, four blows for **f**, etc.

Those persons who wish to support the useful exposition of SOLRESOL are earnestly requested to join the «SOLRESOL» Society (6 francs per year).

Write to the Treasurer: Sso LAROY, 103, Rue de la Temple, Paris.

XXVI. Brief Extract from the Dictionary of SOLRESOL

[Here is the Swadesh list for Solresol. Absent words are likewise included. Words marked with (*) are not Swadesh, but comparatively close.

All the others words are found in the **Double Dictionnaire de la Langue Universelle** by François SUDRE, the price of which is 5 francs. [This English translation is an edit of Stephen L. Rice 1997: <http://www.ptialaska.net/~srice/solresol/sorsolxe.htm>]

English-Solresol Swadesh List

The Solresol entries are in abbreviated form: d(o), r(e), m(i), f(a), so(l), l(a), s(i).
French originals are given after the Solresol definition]

A

all **imsos** tout
and **r** et, ainsi que
animal
ashes
at, to **f** à
at (someone's house), with **mmsor** chez

B

back
bad **som** mal
bad **lf** mauvais
bark
because **sof** parce que
belly
big
bird
bite
black **sodrl** noir
blood
blow (v), wind (n), **ssr** venter; vente (il -)
bone
breast
breathe
burn

C

child **dmfso** enfant
cloud
cold (it is -) **lss** faire froid
come **msod** venir
comfort, relieve **fdss** soulager
correct **srsso**
count (v) **lrlr** compter
cut, knife (n) **rfsso** couper, couteau

D

day **drm** jour, la journée
dead, die **rfmd** mort; mourir
dig
dirty
*do, bring about **fsol** faire, commettre
dog **frsr** chien
drink (v) **dsol** boire

E

ear
earth **ddr** terre
eat **dsor** manger
egg **dsds** oeuf
eye **drmr** oeil

F

fall **ssosl** tomber
far
fat (n)
father **rsds** père, papa
fear, be afraid of **mdsod** craindre, appréhender, redouter
feather
few
fight
fingernail
fire **rfsod** feu; incendie
fish
five **rll** cinq
float
flow
flower
fly (v)
fog (be foggy) **lrr** faire du brouillard
foot

forest
 four **rsoso** quatre
 freeze
 fruit **dsrl**
 full

G

give **rml** donner
 give back, repay **lsorl** rendre
 good, delicious **fl** bon, savoureux, délectable
 good (adj and abstract n) **mso** bien
 goodness, gentleness **dflr** bonté, mansuétude
 grass
 green **lrmf** vert (couleur)
 guts

H

hair **drdso** cheveux
 hand
 he, him **df** il; lui
 head **drdf** tête
 hear **dmrs** entendre, ouïr
 heart
 here, there **lm** ici, là
 hit
 hold, seize **rlfs** tenir
 horn
 how much/many **mddr** combien
 hunt
 husband, marriage **msf** mari, époux; mariage

I

I, me, we, us **dr** nous; je; moi
 ice, freeze **lsoso** glace; geler
 if **so** si (condition)
 in **sor** en, dans

K

kill **ssosf** tuer
 knee
 know (a fact) **solsr** savoir
 know (person) **rdso** connaître

L

lake
 laugh **sosf** rire
 leaf
 left (on the -) **fflr** gauche (à)
 leg
 lie down, go to bed **rsolm** se coucher
 live (v) **dmfr** vivre
 liver
 long
 louse

M

man (male) **dmfd** homme
 many
 meat **dlsod** viande
 moon
 *month **drso** mois
 mother **rsds** mère
 mountain
 mouth

N

narrow
 near
 neck
 new **sosfs** neuf (adj)
 night **lls** nuit
 nose
 no(t) **d** non; pas
 *no one, nothing **ld** rien, nul, personne,
 aucune personne, néant

O

old
 one, unity, first **rdd** un; unité; premier
 one (pron), someone **dl** on, quelqu'un
 other **ds** autre

P

person
 play **mlsr** jouer
 pull
 push
 *put, place **dldf** mettre

R

rain (v) **ssd** pleuvoir
 red **lrms** rouge
 right (on the -) **rlff** droite (à)
 river
 road
 root
 rope
 rotten
 round
 rub

S

salt
 sand
 *Satan, devil **smd** Satan CL
 say, speak **dmld** parler; dire
 scratch
 sea
 see **dmm** voir

seed
sew **rflf** coudre
sharp
short
sing **sormf** chanter
sit down **rfrf** s'asseoir
skin
sky
sleep (v) **rmsod** **dormir**
small
smell
smoke
smooth
snake
snow (n/v) **lff** neiger; neige
*someone, one (pron) **dl** on, quelqu'un
*something **lsd** quelque chose
spit
split
squeeze
stab
stand
star
stick
stone
straight
suck
sun **sff** soleil
swell
swim

T

tail
that, which **mr** qui, que, quel, lequel
there, here **lm** ici, là
thick
thin
think, (philosophy CL) **rdr** penser,
(philosophie CL)
this, that **fm** ce, cet, ceci, cela
three
throw
tie
tongue
tooth
tree
turn
two, second **rmm** deux, deuxième

V

vomit

W

walk around **rmm** se promener
warmth (attitude) **dfif** cordialité
wash(ing), bleach **rldr** blanchissage,
lavage; blanchir
wash oneself **rdmd** se laver
water **dsos** eau
we, us **dr** nous; je; moi
wet
what **fd** quoi, qu'est-ce que c'est?
when
where
white **lrds** blanc
who
*whose **mf** dont, de qui, duquel
wide
wife **msf** épouse
wind (n), blow (v) **ssr** venter; vente (il -)
wing
wipe
with, together **fr** avec, conjointement
woman **dmfd** femme
worm

Y

year **drl** année
yellow **lrms** jaune
you **dm** tu, toi; vous

All material taken from Gajewski, except those marked CL (Couturat & Leau) and PL (Paul Lucas)

[M. Vincent GAJEWSKI, professor, d. Paris in 1881, is the father of the author of this Grammar. He was for thirty years the president of the Central committee for the study and advancement of Solresol, a committee founded in Paris in 1869 by Madame SUDRE, widow of the Inventor.]

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URL:

<http://www2.polarnet.com/~srice/solresol/sorsoeng.htm>