Section: bcf-6-0125

Beginning Conversational French

Lesson 5: Travel

Lesson 5 Introduction

Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives

After you complete this lesson you will be able to:

1. Identify and apply French vocabulary and travel by plane.
2. Identify and apply French vocabulary to travel by taxi, bus or car.
3. Identify and apply French vocabulary to travel by subway, train or boat.
4. Identify and apply French vocabulary to describe the weather in France.
5. Describe your state of being in French.
6. Ask questions in French.

Introduction

Let's Plan A Trip!

Welcome to France! We're finally getting to the exciting part!

One of the first things that most people do before they travel is to check the weather. So, we're going to start off learning all about the weather. Soon you'll know how to talk about all kinds of weather from sunglasses weather to time for your gloves and scarf!

After that, you'll learn all about transportation.

We'll start out at the airport. The airport is probably the first place you'll see when you travel abroad. We'll begin with the airport and airplane words. Then you'll learn words for customs and baggage claim. While we're in the airport, we'll talk about how to ask questions because you know you're going to have a lot of them!

Then you'll learn words about taxis, buses, trains and the subway.

Next, you'll be anxious to get to your hotel and around town. Chapter 3 covers ground transportation and France has so many different options to get you where you want to go. You'll learn about taxis, buses, rental cars, subways, trains, and other means of transportation.

You'll learn dialogues in each chapter. You'll learn how to ask about the weather conditions and how to hail a taxi. You'll even learn how to ask for help finding your connections!

Now, imagine you're boarding a plane for a month-long vacation. You'll be flying first class, of course! Here we go! *Bon voyage!*

Download

Lesson 5 Audio Files (https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/audio/L05_audio.zip)

Download

Lesson 5 Vocabulary List (https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/L05_Vocab_R.zip)

Chapter 1: Weather

Weather Vocabulary and Useful Phrases

What's The Weather Like?

Weather is always an important topic when you're traveling. If you're going to spend the day exploring the grounds at Versailles, you'll want to be dressed appropriately. Learn these words! You don't want to get caught in the rain without an umbrella!

Quel temps fait-il?

{kehl-tawmp-fayt-eel?}

What's the weather like?

▶ Play audi

Before we get too far, you will want to know that when the French speak about the weather, they use 3 different structures:

Il fait + an adjective

Il fait beau. {eel-fay-boh} = It's nice.

Il fait chaud. {eel-fay-shoh} = It's hot.

Il fait froid. {eel-fay-fwah} = It's cold.

Il fait du soleil. {eel-fay-doo-soh-lay.} = It's sunny.

Il y a + a noun

Il y a du vent. {eel-ee-yah-doo-van} = It's windy.

Il y a du brouillard. {eel-ee-yah-doo-broo--yahr} = It's foggy.

Il + a verb

Il pleut. {eel-ploo} = It's raining.

Il neige. {eel-nehzh} = It's snowing.

Il glace. {eel-glahs} = It's sleeting.

Conjugation Corner

avoir = to have

Avoir is an irregular verb that is used all the time in French. You will want to learn it.

J'ai	Nous avons
Tu as	Vous avez
Il/elle a	Ils/Elles ont

We're learning the verb avoir right here in the middle of the weather because it is used to express how you are feeling because of the weather:

- **J'ai chaud.** {zhay-shoh} = I'm hot.
- **J'ai froid.** {zhay-fwah} = I'm cold.

You saw the verb avoir earlier when it was windy and foggy in the common French expression, il y a, which literally means there is or there are.

- **Il y a du vent.** {eel-ee-yah-doo-van} = It's windy, literally means, there is wind (so hold on to your hats!)

You'll see later when we talk about the past verb tense that avoir is often used as a helping verb:

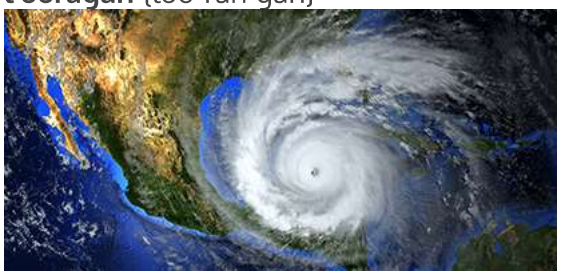
j'ai déjà mangé {zhay-day-jah- min-jay} = I already ate.

Weather Vocabulary Flashcards

Weather Related Terms

Text equivalent start.

Term	Definition
l'orage {lohr-ahzh} Play audio	thunderstorm
la tornade {lah-tohr-nahd} Play audio	tornado

Term	Definition
l'ouragan {loo-rah-gan}  ▶ Play audi	hurricane
l'inondation {lan-on-dah-syohn} ▶ Play audi	flood
la météo {lah-may-tay-oh} ▶ Play audi	forecast

Great Job!

You've reached the end of the flashcards.

Review these as much as you'd like before moving on.

Instructions: Consider each term in the first column and try to recall what it means. Then read the second column to check if you were right!

Text equivalent stop.

Weather Related Accessories

Text equivalent start.

Term	Definition
le parapluie {luh-pah-rah-plwee} Play audio	umbrella
le chapeau {luh-shah-poh} Play audio	hat
la crème solaire {lah-krehm-soh-layr} Play audio	sunscreen
les lunettes de soleil {lay-loo-neht-duh-soh-lay} Play audio	sunglasses

Term	Definition
la veste {lah-vehst} Play audio	jacket
l'écharpe {lay-shahrp} Play audio	scarf
les gants {lay-gan} Play audio	gloves
les bottes {lay-buht} Play audio	boots

Term	Definition
Great Job!	

You've reached the end of the flashcards.

Review these as much as you'd like before moving on.

Instructions: Consider each term in the first column and try to recall what it means. Then read the second column to check if you were right!

Text equivalent stop.

In case you didn't already guess from the wide range of vocabulary, France has a diverse geographical climate, as you might expect from a country that has the French Alps as well as a Mediterranean coastline.

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Simone

Est-ce qu'il va neiger aujourd'hui?

Play audio

Pronounciation: *eh-skeel-vah-neh-zhay-oh-zhoor-dwee?*

Translate

Is it going to snow today?

Pierre

Non, il fera du soleil.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *noh-eel-feh-rah-doo-soh-lay*

Translate

No, it will be sunny.

Dialogue One: Weather

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Simone

Bon. Je vais porter mes lunettes de soleil.

▶ **Play audio**

Pronounciation: *bon. zhuh-vay-pohr-tay-may-loo-neht-duh-soh-lay.*

Translate

Good. I'll wear my sunglasses.

Dialogue One: Weather

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Pierre

Quel temps fait-il?

Play audi

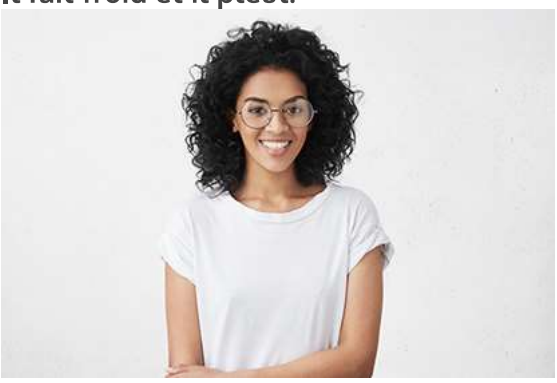
Pronounciation: *kehl-tan-fay-teel?*

Translate

What's the weather like?

Simone

Il fait froid et il pleut.



Play audi

Pronounciation: *eel-fay-fwah-ay-eel-pluh*

Translate

It's cold and rainy.

Dialogue Two: Weather

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Pierre

D'accord. Je vais chercher mon parapluie et mes gants.

Play audi

Pronounciation: *dah-kohr. zhuh-vay-shehr-shay-mon-pah-rah-plooee.-ay-may-gan*

Translate

OK. I'll find my umbrella and my gloves.

Dialogue Two: Weather

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Simone

Est-ce qu'il fera chaud demain?

Play audio

Pronounciation: *eh-skeel-feh-rah-shoh-duh-man?*

Translate

Is it going to be hot tomorrow?

Pierre

Je ne sais pas. Je vais lire la météo.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *zhun-say-pah. zhuh-vay-leer-lah-may-tay-oh.*

Translate

I don't know. I'll read the weather report.

Dialogue Three: Weather

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Simone

A bientôt!

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *ah-byenn-toh!*

Translate

See you later!

Pierre

Au revoir!

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *oh-rvwahr!*

Translate

Bye!

Dialogue Three: Weather

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Learning Check Weather Vocabulary

Learning Check

Text equivalent start.

Item to Match	Matching Choices	Correct Match
il pleut	• to have • gloves • it's nice • it's raining	• it's raining
la crème solaire	• it's nice • it's raining • to have • sunscreen	• sunscreen
il fait beau	• it's nice • to have • it's raining • gloves	• it's nice

Item to Match	Matching Choices	Correct Match
les gants	• sunscreen • to have • gloves • it's raining	• gloves
avoir	• it's raining • it's nice • gloves • to have	• to have

Instructions: Read the item in the first column and consider which choice(s) it matches to in the second column. Read the third column to find out if you are correct.

Text equivalent stop.

The Metric System

The Metric System

If you're listening to the weather report in France, remember most of Europe uses the metric system and all temperatures are given in Celsius degrees. For example, 22 degrees Celsius is around 70 degrees Fahrenheit. If you're in France and hear it will be 22 degrees, don't dress for freezing weather! Use the conversion formula of Celsius x 1.8 + 32 = Fahrenheit. Some common conversions you will need, such as 0 degrees Celsius converts to 32 degrees Fahrenheit or 30 degrees Celsius converts to 86 degrees Fahrenheit are shown in the conversion chart below.

Celsius and Fahrenheit Conversion Chart

Text equivalent start.

An image of a Celsius to Fahrenheit conversion chart with some common conversions.

Text equivalent stop.

Chapter 2: At the Airport

Arrivals and Departures!

Arrivals and Departures!

Here we are at the airport! We'll start off with some vocabulary. After that, you'll learn some dialogues.

Be sure your seat belt is fastened! This is going to be exciting!

The Martin Family

Next you will meet the Martin family, who are about to embark on their journey from where they live in Paris to visit Mme Martin's sister in New York City. They just arrived at the airport, let's check in on them.

Move through the gallery by clicking either the right or left arrow. You can also navigate to a specific slide by selecting the dropdown menu located at the bottom of the slide.

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Mme. Martin is a little nervous because she has never flown on ***l'avion*** (airplane) before. She arrives at ***l'enregistrement*** (check in) and shows the agent her le billet (ticket) and le ***passeport*** (passport). The agent prints **la carte *d'embarquement*** (the boarding pass) and weighs her ***valise*** (suitcase) to be sure that it isn't too heavy. The agent also gives her a tag for ***les bagages à* main** (carry-on).

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

When it's time to board, Mme. Martin can ***embarquer*** (board) early because she is traveling with a young ***l'enfant*** (child), but she prefers to wait if possible so that Sophie, age 3, can run around as long as she can. While they ***faire la queue*** (wait in line), Sophie asks a lot of questions about the plane.

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

As they get on the plane, they say ***bonjour*** (hello) to ***le pilote*** (the pilot) and ***le steward*** (the flight attendant). As they find their seats ***trente et un*** (31) A and B, Sophie chooses ***la place*** (seat) by the window so that she can look out. As soon as Mme. Martin fastens Sophie's ceinture de ***sécurité*** (seatbelt), she wants to look at ***la revue*** (magazine) in the back of the seat.

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Airport Vocabulary

Airport Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
l'aéroport	lay-roh-pohrt ▶ Play audi	airport
l'avion	lah-vyon ▶ Play audi	airplane
le billet	luh bee-ay ▶ Play audi	ticket
la carte d'embarquement	lah kahrt-dan-bar-kuh-man ▶ Play audi	boarding pass
l'enregistrement	lan-reh-zhee-streh-man ▶ Play audi	check in

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la réservation	lah ray-zayr-vah-syohn ▶ Play audi	reservation
le billet électronique	luh bee-yay-ay-lehk-troh-neek ▶ Play audi	e-ticket
aller simple	ah-lay-sinpl ▶ Play audi	one-way
aller retour	ah-lay-ruh-toor ▶ Play audi	round-trip
la carte d'identité	lah kahrt-dee-dawn-tee-tay ▶ Play audi	ID card
le passeport	luh pah-she-pohr ▶ Play audi	passport
la valise	lah vah-leez ▶ Play audi	suitcase
les bagages à main	lay bah-gahzh-ah-min ▶ Play audi	carry-on
les bagages	lay bah-gahzh ▶ Play audi	luggage
l'enfant	lan-fan ▶ Play audi	child
faire la queue	fehr-lah-koo ▶ Play audi	to wait in line

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
embarquer	an-bahr-kay ▶ Play audi	to board
descendre de l'avion	deh-san-dr-duh-lah-vyon ▶ Play audi	to deplane
la place	lah plahs ▶ Play audi	seat
la ceinture de sécurité	lah san-toor-duh-say-koo-ree-tay ▶ Play audi	seat belt
le journal	luh zhoor-nahl ▶ Play audi	newspaper
la revue	lah reh-voo ▶ Play audi	magazine
le steward	luh stoo-ahrd ▶ Play audi	flight attendant
le pilote	luh pee-loht ▶ Play audi	pilot
l'entrée	lan-tray ▶ Play audi	entrance
la sortie	lah sohr-tee ▶ Play audi	exit
la sortie de secours	lah-sohr-tee-duh-seh-koor ▶ Play audi	emergency exit

Arriving at the Airport

Now you'll learn words you'll see when you arrive at the airport. It's a little unsettling to step off the plane and be surrounded by a foreign language. Learning these words might help you feel more comfortable when you arrive at your destination.

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
la porte {lah pohrt}	gate
l'horaire {lohr-ayr}	timetable
la livraison des bagages {lah lee-vray-zon-day-bah-gahzh}	baggage claim
la sécurité {lah say-kooree-tay}	security
la correspondance {lah koh-ruh-spon-dans}	connection
l'arrivée {lah-ree-vay}	arrival
le départ {luh-day-pahr}	departure
l'information {lin-fohr-mah-syohn}	information
la douane {lah-doo-an}	customs

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Travel Journal

Julie's Travel Journal

Move through the gallery by clicking either the right or left arrow. You can also navigate to a specific slide by selecting the dropdown menu located at the bottom of the slide.

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Remember, Julie our foreign exchange student from New York City? She is studying abroad in Paris for the fall semester of her junior year of college. Throughout this course, she will be sharing cultural tidbits from her travel journal.

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Journal Entry

Wow! I flew into Paris through Charles de Gaulle International Airport, which is one of the biggest and busiest airports in Europe. If you travel to France, it is most likely where you will end up.

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Charles de Gaulle International Airport

I also learned that U2's hit music video "Beautiful Day" was filmed at Charles de Gaulle airport in 2000.

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

(If you're interested in seeing the video, look for it in the Resources for Further Learning section of this lesson)

Time for dialogues! As usual, be sure to practice these often.

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Quel vol destine àux Bruxelles?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *kehl-vohl-duh-steen-oh-broo-sehl?*

Translate

Which flight goes to Brussels?

Le vol numéro deux cents quarante-six

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *luh-vohl-noo-may-roh-duh-san-kay-rant-sees*

Translate

Flight number 246.

Dialogue One: Airport

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Est-ce que vous me diriez à quelle porte?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *ehs-kuh-voo-muh-dee-ree-ay-ah-kehl-pohrt?*

Translate

Can you tell me which gate?

A la porte B-six.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *ah-lah-pohrt-bay-sees*

Translate

Gate B6

Dialogue One: Airport

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Il faut chercher la correspondance à Paris

▶ **Play audi**

Pronounciation: *eel-foh-shayr-shay-lah-koh-ruh-spon-dans-ah-pah-ree*

Translate

I need to find my connection to Paris.

Il partira de la porte D9

▶ **Play audi**

Pronounciation: *eel-pahr-tee-rah-duh-lah-pohrt-day-nuhf*

Translate

It will depart from gate D9

Dialogue Two : Airport

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

D'accord, merci!

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *dah-kohr mehr-see!*

Translate

OK, thanks!

Dialogue Two: Airport

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

L'avion partira à l'heure, n'est-ce pas?

Play audi

Pronounciation: *lah-vee-on-pahr-tee-rah-ah-lur-nehs-pah?*

Translate

The plane will leave on time, right?

Bien sur !

Play audi

Pronounciation: *byen-soor !*

Translate

Of course !

Dialogue Three: Airport

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Où est-ce que je cherche la guide?

Play audi

Pronounciation: *oo-ehs-kuh-zhuh-shehrsh-lah-geed?*

Translate

Where do I meet my tour guide?

Elle attend à la livraison des bagages.

Play audi

Pronounciation: *ehl-ah-tan-dah-lah-lee-vray-zon-day-bah-gahzh*

Translate

She's waiting at the baggage claim.

Dialogue Three: Airport

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Je m'y dépêche!

Play audio

Pronounciation: *zhuh-mee-day-pehsh!*

Translate

I'll hurry there!

Dialogue Three: Airport

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

J'ai raté ma correspondance à Paris.

Play audi

Pronounciation: *zhay-rah-tay-mah-koh-ruh-spon-dans-ah-pah-ree*

Translate

I missed my connection to Paris.

Numéro de vol?

Play audi

Pronounciation: *noo-may-roh-duh-vohl?*

Translate

Flight number?

Dialogue Four: Airport

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Quatre cents cinquante-six

Play audi

Pronounciation: *kah-truh-san-sin-kant-sees*

Translate

456

Le vol est en retard. Il ne part pas encore

Play audi

Pronounciation: *luh-vohl-eh-tan-ruh-tahr. eel-nuh-pahr-pah-zan-kohr*

Translate

The flight is late. It hasn't left yet.

Dialogue Four: Airport

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Chouette! Merci!

▶ **Play audio**

Pronounciation: *shweht! mehr-see!*

Translate

Great! Thanks!

Dialogue Four: Airport

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Luckily, most airline and airport personnel speak English. If you aren't sure if you understand something, ask them to tell you in English (**En anglais?** {an-an-glay}). They'll either translate into English or find an interpreter for you.

Well, you're finally at the airport and you have your luggage. Now you need to get to your hotel! You'll learn about public transportation in the next chapter.

Asking Travel Questions

Grammar Stop: Asking Travel Questions

When you're traveling and so many things are new and unknown, you're going to want to be able to ask questions. In fact, you just saw lots of questions in the dialogues that you just practiced. So, let's look at those questions and spend some time talking about how to create questions in French.

Est-ce que: This expression means "is it that?" and is placed at the beginning of a sentence to turn it into a question.

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Est-ce que vous êtes ici pour affaires ou pour plaisir? {ehs-kuh-voo-zeht-ee-see-poor-ah-fayr-oo-poor-play-zeer?}	▶ Play audi Are you here on business or pleasure?
Est-ce que vous me diriez à quelle porte? {ehs-kuh-voo-muh-dee-ree-ay-ah-kehl-pohrt?}	▶ Play audi Can you tell me which gate?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

If you want to get more specific, you can also place interrogative words in front of est-ce que. As we did in this example:

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Où est-ce que je cherche la guide? {oo-ehs-kuh-zhuh-shehrsh-lah-geed?}	▶ Play audi Where do I meet my tour guide?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

A Few More Interrogatives

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Qu'est-ce que c'est ? {kehs-kuh-seh ?}	▶ Play audi What ?
Quand...{kan?}	▶ Play audi When ?

Topic	Information
Pourquoi {por-kwah?}	▶ Play audi Why ?
Quel {kehl?}	▶ Play audi Which ?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Asking Questions

Inversion

This is considered a more formal way to ask a question. You will invert the conjugated verb and subject pronoun and join them with a hyphen:

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Avez-vous quelque chose à déclarer? {ah-vay-voo-kehl-kuh-shoh-zah-day-klah-ray?}	▶ Play audi Do you have anything to declare?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

A Statement as a Question

This is used a lot in conversation. You will simply raise your voice at the end, like we do when we ask a question.

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Quel vol destine àux Bruxelles? {kehl-vohl-duh-steen-oh-broo-sehl?}	▶ Play audi Which flight goes to Brussels?
Numéro de vol? {noo-may-roh-duh-vohl?}	▶ Play audi Flight number?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Asking The Obvious

If you think the answer to your question is yes, then you can make an affirmative statement and add "n'est-ce pas" to the end, which means "isn't it?"

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
L'avion partira à l'heure, n'est-ce pas ? {lah-vee-on-pahr-tee-rah-ah-lur-nehs-pah?}	▶ Play audi The plane will leave on time, right?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Learning Check Travel Vocabulary

Learning Check

Text equivalent start.

Item to Match	Matching Choices	Correct Match
Q'est-ce que c'est ?	• baggage claim • emergency exit • Do you have anything to declare? • What ?	• What ?
la ceinture de sécurité	• Do you have anything to declare? • What ? • emergency exit • seat belt	• seat belt
la sortie de secours	• emergency exit • seat belt • What ? • Do you have anything to declare?	• emergency exit
Avez-vous quelque chose à déclarer?	• Do you have anything to declare? • emergency exit • What ? • seat belt	• Do you have anything to declare?

Item to Match	Matching Choices	Correct Match
la livraison des bagages	• baggage claim • emergency exit • What ? • seat belt	• baggage claim

Instructions: Read the item in the first column and consider which choice(s) it matches to in the second column. Read the third column to find out if you are correct.

Text equivalent stop.

Chapter 3: Ground Transportation

Taxis, Buses and Cars

Taxis, Buses and Rental Cars

If you're in a new area, taxis can be the easiest way to get around. You hop in, tell the driver where you want to go, and he or she takes you there. Taxis are much more expensive than buses or subways, though. But, for convenience, taxis take the cake!

Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le taxi	luh tahk-see ▶ Play audi	taxi

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le chauffeur de taxi	luh shoh-fur-duh-tahk-see ▶ Play audi	taxi driver
prendre	prandr ▶ Play audi	pick up
déposer	day-poh-zay ▶ Play audi	drop off
héler	ay-lay ▶ Play audi	hail
le tarif	luh tah-reef ▶ Play audi	rate

Taxi Vocabulary

Common Travel Questions

Here are some questions you might want to ask about taxis :

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Vous êtes libre ? {voo-zeht-leebr?}	▶ Play audi Are you available ?
Combien est-ce que je dois ? {kon-byen-ehs-kuh-juh-dwah ?}	▶ Play audi How much do I owe?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

This isn't a question, but it's something you will want to be able to tell your taxi driver:

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Je voudrais aller... {juh-voo-dray-ay-lay}	▶ Play audi I would like to go...

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Uber or Taxi?

If you're not a big taxi fan, Ubers are also available, especially in the big cities. Each has its pros and cons, so you'll have to weigh your options to decide which one you prefer. Here are a few thoughts, Ubers are usually cheaper, but they often use surge pricing at busy times, which can end up costing you more. Taxis can use the bus lanes to navigate heavy traffic, which Ubers aren't allowed to do.

Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
l'autobus	{loh-toh-boos} ▶ Play audi	bus
le bus	{luh-boos} ▶ Play audi	bus (informal)
l'arrêt d'autobus	{lah-reh-doh-toh-boos} ▶ Play audi	bus stop
le coin	{luh kwan} ▶ Play audi	corner

Bus Vocabulary

Now we're going to learn vocabulary about buses. Riding city buses is fun because you get to see lots of the city. They can be slow, though, especially during rush hours. If you're in a hurry, it's better to use the subway. If time isn't an issue, go ahead and take the bus. Be sure to look out the window!

Here are some questions you might want to ask about the bus:

Common Travel Questions

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Vous allez à... ? = {voo-zah-lay-ah...?}	Play audi Do you go to...?
Quel autobus va à... ? {kehl-oh-toh-boos-vah- ah...?}	Play audi Which bus goes to...?
C'est combien? { seh-con-byen ?}	Play audi How much is it (the fare)?
À quelle heure est-ce que l'autobus départ ? {ah-keh-lur-ehs-kuh-loh-toh-boos-day-pahr?}	Play audi What time does the bus leave?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Vocabulary

If you like to be in control, you can rent a car. Be sure to have your international driver's license with you. Driving in foreign big cities can be a little overwhelming. Remember to ask for maps, and don't panic!

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la voiture	{lah vwah-toor} Play audi	car
la réservation	{lah ray-zehr-vah-syohn Play audi	reservation
le permis de conduire	{luh pehr-mee duh kon-dwoor} Play audi	driver's license
conduire	{kon-dwoor} Play audi	to drive
droite	{dwaht} Play audi	right

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
gauche	{gohsh} Play audi	left
arrêter	{ah-reh-tay} Play audi	stop
aller	{ah-lay} Play audi	Go
la route	{lah root} Play audi	road

Car Rental Vocabulary

Here are some questions you might have with a rental car:

Common Travel Questions

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Je suis perdu. Où est l'autoroute? {zhuh-swee-pehr-doo- oo-eh-loh-toh-root?}	Play audi I'm lost. Where is the highway?
Où est une station service ? {oo-eh-toon-stah-syon-sehr-vees}	Play audi Where is a gas station?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Subways, Trains and Other Transportation

Subways, Trains and Even More Ways to Get Around

Probably the most popular form of transportation in big cities is the subway. They're fast, cheap and quite safe. You don't have to worry about traffic jams! Let's learn some subway words!

Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le métro	{luh may-troh} ▶ Play audi	subway
la station de métro	{la stah-syohn-duh-may-troh} ▶ Play audi	subway station
le plan	{luh plan} ▶ Play audi	map
le ticket	{luh tee-kay} ▶ Play audi	ticket
l'arrêt	{lah-reht} ▶ Play audi	stop
la place	{lah plahs} ▶ Play audi	seat
transférer	{trans-fay-ray} ▶ Play audi	to transfer
la ligne	{la leeny} ▶ Play audi	line

General Travel Vocabulary

Parisian Metro Tip

Be sure to look for the large letter M to find a metro station. The sign will have a yellow capital letter M within a circle as shown in the picture above. You can also use Metro tickets on buses.

Common Travel Questions

How about some questions that you might want to ask about the subway?

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Où est la station de métro la plus proche? {oo-eh-lah-stah-syohn-duh-may-troh-lah-ploo-prohsh?}	▶ Play audi Where is the nearest subway station?
Est-ce que cette ligne y va? {ehs-kuh-seht-leeny-ee-vah?}	▶ Play audi Does this line go there?
Où est le métro? {oo-eh-luh-may-troh?}	▶ Play audi Where is the subway station ?
Où sommes-nous ? {oo-suhm-noo?}	▶ Play audi Where are we?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Vocabulary

Trains are very popular in Europe. They'll get you almost anywhere you need to go! It's best to travel lightly, though. You don't want to be so worried about your luggage that you forget to watch the scenery!

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le train	{luh trin} Play audio	train
la gare	{lah gahr} Play audio	train station
le billet	{luh bee-ay} Play audio	ticket
le couloir	{luh kool-wahr} Play audio	aisle
la place	{lah plahs} Play audio	seat
le quai	{luh kay} Play audio	platform
la voie	{lah vwah} Play audio	track
le wagon	{luh vah-gon} Play audio	car
la couchette	{lah koo-sheht} Play audio	sleeping car
le wagon-restaurant	{luh vah-gon-rehs-toh-ran} Play audio	dining car
l'embarquement	{lan-bahr-kuh-man} Play audio	boarding

Common Travel Questions

And of course, here are some questions you might want to ask about trains:

Text equivalent start.

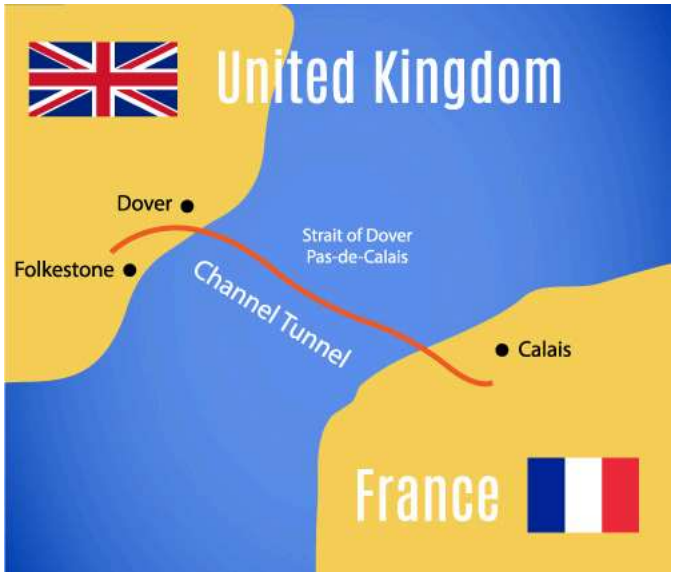
Topic	Information
Où est la gare? {oo-eh-lah-gahr ?}	Play audi Where is the train station?
Quel train est-ce que je prends pour aller à... ? {kel-trin-ehs-keh-juh-pran-poor-ay-lay-ah...?	Play audi Which train do I take to go to...?
Est-ce qu'il faut changer de trains ? {ehs-keel-foh-shan-jay-duh-trin ?}	Play audi Do I have to change trains?
Est-ce que ce train s'arrête à... ? {ehs-kuh-suh-trin-sah-reh-tah... ?}	Play audi Does this train stop at...?
Cette place est-il occupé ? {seht-plahs-eh-teel-oh-koo-pay?}	Play audi Is this seat taken?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Travel Journal

Julie's Travel Journal



Did you know that in France you can ride on a train that averages 186 miles per hour? They are called TGV's, or train à grande vitesse (high-speed trains). They are the fastest trains in the world and are usually bright orange. In fact, last weekend, my friends and I decided to go to London, so we took a TGV via the Channel Tunnel, which is better known as the Chunnel. As shown in the Channel Tunnel map above, the chunnel is an underwater tunnel from the UK to France. We wanted to visit London and Big Ben. It took less than 3 hours. It goes under the water for 35 minutes (although I was a little disappointed because all you can see is the tunnel walls, sadly, no fish). It is the longest continuous underwater tunnel in the world!

Parisian Metro and Chunnel Information

The Paris Metro

discoverfrance.net (http://www.discoverfrance.net/France/Paris/Paris_metro.shtml)

This is a great place to find out all you've ever wanted to know about the Paris metro system.

Traveling on Eurostar Between London and Paris

businessinsider.com (https://www.businessinsider.com/traveling-on-eurostar-between-london-and-paris-through-chunnel-review-2021-8)

Here's a fantastic article about a traveler's experience traveling via the Chunnel, complete with step-by-step photos.

Bonus Vocabulary!

- **le ferry** {luh feh-ree} = ferry ▶ Play audi
- **le bateau** {luh bah-toh} = boat ▶ Play audi
- **la croisière** {lah kwah-zyayr} = cruise ▶ Play audi
- **la bicyclette** {lah bee-see-kleht} = bike ▶ Play audi
- **le moto** {luh moh-toh} = moped ▶ Play audi
- **la motocyclette** {lah moh-toh-see-kleht} = motorcycle ▶ Play audi
- **la limousine** {lah lee-muh-zeen} = limousine ▶ Play audi
- **le trolleybus** {luh troh-lee-boos} = trolley ▶ Play audi
- **le téléphérique** {luh tay-lay-fay-reek} = cable car ▶ Play audi
- **le cheval** {luh shuh-vahl} = horse ▶ Play audi
- **l'hélicoptère** {lay-lee-kohp-tayr} = helicopter ▶ Play audi

- **la randonée à pied** {lah ran-doh-nay-ah-pyay}= walking tour ▶ Play audi
- **l'engin spatial** {lan-zhin spah-syahl}= space rocket ▶ Play audi

Well, now you know how to get around town! You're ready to see the sights!

Here are some helpful Web sites for public transportation in Europe:

Paris Official website of the Convention and Visitors Bureau (http://en.parisinfo.com/practical-paris/how-to-get-to-and-around-paris/public-transport-paris/fares-travel-passes-reductions)
Prices for public transportation in Paris.

Regional France Tourist Offices (https://www.angloinfo.com/paris/directory/paris-regional-france-tourist-offices-405)

Regional tourist offices in France. Email them for current public transportation prices.

Lesson 5 Review

Review

Let's Review!

You learned about transportation. You can speak French about the airport, taxis, buses, rental cars, subways, trains, and other ways to get around. Wow!

Part of the fun of traveling is trying different ways to get around. Taking a subway is always fun because you can zip quickly across a big city. Buses are great, too, because you can see lots of scenery. Take a chance and try something new!

Also, don't forget to ask lots of questions. Most people are willing to help and now you know how to do that. If you get flustered and forget what to say, gestures along with the words that you do know will get you a long way, especially when people realize that you are trying to speak their language.

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Enjoy yourself as much as possible. When you're traveling, be sure to stay safe. Criminals can spot tourists from a mile (or kilometer) away. Buy a special pouch to keep your passport, money, and credit cards in. You can keep the pouch under your shirt, and nobody will be able to get it. Be especially careful when you're struggling with your luggage. Keep your wits about you and your eyes open!

Enough of the *stern warning* portion of the lesson. Don't panic about speaking French to transportation workers. Most speak English, especially at the airport. If you're in smaller towns talking to city workers, you may have a little harder time communicating. Speak slowly and use your dictionary. Remember, your goal is **successful communication**. Use whatever works for you!

In the next lesson, you're going to arrive at your hotel. You'll learn how to speak to hotel employees, and all about different places to stay. See you next time!

Lesson 5 Assignment

Assignment

Time to practice your traveling phrases and vocabulary. This week challenge yourself to describe the weather in your area in French each day. You can also ask a travel related question that you would need when traveling and post it to the discussion board. Don't forget you can also practice your skills by answering a travel question that was posted by your peers on the discussion board.

Lesson 5 Discussion Area

General Discussion

Please feel free to use the Discussion Area for this lesson to ask any questions that may have come to mind as you reviewed the lesson content or completed your assignment.

Discussion Activity

Practice your skills and write the current season in French, then use French vocabulary to describe your local weather today.

Lesson 5 Quiz

5 correct out of 5 questions

February 6, 2025 8:55 PM

1. How do you say "airplane" in French?

A. l'aéroport

✓ B. l'avion

Correct!

C. aller simple

D. l'oreiller

2. How do you say "Where is the subway station?" in French?

✓ A. Où est le metro?

Correct!

B. Où est une station service?

C. Oùest l'escalier?

D. Combien coûte le métro?

3. What phrase do you put at the beginning of a sentence to turn it into a question?

A. Je suis...

B. Il fait...

✓ C. Est-ce que

Correct!

D. D'accord...

4. How do you say "It's sunny"?

A. Il fait froid.

B. Il pleut.

C. Il fait chaud.

✓ D. Il fait du soleil.

Correct!

5. How do you say "gas" in French?

✓ A. l'essence

Correct!

B. le plan

C. l'embouteillage

D. la route

Lesson 5 Resources for Further Learning

Charles de Gaulle Airport (https://www.parisaeroport.fr/)

https://www.parisaeroport.fr/

The official site of the Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris. In English.

U.S. State Dept. (https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/france.html)

https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/france.html

State Department information on France. Lists travel requirements and security information.

Boat Rides on the Seine (https://www.bateaux-mouches.fr/)

https://www.bateaux-mouches.fr/

Official site for les Bateaux Mouches, the tourist boat rides on the Seine in Paris.

Paris Tourist Information (https://paris-tourism.com/)

https://paris-tourism.com/

This site has great information on public transportation and lodging in Paris.

Public Transit in Paris (https://www.ratp.fr/en)

https://www.ratp.fr/en

Great site in English to help you get around!