Section: bcf-6-0125

Beginning Conversational French

Lesson 7: Bon Appetit

Lesson 7 Introduction

Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives

After completing this course you will be able to:

1. List the common restaurant types in France.
2. Identify and apply French vocabulary for restaurant staff and service.
3. Name common foods and beverages in French.
4. Describe the cultural experience of dining in France.
5. Demonstrate the use of imperative commands in French.

Introduction

Welcome Back!

Welcome back. Are you hungry? If not, you will be soon! In this lesson, we're going to talk about food.

First, you'll learn about different types of French restaurants. Then you'll learn general vocabulary about food and eating out. You'll also learn words for various beverages.

In chapter 3, you'll learn about bread, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. Lots of people picture a long loaf of bread when they think of French food. Now you'll learn what it's called in French!

Chapter 4 is about main courses, desserts, and condiments. We'll also include a few phrases for people who have dietary restrictions.

By the end of this lesson, you'll be able to easily read French menus. You'll know how to order exactly what you want to eat. More importantly, you'll be able to avoid foods you don't want to eat, such as calf's head, or **tête de veau** {teht-duh-voh}.

Of course, everyone has different tastes for food. Maybe you'll like calf's head! If you do, please eat it often. You'll have my admiration!

Otherwise, you can be a little less bold. Try lots of fancy pastries and delicious bread. French soups are excellent, as well. Are you getting hungry yet?

Now, imagine you're sitting outside a café in Paris. What would you like to order?

Download

Lesson 7 Audio Files (https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/audio/L07_audio.zip)

Download

Lesson 7 Vocabulary List (https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/L07_Vocab.zip)

Chapter 1: Restaurants and Beverages

Types of Restaurants

Restaurants and Beverages

Restaurants in France can earn Michelin stars. These stars are hard to earn and are considered a great honor. One star means that it is a very good restaurant. Two stars designate excellent cooking that is worth a detour. Three stars indicate exceptional cuisine that is worth a special journey.

Choosing a restaurant in France is simple. All restaurants post their menus outside their front doors. You can look at the restaurant's list of food and prices and decide if you want to eat there before you go in.

Types of Restaurants

Le Café

▶ **Play audio**

Most people probably think of **le café** {luh-kah-fay} when they think of France. A café is a great place to get something to drink and a light meal. Many cafés have outdoor seating. If you like to people watch, cafés are the place for you!

La Brasserie

▶ **Play audio**

Another common type of restaurant is **la brasserie** {lah-brah-suh-ree}. Don't confuse this kind of restaurant with a ladies' undergarment! Brasseries are bars that serve food and have a casual environment. Head to a brasserie if you want a full meal without the formality or high price of a fancy restaurant.

La Boulangerie

▶ **Play audio**

French bakeries, or les **boulangeries** {lay-boo-lan-zhuh-ree}, and delis, or les **charcuteries** {lay-shahr-koo-tree}, sell sandwiches and drinks. If you're planning a picnic, go to a bakery. You can get a nice, cold meal, and of course, a terrific dessert!

Prix Fixe

▶ **Play audi**

Some French restaurants are **prix fixe** {pree-feeks} or *fixed price*. You pay one price, and it includes your whole meal except a beverage. Every page of the menu shows a different price. Under each price, categories such as appetizer, main course and side dish are listed. You can pick one item from all the categories listed under your price. Prix fixe restaurants are usually quite reasonably priced. It's nice to know up front exactly how much you're going to be paying for your meal!

Restaurants that have table service include tips and gratuities in their menu prices. This is called **service compris**. It's customary to round up to the next euro, though. The server will get the extra change as a bonus. When service is not included, it is called **service non compris.**

Let's learn some French!

Here are some verbs you will want to know:

Useful Verbs

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
commander {koh-man-day}	▶ **Play audi** **to order**
manger {man-zhay}	▶ **Play audi** to eat
boire {bwahr}	▶ **Play audi** **to drink**
attendre {ah-tandr}	▶ **Play audi** **to wait**
placer {plah-say}	▶ **Play audi** **to seat**

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

Text equivalent stop.

Restaurant Vocabulary and Dialogues

Restaurant Staff

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le serveur	{luh-sur-vur} ▶ Play audi	waiter
monsieur	{me-syoe} ▶ Play audi	waiter
la serveuse	{lah-sur-vuhz} ▶ Play audi	waitress
mademoiselle	{mah-duh-mwah-sehl} ▶ Play audi	waitress
le chef	{luh shehf} ▶ Play audi	chef

Restaurant Vocabulary

Restaurant Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la table	{lah-tahbl} ▶ Play audi	table
la chaise	{lah-shehz} ▶ Play audi	chair
la réservation	{lah-ray-sur-vah-syon} ▶ Play audi	reservation

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la commande	{lah-koh-mand} ▶ Play audi	order
l'addition	{lah-dee-syon} ▶ Play audi	bill
le menu	{luh-meh-noo} ▶ Play audi	menu
Bon appétit!	{bon-ah-pay-tee!} ▶ Play audi	Enjoy your meal!

Vocabulary

Dishes and Cutlery

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le verre	{luh-vehr} ▶ Play audi	glass
la tasse	{lah-tahs} ▶ Play audi	cup
l'assiette	{lah-syeht} ▶ Play audi	plate
le bol	{luh-bohl} ▶ Play audi	bowl
la cuillère	{lah-kwee-yair} ▶ Play audi	spoon

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la fourchette	{lah-foor-shet} ▶ Play audi	fork
le couteau	{luh-koo-toh} ▶ Play audi	knife
la serviette	{lah-sur-vyeht} ▶ Play audi	napkin

Serving Vocabulary

Meal Courses

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le plat	{luh-plah} ▶ Play audi	course
l'hors-d'oeuvre	{lohr-dehvr} ▶ Play audi	appetizer
le plat du jour	{luh-plah-doo-zhoor} ▶ Play audi	today's special
le plat principal	{luh-plah-prin-cee-pahl} ▶ Play audi	main course
le plat d'accompagnement	{luh- plah-dah-kon-pah-ny-man} ▶ Play audi	side dish
le dessert	{luh-duh-sehr} ▶ Play audi	dessert

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
les plats à emporter	{lay-plah-ah-an-pohr-tay} ▶ Play audi	carryout

Dining Vocabulary

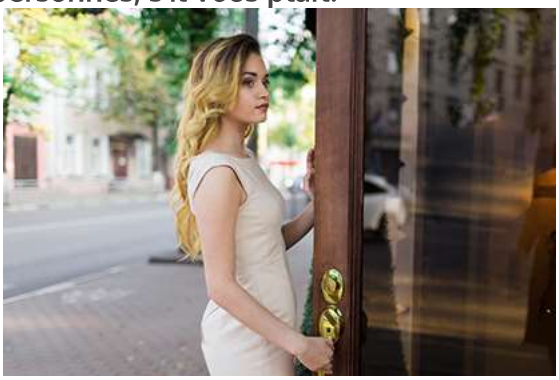
Let's practice all these restaurant words!

Being Seated

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Madame:

Nous voudrions une table pour deux personnes, s'il vous plaît.



▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *noo-voo-dree-on-oon-tahbl-poor-duh-pehr-son-seel-voo-play*

Translate

We'd like a table for two, please.

Monsieur:

Suivez-moi.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *swee-vay-mwah*

Translate

Follow me

Dialogue One: Being Seated

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Making Reservations

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Monsieur:

J'aimerais réserver une table

Play audi

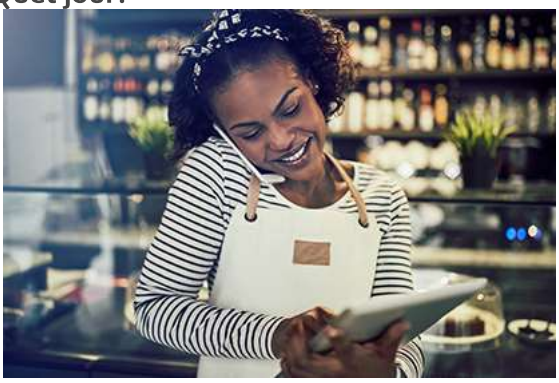
Pronounciation: *zham-ray-ray-sehr-vay-oon-tahbl*

Translate

I'd like to make a reservation

Madame:

Quel jour?



Play audi

Pronounciation: *kehl-zhoor?*

Translate

What day?

Dialogue Two: Making Reservations

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Monsieur:

Jeudi.

Play audi

Pronounciation: *zhuh-dee*

Translate

Thursday

Madame:

À quelle heure?

Play audi

Pronounciation: *ah-keh-lur?*

Translate

What time?

Dialogue Two: Making Reservations

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Monsieur:

Sept heures.

Play audi

Pronounciation: *seh-tur*

Translate

7:00

Madame:

Combien de personnes?

Play audi

Pronounciation: *kon-byen-duh-pehr-son?*

Translate

How many people?

Dialogue Two: Making Reservations

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Slideshow Slide 4 starts here

Monsieur:

Quatre

▶ Play audi

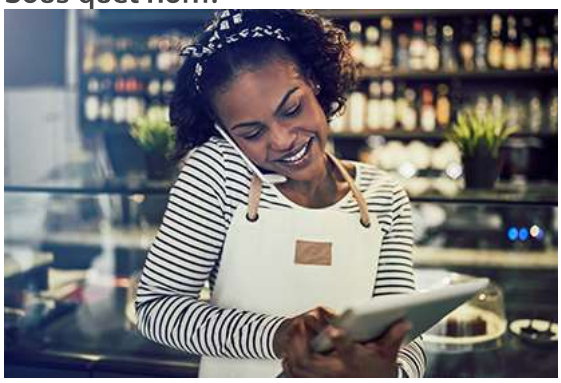
Pronounciation: *katr*

Translate

Four

Madame:

Sous quel nom?



▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *soo-kehl-non?*

Translate

Under what name?

Dialogue Two: Making Reservations

Slideshow Slide 4 ends here

Slideshow Slide 5 starts here

Monsieur:

Chrétien.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *kray-tyehn*

Translate

Chrétien.

Madame:

D'accord. À jeudi.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *dah-kor. ah-zhuh-dee*

Translate

OK. We'll see you Thursday

Dialogue Two: Making Reservations

Slideshow Slide 5 ends here

Now you know the basics. Let's learn about beverages!

Europeans don't drink tap water as much as people from some other cultures do. They drink mineral water, which is fizzy. If you want tap water, be sure to ask for plain water, not mineral water. Find out if the tap water is safe in the area you're visiting before your trip. Otherwise, you might want to stick with bottled water.

Beverage Vocabulary and Dialogues

Beverage Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
l'eau	{loh} Play audi	water
l'eau du robinet	{loh-doo-roh-bee-nay} Play audi	tap water
l'eau minérale	{loh-mee-nay-rahl} Play audi	mineral water
le soda	{luh-soh-dah} Play audi	soda pop
la limonade	{lah-lee-moh-nahd} Play audi	lemonade
le chocolat chaud	{luh-shoh-koh-laht-shoh} Play audi	hot chocolate
le thé	{luh-tay} Play audi	tea

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le café	{luh-kah-fay} Play audi	coffee
la crème	{lah-krehm} Play audi	cream
le sucre	{luh-sookr} Play audi	sugar
le lait	{luh-lay} Play audi	milk
le jus	{luh-zhoo} Play audi	juice
le jus d'orange	{luh-zhoo-doh-ranzh} Play audi	orange juice
le jus de pomme	{luh-zhoo-duh-pom} Play audi	apple juice
la bière	{lah-byayr} Play audi	beer
le vin	{luh-van} Play audi	wine
le vin blanc	{luh-van-blank} Play audi	white wine
le vin rouge	{luh-van-roozh} Play audi	red wine

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le champagne	{luh-shan-pahny} Play audi	champagne
froid	{fwah} Play audi	cold
chaud	{shoh} Play audi	hot
la glace	{lah-glahs} Play audi	ice

Vocabulary

Conjugation Corner

Here is a verb that you're going to want to learn here to go with your beverages. It is the irregular verb, **boire**, which means to drink.

Text equivalent start.

je bois

Nous buvons

tu bois

Vous buvez

Il/elle boit

Ils/elles boivent

Text equivalent stop.

Boot Verbs

See how that doesn't follow any of the rules and isn't even very predictable?! This is a verb that you will want to memorize, you might also notice that **boire** can be called a boot verb, because if you draw a line around the parts that conjugate the same, it makes the shape of a boot.

Je bois de l'eau avec de la glace, et mon mari boit du soda.

Vous buvez de la bière.

Ils boivent du vin.

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Customer:

Une carafe d'eau, s'il vous plaît.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *oon-kah-rahf-doh-seel-voo-play*

Translate

I'd like some water, please.

la serveuse:

Je l'apporterai

Play audio

Pronounciation: *zhuh-lah-por-tuh-ray*

Translate

I'll be right back with it

Dialogue Three: Ordering Water

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Customer:

Quel vin est-ce que vous recommandez?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *kehl-vin-ehs-kuh-voo-ruh-kon-man-day?*

Translate

What wine do you recommend?

la serveuse:

On a un bon vin rouge maison

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *on-ah-an-bon-vin-roozh-may-zon*

Translate

We have a nice house red wine.

Dialogue Three: Ordering Water

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Customer:

Du verre ou de la bouteille?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *doo-vehr-oo-duh-lah-boo-tahy?*

Translate

By the glass or bottle?

la serveuse:

Celui que vous préférez.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *sehl-wee-kuh-voo-pray-fay-ray*

Translate

Which ever you prefer.

Dialogue Three: Ordering Water

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Learning Check-Setting the Table

Text equivalent start.

Image and descriptions	Choices	Answers
	• la fourchette • le couteau • la tasse • le verre • le bol • l'assiette • la cuillère • la serviette	1. la tasse 2. le verre 3. l'assiette 4. le bol 5. la cuillère 6. la fourchette 7. le couteau 8. la serviette

View the image in the first column, then view the choices in the second column. Try to correctly match each item then compare your answers to the correct answers in the third column.

Text equivalent stop.

You've been seated and ordered a beverage. Time to get some food!

Chapter 2: The Typical French Meal

French Meals

French Meals

The French love food. It is a big deal to them and is an important part of their culture. You may have heard the expression le bon vivant, (which literally means the good life) , which is what you call someone who likes to eat and drink well. Well, this would be all French people.

French Meals

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
le petit déjeuner luh-puh-tee-day-zhuh-nay}	Play audi breakfast
le déjeuner {luh-day-zhuh-nay}	Play audi lunch
le dîner {luh-dee-nay}	Play audi dinner

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

Text equivalent stop.

Let's look at the typical French meals.

Le petit déjeuner is how the French start off their day. It usually consists of a croissant or other type of French bread, which is served with bread and jam. A hot drink will accompany it, such as café au lait, hot tea, or hot chocolate.

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
la baguette {lah-bah-geht}	Play audi french bread
le pain {luh-pan}	Play audi bread
le croissant {luh-kwah-san}	Play audi croissant
le café au lait {luh-kah-fay-oh-lay}	Play audi coffee with milk

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

Text equivalent stop.

Here is a dialogue you might need at breakfast time.

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Waiter:

Bienvenue. Qu'est-ce que vous voudrez?

▶ Play audi

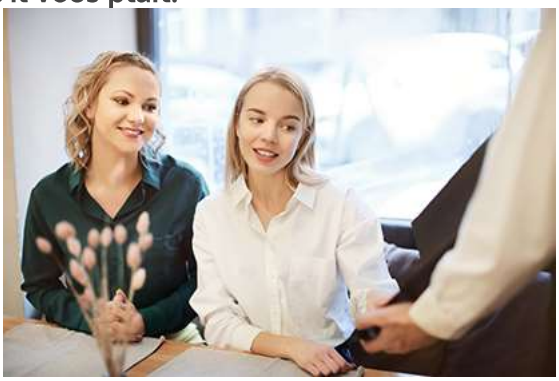
Pronounciation: *byen-vuh-noo. kehs-kuh-voo-voo-dray?*

Translate

Welcome. What would you like?

Customer:

Je voudrais le plat de fruit et de fromage, s'il vous plaît.



▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *zhuh-voo-dray-luh-plaht-duh-fwee-ay-duh-froh-mahzh-seel-voo-play*

Translate

I'd like the fruit and cheese plate, please.

Dialogue : Ordering

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Waiter:

Et vous?

▶ Play audi

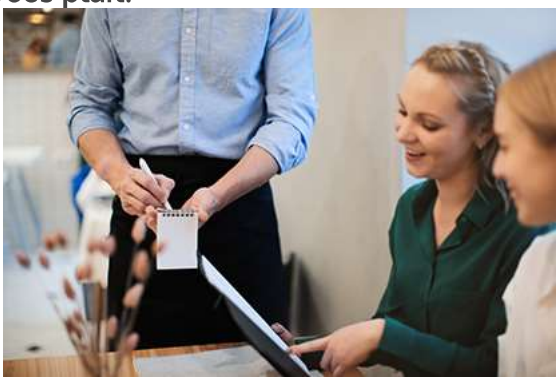
Pronounciation: *ay-voo?*

Translate

And you?

Customer:

Seulement du café et un croissant, s'il vous plaît.



▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *suhl-man-doo-kah-fay-ay-an-kwah-san-seel-voo-play*

Translate

Just coffee and a croissant, please.

Dialogue: Ordering

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Waiter:

Très bien.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *tray-byen*

Translate

Very good.

Dialogue : Ordering

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Lunch is usually served between the hours of 12-2 and you will find that most shops and museums are closed during that time. Lunch is a chance to get together with others – the French do not like to eat alone. Many restaurants offer a menu du jour that is only available at lunchtime. It consists of an appetizer (une entrée), which could be a mixed salad, soup, terrine, or pate, a main course (le plat principal), a choice of meat with potatoes, rice, pasta, or vegetables, a cheese course, and a dessert. People usually drink water or wine with lunch. Some restaurants also offer a less expensive two course option with an entrée and plat or a plat and dessert. For people in a hurry or seeking less formal options, there are also sandwiches and crêpes.

Menu du jour and The 7 Course Meal

Menu du jour

Word	Translation	Pronunciation
L'entrée	appetizer	{lan-tray} ▶ Play audi
La salade	salad	{lah-sah-lahd} ▶ Play audi
La soupe	soup	{lah-soop} ▶ Play audi
le plat principal	the main course	{luh-plah-prin-cee-pahl} ▶ Play audi
la viande	meat	{lah-vyand} ▶ Play audi
les pommes de terre	potatoes	{lay-pon-duh-tehr} ▶ Play audi

Word	Translation	Pronunciation
le riz	rice	{luh-ree} ▶ Play audi
les pâtes	pasta	{lay-paht} ▶ Play audi
les légumes	vegetables	{lay-lay-goom} ▶ Play audi
le fromage	cheese	{luh-froh-mazh} ▶ Play audi
le dessert	dessert	{luh-day-sehr} ▶ Play audi
le sandwich	sandwich	{luh-sand-weech} ▶ Play audi
le crôque-monsieur	ham sandwich	{luh-krohk-muh-syer} ▶ Play audi
les crêpes	crepes	{lay-crehp} ▶ Play audi

Translations

The 7 Course Meal

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

Dinnertime is a formal occasion in France. It starts after 7 and can last for hours with multiple courses. The focus is on the experience of the food and the company and it is a break from the fast pace of life with good conversation.

It starts with the aperitif, which is wine and simple snack, such as olives or crackers

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Next comes l'entrée, which might be soup or quiche.

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

l'entrée is followed by the plat principal, which might be roasted lamb with potatoes, a baked fish, or a stew. Bread is always served. This is followed by the fromage.

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Slideshow Slide 4 starts here

France has more than 400 types of cheese and there is often a cheese board that features many of them.

Slideshow Slide 4 ends here

Slideshow Slide 5 starts here

Dessert is the fifth course, which could be a tarte tatine with fresh fruit, chocolate mousse, or a pastry from the local bakery.

Slideshow Slide 5 ends here

Slideshow Slide 6 starts here

This is followed by coffee and then the final course of le digestif.

Slideshow Slide 6 ends here

Slideshow Slide 7 starts here

Le digestif is the final course and consists of a strong alcohol, such as brandy or whiskey.

Slideshow Slide 7 ends here

Food Vocabulary

Plat Principal Vocabulary

Here are some meats that might be a part of your plat principal:

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la viande	{lah-vyand} ▶ Play audi	meat
le boeuf	{luh-buhf} ▶ Play audi	beef
le poulet	{luh-poo-lay} ▶ Play audi	chicken
le porc	{luh-pohrk} ▶ Play audi	pork

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
l'agneau	{lahn-yoh}	lamb
	▶ Play audi	
le jambon	{luh-zham-bon}	ham
	▶ Play audi	
les cuisses de grenouille	{lay-kwees-duh-gran-weey}	frogs' legs
	▶ Play audi	
la saucisse	{lah-soh-sees}	sausage
	▶ Play audi	
le poisson	{luh-pwah-son}	fish
	▶ Play audi	
les fruits de mer	{lay-frwee-duh-mehr}	seafood
	▶ Play audi	
le ragoût	{luh-rah-goo}	stew
	▶ Play audi	

Vocabulary

Les legumes - Vegetables

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

Word: **le broccoli**

▶ **Play audio**

Pronunciation: *luh broh-koh-lee*

Translation: **broccoli**

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Word: **le maïs**

▶ **Play audio**

Pronunciation: *le mah-ees*

Translation: **corn**

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Word: **les haricots verts**

▶ **Play audio**

Pronunciation: *lay-zah-ree-koh-vehr*

Translation: **green beans**

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Slideshow Slide 4 starts here

Word: **le laitue**

▶ **Play audio**

Pronunciation: *luh lay-too*

Translation: **lettuce**

Slideshow Slide 4 ends here

Slideshow Slide 5 starts here

Word: **les champignons**

▶ **Play audio**

Pronunciation: *lay shahm-pee-nyohn*

Translation: **mushrooms**

Slideshow Slide 5 ends here

Slideshow Slide 6 starts here

Word: **l'oignon**

▶ **Play audio**

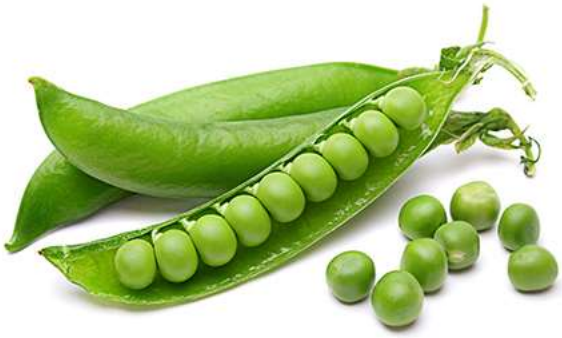
Pronunciation: *loh-nyohn*

Translation: **onion**

Slideshow Slide 6 ends here

Slideshow Slide 7 starts here

Word: **les petits pois**



▶ **Play audio**

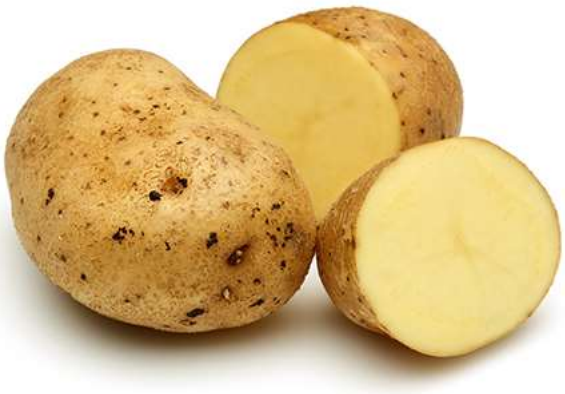
Pronunciation: *lay puh-teet-pwah*

Translation: **peas**

Slideshow Slide 7 ends here

Slideshow Slide 8 starts here

Word: **les pommes de terre**



▶ **Play audio**

Pronunciation: *lay pohm-duh-tayr*

Translation: **potatoes**

Slideshow Slide 8 ends here

Slideshow Slide 9 starts here

Word: **la courge**

▶ **Play audi**

Pronunciation: *lah koorj*

Translation: **squash**

Slideshow Slide 9 ends here

Here are some fruits that might be found in your **tarte tatine**:

Le Fruit Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le fruit	{luh-frwee} ▶ **Play audi**	fruit

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la pomme	{lah-pom} ▶ Play audi	apple
la figue	{lah-feeg} ▶ Play audi	fig
le citron	{luh-see-tron} ▶ Play audi	lemon
le citron vert	{luh-see-tron-vehr} ▶ Play audi	lime

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la pêche	{lah-pehsh} Play audi	peach
la poire	{lah-pwahr} Play audi	pear
l'ananas	{lan-nan-nahs} Play audi	pineapple
la prune	{lah-proon} Play audi	plum

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la tomate	{lah-toh-maht} ▶ Play audi	tomato

Translations

The French love bread and serve it at every meal. In France there are boulangeries (bakeries) on almost every corner and you can get inexpensive and fresh breads and pastries. Most people picture a long, skinny loaf when they think of French bread. Now you can impress your friends by calling it by its French name: baguette!

The generic term for bread is **le pain**, pronounced {luh-pan}.

- **la baguette** {lah-bah-geht} = French bread ▶ Play audi
- **le pain** {luh-pan} = bread ▶ Play audi

Another bread associated with France is a croissant. The word is spelled the same in French and English. Be sure to eat warm croissants when you're in France. They're fabulous! You'll never want another cold croissant from your local grocery store!

A roll is called **le petit pain**, literally *little bread* in French.

- **le croissant** {luh-kwah-san} = croissant ▶ Play audi
- **le petit pain** {luh-puh-tee-pan} = roll ▶ Play audi

Common Questions

Here are a few questions you might ask about bread when you're at a restaurant.

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information

Topic	Information
Est-ce que le pain est compris? {ehs-kuh-luh-pin-eh-kon-pree?}	▶ Play audi Does bread come with the meal?
Est-ce qu'on peut avoir plus de pain? {ehs-kon-puh-ah-vwahr-ploo-duh-pin?}	▶ Play audi Can I have some more bread ?

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

Text equivalent stop.

Well, are you ready to order your main course? On to Chapter 3!

Chapter 3: Ordering in Restaurants

French Dining

French Dining

We've talked about the types of restaurants and the meals that French folks prefer. We've also learned some food-related vocabulary, so now we're going to spend some time talking about how to order in restaurants.

First, let's cover some basic tips for French dining.

When you enter a restaurant, be sure to say bonjour to the person who greets you.

Bonjour monsieur! {bon-joor-me-syoe} = Hello sir!

▶ Play audi

Second, if you want water, you will have to ask for it. It isn't standard like it is in American restaurants. You can say:

On peut avoir une carafe de l'eau, s'il vous plait ? { on-puh-ah-vwahr-oon-kah-rahf-duh-loh- seel-voo-play}= Can we have a carafe of water please?

▶ Play audi

Third, bread is always included with the meal at no extra cost. If you eat it all and want some more, you can say:

On peut avoir plus de pain, s'il vous plait ? {on-puh-ah-vwahr-ploo-duh-pin-seel-voo-play}= Can we have some more bread please?

▶ Play audio

Third, tipping is included in the bill. If you get exceptional service, additional tips are always welcomed. On that note, French waitstaff are taught to leave their patrons alone while they are eating, so you will have to wave down a waiter if you need them. The best way to do this is to raise your hand, make eye contact, and say:

Monsieur, s'il vous plaît! { me-syoe- seel-voo-play} = Sir, please!

▶ Play audio

And to get your bill, you will want to say:

L'addition, s'il vous plaît! {lah-dee-shyon-seel-voo-play} = The bill, please!

▶ Play audio

Common Dining Questions and Phrases

Common Dining Questions and Phrases

Here are a few questions you might want to ask your server:

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
Qu'est-ce que vous recommandez ?	*{kehs-kuh-voo-ruh-kon-man-day}* ▶ Play audio	What do you recommend?
Quelle est la spécialité du jour ?	{kehl-eh-la-spay-shee-ah-lee-tay-doo-zhor} ▶ Play audio	What is today's special?
Je voudrais	{juh-voo-dray} ▶ Play audio	I would like

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
Je prendrai	{jun=pran-dray} ▶ Play audi	I will take

Translations

Whenever you're eating in a restaurant, feel comfortable to ask your server questions about dishes. You may not understand the words that describe the main item. Just ask!

Grammar Stop: Using the Impératif

The **impératif** is used to give orders or advice, so what more appropriate time to talk about this than the restaurant setting. It only exists for the tu, nous, and vous persons.

A restaurant setting is the perfect spot to ask the waiter to bring you things. Therefore, you are going to need to use the verb, apporter, which means to bring.

In these two examples, we are asking the waiter, who is vous, to bring us what we need for our meal. Therefore, we are going to use the vous present tense of the verb, which is vous apportez. To make it into a command (or request), we will take off the vous, so that we are left with apportez.

vous apportez – vous = apportez

Apportez-moi

We are attaching the moi after apportez to say "bring me."

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Apportez-moi du café, s'il vous plaît {ah-por-tay-mwah-doo-kah-fay-seel-voo-play}	Bring me some coffee, please.
Apportez-moi plus de pain, s'il vous plaît {ah-por-tay-mwah-ploo-duh-pin-seel-voo-play}	Bring me some more bread, please.

Topic	Information
Apportez-moi un verre de vin, s'il vous plaît. {ah-por-tay-mwah-an-ver-duh-vin-seel-voo-play}	Bring me a glass of wine, please.

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

Text equivalent stop.

The Vous Form or The Tu Form?

If you were dining at the house of a dear friend, you would use the tu form, instead of the vous form to utilize the impératif:

Apporte-moi du café, s'il vous plaît {ah-port-mwah-doo-kah-fay-seel-voo-play}= Bring me some coffee, please.

Now you try asking your dear friend for some more bread and a glass of wine .

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
How would you say, "Bring me some more bread, please"?	Apporte-moi plus de pain, s'il vous plaît
How would you say, "Bring me a glass of wine, please"?	Apporte-moi un verre de vin, s'il vous plaît.

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

Text equivalent stop.

The **nous impératif** isn't used very often in spoken French, but to form it, you will use the nous form of the verb, without the nous and it is usually translated as let us . . . (let us choose, let us bring, etc).

Choisissons un restaurant. {shwah-ee-son-an-reh-stoh-ran} = Let's choose a restaurant

Parlons au chef. {par-lon-oh-shef} = Let's speak to the chef.

Discussing Dietary Preferences

Discussing Dietary Preferences

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Je suis végétarien.	{zhuh-swee-vay-zhay-tah-ryan} ▶ Play audi	I'm a vegetarian.

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Je ne mange pas de viande.	{zhuh-nuh-manzh-pah-duh-vyand} Play audi	I don't eat meat.
Je suis au régime de peu de sel.	{zhuh-swee-oh-ray-zheem-duh-puh-duh-sehl} Play audi	I'm on a low-salt diet.
Je suis au régime de peu de cholestérol.	{zhuh-swee-oh-ray-zheem-duh-puh-duh-koh-luh-stay-rohl} Play audi	I'm on a low-cholesterol diet.
Je suis allergique au lait.	{zhuh-swee-zah-lehr-zheek-oh-lay} Play audi	I'm allergic to milk.
Je suis allergique au blé.	{zhuh-swee-zah-lehr-zheek-oh-blay} Play audi	I'm allergic to wheat.
Je ne tolère pas de caféine.	{zhuh-nuh-toh-lehr-pah-duh-kah-fay-een} Play audi	I can't have caffeine.
Je ne bois pas d'alcool.	{zhuh-nuh-bwah-pah-dahl-kool} Play audi	I don't drink alcohol.

Translations

Here's a final dialogue since most meals end with a dessert and we are at the end of our lesson.

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Quel dessert voudriez-vous?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *kehl-day-sehr-voo-dree-ay-voo?*

Translate

What would you like for dessert?

Je voudrais la tarte aux pommes, s'il vous plaît.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *zhuh-voo-dray-lah-tahr-toh-pom-seel-voo-play*

Translate

I'd like apple tart, please.

Dialogue Five: Ordering Dessert

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Très bien. Et vous?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *tray-byen. ay-voo?*

Translate

Very good. And you?

Avez-vous de la crème caramel? Je l'adore!

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *ah-vay-voo-duh-lah-krehm-kah-rah-mehl? zhuh-lah-dohr!*

Translate

Do you have caramel custard? I love it!

Dialogue Five: Ordering Dessert

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Bien sûr. Voudriez-vous des cafés aussi?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *byen-soor. voo-dree-ay-voo-day-kah-fay-zoh-see?*

Translate

Of course. Would you like coffee as well?

Merci, non.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *mehr-see-non*

Translate

No thanks.

Dialogue Five: Ordering Dessert

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Whew! You've learned a lot about food! Keep up the hard work!

Travel Journal

Julie's Travel Journal

Over a long weekend I was visiting Nice with some friends and we were really tired of touristy restaurants. I asked a cashier where he usually ate lunch, and he gave me directions to an out-of-the-way restaurant. We had to go up three flights of stairs and down a narrow corridor. We had no idea a restaurant was hiding up there! It turned out to be a fabulous, tiny restaurant with nine or ten tables. Excellent!

One of the things that was disconcerting to me during my first few weeks in France was that restaurants do not serve water unless you ask for it. Furthermore, they don't put ice in your water unless you also ask for it – and I like my water cold with plenty of ice!

Lesson 7 Review

Review

Let's Review

Today you learned about food. You learned a lot of restaurant vocabulary. You even know how to request extra bread and low-salt foods!

You also learned about common types of restaurants. Be adventurous and try different places to eat when you're traveling. Some of the best restaurants are not on busy tourist streets. Walk back a couple of blocks and you might find a great local eatery. You'll probably save money, too!

Another tip is to ask locals where to eat. You can ask store clerks where they like to eat. They always know a cheap place to get good food!

Try to sample different foods as well. Take a chance and taste something new. You might find a new favorite food!

We also learned about the typical French meals and spent time talking about how to order in restaurants. We even learned about the **impératif** verb tense so that you will be able to put together commands or give advice.

In the next lesson, we're going to talk about currency and communication. See you then!

Lesson 7 Assignment

Planning the Menu

Now let's have some fun planning a 7-course meal! Think of what you might find in each course of French meal in the matching game below.

Text equivalent start.

Item to Match	Matching Choices	Correct Match
L'entrée	• la soupe aux tomates • Café • le poisson et les haricots verts • le vin et les olives	• la soupe aux tomates
L'apertif	• tarte aux pommes • le poisson et les haricots verts • Camembert et Brie • le vin et les olives	• le vin et les olives
Le digestif	• de l'alcool • la soupe aux tomates • le vin et les olives • Café	• de l'alcool

Item to Match	Matching Choices	Correct Match
Le dessert	• de l'alcool • la soupe aux tomates • Café • tarte aux pommes	• tarte aux pommes
Le Fromage	• Camembert et Brie • tarte aux pommes • la soupe aux tomates • de l'alcool	• Camembert et Brie
Le café	• Café • Camembert et Brie • la soupe aux tomates • le poisson et les haricots verts	• Café
Le Plat principal	• le poisson et les haricots verts • Camembert et Brie • Café • tarte aux pommes	• le poisson et les haricots verts

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.

Lesson 7 Discussion Area

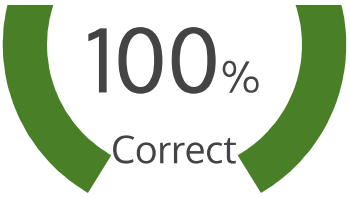
General Discussion

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

Use your new French vocabulary words from Lesson 7 and share your favorite beverage, fruit, vegetable, and dessert in French!

Lesson 7 Quiz



5 correct out of 5 questions

February 6, 2025 10:32 PM

1. Which word means "waiter"?

A. le verre

B. le glaçon

✓ C. le serveur

Correct!

D. le vendeur

2. How do you say "tap water" in French?

A. l'eau minérale

B. le thé

C. le vin

✓ D. l'eau du robinet

Correct!

3. Which of these might you order for l'entrée?

✓ A. la soupe

Correct!

B. la tarte aux pommes

C. le fromage

D. le poisson

4. Where would you go if you want a bar that serves food in a casual setting?

A. la boulangerie

B. la charcuterie

C. le boeuf

✓ D. la brasserie

Correct!

5. How would you ask the waiter to bring more bread using the impératif?

A. Je voudrais plus de pain, s'il vous plaît.

✓ B. Apportez-moi plus de pain, s'il vous plaît.

Correct!

C. Apportez-moi plus de café s'il vous plaît.

D. J'apporte plus de pain.

Lesson 7 Resources for Further Learning

Paris Restaurants (https://parisbymouth.com)

https://parisbymouth.com

English-language site that lists restaurants in Paris.

Restaurants in France (https://www.opentable.com/france)

https://www.opentable.com/france

Have fun exploring different restaurants in France.

Typical Breakfast in France (https://worldinparis.com/traditional-french-breakfast)

https://worldinparis.com/traditional-french-breakfast

Here you will find what the French like to eat for breakfast.

What is It They Eat in France for Lunch? (https://www.lefoodist.com/guides/cooking-classes-paris/cookingparis140.html)

https://www.lefoodist.com/guides/cooking-classes-paris/cookingparis140.html

This article explains what the French like to eat for lunch.

The Seven Courses of a Formal French Meal (https://www.thespruceeats.com/different-courses-in-formal-french-meal-1375353)

https://www.thespruceeats.com/different-courses-in-formal-french-meal-1375353

In case you were wondering about the courses of a formal French dinner...

French Restaurant Rules (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uk4b3eS_M0)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uk4b3eS_M0

This is a great video that talks about how to order in a French restaurant, along with pictures of common dishes. It is all in French, but there are English subtitles and the speaker speaks fairly slowly.

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