Section: bcf-6-0125

Beginning Conversational French

Lesson 10: Entertainment

Lesson 10 Introduction

Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Identify and apply French vocabulary related to cinema and entertainment.
2. Name common sports and outdoor activities in French.
3. Demonstrate passe compose verb tense.
4. Identify and apply French vocabulary for beaches, gardens and parks.

Introduction

Entertainment

Welcome back! Are you ready to have fun? Great!

Most people take trips for one reason: To have fun! Even if you must go on trips for other reasons, you try to find some time for entertainment.

One of the best things about visiting a new place is that you get to learn what the people who live there like to do for fun. That's what we're going to talk about in this lesson.

In chapter 2, we're going to explore French cinema, the theater, and talk about how music can help build your French skills. Along the way, you'll learn some practical vocabulary and also practice some dialogues that you can use on these excursions. In chapter 3, you'll learn about sports. Sports are popular in Europe. Going to sporting events in France is super fun!

You'll learn about other entertainment ideas in chapter 4. First, you'll learn about beaches. France has lots of coastline. Get out the sunscreen, you'll need it! Then we'll talk about the amazing gardens and parks. If you've always wondered how to say *surfboard* in French, pay attention to chapter 4!

During all this entertainment, we will take a grammar stop to talk about how to use the past tense in French, the passé composé. After all, you're going to want to tell all your new French friends about all the wonderful things that you saw yesterday.

This lesson is going to be exciting! It might get you singing, swinging, or wringing.

Download

Lesson 10 Audio Files (https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/audio/L10-audio.zip)

Download

Lesson 10 Vocabulary List (https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/L10_Vocab.zip)

Chapter 1: Movies and Theater

Cinema and Theatre

Benefits of Cinema and Theater

If you want to learn about a country's culture and language at the same time, you can make a visit to the movies or a theater or listen to some French music. All of these provide great opportunities to practice your listening skills and build your pronunciation. You can also get a broader understanding of who the French are.

Cinema

Julie's Travel Journal

Watching movies in foreign countries is fun! One of my favorite things to do is have a movie night with my friends from the exchange program. English-speaking movies are either dubbed in the local language, or they'll have subtitles. Watching dubbed movies makes me laugh. The voices are never the original actors. Sometimes they're way off! Sometimes, our professors will also let us watch movies in class.

Since I've been here in Paris, I try to go to the movies several times a month. Sometimes if I'm feeling homesick, I will go and see a movie that is popular back home in the US. Most of these movies play in English with French subtitles and I enjoy seeing how closely the translation lines up to what is being said. Other times when I want to practice my French, I will go to a popular French movie. I'm not able to catch every word, but I can understand enough to know what is going on in the movie.

Here's some vocabulary to help you at the movies:

Movie Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le film	{luh-feelm} ▶ Play audi	movie
le cinéma	{luh-see-nay-mah} ▶ Play audi	movie theatre
le billet	{luh-bee-yay} ▶ Play audi	ticket
la place	{lah-plahs} ▶ Play audi	seat
le rang	{luh-ran} ▶ Play audi	row

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
l'allée	{lah-lay} Play audi	aisle
le pop-corn	{luh-pop-korn} Play audi	popcorn
le soda	{luh-soh-dah} Play audi	soda pop
les dessins animés	{lay-duh-sin-ah-nee-may} Play audi	cartoons
le guichet	{luh-gee-shay} Play audi	box office

Translations

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Monsieur:

Allons au cinéma!

▶ Play audi

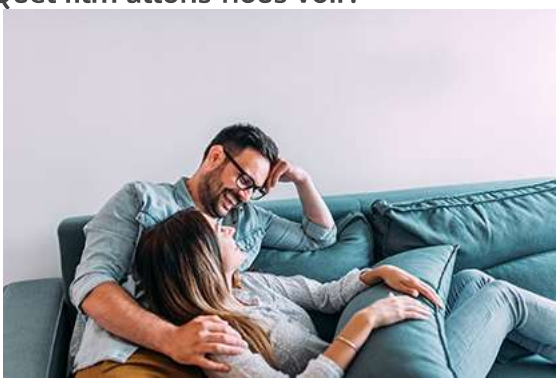
Pronounciation: *ah-lon-zoh-see-nay-mah!*

Translate

Let's go to a movie!

Madame:

Quel film allons-nous voir?



▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *kehl-feelm-ah-lon-noo-vwahr?*

Translate

What movie should we see?

Dialogue One: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Monsieur:

Voulez-vous voir un drame ou une comédie?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *voo-lay-voo-vwahr-an-drahm-oo-oon-koh-may-dee?*

Translate

Do you want to see a drama or comedy?

Madame:

Un film d'horreur!

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *an-feelm-doh-rur!*

Translate

A horror movie!

Dialogue One: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Monsieur:

Non! Ils me causent avoir des cauchemars.

▶ **Play audio**

Pronounciation: *non! eel-muh-koh-zah-vwahr-day-koh-shhu-mahr*

Translate

No! They give me nightmares.

Dialogue One: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Madame:

Je voudrais deux billets au film, s'il vous plaît.

▶ Play audio

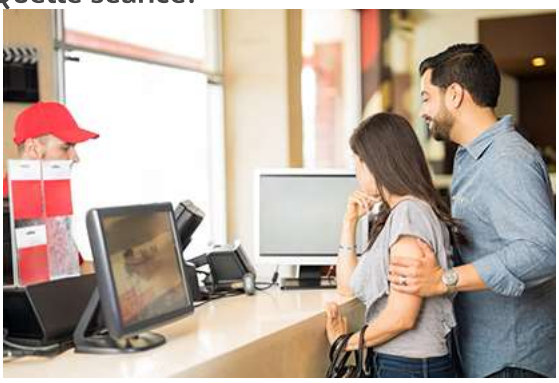
Pronounciation: *zhuh-voo-dray-duh-bee-yay-oh-feelm-seel-voo-play*

Translate

I'd like two tickets to the movie, please.

Monsieur:

Quelle séance?



▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *kehl-say-ans?*

Translate

Which show?

Dialogue Two: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Madame:

A sept heures.

▶ Play audio

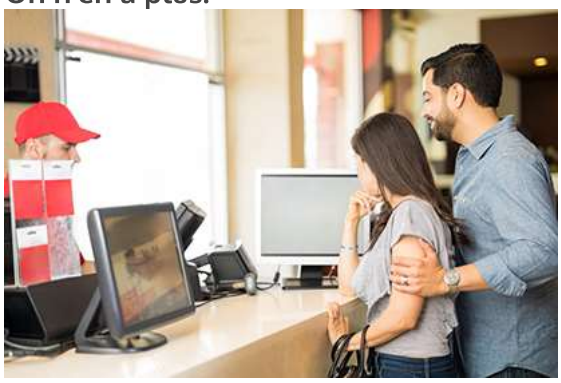
Pronounciation: *ah-seh-tur*

Translate

Seven o'clock.

Monsieur:

On n'en a plus.



▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *on-nan-ah-ploo*

Translate

It's sold out.

Dialogue Two: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Madame:

A-t-on à neuf heures?.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *ah-ton-ah-nuh-vur?*

Translate

Do you have any for nine o'clock?

Monsieur:

Oui.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *wee*

Translate

Yes.

Dialogue Two: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Madame:

Est-ce que ce film est en français ou en anglais?

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *ehs-kuh-suh-feelm-eh-tan-fran-say-oo-an-an-glay?*

Translate

Is this movie in French or English?

Monsieur:

C'est en français.

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *seh-tan-fran-say*

Translate

It's in French.

Dialogue Three: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Madame:

Est-ce qu'il y a des sous-titres en anglais?

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *ehs-keel-ee-ah-day-soo-teetr-an-an-glay?*

Translate

Are there English subtitles?

Monsieur:

Non.

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *non*

Translate

No.

Dialogue Three: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Theater

We'll start with general terms about the theater. These are words that apply to any kind of show you might see. Remember, stage shows are usually in the local language. You might not understand all the dialogue!

Theatre Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la pièce	{la-pyehs} Play audi	play
la comédie musicale	{lah-koh-may-dee-moo-zee-kahl} Play audi	musical
le titre	{luh-teetr} Play audi	title
l'acteur	{lahk-tur} Play audi	actor
le rôle	{luh-rohl} Play audi	part
le programme	{luh-proh-grahm} Play audi	playbill
l'acte	{lahkt} Play audi	act

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la scène	{lah-sehn} Play audi	scene/stage
l'entracte	{lan-trahkt} Play audi	intermission
le texte	{luh-tehkst} Play audi	lines
la chanson	{lah-shan-son} Play audi	song
la salle	{lah-sahl} Play audi	house
les décors	{lay-day-kor} Play audi	scenery
le billet	{luh-bee-yay} Play audi	ticket
les bureaux fermés	{lay-boo-roh-fehr-may} Play audi	sold out house
la place	{lah-plahs} Play audi	seat
la loge	{lah-lohzh} Play audi	box

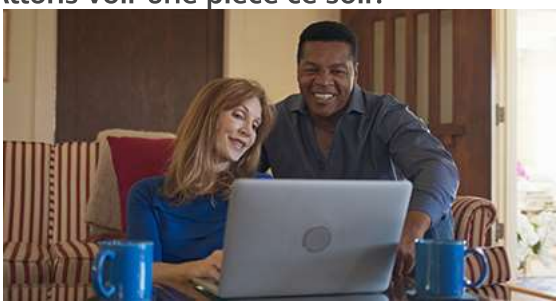
Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le balcon	{luh-bahl-kon}	balcony
	▶ Play audi	
le placeur	{luh-plah-sur}	usher
	▶ Play audi	
les spectateurs	{lay-spehk-tah-tur}	audience
	▶ Play audi	

Translations

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Madame:

Allons voir une pièce ce soir!



▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *ah-lon-vwahr-oon-pyehs-suh-swahr!*

Translate

Let's go see a play tonight!

Monsieur:

Ça a l'air d'être amusant

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *sah-ah-layr-dehtr-ah-moo-zan*

Translate

That sounds fun.

Dialogue Four: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Madame:

Qu'est-ce que tu veux voir?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *kehs-kuh-too-vuh-vwahr?*

Translate

What do you want to see?

Monsieur:

Peut-être quelque chose de Molière.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *puh-tehtr-kehl-kuh-shohz-duh-moh-lee-yayr*

Translate

Maybe something by Molière.

Dialogue Four: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Madame:

Pouvez-vous m'aider chercher ma place?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *poo-vay-voo-meh-day-shehr-shay-mah-plahs?*

Translate

Can you help me find my seat?

Monsieur:

Avec plaisir. Suivrez-moi.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *ah-vehk-play-zeer. swee-vray-mwah*

Translate

I'd be happy to. Follow me.

Dialogue Five: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Madame:

Voici un pourboire.

Play audi

Pronounciation: *vwah-see-an-poor-bwahr*

Translate

Here's a small tip.

Monsieur:

Merci beaucoup

Play audi

Pronounciation: *mehr-see-boh-koo!*

Translate

Thank you very much!

Dialogue Five: Cinema

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Chapter 2: Music

Music Vocabulary and Useful Phrases

Music

Most movies and theatrical performances incorporate some wonderful music. A great way to build your French pronunciation and vocabulary is to listen to French music.

Here are some benefits:

- Singing along with songs can help you get your mouth and tongue in the correct positions. It can also allow you to try to imitate the sounds and tone. Research shows that when we sing, our accent becomes less visible.

- Lyrics tend to be casual and natural; they imitate the way that we speak. This helps you to learn native vocabulary and expressions that you might not learn otherwise.
- Song lyrics tend to get stuck in our heads, which will also help you learn French.

Tips for listening to French music.

- Find the lyrics to the songs that you like and follow along.
- After you've listened to a song a few times, try to sing along.
- Find a music video to go along with a song you like. The visuals will help you build associations with the song, and you can also watch how the singers move their mouths.

Here's a little music vocabulary for you to learn.

Music Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la musique	{lah-moo-zeek} ▶ Play audi	music
la chanson	{lah-shan-son} ▶ Play audi	song
chanter	{shan-tay} ▶ Play audi	to sing
écouter de la musique	{ay-coo-tay-duh-lah-moo-seek} ▶ Play audi	listen to music

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
jouer de la musique	{joo-ay-duh-lah-moo-seek} Play audi	play music
les paroles	{lay-pah-rohl} Play audi	lyrics
un chanteur/une chanteuse	{an-shan-tur/oon-shan-tuz} Play audi	(lead) singer (male/female)
un concert	{an-con-sehr} Play audi	concert
la voix	{lah-vwah} Play audi	voice
la groupe	{lah-groop} Play audi	band/group

Translations

Music Dialogue

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Madame:

Quel genre de musique aimez-vous?

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *kehl-zhanr-duh-moo-zeek-ay-may-voo?*

Translate

What kind of music do you like?

Monsieur:

Le rock!

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *luh-rohk*

Translate

Rock!

Dialogue Six: Music

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Monsieur:

Pas moi. J'aime le jazz.

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *pah-mwah. zhehm-luh-zhaz*

Translate

Not me. I like jazz.

Dialogue Six: Music

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Enough movies and theater! Let's see some live action: Sports!

Chapter 3: Sports

Football and Cycling

Sports

Sports are popular in Europe. Fans get emotionally involved, and they can be more fun to watch than the game! The French take pride in their athletes and the interest and participation in sports is high.

General Sports Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le sport	{luh-spor} ▶ Play audi	sports
le jeu	{luh-zhuh} ▶ Play audi	game
l'arène	{lah-rehn} ▶ Play audi	arena

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le tableau	{luh-tah-bloh} ▶ Play audi	scoreboard
l'équipe	{lay-keep} ▶ Play audi	team
applaudir	{ah-ploh-deer} ▶ Play audi	to cheer
le billet	{luh-bee-yay} ▶ Play audi	ticket
le stade	{luh-stahd} ▶ Play audi	stadium
le score	{luh-skor} ▶ Play audi	score

Translations

Here are a few of the most popular sports in France:

Football

Football, which Americans call soccer, became popular in France thanks to the French soldiers who played it during their free time during World War I. Les Bleus, or the Blues are the national French football team. You may have watched them play in the World Cup. Their mascot is **le coq gaulois** or the Gallic rooster.

In most of the world, the game with a black-and-white round ball and a net at each end is called **football**. Americans call the same game *soccer*. The sport Americans call *football*, which is played with a brown ball and goal posts at each end, is called *American football* in the rest of the world. In this lesson, the term **football** refers to the game with the black-and-white round ball.

Football Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le football	{luh-foot-bahl} ▶ Play audi	football (soccer)
le football américain	{luh-foot-bahl-ah-may-ree-kan} ▶ Play audi	American football
un but	{an-boot} ▶ Play audi	a goal
La Coupe du monde	{lah-coop-doo-mond} ▶ Play audi	World Cup
Les Bleus	{lay-bloo} ▶ Play audi	the Blues, the French football team

Translations

Cycling

If you've ever watched the Tour de France, you will know how much the French love cycling. France even has a growing network of long-distance cycleways, which has the ultimate goal of bike paths that extend throughout all of France. More than 200 train stations rent bicycles. You can even rent at one station and return at another!

Cycling Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le cyclisme	{luh-see-klis-muh} Play audi	cycling
un vélo	{an-vay-loh} Play audi	bike
un vélo tout-terrain/un VTT	{an-vay-loh-too-teh-ran /an-vay-tay-tay} Play audi	mountain bike
un casque	{an-cask} Play audi	helmet
faire du vélo	{fayr-doo-vay-loh} Play audi	to ride a bike

Translations

Tennis and Horseback Riding

Tennis

The word tennis, has its origin in Old French and translates as hold, receive, or take. France hosts the French Open, also known as Roland Garros. It was the first grand slam tournament to be played on a clay surface.

Tennis Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
Le tennis	{luh-tuh-nees} Play audi	tennis
servir	{ser-veer} Play audi	to serve

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
frapper	{frah-pay}	to hit
	Play audi	
la balle	{lah-bahl}	the ball
	Play audi	
la raquette	{lah-rah-ket}	the racket
	Play audi	
l'égalité	{lay-gahl-ee-tay}	deuce
	Play audi	

Translations

Horse Riding

France is well known for horse breeding, especially in the areas of Normandy and Forez, along the Loire river. It hosts the popular horse race, the Arc de Triomphe, known more commonly as the Arc.

Horse Riding Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
l'équitation	{lay-kee-tah-syon}	horseback riding
	Play audi	
le cheval	{luh-shuh-vahl}	horse
	Play audi	
la selle	{lah-sehl}	saddle
	Play audi	
les rênes	{lay-rehn}	reins
	Play audi	

Ready for some dialogues?

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Madame:

Dans quelle direction est le guichet?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *dan-kehl-dee-rehk-syon-eh-luh-gee-shay?*

Translate

Which way is the ticket office?

Monsieur:

C'est à la droite.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *seh-tah-lah-dwaht*

Translate

It's to the right.

Dialogue Seven: Music

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Monsieur:

Est-ce qu'il est près de l'entrée?

▶ **Play audi**

Pronounciation: *ehs-keel-eh-pray-duh-lan-tray?*

Translate

Is it near the entrance?

Madame:

Oui.

▶ **Play audi**

Pronounciation: *wee*

Translate

Yes.

Dialogue Seven: Music

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Madame:

Où en est le jeu?

Play audio

Pronounciation: *oo-an-eh-luh-zhuh?*

Translate

What's the score?

Monsieur:

Trois à un.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *twah-ah-an*

Translate

Three to one.

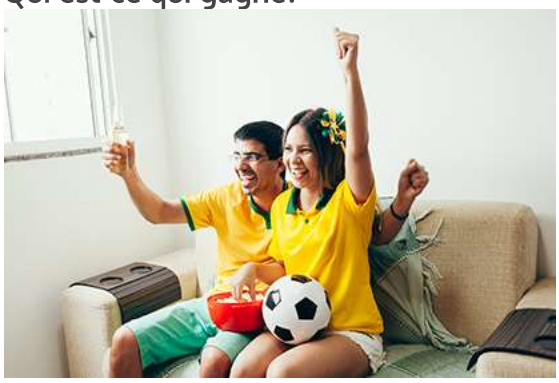
Dialogue Eight: Sports

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Madame:

Qui est-ce qui gagne?



Play audio

Pronounciation: *kee-ehs-kee-gany?*

Translate

Who's ahead?

Monsieur:

Le Brésil.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *luh-bray-zeel*

Translate

Brazil.

Dialogue Eight: Sports

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Before we say au revoir to sports, let's take a minute to visit our conjugation corner. After all, here is a verb that you're going to use a lot if you decide to play a sport.

Conjugation Corner: Jouer

The verb **jouer**, means to play. It is a regular verb and is important to learn because it is used all the time to talk about sports and music, which we will be covering in the next chapter,

Here's how to conjugate it:

Text equivalent start.

Je joue

Nous jouons

Tu joues

Vous jouez

Il/elle joue

Ils/elles jouent

Text equivalent stop.

To play a sport, you will use the verb jouer plus the preposition **à**. Don't forget the **à**! The **à** contracts with **le** and **les**. **La** doesn't contract. So, **à** + le = au {oh} and **à** + les = aux {oh} and **à** + la = **à** la {ah-lah}. Joeur au tennis = to play tennis, jouer aux cartes= to play cards.

Whew! Have you had enough of sports? In the next chapter, we're going to talk about other fun things to do!

Chapter 4: Family Fun: Beaches, Gardens, and Parks

French Beaches

French Beaches

There's something magical about the beach. Well, France has over 2000 miles of coastline with beaches on the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, and the English Channel. You will find rocky cliffs with incredible rock formations and flatter coastlines with long sandy beaches. The beaches can be pebbly or sandy depending on where you are.

Here's some beach vocabulary:

Beach Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la plage	{lah-plazh} ▶ Play audi	beach
la serviette	{lah-sehr-vyeht} ▶ Play audi	towel
le sable	{luh-sabl} ▶ Play audi	sand
l'eau	{loh} ▶ Play audi	water
la mer	{lah-mehr} ▶ Play audi	sea

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
l'océan	{loh-say-an} Play audi	ocean
la baignade interdite	{lah-bahn-yahd-an-tehr-deet Play audi	No Swimming (sign)
le courant	{luh-koo-ran} Play audi	current
le surf	{luh-seerf} Play audi	surfing
la planche de surf	{lah-plansh-duh-seerf} Play audi	surfboard
le ski nautique	{luh-skee-noh-teek} Play audi	water skiing
le bateau	{luh-bah-toh} Play audi	boat
faire de la voile	{fayr-duh-lah-vwahl} Play audi	sailing

Translations

Here are some fun-filled conversations!

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Madame:

Je suis impatient d'aller à la plage!

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *zhuh-swee-am-pah-syan-dah-lay-ah-lah-plahzh!*

Translate

I can't wait to go to the beach!

Monsieur:

Moi aussi!

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *mwah-oh-see!*

Translate

Me too!

Dialogue Nine: Beach

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Madame:

J'espère qu'il fasse beau.

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *zheh-spehr-keel-fahs-boh*

Translate

I hope it will be sunny.

Monsieur:

N'oubliez pas d'appliquer la crème solaire.

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *noo-blee-ay-pah-dah-plee-kay-lah-krehm-soh-layr*

Translate

Don't forget to use sunscreen.

Dialogue Nine: Beach

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

French Gardens and Parks

If you're not really close to the coast, but still want to get outside, France has some beautiful gardens and parks, which are fun for picnics and people-watching. If you've been on a whirlwind tour of sightseeing, take a little break and visit a park!

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le parc	{luh-park} Play audi	park
le pique-nique	{luh-peek-neek} Play audi	picnic
le parc de jeux	{luh-park-duh-zhuh} Play audi	playground
le banc	{luh-bank} Play audi	bench
le chemin	{luh-shuh-min} Play audi	path
le jardin	{luh-zhar-din} Play audi	garden
l'herbe	{lehrb} Play audi	grass
la fleur	{lah-flur} Play audi	flower

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
l'arbre	{larbr} ▶ Play audi	tree
Il est interdit de marcher sur les pelouses.	{eel-eh-in-tur-dee-duh-mar-shay-soor-lay-puh-looz} ▶ Play audi	Keep Off the Grass (sign)

Translations

Have fun visiting parks and gardens but be sure to pay attention to signs. You don't want to get fined!

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Monsieur:

Promenons au parc.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *proh-muh-non-oh-park*

Translate

Let's go for a walk in the park.

Madame:

Je vais apporter mes patins à roulettes.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *zhuh-vay-zah-por-tay-may-pah-tin-ah-roo-leht*

Translate

I'm going to take my roller skates.

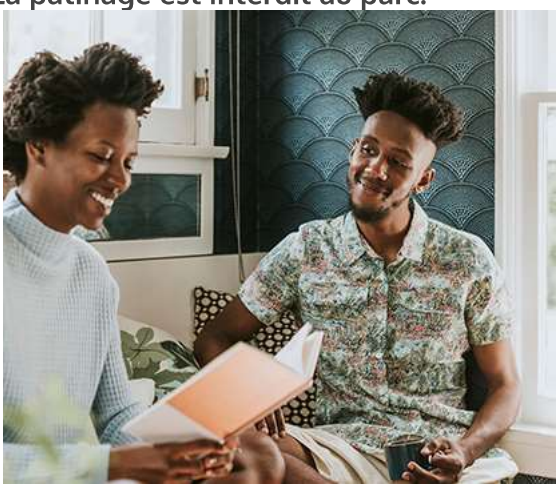
Dialogue Ten: Park

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Monsiuer:

La patinage est interdit au parc.



Play audi

Pronounciation: *luh-pah-tee-nazh-eh-ta=in-tehr-dee-oh-pahrk*

Translate

You're not allowed to skate in the park.

Madame:

Zut! J'apporterai plutôt un pique-nique.

Play audi

Pronounciation: *zoot! zhah-por-tuh-ray-ploo-toh-an-peek-neek*

Translate

Darn! I'll take a picnic instead.

Dialogue Ten: Park

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Madame:

Quand est-ce que le jardin est ouvert?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *kan-ehs-kuh-luh-zhar-din-eh-oo-vehr?*

Translate

When is the garden open?

Monsieur:

Du lever au coucher de soleil.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *doo-leh-vay-oh-koo-shay-duh-soh-lay*

Translate

From sunrise to sunset.

Dialogue Eleven: Garden

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Madame:

Est-ce qu'il faut payer l'entrée?

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *ehs-keel-foh-pay-ay-lan-tray?*

Translate

Is there an admission charge?

Monsieur:

Non. C'est gratuit.

▶ Play audi

Pronounciation: *non. seh-grah-twee.*

Translate

No. It's free.

Dialogue Eleven: Garden

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Past Tense Verb Form, Passé Composé

Grammar Stop: Passé Composé

Because you're going to want to tell your family and friends about all the amazing experiences you've had on your trip, and those things are going to have happened in the past, we're now going to spend a little time looking at how to use the past tense verb form, which is known as the **passé composé** in French.

Here's what you need to know about the passé composé:

passé composé describes a past action done in the past and can be translated three different ways: j'ai voyagé: I traveled, I have traveled, I did travel.

It is a compound verb tense, which means that it has two parts to it. First, it will use either avoir or être as its helping verb. Second it will use the past participle of the verb.

passé composé

avoir/être + past participle of main verb

To form the past participles of regular -er verbs: remove the -er ending and add – é.

regarder (to watch)

er + é= regardé

jouer (to play)

er + é = joué

To form the past participles of regular -ir verbs: remove the -ir ending and add -i

finir (to finish)

-ir + i = fini

choisir (to choose)

-ir + i = choisi

To form the past participles of regular -re verbs: remove the -re ending and add -u

perdre (to lose)

-re + u = perdu

vendre (to sell)

-re + u = vendu

Before we go any further, let's put all of this together.

passé composé

subject + avoir/être + past participle of main verb

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
J'ai joué au football hier.	I played football yesterday.
Ils ont fini le jeu avec une victoire.	They finished the game with a win.
Nous avons perdu trois à deux.	We lost three to two.

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

Text equivalent stop.

Notice that the helping verb, avoir, is conjugated to agree with the subject. Let's review how to conjugate avoir:

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

Verbs

The past participle stays the same, no matter what the subject is:

J'ai joué

Tu as joué

Nous avons joué

If you are a newcomer to French, you might want to stop right there and soak in all those steps. However, if you have taken French courses before or are just curious, we're going to touch on a few more details to know about passé compose,

Most French verbs use avoir as their helping verb, so if you are unsure, go with that. However, there is a list of 16 verbs that use être. There's a useful acronym to help you remember them: DR (and) MRS VANDERTRAMP.

Letter	Definition
D	***Devenir*** (to become)
R	***Revenir*** (to come back)
M	***Monter*** (to go up)
R	***Retourner*** (to return)
S	***Sortir*** (to go out)
V	***Venir*** (to come)
A	***Aller*** (to go)
N	***Naître*** (to be born)
D	***Descendre*** (to go down)
E	***Entrer*** (to enter)
R	***Rentrer*** (to go home/to return)
T	***Tomber*** (to fall)
R	***Rester*** (to remain/to rest)
A	***Arriver*** (to arrive)
M	***Mourir*** (to die)
P	***Partir*** (to leave)

Vandertramp Acronym

Looking at a few examples:

Je suis restée au jeu. = I stayed at the game.

Nous sommes partis à la mi-temps. = We left at halftime.

Ils sont venus avec nous. = They came with us.

If you were paying careful attention, you noticed that each of these examples used être as the helping verb. You probably also noticed that the part participles had extra letters on each of them. That is because when you use être as the helping verb, the part participles must agree with the subject in number and gender, just as French adjectives do. In the first example, the speaker was female, so restée has an e. In the second example, nous is plural, so partis has an s. If nous had been a group of girls, the past participle would have been spelled parties. The good news is that if you are speaking in a conversation, you won't have to remember that because parti, parties, and partis are all pronounced the same.

Learning Check – Negative Sentences

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Je n'ai pas joué au football hier.	I didn't play football yesterday.
Ils n'ont pas fini le jeu avec une victoire.	They didn't finish the game with a win.
Je ne suis pas restée au jeu.	I didn't stay at the game.
Nous ne sommes pas partis à la mi-temps.	We didn't leave at halftime.

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

Text equivalent stop.

If you have a negative sentence, the ne...pas is placed around the helping verb as shown in the examples above.

If you want to ask a question, it will look just like you would expect:

Est-ce que + subject + avoir/être + past participle

Est-ce que tu as resté au jeu ? = Did you stay at the game ?

Est-ce que vous êtes partis à la mi-temps ? = Did you leave at halftime ?

But, if you want to use the inverted question form, you will invert the helping verb with the subject:

As-tu resté au jeu ? = Did you stay at the game ?

Êtes-vous partis à la mi-temps ? = Did you leave at halftime ?

Well, do you feel ready to talk about fun times in French? Practice these dialogues listen to some French music, and you might have more fun on your next trip!

Lesson 10 Review

Review

Let's Review!

In this lesson you learned how to talk in French about entertainment. You know about movies and the theater. You're thinking about the new playlist that you want to create of French music. (And please pop into the discussion area to share some of the best songs you've downloaded.)

In chapter 3, you learned about sports. European sports fans can be very passionate about their favorite teams. Now you know how to speak French about sports, so you can join the emotional fans.

You learned about other entertaining destinations in chapter 4. We started with the beach and pools. If you're staying at the beach, be sure to ask if your room will overlook the water. Sometimes it costs extra!

Then we talked about gardens and parks. Ask your hotel's concierge about any favorites that are nearby. He or she will be able to tell you how to find them.

We also talked about how to form the passé composé. Now you can talk all about things that you've already done, whether it's yesterday, last year, or ten years ago.

In the next lesson, we're going to talk about those things that we hope to never have to deal with – emergencies. . You'll learn vocabulary for parts of the body and how to get help from the professionals when you need it. Keep practicing, start singing, and we'll see you later! *À bientôt!*

Lesson 10 Assignment

Assignment

Search the internet for French music then stop into the discussion area and share one or two French songs that you have found and love. That way we can all add them to our playlist. Here's one to start you off: nuits d'été by Oscar Anton and Clementine.

Lesson 10 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

Visit one of the sites in the Resources for Further Learning and describe which would be your favorite travel destination and why. Please include which site you visited.

Lesson 10 Quiz

5 correct out of 5 questions

February 23, 2025 8:46 PM

1. How do you say "box office" in French?

   A. le billet

   ✓ B. le guichet

   Correct!

   C. la chanson

   D. les singes

2. What popular sport in France is played with a black and white ball and has a net at each end?

   ✓ A. le football

   Correct!

   B. le football amériain

C. le stade

D. le tennis

3. How do you say beach in French?

A. la poisson

B. la piscine

C. les boissons

✓ D. la plage

Correct!

4. When will you use passé composé?

✓ A. Passé composé is used when you need to discuss past actions.

Correct!

B. Passé composé is used when you need to discuss future actions.

C. Passé composé is used when you need to discuss present actions.

D. Passé composé should only be used when asking a question.

5. Which word is French for "garden"?

✓ A. le jardin

Correct!

B. le jeu

C. l'arbe

D. le prix

Lesson 10 Resources for Further Learning

Top 15 Best Beaches in France (https://www.french-waterways.com/summer-guide-best-french-beaches/)

https://www.french-waterways.com/summer-guide-best-french-beaches/

If you're ready to plan your next beach vacation in France, check out this site.

The French Coast and the Beaches of France (https://www.about-france.com/tourism/french-seaside-coast.htm)

https://www.about-france.com/tourism/french-seaside-coast.htm

Here's a helpful map that shows the different types of beaches in France and includes some beach favorites to visit.

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7 Most Popular Sports in France (https://journeytofrance.com/sports-in-france/)

https://journeytofrance.com/sports-in-france/

For those of you who love sports, check out this site for the most popular French sports.

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11 Best Parks and Gardens That You Must Visit in Paris (https://journeytofrance.com/best-parks-gardens-paris/)

https://journeytofrance.com/best-parks-gardens-paris/

Here's an extensive list of parks and gardens found solely in Paris.

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4 Ways to Conjugate French Verbs into Passè Composè (https://www.wikihow.com/Conjugate-French-Verbs-into-Passé-Composé)

https://www.wikihow.com/Conjugate-French-Verbs-into-Passé-Composé

Here's more about how to use passè compose, including a very helpful list of the verbs that conjugate with être,

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5 Spotify Playlists to Follow if You're Learning French (https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/french-spotify-playlists)

https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/french-spotify-playlists

This site contains some amazing lists to get you started on your French songs playlist.

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