Section: bcf-6-0125

Beginning Conversational French

Lesson 12: Putting It All Together

Lesson 12 Introduction

Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Practice pronunciation to help you sound like a French speaker.
2. Apply question words and common French expressions.
3. Apply common French acronyms and abbreviations
4. Investigate places around the world where French is spoken.

Introduction

Putting It All Together

You made it! You've been working hard, and now it's time to put it all together!

In this lesson, we're going to begin with a short review of some of the nuances of French pronunciation. Then you'll practice some common question words and expressions that will make you sound completely French. Along the way, we will pop in on Julie's Travel Journal to hear about some French speaking places that aren't in France.

In chapter 2, we'll start our review. We'll go over a few key points, such as pronunciation and linking words. You'll even get a little more practice on those cumbersome nasal vowels!

Then, in chapter 3 you'll learn how to use some really common questions and expressions. All you have to do is plug in the word you need! No problem!

We'll continue with more vocabulary in chapter 4. You'll learn some common expressions, acronyms, and abbreviations. You'll even learn some filler words to use in those pauses while you think of the correct word.

Along the way we are also going to travel around the world with Julie, as she researches possible places to visit for her next trip. There are so many places you can go to practice your French besides France and we are going to explore some of them along with Julie.

You've been working hard though all these lessons. Now let's do some reviewing and daydreaming about our next trip. Here we go!

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Lesson 12 Audio Files (https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/audio/L12-audio.zip)

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Lesson 12 Vocabulary List (https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/L12_Vocab.zip)

Chapter 1: Nuances of the French Language

Practice Pronunciation

Pronunciation

We're going to start with a review of pronunciation. Good pronunciation will help you communicate better with native speakers. We'll review nasal vowels, pronouncing *r*, silent final consonants, liaison and speaking evenly.

Nasal Vowel Review

Nasal vowels are important for proper pronunciation. They can be difficult for English speakers, because English just doesn't have a similar sound. The closest sound we have is when we say the word "huh?". Nasal vowels need to be forced through the nose, rather than the mouth. Here are a few words to practice that we have already seen in earlier lessons:

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le pain	{luh-pin} ▶ Play audi	bread
le magasin	**{luh-mag-uh-zin}** ▶ Play audi	**store**

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
un	{an}	one or a
	Play audi	
brun	{bran}	brown
	Play audi	
les nombres	{lay-nonbr}	numbers
	Play audi	
bonjour	{bon-zhoor}	hello
	Play audi	

Translations

R-sound Review

Pronouncing the French *r* also gives English speakers trouble. The *r* sound is made in the back of the mouth. The tongue and lips don't move. Unfortunately, we don't have this sound in English.

Have you ever had a dry piece of popcorn or other food stuck in the back of your mouth? You can't really swallow it down, but you need to move it. Many people make a guttural sound way back in their mouth to move the food. That's similar to the French *r*.

Now make an *r* sound while you're moving the popcorn. You've got it! Let's practice!

R-sound Practice

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le rhume	{luh-room}	head cold
	Play audi	
rose	{ rohz}	pink
	Play audi	

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
regarder	{ruh-gar-day} ▶ Play audi	**to watch**
la route	{lah-root} ▶ Play audi	**road**
le repas	{luh-ruh-pah} ▶ Play audi	**meal**

Translations

Silent Final Consonant Review

Now we're going to review silent final consonants. Pronouncing all final consonants is a giveaway that you're not a native speaker. There are a few exceptions to the rule, of course, but remember: When in doubt, leave it out!

Consonant Practice

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
ballet	{bah-lay} ▶ Play audi	ballet
vous	{voo} ▶ Play audi	you (formal)
français	{fran-say} ▶ Play audi	French
moins	{mwan} ▶ Play audi	less

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
trop	{troh}	too much
	Play audi	

Translations

Let's talk about an exception to the **silent final consonant rule**. When a word that starts with a vowel comes after a final consonant, you have **liaison**. Liaison means you carry over the final consonant and pronounce it as the first sound of the next word.

Liaison Words

French people these days often omit the liaison. Just like in English, people don't always use perfect grammar when they speak.

Here are a few examples to practice liaisons:

Liaison Review

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
vous avez	{voo-zah-vay}	you have
	Play audi	
nous allons	{noo-zah-lon}	we go
	Play audi	
les amis	{lay-zah-mee}	the friends
	Play audi	

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
les enfants	{lay-zan-fan}	the children
	▶ Play audi	
les hommes	{lay-zom}	the men
	▶ Play audi	

Translations

Don't get overly concerned about liaison. People will still understand you if you forget to carry over consonants. Likewise, they'll also understand you if you use liaison every possible chance! Remember, your goal is successful communication!

Finally, we're going to talk about stressing syllables. English is a highly stressed language. We emphasize syllables all the time.

If someone used the wrong stress, they would sound odd. We'd eventually figure out what they were saying, but we'd have to think about it.

French is an even-toned language. No syllables are stressed. Try to give every syllable the same tone. English speakers sometimes have difficulty keeping an even tone. If you feel you must stress a syllable, stress the word's last syllable. Either way, French speakers will still understand you!

Concentrate on speaking evenly as you say the next examples.

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Comment vous appelez-vous? {koh-man-voo-zah-puh-lay-voo?}	What's your name?
Je veux aller au cinéma. {zhuh-vuh-ah-lay-oh-see-nay-mah}	I want to go to the movies.
J'aimerais le boeuf, s'il vous plaît. {zham-ray-luh-buhf-seel-voo-play}	I'd like the beef please.

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

Text equivalent stop.

Now let's take a break from our pronunciation review to visit some places where we can practice all these new skills.

Julie's Travel Journal

Now that I've returned from my amazing semester in Paris, I'm getting antsy to plan my next trip to a place where I can practice my French. Thanks to my research, I now know that there are lots of options, all over the world.

If I want to stay in North America, I could go to Louisiana or to many big cities in Canada, including Quebec, Montreal, and Vancouver.

Close to France, there are several amazing countries: Belgium, Switzerland, Monaco, and Luxembourg. I visited Belgium and Switzerland already while I was in France (those TGV trains are so awesome!), but I would love to go back.

In Africa alone, there are 21 French speaking countries. Gosh, I would love to go on an African safari!

I could really go all over the world! In South America, there are French speakers in Haiti and French Guiana. I was also surprised to learn that there is an island in Oceania that speaks French, named Vanuatu and in Asia, there are French speakers in French Indochine, which consists of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

If you want to learn more non-offensive slang there are many resources for French Slang, such as The Dictionary of French Slang and Colloquial Expressions (https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B019L4JKYM/ref=as_li_qf_sp_asin_il_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=B019L4JKYM&linkCode=as2&tag=ilcclassroom-20&linkId=N3XWGGDN3MJO7R5Z)

Chapter 2: Making Your Own Sentences

Common Question Words and Expressions

Common Question Words and Expressions

Are you ready to make your own sentences now? You sure are! You've been working hard, and you can do it!

We're going to review some short questions and sentences that you saw earlier in the course. When you are traveling, these tend to come up often, so it feels worth repeating. All you have to do is fill in the blank with the word you need! If you practice these phrases, you'll be able to get most of the information you need when you're traveling. Just look up the word you want, such as "open," and plug it in. You're on your way!

We'll start with the all-important question: "Where is?" and "What is?" You'll ask these questions often. Be sure to learn them!

Question Flashcards

Text equivalent start.

Term	Definition
Phrase: **Où est ...?** Play audi	Pronunciation: {oo-eh-...?} Translations: Where is...?
Phrase: **Où est l'arrêt d'autobus?** Play audi	Pronunciation: {oo-eh-lah-reh-doh-toh-boos?} Translations: Where is the bus stop?
Phrase: **Où est la livraison des bagages?** Play audi	Pronunciation: {oo-eh-lah-lee-vray-zon-day-bah-gazh?} Translations: Where is the baggage claim?
Phrase: **Qu'est-ce que ...?** Play audi	Pronunciation: {kehs-kuh-...?} Translations: What is...?

Term	Definition
Phrase: **Qu'est-ce que c'est le nom de ce parc?** ▶ **Play audi**	Pronunciation: {kehs-kuh-seh-luh-non-duh-suh-park?} Translations: What is the name of this park?
Phrase: **Qu'est-ce que vous faites?** ▶ **Play audi**	Pronunciation: {kehs-kuh-voo-feht?} Translations: What are you doing?
Phrase: **Qu'est-ce que c'est ce bâtiment?** ▶ **Play audi**	Pronunciation: {kehs-kuh-seh-suh-bah-tee-man?} Translations: What is that building?

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.

Asking Why?

Now, you'll learn how to ask "Why?"

If you don't understand why something's happening, be sure to ask. Traveling is usually safe, but some people try to take advantage of foreigners (usually to get extra money). If a fee is legitimate, the person will explain it. If not, the person will probably back off if you question it!

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Pourquoi?	{poor-kwah} Play audi	Why ?
Pourquoi est-ce que vous êtes ici?	{poor-kwah-ehs-kuh-voo-zeht-ee-see?} Play audi	Why are you here?
Pourquoi devez-vous voir mon identification?	{poor-kwah-duh-vay-voo-vwahr-mon-ee-dan-tee-fee-kah-syon?} Play audi	Why do you need to see my identification?
Pourquoi est-ce que je dois payer un supplément?	{poor-kwah-ehs-kuh-zhuh-dwah-pay-ay-an-soo-play-man?} Play audi	Why do I have to pay a supplement?

Translations

After asking all those questions, this is a good time to learn the word "because"!

Answers to Questions!

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Parce que _____	{pars-kuh-_____ } Play audi	Because _____.
Parce que vous êtes étranger.	{pars-kuh-voo-zeht-ay-tran-zhay} Play audi	Because you're a foreigner.

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Parce qu'il est haute saison.	{pars-keel-eh-oht-say-zon} Play audi	Because it's peak season.
Parce qu'il faut transférer.	{pars-keel-foh-trans-fay-ray} Play audi	Because you'll need to transfer.

Translations

Asking When?

"When" is a question that seems to come all the time when you're abroad, probably because you neverwant to miss a thing!

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Quand _____?	{kan-_____?} Play audi	When _____?
Quand est votre anniversaire?	{kan-teh-votr-an-nee-vehr-sayr?} Play audi	When is your birthday?
Quand est-ce que vous partirez?	{kan-tehs-kuh-voo-par-tee-ray?} Play audi	When are you leaving?
Quand est-ce que vous allez à l'Arc de Triomphe?	{kan-tehs-kuh-voo-zah-lay-ah-lark-duh-tree-onf?} Play audi	When are you going to the Arc de Triomphe?

Translations

When asking about time, there is a different phrase for "When?"

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
À quelle heure _____?	{ah-kehl-ur-_____?} Play audi	When _____?
À quelle heure est ma réservation?	{ah-kehl-ur-eh-mah-ray-zehr-vah-syon?} Play audi	When is my reservation?
À quelle heure est-ce que l'avion part?	{ah-kehl-ur-ehs-kuh-lah-vyon-par?} Play audi	When does the plane leave?
À quelle heure ouvrez-vous?	{ah-kehl-ur-oo-vray-voo?} Play audi	When do you open?

Translations

Let's take a break from all those questions to check in on Julie's travel research.

Julie's Travel Journal

I've been curious about how the French that I learned in school and then practiced speaking in France was similar and different from what I might experience in some other places that speak French. According to my research, different places may have different vocabulary. There might also be differences in pronunciation, intonation, and accents.

Of course, I have already experienced some of that in France when I traveled around. When I was down south in Marseille, I had a lot of trouble understanding what the locals were saying.

They spoke very quickly with a very rhythmic tone and often changed the endings of their words. I noticed that many vowel sounds were different, especially the nasal vowels. I kept getting confused because when someone would say " à demain" which means "see you tomorrow", instead of it sounding like {ah-duh-min}, which was what I learned in school, they would say {ah-duh-may}.

You'll most likely use "How?" to ask how to say something in French. Here it is!

Asking How?

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Comment _____?	{koh-man-_____?} ▶ Play audi	How _____?
Comment dit-on _____?	{koh-man-dee-ton-_____?} ▶ Play audi	How do you say _____?
Comment est-ce que nous allons à l'aéroport?	{koh-man-ehs-kuh-noo-zah-lon-ah-lay-roh-por?} ▶ Play audi	How will we get to the airport?
Comment allez-vous?	{koh-man-tah-lay-voo?} ▶ Play audi	How are you?

Translations

Remember, if you ask a question in French, they'll answer in French. Here are some sentences to use if you are having trouble understanding what is said:

Helpful Phrases

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Parlez plus lentement, s'il vous plaît.	{par-lay-ploo-lan-tuh-man-seel-voo-play} Play audi	Speak more slowly, please.
Répétez-la, s'il vous plaît	{ray-pay-tay-lah-seel-voo-play} Play audi	Please repeat that.
Épelez-la, s'il vous plaît.	{ay-puh-lay-lah-seel-voo-play} Play audi	Please spell that.
Je ne parle pas de français.	{zhuh-nuh--parl-pah-duh-fran-say} Play audi	I don't speak French.
Je parle un peu de français.	{zhuh-parl-an-puh-duh-fran-say} Play audi	I only speak a little French.
Est-ce qu'il y a quelqu'un qui parle l'anglais?	{ehs-keel-ee-ah-kehl-kan-kee-par-lan-glay?} Play audi	Does anyone here speak English?

Translations

Practice Your Helpful Phrases!

Take a moment and practice these helpful phrases. Listen to the pronunciation and then record yourself to compare.

Parlez plus lentement, s'il vous plaît.

Play audi

Record Audio

Répétez-la, s'il vous plaît

▶ Play audi

Record Audio

Let's take another break to check in with Julie again.

Julie's Travel Journal

One of the places that I really want to visit is Quebec in Canada. It isn't too far from my New York City home – less than 500 miles! I really want to go to the world-renowned Winter Carnival. It's always been a dream of mine to see the Ice Palace, L'Hôtel de Glace – it's really built out of ice! Can you believe that you can even spend the night there?! I'm not sure I could stand it, the temperature in the room is about 23 degrees. Brrr! I also want to try a dish that Quebec is famous for – poutine. It's a mix of french fries, cheese curds, and gravy. Doesn't it sound disgusting?!

I've heard from a few of my French speaking friends who have been to Quebec, that the vocabulary can be different from what they would say in France. For example, they call a car un char (une voiture in France), a cell phone is un cellulaire (un portable in France). Apparently, they often replace il with a y, so instead of saying "Il est malade" (he is sick), they would say "Y'est malade.". Another interesting substitution is that they use "chu" to replace je suis. For example, je suis fatigué (I am tired) becomes "chu fatigué". Of course, they also have some of their own expressions such as "C'est plate!" (boring!) I'll be saying that about listening to my brother go on and on about a football game he just watched. C'est plate!

Now let's learn some common phrases. Here are some sentences that you'll often use. Just plug in the word you need!

Common Phrases

We'll start with "I am" or "I'm".

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Je suis _____.	{zhuh-swee-_____ } ▶ Play audi	I am _____.
Je suis fatigué.	{zhuh-swee-fah-tee-gay} ▶ Play audi	I'm tired.
Je suis perdu.	{zhuh-swee-pehr-doo} ▶ Play audi	I'm lost.
Je suis en retard.	{zhuh-swee-san-ruh-tahr} ▶ Play audi	I'm late.

Translations

So, if you need to say "I am" something, just look up the word you need and add it to « Je suis ».

Now you'll learn how to say "I'm not."

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Je ne suis pas _____.	{zhuh-nuh-swee-pah-_____ }	I'm not _____.
	Play audi	
Je ne suis pas français.	{zhuh-nuh-swee-pah-fran-say}	I'm not French.
	Play audi	
Je ne suis pas heureux.	{zhuh-nuh-swee-pah-sur-uh}	I'm not happy.
	Play audi	
Je ne suis pas prêt.	{zhuh-nuh-swee-pah-preh}	I'm not ready.
	Play audi	

Translations

Time to learn "I like!" You want to make sure you order food you like in restaurants. "I like" sentences also make good small talk. Wow! You're so good at speaking French you're even ready to make small talk! Way to go!

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
J'aime _____.	{zham-_____ }	I like _____.
	Play audi	
J'aime le chocolat.	{zham-luh-shoh-koh-lah}	I like chocolate.
	Play audi	

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
J'aime nager.	{zham-nah-zhay} ▶ Play audi	I like to swim.
J'aime ce restaurant.	{zham-suh-ruh-stoh-ran} ▶ Play audi	I like this restaurant.

Translations

Of course, you want to know how to say you don't like something. We all have certain foods we don't like. Let's make sure we don't order them!

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Je n'aime pas _____.	{zhuh-nam-pah-_____ } ▶ Play audi	I don't like _____.
Je n'aime pas le laitue.	{zhuh-nam-pah-luh-lay-too} ▶ Play audi	I don't like lettuce.
Je n'aime pas conduire.	{zhuh-nam-pah-kon-dweer} ▶ Play audi	I don't like to drive.
Je n'aime pas ce repas.	{zhuh-nam-pah-suh-ruh-pah} ▶ Play audi	I don't like this meal.

Translations

Julie's Travel Journal

Last night I was watching some videos online about speaking French and was very surprised to learn that French is spoken a lot in Africa! This made me curious so I did some additional research.

The French language was brought to the African continent through colonialism. During the 1950s and 60s, France and Belgium lost control of their African colonies, however, French is still spoken in at least 29 African countries. According to some estimates there will be 700 million French speakers by the year 2050, and 80% of them will be in Africa.

After researching many of the French speaking countries in Africa, I learned that a lot of them are not safe for tourists to visit due to civil wars and political unrest. I also learned that many of these African countries have breathtaking beaches and wildlife that is only found naturally in Africa. As a huge nature lover, that made me want to visit all of them!

The country now at the top of my list to visit in Africa is Madagascar. It is Africa's largest island and is on the southeast coast. It was under French rule from 1895-1957. The two official languages are French and Malagasy, with 72 percent of the people in the urban areas speaking French. Madagascar is home to over 10.000 plants and animals that are only found in Madagascar. Apparently, they have chameleons that range from the size of the tip of a matchstick to the size of a housecat!

I would love to go to Madagascar and visit the Avenue of the Baobabs to see these amazing trees. They are 800 years old and as tall as an eight-story building. I'm also really curious to taste tekateka, which are fresh clams served with a vinaigrette sauce. You can buy them on the beaches from street vendors.

Some of the other French speaking countries in Africa that I researched are:

Rwanda, where you can see gorillas in the wild.

Senegal, a country with great nightlife, wildlife, and amazing artists.

Seychelles, an island country with 115 islands. I want to take my honeymoon there someday!

Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), the biggest exporter of cocoa beans and coffee to France.

Congo, which is known as a big music scene. From this county comes Papa Wendo (Wendo Kolosov) who was a singer and musician that helped lay the foundations of Congolese rumba. I bet that would be fun to dance to!

I'm going to have to buy a private jet to see all the places that I want to visit!

Common Words

You'll hear « Voici » quite often. It means "Here is" or "Here's." It's a useful word for you, since you'll be saying things like, "Here's my key." It's also really easy!

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

Phrase: **Voici ma clé.**

▶ Play audi

Pronunciation: {vwah-see-mah-klay}

Translation: Here's my key.

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Phrase: **Voici mon passeport.**

▶ Play audio

Pronunciation: {vwah-see-mon-pah-suh-por}

Translation: Here's my passport.

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Phrase: **Voici le taxi.**

▶ Play audio

Pronunciation: {vwah-see-luh-tahk-see}

Translation: Here's the taxi.

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Voilà! We've all heard of it. Now you can use it confidently! Impress your friends! It literally means, "There is."

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Voilà _____.	{vwah-lah-_____ }	There is _____.
	▶ Play audi	
Voilà la cathedrale.	{vwah-lah-kah-tay-drahl}	There's the cathedral.
	▶ Play audi	
Voilà la rue.	{vwah-lah-lah-roo}	There's the street.
	▶ Play audi	
Voilà mon chapeau.	{vwah-lah-mon-shah-poh}	There's my hat.
	▶ Play audi	

Translations

Whew! You can say just about anything now! Hopefully you now feel confident enough to make your own sentences. Practice lots, and you'll be fine. After you've done it a few times, it'll be easy. You can do it!

In our next chapter we will learn a few expressions and some useful acronyms that will make you feel really French!

Chapter 3: Useful Expressions, Acronyms, and Abbreviations

Useful Expressions

Useful Expressions

If you want to really sound French, you will want to incorporate some common expressions into your lexicon. Here are a few to get you started:

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Chouette!	{shwet!} ▶ Play audi	Great!
Zut!	{zoot} ▶ Play audi	Darn!
Bôf!	{bawf!} ▶ Play audi	It doesn't matter!/Whatever!/I don't care! (shrug your shoulders while saying it)

Translations

In English, we use a lot of filler words in conversation as we speak to give us think time (um, you see, like, etc). The French do the same thing. Here are some common filler expressions:

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Hein?	{in} ▶ Play audi	Huh/right?
Euh?	(oe} ▶ Play audi	huh?
Quoi?	{kwah} ▶ Play audi	You know? (used to emphasize a statement)
Ben	{ben} ▶ Play audi	Um/well

Translations

Julie's Travel Journal

Someday I want to make it down to southern Louisiana to see all the French influences that have been around since the 17th century when the Acadians were chased out of Canada by the British and relocated to Louisiana. Today around 7 percent of the people in Louisiana speak French. There are many French immersion schools in order to try and keep the French language of families' ancestors alive. Since southern Louisiana is right on the ocean, seafood is very popular. An interesting fact is that Louisianians call shrimp chevrette (while the French call them crevette). I can't wait to get down there and order some fried chevrette! Yum!

Abbreviations

Abbreviations

Shortening words is also popular in France. French speakers especially like to make words that end in "o."

Abbreviation	Pronunciation	Translation
le laboratoire	{luh-lah-boh-rah-twahr} ▶ Play audi	laboratory
le labo	{luh-lah-boh} ▶ Play audi	laboratory

Abbreviation	Pronunciation	Translation
le dictionnaire	{luh-deek-syon-ayr} ▶ Play audi	dictionary
le dico	{luh-dee-ko} ▶ Play audi	dictionary
les prévisions météorologiques	{lay-pray-vee-zyon-may-tay-oh-roh-loh-zheek} ▶ Play audi	weather forecast
la météo	{lah-may-tay-oh} ▶ Play audi	weather forecast

Translations

Acronyms

Acronyms

Let's move on to acronyms. Acronyms are initials or letters that stand for something. They're super popular in French. We use them in English, too. FYI, FAQ and TGIF are all common acronyms.

Using and understanding acronyms is a great trick that will help you fit in. If you have to ask what the TGV is, you'll be immediately seen as a foreigner. Let's get started!

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.

The TGV is the fast train that goes through France.

Abbreviation	Pronunciation	Translation
T.G.V.	{tay-zhay-vay} ▶ Play audi	(literally, "train at high speed")
Train à Grande Vitesse	{tran-ah-grand-vee-tehs} ▶ Play audi	(literally, "train at high speed")

Translations

The WC is another word for the toilet or bathroom.

Abbreviation	Pronunciation	Translation
W.C.	{doo-bluh-vay-say} ▶ Play audi	water-closet
B.P.	{bay-pay} ▶ Play audi	Post Office Box
Boîte postale	{bwaht-poh-stahl} ▶ Play audi	Post Office Box
P.T.T.	{pay-tay-tay} ▶ Play audi	France's postal and telecom system
Postes et télécom	{pohst-ay-tay-lay-kon} ▶ Play audi	France's postal and telecom system
P.-V.	{pay-vay} ▶ Play audi	traffic ticket
procès-verbal	{proh-seh-vehr-bahl} ▶ Play audi	traffic ticket

Translations

Here are some abbreviations you might see when you're out and about:

Abbreviation	Pronunciation	Translation
à dr. or à droite	{ah-dwaht} Play audi	to the right
à g. or à gauche	{ah-gohsh} Play audi	to the left
N. or Nord	{nor} Play audi	north
S. or Sud	{sood} Play audi	south
asc or ascenseur	{ah-san-sur} Play audi	elevator
h.t. or hors taxe	{hor tahks} Play audi	duty-free
S.N.C. or service non compris	{sehr-vees-noh-kon-pree} Play audi	service or gratuity not included
T.T.C. or toutes taxes comprises	{toot-tahks-kon-preez} Play audi	all taxes included

Translations

When you look up a word in your dictionary, you'll see these abbreviations:

The word is *feminine* and uses **la** for "the."

f. *or* **fém.** {fay-mee-neen}

The word is *masculine* and uses **le** for "the."

m. {mah-skoo-leen}

Enough with the abbreviations, let's check in with Julie.

Julie's Travel Journal

I recently learned from all my research that in Canada, Switzerland, and Belgium, the three main meals of the day are called dejeuner, dîner, and souper (instead of the terms the French use, which are petit dejeuner, dejeuner, and dîner.) That might get confusing if you make plans for dîner with a Swiss friend and show up at 8PM instead of noon!

Speaking of Switzerland, I would love to go back there. I was fortunate to make it to Geneva for a long weekend while I was in France, but I certainly didn't get to see everything. The highlights for me were their delicious chocolates and the amazing mountains which look like a scene from a movie. I had the best cheese fondue that I've ever had while I was there and also got to have some delicious crêpes. I got to use my French a lot while I was in Geneva. The people were really patient with me when I messed up and got flustered. Can you believe they have four official languages? French, German, Italian, and Romansh. I would love to learn all of them and travel all around Switzerland. It might be my next favorite country (after France, of course!)

Another beautiful country that I got to visit during my time in Paris was Belgium. My favorite town there was Bruges. There were beautiful canals that went through the city and windmills. The architecture was amazing – I felt like I was back in medieval times. While I was there, I had to try one of their specialties, Belgian waffles with fresh strawberries. Oh man! One thing that I learned during my visit to Bruges is that the Belgians use the numbers septante for 70, huitante for 80, and nonante for 90 (unlike the French who like to complicate matters with soixante-dix, quatre-vingts, and quatre-vingt-dix). Apparently the Swiss and Canadians do that also. It seems so much easier to remember.

Good work! In the next chapter, we'll have the final wrap-up.

Lesson 12 Review

Review

Let's Review!

Today you reviewed pronunciation. You practiced nasal vowels, the French *r*, liaison and even stressing. Then you learned how to make up your own sentences, ask questions and some useful expressions and initials! Way to go!

If you're still having trouble with nasal vowels, don't fret. Keep trying the tissue in front of the mouth trick. You'll get it! Even if you don't speak vowels nasally, you'll still be understood. No worries!

After you're comfortable with vocabulary, make an effort to link words and speak smoothly. Try to learn phrases, rather than single words. That way, you'll be more comfortable and the words will flow better!

Don't be afraid to make sentences. Confidence is a big part of learning a new language. The more you practice, the more confident you'll become. You've worked hard to learn all this French. Get out there and use it!

Hopefully Julie has given you some places to add to your travel list or just inspired you to find out more about some of the fabulous places where French is spoken. Isn't it amazing that you can go all over the world to find folks speaking French?!

Learning a second language is a major accomplishment. Give yourself a big pat on the back that you've gotten started on that journey! Be sure to keep practicing. *Au revoir!*

Now that you've finished the last lesson, you have a few more things to do:

- Check out the Supplementary Materials for this lesson. As always, these are helpful resources.
- Do the assignment and take the quiz. These activities will help you master the material in this lesson and prepare for the final.
- Take the final exam. To complete the course, you'll need to take the final exam. You only get one chance, and it's the only graded activity. The final exam is cumulative—it covers everything in the course—and it's "open book" (you can have the classroom open as you complete it). To access the final exam, go to the course Learning Path and find the Final Exam link at the bottom.

Before You Go...

- Be sure to look at the additional resources. When it comes to a topic like this, there's always more to learn. You can find the link to these resources by clicking on the Resources link on the Learning Path.
- Do a course evaluation. Please take some time, either before or after you take the final, to fill out a brief evaluation. Your feedback will help us make the course even better.
- Visit the Discussion Area. The Discussion Area will be open for two more weeks after Lesson 12's release, so please feel free to stop by and ask any questions and share your thoughts.

Lesson 12 Assignment

Text equivalent start.

Item to Match	Matching Choices	Correct Match
Where is your favorite restaurant?	• Pourquoi? • À quelle heure? • Comment? • Où?	• Où?
Why do we have to go to the pharmacy?	• Combien? • À quelle heure? • Où? • Pourquoi?	• Pourquoi?
How can I access the internet?	• À quelle heure? • Où? • Comment? • Pourquoi?	• Comment?
When does the train arrive from Paris?	• Combien? • Comment? • Où? • À quelle heure?	• À quelle heure?
How much does that baguette cost?	• Combien? • Comment? • À quelle heure? • Où?	• Combien?

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 12 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 Area

Reflect on what you have learned in this course:

- What did you enjoy most about learning French?
- What did you find the most challenging about learning French?
- What areas of French language and culture would you like to learn more about?

Lesson 12 Quiz

5 correct out of 5 questions

March 1, 2025 5:08 PM

1. How do you say "Where is..." in French?

✓ A. Où est

Correct. "Où est" means "Where is..." in French.

B. Qui est

C. Il est

D. Pourquoi

2. Which means "when" referring to time?

A. Où est

B. À trois heures

C. Comment

✓ D. À quelle heure

Correct. "À quelle heure" is French for asking "When..." about time.

3. How do you say "I am" in French?

✓ A. Je suis

Correct. "Je suis" means "I am" in French.

B. Tu es

C. Elle est

D. J'aime

4. Which phrase turns a sentence into a question?

✓ A. n'est-ce pas

Correct. "N'est-ce pas" makes a sentence into a question.

B. voudrais

C. voici

D. ce n'est pas

5. Which word is short for "dictionary"?

A. le labo

✓ B. le dico

Correct. "Le dico" is short for "dictionnaire," which means "dictionary" in French.

C. le météo

D. Bôf

Lesson 12 Resources for Further Learning

The Different Accents Between Regions in France (https://www.talkinfrench.com/french-regional-accents/)

https://www.talkinfrench.com/french-regional-accents/

Here you can find out more about all of the different accents found in France.

Interactive Sound Atlas (https://atlas.limsi.fr/)

https://atlas.limsi.fr/

This is a cool place to check out because you can click anywhere on the French map and listen to all of the different accents.

Top French Speaking Countries to Visit that Aren't in France (https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/the-top-french-speaking-countries-to-visit-that-arent-france)

https://www.babbel.com/en/magazine/the-top-french-speaking-countries-to-visit-that-arent-france

Here's a great starting spot to get your vacation planning going.

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50 Common French Phrases to Know for Travel and Everyday Life (https://takelessons.com/live/french/useful-french-phrases-travelers-z04)

https://takelessons.com/live/french/useful-french-phrases-travelers-z04

Here's a great list of French phrases to know broken down into helpful categories.

Thirty French Phrases You Absolutely Need When Visiting France (https://www.mezzoguild.com/french-phrases/)

https://www.mezzoguild.com/french-phrases/

Be sure you know all of these French phrases!

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