

In this edition:  
finding your way  
around the town

# Lesson 13

## Notes

## Où se trouve le musée?

### Asking for directions

#### Programme Notes

Welcome to Coffee Break French, the podcast aimed at independent learners of French. Our regular podcasts will introduce you to the French language in easy steps. These programme notes will help you get more out of each episode by explaining how words are written and giving you more information about each phrase along with some bonus vocabulary where appropriate.

If you have specific questions about the contents of each lesson, why not email us at [cbf@radiolingua.com](mailto:cbf@radiolingua.com) or phone our helpline on 0141 416 2600 (UK) or 408 540 6114 (US), or you can skype *radiolingua*. By recording your question on our voicemail line you may feature on our forthcoming phone-in show, *French Espresso*.

#### Language Notes

<b>le restaurant</b>	restaurant	Remember to pronounce French words in French, even if they look like English words!
<b>le musée</b>	museum	
<b>le marché</b>	market	
<b>le supermarché</b>	supermarket	
<b>la banque</b>	bank	
<b>la cathédrale</b>	cathedral	
<b>la piscine</b>	swimming pool	
<b>la place</b>	square	
<b>l'office de tourisme</b>	tourist information office	
<b>l'église</b>	church	
<b>la banque, s'il vous plaît?</b>	the bank, please?	This is the most simple form of asking for directions: say the word for the place you're looking for, and then add in <i>s'il vous plaît</i> afterwards.
<b>où est ... ?</b>	where is ...?	
<b>où est la banque, s'il vous plaît?</b>	where is the bank, please?	The full form of the question
<b>où se trouve la banque, s'il vous plaît?</b>	where is the bank, please?	An alternative version, perhaps more commonly used in certain places. Note that it literally means, "where does the bank find itself", but it's perfectly natural in French to use this form.

## Language Notes

<b>allez tout droit</b>	go straight on	
<b>tournez à gauche</b>	turn left	
<b>tournez à droite</b>	go right	Note the difference between <i>droit</i> and <i>droite</i> . The key element is the sounded <i>-te</i> at the end of <i>tournez à droite</i> , whereas in <i>allez tout droit</i> the <i>-t</i> is silent.
<b>et puis</b>	and then	Used to join two directions, eg. <i>tournez à gauche et puis allez tout droit</i> .
<b>c'est près d'ici</b>	it's near here	
<b>c'est près d'ici?</b>	is it near here?	Remember to raise your voice at the end of this question
<b>est-ce que c'est près d'ici?</b>	is it near here?	The <i>est-ce que</i> at the beginning of this phrase means that it is automatically a question
<b>c'est loin d'ici</b>	it's far from here	
<b>c'est loin d'ici?</b>	is it far from here?	
<b>est-ce que c'est loin d'ici?</b>	is it far from here?	

## Spotlight

### le/la and l'

In French all nouns are either masculine or feminine. This means that there are different words for “the” and “a” for both genders. In this lesson we’ve learned a number of masculine words:

**le musée** the museum

**le marché** the market

All masculine words take **le** as the definite article (the word for “the”) unless they begin with a vowel.

We’ve also learned a number of feminine words:

**la banque** the bank

**la piscine** the swimming pool

All feminine words take **la** as the definite article, unless they begin with a vowel.

Any masculine or feminine word which begins with a vowel takes **l'** as the definite article:

**l'office de tourisme** the tourist info office (masculine)

**l'église** the church (feminine)

## Additional vocabulary

<b>aéroport (m)</b>	airport	
<b>bibliothèque (f)</b>	library	
<b>centre commercial (m)</b>	shopping centre	

## Additional vocabulary

<b>château (m)</b>	castle	
<b>cinéma (m)</b>	cinema	
<b>gare (f)</b>	station	
<b>gare routière (f)</b>	bus station	
<b>librairie (f)</b>	bookshop	Be careful with this one - it does not mean "library"!
<b>magasin (m)</b>	shop	
<b>mairie (f)</b>	town hall	
<b>parc (m)</b>	park	
<b>port (m)</b>	port, harbour	
<b>stade (m)</b>	stadium	



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**French**

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