

In this edition:  
preparation for  
our visit to  
France

# Lesson 31

## Notes

## En route pour la France

### Unit 4 introduction

#### 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.

#### Language Notes

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>nous sommes dans l'avion</b>                           | we are in the plane                                 |  |
| <b>nous allons en France</b>                              | we are going to France                              | <i>Nous allons</i> comes from the verb <i>aller</i> , to go. See below for further information about <i>en</i>   |
| <b>c'est la première fois que tu vas en France?</b>       | is this the first time that you're going to France? | <i>première</i> is in the feminine form as it refers to <i>fois</i> , which is feminine  |
| <b>combien de fois es-tu déjà allée en France?</b>        | how many times have you been to France?             | <i>déjà</i> on its own means "already"   |
| <b>nous allons à Sainte Marie</b>                         | we are going to Sainte Marie                        | Notice the difference between <i>nous allons à Sainte Marie</i> and <i>nous allons en France</i> : when you're speaking about a (feminine) country, use <i>en</i> , and when speaking about a town, use <i>à</i> |
| <b>nous allons en Italie</b>                              | we are going to Italy                               | Italy, Spain and France are examples of feminine countries. In fact, most countries are feminine, so the word for "to" is <i>en</i> with these countries. See below for what happens with masculine countries.   |
| <b>nous allons en Espagne</b>                             | we are going to Spain                               |  |
| <b>nous allons au Canada</b>                              | we are going to Canada                              | Canada, Portugal, Denmark and Japan are examples of masculine countries and in this situation the word <i>au</i> is used instead of <i>en</i>  |
| <b>nous allons au Portugal</b>                            | we are going to Portugal                            |  |
| <b>nous allons au Danemark</b>                            | we are going to Denmark                             |  |
| <b>nous allons au Japon</b>                               | we are going to Japan                               |  |
| <b>est-ce qu'il y a un autobus qui va à Sainte Marie?</b> | is there a bus which goes to Sainte Marie?          | <i>va</i> comes from <i>aller</i> , meaning "to go"  |
| <b>l'arrêt d'autobus</b>                                  | bus stop  |  |

## Language Notes

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|---|--|--|
| <b>où se trouve l'arrêt d'autobus</b>                         | where is the bus stop?                   | Alternatively, <i>où est l'arrêt d'autobus</i>   |
| <b>tournez à gauche</b>                                       | turn left                                |  |
| <b>tournez à droite</b>                                       | turn right                               |  |
| <b>l'arrêt d'autobus est près de la sortie</b>                | the bus stop is near the exit            |  |
| <b>loin de</b>  | far from                                 |  |
| <b>est-ce que l'hôtel est loin d'ici?</b>                     | is the hotel far from here?              | Note that <i>est-ce que</i> simply indicates that a question is coming. The <i>est</i> is still required.  |
| <b>s'il vous plaît...</b>                                     | please, excuse me (attracting attention) | Normally <i>s'il vous plaît</i> means "please" used formally, but in a café situation it can also be used to mean "excuse me", to attract the attention of the waiter/waitress |
| <b>pour moi, un café au lait</b>                              | for me, a white coffee                   |  |
| <b>et pour mon ami, un café</b>                               | and for my friend, a coffee              |  |
| <b>une tasse de thé</b>                                       | a cup of tea                             |  |
| <b>je voudrais une tasse de thé</b>                           | I would like a cup of tea                |  |
| <b>je voudrais un verre de vin</b>                            | I would like a glass of wine             |  |
| <b>une bouteille de vin</b>                                   | a bottle of wine                         |  |
| <b>une bouteille de vin blanc</b>                             | a bottle of white wine                   |  |
| <b>l'addition</b>   | the bill, check                          |  |
| <b>l'office de tourisme</b>                                   | tourist information office               | Note that it's <i>de</i> , not <i>du</i>   |
| <b>la pharmacie</b>   | pharmacy, chemist                        |  |
| <b>l'église (f)</b>   | church                                   |  |
| <b>la gare</b>  | station                                  |  |
| <b>il y a un restaurant près d'ici?</b>                       | is there a restaurant near here?         |  |
| <b>un restaurant de poissons</b>                              | fish restaurant                          |  |
| <b>un restaurant de fruits de mer</b>                         | seafood restaurant                       |  |
| <b>est-ce qu'il y a un restaurant de poissons près d'ici?</b> | is there a fish restaurant near here?    |  |
| <b>où est-ce que je peux acheter...?</b>                      | where can I buy...?                      |  |
| <b>une carte postale</b>                                      | postcard                                 |  |
| <b>où est-ce que je peux acheter des cartes postales?</b>     | where can I buy postcards?               | Note that in English we don't need to say "some postcards", but in French the word <i>des</i> is required  |
| <b>un timbre</b>  | stamp                                    |  |
| <b>où est-ce que je peux acheter des timbres?</b>             | where can I buy stamps?                  |  |
| <b>est-ce que je peux vous aider?</b>                         | can I help you?                          | Alternatively <i>je peux vous aider?</i><br>Or <i>puis-je vous aider?</i>  |
| <b>ça sera tout?</b>  | will that be all?                        | Alternatively <i>c'est tout?</i>   |
| <b>oui, c'est tout</b>  | yes, that's all                          |  |

## Language Notes

|  |                                  |  |
|--|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>merci</b>                                   | thank you                        |  |
| <b>merci monsieur/madame/<br/>mademoiselle</b> | thank you sir/madam/miss         | it's very common in French to use <i>monsieur/madame</i> , etc. in conjunction with <i>merci</i> |
| <b>de rien</b>                                 | don't mention it, you're welcome |  |
| <b>il n'y a pas de quoi</b>                    | don't mention it                 | literally, "there's nothing (to thank for)"  |
| <b>bonjour</b>                                 | good morning, good day           |  |
| <b>bonsoir</b>                                 | good evening                     |  |
| <b>bonne nuit</b>                              | good night                       | Just a reminder that <i>nuit</i> is feminine, so the feminine form of <i>bonne</i> is used       |
| <b>bon courage</b>                             | good luck                        |  |

Note that the items listed on page 3 are part of the test in the bonus podcast. We would advise you to listen to the podcast before you read the content below.

## Bonus episode test

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1  | <b>nous allons en Espagne</b>                       | we are going to Spain                      |
| 2  | <b>l'arrêt d'autobus est en face de l'église</b>    | the bus stop is opposite the church        |
| 3  | <b>je voudrais quatre bananes</b>                   | I would like four bananas                  |
| 4  | <b>le restaurant de poissons est à côté du port</b> | the fish restaurant is next to the harbour |
| 5  | <b>où est-ce que je peux acheter des timbres</b>    | where can I buy stamps?                    |
| 6  | <b>nous sommes dans l'avion</b>                     | we are in the plane                        |
| 7  | <b>il n'y a pas de quoi / de rien</b>               | don't mention it / you're welcome          |
| 8  | <b>est-ce qu'il y a une pharmacie près d'ici?</b>   | is there a chemist/pharmacy near here?     |
| 9  | <b>bon courage</b>                                  | good luck                                  |
| 10 | <b>je vais au Portugal</b>                          | I am going to Portugal                     |



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