

In this edition:
asking and
talking about
what there is in
a town

Lesson 14

Notes

Dans la ville où j'habite

Talking about your town

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 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 Expresso*.

Spotlight

un/une

Last week we learned about the definite article, ie. the word in French for "the". This week we will learn to use the indefinite article, the word for "a". We've already come across this when we spoke about family earlier in the course.

For masculine words use **un**:

un musée a museum

un marché a market

For feminine words use **une**:

une banque a bank

une piscine a swimming pool

Note that these rules apply even if the word begins with a vowel.

Language Notes

il y a ...	there is ...	
il y a un restaurant	there is a restaurant	
dans ma ville ...	in my town	
dans ma ville il y a un restaurant	in my town there is a restaurant	
dans la ville où j'habite ...	in the town where I live ...	
près d'ici	near here	

Language Notes

il y a un restaurant près d'ici	there is a restaurant near here	
il y a un restaurant près d'ici?	is there a restaurant near here?	Remember that because of the construction of this question (ie. there's no question word!) you have to raise your voice at the end to make it into a question.
est-ce qu'il y a un restaurant près d'ici?	is there a restaurant near here?	Note the use of <i>est-ce que</i> which makes the statement into a question
près de ...	near (to)	
le restaurant est près de la cathédrale	the restaurant is near the cathedral	
loin de ...	far from	
la place est loin de la piscine	the square is far from the swimming pool	
en face de ...	opposite, facing	
l'office de tourisme est en face de l'église	the tourist information office is opposite the church	
du = de + le		When you combine the word <i>de</i> in, eg. <i>en face de ...</i> with the masculine definite article (<i>le</i>) then <i>de + le = du</i> . See the below for further examples
le marché est en face du restaurant	the market is opposite the restaurant	Note that this is the equivalent of saying ... <i>en face de le restaurant*</i> (which is wrong in French!)
l'église est près du musée	the church is near the museum	Again, note that this is the equivalent of saying ... <i>près de le musée*</i> (which is wrong in French)
à côté de ...	next to, beside	
le marché est à côté du restaurant	the market is next to / beside the restaurant	Note the <i>du</i> again

Une chanson: a song - vocabulary

beaucoup	lots	
beaucoup à voir	lots to see	
beaucoup à faire	lots to do	
c'est clair	that's obvious / that's clear	
sympa	nice	Short for <i>sympathique</i>
calme	calm	
tranquille	quiet	
j'aime bien	I really like	
petit(e)	small	
grand(e)	large	
la grande place	the main square	

Une chanson: a song - vocabulary

une pharmacie	chemist, pharmacy	
une boulangerie	baker's	
l'hôpital	hospital	
juste à côté	just beside / next to	

La chanson

Dans la ville où j'habite
il y a beaucoup à faire.
Il y a beaucoup à voir
et oui, ça c'est clair.
C'est une ville sympa,
une ville calme et tranquille.
J'aime bien où j'habite,
j'aime bien ma petite ville.

In the town where I live
there's lots to do.
There's lots to see,
oh yes, that's true.
It's a nice town,
a calm and quiet town.
I really like where I live,
I really like my little town

Dans la grande place
il y a un marché
et en face de l'église
il y a un musée.
À côté de la gare
se trouve la mairie,
et près de la piscine
il y a une pharmacie.

In the main square
there is a market
and opposite the church
there is a museum.
Beside the station
can be found the town hall
and next to the swimming pool
there is a pharmacy.

En face du parc
il y a une boulangerie
et juste à côté,
une librairie.
Il y a aussi
un centre commercial
qui se trouve en face
de l'hôpital.

Opposite the park
there is a baker's
and right next door
a library.
There's also
a shopping centre
which is opposite
the hospital



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