

In this edition:  
greeting people  
at different  
times of the day.

# Lesson 2

## Notes

## Bonjour! Greetings

### 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 phone-in show, *French Espresso*.

### Language Notes

<b>bonjour</b>	good morning / hello	Watch the pronunciation of this word! The first syllable is a nasal <i>bon</i> , and make sure you get the right pronunciation of <i>jour</i> . In addition to specifically meaning "good morning", it can also have the idea of "good day" or a more general "hello".
<b>bonsoir</b>	good evening	Again, the first syllable here is a nasal <i>bon</i> . The word <i>soir</i> means "evening".
<b>bonne nuit</b>	good night	Note that the word for "good" changes to <i>bonne</i> here, rather than the <i>bon</i> of <i>bonsoir</i> and <i>bonjour</i> . This is because <i>nuit</i> , meaning "night", is a feminine word and you therefore have to use the feminine version of the word for "good" too! Don't worry about this - we'll explain more in future lessons!
<b>bonne journée</b>	have a nice day	Both <i>jour</i> and <i>journée</i> mean "day". <i>Journée</i> is more linked to the duration of the day, ie. referring to the period of the day from, say, 9am until evening. To wish someone "have a good day" you use <i>bonne journée</i> .

## Language Notes

<b>bonne soirée</b>	have a nice evening	Again, <i>soirée</i> refers to the period of the evening from the end of the afternoon through to night time. To wish someone "have a nice evening" you use <i>bonne soirée</i> .
<b>salut</b>	hi, hello	This is quite an informal word. It comes from the same root as the English word "salutation".
<b>au revoir</b>	good bye	Literally this means something like "until the next time we see each other".
<b>adieu</b>	farewell, good bye	Note the word <i>dieu</i> in this word, meaning "God".
<b>à demain</b>	see you tomorrow	À means "to" or "until". The word for tomorrow is <i>demain</i> . It has a nasal pronunciation - listen carefully to the recording.
<b>à bientôt</b>	see you soon	The word <i>bientôt</i> means "soon".
<b>je m'appelle...</b>	I'm called...	This can be used to translate "my name is..." and it's the most common way to give your name. It literally means "I call myself" and similar to Spanish ( <i>me llamo...</i> ) and Italian ( <i>mi chiamo...</i> ) etc.
<b>enchanté(e)</b>	pleased to meet you	While <i>enchanté</i> and <i>enchantée</i> (extra 'e') both sound identical, when writing the words females should add the extra 'e'. This links to the whole issue of gender - see below.

## Spotlight

### gender

Just like many other languages, French uses different "genders". Some words are identified as "masculine" and others are identified as "feminine". Note that masculine words are not only "male" beings or creatures, and likewise that feminine words are not only "female" beings or creatures. For example, the word *maison* (meaning "house") is feminine, and the word *jardin* (meaning "garden") is masculine! There's no reason for this - the best idea is just to learn whether a word is masculine or feminine when you learn it. Note that while nouns are masculine or feminine, there are also masculine and feminine forms of adjectives too. We've already come across two of these: *bon/bonne* and *enchanté/enchantée*.

Where appropriate we'll include some bonus vocabulary which will help to extend the range of language covered in each lesson.

## Bonus Vocabulary

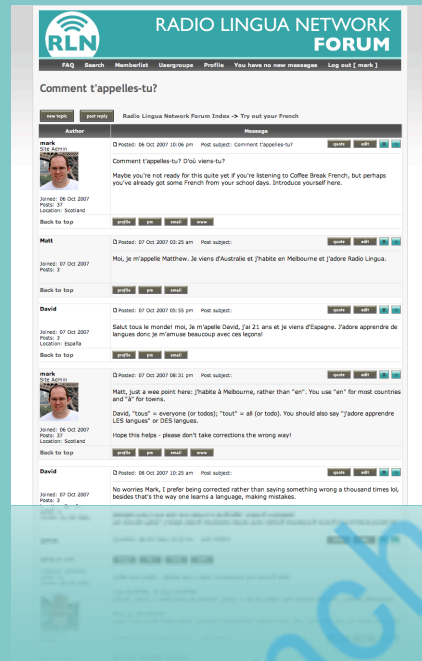
<b>à la prochaine</b>	until the next time	
<b>à la semaine prochaine</b>	see you next week	

## Bonus Vocabulary

à plus	see you later	This is quite informal. Note that you pronounce the 's' of <i>plus</i> .
à toute à l'heure	see you later	
à plus tard	see you later	In comparison to <i>à plus</i> , you don't pronounce the 's' of <i>plus</i> in the phrase <i>à plus tard</i> .

## TRY OUT YOUR FRENCH

Coffee Break French listeners should be aware that we've introduced the Radio Lingua Network Forum where you can practise your French **skills** and communicate with other French learners. The Forum also features discussion areas for the other languages covered in our podcasts. Visit the Radio Lingua site on [www.radiolingua.com](http://www.radiolingua.com) and click on "Discussion Forum" in the menu. Try out your French, share your language-learning stories and get to know fellow learners. À bientôt!



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