

In this edition:
saying you're
not feeling well;
parts of the
body

Lesson 28

Notes

J'ai mal au dos

I have a sore back

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

ça va?	how are you?	the most basic way of asking how someone is feeling
comment ça va?	how are you?	
comment tu vas?	how are you?	literally, "how are you going?"
ça va	things are fine	
je vais bien	I am well	literally, "I am going well"
ça ne va pas	things are not going well	
sentir	to feel	
je me sens bien	I am feeling well	
je ne me sens pas bien	I am not feeling well, I don't feel well	Note the position of the <i>ne ... pas</i> round the verb, including the reflexive pronoun <i>me</i>
je ne me sens pas très bien	I am not feeling very well, I don't feel very well	
malade	ill	
je suis malade	I am ill	
tu es malade?	are you ill?	informal
vous êtes malade?	are you ill?	formal
la tête	head	
la gorge	throat	
la jambe	leg	
le dos	back	
le nez	nose	
le pied	foot	
l'estomac (m)	stomach	

Language Notes

mon nez	my nose	Compare <i>mon frère</i> and <i>mon père</i> : <i>mon</i> is the masculine word for “my”
mon pied	my foot	
mon estomac	my stomach	
ma jambe	my leg	Compare <i>ma mère</i> and <i>ma sœur</i> : <i>ma</i> is the feminine word for “my”
ma tête	my head	
c'est mon dos	it's my back...	ie. the problem is my back
c'est ma tête	its my head...	
j'ai mal à la tête	I have a sore head; my head hurts	Literally, “I have badness at the head”
j'ai mal à la jambe	I have a sore leg; my leg hurts	
j'ai mal à la gorge	I have a sore throat; my throat hurts	
j'ai mal au dos	I have a sore back; my back hurts	Note that <i>à + le = au</i>
j'ai mal aux pieds	I have sore feet; my feet hurt	Note that <i>les pieds</i> is plural, and <i>à + les = aux</i>

In the course of this lesson Mark and Anna covered the verb *être* in its full conjugation.

The verb <i>être</i> - PRESENT TENSE	
je suis	nous sommes
tu es	vous êtes
il / elle est	ils / elles sont

Une chanson



Tête, épaules, james et pieds, jambes et pieds

Tête, épaules, jambes et pieds, jambes et pieds

Tête, épaules, estomac et nez

Tête épaules, jambes et pieds, jambes et pieds.

Additional vocabulary

ma tête me fait mal	my head hurts	An alternative to <i>j'ai mal à la tête</i>
mon dos me fait mal	my back hurts	
mes pieds me font mal	my feet hurt	Note that the plural of <i>fait</i> is <i>font</i>
le bras	arm	
la main	hand	
le ventre	stomach	An alternative to <i>estomac</i>
la poitrine	chest	

Additional vocabulary

la bouche	mouth	
le menton	chin	
l'oreille (f)	ear	Note when you say "my ear" you use the word <i>mon</i> even though it is feminine. This is because <i>oreille</i> begins with a vowel and <i>ma oreille</i> * sounds strange to a French speaker.
l'œil (m); les yeux (pl)	eye	Note the irregular plural form, <i>les yeux</i> . Note also that "my eye" is <i>mon œil</i> , following the same pattern as <i>mon oreille</i> .
le genou	knee	



CoffeeBreak
French

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