

In this edition:
getting a taxi

Lesson 68

Notes

Pouvez-vous m'appeler un taxi?

Getting a taxi in a French-speaking area

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.

Over the past few weeks we have been looking at different verbal phrases to help increase your range of expression in French. However in Lesson 68 we are going to return to look at situational language, ie. the kinds of words and phrases you require in different situations while traveling in a French-speaking country. In this lesson and in the next, we will be looking at transport. Lesson 68 will concentrate on taking a taxi.

We have been mostly looking at grammar over the past few months and this forms the 'skeleton' of the language. From what we have learned, we can piece together different phrases to say exactly what we want to say. For example, if we know that *un taxi* is "a taxi" we can work out different ways of incorporating this into a phrase, depending on what we want to say:

je voudrais un taxi

I would like a taxi

nous voulons un taxi

we want a taxi



une station de taxis	a taxi rank
est-ce qu'il y a une station de taxis près d'ici?	is there a taxi rank near here?

Remember there are a few different ways of forming the same question in French. For example, "can you...?" could be said in any of these ways:

est-ce que vous pouvez...?

pouvez-vous...?

vous pouvez...?

You may want to ask a receptionist in your hotel to phone a taxi for you. You could say:

pouvez-vous m'appeler un taxi?

can you call me a taxi?

Note that *m'* in *m'appeler* is an abbreviated version of *me*, which means “to me” or “for me”.

Given our increasing range of expression, the table below shows a number of ways of saying where you want to go:

je vais à l'aéroport	I am going to the airport
je voudrais aller à l'aéroport	I would like to go to the airport
je veux aller à l'aéroport	I want to go to the airport
je dois aller à l'aéroport	I must / have to go to the airport
je dois aller au centre-ville	I must / have to go to the town centre
je veux aller à la cathédrale	I want to go to the cathedral
je voudrais aller à la cathédrale	I would like to go to the cathedral

You could give the address to which you want to go to the “taxi driver” (*le chauffeur de taxi*) and say:

je voudrais aller à cette adresse, s'il vous plaît	I would like to go to this address, please
---	--

Since *adresse* is feminine, to say “this address” we say *cette adresse*. *Cette* is the demonstrative adjective. Other demonstrative adjectives are *ce*, *cel* and *ces*. The one we choose depends on whether the noun is masculine or feminine and also whether it is singular or plural.

We can work out how to say “how much is it going to cost?” by changing the order of the question so it becomes “that is going to cost how much?”

ça va coûter combien?	how much is it going to cost?
------------------------------	-------------------------------

The whole phrase would become:

Je voudrais aller à cette adresse. Ça va coûter combien?
I would like to go to this address. How much is it going to cost?

Remember when we looked at asking questions before, we learned that there are different ways of asking the same thing:

ça va coûter combien?	how much is it going to cost?
combien ça va coûter?	
combien est-ce que ça va coûter?	

However *ça va coûter combien?* is probably the easiest way of asking this question.

Some other things we may want to ask a taxi driver are:

c'est loin?	is it far?
c'est loin d'ici?	is it far from here?
c'est près d'ici?	is it near here?

One other point Mark covers is how to say where something is or what distance it is from where you are. For example, you could say to the taxi driver, *Je voudrais aller à l'aéroport. C'est loin d'ici?* A possible answer would be:

c'est à vingt minutes
it is twenty minutes away

In this case, the word *à* literally means “at a distance of” and we need to include it in this type of phrase.

c'est à quinze kilomètres
it is fifteen kilometres away

l'aéroport est à vingt minutes d'ici
the airport is twenty minutes (away) from here

la cathédrale est à quinze kilomètres d'ici
the cathedral is fifteen kilometres (away) from here

Finally Marks talks through some other words and phrases that can be used when traveling in a taxi:

il y a des travaux ici	there are roadworks here
une déviation	a detour / diversion
la circulation	the traffic
il y a beaucoup de circulation	there is a lot of traffic
est-ce qu'il y a beaucoup de circulation aujourd'hui?	is there a lot of traffic today?
est-ce qu'il y a beaucoup de circulation ce matin?	is there a lot of traffic this morning?
je suis pressé(e)	I'm in a hurry
ici c'est bon	here is fine
pouvez-vous m'attendre?	can you wait for me?
est-ce que je peux avoir un reçu, s'il vous plaît?	can I have a receipt, please?
je peux avoir un reçu, s'il vous plaît?	

**est-ce que vous pouvez me
donner un reçu, s'il vous plaît?**

can you give me a receipt, please?



CoffeeBreak
French

All materials ©Copyright Radio Lingua Ltd 2009



@french_learn