

In this edition:  
talking about  
which  
languages you  
speak and  
coping with  
language  
difficulties

# Lesson 11

## Notes

## Tu parles un peu de français? Talking about language

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

### Language Notes

<b>parler</b>	to speak	
<b>je parle ...</b>	I speak ...	
<b>tu parles ...</b>	you speak ...	informal, singular version
<b>vous parlez ...</b>	you speak ...	formal / plural version
<b>le français</b>	French (language)	Note that languages do not begin with capital letters
<b>l'anglais</b>	English	
<b>l'italien</b>	Italian	
<b>l'espagnol</b>	Spanish	
<b>l'allemand</b>	German	
<b>le chinois</b>	Chinese	
<b>le japonais</b>	Japanese	
<b>je parle français</b>	I speak French	Note that you do not need the /e when saying that you speak a particular language
<b>tu parles français?</b>	do you speak French?	Raise your voice at the end to indicate that you're asking a question
<b>est-ce que tu parles français?</b>	do you speak French?	Adding <i>est-ce que</i> before a statement makes it into a question.
<b>parles-tu français?</b>	do you speak French?	Another way of asking a question is by inverting the verb and the subject pronoun.
<b>je parle un peu de français</b>	I speak a little French	

## Language Notes

<b>un peu de ...</b>	a little	
<b>je ne parle pas ...</b>	I don't speak	
<b>comprendre</b>	to understand	
<b>je comprends</b>	I understand	
<b>je ne comprends pas</b>	I don't understand	
<b>je comprends le français</b>	I understand French	Note that with <i>comprendre</i> you do need the <i>le</i> or <i>l'</i> before the name of the language
<b>vous comprenez</b>	you understand	formal form
<b>lentement</b>	slowly	
<b>plus lentement, s'il vous plaît</b>	more slowly, please	formal form
<b>plus lentement, s'il te plaît</b>	more slowly, please	informal form
<b>comment?</b>	pardon?, what?	

The answers to the test in the bonus podcast for episode 11 are listed below.

1. Je parle français
2. Je parle un peu d'espagnol
3. Je ne parle pas allemand
4. Je comprends un peu de japonais
5. Tu comprends le chinois? / Comprends-tu le chinois? / Est-ce que tu comprends le chinois? / Vous comprenez le chinois? / Comprenez-vous le chinois? / Est-ce que vous comprenez le chinois?

## Additional vocabulary

<b>le portugais</b>	Portuguese	
<b>le suédois</b>	Swedish	
<b>le norvégien</b>	Norwegian	
<b>le danois</b>	Danish	
<b>l'arabe</b>	Arabic	
<b>le russe</b>	Russian	
<b>il y a quelqu'un qui parle anglais?</b>	Is there someone who can speak English?	
<b>comment ça s'écrit?</b>	how is that written?	literally, "how does that write itself?"
<b>comment ça se prononce?</b>	how is that pronounced?	literally, "how does that pronounce itself?"