

# Lesson 76

## Notes

### On se tutoie?

### Shall we use the *tu* form?

#### 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.

#### Conversation

<b>Serveur</b>	Alors, c'est bien le vin blanc de la maison, n'est-ce pas?
<b>Sophie</b>	Oui, merci.
<b>Serveur</b>	Voilà. Et une bière pour monsieur... voilà, et l'autre bière pour votre ami. Alors, vous êtes prêts pour passer la commande?
<b>Jean-Jacques</b>	Oui. Alors je pense qu'on va commencer avec le pistou.
<b>Serveur</b>	Pour tout le monde?
<b>Jean-Jacques</b>	Oui. Et ensuite, alors moi je voudrais la bouillabaisse.
<b>Christina</b>	C'est la soupe de poissons?
<b>Jean-Jacques</b>	Oui, Christina. C'est bien ça.
<b>Christina</b>	Moi, je prends la bouillabaisse aussi.
<b>David</b>	Et vous, Sophie? Que voudriez-vous?
<b>Sophie</b>	Je voudrais bien la tourte aux anchois, s'il vous plaît.
<b>Jean-Jacques</b>	Ah! Si vous voulez quelque chose de vraiment typique de la région, David, une tourte aux anchois serait parfaite. Ça vous plairait.
<b>Christina</b>	C'est quoi déjà les anchois?
<b>David</b>	<i>I think it's anchovies.</i> C'est bien ça, Sophie?
<b>Sophie</b>	Oui, c'est cela.
<b>David</b>	Alors si vous pensez que je vais aimer la tourte aux anchois alors c'est ce que je vais prendre.
<b>Serveur</b>	Parfait, je m'en occupe.
<b>Jean-Jacques</b>	Merci.
<b>David</b>	Merci. Une question, Jean-Jacques, est-ce que vous jouez au golf?
<b>Jean-Jacques</b>	Oui, tout à fait - j'adore le golf, surtout ici sur la Côte d'Azur. Il y a plein de golfs. Mais écoutez... on se tutoie?
<b>Christina</b>	Désolée, j'ai pas compris. On se ... quoi?
<b>David</b>	Tutoyer - <i>it means to call each other tu rather than vous</i>

## Conversation

<b>Jean-Jacques</b>	On se connaît un peu mieux maintenant, n'est-ce pas? Et vous savez, on fait un peu moins de manières ici dans le sud!
<b>David</b>	Oui, bien que je sois souvent en France j'ai toujours du mal à savoir quand c'est le bon moment de commencer à tutoyer les gens.
<b>Sophie</b>	Tu n'es pas le seul, David. Ça fait dix ans que j'habite en France et j'ai toujours du mal avec le tutoiement ou le vouvoiement moi aussi!
<b>Jean-Jacques</b>	C'est pour ça qu'il est plus facile de se tutoyer!
<b>David</b>	Bon, peut-être que tu pourrais me conseiller un bon terrain de golf dans le coin?
<b>Jean-Jacques</b>	Je veux bien. On pourrait même jouer ensemble.
<b>Sophie</b>	Tu aimes le golf, Christina?
<b>Christina</b>	Il faut dire que je suis d'accord avec Winston Churchill en ce qui concerne le golf.
<b>David</b>	Churchill a dit que le golf, en fait, c'est une promenade de perdue! Mais pour qui il se prend ce Churchill!?
<b>Jean-Jacques</b>	Entièrement d'accord, David!

The notes below will help you understand the dialogue.

## Language Notes

<b>c'est bien le vin blanc de la maison</b>	it is indeed the house white? / it was the house white you ordered?	As in previous lessons, note the use of the word <i>bien</i> for verification.
<b>vous êtes prêts pour passer la commande?</b>	are you ready to order?	Note the agreement on <i>prêts</i> and also that "to order" in French is <i>passer la commande</i> .
<b>ensuite</b>	next, after that	
<b>que voudriez-vous</b>	what would you like?	We've already come across <i>je voudrais</i> , meaning "I would like". <i>Vous voudriez</i> is the <i>vous</i> form of this. It's the conditional tense. See the notes on the conditional tense below.
<b>quelque chose de typique</b>	something typical	When you say "something ..." with an adjective in French, note that you must say <i>quelque chose de</i> + adjective, eg. "something white": <i>quelque chose de blanc</i> .
<b>une tourte aux anchois serait parfaite</b>	an anchovy tart would be perfect	Note <i>serait</i> : "would be" - conditional tense.
<b>c'est quoi déjà ...</b>	what is ... again? / what is ... already?	The use of the word <i>déjà</i> is very common in this kind of construction. It's not literally translated most of the time, but it's used for verification, eg. <i>tu t'appelles comment déjà?</i> - "what's your name (again)?", as in "I've forgotten what your name is - can you remind me?"
<b>c'est cela</b>	that's it	Full version of <i>c'est ça</i>
<b>c'est ce que je vais prendre</b>	it's what I'm going to take/have	

## Language Notes

<b>il y a plein de golfs</b>	there are loads of golf courses	A golf course is <i>un terrain de golf</i> , but it is often shortened to <i>un golf</i> .
<b>on se tutoie?</b>	shall we call each other <i>tu</i> rather than <i>vous</i> ?	As you know, it is normal to address someone as <i>vous</i> when you first meet them, unless you're talking to a child. There comes a time in the relationship when it's appropriate to start using the <i>tu</i> form rather than the more formal <i>vous</i> . This can happen at different times and will depend on the situation, who you're talking to, etc. It's very difficult to know when the right time to suggest that you start to <i>tutoyer</i> the person you're talking to. In some ways it's similar to calling someone by their first name, but much depends on the circumstances. Perhaps the best advice is to wait until the native French speaker asks you the question <i>on se tutoie?</i>
<b>tutoyer</b>	to use the <i>tu</i> form	
<b>vouvoyer</b>	to use the <i>vous</i> form	
<b>le tutoiement</b>	the use of the <i>tu</i> form	
<b>le vouvoiement</b>	the use of the <i>vous</i> form	
<b>on se connaît un peu mieux maintenant</b>	we know each other a bit better now	Note the use of the reflexive pronoun <i>se</i> which can mean "each other" when used with a plural verb form.
<b>faire des manières</b>	to put on airs	Here Jean-Jacques says <i>on fait un peu moins de manières ici dans le sud</i> , meaning "we're a bit less formal here in the south". Note that when he says <i>moins de</i> the normal <i>des manières</i> becomes <i>de manières</i> . In this way it works the same as <i>beaucoup de</i> in that the <i>des</i> becomes <i>de</i> .
<b>bien que</b>	although	This is always followed by the subjunctive: see below
<b>je sois</b>	I am	<i>Je sois</i> is the subjunctive form of <i>je suis</i> . As we've seen in previous lessons, the subjunctive is triggered in certain situations and <i>bien que</i> is one of those triggers.
<b>avoir du mal à + infinitive</b>	to find it difficult to do something	
<b>quand c'est le bon moment</b>	when (it) is the right time	
<b>tu n'es pas le seule / la seule</b>	you're not alone / you're not the only one	

## Language Notes

<b>ça fait dix ans que j'habite en France</b>	I've been living in France for ten years / that's ten years I've been living here	Note the present tense verbs in French, but the perfect tense translations in English.
<b>peut-être que tu pourrais me conseiller...</b>	perhaps you could suggest to me ... / advise me ...	Note two things: <i>peut-être</i> is followed by <i>que</i> and the word <i>pourrais</i> is the conditional form of the verb <i>pouvoir</i> .
<b>je veux bien</b>	happily	Literally "I really want (to)".
<b>on pourrait même jouer ensemble</b>	we could even play together	Another example of the conditional tense of <i>pouvoir</i> .
<b>être d'accord avec quelqu'un</b>	to agree with someone, to be in agreement with someone	
<b>en ce qui concerne ...</b>	as far as ... is concerned	
<b>c'est une promenade de perdue</b>	it's a waste of a (good) walk	
<b>pour qui il se prend?</b>	who does he think he is?	
<b>entièrement d'accord</b>	I totally agree / totally in agreement	

Over the past few lessons we've come across some examples of the Conditional tense. It's sometimes called the Conditional *mood* rather than *tense*, but the distinction between a "mood" and a "tense" is complicated and controversial! It's probably easier to think of this as another tense to learn for the time being. The Conditional is translated by the word "would", eg. "I would speak", "he would like", and so on.

The Conditional "tense" is formed by adding a set of endings to the future stem of a verb. In most cases this future stem is the same as the infinitive. So, to form the conditional of the verb *parler* we begin with the future stem which is *parler* - the same as the infinitive. We then add the following endings to this stem:

Conditional endings	
-ais	-ions
-ais	-iez
-ait	-aient

If they look familiar that's because they're identical to the endings of the Imperfect tense. The difference is that they are added to the *future stem*, not the normal stem of the verb. Let's take *parler* and consider the full conjugation:

parler (to speak) - conditional tense	
je parlerais	nous parlerions
tu parlerais	vous parleriez
il/elle parlerait	ils/elles parleraient

So the above verb would be translated as "I would speak", "you would speak", "he/she would speak", and so on.

While most regular verbs, and some verbs which are irregular in other tenses, have the infinitive as the future stem, there are some common verbs which have irregular future stems. The most common of these verbs are listed below:

Common verbs with irregular future stems		
aller	<b>ir-</b>	<i>j'irais, tu irais ...</i>
avoir	<b>aur-</b>	<i>j'aurais, tu aurais ...</i>
devoir	<b>devr-</b>	<i>je devrais, tu devrais ...*</i>
être	<b>ser-</b>	<i>je serais, tu serais ...</i>
faire	<b>fer-</b>	<i>je ferais, tu ferais ...</i>
falloir	<b>faudr-</b>	<i>il faudrait</i>
pouvoir	<b>pourr-</b>	<i>je pourrais, tu pourrais ...*</i>
savoir	<b>saur-</b>	<i>je saurais, tu saurais ...</i>
venir	<b>viendr-</b>	<i>je viendrais, tu viendrais ...</i>
voir	<b>verr-</b>	<i>je verrais, tu verrais ...</i>
vouloir	<b>voudr-</b>	<i>je voudrais, tu voudrais ...</i>

Given that the endings of the conditional are always the same (*-ais, -ais, -ait, -ions, -iez and -aient*) and that most verbs use the infinitive as the future stem, you already know the conditional tense of most verbs. It is worth becoming familiar with the irregular future stems listed above in order both to recognise the conditional and to use it in your spoken and written French.

\*Note that two of the verbs above have an alternative translation: *je devrais* can be translated as “I would have to...” but it also has the meaning “I ought to...” in the conditional tense. Likewise *je pourrais* can be translated as “I would be able to...” but is commonly translated as “I could...”.



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