# INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSONS SYLLABUS FIRST YEAR

#### **Prescribed Text**

Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises by G.Mauger

Lessons 1-25 and Poems:- 1- Réveil; 2-Petite mère, Racontez;

3- Le Marché; 4- Notre Rivière; 8-L'Automne (Pg. 204-206)

#### **SECOND YEAR**

#### Prescribed Text

cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises by G. Mauger

Lessons 26-55

and Poems:-

- 5- Déjeuner du matin;
- 9- Le printemps; 11- Noël; 12- Ma soeur la pluie (Pg: 206- 208); Chanson d'automne BY Paul Verlaine; Act II Scene IV of the Drama "Le Bourgeois gentilhomme" BY Molière

To begin with, we must understand that the alphabetical letters in French are the same as in English but, of course, the pronunciation is different: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U W X Y Z.

In addition, there are 4 accents placed on vowels

- **á** Acute accent for example on a
- **ù** grave accent for example on u
- **ê** circumflex accent for example on e
- **ï** diaresis on i
- **e** Cedilla (like no 5 without the bar on the top) under 'c' only.

Refer the phonetics in page xi of your text for the pronunciation. Our lessons deal only with the written aspects. After finishing the course you can use audio and video cassettes sold with texts.

**Note:** Change of an accent or missing it will lead to spelling mistakes

The first lesson deals with the indefinite articles (In English they are a, an, one, some and any).

- 1. Un (a, an, one). This is used before a masculine singular noun. Un homme a man
- 2. Une (a, an, one). This is used before a feminine singular noun. Une femme a woman

In English the gender is mostly based on sex but in French we call it grammatical gender that no logic can explain. The presence of the article before the noun indicates the gender of the noun and we use it without questioning; in the dictionary the gender is marked with m or f. Thus in French, 'eye' is masculine and 'ear' is feminine; 'courage' is masculine and 'intelligence' is feminine. Therefore while learning a noun in French we must learn it along with its gender; otherwise we can not use it in a sentence.

# **World meanings**

homme - man

gar**ç**on - boy

femme - woman

fille - girl

C'est - this is, that is, it is

est-ce - is this? Is that? is it?

Que (qu' – before a vowel or 'h' of the following word) – what qu'est-ce que c'est – what is it? What is this? What is that?

Oui – yes ou – or

Non – no écrivez – write

#### Masculine nouns

livre - book

cahier - note-book

stylo - pen

crayon - pencil

banc - bench

#### Feminine nouns

serviette - bag

gomme - eraser

r**è**gle - ruler

table - table

chaise - chair

**Note:** There is no neuter gender in French

#### Grammar

To change a sentence into negative, put **ne** (or **n'** before the following word beginning with a vowel or h) before verb and **pas** after the verb.

- 1. C'est un banc (This is a bench) **est** (is) is the verb beginning with a vowel **(e)**; so, we have **C'** instead of **Ce**
- 2. Ce n'est par un banc (This is not a bench)

**Note:** Actually Ce becomes **C'** before the vowel of the verb **est**.

The negative sentence does not have vowel after **Ce**; therefore the **e** of the word **Ce** is retained.

- 3. Ce sont des cahiers (These are note books)
- 4. Ce ne sont pas des cahiers (These are not note-books)

**Note: des** will be explained later.

1. **Des**. is the indefinite article used before all plural nouns meaning some or 'any.....

Des livres - (some) books

- 2. Plural of C'est is Ce sont
- 3. Usually a noun takes s in plural

Un livre - singular

Des livres - plural

4. Put "**Est-ce que**" before a statement to make it a question. **que** becomes **qu**' if the next word begins with a vowel or h

C' est-un livre

Est-ce que C'est un livre?

# Words

ou -or

en, au - in

# Masculine words

Mouchoir - kerchief

Sac - bag

gant - glove

calendrier - calender

plancher - floor

plafond - ceiling

mur - wall

#### Feminine words

fénêtre - window

porte - door lampe - lamp montre - watch

clé - key

nombre - number

Learn the numbers from 0 to 10.

#### **Exercise**

- 1. Write the lesson 1 in plural
- 2. Write the numbers in letters

Definite articles in English is **the**; in French we have **le, la, l'** and **les**. The meaning is **the** for each of the four.

- 1. **le** is used before a masculine singular noun beginning with a consonant. le livre the book
- 2. **la** is used for a feminine singular noun beginning with a consonant. la gomme the eraser
- 3. **1**' is used before a masculine or feminine noun beginning with a vowel or 'h'. l'**é**tudiante the student (girl) l'homme (m.) the man
- 4. **les** is used for all plurals

les livres - the books
les serviettes - the bags
les hommes - the men

les étudiantes - the (girl) students

Generally we add one  $\mathbf{e}$  with a masculine word to get the feminine gender of it: un étudiant (m) – a student (boy) une étudiante - (f) a student (girl).

#### Words

derrière

voici - here is, here are

maintenant - now sur - on dans - in

où - where sous - under

devant - in front of

le professeur - teacher le tableau - board

attention - be careful il - he (or it) elle - she (or it)

Because there is no neuter gender in French we use the pronoun **il** or **elle** as per the gender of the noun.

at the back of

1. Le cahier est dans la serviette (The note book is in the bag) or Il est dans la serviette (It is in the bag).

2. La r**è**gle est sous le livre (The ruler is under the book) or Elle est sous le livre (It is under the book)

Note: l'étudiant – masculine singular les etudiants – masculine plural

l'étudiante - fem.sing. les étudiantes - fem. pl.

#### **Exercises**

- 1. Write the definite articles
- 2. reply with yes and no
- 3. Answer the questions

Example: Où est le cahier? (where is the note book?)

Le cahier est sous le crayon (The notebook is under the pencil)

(or)

Il est sous le crayon (it is under the pencil)

4. Complete with prepositions

The adjective qualifying a noun takes the same number (singular or plural) and gender (masculine or feminine) of the noun it qualifies i.e. if the noun is masculine singular, the adjective is also masculine singular. If the noun is feminine plural, the adjective is also feminine plural.

1. To render an adjective into feminine form, the common rule is to add e with the adjective eg. Un livre vert. (a green book) Here the noun livre (book) is masculine and singular; therefore the adjective is masculine singular but we say une robe verte (a green skirt) because "la robe" (the skirt) is feminine and singular. So we add one "e" with the adjective "vert".

Suppose an adjective ends with an 'e' we do not add that feminine 'e'

#### Example

Un livre rouge (a red book)

And

Une robe rouge (a red skirt)

2. In the same way when a noun is singular, its adjective is singular and if the noun is plural, the adjective is plural.

Therefore we add one plural 's' with the singular form of the adjective; the same rule is applicable to the noun also.

#### Example

- i. un livre (a book)des livres (some books)
- ii. un livre vert (a green book)des livres verts (some green books)It is the same for feminine plural
- iii. Une robe verte; des robes vertes

#### Words

la couleur colour la craie chalk gris gray brun brown noir black bleu blue rouge red jaune yellow rose rosy blanc white

#### Note

But **blanc** is one of the exceptions to the rule; the feminine form is **blanche** and **quel** (what) the interrogative adjective becomes "**quelle**" in feminine singular.

#### **Exercises**

#### Model

I. De quelle couleur est le tableau? of what colour is the board? i.e. what is the colour of the board?

#### **Answer**

Le tableau est noir (The board is black)

01

la couleur du tableau est noire

In the first answer "noir"qualifies a masculine singular noun whereas in the second answer "noire"qualifies a feminine singular noun.

II. Write the feminine adjectives

Example Le blanc est brun, la table est brune

III. Write the plural adjectives

Example Les crayons sont gris

IV. Write the masculine adjectives:

**Example** la robe est verte, le gant est vert.

V. Write the adjectives of colour:

Example la gomme est verte

Les cahiers sont blancs

VI. Answer the questions: Oú est le cahier?

(Where is the notebook?)

Le cahier est sur la table (The notebook is on the table)

or

Il est sur la table (It is on the table)

VII. Write and read

The candidates are expected to practice all the exercises after each lesson based on the given models.

The present tense of "to be"i.e. être, learn it by heart

Je suis I am
Tu es you are
Il est He (it) is
Elle est She (it) is
Nous sommes We are
Vous êtes You are
Ils sont They are
Elles sont They are

#### Note

The different terms of "are" in French: these words must not be separated from their respective pronouns i.e. we must say: sommes" only with "nous" and not with "ils", they can be written only as "ils sont" or "elles sont" you must not interchange the verb.

#### Words

```
grand – grande – tall

petit – petite – short

haut – haute – high

large – large – wide, large

épais – épaisse - thick

carré-carée-square

court-courte-short

étroit-étroite-narrow

mince-mince-thin

rond-ronde-round

rectangulaire-rectangulaire-rectangular

Une personne –a person

Une chose – a thing

Comment – how
```

# **I Exceptions**

Long-longue-long bas – basse - low

# **II Complete**

Model Je suis grand

#### III Answer

How is the pencil?

# IV Write the opposite

Mode Le mur est bas, le mur est haut

#### V Le livre est épais but,

la gomme est épaisse

Rule no 2 for the formation of plural of nouns and adjectives is that if the ending of the word is in "eau", add X"

# **Example**

```
Le chapeau – (the hat)
les chapeaux (the hats)
```

#### Words

Il y a – there is a or there are (y-a-t-il – is there or are there?)

le tableau - board
le couteau - knife
l'oiseau - bird
le manteau - coat
le bateau - boat

Que (Qu' before a vowel or h) - what

combien - how much or how many

when **combien** is followed with a noun, it takes

**de** (or d' before a vowel or h)

#### **Example**

Combien de bateaux? (how many boats?)

Learn the numbers upto 71

#### Note:

16 – is ten six

17 - is ten seven

18 - is ten eight

19 - is ten nine

21 - is 20 and one

the same thing is for 31, 41, 51 and 61 otherwise, it is as in English.

For 70, we say 60-ten

So 71 is 60 – eleven

72 is 60-twelve etc. upto 79

#### Exercises

- i. Read and write
- ii. Put into plural

Model Les bateaux sont noirs (The boats are black)

III. what is the colour of the chalk?

**Model** Elle est blanche

IV. Is there a clock in the class?

Model Non, il n'y a pas de cloche dans la classe

V. What is there in the class?

Model Il y a un tableau dans la classe

VI. How many students are there in the class?

Model Il y a vingt étudiants dans la classe

VII. Put into singular:

Model C'est une règle

(It is a scale)

VIII. Write the numbers in letters.

1. The present tense of **être** is given in negative (Je suis grand) (I am tall)

Je ne suis pas grand (I am not tall)

- 2. One way of making a statement into interrogative is that we add "Est-ce que" just before that statement
- 3. Another type of making interrogation is the reversal method i.e. Normally in a statement the order is that the subject pronoun is followed with the verb.

Example Je suis (I am)

To make it interrogative we must reverse the order of the subject pronoun and verb.

Example suis-je? (am I)

# Words

le bois – wood

le papier - paper

quoi - what

l'encrier - ink bottle

le soulier - shoe

le verre – glass

le fer – iron

la pierre - stone

l'étoffe - stuff

le cuir - leather

lourd (m) - lourde(f) - heavy

léger (m) – légère (f) – light

le banc est en bois

The bench is made of wood

# **Exercises**

I. Conjugate "être petit" (to be short) to write the whole present tense.

# Model

a. affirmative

je suis – Nous sommes

Tu es - Vous êtes

Il est-Ils sont

Elle est-Elles sont

- b. negative and
- c. interrogative

  Je ne suis pas etc

Suis - je? etc

For 80 we say four-twenties i.e. quatre-vingts with a plural **s** for twenty; but this '**s**' will disappear if another number follows.

II. Put the verb and adjective (to be stout)

Model Oui, madame, vous êtes grosse

#### Note:

Madame is singular feminine gender, so we put "grosse"

- III. What is the table made of?
- IV. Is the note-book made of paper?
- V. Here is a note-book, is it of iron?
- VI. is the bench low?
- VII. Write the numbers from 81- to 100

# Example

81-quatre-vingt-un

#### Note:

Between "vingt" and "un" we do not have "et.")

for 90 we say four-twenty-ten

The present tense of "avoir" i.e. to have is given; learn it by heart

J'ai I have
Tu as You have
Il a He has
Elle a She has

Nous avons We have

Vous avez You have

Ils ont They have

Elles ont They have

When you put it in the negative, you get

Je n'ai pas - I have not

Tu n'as pas

Il n'a pas

Elle n'a pas

Nous n'avons pas

Vous n'avez pas

Ils n'ont pas

Elles n'ont pas

When you put it in interrogative, it is

Ai - Je/ Do I have?

As - tu

A - t - il?

Avons - nous?

Avez - vous?

Ont - ils?

Ont - elles?

While reversing the order of the subject pronoun and the verb for interrogation, if the verb is a vowel or if it ends with a vowel and if the subject pronoun begins with a vowel or 'h' we need to put 't' in between the verb and the noun; so only **il a** is written as **A-t-il?** Similarly **elle a** is written **A-t-elle?** 

In a negative sentence we get only "de" (or "d' "before a vowel or h) instead of du, de la, de l' and des (i.e. partitive articles) and un, une and des (indefinite articles).

#### Example

```
J'ai des oiseaux
(I have (some) birds)
Je n'ai pas d'oiseaux
I do not have birds
```

Nouns and adjectives ending with  $\mathbf{s}$ ,  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  do not take  $\mathbf{s}$  in plural

# Example

```
Le bras – les bras

The arm – the arms

Je suis las (I am tired)

Nous sommes las (we are tired)

Nouns ending in 'ou' takes s in plural
```

# Example

Le cou-les cous.

Exceptions which take **x** instead of **s**les bijou**x** – the jewels
les caillou**x** – the pebbles
les chou**x** – the cabbages
les genou**x** – the knees
les hibou**x** – the owls
les joujou**x** – the play things

#### **Translation**

Le corps – the body Here is a boy

les poux - the lice

This is Pierre Vincent. He has a round head. (Usually in French adjectives come after the noun). Here is the **head** of Vincent. (The possessive form with the use of an apostrophe and s i.e. ('s) of English does not exist in French)

He is **strong** he has four robust **limbs.** Here is the **left arm** and here is **the right leg** of Pierre. He has two **hands** and two solid **feet**. Here are the **left arm** and **right foot** of Pierre. He has thin **fingers**, a long **neck**, sharp **elbows** but round **knees**, square **shoulders**, a **back** and a broad **chest**.

# Words

```
la patte – leg (of animal or bird)
le chien – dog
l'aile (f.) – wing
la bouche – mouth
```

le bec – beak

faible - week

# **Exercises**

- I. Write the definite articles
- II. Conjugate in three forms;
- III. Complete with "avoir"

Model J'ai un chapeau

- IV. Answer
- V. Write in plural

**Model** Nous avons des livres bleus et des cahiers jaunes (we have blue books and yellow note-books

- VI. Write and reply
- VII. Is there a teacher in the class?
- VIII. Write in letters.

Mon	Ma	Mes	My
Ton	Та	Tes	Your
Son	Sa	Ses	His, Her (its)

The possessive articles have three forms in French – mon, ma and mes. The same is applicable for the second person singular i.e. your and the third person singular i.e. his or her or its. Note the table above.

Mon, ton, son are used before masculine singular nouns.

#### Example

Mon chapeau (my hat) and also before feminine singular nouns beginning with a vowel or 'h'

#### Example

Mon étudiante (my student)

Mon horloge (my clock)

ma, ta and sa are used for feminine singular nouns beginning with a consonant

#### Example

Ta tête (your head)

mes, tes and ses are used for all plural nouns

#### Example

ses oiseaux (His or her birds)

Usually in French, adjectives follow nouns but some adjectives like grand, petit, gros, long, beau etc come before the noun

#### Example

un petit enfant (a small child)

The plural article "des" becomes de (d' before a vowel or h) if the adjective is placed before a noun.

# Example

Des livres bleus (some blue books) but

de gros livres (some thick books)

# Words

Masc Fem

Brun – brune – brown

Noir – noire – black

```
Bleu – bleue – blue
le poil – fur,
la plume – feather
```

#### **Translation**

Here is a **portrait**. It is the face of Pierre Vincent. Pierre has black **hair** – (in French 'hair' is expressed both in singular and plural) a high **forehead**, brown **eyes** thick **eyebrows** and **eye-lashes**, wide **ears** and a sharp **nose**. His **mouth** is big, his **lips** are red, his **teeth** are white, his **chin** is round, and his **cheeks** 

are rosy. Has he a **tongue**? – But yes! – (it is a popular expression for yes) – where is it? – It is in his mouth.

Pierre is neither **handsome** nor **ugly**. Little Helene, his sister, is blond. She has big eyes, they are blue with black eye-lashes Helene is beautiful.

("Little Helene" takes a definitive article in French;)

beau – used for masculine singular noun beginning with a consonant but before a vowel or h, we use "bel" and for a femining singular noun we use "belle"

# **Example**

un beau garçon un bel homme un bel ami (friend) une belle femme

Plural of beau and bel is beaux and of belle is belles

#### Example

les beaux amis

les belles femmes

Present tense of voir (to see)

Je vois Nous voyons

Tu vois Vous voyez

Il/Elle voit Ils/Elles voient

Entendre (to hear)

J'entend**s** Nous entendo**ns**Tu entend**s** Vous entend**ez** 

Il/Elle entend Ils/Elles entendent

Sentir (to smell)

Je sen**s** Nous sent**ons**Tu sen**s** Vous sen**tez** 

Il/Elle sent Ils/Elles sentent

# Adjectives

```
Masc fem
laid – laide – ugly
long – longue – long
gros – grosse – stout
gras – grasse – fat
```

épais -épaisse - thick

# **Exercises**

- I. Write a possessive adjective in front of:
- II. Change the possessive (example ton nez, son nez etc)
- III. Complete with the given nouns:
- IV. Model Voici un garçon. Il a une tête ronde.
- V. Reply
- VI. Reply
- VII. Conjugate in affirmative, negative and interrogative forms
- VIII. Put in plural
- IX. Conjugate

Notre	Nos	Our
Votre	Vos	Your
Leur	Leurs	Their

Before singular nouns we use **notre**, **votre** and **leur** before plural nouns we use **nos**, **vos** and **leurs** 

# Example

Notre professeur / nos professeurs

In French we have verbs of regular conjugation and irregular conjugation. In the first category we have first group of verbs ending in **ER**. While conjugating the **ER** group we follow the same pattern.

# Example

Donner - to give

Cancel **er** of the infinitive and add **e** for 1<sup>st</sup> person singular (i.e. je), **es** for 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular (i.e. tu), **e** for the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular (i.e. il/elle), **ons** for 1<sup>st</sup> person plural (i.e. nous), **ez** for 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural (i.e. vous) and **ent** for the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural (ils/ells).

Je donn**e** I give

Tu donn**es** you give

Il/Elle donn**e** He/she gives

Nous donn**ons** we give

Vous don**nez** You give

Ils/Elles donn**ent** They give

In French simple present does not make much difference from present continuous. So when we say

Je marche

It means I walk and also I am walking.

#### **Ordinal numbers**

Add ième with the ordinal numbers

# Example

Trois + ième / trosi**è**me

But if the number ends with e cancel that e and add ieme

quatre + ième / quatrième.

For 5th add u before adding ième

cinq + u + ième - cinquième

For 9th final f becomes v neuvième

For  $2^{nd}$  we say either deuxième or **second** 

For 1st, it is premier but for 21st, 31st, etc. we add ième only.

# Exercises

- I. Put the possessive adjective
- II. Conjugate in 3 forms
- III. Put nouns with possessive adjectives.
- IV. Put all in plural
- V. Put into plural
- VI. Put into plural
- VII. Write ordinal numbers from 1st to 20th in letters.

**Contracted articles:** when the definite articles **le** and **les** are preceded with the preposition **de** (of, from etc.) they automatically become **du** and **des** respectively.

# Example

- i) les jambes **de le** garçon is written as les jambes **du** garçon / and
- ii) les jambs **de les** garçons is written as les jambles **des** garçons

# Timings of the day

l'heure – hour

la minute – minut

la seconde – second

du matin - A.M

du soir - P.M

le jour – day

la nuit - night

l'après-midi - after noon

l'aiguille – hand

le cadran – dial

le chiffre – number

l'horloge – clock

la montre - watch

Quelle heure est-il? - What time is it?

Il est une heure - It is one O'clock

But when it is more than one,

add s with heure

Il est six heure**s** - It is six O'clock

When it is 12, il est midi i.e. noon or il est minint i.e. midnight

It is 9 A.M. – il est neuf heures du matin

It is 8 P.M. il est huit heures du soir

Half an hour is denoted with **une demie heure** (Note: The feminine **e**) quarter of an hour is denoted with **un quart d'heure** 

so, 9.30 is neuf heures et demie and 10.15 is dix heures et quart.

From 2.01 to 2.29 except

1.15 and 2.30, we say cinq heures cinq sept heures dix-etc

When it exceeds 30 minutes, the time is denoted from the next hour

3.50 – quatre heures moins dix (moins – minus) or less. For 10.45, we can say onze heures moins un (or le) quart.

# Words

```
la soeur – sister
la fille – girl, daughter
le soleil – sun
la lune – moon
l' étoile(f.) – star
en avance – early
en retard – late
briller – to shine – regular verb.
Sortir – to get out – irregular verb
Je sors Nous sortons
Tu sors Vous sortez
Il/elle sort Ils/Elles sortent
```

#### Exercises

- I) Put du, or des:
- II) Conjugate in 3 forms
- III) Write the times
- IV) Reply
- V) Answer
- VI) Put definite or indefinite articles

**Contracted articles** (Contd.): when the definite articles **le** and **les** occur after the preposition **à** (i.e. at, to etc.), they automatically turn into **au** and **aux** respectively.

# Example

- 1. Je parle **à le** garçon is written as Je parle **au** garçon and
- 2. Je parle **à les** garçons is written as Je parle **aux** garçons

#### **Translation**

Une semaine a sept jours: One week has 7 days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday; Monday is the first day of the week; Sunday is the 7<sup>th</sup> (last) day of the week.

One month has 4 weeks. One year has 12 months. January - - - December.

We are in the month of May (or in May).

Note: The months and days are written in small letters unlike in English.

#### Words

```
la fleur – flower
le bébé – baby
le jour – day
aujourd'hui – today
hier – yesterday
demain – tomorrow
```

**Note:** While denoting the day of the week and the date we say: C'est

# Example

C'est lundi

C'est le deux avril

While denoting the date of the month we use the **cardinal numbers** with the definite article **le** except for **the 1**<sup>st</sup> **of the month.** 

# Example

- 1. C'est le trente et un décembre
- 2. le premier janvier

while denoting the year alone 1000 is written as mil and not mille.

#### Example:

in 1989

En mil neuf cent quatre-vingt-neuf

# Exercises

- I) Complete with au or aux
- II) Reply
- III) Complete
- IV) Complete

Model: Lundi est le premier jour de la semaine

- V) Reply
- VI) Write in letters the ordinal numbers

Sing Plural

Ordinal Ordinaux

Cardinal Cardinaux

Regular verbs ending in IR - second group

To conjugate this regular group of verbs in the present tense, cancel **ir** of the infinitive and add **is**, **is** and **it** for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular and **issons**, **issez** and **issent** for the plural.

# Example

fin**ir** – to finish

Je fin**is** I am finishing

Tu fin**is** you are finishing

Il/Elle fin**it** He/she is finishing

Nous fin**issons** We are finishing

Vous fin**issez** you are finishing

Ils/Elles fin**issent** They are finishing

# Words

La saison - season

Le printemps - spring

l'été (m) - summer

l'automne (m) - automn

l'hiver - winter

**Note:** "in spring" we say **au** printemps but for other seasons we say:

en été en automne and en hiver.

le ciel – sky

l'arbre (m) - tree

la feiulle - leaf

vert - verte - green

il fait beau – it is fine (climate)

Quel temps fait - il? What is the climate?

Note: In reference to the climate we use il fait to mean it is.

le temps – climate, weather

chaud - chaude - warm

froid - froide - cold

bon – bonne – good

pas encore - not yet

gris - grise - gray

le parapluie – umbrella

```
le vent – wind
    la pluie – rain
    la neige - snow
    la terre – ground, earth
    le feu – fire
    le nom – name
Verbs
    briller – to shine
    pleuvoir (irregular) - to rain
    faire - to do, to make
    tomber - to fall
    tôt – soon
    tard - late
    quand - when
Adjectives and verbs
    blanc - blanchir - to turn white
    rouge-rougir – to turn red
    jaune – jaunir – to turn yellow
    grand - grandir - to grow
    gros – grossir – to put on weight
```

#### Note

Commen**cer** (to begin) is regular verb ending in  $\mathbf{ER}$ ; so it is conjugated in the regular way but any verb ending in  $\mathbf{Cer}$ , takes a cedilla under  $\mathbf{C}$  ( $\mathbf{C}$ ) in the first person plural (i.e. nous) – nous commen**c**ons (we begin.)

# Exercises

# Note:

bon – good mauvais – bad allumer – to light éteindre – to put off In French the demonstrative articles (i.e. this, that, these and those) are **Ce**, **Cet, Cette** and **Ces**.

- Ce is used for masculine singular nouns beginning with a consonant.
   Ce livre this or that book
- 2. **Cet** is used for masculine singular noun beginning with a vowel or h. Cet oiseau this or that bird

Cet homme – this or that man

- 3. **Cette** is used for feminine singular noun Cette horloge this / that clock.
- 4. **Ces** is used for a plural noun

Ces crayons - these / those pencils

Ces oiseaux - these / those men

Ces horloges - these / those clocks

In measurements we use **être** and **avoir**:

La chamber **est longue** de dix mètres or

La chamber a dix mètres de long

While denoting the age we use the verb `avoir´

J'ai 25 ans (I am 25 years old)

#### Words

l'image (f.) – picture clair - bright la dame – lady à droite - on the right l'instituteur (m), l'institutrice (f) – teacher le français (m), la française (f) - French le nom - name, le prénom - surname l'âge (m) - age, jeune – young le directeur (m), la directrice (f) – director le pain -bread l'école (f) - school une livre – a pound mésur**er** - to measure peser - to weigh - refer the text for conjugation coût**er** – to cost Exercises

For the conjugation of the irregular verbs (i.e 3<sup>rd</sup> group) you may refer to the page number 221, 222.

#### **Translation**

For the sake of the candidate's understanding the translations are given almost word to word, though sometimes they do not confer with good English; it is done in view of word-meaning.

#### The house of Mr. Vincent at Montreal

Here are a garden and some flowers; in the garden, here is a white house with a red roof and a high chimney. This house has a granary, two stories, a ground floor and an underground. In front of the windows of the first floor, we see a balcony.

Where is the granary?

It is under the roof

Where is the underground?

It is below the ground floor

Is there a garage for the car?

Yes, the garage is on the right.

On the left, there is a small staircase, it has 4 steps. We are going up those stairs. On the door we see a name: François Vincent. Mr. Vincent lives with his family in that house.

I ring. We are waiting for some minutes.

#### **Verbs**

```
monter – to go up
habiter – to live
sonner – to ring
attendre – to wait for
```

#### Conjugation of attendre (to waitfor)

J' attends Nous attendons
Tu attends Vous attendez
Il/Elle attend Ils/Elles attendent

Entendre (to hear) and desendre (to go down) are conjugated the same way

#### Conversation

```
Que – what
où – where note Ou – or
Ensuite – next
```

#### **Exercises**

- 1. Cite 5 verbs of  $1^{st}$  group, 3 verbs of  $2^{nd}$  group and 2 verbs of  $3^{rd}$  group. Make one sentence with each verb.
- 2. Describe your house

Present perfect is used as past tense in French

This tense takes usually "avoir" as auxiliary verb and the **past participle** of the given verb. The past participle for  $1^{st}$  group is formed by adding  $\acute{\mathbf{e}}$  after canceling  $\acute{\mathbf{er}}$  of the infinitive and for  $2^{nd}$  group by adding  $\acute{\mathbf{e}}$  after canceling  $\acute{\mathbf{er}}$  of the infinitive.

#### Example for er group-parler

J'ai parl**é**Nous avons parl**é**Tu as parl**é**Vous avez parl**é**Il/Elle a parl**é**Ils/Elles ont parl**é** 

# Example for ir group - finir

J'ai fin**i** Nous avons fini Tu as fin**i** Vous avez fini Il/Elle a fin**i** Ils/Elles ont fini

But the participles of

être is été
avoir - eu
faire - fait
voir - vu

entendre - entendu ouvrir - ouvert

# Vincent's family

I rang. We waited for some minutes.

Now a young boy of 16 years, opens the door. You saw his portrait in lesson 9. It is Pierre Vincent. With Pierre here is a little blond girl; she is Helene Vincent. She is seven years. Then a lady arrives and says: "Good morning, dear friends, I am happy with your visit. That lady is Mrs. Vincent, the mother of Pierre and Helene. Pierre is her son, Helene is her daughter. Pierre is the brother of Helene, Helene is the sister of Pierre. The father of the 2 children, François Vincent is not in the house today. He is (a) journalist.

Mr. Vincent married an American from New York, Miss. Margaret Bill. Since 17 years, she is the Wife of Mr. Vincent and Mrs. Vincent is her husband. The parents of Pierre and Helene are young. Mr. Vincent is 39 years; his wife is 35. The father and (the) mother of Mr. Vincent are the grand parents of Pierre and Helene. Mr. Vincent has also a sister, Marie; she married an Argentine, Miguel Sanchez and she lives in Buenos Aires.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanchez have two children Anna and Roberto.

# The family of Vincent Words

```
le grand-père – grand father
la grand' mère – grand mother
le beau – père – father in-law
la belle-mère – mother-in-law
le beau-frère – brother-in-law
la belle-soeur – sister-in-law
le gendre – son-in-law
la belle-fille – daughter-in-law
l'oncle – uncle
la tante – aunt
le cousin – cousin
la cousine – cousin
le neveu – nephew
la nièce - niece
le petit-fils – grand-son
la petite-fille – grand-daughter
```

Try the conversation and exercises.

While changing the past tense into negative, put  $\mathbf{ne}$  (or n') before the auxiliary verb and  $\mathbf{pas}$  after.

#### Example

```
J'ai fini (I finished)

Je n' ai pas fini (I did not finish)
```

While changing the past tense into interrogative the auxiliary verb alone is considered for the reversal of the order.

# Example

J'ai fini

Ai-je fini?

For the interrogative formation with **Est-ce que** the same rule is applied.

# Example

```
J'ai parle'
```

Es-ce que J'ai parle ? (did I talk?)

#### **Translation**

# Drawing room - dining room, kitchen

We are visiting Vincent's' house. In the ground-floor there are two big rooms. Here is the drawing room with its furniture: a sofa, arm-chairs, chairs, and a piano. Near the piano, Mr. Vincent kept (put) a radio apparatus, a television set and a phonogram with records; next we enter the dining room. This big room has two large windows. Little Helene prepares the table. She takes from the buffet knives, spoons, forks. On the table there are one white cloth, some plates and glasses "you did not visit my kitchen? says Mr. Vincent. It is a beautiful white kitchen. These are the electric stove refrigerator, and casseroles on (against) the wall. Above the sink the pipe shines like silver.

```
le cuivre – copper
l'or (m) – gold
l'argent (m) – silver, money
```

#### **Exercise**

How do you prepare the dining table?

Certain verbs like **"entrer"**(to enter), **partir** (to set off)' **sortir** (to get out), **monter** (to climb), **descendre** (to get down), **tomber** (to fall) **aller** (to go), **venir** (to come) **'arriver** (to arrive) take **être** as auxiliary verb in "passé' composé"instead of "avoir". In such a case the past participle takes the same number (singular or plural) and gender (masculine or feminine) as the subject.

#### Example

Il est tomb**é** 

Elle est tomb**ée** 

#### **Translation**

#### The rooms – bath-room

(In order) to go to the first floor, we take the stair-case; the house has no lift.

How many bed-rooms do you have, Madam?

Two in the first floor, two in the second.

"Here is my room", says little Helene. "This is the room of my parents. Pierre sleeps at the second (floor)".

Mrs. Vincent adds; "In the second floor, we have also a guest room. Last year, our friends Legrand came from Paris".

Little Helene talks again: "In every room there are a big cot, an almerah and a night-table. And then we have the central heating. And then here is the bath-room with the bath-tub and the wash-basin".

"Helene, you are too much talkative" says Mrs. Vincent.

We came down back to the drawing room

Where is Mrs. Vincent? Has she gone out? She went into the dining room and she is coming back with a bottle and glasses. "it is French wine" That wine is excellent. We thank Mrs. Vincent and we say good-bye to our friends.

#### Note

When the verbs like monter are transitive, they take the auxiliary verb avoir, otherwise they take "être".

#### Example

- 1. Je suis monté au premier étage
- 2. J'ai monté le refrigérateaur au premier étage.

**Partitive articles**: When a noun is not countable, we use partitive articles (**du**, **de l**' and **des**) instead of definite articles or indefinite articles.

**Du** (some) is used for masculine singular nouns beginning with a consonant

**De la** (some) is used for feminine singular nouns beginning with a consonant.

**De 1'** (some) is used for all singular nouns beginning with a vowel or 'h'

Des (some) is used for plural nouns

# Examples

- 1. Je prépare **du** café
- 2. Je mange de la viande
- 3. Je bois **de l'**eau
- 4. Il'v a **des** fruits sur la table

But when the sentence is negative we use **de** (or **d'** before a vowel or h only) instead of the other articles

# Example

Je ne bois pas **d'**éau

#### **Translation**

#### The meals

Every morning, at 8 0' clock, Mrs. Vincent serves the break-fast to her husband and children (the articles are repeated before every noun since they are different depending on the number and gender of the noun). She drinks tea with milk. And all eat bread with butter or jam, eggs and ham.

This morning, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, the Vincents took their break-fast in the dining room, then Mr. Vincent went out at 8.30 and he did not return at noon. His wife and children lunched together. They are meat and vegetables. At the dessert, Mrs. Vincent served fruits and cakes,. All the three drank biere The Vincents do not drink wine except on the days of feast. Then Pierre and her mother took coffee with sugar.

Now it is 7.00 P.M. Mrs. Vincent got the table ready and prepares the dinner.

At 8, Mr. Vincent is not there. The children are hungry Mrs. Vincent serves the soup, then a fish. She looks at the clock "your father is late why?".

#### Note:

La couleur **du** pain

du is contracted article

Je mange du pain

du here is partitive article

Avoir faim – to be hungry

**Future tense:** In French future tense is indicated by the following endings with the infinitive of the verbs:

ai ons as ez a ont

# Example

Finir- to finish

Je finirai Nous finirons
Tu finiras Vous finirez

Il/Elle finira Ils/Elles finiront

#### **Translation**

# A big news

We ring ('on' – is impersonal pronoun; it takes the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular in conjugation). "It is dad" says Helene and she quickly opens the door.

"Listen, my children, I am bringing a grand news. We shall set off to France in a month. I shall be a reporter to my newspaper in Paris.

The children are happy. "Shall we travel by air or by ship?"Pierre asks; "shall we visit the Eiffel tower and Notre Dame (Church of Our Lady)".

"And the little cat, will it also come"asks Helene.

Mrs. Vincent looks at her husband" François, you are hungry, is it not? To the table, my children! We shall talk about this great news during the dinner".

At table, Mr. Vincent tells his wife: "I visited many big cities. I have been reporter of the "Courrier de Montreal" at Cairo, Lyon, London. I am happy to spend some years in France. You will visit that beautiful country with me. That is the former motherland of many Canadians.

#### Note: In French, we say

```
en avion – by airplane
en bateau – by sea
en chemin de fer – by train
en auto – by road
```

Normally when the verb ends with  $\mathbf{e}$ , add the endings after canceling the final ' $\mathbf{e}$ ' of the verb for future tense:

#### Example

Boire - Je biorai

But certain verbs have an entirely new form but they have the same endings Aller – J' ir**ai** 

#### **Translation**

#### Men's wear

20<sup>th</sup> of July – In the parents' room, there are two big trunks. In the one, Mrs. Vincent will put her husband's and son's dresses. In the other, she will keep her dresses and the dresses (clothes) of her daughter.

Mrs. Vincent opens the first trunk. At the bottom, she puts the shoes and the overcoats then the costumes: the coats and pants. Next she puts the sports – wear and the half pant of her son and the foot wears. At last she adds the linen; pyjamas, shirts and socks. She forgets nothing, neither the collars nor the hangers nor the ties, nor the kerchieves. But she does not put the raincoats in the trunk: it is raining.

#### Words

- rien nothing tout – all chaque – every (each) quelque – some
- 2. ni .... ni....neither....nor
  - (1) and (2) are used with ne after the verb in stead of "pas"

Je ne mange pas

Je ne mange rien

Je **ne** mange **ni** le pain, **ni** le riz

**The immediate future** (futur proche) is conjugated with the auxiliary **aller**. Actually **aller** is put in present tense and the verb concerned is kept in the infinitive form just as in English.

# Example

Parler - to talk

Je vais parler

Tu vas parler

Il/Elle va parler

Nous allons parler

Vous allez parler

Ils/Elles vont parler

#### **Translation**

#### The dresses of women

Now Mrs. Vincent is going to fill up the other trunk with her dresses and her daughter's dresses. She says to Helene: "I am going to put at first our shoes end our winter coats. You are going to bring your assemblages and pyjamas".

"Well! Above we are going to put our winter and summer gowns, my eveningwear, our skirts and blouses, belts, stockings, gloves hand kerchiefs and scarfs".

"And the caps, mother?"

"In that box of caps"

Mr. Vincent enters; he is holding a coffer "Where do you keep your jewels, my darling?".

Mrs. Vincent replies "I shall wear my rings, ear buckles But I shall put my necklace and bracelets in my travel bag". Mr. Vincent closes the trunks. They are heavy; they contain many things

"I am going to take this letter to the post-office. It will go by plane this evening".

"And the passports and visas?" asks Mrs. Vincent.

"We shall have the passports tomorrow" replies Mr. Vincent.

"Visa is not necessary. I have just reserved our cabins in the ship 'France' Everything goes on well.

**Recent past:** for this tense we use the verb **venir** with the preposition **de** as the auxiliary followed with the infinitive of the given verb; here **venir** alone is put in the present tense.

# Example

Je viens de biore (I have just drunk)

#### **Translation**

# Letters and passports

Mr. Vincent says "Margret, I have just written to my friends in Paris, the Legrands, to announce our arrival. This is my letter".

Mrs. Vincent takes the letter and reads. "Dear friends, I am announcing to you a big news: within a fortnight we shall be near you. I am going to be a reporter to "The courrier of Montreal" in Paris. Reserve three rooms at the hotel, please. We shall be happy to see you and your children again. I shall send a telegram about the date and time of our arrival – see you soon.

Regards, François Vincent.

**Reflexive verbs:** All the reflexive verbs are accompanied with **se** (or **s**') – se laver = to wash oneself i.e. to take bath. The infinitives are conjugated in the usual way; but the reflexive pronoun **se** (or **s**') changes according to the subject pronoun as **me** (**m**'), **te** (**t**'), **se** (**s**') **nous**, **vous** and **se** (**s**') 'these are called reflexive pronouns.

#### Examples

Je me lave Nous nous lavons
Tu te laves Vous vous lavez
Il/Elle se lave Ils/Elles se lavent

Here the reflexive pronoun and the verb form a single unit. Therefore in negative ne ... pas comes before and after the unit.

#### Example

Je ne **me lave** pas

In the same way in the interrogation without "est-ce que"this unit is taken without splitting.

#### Example

Me lavé – je?

With "est-ce que"it shows no change at all

Est-ce que je me lave?

## **Translation**

#### Mr. Vincent's toilet

25, July. The great day, the day of departure has come Mr. Vincent wakes up at 6 O'clock. He gets up immediately; then in pajama he enters the bathroom.

Mr. Vincent took his bath, yesterday evening Today he has to finish his toilet quickly. He takes the soap from the wash-basin, he soaps himself, and takes a wash with cold water, he takes a towel and dries himself. He is neat. Then he takes a shave with elective razor. The tooth brush and the tooth-paste now. Next a bit of combing.

He comes back into his room. There, he will put on socks and dresses and in the meanwhile, Mrs. Vincent and the children will finish their toilet. But Mrs. Vincent is going to spend an hour in the bath room! rouge (lipstick) on the lips.... Vernis on the nails and then a little powder... "Margret"Mr. Vincent asks, "did you finish? The train for New York starts at 8.45! we are going to be late".

**The past tense of** the reflexive verbs take "**être**" as auxiliary and the past participle of the verb takes the number and gender of the subject.

#### Example

Elles se sont lavées

#### Words

Debout = standing, used as an adverb.

"Personne" is used with "ne" to mean 'no one'

# Example

Je vois Pierre - I see Pierre

Je **ne** vois **personne** - (I see no one)

#### **Translation**

# The departure

Day before yesterday, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent made their last visits to their parents and friends. They forgot nobody. Then Mrs. Vincent gave the keys of the house to her parents-in-law; they will come to live in the house of their son and daughter-in-law.

Yesterday, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, the family of Vincent took the train for New York. And this morning, 26, July at 9, it boarded on the paquetboat "France".

Now it is the departure... Three blows of siren.... The ship takes off the anchor. The passengers are standing on the deck and they wave their kerchiefs... soon they see no more the tall houses of the city nor the statue of liberty. Helene is a little sad. Why? Because the little cat stayed in Montreal. But Peter is happy. He is going to visit Paris. He is going to know France. What a beautiful voyage!.

**Note:** ne... plus (no-more) is used like ne.... Pas

#### Example

Je n'aime pas la ville – I don't like the town

Je **n**'aime **plus** la ville – I like the town no more

Poemes

Reveil by Mme E. De Pressencé

Awakening

It is the morning. A rosy ray glides from the closed blind upto the white bed, a rosy ray that plays on the hair and on the cheek of little John. The child slightly opens an eyelid, then allows the light to enter his blue eyes, he looks and begins to laugh, for the ray seems to tell him: Let us be joyful!

# Petite mere, racontez... by G.Duhamel

#### Little mother, narrate

Since we have been wise and we hava sung well, tell us about all that we eat. Little mother, narrate!Mother, tell us about the milk,that is whiter than linen and which smells the farm and fields and huts and villages.Tell us about the eggs that are so white and so fragile, neither round nor square nor sharp and which we find under the hens,will you? Mother, tell us about the bread, that we would like to give to the poor, of which we think when we are hungry,of which we talk in all the books.The sugar that melts so fine in the mouth which is put in your coffee which soils us and which is hidden from us, talk about it, mother.Narrate to us about everything which needs to be eaten to be strong, about all the marvelous things! We don't have aleep yet.

Le marché by Albert Samain

The market

In this small place at the time of dawm the market place bubbles with joy laughter and multicolours. Upon its rickety stands are displayed pell mell its cheeses, fruits, honey and baskets of eggs. And on the slab where fresh water always flow are spread its clean silvery fishes which a rough smell reveals.

Notre rivière by Henri Chantavoine

Our river

The humble river of our village does not make much noise. With a peaceful and sweet noise it makes the tour around the village. The saules and the willows which are nearly of the same age rustle like familiar neighbours all along the riverside. And the murmur of the waters accompanies the light voice of the bird in the reeds which makes its nest on the river. Thus the humble river of our village flows with its sweet air without any adventure nor any trouble while making the tour of the village.

L'automne by Victor Hugo The autum

The dawn is less bright, the air is less warm and the sky is less pure. The long days are over, the charming months come to an end. Alas! already here the trees are becoming yellow!...The autum is dull with its cold wind and fog, and the summer that is fleeing is a friend who departs.

# B.A / B.Sc / B.C.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, 2003

#### FIRST YEAR

**Model Question Paper** 

(PART - I)

(FRENCH)

(PAPER - I)

#### 113/513/517. PROSE - I, POETRY - I, TRANSLATION AND GRAMMER

Time: 3 Hours

Maximum: 100 Marks

 $PART - A \tag{70}$ 

# I. Traduisez en anglais ou en Tamoul

Cheque matin, a huit heures, Mme Vincent sert le petit dejeuner a son mari et a ses enfants : Elle boit du the, M.Vincent et les enfants boivent du café au lait. Et tous mangent du pain avec du beurre ou de la marmalade, des ceufs et du jambon.

Ce matin, 2 juillet, les Vincent ont pris leur petit dejeuner dans la sale a manger, puis M. Vincent est sorti a 8 h. 30 et il n'est [as remtre a ,odo/ Sa fe,,e et ses emfamts pmt dejeime emseble. Lls ont mange de la viande et des legumes. Au dessert Mme Vincent a servi des fruits et des gateaux. Tous les trios ont bu de la biere, les Vincent ne boivent pas de vin, sauf aux jours de fete. Puis Pierre et sa mere ont pris du café avec du sucre. Ll est maintenant sept heures du soir. Mme Vincent a mis le couvert et elle prepare le diner. A huit heures, M. Vincent n'est pas la. Les enfants ont faim. Mme Vincent sert le potage, puis un poisson .....Elle regarde l'horloge: Votre pere est en retard. Pourquoi?">>>

2 (a) Ce qu'on voudrait donner aux pauvres, on y pense quand on a faim, On en parle dans tous les livres. Maman, racotez – nous le pain

Ce qui fond si bien dans la bouche Et qu'on trempe dans ton café, Ce qui tache et qu'on nous cache, Le sucre, maman, racontez.

(b) Des saules et des peupliers, Qui sont a peu pres du meme age Comme des voisins familiers Bruissent le long du ravage. Et le chuchotement des eaux Accompagne la voix legere De la fauvette des roseaux Qui fait son nid sur la riviere.

#### II. Lisez le passage suivant et repondez aux questions suivantes.

Les chambers, la sale de bains Pour aller au premier etage, nous prenons l'escalier, car la maison n'a pas d'ascenseur.

- << Combien de chambers avez vous, Madame ?</p>
- Deux au premier, deux au second
- Voici ma chamber, dit la petit Helene. Voici la chamber de mes parents. Pierre couche au second. <<

M me Vincent ajoute: Au second, nous avons aussin une chamber d'amis. L'annee derniere nos amis Legrand sont arrives de Paris > IIs ont passé deux mois a la maison. >> La petite Helena parle encore ! << Dans chaque chamber il y a un grand lit, une armoire et une table de nuit. Et puis nous avons le chauffage central. Et puis voici la sale de bains avec la baignoire, le lavabo ........

- Helene, tu es trop bavarde! >> dit Mme Vincent.
   Nous sommes redescendus dans le salon .....Ou est Mme Vincent?
   Est elle sortie? Elle est allee dans la sale a manger, et elle revient avec une bouteille et des verres. << C'est du vin de France. >>Ce vi nest excellent ......Nous remercions Mme Vincent et nous disons au revoir a
- 1. Ya-t-il un ascenseur chez M. Vincent?
- 2. Combien de chambers Y a -t-il dans la maison?
- 3. Pour qui sont les chambers du premier etage? les chambers du second?
- 4. De quelle ville les Legrand sont ils venus?
- 5. Combien de temps ont LLs passé chez les Vincent?
- 6. Quels sont les meubles des chambers?
- 7. Qu'y a t il dans la saiie de bains?
- 8. Les Vincent ont ils le chauffage central?
- 9. Qu'est -ce que Mme Vincent apporte dans le salon?
- 10. Le vin de Mme Vincent est il bon?

PART - B  $(4 \times 5 = 20)$ 

#### III. Mettez l' adjective possessif

non amis.

Le professeur parle a ......etudiants. Tu montres ......classe. II regarde avec .....yeux. Nous ecoutons ......Professeur. Elles marchent avec ......jambes. Vous etes dans ......classe. (5)

#### IV. Ecrivez en toutes lettres

100, 59, 77, 90, 15 (5)

#### V. Ecrivez au pluriel

J'ai un livre bleu et un cahier jaune. Tu as un crayon pointu et une gomme carree. Il a un veston brun et une cravate rouge. Elle a une robe verte et un chapeau noir. Je suis dans la sale de classe avec mes amis. (5)

# VI. Mettez les verbes au passé compose

- 1. Les etudiants ecoutent la lecon de français.
- 2. Nous buyons un verre d'eau.
- 3. Tu entends la radio
- 4. Mon pere part de la maison.
- 5. Vous mettz votre chapeau gris. (5)

PART - B  $(1 \times 10 = 10)$ 

# VII. Faites une composition sur l'Un des sujets donnes

1. Presentez votre ami

(Ou)

2. Decrivez votre maison.

(Ou)

3. Decrivez votre ecole.