



FREN 20100 2, FREN 20100 2 - Language, History, and Culture I - Instructor(s): Etienne Labbouz

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **12**

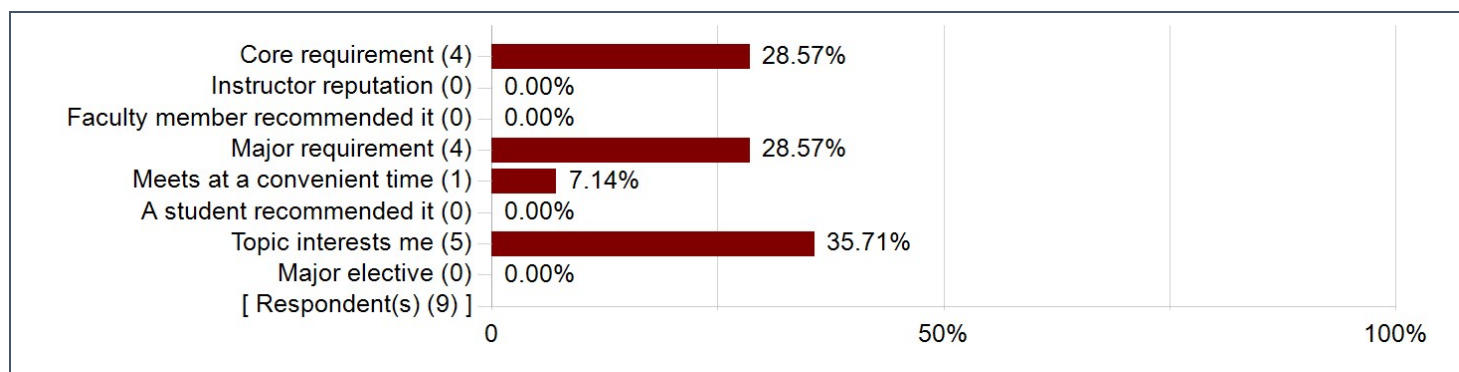
Number of Responses: **9**

Report Comments

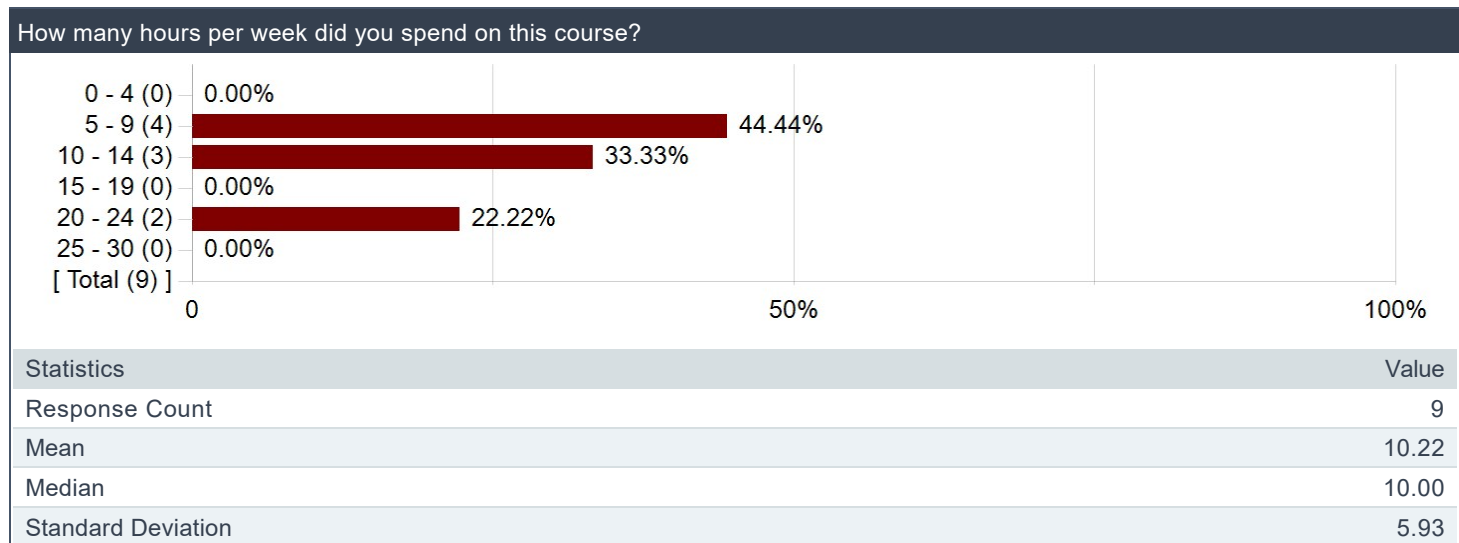
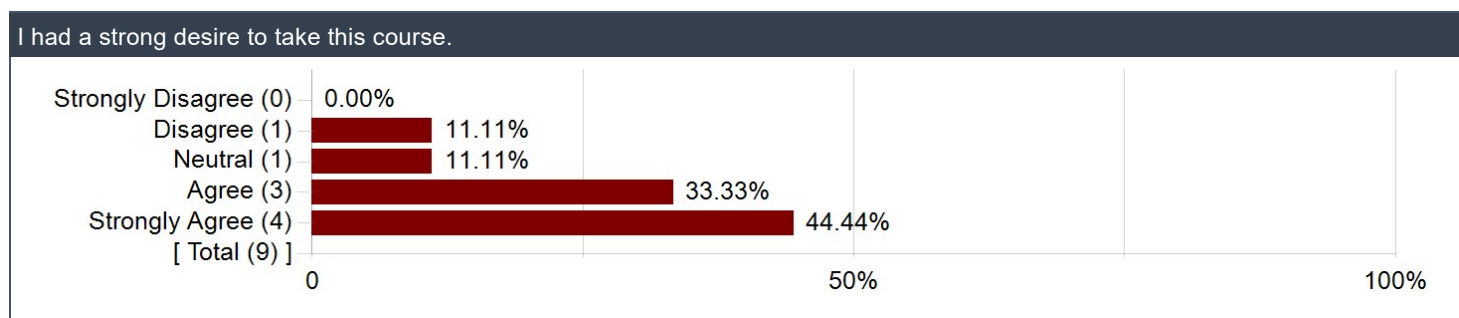
Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

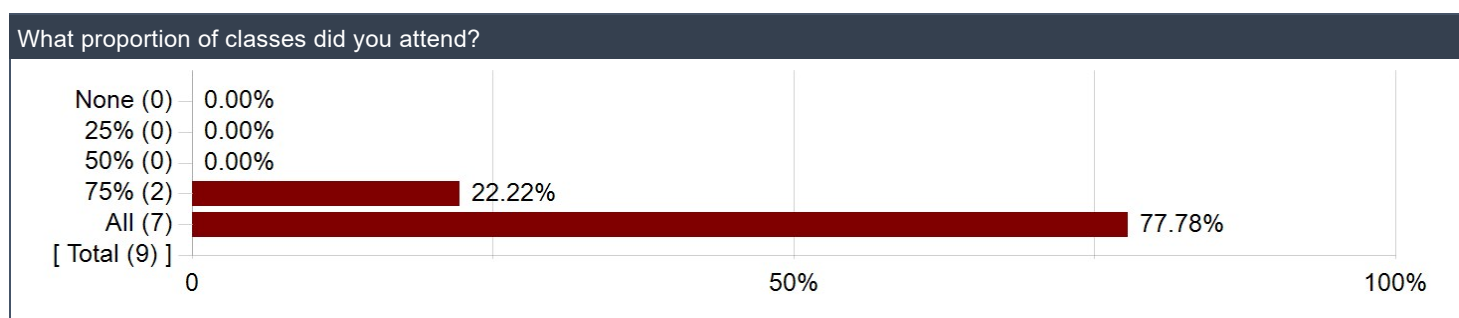
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



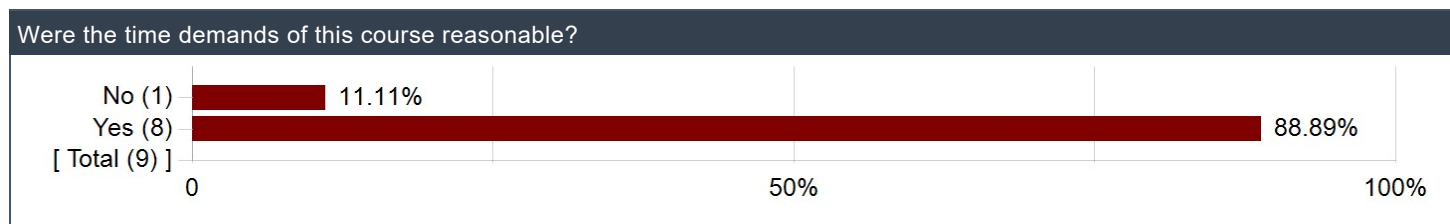
I had a strong desire to take this course.



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Were the time demands of this course reasonable?



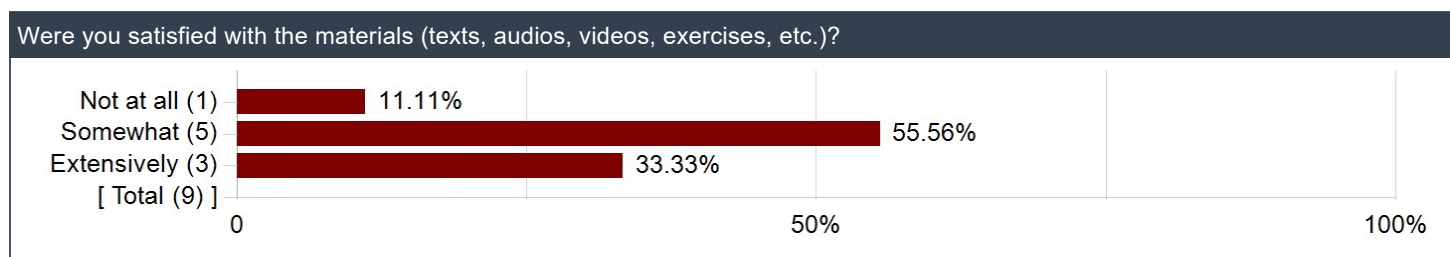
Rate the extent to which different aspects of the language were stressed:

| | Mean | Median | Not At All | A Little | Some | A Lot | Extremely | Vigorously |
|------------|------|--------|------------|----------|--------|--------|-----------|------------|
| Speaking | 3.33 | 3.00 | 0.00% | 11.11% | 0.00% | 55.56% | 11.11% | 22.22% |
| Reading | 2.78 | 3.00 | 0.00% | 11.11% | 33.33% | 33.33% | 11.11% | 11.11% |
| Writing | 3.33 | 3.00 | 0.00% | 11.11% | 11.11% | 33.33% | 22.22% | 22.22% |
| Grammar | 3.78 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 22.22% | 44.44% | 22.22% |
| Vocabulary | 2.44 | 2.00 | 0.00% | 33.33% | 22.22% | 22.22% | 11.11% | 11.11% |
| Listening | 3.11 | 3.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 33.33% | 33.33% | 22.22% | 11.11% |

For French Classes Only:

| | None At All | 10% | 20% | 30% | 40% | 50% | 60% | 70% | 80% | 90% | All Of It |
|---|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|
| How much self-correcting grammar homework did you do? | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 12.50% | 87.50% |
| How much self-correcting audio homework did you do? | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 12.50% | 12.50% | 75.00% |

Were you satisfied with the materials (texts, audios, videos, exercises, etc.)?



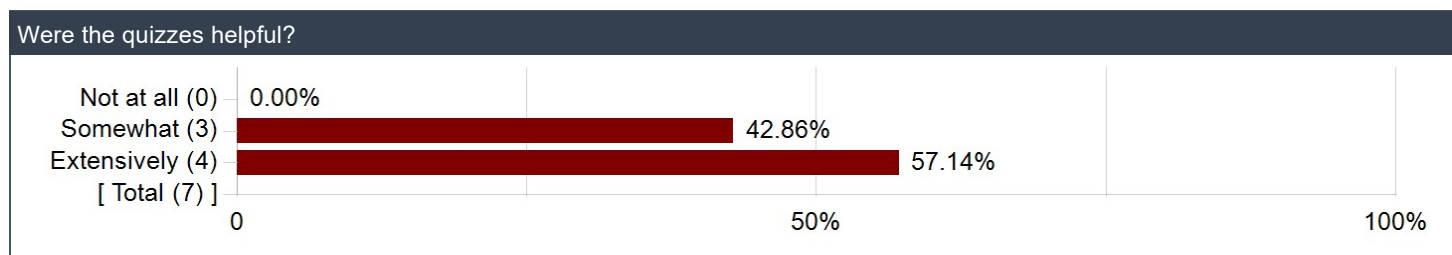
Please explain:

| Comments |
|--|
| There were many provided materials and it was easy to correct any grammatical work with the answers. |
| I liked the audio snippets from native French speakers and having the transcript to follow in the textbook |
| Most of the assignments were very simple, but sometimes the audio assignments could have quality issues that made them difficult to complete. |
| The audios are often muffled, and there is often a lot of background noise. As someone learning a language the bad audio quality makes comprehending the words very difficult. |
| Textbook isn't always easiest to refer back to regarding grammar. Had to double-check online as well. |
| I used the online textbook since it was a cheaper alternative than the hard copy, and taking screenshots on my computer, importing them to OneNote, and then filling in the questions for each assignment was a pretty time consuming process. I'm sure there was a more efficient way for people using the online textbook but it was just unfortunate that my ebook from VitalSource wouldn't let me annotate it or just type in answers as annotations on the VitalSource site. |

What did you learn about culture through language?

| Comments |
|---|
| I learned about different aspects of education in France, the unique nature of French cinema, and the way that French people spend their leisure time and travel. |
| Learnt a lot about the french academic system |
| I learned about sports, films, customs, vacation spots and hotels, orthography, among other ideas from the weekly exposes that everyone in the class did. |

Were the quizzes helpful?



How helpful were the various types of homework?

| | Mean | Median | Not At All | Somewhat | Very | N/A |
|-----------|------|--------|------------|----------|--------|--------|
| Reading | 2.33 | 2.00 | 11.11% | 44.44% | 44.44% | 0.00% |
| Listening | 2.67 | 3.00 | 0.00% | 33.33% | 66.67% | 0.00% |
| Writing | 2.88 | 3.00 | 0.00% | 11.11% | 77.78% | 11.11% |
| Speaking | 2.63 | 3.00 | 0.00% | 33.33% | 55.56% | 11.11% |

If Discussion Board/Blog Tools were used in your course, how useful did you find them?

| Comments |
|---|
| Somewhat useful |
| not very |
| N/A |
| Pretty useful |
| We only used the discussion board to ask questions about our classmates' expose presentations, but it was a practical method for gathering everyone's thoughts and having them in one easily accessible place |

How useful did you find the required out of class aural/oral activities (e.g. cultural activities, conversational practice, activities of your choice, films, etc.)?

| Comments |
|---|
| Very useful |
| I think they were good, but there should be less stress around them and less stress around the TalkAbroad. |
| I thought they were very engaging and helped connect class content to actual culturally useful information. |
| Cultural activities feel like such a waste of time. |
| TalkAbroad is great. I genuinely enjoyed the conversations I had and always had a new partner. I would even consider using it for out-of-class practice in the future. |
| The listening and speaking activities were very useful for me since I initially struggled with listening to conversational French and keeping up with everything being spoken. They definitely helped me advance my conversation skills |

Other comments:

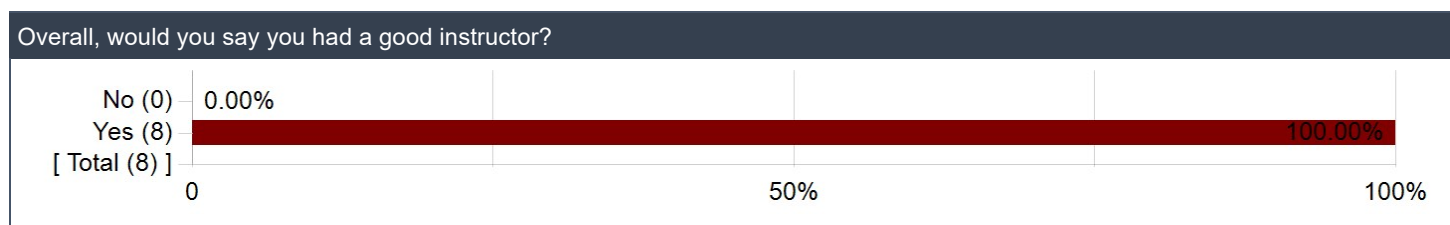
| Comments |
|--|
| I felt like this class helped me figure out how to converse in French rather than just know how to speak it or say specific words. I felt I improved a lot over the quarter and overall I'm really happy with how this class went. |

The Instructor

Select one option for each statement (1 lowest - 5 highest):

| | Mean | Median | 1-Lowest | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5-Highest |
|---|------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Rate your instructor's organizational skills | 4.22 | 4.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 22.22% | 33.33% | 44.44% |
| Rate your instructor's ability to convey the subtleties of the language | 4.44 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 33.33% | 55.56% |
| Rate your instructor's ability to encourage class conversation and participation in this language | 4.56 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 11.11% | 22.22% | 66.67% |
| Rate your instructor's availability outside of class and willingness to help | 4.22 | 5.00 | 0.00% | 11.11% | 11.11% | 22.22% | 55.56% |
| Rate feedback on assignments and exams | 3.56 | 3.00 | 0.00% | 11.11% | 44.44% | 22.22% | 22.22% |

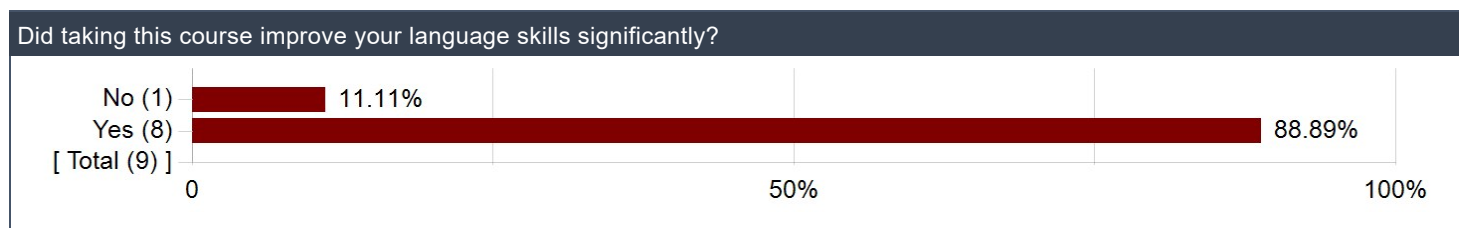
Overall, would you say you had a good instructor?



Please explain:

| Comments |
|---|
| I felt that I had a good instructor who helped me learn the language |
| Sometimes it could be hard to understand his standards for assignments, but he was generally easy to work with and very helpful for improving language skills. |
| Etienne was helpful at the beginning of the class, but over time, he became much less available. His office hours were sometimes canceled, and he wouldn't schedule any makeup times to meet. He wouldn't help with the Redaction assignments despite my professors last year always helping me understand my mistakes. Sometimes, I would be trying to answer a question correctly in class, but if I guessed wrong too many times, he would move on, and I wouldn't get another chance to answer a question correctly. I just felt like there was very little help. I also felt like my SDS accommodations were not taken very seriously. When Etienne took the time to help me one-on-one, he was very helpful and nice, but in class, I often felt like I was thrown to the wolves. I think for the more advanced students, Etienne was probably great, but as someone who needed extra help, I really could have used more effort on his part to help me understand certain concepts. I know he was told he couldn't help with the redaction edits, but I feel like that is a problem within the French department. I can never learn how to fix what is wrong or identify my mistakes if I am just making guesses to make my edits. Overall, I think it was probably very difficult to teach a class with such a large gap in French-speaking/writing abilities, so I understand his position. I also know he was teaching multiple classes, so he had a lot of homework to grade. That is a problem with the curriculum because it is ridiculous how much homework is assigned, and I wouldn't be surprised if Etienne's limited time to help outside of class was because of all the time it took grading everything. |
| I would have preferred a comment or two at the end of my rédactions on how to improve my writing / main areas of weakness. Something like: "good range of vocab and pronouns that we covered. maybe review present subjunctive formation." |
| My instructor was really good at taking the class at our pace and making sure we grasped everything he taught before moving on to the next concept or lesson. The assignments he gave were beneficial to our learning and the work we did in class was fun since it was a lot of conversing with our classmates and learning about each other. |

Did taking this course improve your language skills significantly?



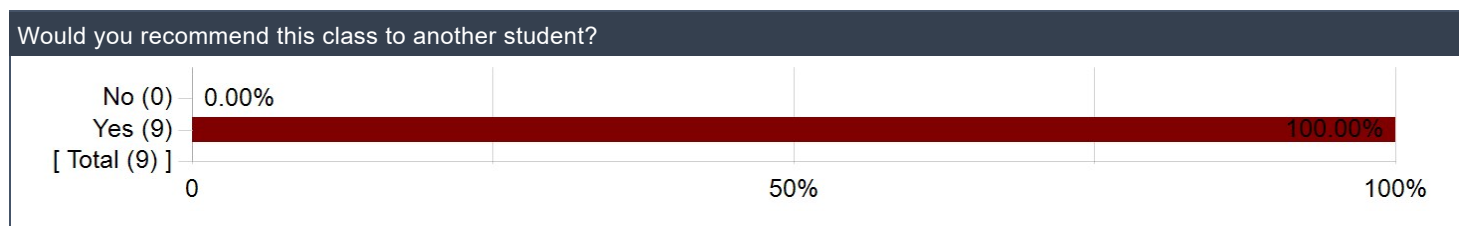
How would you improve this course?

| Comments |
|---|
| I would make the bilans and the exercises due two days after the day we learned them and not have them due the night of the day we learned them. I find it more helpful if I can have someone in person explain the rules to me before I do the exercises and the lingco. |
| N/A |
| The whole French curriculum moves way too fast, and I think there is a serious problem with placement tests. As someone who took the 100's last year and did really well, 201 was a completely different ballgame. The people who took four years of French in high school or studied in France for a year should not be placed in the same class as the students who had one year of French, equating to 27 weeks of class three times a week for 50 minutes. That is nowhere near the same level as those who studied French all throughout high school. Being graded in comparison to them feels very unfair. There should be an in-between class. I am not continuing French next quarter because I felt like I worked so hard and still did the worst of anyone, and it negatively impacted my mental health. It might be helpful not to see my grade compared to the other students, as that was really frustrating to see. |
| Course itself is great, I just find the textbook annoying. Perhaps more handouts? Super useful for practice. |
| I would probably omit one of the platforms for homework since there were assignments on so many different websites (for example, textbook, Lingco, talkabroad, canvas) and although these assignments were helpful they sometimes felt redundant |

In what way?

| Comments |
|--|
| My language skills improved in every aspect: reading, speaking, writing, and listening. I am very happy with how much I have progressed. |
| I feel much more comfortable speaking and my grammar has improved |
| My speaking and writing skills |
| I have a significantly improved vocabulary and a good command over many new grammar mechanics. |
| I think it improved my language skills slightly, but not significantly. |
| Speaking and writing. I feel able to express myself much more naturally in both. |
| Speaking, listening, grammar |

Would you recommend this class to another student?



Why?

| Comments |
|--|
| The French sequence at UChicago is amazing. Having already taken 4 courses, I am always impressed by how much I learn within one quarter. If you really want to learn the language, and do it in a relatively short period of time, it is a really great option. |
| I enjoyed it and it prepared me for more advanced French courses |
| I liked the overall structure of the course when we were in class learning grammar together. |
| It was offered a very substantial and valuable expansion of the course content from the 100 sequence. |
| Only take this class if you had any French experience prior to college or if your brain is naturally really good at languages. |
| I loved the TalkAbroad opportunities and the fast pace of it. You're constantly practising so you can see yourself becoming better quickly. |
| It was a fun environment, I made some good friends in class since much of the class was just talking to your neighbor and conversing about each other in French. |