*French*

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French

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Extent of the French Language

Lesson 0.01 - Introduction

Introduction

*See also: w:French language*

French is a Romance language descended from Latin which developed as a result of Celtic and Frankish influences in Gaul (now France). Being a Romance language, it is closely related to Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, and Romanian, as well as many other languages. There are over 87 million native French speakers and an additional 68 million non-native speakers in the world.

History

*Further information: w:History of the French language*

During the Roman occupation of Gaul, the Latin language was imposed on the natives. This Latin language eventually developed into what is known as vulgar Latin, which was still very similar to Latin. Over the centuries, due to Celtic and Germanic influences (particularly the Franks), *la langue dto l* was developed. A dialect of *la langue dto l* known as *le francien* was the language of the court, and thus became the official language of what was to become the Kingdom of France, and later the Nation-State of France.

From medieval times until the 19th century, French was the dominant language of diplomacy, culture, administration, trade and royal courts across Europe. Due to these factors, French was the *lingua franca* of this time period.

French has influenced many languages world wide, including English. It is through French (or more precisely Norman, a dialect of *la langue dto l*) that English gets about one third of its vocabulary.

Extent of the Language

*Main article: w:La Francophonie Main article: w:French colonial empires*

In modern times, French is still a significant diplomatic language: it is an official language of the United Nations, the Olympic Games, and the European Union. It is also the official language of 29 countries and is spoken in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Tunisia, Morocco, Senegal, Haiti, the Ivory Coast, Madagascar, the Congo, Algeria, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, Gabon, the Seychelles, Burundi, Chad, Rwanda, Djibouti, Cameroon, Mauritius, and Canada (mostly in the province of Québec, where it is the primary language, but it is also used in other parts of the country. All consumer product packages in Canada are required by law to have both English and French labels).

Allons-y! Bonne chance!

French is spoken all around the world.

Lesson 0.02 - Learning French

Reasons to learn French

As mentioned earlier, French is a major diplomatic language. You are bound to find speakers almost anywhere in the world. In addition to these societal reasons, there are hundreds of famous French novels and nonfiction works in a wide variety of subjects. Because much can be lost in translation, the best way to read these works is in the original language.

Advice on studying French

*Main article: How to learn a language*

French tends to have a reputation among English speakers as hard to learn. While it is true that it poses certain difficulties to native English-speakers, it may be noted that English is also considered sdifficults to learn, and yet we learned it without the benefit of already knowing a language. In fact, the French language can be learned in only 10 months (http://web.archive.org/web/20071211081522/http://en.wikinerds.org/index.php/Learning\_French\_in\_10\_months , if only for the specific purpose of passing a standardized test, such as the Test dsEvaluation de Français. According to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, in order to reach the level of sIndependent Users (after completing Level B2), you must complete 400 hours of effective learning (so if you study 4 hours a week, every single week of the year, you would need two years to achieve it). Any way you look at it, learning any new language requires a long-term commitment. Remember, that like any skill, it requires a certain amount of effort. And it is likely that if you do not practice your French regularly, you will begin to forget it. Try to make French practice a part of your routine; even if itss not daily, at least make it regular.

Also remember that you are learning a new skill. Try to master the simple stuff before moving on to the more complex concepts. We all have to add and subtract before we can do calculus. French is a complete language. While this course can teach you to read and write in French, these are only half of the skills that make up fluency. A written document cannot teach much about listening to and speaking French. You must train all of these skills, and they will reinforce one another. For listening and speaking, find a native speaker to help you.

The very best way to learn French is to visit France or another French-speaking country. This allows you to start with a clean slate, as babies do. However, since most of us are unwilling or unable to take that step, the next best option is immersion. If you are serious about learning French, a period of immersion (during which you live in a Francophone culture) is a good idea once you have some basic familiarity with the language. If you canst travel to a French-speaking country, then try listening to French-language programs on the radio, Tv, or the Internet. Rent or buy French-language movies (many American and U.K. movies have a French language option). Pay attention to pronunciation. Grab a French speaker you meet and talk to him or her in French. Listen, speak, and practice. Read French newspapers and magazines. Googless news page, which links to French-language news stories, is an excellent source that will enrich your vocabulary.

Book organization

This book is divided into one set of preliminary lessons, the page you are reading now, and four increasingly complex lesson levels. The introductory lessons will teach you pronunciation and phrases. In the first level, you will learn basic grammar, including pronouns, the present indicative, most common present tense, and several irregularly-conjugated verbs. In the second level, the passé composé, the most common past tense, is given, along with many other irregular verbs. In the third level, you will learn several more tenses and

complex grammar rules. The fourth level (still in development), will be conducted in French and will focus on French literature and prose writing. For more on course structure, and information on how you can help improve this book, see the lessons planning page.

Lesson 0.03 - The Alphabet

Introduction

French Grammar Print version

L'alphabet français Characters Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Pronunciationah baysayday euh eff jhay ashee Characters Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Pronunciationgheekahel emmenn oh pay ku air

Characters Ss Tt Uuvv Ww Xx Yy Zz Pronunciationess tay oo vay dubla-vayeeksee-grehkzed

In addition, French uses several accents which are worth understanding. These are: à, è, ù, (grave accents) and é (acute accent). A circumflex applies to all vowels: â, ê, i, ô, û. A tréma (French for dieresis) is also applied: ë, , ü, . Two combined letters are used: e and œ, and a cedilla is used on the c to make it sound like an English s: ç. More information on accents will be found in the next section.

Letters and examples

French Grammar Print version

L'alphabet français letter pronunciation name in French

(in IPA transcription) Aa like a in *father* /a/ Bb like b in *may be* /be/ Cc before *e* and *i*: like c in *center*

before *a, o,* or *u*: like c in *cat* /se/ Dd like d in *dog* /de/ Ee approx. like u in *burp*cc / / Ff like f in *fog* / f/ Gg before *e* and *i*: like s in *measure*

before *a, o,* or *u*: like g in *get* / e/ Hh *aspirated h*: see note belowc

*non-aspirated h*: not pronouncedccc /a / Ii like ea in *team* /i/ Jj like s in *measure* / i/ Kk like k in *kite* /ka/ Ll like l in *lemon* / l/ Mm like m in *minute* / m/

The French Alphabet

The French Alphabet

audio (info 101 kb help)

audio (info 101 kb help)

Nn like n in *note* / n/ Oo *closed*: approx. like u in *nut*

*open*: like o in *nose* /o/ Pp like p in *pen*c /pe/ Qq like k in *kite* /ky/ *see tut for details*

Rr

force air through the back of your throat near the position of gargling, but sounding soft

/ /

Ss

like s in *sister* at beginning of word or with two s's or like z in *amazing* if only one s

/ s/

Tt like t in *top* /te/ Uu Say the English letter e,

but make your lips say *oo .* /y/ Vv like v in *violin* /ve/ Ww Depending like v as in *violin,* on the derivation *or w in* water of the word,

/dubl ve/

Xx either /ks/ in *socks*,

or /gz/ in *exit* /iks/ Yy like ea in *leak* /igr k/ Zz like z in *zebra* /z d/

Final consonants

In French, certain consonants are silent when they are the final letter of a word. The letters *p* (as in scoups), *s* (as in shéross), *t* (as in schats), *d* (as in smarchands), and *x* (as in sparesseuxs), are generally not pronounced at the end of a word. They are pronounced if there is an *e* letter after (scoupes, schattes, smarchandes, etc.)

Dental consonants

The letters *d*, *l*, *n*,*s*, *t*, and *z* are pronounced with the tip of the tongue against the lower teeth and the middle of the tongue against the roof of the mouth. In English, one would pronounce these letters with the tip of the tongue at the roof of oness mouth. It is very difficult to pronounce a word like svoudraiss properly with the *d* formed in the English manner.

*b* and *p*

Unlike English, when you pronounce the letters sbs and sps in French, little to no air should come out of your mouth. In terms of phonetics, the difference in the French sbs and sps and their English counterparts is one of aspiration. (This is not the same as the similarly-named concept of shs aspiré discussed below). Fortunately, in English both aspirated and unaspirated variants (allophones) exist, but only in specific environments. If yousre a native speaker, say the word spits and then the word sspits out loud. Did you notice the extra puff of air in the first word that doesnst come with the second? The sps in spits is aspirated [p ]; the sps in sspits is not (like the sps in *any* position in French).

Exercise

Get 1. a loose piece of printer paper or notebook paper. 2. Hold the piece of paper about one inch (or a couple of centimeters) in front of your face. 3.

Say the words *baby*, and *puppy* like you normally would in English. Notice how the paper moved when you said the sbs and the sps respectively. 4.

Now, without making the piece of paper move, say the words *belle* (the feminine form of beautiful in French, pronounced like the English sbell.s), and *papa* (the French equivalent of "Dad").

If the paper moves, your pronunciation is slightly off. Concentrate, and try it again. If the paper didnst move, congratulations! You pronounced the words correctly!

Aspirated vs. non-aspirated *h*

In French, the letter *h* can be aspirated *(h aspiré)*, or not aspirated *(h non aspiré)*, depending on which language the word was borrowed from. What do these terms mean?

*Ex.:* the word héros, *(hero)* has an aspirated *h*, because when the definite article *le* is placed before it, the result is *le héros*, and both words must be pronounced separately. However, the feminine form of *héros*, héro ne is a non-aspirated *h*. Therefore, when you put the definite article in front of it, it becomes *lthéro ne*, and is pronounced as one word.

Remember that in French, an *h* is NEvER pronounced, whether it is aspirated or not aspirated!

The only way to tell if the *h* at the beginning of a word is aspirated is to look it up in the dictionary. Some dictionaries will place an asterisk (c) in front of the entry word in the French-English *H* section if the *h* is aspirated. Other dictionaries will include it in the pronunciation guide after the key word by placing a (s) before the pronunciation. In short, the words must be memorized.

Here is a table of some basic *h* words that are aspirated and not aspirated:

aspirated non-aspirated

héros, hero *(le héros)* héro ne, heroine *(lthéro ne)*

ha r, to hate *(je hais or jtha s...)* habiter, to live *(jthabite...)*

huit, eight *(le huit novembre)* harmonie, harmony *(ltharmonie)*

Exercise

1.

Grab a French-English dictionary and find at least ten aspirated *h* words, and ten non-aspirated *h* words 2. On a piece of paper, write down the words you find in two columns 3. Look at it every day and memorize the columns Punctuation

From Wiktionary:

French Vocabulary Print version

La ponctuation & esperluette, et

commercial , virgule { } accolades tilde

Punctuation

audio (info 608 kb help)

' apostrophe = égal % pourcent @ arobase, a

commercial, arobe astérisque $ dollar . point guillemets ! point

dsexclamation + plus \ barre oblique

inverse > supérieur à # dièse [ ] crochets < inférieur à ? point

dsinterrogation : deux points - moins, tiret, trait

dsunion \_ soulignement ; point virgule ( ) parenthèses / barre oblique

The punctuation symbols in French operates very similarly to English with the same meaning. The only punctuation symbol not present in French would be the quotation marks; these are replaced by the *guillemets* shown in the table above.

The two stroke punctuation marks (such as *;*, *:*, *?*, *!*) may require a non-breaking space before or after the mark in question. For purposes of this textbook, this style will be used to maintain consistency with other projects on WikiMedia - however, the location and context at which you will use French may have different spacing rules. The following resources are an example of available materials for further reading:

Lexique des règles typographiques en usage à lsImprimerie nationale, ISBN 9782743304829, Imprimerie nationale Wikipédia:Conventions typographiques (http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipédia:Conventions\_typographiques#Espaces) French Style Guide (http://www.cprp.ca/guide.php?category\_name=autres-ressources/#english) , Nova Scotia Department of Education (for Canadian French)

EXERCISE Translator (http://translate.google.com/translate\_t) Exercise Appendix Print version

E: 0.03 1 - Punctuation - State the Word

[show ]

Lesson 0.04 - Accents

Introduction

Five different kinds of accent marks are used in written French. In many cases, an accent changes the sound of the letter to which it is added. In others, the accent has no effect on pronunciation. Accents in French never indicate stress (which always falls on the last syllable). The following table lists every French accent mark and the letters with which it can be combined:

accent letters

used examples

acute accent *(accent aigu)* é only éléphant: *elephant*

grave accent *(accent grave)* è, à, ù fièvre: *fever*, là: *there*, où: *where*

circumflex *(accent circonflexe)*

â, ê, i, gâteau: ô, û

*cake,* être: *to be*, île: *island*, chômage: *unemployment*, dû: past participle of *devoir*

diaeresis *(tréma)* ë, , ü, [1] No l: *Christmas*, ma s: *corn*, aigüe: *acute(fem)*[2]

cedilla *(cédille)* ç only français: *French*

1. Note: The letter is only used in very rare words, mostly old town names like LsHa -Les-Roses, a

Paris surburb. This letter is pronounced like . 2.

Note: As of the spelling reform of 1990, the diaresis indicating *gu* is not a digraph on words finishing in *gu* is now placed on the u in standard (AKA "académie française" French) : aigüe and not aiguë, cigüe and not ciguë, ambigüe and not ambiguë (acute(fem), conium, ambiguous). Since this reform is relatively recent and mostly unknown to laypeople, the two spellings can be used interchangeably.

Acute accent - Accent aigu

The acute accent *(French, accent aigu)* is the most common accent used in written French. It is only used with the letter *e* and is always pronounced /e/.

One use of the *accent aigu* is to form the past participle of regular *-er* verbs.

infinitive past participle

aimer, *to love* aimé, *loved*

regarder, *to watch* regardé, *watched*

Another thing to note is if you are unsure of how to translate certain words into English from French, and the word begins with *é*, replace that with the letter *s* and you will occasionally get the English word, or an approximation thereof:

étable --> *stable* (for horses) école --> scole --> *school* il étudie --> il studie --> *he studies* And to combine what you already know about the *accent aigu*, here is one last example:

étranglé *(from étrangler)* --> stranglé --> *strangled*

NB: This will not work with every word that begins with *é*.

Grave accent - Accent grave

à and ù

In the case of the letters *à* and *ù*, the grave accent *(Fr. accent grave),* is used to graphically distinguish one word from another.

without *accent grave* with *accent grave*

a (3rd pers. sing of avoir, *to have*) à (preposition, *to, at,* etc.)

la (definite article for feminine nouns) là (*there*)

ou (conjunction, *or*) où (*where*)

èUnlike *à* and *ù*, *è* is not used to distinguish words from one another. The *è* is used for pronunciation. In careful speech, an unaccented *e* is pronounced like the article *a* in english (a schwa), and in rapid speech is sometimes not pronounced at all. The *è* is pronounced like the letter *e* in *pet*.

Cedilla - Cédille

The cedilla is used only with the letter "c", and is said to make the "c" *soft*, making it equivalent to the English and French S.

le garçon --> (*boy*)

French Accents on computers

While French keyboards are available, some French students may need to enter accented characters on an English keyboard. There are two methods of doing so - some modern word processing software allow entering accents using a key combination, while other applications may require using an Alt code.

In supporing word processing software, you can initiate an accent by entering an appropriate key combination.

accent key combination

acute accent *(accent aigu)* CTRL-s

grave accent *(accent grave)* CTRL-

circumflex *(accent circonflexe)* CTRL-SHIFT-6

diaeresis *(tréma)* CTRL-;

cedilla *(cédille)* CTRL-,

On applications that do not support the key combinations, the alternate method available to students is to hold down the ALT key, and enter the code number on the keypad. In some applications, you may also need to have the numlock turned on to avoid undesirable effects.

Character code Character code

à 133 À 0192

â 131 Ã 0194

ä 132 Ä 142

e {ae} 145 E {ae} 146

œ {oe} 0156 {oe} 0140

ç 135 Ç 128

é 130 É 144

ê 136 Ê 0202

è 138 È 0200

ë 137 0203

i 140 0206

139 0207

ô 147 0212

ù 151 0217

û 150 Û 0219

ü 129 Ü 154 or 0220

« 174 175

Lesson 0.05 - Greetings

D: Greetings

French Dialogue Print version

Les salutations Jacques et Marie Jacques Bonsoir, Marie.

Marie Euh ? Tu tsappelles comment ? Jacques Moi[1], je msappelle Jacques.

Marie Ah, oui. Quoi de neuf, Jacques ? Jacques Pas grand-chose. Alors[2], au revoir, à demain, Marie.

Marie À la prochaine, Jacques.

Olivier et Luc Olivier Salut.

Luc Bonjour. Olivier Tu tsappelles comment ?

Luc Luc. Et toi ?[3] Olivier Je suis Olivier.

Luc Ah, oui. Alors, à bientôt, Olivier. Olivier Salut, Luc !

^ *me* ^ *so, then* ^ *And you ?* (informal)

V: Greetings

French Vocabulary Print version

Les salutations Salut Hi./Bye. (informal) Bonjour Hello (more formal than salut) (all day) Bonsoir Hello (after 19h00) Bonne soirée Good evening Bonne nuit Good night *bun nwee* Quoi de neuf ? Whatss up (about you)? (lit. whatss new) Pas grand-chose. Not much. (lit. no big-thing)

Formal Lesson - Greetings

Greetings

Greetings

audio (upload)

audio (info 111 kb help)

When talking to oness peers or to children, *Salut* is used as a greeting. Its English equivalents would be *hi* and *hey*. *Bonjour*, literally meaning *good day*, should be used for anyone else. *Bonsoir* is used to say *Good evening. Bonne nuit* is used to say *Good night* before going to bed.

V: Good-bye

French Vocabulary Print version

Au revoir Salut. Hi./Bye. (informal) Au revoir. Good-bye. *ohrvwahr* (*ev* not pronounced) À demain. See you tomorrow. *ah duhman* (Lit: To/Until Tomorrow) Au revoir, à demain. Bye, see you tomorrow. À tout à lsheure. See you (later today)! *ah tootah luhr* À la prochaine. See you (tomorrow)! *ah lah proh shayn* À bientôt. See you soon. *ah byantoe* Ciao Bye. *chow* (Italian)

Formal lesson - Good-byes

In addition to being used as an informal greeting, *Salut* also means *bye*. Again, it should only be used among friends. Another informal greeting is *ciao*, an Italian word commonly used in France. *Au revoir* is the only formal way to say *Good-bye.* If you will be meeting someone again soon, use *À bientôt* or *À tout à ltheure*. *À demain* is used if you will be seeing the person the following day.

V: Names

*Tu ttappelles comment ?* is used to informally ask someone for his or her name. It is normal to just reply by stating your name, however you may also respond *Je mtappelle [*name*]* (I am called...). In the next lesson, you will learn more formal ways of asking someone for their name.

Check for understanding One of your good friends is introducing you to his younger cousin who is visiting on a trip from France, and doesnst speak a word of English. You want to introduce yourself to him, tell him your name, and ask "Whatss up?"

Good-bye

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Lesson 0.06 - Formal Speech

D: A formal conversation

French Dialogue Print version

Une conversation formelle Two people—Monsieur Bernard and Monsieur Lambert—are meeting for the first time:

*Monsieur Bernard* Bonjour. Comment vous appelez-vous ? *Monsieur Lambert* Je msappelle Jean-Paul Lambert. Et vous ? *Monsieur Bernard* Moi, je[4] suis Marc Bernard. Enchanté. *Monsieur Lambert* Enchanté[5].

^ *I* (*I* is not capitalized in French (unless, of course, beginning a sentence)) ^ *Nice to meet you* (lit. *enchanted*)

G: *Vous* vs. *tu*

This is an important difference between French and English. English no longer distinguishes between the singular and the plural, formal version of "you", although "thou" used to be the informal singular version in the days of Shakespeare.

In French, it is important to know when to use "vous" and when to use "tu".

"vous" is the plural form of "you". This is somewhat equivalent to "you all", "you guys", "all of you", except that it does not carry any familiarity when used with the plural. Yousd use it to address your friends as well as when talking to the whole government at a press conference.

"vous" is also used to refer to single individuals to show respect, to be polite or to be neutral. It is used when talking to someone who is important, someone who is older than you are, or someone with whom you are unfamiliar. This is known as vouvoiement. Note the conversation between M. Bernard and M. Lambert above as an example of this use.

Conversely, "tu" is the singular and informal form of "vous" (you) in French. It is commonly used when referring to a friend or a family member, and is also used between children or when addressing a child. If it is used when speaking to a stranger, it signals disrespect. This is known as Tutoiement. As a rule of thumb, use "tu" only when you would call that person by his first name, otherwise use "vous". French people will make it known when they would like you to refer to them by "tu". The use of "vous" is less common in Quebequois than in French from France.

V: Courtesy

French Vocabulary Print version

La politesse Please Ssil te plait. (Lit: If it pleases you.)

Ssil vous plait. (formal). Thanks (a lot) Merci (beaucoup).

A Formal Conversation

Courtesy

audio (info 160 kb help)

audio (info 65 kb help)

De rien. (Lit: Itss nothing.) Pas de quoi. (Lit: Not of what.) (No problem.) Je tsen prie. *I pray you* (informal) Je vous en prie (formal)

V: Titles

French Vocabulary Print version

Les titres French Abbr. Pronunciation English, Usage Singular Plural

Monsieur Messieurs. M. *muhsyeu mehsyeu*

Mr., Sir. Gentlemen. Singular Plural

Madame Mesdames Mme *mahdamn maydahm*

Mrs., Masam. Ladies Singular Plural

Mademoiselle Mesdemoiselles Mlle *mahdmwahzell mehdmwahzell*

Miss, Young lady Young ladies

Formal lesson - Titles

The titles *monsieur*, *madame*, and *mademoiselle* are almost always used alone, without the last name of the person. When beginning to speak to a professor, employer, or generally someone older than you, it is polite to say *monsieur*, *madame*, or *mademoiselle*.

V: Asking for one's name

French Vocabulary Print version

Yousre welcome.

Demander le nom de quelqu'un Comment vous appelez-vous ? Quel est votre nom ?

How do you call yourself? (formal) What is your name? Tu tsappelles comment ? What is your name? (informal)

(lit: How do you call yourself?) Je msappelle... Je suis...

My name is... (lit. I call myself...) I am...

Asking For One's Name

Titles

audio (info 110 kb help)

audio (info 99 kb help)

Lesson 0.07 - How are you?

D: A simple conversation

Two good friends—Marie and Jean—are meeting:

*Marie*: Salut Jean. Ça va ? *Jean*: Ça va bien, merci. Et toi, ça va ? *Marie*: Pas mal. *Jean*: Quoi de neuf ? *Marie*: Pas grand-chose. *Marie*: Au revoir Jean. *Jean*: Au revoir, à demain.

V: How are you?

French Vocabulary Print version

Check for understanding Write down as many ways to respond to *Ça va?* as you can think of off the top off your head. Then go back to the vocabulary and learn other ways.

E: Basic phrases - Dialogue

French Exercise Print version

Ça va? Comment allez-vous ? (formal), Comment vas-tu ? (informal), Comment ça va ? / Ça va ? (informal)

How are you?

Ça va (très) bien Ism doing (very) well

(lit. Itss going (very) well) Oui, ça va. Yes, it goes. Très bien, merci. very well, thanks. Pas mal. Not Bad pas si bien/pas très bien not so well (très) mal (very) bad Comme ci, comme ça. So-So. Désolé(e). Sorry. Et toi ? Et vous ?

And you? (informal) And you? (formal)

How are you?

Expressions de base Exercise Put the following conversation in order:

Basic Phrases

audio (info 105 kb help)

audio (info 60 kb help)

First Second Third Fourth 1. Michel Je ne vais pas très bien. Bonjour, Jacques Au revoir Comment ça va? 2. Jacques Désolé. Ça va très bien! Et vous?

Allez-vous bien? À demain. Salut, Michel!

Solution: First Second Third Fourth 1. Michel Bonjour, Jacques. Comment ça va? Je ne vais pas très bien. Au revoir. 2. Jacques Salut, Michel! Ça va très bien! Et vous?

Allez-vous bien? Désolé. À demain.

Formal lesson - Asking how one is doing

*Ça va?* is used to ask someone how they are doing. The phrase literally means *It goes?*, referring to the body and life. A more formal way to say this is *Comment allez-vous?*. You can respond by using *ça va* as a statement; *Ça va.* roughly means *Itm fine.* The adverb *bien* is used to say *well*, and is often said both alone and as *Ça va bien. Bien* is preceded by certain adverbs to specify the degree to which you are well. Common phrases are *assez bien*, meaning *rather well*, *très bien*, meaning *very well*, and *vraiment bien*, meaning *really well*. The adverb *mal* is used to say *badly*. *Pas* is commonly added to *mal* to form *Pas mal.*, meaning *Not bad. Comme ci, comme ça.*, literally translating to *Like this, like that.*, is used to say *So, so.* To be polite, add *merci*, meaning *thank you* to responses to questions.

Check for understanding Pretend to have (or actually have) a verbal conversation with various people that you know, such as siblings, friends, children, teachers, coworkers, or heads of state. Address them in different ways, depending on their relation to you. Ask them how they are doing, and finally say goodbye.

Lesson 0.08 - Numbers

V: Cardinal numbers

*Main article: French/Appendices/Dates, time, and numbers#Les numéros*

French Vocabulary Print version

Les nombres un 1 une unité (a unity) deux 2 trois 3 quatre 4 cinq 5 six 6 sept 7 huit 8 neuf 9 dix 10 une dizaine (one ten) onze 11 douze 12 une douzaine (one dozen) treize 13 quatorze 14 quinze 15 seize 16 dix-sept 17 dix-huit 18 dix-neuf 19 vingt 20 une vingtaine (around twenty) vingt et un 21 vingt-[deux - neuf] 22-29 trente 30 trente et un 31 trente-[deux - neuf] 32-39 quarante 40 cinquante 50 soixante 60 soixante-dix 70 soixante et onze 71 soixante-[douze - dix-neuf] 72-79 quatre-vingts 80 quatre-vingt-un 81 quatre-vingt-[deux - neuf] 82-89 quatre-vingt-dix 90 quatre-vingt-[onze - dix-neuf] 91-99

Numbers

audio (info 337 kb help)

cent 100 une centaine (one hundred) [deux - neuf] cents 200-900 deux cent un 201 neuf cent un 901 mille 1.000 un millier (one thousand) (un) million 1.000.000 (un) milliard 1.000.000.000

Things of note about numbers:

For 70-79, it builds upon "soixante" but past that it builds upon a combination of terms for 80-99 Only the first (21,31,41,51 and 61, but not 71 nor 81 nor 91) have "et un" without a hyphen; but past this it is simply both words consecutively (vingt-six, trente-trois, etc) with a hyphen in between. For 100-199, it looks much like this list already save that "cent" is added before the rest of the number; this continues up to 1000 and onward. Many speakers of French outside of France refer to the numbers 70 to 99 in the same pattern as the other numbers. For instance, in Switzerland and Belgium, seventy is "septante," 71 is "septante et un," 72 "septante deux," and so on. Ninety is "nonante". In Switzerland, Eighty is "huitante" or "octante".

V: Mathematics

In french, the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division are as follows: Calculez: a) un plus (plus) un = (égal) deux (the final sss must be prononced) b) dix moins (moén) sept = trois c) quatre fois (foá) trois = douze d) vingt divisé par (divisê par) dix = deux

Note: You may sometimes use "un plus un font deux".

Exercises

huit plus cinq égal : (treize) cinq et un égal : (six) neuf plus huit égal (dix-sept) trente-deux plus quarante-neuf égal (quatre-vingt-un) soixante plus vingt égal (quatre-vingts) cinquante-trois plus douze égal (soixante-cinq) dix-neuf plus cinquante égal (soixante-neuf) quarante-sept plus vingt-sept égal (soixante-quatorze) Soixante-trois plus trente-deux égal (quatre-vingt-quinze) soixante plus trente-deux égal (quatre-vingt-douze)

D: In school

Toto est un personnage imaginaire qui est un cancre à lsécole. Il y a beaucoup dshistoires drôles sur Toto, un jour je vous en raconterai une!

Toto is an imaginary person that is a dunce at school. There are a lot of funny stories about Toto, one day I will tell you one of them!

- *Ltinstituteur* : Bonjour, les enfants! Aujourdshui csest mardi, nous allons réviser la table dsaddition. Combien font huit plus six ? - *Toto* : Treize, monsieur ! - *Ltinstituteur* : Non Toto tu tses trompé! Huit plus six égal quatorze. Et combien font cinq plus neuf ? - *Clément* : Quatorze ! - *Ltinstituteur* : Très bien Clément.

Lesson 0.09 - The Date

V: The days of the week.

French Vocabulary Print version

Les jours de la semaine. # French Pronunciation English Origin 1 lundi *luhndee* Monday Moon 2 mardi *mahrdee* Tuesday Mars 3 mercredi *maircruhdee* Wednesday Mercury 4 jeudi *juhdee* Thursday Jupiter 5 vendredi *vahndruhdee* Friday venus 6 samedi *sahmdee* Saturday Saturn 7 dimanche *deemahnsh* Sunday Dies Domini

Notes:*What day is it today?* is equivalent to *Quel jour sommes-nous aujourdthui?*, *Quel jour est-on*

*aujourdthui?* or *On est quel jour aujourdthui?* (last one is less formal but more common) *Quel jour sommes-nous aujourdthui?* can be answered with *Aujourdthui ctest...*, *Ctest...* or *Nous sommes ...* / *On est... Nous sommes...* is not used with *hier*, *aujourdVhui*, or *demain*. *Ctétait* (past) or *Ctest* (present/future) must be used accordingly. The days of the week are not capitalized in French.

French Vocabulary Print version

Les jours relatifs avant-hier the day before yesterday hier yesterday aujourdshui today ce soir tonight demain tomorrow après-demain the day after tomorrow

V: The months of the year

Demander le jour 1a Aujourdshui on est quel jour ? Today is what day? *ojzoordwee on ay kell jzoor* 1b Aujourdshui on est [*jour*]. Today is [*day*]. 2a Demain csest quel jour ? Tomorrow is what day? *Duhman say kell jzoor* 2b Demain csest [*jour*]. Tomorrow is [*day*].

French Vocabulary Print version

The Days of the Week.

Relative Days

Asking For The Day

audio (info 127 kb help)

audio (info 164 kb help)

audio (info 67 kb help)

Demander la date Quelle est la date (dsaujourdshui) ?

What is the date (today)? *kell ay lah daht* Csest le [#] [month]. Itss [month] [#]. *say leuh...*

V: Seasons

French Vocabulary Print version

Les mois de l'année # French Pronounced English 01 janvier *jzahnvyay* January 02 février *fayvryay* February 03 mars *mahrse* March 04 avril *ahvrill* April 05 mai *maye* May 06 juin *jzwan* June 07 juillet *jzuyay* July 08 août *oot/oo* August 09 septembre *septahmbruh* September 10 octobre *oktuhbr* October 11 novembre *novahmbr* November 12 décembre *daysahmbr* December

The months of the year are not capitalized in French. For phrases relating to the months of the year, see the phrasebook

French Vocabulary Print version

Les Saisons la saison season le printemps Spring lsété (m) Summer lsautomne (m) Autumn lshiver (m) Winter

French Vocabulary Print version

The Months of the Year

Asking For The Date

Seasons

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audio (info 99 kb help)

audio (info 142 kb help)

Lesson 0.10 - Telling Time

V: Asking for the time

French Vocabulary Print version

Demander le jour/la date/le temps Asking for the time. 4a Quelle heure est-il ? What hour/time is it? *kell er ayteel* 4b Quelle heure il est ? *kell er eel ay* 5 Il est [nombre] heure(s). It is [*number*] hours. *eelay [nombre] er*

V: Time

In French, il est" is used to express the time; though it would literally translate as he is", it is actually, in this case, equivalent to it is" (impersonal "il"). Unlike in English, it is always important to use heures" ( hours") when referring to the time. In English, it is OK to say, It's nine," but this wouldn't make sense in French.

French Vocabulary Print version

Le temps Quelle heure est-il ? What time is it? Il est une heure. It is one o'clock. Il est trois heures. It is three o'clock. Il est dix heures. It is ten o'clock. Il est midi. It is noon. Il est minuit. It is midnight. Il est quatre heures cinq. It is five past four. Il est quatre heures et quart. It is a quarter past four. Il est quatre heures moins le quart It is a quarter till 4. Il est quatre heures quinze. It is four fifteen. Il est quatre heures et demie. It is half past four. Il est quatre heures trente. It is four thirty. Il est cinq heures moins vingt. It is twenty to five. Il est quatre heures quarante. It is four forty.

V: Times of day

French Vocabulary Print version

L'heure relatif le lever du jour daybreak

lit:the rise of the day le lever du soleil sunrise

lit: the rise of the sun

Asking For The Day, Date, Time

Times of Day

Time

audio (info 145 kb help)

audio (info 183 kb help)

audio (info 164 kb help)

le soleil levant rising sun. le matin morning ...du matin A.M., lit: of the morning hier matin yesterday morning le midi noon, midday lsaprès-midi (m) afternoon le soir evening, in the evening ...du soir P.M. lit: of the evening la nuit night le coucher du soleil sunset

D: The Principal

French Dialogue Print version

Le directeur *Daniel* (*frappe à la porte* : *toc toc toc*)

(*knocks on the door*: *knock knock knock*) *Le directeur* Entrez Enter!

!

*Daniel* Bonjour, monsieur le directeur. Est-ce que vous allez bien ?

Hello, Mr. Director. Are you well? *Le directeur* Je I am vais well, bien thank merci. you. Et And vous, you, comment how are allez-vous you?

?

*Daniel*

Je vais bien. Je veux vous demander ssil est possible dsorganiser une fête pour mon anniversaire. Je lsorganiserais le 3 mars vers 14 h. Ism well. I want to ask you if it is possible to organize a party for my birthday. I would organize it the third of March around 02:00 PM. *Le directeur* Et And vous you voulez want to lsorganiser organize où ?

it where?

*Daniel*

Dans la grande salle de réunion au deuxième étage. On en aurait besoin jusqusà 16 h, le temps de tout nettoyer. In the large conference room on the second floor. We would need it until 04:00 PM, the time of cleaning everything. *Le directeur* Entendu! Agreed! I Js espère que je serais invité ? hope that I would be invited? *Daniel* Bien sûr ! Merci Beaucoup !

Of course! Thanks a lot! *Le directeur* Au Good-bye! revoir !

*Daniel* Au revoir et encore merci !

Good-bye and thanks again.

The Principal

audio (info 505 kb help)

Lesson 0 - Review

G: The French alphabet

French Grammar Print version

L'alphabet français Characters Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Pronunciationah baysay dayeuheff jhayashee zhee kah el em Characters Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu vv Ww Xx Yy Zz Pronunciationennoh payku air esstay ue vaydubl-vayeeksee-grehkzedh

In addition, French uses several accents which are worth understanding. These are: à, è, ù, (grave accents) and é (acute accent). A circumflex applies to all vowels: â, ê, i, ô, û. A tréma (French for dieresis) is also applied: ä, ë, , ö, ü, . Two combined letters are used: e and œ, and a cedilla is used on the c to make it sound like an English s: ç.

V: Basic phrases

French Vocabulary Print version

Les expressions de base bonjour, salut hello (formal), hi (informal) Comment allez-vous ? (formal), Comment vas-tu ? (informal), Comment ça va ? / Ça va ? (informal)

How are you?

ça va (très) bien Ism doing (very) well (lit. Itss going (very) well) merci thank you et toi ? et vous ? and you? (informal) and you? (formal) pas mal not bad bien well pas si bien/pas très bien not so well comme ci, comme ça so-so Désolé(e) Ism sorry. quoi de neuf ? whatss up (about you)? (lit. whatss new) pas grand-chose not much (lit. no big-thing) au revoir bye (lit. with reseeing, akin to German auf Wiedersehen) à demain see you tomorrow (lit. at tomorrow) Au revoir, à demain. Bye, see you tomorrow

V: Numbers

French Vocabulary Print version

Les nombres un 1 une unité (a unity)

The French Alphabet

Numbers

Basic Phrases

audio (info 337 kb help)

audio (info 101 kb help)

audio (info 353 kb help)

deux 2 trois 3 quatre 4 cinq 5 six 6 sept 7 huit 8 neuf 9 dix 10 une dizaine (one ten) onze 11 douze 12 une douzaine (one dozen) treize 13 quatorze 14 quinze 15 seize 16 dix-sept 17 dix-huit 18 dix-neuf 19 vingt 20 vingt et un 21 vingt [deux - neuf] 22-29 trente 30 trente et un 31 trente [deux - neuf] 32-39 quarante 40 cinquante 50 soixante 60 soixante-dix 70 soixante et onze 71 soixante-[douze - dix-neuf] 72-79 quatre-vingts 80 quatre-vingt-un 81 quatre-vingt-[deux - neuf] 82-89 quatre-vingt-dix 90 quatre-vingt-[onze - dix-neuf] 91-99 cent 100 une centaine (one hundred) [deux - neuf] cents 200-900 deux cent un 201 neuf cent un 901 mille 1.000 un millier (one thousand) (un) million 1.000.000 (un) milliard 1.000.000.000 (un) billion 1.000.000.000.000

Things of note about numbers:

For 70-79, it builds upon "soixante" but past that it builds upon a combination of terms for 80-99 Only the first (21,31,41,51,61 and 71, but not 81 nor 91) have "et un" without a hyphen; but past this it is simply both words consecutively (vingt-six, trente-trois, etc) with a hyphen in between. For 100-199, it looks much like this list already save that "cent" is added before the rest of the number; this continues up to 1000 and onward.

V: Asking for the day/date/time

French Vocabulary Print version

Demander le jour, la date, le temps Asking for the day. 1a Quel jour csest Aujourdshui ? What day is today ? *kell jzoor say ojzoordwee* 1b csest [*jour*]. Today is [*day*]. 2a Quel jour csest demain ? What day is tomorrow ? *kell jzoor say duhman* 2b Demain csest [*jour*]. Tomorrow is [*day*]. Asking for the date. 3a Quelle (aujourdshui) est la date

?

What is the date (today) ? *kell ay lah daht* 3b Csest le [#] [month]. Itss [month] [#].

Asking for the time. 4a Quelle heure est-il ? 4b Il est quelle heure ? What hour/time is it ? *kell er ayteel eel ay kell er* 5 Il est [nombre] heure(s). It is [*number*] hours. *eelay [nombre] er*

V: Time

In French, il est" is used to express the time; though it would literally translate as he is", it is actually, in this case, equivalent to it is" (unpersonal "il"). Unlike in English, it is always important to use heures" ( hours") when referring to the time. In English, it is OK to say, It's nine," but this wouldn't make sense in French. The French time system traditionally uses a 24 hour scale. Shorthand for writing times in French follows the format "17h30", which would represent 5:30PM in English.

French Vocabulary Print version

Le temps Quelle heure est-il ? What time is it? Il est une heure. It is one o'clock. Il est trois heures. It is three o'clock. Il est dix heures. It is ten o'clock. Il est midi. It is noon. Il est minuit. It is midnight. Il est quatre heures cinq. It is five past four. Il est quatre heures et quart. It is a quarter past four. Il est quatre heures quinze. It is four fifteen. Il est quatre heures et demie. It is half past four. Il est dix-neuf heures moins le quart. It is a quarter to seven, or six forty-five.

Asking For The Day, Date, Time

Time

audio (info 145 kb help)

audio (info 612 kb help)

Il est quatre heures trente. It is four thirty. Il est cinq heures moins vingt. It is twenty to five. Il est quatre heures quarante. It is four forty.

V: The days of the week.

Les jours de la semaine [lay jzoor duh lah suhmen]

French Vocabulary Print version

Les jours de la semaine. # French Pronunciation English Origin 1 lundi *luhndee* Monday Moon 2 mardi *mahrdee* Tuesday Mars 3 mercredi *maircruhdee* Wednesday Mercury 4 jeudi *juhdee* Thursday Jupiter 5 vendredi *vahndruhdee* Friday venus 6 samedi *sahmdee* Saturday Saturn 7 dimanche *deemahnsh* Sunday Sun

The days of the week are not capitalized in French. For phrases relating to the day of the week, see the phrasebook.

Notes:*What day is it today?* is equivalent to *Quel jour sommes-nous ?*.

*Quel jour sommes-nous ?* can be answered with *Nous sommes...*, *Ctest...* or *On est...* (last two are less formal). *Nous sommes...* is not used with *hier*, *aujourdVhui*, or *demain*. *Ctétait* (past) or *Ctest* (present/future) must be used accordingly.

V: The months of the year

French Vocabulary Print version

Les mois de l'année # French Pron. English 01 janvier *jzahnveeyay* January 02 février *fayvreeyay* February 03 mars *mahrse* March 04 avril *ahvrill* April 05 mai *maye* May 06 juin *jzwan* June 07 juillet *jzooeeyay* July 08 août *oot/oo* August 09 septembre *septahmbruh* September 10 octobre *oktuhbruh* October 11 novembre *novahmbruh* November

The Days of the Week.

The Months of the Year

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12 decembre *daysahmbruh* December

V: Relative date and time

French Vocabulary Print version

Date et heure relatives Times of Day le lever du jour daybreak

lit:the rise of the day le lever du soleil sunrise

lit: the rise of the sun le soleil levant rising sun. le matin morning ...du matin A.M., lit: of the mornng hier matin yesterday morning le midi noon, midday lsaprès-midi (m) afternoon le soir evening, in the evening ...du soir P.M. lit: of the evening le coucher du soleil sunset la nuit night

Relative Days avant-hier the day before yesterday hier yesterday aujourdshui today ce soir tonight demain tomorrow après-demain the day after tomorrow

V: Seasons

French Vocabulary Print version

Les Saisons la saison season le printemps Spring lsété (m) Summer lsautomne (m) Autumn lshiver (m) Winter

D: A conversation between friends

French Dialogue Print version

Relative Date and Time

A Coversation Between Friends

Seasons

audio (info 883 kb help)

audio (info 142 kb help)

Une conversation entre amis

audio (upload)

*Daniel* Bonjour Hervé. Comment vas-tu ?

Hello, Hervé. How are you? *[lit: How go you?] Hervé* Je vais bien, merci. Et toi ça va ?

Ism good,1 thank you. And you, it goes (fine)? *Daniel* Ça va bien. Est-ce que2 tu viens à mon anniversaire ? Jsorganise une petite fête.

It goes well. Yousre coming to my party? Ism organizing a little party. *Hervé* Csest quand ?

When is it? *[lit: It is when?] Daniel* Le 3 mars à 20h.

March 3rd at 08:00 PM. *Hervé* Le 3 mars, entendu. Tu fais ça chez toi3 ?

March 3rd, agreed. Yousre having it at your place? *Daniel* Oui csest chez moi. Jsai invité une vingtaine dsamis. On va danser toute la nuit.

Yes, itss at my place. I have invited (a set of) twenty friends. We4 are going to dance all night. *Hervé* Csest très gentil de msinviter, merci. A bientôt. Itss very nice to invite me, thank you. So long. *Daniel* A demain, bonne journée.

Until tomorrow, good day.

1 *Bien* is an adverb meaning *well*. Its adjective equivalent is *bon(ne)*, which means *good*. Since *je vais*, meaning *I go*, uses an action verb, the adverb *bien* is used. In English, Ism good, which uses the linking verb *am*, is followed by an adjective rather than an adverb. 2 *Est-ce que...* literally means *Is is that...* and is often used to start questions. This is used in a similar manner to *do* in English. Instead of *You want it?*, one can say *Do you want it? Est-ce que...* has no real meaning, other than signifying that a question follows. 3 *chez...* is a preposition meaning *at the house of...*. *Chez moi* is used to say *at my place*. *Chez [*name*]* is used to say *at [*names*s] place*. 4 *on* can mean *we* or *one*.

Lesson 0 - Test

The following test will confirm your progress in the French introduction. Try to answer the questions to the best of your ability without turning to the previous chapters or consulting the test answers.

Grammar

Verb forms

Name the verb forms for the subject and infinitive specified. (1 point each)

Translating

English to French

Translate the following phrases and sentences into French. (2 points each)

What day is today? 1. How are you? 2. What is your name? 3.

French to English

Translate this dialogue between Henri and Jacques into English. Each phrase is worth 1 points. (11 points total)

Bonjour! Quel est ton nom? 1. Je msappelle Jacques. Comment vous-appelez vous? 2. Je msappelle Henri. Comment ça va? 3. Pas mal. Et toi, comment ça va? 4. Trés bien, merci. À demain Jacques! 5. À demain Henri. 6.

Reading comprehension

Fill in the blank

Fill in the blanks in these conversations. Note: Every blank is one word. (1 point each)

Vocabulary

Matching

Match the French words with their English definitions. (1 point each)

LEVEL ONE

Level One Lessons Contents

Lesson 1.01 - Basic Grammar Lesson 1.02 - To Be Lesson 1.03 - Description Lesson 1.04 - Family Lesson 1.05 - Recreation Lesson 1.06 - The House Lesson 1.07 - Weather Lesson 1.08 - Travel Lesson 1.09 - Art Lesson 1.10 - Science

If you havenst done so already, spend a few minutes to first read the coursess introductory lessons. Once thatss done, yousre ready to begin your very first traditional French lesson! After you have completed this level, you can move on to the next level. Finally, go to the lessons planning page if you would like to help improve this course.

Allons! - Basic French

Leçon 01 : Grammaire de base G: Gender, Articles,

Subject Pronouns Lesson 01 : Basic v: People Grammar 02 Leçon 02 : Être G: Conjugation, Être

Lesson 02 : To be v: 03 Leçon 03 : La

description Lesson 03 : Description

G: Conjugation, Être, Adjectives v: Colors, Numbers 04 Leçon 04 : La

famille G: Avoir, *le, la*, and *les* Lesson 04 : v: Family Family 05 Leçon 05 :

Récréation G: -er verbs, *lui* and

*leur* Lesson 05 :

v: Games, Sports, Recreation Places, Playing 06 Leçon 06 : La

maison G: Faire, *me, te, nous*,

and *vous* Lesson 06 : The

v: Household, House Housework, Furniture 07 Leçon 07 : Le

temps Lesson 07 : Weather

G: Negation, Contractions, Aller v: Weather 08 Leçon 08 : Les voyages 01

G: -ir verbs, Possessive Adjectives Lesson 08 : Travel v: Hotels, Directions 09 Leçon 09 : Lsart G: -re verbs, Beau, Nouveau, and vieux

Lesson 09 : Art

v: Museums, Music, Plays 10 Leçon 10 : La

science Lesson 10 : Science

G: Prendre v: Elements, Astronomy Ex Lsexamen Chapter test

Chapitre lsexamen

Test

Lesson 1.01 - Basic Grammar

G: Gender of nouns

In French, all nouns have a grammatical gender; that is, they are either *masculin* (m) or *feminin* (f).

Most nouns that express people or animals have both a masculine and a feminine form. For example, the two words for "the actor" in French are *ltacteur* (m) and *ltactrice* (f). The two words for "the cat" are *le chat* (m) and *la chatte* (f).

However, there are some nouns that talk about people or animals whose gender are fixed, regardless of the actual gender of the person or animal. For example, *la personne* (f) (the person) is always feminine, even when itss talking about your uncle! *Le professeur* (m) (the professor) is always masculine, even when itss talking about your female professor/teacher!

The nouns that express things without an obvious gender (e.g., objects and abstract concepts) have only one form. This form can be masculine or feminine. For example, *la voiture* (the car) can only be feminine; *le stylo* (the pen) can only be masculine.

Unfortunately, there are many exceptions in French which can only be learned. There are even words that are spelled the same, but have a different meaning when masculine or feminine; for example, *le livre* (m) means *the book*, but *la livre* (f) means *the pound*! Some words that appear to be masculine (like *le photo*, which is actually short for *la photographie*) are in fact feminine, and vice versa. Then there are some that just donst make sense; *la foi* is feminine and means a belief, whereas *le foie* means liver. To help overcome this hurdle which many beginners find very difficult, be sure to learn the genders along with the words. When you think of a noun in French, think of the noun with its article (le or la). While this may seem difficult now, it is absolutely essential in *la langue française* (the French language), as you will see later on!

Here is a chart which depicts some tendencies of French nouns. Eventually, you will be able to guess the gender of a noun based on tricks like this:

Genre des Noms Masculine Common Endings Used With Masculine Nouns: le cheval[6] the horse -age le fromage the cheese le chien the dog -r le professeur[7]

the teacher le livre the book -t le chat the cat le bruit the noise -isme le capitalisme

capitalism Feminine Common Endings Used With Feminine Nouns: la colombe the dove -ie la boulangerie

the bakery la chemise the shirt -ion la nation

the nation la maison the house -ite/-ité la fraternité

brotherhood la liberté liberty -nce la balance the scales

-nne -mme -lle

la fille the girl l'indienne the Indian

^ *Professeur* can be shortened to *prof* (in a familiar context). While the long form, *professeur*, is always masculine, even when referring to female teachers, *prof* can be either masculine or feminine. (le prof - the (male) teacher) (la prof - the (female) teacher)

s*^* In this book, the definite article will come before a noun in vocabulary charts. If the definite article is l due to elision, *(m)* will follow a noun to denote a masculine gender and *(f)* will follow a noun to denote a feminine gender.

G: Definite and indefinite articles

The definite article

In English, the definite article is always the".

Unlike English, the definite article is used to talk about something in a general sense, a general statement or feeling about an idea or thing.

In French, the definite article is changed depending on the nounss:

1. Gender 2.

Plurality

Examples

French Grammar Print version

Gender of Nouns

audio (info 113 kb help)

First letter of the word 3.

There are three definite articles and an abbreviation. "Le" is used for masculine nouns, "La" is used for feminine nouns, "Les" is used for plural nouns (both masculine or feminine), and "Ls " is used when the noun begins with a vowel or silent "h" (both masculine or feminine). It is similar to English, where "a" changes to "an" before a vowel.

French Grammar Print version

L'article défini singular feminine masculine la la fille the daughter

le le fils[8] the son singular, starting with a vowel sound l' l'enfant the child

plural les

les filles the daughters les fils the sons les enfants the children

Plurality, pronunciation, and exceptions

The plural of most nouns is formed by adding an *-s*. However, the *-s* ending is not pronounced. It is the article that tells the listener whether the noun is singular or plural.

^ Fils: Most singular nouns do not end in -s. The -s is added for the plural form of the noun. Fils is one exception. Whenever the singular form of a noun ends in *-s*, there is no change in the plural form.

le fils the son

les fils the sons

un fils a son

des fils (some) sons le cours the course

les cours the courses

un cours a course

des cours (some) courses

Secondly, the final consonant is almost always not pronounced unless followed by an *-e* (or another vowel). Fils (pronounced *feece*) is also an exception to this rule.

Elision

*Elision* refers to the suppression of a final unstressed vowel immediately before another word beginning with a vowel. The definite articles *le* and *la* are shortened to l' when they come before a noun that begins with a vowel or silent *h*. When pronounced, the vowel sound is dropped.

(le) ami - lsami - *lahmee* - the (male) friend (la) amie - lsamie - *lahmee* the (female) friend (le) élève - lsélève - *lay lev* - the student (la) heure - lsheure - *leur* - the hour/the time

Elision does not occur on an aspired *h*:

(le) héros - le héros - a legendary hero

In addition to the definite article, elision will also occur with other words, such as *que*, *je*, *le*, *ce*, *ne*, and *de*. The details on these words will be covered in later sections of the book.

The indefinite article

The Definite Article

audio (info 78 kb help)

In English, the indefinite articles are "a" and "an". "Some" is used as a plural article in English.

Again, indefinite articles in French take different forms depending on gender and plurality. The articles "Un" and "une" literally mean "one" in French.

French Grammar Print version

L'article indéfini singular feminine une *oon* une fille a daughter

masculine un *uh* un fils a son plural des *day* des filles some daughters

des fils1 some sons

1"des fils" does mean "some sons" but is a homograph: it can also mean "some threads" (when pronounced like "fill")

Liaison

Remember that the last consonant of a word is typically not pronounced unless followed by a vowel. When a word ending in a consonant is followed by a word beginning with a vowel sound (or silent *h*), the consonant often becomes pronounced. This is a process called *liaison*. When a vowel goes directly after *un*, the normally unpronounced *n* sound becomes pronounced.

(un) ami - unnami (*uhnahmee*) - a (male) friend (un) élève - unnélève (*uhnay lev*) - a student

Compare the pronunciation to words without liaison:

un garçon (*uh gehrsoh*)

*Une* is unaffected by liaison.

Liaison also occurs with *les* and *des*.

(les) amis - leszamis (*layzahmee*) - (some) (male) friends (des) amis - deszamis (*dayzahmee*) - (some) (male) friends (des) amies - deszamies (*dayzahmee*) - (some) (female) friends

In this book, you will see liaison denoted with n or z between two words.

As with elision, an aspired *h* isnst liaised.

(les) hangars - les hangars

法Some法

Note that *des*, like *les*, is used in French before plural nouns when no article is used in English. For example, you are looking at photographs in an album. The English statement "I am looking at photographs." cannot be translated to French as "Je regarde photographies" because an article is required to tell which photographs are being looked at. If it is a set of *specific* pictures, the French statement should be "Je regarde *les* photographies." ("I am looking at *the* photographs.") . On the other hand, if the person is just randomly

The Indefinite Article

audio (info 55 kb help)

browsing the album, the French translation is "Je regarde *des* photographies." ("I am looking at *some* photographs.")

V: People

French Vocabulary Print version

Les personnes la personne person *pehr son*

Gender and Age lshomme (m) man *ohm* la femme woman *fehm* le garçon boy *gehrsoh* la fille girl *fee* la fillette little girl *fee yet*

Friends lsami (m) le copain male friend *ahmee*

*co pahn* lsamie (f) la copine female friend *ahmee*

*co peen*

V: Expressions

Qu'est-ce que c'est?

To say *What is it?* or *What is that?* in French, *QuVest-ce que cVest?* (pronounced *kehss keuh say*) is used.

Qu'est-ce que c'est ? - What is it?

Literally, *QuVest-ce que cVest?* translates to *What is it that it is?* You will be using *Qutest-ce que...?* often to say *What...?* at the beginning of sentences.

To respond to this question, you say *CVest un(e) [*nom*].*, meaning *It is a [*noun*].*

Csest un livre. - Itss a book. Csest un chien. - Itss a dog.

Remember that the indefinite article (un or une) must agree with the noun it modifies.

Csest une chemise. - Itss a shirt.

Check for understanding - Qu'est-ce que c'est? Respond according to the pictures.

People

audio (info 679 kb help)

*Il y a* and *voici*/*voilà*

*Il y a* (pronounced *eel ee ah*) is used to say *there is* or *there are*. *Il y a* expresses the existence of the noun it introduces.

Il y a une pomme. - There is an apple.

The phrase is used for both singular and plural nouns. Unlike in English (is => are), *il y a* does not change form.

Il y a des pommes. - There are (some) apples.

The *-s* at the end of the most pluralised nouns tells you that the phrase is *there are* instead of *there is*. In spoken French, when both the singular and plural forms almost always sound the same, the article (and perhaps other adjectives modifying the noun) is used to distinguish between singular and plural versions.

You will soon learn that *a* is the present third person singular form of *avoir*, the verb meaing *to have*, and that *y* is a pronoun meaning *there*. The phrase *il y a*, then, literally translates to *he has there*. You will see this phrase used in all French tenses. It is important to remember that verb stays as a form of *have* and not *be*.

Like in English, *il y a...* is not often used to point out an object. To point out an object to the listener, use *voici* ("over here is/are" or "right here is/are") and *voilà* ("over there is/are").

un chaton (un chat)

une pomme

une poire

un chien

Lesson 1.02 - To Be

D: Where are you from?

French Dialogue Print version

Tu es d'où? Quentin Bonjour, Léon. Dis donc, tu es d'où?

Léon Je suis de Paris, Quentin. Quentin Alors, tu es français?

Léon Oui, exactement. Quentin Et Marie, elle est d'où?

Léon Elle est de Marseille. Elle est française, aussi. Quentin Merci, Léon. Au revoir.

G: Subject pronouns

French has six different types of pronouns: the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person singular and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person plural.

French Grammar Print version

Les pronoms soumis 1st person singular plural je I

nous we 2nd person singular plural tu you vous you

3rd person

singular il, elle, on he, she, one plural ils, elles they (masculine)

they (feminine)

When referring to more than one person in the 2nd person, vous" must be used. When referring to a single person, vous" or tu" may be used depending on the situation; see notes in the introductory lessons.

The pronoun *it* does not exist in French. *Il* replaces all masculine nouns, even those that are not human. The same is true with *elle* and feminine nouns.

In addition to the nuances between *vous* and *tu*, as discussed earlier, French pronouns carry meanings that do not exist in English pronouns. The French third person "on" has several meanings, but most closely matches the now archaic English "one". While in English, "One must be very careful in French grammar" sounds old-fashioned, the French equivalent "On doit faire très attention à la grammaire française" is quite acceptable. Also, while the third person plural "they" has no gender in English, the French equivalents "ils" and "elles" do. However, when pronounced, they normally sound the same as "il" and "elle", so distinguishing the difference requires understanding of the various conjugations of the verbs following the pronoun. Also, if a group of people consists of both males and females, the male form is used, even with a majority of females — however, this sensibly yields to overwhelming majority: given a group of only one male to thousands of females, the female form would be used.

Subject Pronouns

Where are you from?

audio (info 226 kb help)

audio (info 61 kb help)

In everyday language, on" is used, instead of nous", to express we"; the verb is always used in the 3rd person singular. For example, to say "We (are) meeting at 7 osclock", you could say either *On se rencontre au cinéma à sept heures.* (colloquial) or *Nous nous rencontrons au cinéma à sept heures.* (formal) (there are two words "nous"). For more, see the Wikipedia entry.

G: Introduction to Verbs

A verb is a word that describes an action or mental or physical state.

Tenses and Moods

French verbs can be formed in four moods, each of which express a unique feeling. Each mood has a varying number of tenses, which indicate the time when an action takes place. The conjugations in the present tense of the indicative mood, the present indicative, is discussed in the next section. There is one conjugation for each of the six subject pronouns.

Infinitives

The infinitive form is the basic form of a verb. It does not refer to a particular tense, person or subject. In this book, the infinitive form of the verb is used to identify it. In English, the infinitive form is *to \_\_\_*. In French, the infinitive is one word. For example, *parler* translates to *to speak*, *finir* translates to *to finish*, and *aller* translates to *to go*.

Conjugation

French verbs conjugate, which means they take different shapes depending on the subject. English verbs only have one conjugation; that is the third person singular (I see, you see, he/she sees, we see, they see). The only exception is the verb "to be" (I am; (thou art); you are; he/she is; we are; they are;). Most French verbs will conjugate into many different forms. Most verbs are regular, which means that they conjugate in the same way. The most common verbs, however, are irregular.

G: Être - To Be

*tre* translates as *to be* in English. As in most languages, it is an irregular verb, and is not conjugated like any other verb.

FormationFrench Verb Print version

to be Singular Plural first person je suis *jeuh swee* I am nous sommes *noo sum* we are second person tu es *too ay* you are vous êtes *voozett* you are

third person

il est *eel ay* he is elle est*ell ay* she is

ils sont *eelsohn* they (masc. are or mixed) on est *ohn ay* one is elles sont *ellsohn* they are (fem.)

Examples

être

audio (info 103 kb help)

Exemples d'Être Je suis avocat. I am (a) lawyer. *jzeuh sweez ah voh cah* Tu es à la banque. You are at the bank. *too ay ah lah bahnk* Il est beau. He is handsome. *eel ay boh*

Try to learn all these conjugations. They will become very useful in forming tenses.

IdiomsÇa y est! - Isve done it! Finished!

Jsy suis! - I get it! vous y êtes? - Are you ready?

Expressing Agreement

*Tu es dVaccord ou pas?*, *Tu es dVaccord?* (lit: *You are of agreement?*), or simply *Dtaccord?* is used informally to ask whether someone agrees with you.

To respond positively, you say *Oui, je suis dtaccord.* or simply *Dtaccord*. *Dtaccord* corresponds to the English *okay*.

G: Cities and Nationalities

To say what city you are from, you use the preposition *de*.

Il est de Paris.

When stating your nationality or job, it is not necessary to include the article. This is an exception to the normal rule.

*Je suis Australien(ne).* - *I am [an] Australian.*

There is both a masculine and feminine form of saying your nationality - for males and females respectively.

*Il est Australien.* - *He is [an] Australian. Elle est Australienne.* - *She is [an] Australian.*

In the next lesson, you will learn how to say the nationality of more than one person.

French Grammar Print version

Check for understanding Please use the the nationalities list to find out what your nationality is in French. Then say what city you are from and what nationality you are. Then say what nationality some of your friends are, and what city they are from. For example, *Marie est italienne. Elle est de Rome.*

To Be Examples

audio (info 87 kb help)

Lesson 1.03 - Description

G: Adjectives - Les adjectifs

*Main article: French/Grammar/Adjectives*

Just like articles, French adjectives also have to match the nouns that they modify in gender and plurality.

Regular Formation

Most adjective changes occur in the following manner:

Feminine: add an -e to the masculine form

un garçon intéressant --> une fille intéressante un ami amusant --> une amie amusante un camion lent --> une voiture lente Plural: add an -s to the singular form

un garçon intéressant --> des garçons intéressants une fille intéressante --> des filles intéressantes

Pronunciation

Generally, the final consonant is pronounced only when it comes before an -e. Most adjectives, such as those above, are affected by this rule.

Masculine Pronunciation: *intéressan*, *amusan*, *len* Feminine Pronunciation: *intéressant*, *amusant*, *lent*

With plural adjectives, the -s ending is not pronounced, so the adjective will sound exactly the same as the singular form.

Exceptions and Irregularities

Adjectives that end in *e* in the masculine form do not change in gender. When an adjective, such as gros, ends in *-s*, it does not change in the masculine plural form. Sometimes the final consonant is doubled in the feminine form. See French/Grammar/Adjectives for more.

V: Describing People

French Grammar Print version

Décrire des personnes Masculine Singular Feminine Singular Masculine Plural Feminine Plural

size and weight Il est petit. Elle est petite. Ils sont petits. Elles sont petites. Il est moyen. Elle est moyenne. Ils sont moyens. Elles sont moyennes. Il est grand. Elle est grande. Ils sont grands. Elles sont grandes. Il est gros. Elle est grosse. Ils sont gros. Elles sont grosses.

Describing People

audio (info 1636 kb help)

hair color Il est blond. Elle est blonde. Ils sont blonds. Elles sont blondes. Il est brun. Elle est brune. Ils sont bruns. Elles sont brunes.

attitude and personality Il est intelligent. Elle est intelligente. Ils sont intelligents. Elles sont intelligentes. Il est intéressant. Elle est intéressante. Ils sont intéressants. Elles sont intéressantes. Il est amusant. Elle est amusante. Ils sont amusants. Elles sont amusantes.

V: Common Adjectives

French Vocabulary Print version

Les adjectifs communs Attitude and Personality Size and Weight sympa(thique)(s) nice gros(se)(ses) fat amusant(e)(s) funny petit(e)(s) small intelligent(e)(s) intelligent moyen(ne)(s) average intéressant(e)(s) interesting grand(e)(s) tall,big patient(e)(s) patient sociable(s) sociable Actions timide(s) timid bon(ne)(s) good dynamique(s) outgoing mauvais(e)(s) bad gentil(le)(s) nice, gentle Difficulty strict(e)(s) strict facile(s) easy fort(e)(s) strong difficile(s) difficult

V: Colors

French Vocabulary Print version

Les couleurs Masculine Feminine English blanc blanche white gris grise gray noir noire black rouge rouge red orange orange orange jaune jaune yellow vert verte green bleu bleue blue violet violette violet marron marron brown (everything but hair) brun brune brown (hair - dark haired) rose rose pink

Common Adjectives

Colors

audio (info 1018 kb help)

audio (info 160 kb help)

safran safranne saffron

G: Adverbs Expressing Degree

assez - rather, enough

Il est assez intelligent. - He is rather intelligent. très - very

Il est trèszintelligent.[9] - He is very intelligent. vraiment - truly, really

Il est vraiment intelligent. - He is really intelligent.

^ In this book, liaison is shown that the sound is connected using z or some letter. See also French/Lessons/Basic\_grammar#Liaison.

Lesson 1.04 - Family

G: The verb avoir

"Avoir" can be translated as "to have".

FormationFrench Verb Present Indicative

to have

Singular Plural first person j'ai *jay* I have nouszavons*noozahvohn*we have second person tu as *too ah* you have vouszavez *voozahvay* you have

third person

il a *eel ah* he has elle a *ell ah* she has

ilszont *eelzohnt* they have (masc. or mixed) onna *ohnah* one has elleszont *ellzohnt* they have (fem.)

Examples

Jsai deux stylos. I have two pens. Tu as trois frères. You have three brothers. Il a une idée. He has an idea.

Expressing Age

*Avoir* is used to express age.

Tu as quel âge? - How old are you? [lit: You have what age?] Jsai trente ans. - Ism thirty (years old). [lit: I have thirty years]

There is/are - Il y a

The expression *il y a* means *there is* or *there are*.

Il y a un livre. - There is a book. Il y a des livres. - There are books.

V: The Family

French Vocabulary Print version

La Famille Immediate Family Extended Family

The Family

avoir

audio (info 1245 kb help)

audio (100 kb help)

ma famille my family ma famille éloignée my extended family les parents parents les grand-parents grandparents la mère mother la grand-mère grandmother le père father le grand-père grandfather la femme wife les petits-enfants grandchildren le mari husband le petit-fils grandson la soeur sister la petite-fille granddaughter le frère brother lsoncle, *tonton* uncle lsenfant child (m or f) la tante, *tati* aunt les enfants children le neveu nephew la fille daughter la nièce niece le fils son le/la cousin(e) cousin (m or f)

Step Family la belle-mère stepmother la demi-soeur half sister le beau-père stepfather le demi-frère half brother

To speak about more complex family relations, such as "my grandmotherss cousin", you must use the de mon/ma/mes form - "le cousin de ma grandmère".

G: Direct Object Pronouns *le, la*, and *les*

*le, la*, and *les* are called direct object pronouns, because they are pronouns that are, you guessed it, used as direct objects. A direct object is a noun that is acted upon by a verb.

Il lance *la balle*. - He throws *the ball*.

In the above sentence *la balle* is the direct object.

You have learned earlier that names and regular nouns can be replaced by the subject or nominative pronouns "I, you, he..." (*je, tu, il*...). Similary, direct objects, such as "la balle", can be replaced by pronouns. These are a different set of pronouns (accusative). As in English, you would say "She gave him," and not "Her gave he." He/she are subjects used in the nominative case, while him/her are direct objects used in the accusative case.

*le* - replaces a masculine singular direct object *la* - replaces a feminine singular direct object *lt* - replaces *le* and *la* if they come before a vowel *les* - replaces plural direct objects, both masculine and feminine

The direct object pronouns come before the verb they are linked to.

Il *la* lance. - He throws it. Il *les* lance. - He throws them.

*Le, la*, and *les* can replace either people or inanimate objects.

Lesson 1.05 - Recreation

G: Regular -er Verbs

Formation

Most French verbs fall into the category of -er verbs. To conjugate, drop the -er to find the "stem" or "root". Add endings to the root based on the subject and tense.

jouer - to play

French Grammar Print version

Formation de verbes en -er pronoun ending verb je -e joue tu -es joues il/elle -e joue nous -ons jouons vous -ez jouez ils/elles -ent jouent

Elision and Liaison

In all conjugations, *je* changes to *j* s when followed by a vowel or silent *h*. Example: *Jtattends*, *Jthabite...*. If a phrase is negative, *ne* changes to *nt*.

In all plural forms, the *s* at the end of each subject pronoun, normally unpronounced, becomes a *z* sound and the *n* of *on* becomes pronounced when followed by a vowel.

Common -er Verbs

French Grammar Print version

Formation des verbes communs en -er Infinitive Stem Present Indicative Conjugation

First Person Second Person Third Person parler parl Je parle Tu parles Il parle Singular to speak Nous parlons vous parlez Ils parlent Plural

habiter habit Jshabite Tu habites Il habite Singular to live Nous habitons vous habitez Ils habitent Plural

écouter écout Jsécoute Tu écoutes Il écoute Singular to listen Nous écoutons vous écoutez Ils écoutent Plural

Formation of Common -er Verbs

-er Verb Formation

audio (info 184 kb help)

audio (upload)

S'amuser

*Main article: French/Grammar/Verbs/Pronominal*

The verb *stamuser* means *to have fun* in English. It is a type of pronominal verb (a verb that includes a pronoun as part of it) called a reflexive verb, which means that the action of the verb is *reflect*ed back onto the subject. Literally translated, the verb means *To amuse oneself.*

Formation

French Grammar Print version

Formation des verbes communs en -er Infinitive Stem Present Indicative Conjugation

First Person Second Person Third Person s'amuser amus Je msamuse Tu tsamuses Il ssamuse Singular to have fun Nous nous amusons vous vous amusez Ils ssamusent Plural

Conjugated Verb + Infinitive

Like in English, some verbs can be followed by infinitives. The most common -er verbs used in this manner are *aimer* and *détester*.

Jsaime parler. - I like to talk. Nous détestons travailler. - We hate working.

When negating a sentence, remember that the negative goes around the conjugated verb.

Je nsaime pas parler. - I donst like to speak.

D: Recreation

Here is a short dialog about people planning/doing leisure activities. Besides the new vocabulary you should also have a look at how the verbs are conjugated depending on the subject of the sentence.

*Jean-Paul :* Qusest-ce que vous faites ? *Marc et Paul :* Nous jouons au tennis. *Marie :* Je finis mes devoirs. *Michel :* Jsattends mon amie. *Pierre :* Je vais au parc. *Christophe :* Je viens du stade.

V: Recreation

Qusest-ce que vous faites? What are you doing? jouer to play finir[10] to finish attendre[11] to wait (for) aimer to like

Formation of Common -er Verbs

audio (upload)

détester to hate (mon) ami(e)[12] (my) friend

^ *Finir* and *attendre* are not -er verbs. You will learn their conjugation in a later lesson.

^ *Mon* is often substituted for *ma* when the following word begins with a vowel. Thus, *mon amie* is used instead of *ma amie*, while *ma bonne amie* would be okay.

V: Places

la bibliothèque library1

le parc park

la piscine swimming pool

la plage beach

le restaurant restaurant

salle de concert concert hall

le stade stadium

le théâtre theater

1Caution: a *librairie* is a bookshop.

G: Indirect Object Pronouns *lui* and *leur*

Indirect objects are prepositional phrases with the object of the preposition, a direct object is a noun that receives the action of a verb.

Il jette la balle à Jacques. - He throws the ball to Jack. Il jette la balle à Marie. - He throws the ball to Mary. Il jette la balle à Jacques et Marie. - He throws the ball to Jack and Mary.

*Lui* and *leur* are indirect object pronouns. They replace nouns referring to people and mean *to him/her* and *to them* respectively.

*lui* - replaces a singular masculine or feminine indirect object referring to a human *leur* - replaces a plural masculine or feminine indirect object referring to a human

An example follows:

Il lui jette la balle. - He throws the ball to him. Il lui jette la balle. - He throws the ball to her. Il leur jette la balle. - He throws the ball to them.

Whether *lui* means *to him* or *to her* is given by context.

In English, "He throws *him* the ball" is also said, and means the same thing.

When used with the direct object pronouns *le, la*, and *les*, *lui* and *leur* come after those pronouns.

Il la lui jette. - He throws it to him.

Note that while *le, la*, and *les* are used to replace people or inanimate objects, *lui* and *leur* are not used to replace innanimate objects and things.

Also note that unlike *le* and *la*, which are shortened to *lt* when followed by a vowel, *lui* is never shortened

V: Jouer

The verb *jouer* is a regular -er verb meaning *to play*. It can be used to refer to both sports and instruments.

When referring to sports, use *jouer à*, but when referring to instruments, use *jouer de...*

As always, *jouer* must be conjugated rather than left in the infinitive.

French Vocabulary Print version

Jouer jouer à... jouer de... au baseball baseball de la clarinette clarinet au basket basketball du piano piano au football soccer; football de la guitare guitar au football américain American football du violon violin au golf golf de la batterie drums au tennis tennis

(singular au volley volleyball

in French)

aux cartes cards aux dames checkers/ draughts aux échecs chess

Play

audio (upload)

Lesson 1.06 - The House

V: The HouseFrench Vocabulary Print version

La maison General Actions la rue[13] street arriver (à la maison) to arrive (home) la (belle) vue (beautiful) sight, view rentrer (à la maison) to go back home (tout) près (de) (pas) (tout) loin (de)

(very) close (to)

quitter (la maison)[14] (not) (very) far (from) quitter (une salle)

to leave (home) to leave (a room) chez [*person*] at the house of [*person*]

at [*person*]ss house

donner sur la rue donner sur la cour

to overlook the street to overlook the courtyard Houses habiter to live (somewhere) la maison la maisonnette le pavillon

house, home small house individual house

habiter en ville habiter en banlieue

to live downtown to live in the suburb

lsimmeuble (m) (apartment) building Floors lsappartement (m) flat/apartment lsétage (m) level le studio studio le rez-de-chaussée lobby, ground floor H.L.M. (Habitations à Loyer Modéré)

le premier étage le deuxième étage le troisième étage

second floor third floor fourth floor Cities and Neigbhorhoods le quartier neighborhood le centre ville downtown lsarrondissement (m) district la ville city la banlieue the suburb le village town

Rooms Parts of a Room la pièce la chambre room le plafond ceiling la salle de séjour family room le sol ground la cave basement la fenêtre window le grenier attic le mur wall la cuisine kitchen le toit roof la salle à manger dining room Entering and Exiting la salle de bains bathroom lsescalier (m) stairs la chambre à coucher bedroom monter à pied to walk up stairs le garage Garage lsascenseur (m) elevator/lift les toilettes (f) (no singular)

low income housing

water-closet, restroom (only toliet, no bath)

monter en ascenseur prendre lsascenseur

to go up by elevator to take the elevator le bureau office monter à pied to go up by foot

Outside a House la porte door la voiture car lsentrée (f) entry(way)

The House

audio (upload)

la terrasse patio Furniture le balcon balcony le rideau curtain le jardin garden la chaise chair la fleur flower la table table lsarbre (m) tree lsarmoire (f) cupboard la cour courtyard le lit bed le (la) voisin(e) neighbor le tapis carpet

le fauteuil armchair

^ To express *to live on \_\_\_\_ street*, you say *habiter rue \_\_\_\_*

Jshabite Rue Lecourbe. - I live on Lecourbe Street. Il habite Rue de Rennes. - He lives on Rennes Street.

^ *Quitter* must be followed by a direct object, usually a room or building.. *Partir* is used in other phrases. You will learn how to conjugate these verbs in a future lesson.

G: Faire

The verb *faire* is translated to *to do* or *to make*. It is irregularly conjugated (it does not count as a regular -re verb).

FormationFrench Verb Present Indicative

to do, to make

Singular Plural first person je fais *jeuh fay* I do nous faisons *noo fezohn* we do second person tu fais *too fay* you do vous faites *voo feht* you do

third person

il fait *eel fay* he does elle fait *ell fay* she does

ils font *eel fohnt* they do (masc. or mixed) on fait *oh fay* one does elles font *ell fohnt* they do (fem.)

Uses For *Faire*

sports (in French you do sports rather than play them) weather tasks le faire causatif

faire (conjugated) + infinitive - to have something done for oneself Je fais réparer le fourneau. - I make/have the stove repaired.

Related Words

défaire - to demolish

faire

audio (432 kb help)

malfaire - to do badly refaire - to remake

Expressions with Faire

faire attention - to pay attention faire connaissance - to get acquainted faire la morale - to scold faire la queue - to wait in line ssen faire - to worry

V: Housework

French Vocabulary Print version

Le ménage faire la cuisine to do the cooking faire la lessive/le linge to do the laundry faire le jardin to do the gardening faire le lit to make the bed faire le ménage to do the housework faire la vaisselle to do the dishes faire les carreaux to do the windows faire les courses to do the shopping/errands faire le repassage to do the ironing

G: *me, te, nous*, and *vous*

Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns

Meanings

*me* - me, to me *te* - you, to you (singular, informal) *nous* - us, to us *vous* - you, to you (plural, formal)

Place in sentences

These pronouns are placed before the verb that they modify

Je te vois. - I see you. Je veux te voir. - I want to see you. If a perfect tense is used, these pronouns go before the auxiliary verb.

Je tsai vu. - I saw you.

Direct Object Replacement

Il me voit. - He sees me. Il te voit. - He sees you. Il nous voit. - He sees us.

Housework

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Il vous voit. - He sees you.

Indirect Object Replacement

Il me lsappelle. - He calls to me. Il te le jette. - He throws it to you. Il nous le jette. - He throws it to us. Il vous le jette. - He throws it to you.

Exercises

Try to describe your house or bedroom using the vocabulary. Donst forget prepositions.

You may also wish to talk about what housework you do.

Chez moi

Jshabite une villa à Mornant, à côté de[15] Lyon en France. Ma maison a deux chambres : la première pour moi et ma femme avec un grand lit. La deuxième est plus petite : csest la chambre de mon fils. Nous avons aussi un bureau avec trois ordinateurs[16] : un par personne ! La salle de séjour est très grande et à coté, il y a un petit salon. Nous aimons regarder[17] la télévision allongés dans le fauteuil. La cuisine est toute petite et nous y[18] mangeons[19] le soir. Il y a une petite table et quatre chaises. La maison est de plein pied et ne comporte pas dsétage. Le jardin est assez grand et nous y faisons pousser des fleurs.

^ à côté de - at the side of, next to ^ lsordinateur (m) - computer ^ aimer regarder - to like to watch ^ y (*ee*) - there ^ manger - to eat

Lesson 1.07 - Weather

G: Standard Negation

In order to say that one did *not* do something, the *ne ... pas* construction must be used. The *ne* is placed before the verb, while the *pas* is placed after.

Formation and Rules

Simple negation is done by wrapping *ne...pas* around the verb.

Je ne vole pas. - I do not steal. In a perfect tense, *ne...pas* wraps around the auxillary verb, not the participle.

Je nsai pas volé. - I have not stolen. When an infinitive and conjugated verb are together, *ne...pas* usually wraps around the conjugated verb.

Je ne veux pas voler. - I do not want to steal. *ne pas* can also go directly in front of the infinitive for a different meaning.

Je veux ne pas voler. - I want not to steal. *ne* goes before any pronoun relating to the verb it affects.

Je ne le vole pas. - I am not stealing it.

Examples

French Grammar Print version

Exemples de formation de négation Il est avocat. Il nsest pas avocat.

He is [a] lawyer. He is not [a] lawyer. Nous faisons nos devoirs. Nous ne faisons pas nos devoirs.

We are doing our homework. We are not doing our homework. Je joue du piano. Je ne joue pas du piano.

I play the piano. I do not play the piano. vous vendez votre voiture. vous ne vendez pas votre voiture.

You sell your car. You do not sell your car.

Negation of Indefinite Articles

The indefinite articles *un*, *une*, and *des* change to *de* (or *dV*) when negating a sentence.

Jsai un livre. - I have a book. Je nsai pas de livre. - I donst have any book. Jsai des livres. - I have some books. Je nsai pas de livres. - I donst have any books.

Examples

Il est belge.. Il nsest pas belge.

He is Belgian. He is not Belgian. Nous lisons un livre. Nous ne lisons pas de livre.

We read a book. We do not read a book.

Negation Formation Examples

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Je mange une cerise. Je ne mange pas de cerise.

I eat a cherry. I do not eat a cherry.

G: Contractions

Contractions have been discussed previously in the form of elision. They are a combination of two or more consecutive words that have been integrated into the language, for example, *aujourdthui*.

A common contraction occurs with the words *à* (at) and *de* (from), when combined with the definite pronouns *le* and *les*. The definite pronoun *la* remains in full form.

à + le = au à + les = aux de + le = du de + les = des

The contractions do not occur with the *la*, or with any contracted pronoun:

à + la = à la à + ls = à ls de + la = de la de + ls = de ls

V: Weather - Le temps

French Vocabulary Print version

Le temps[20] General Cloudy Weather

le soleil sun

le nuage Il y a des nuages.

cloud Itss cloudy. lit: There are some clouds. le ciel sky nuageux(-euse) cloudy

couvert(e)(s) overcast, lit: covered Warm Weather lséclaircie (f) clearing, break (in clouds) Il fait beau Itss nice. Cold and Windy Weather Il fait chaud. Itss warm. Il fait froid. Itss cold. Le ciel est dégagé. Le ciel se dégage.

The sky is clear. lit: The sky is freed. The sky is clearing up.

le vent Il fait du vent. Le vent souffle.

wind Itss windy. The wind blows. Le soleil brille. The sun is shining. la rafale gust of wind

Rainy Weather Snowy Weather la brume fog, haze, mist lshiver (m) winter le brouillard fog la neige Il neige.

snow Itss snowing.

la bruine drizzle

la grêle Il tombe de la grêle.

hail Itss hailing. lit: It falls of the hail. une goutte de pluie a drop of rain Extreme weather

Weather

audio (upload)

a storm stormy theress a storm! Il pleut. il a plu. Il va pleuvoir.

Itss raining. It rained. Itss going to rain.

lséclair (m) la foudre

flash (of lightning) lightning

pluvieux(-euse) Le temps est pluvieux. rainy

Itss raining. lit: the weather is rainy.la tempête storm, tempest de gros nuages noirs. large black clouds agité(e)(s) stormy, agitated lsaverse (f) downpour le tonnerre thunder

^ *Le temps* means both *the weather* and *the time*.

G: Aller

the verb *aller* is translated to *to go*. It is irregularly conjugated (it does not count as a regular -er verb).

Formation

In the present indicative, aller is conjugated as follows:

French Verb Print version

to go Singular Plural first person je vais *jeuh vay* I go nouszallons *nouzah lohn* we go second person tu vas *too vah* you go vouszallez *vouzah lay* you go

third person

il va *eel vah* he goes elle va *ell vah* she goes

ils vont *eel vohn* they go (masc. or mixed) on va *ohn vah* one goes elles vont *ell vohn* they go (fem.)

Usage

there is no present progressive tense in French, so *aller* in the present indicative is used to express both *I go* and *I am going*.

*Aller* must be used with a place and cannot stand alone.

the preposition *à*, meaning *in, at*, or *to*, is used, followed by the place.

tu vas à lsécole? - Yousre going to school.

Remember that *à le* contracts to *au* and *à les* contracts to *aux*.

*Je vais au stade*. - Ism going to the stadium.

Instead of a preposition and place, you can use the pronoun *y*, meaning *there*. *Y* comes before the verb. Remember that *aller* must be used with a place (*there* or a name) when indicating that you are going somewhere, even if a place wouldnst normally be given in English.

la pluie La pluie tombe.

rain the rain falls.

aller

audio (info 327 kb help)

un orage orageux(-euse) Il y a un orage!

Jsy vais. - Ism going there. tu y vas. - Yousre going there. Nous y allons. - Wesre going there.

the negative form of *aller* with the *y* pronoun has both the verb and pronoun enclosed between *ne* and *pas*.

Il nsy va pas. - Hess not going there.

Futur Proche

the structure *aller* + infinitive is used to say that something is going to happen in the near future.

Il va pleuvoir demain. - Itss going to rain tomorrow. Il va faire froid. - Itss going to be cold.

Remember that the negative goes around the conjugated verb.

Il ne va pas pleuvoir demain. - Itss not going to rain tomorrow.

IdiomsAllons-y - *ahlonzee* - Letss go! (impératif) Ça va? - How are you? (lit: It goes?) On y va! - Letss get going! On y va? - Should we go?

Liaison

Usually, whenever a vowel sound comes after *...ons* or *...ez*, the usually unpronounced *s* and *z* change to a sharp *z* sound and link to the next syllable. (this process is called liaison.) However, since allons and allez begins with vowels, nous allons is pronounced *nyoozahloh* and vous allez is pronounced *voozahlay*. In order to have a pleasing and clean sound, two liaisons should not go consecutively. there is therefore no liaison in *allons à* when it comes right after *nous* and *allez à* when it comes after *vous*.

In the phrase *Vous allez à ltécole?*, *vous allez à* is pronounced *vouzahlay ah*. In the phrase *vous et Marie allez à ltécole? ,* allez à *is pronounced* ahlayzah*.*

Lesson 1.08 - Travel

G: Regular -ir Verbs

the second category of regular French verbs is -ir verbs. to conjugate, drop the -ir to find the "stem" or "root". Add endings to the root based on the subject and tense.

finir - to finish

French Grammar Print version

Formation des verbes en -ir pronoun ending verb je -is finis tu -is finis il/elle -it finit nous -issons finissons vous -issez finissez ils/elles -issent finissent

G: Possessive Adjectives

FormationFrench Grammar Print version

Les adjectifs possessifs First Person Second Person Third Person Singular mon, ma, mes my ton, ta, tes your son, sa, ses his, her

Plural notre, notre, nos our votre, votre, vos your leur, leur, leurs their

Usage

As you can probably tell from their name, possessive adjective are used to express possession of an object.

Csest mon livre. - Itss my book.

In English the possessive adjective agrees with the subject (*his sister*, *her brother*). But in French, possessive adjectives act like all other adjectives: they must agree with the noun they modify.

French Grammar Print version

Utilisation des adjectifs possessifs Masculine Noun le livre

Feminine Noun la voiture le livre de Marc the book of Marc

son livre his book

la voiture de Marc the car of Marc

sa voiture his car

-ir Verb Formation

Possesive Adjective Usage

Possessive Adjectives

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les livres de Marc the books of Marc

ses voitures his cars le livre de Marie the book of Marie

son livre her book

la voiture de Marie the car of Marie

sa voiture her car les livres de Marie the books of Marie

ses livres her books

les voitures de Marie the cars of Marie

ses voitures her cars

Whether the third person singular possessive adjectives *son*, *sa* and *ses* are *his* or *her* is indicated by context.

Elle lit son livre. - She reads her book.

Liaison and Adjective Changes

Liaison occurs when *mon*, *ton*, and *son* are followed by a vowel.

Il est monnami. - He is my friend. Il est tonnami. - He is your friend. Il est sonnami. - He is his/her friend.

Liaison also occurs with all plural forms, since they all end in *s*.

Ils sont meszamis. - they are my friends. Ils sont noszamis. - they are our friends.

*Mon, ton*, and *son* are used before a feminine singular noun that starts with a vowel or silent h. Elision (to ms, ts, or ss) does not occur.

Elle est monnamie. - She is my friend.

V: Travel

French Vocabulary Print version

Voyage General Vehicles lsaéroport (m) Airport lsauto (f) car le billet ticket (for train, airplane) lsavion (m) Airplane la poste post office lsautobus (m) bus la station station le bateau Boat le métro subway, underground le train train les bagages baggage le taxi taxi le ticket ticket (for bus, métro) la voiture car la valise suitcase

Hotels la chambre room chambre de libre free room

ses livres his books

Travel

les voitures de Marc the cars of Marc

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Lesson 1.09 - Art

G: Regular -re Verbs

the third category of regular verbs is made up of *-ret* verbs. to conjugate, drop the -re to find the "stem" or "root". Add endings to the root based on the subject and tense, as demonstrated below for the present tense.

Formation

attendre – to wait

French Grammar Print version

Formation des verbes en -re pronoun ending verb je *(jt)* -s attends tu -s attends il/elle - attend nous -ons attendons vous -ez attendez ils/elles -ent attendent

Vendre

the verb *vendre* is a regular -re verb:

French Verb Present Indicative

to sell

Singular Plural first person je vends *jeuh vahn* I sell nous vendons *noo vahn dohn* we sell second person tu vends *too vahn* you sell vous vendez *voo vahn dayt* you sell

third person

il vend *eel vahn* he sells elle vend*ell vahn* she sells

ils vendent *eel vahnde* they sell (masc. or mixed) on vend *oh vahn* one sells elles vendent *ell vahnde* they sell (fem.)

Common -re Verbs

Compared to -er verbs, -re verbs are not very common. You will however see the following verbs fairly often:prendre - *to get*, *to take*

Irregular conjugation: je prends, tu prends, il/elle/on prend, nous prenons, vous prenez, ils/elles prennent

-re Verb Formation

vendre

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mettre - *to put*, *to place*

Irregular conjugation: je mets, tu mets, il/elle/on met, nous mettons, vous mettez, ils/elles mettent connaître - *to know* (Note: "savoir" may also mean *to know*)

Irregular conjugation: je connais, tu connais, il/elle/on connait, nous connaissons, vous connaissez, ils/elles connaissent

V: Music

French Vocabulary Print version

La musique écouter de la musique to listen to music des paroles lyrics (la parole = word)

Composing le musicien musician le compositeur composer l'auteur (des paroles) (lyrics) writer

Instruments lsinstrument (m) instrument la clarinette clarinet le violon violin la harpe harp la guitare guitar le piano piano la flûte flute

V: French Museums

French Vocabulary Print version

Les musées la portraitiste portraitist

G: Beau, Nouveau, and Vieux

Musée du Louvre

Museums

Music

Musée des Beaux-Arts de Dole

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Musée des arts et métiers

Formation

French Grammar Print version

Beau, Nouveau, and Vieux Masc. Consonant Masc. Vowel Fem. Sing. (all) Beau Singular un beau garçon un bel individu une belle fillette Plural de beaux garçons de beauxzindividus de belles fillettes Nouveau Singular un nouveau camion un nouvel ordre une nouvelle idée Plural de nouveaux camions de nouveauxzordres de nouvelles idées Vieux Singular un vieux camion un vieil ordre une vieille idée Plural de vieux camions de vieuxzordres de vieilles idées

Sentences Placement

As you have already learned, most adjectives come after the noun they modify in French.

un homme intelligent - an intelligent man des hommes intelligents - intelligent men

However, some common French adjectives, including beau, nouveau, and vieux come before the noun.

une jolie voiture - a pretty car

*Des* is replaced with *de* when an adjective comes before the noun.

de jolies voitures - pretty cars

Note that in informal speech, *des* is very often used in place of *de*.

V: PlaysFrench Vocabulary Print version

Les pièces At the Theater Play Genres le théâtre theater le ballet ballet la pièce (de théâtre) (theatrical) lit: (theatrical) play

piece la comédie comedy lsacte (f) la scène lsentracte (m)

act scene intermission

la comédie musicale musical comedy

chanter le (la) chanteur (-euse)

to sing singer le drame drama danser le (la) danseur (-euse)

to dance dancer la tragédie tragedy

V: French Artists and Entertainers

The Adjectives Beautiful, New, and Old

Plays

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audio (upload)

Charles Aznavour Gilbert Becaud Jacques Brel Robert Charlebois Joe Dassin Raymond Devos Celine Dion Garou Juliette Greco Edith Piaf

Lesson 1.10 - Science

G: Prendre

Prendre is an irregular -re verb, and is conjugated differently.

Formation

French Verb Present Indicative

to take

Singular Plural first person je prends *jeuh prahn* I take nous prenons *noo prenn ohn*we take second person tu prends *too prahn* you take vous prenez *voo prennay* you take

third person

il prend *eel prahnn* he takes elle prend*ell prahnn* she takes

ils prennent *eel prehn* they take (masc. or mixed) on prend *oh prahnn* one takes elles prennent *ell prehn* they take (fem.)

Related Words

prendre - to take apprendre - to learn comprendre - to comprehend/understand se méprendre - to be mistaken surprendre - to surprise

Idioms and Related Expressions

prendre - to take, to have something to eat prendre conscience (de) - to become aware (of) prendre la correspondance - to change trains prendre une décision - to make a decision prendre des kilos - to gain weight prendre part (à) - to take part (in) prendre la parole - to start talking prendre le pas sur - to surpass prendre le petit déjeuner - to eat breakfast prendre rendez-vous - to make an appointment prendre le métro - to get the subway prendre un café - to have a coffee

V: The Sciences - Les Sciences

French Vocabulary Print version

The Sciences and Scientists

prendre

Les sciences et les savants

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General Biology - La biologie le savant scientist

une personne qui expérimente a person who experiments

la bio(logie) biology

l'étude des organismes vivants the study of living organisms observer analyser

to observe to analyse

la botanique botany

l'étude des plantes the study of plants Physics - La physique l'anatomie (f)

anatomy

l'étude du corps humain the study of the human body la physique physics

l'étude de la matière et de l'énergie the study of matter and energy

la zoologie zoology

l'étude des animaux the study of animals le physicien physicist le biologiste biologist

Chemistry - La chimie la cellule a cell

la chimie chemistry

l'étude des éléments the study of elements

des microbes des bactéries des virus

germs bacteria virus le chimiste chemist le microscope microscope

V: Elements - Les éléments

French Vocabulary Print version

Les éléments lsargent (m) silver Also: money lsazote (m) nitrogen le chrome chromium /krom/ le cuivre copper Also a conjugation of *cuivrer* le fer iron lshydrogène (m) hydrogen Also a conjugation of hydrogéner. le manganèse manganese lsor (m) gold Also a conjunction meaning yet, however. lsoxygène (m) oxygen le soufre sulphur /sufr/ (audio) le xénon xenon

le zinc zinc

/z /, /zEng/ Also: (informal) counter Also: (in a bar, café, etc), bar

For a complete listing of the elements, see tableau périodique des éléments.

V: Astronomy

French Vocabulary Print version

L'astronomie The Planets Mercure Mercury vénus venus La (planete) terre Earth

Astronomy

Elements

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Mars Mars Jupiter Jupiter Saturne Saturn Uranus Uranus Neptune Neptune Pluton Pluto

Other Obejcts Le soleil sun La lune moon Lsétoile star

LEVEL TWO

Level Two Lessons Contents

Lesson 2.01 - School Lesson 2.02 - Culture Lesson 2.03 - Shopping Lesson 2.04 - Going Out Lesson 2.05 - transportation Lesson 2.06 - Everyday Life Lesson 2.07 - Rural Life Lesson 2.08 - Food and Drink Lesson 2.09 - Dining Lesson 2.10 - Communication

Now that you know how to compose French sentences in the present indicative, you can continue on to Wikibookss second French course. Inside, you will learn the passé composé, the most common French past tense, and review the grammar you have already learned. the grammar now becomes a lot more advanced, and each lesson now gives much more information. After you have completed this level, you can move on to the next level. Also remember to go to the lessons planning page if you would like to help improve this course.

Toujours Là? - Slightly More Advanced French

01 Leçon 01 : Lsécole G: Passé Composé of Regular verbs, Lire, Écrire

v: School, School Subjects Lesson 01 : School 02 Leçon 02 : La culture G: Regular verbs Review, Croire & voir

v: Life, Religions, Holidays, Celebrations (Birthdays, Christmas, Bastille Day) Lesson 02 : Culture 03 Leçon 03 : Faire des

courses G: e*x*er verbs (Acheter), -yer verbs (Payer), Object Pronoun Review,

Irregular Past Participles (so far) v: Shopping, Clothing, Shoes Lesson 03 : Shopping 04 Leçon 04 : Sortir G: Sortir & Partir, -enir verbs (venir), -é*x*er verbs

v: Leisure Activities, Directions, How to Get to Places, Places to go, Movies Lesson 04 : Going Out 05 Leçon 05 : Le transport G: -uire verbs (Conduire), -rir verbs (Ouvrir), Y, Passé Composé with Être

v: Local travelling, Methods of transportation Lesson 05 : transportation 06 Leçon 06 : Le quotidien G: Devoir, Falloir, Reflexive verbs

v: Employment, Waking up, Preparing for work, Driving to Work, Sleep Lesson 06 : Everyday Life 07 Leçon 07 : La vie rurale G: Suivre, vivre, Naitre, Passé Composé with Reflexive verbs

Lesson 07 : Rural Life

v: Pets, Farm Animals 08 Leçon 08 : La nourriture G: Manger, Boire, Partitive Article, En, Mettre v: Meat, Dairy Products, Drinks, Desserts Lesson 08 : Food and Drink 09 Leçon 09 : Diner G: -cer verbs, Servir, vouloir & Pouvoir

v: Meals, Silverware, Dining at a Restaurant Lesson 09 : Dining 10 Leçon 10 : La

communication G: Dire, -aitre verbs, Connaitre & Savoir, Envoyer, Recevoir v: Mail, Calling Others, Computers Lesson 10 : Communication

Level two test and the Answers

Lesson 2.01 - School

G: Introduction to Perfect Tenses

the next section is optional. You will eventually learn everything that is covered in it, but if you would like a preview, read it, and if not, continue on to the school section.

Introduction to Perfect Tenses

G: Introduction to Moods and Tenses

Like the above section, this is also optional. You will eventually learn everything in here.

V: School

French Vocabulary Print version

L'école General Classes / Grades[21] le professeur[22] teacher 12th Grade Classe terminale la bourse scholarship 11th Grade 1ère (la première classe) le diplôme (professionnel) diploma 10th Grade 2ème (la deuxième classe) le bac(calauréat) high school exit exam 9th Grade 3ème (la troisième classe) la bibliothèque library 8th Grade 4ème (la quatrième classe) les notes grades (as on a test) 7th Grade 5ème (la cinquième classe) les cours classes or courses 6th Grade 6ème (la sixième classe) la classe grade (e.g. 6th Grade) 5th Grade CM2 (CM = cours moyen) en cours de [...] in [...] class 4th Grade CM1

Pendant les cours - During Classes 3rd Grade CE2 (CE=cours élémentaire) le tableau chalkboard 2nd Grade CE1 la craie chalk 1st Grade CP1 (CP = cours préparatoire) le pupitre desk Verbs lsexamen (m) test passer

un examen to take a test les devoirs homework étudier to study la classe class écrire[23] to write la cantine déjeuner

cafeteria to (eat) lunch lever (la main)[24] to raise (your hand) la récré(ation) la cour

recess courtyard

poser (une question) to ask (a question) Schools and Students parler to speak lsécole (f) school écouter to listen (to)[25]

School

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[show ]

lsétudiant lsétudiante

student (m) student (f) entendre to hear (of)[26] le collège (classes 6-4)

jr. high school (grades 6-9) regarder to watch le collégien jr. high school student déjeuner to (have) lunch le lycée (classes 3-terminale)

high school (grades 10-12) le lycéen high school student Describing Teachers and Students lsuniversité (f) la fac(ulté) university intelligent(e) intelligent

nul(le) not good, not bright lsenseignement supérieur higher graduate education

school strict(e) strict Des fournitures scolaires - School Supllies

la craie chalk *cray* le tableau the board *tahbloh* le stylo(-bille) pen *steeloh (bee)* le crayon pencil *krayoh* la calculatrice calculator le livre le bouquin book *leevr* le cahier notebook *kie ay*

le papier la feuille de papier

paper sheet of paper pahpeeyay le bloc-notes (small) notepad *block nut* le classeur three-ring binder le sac à dos backpack *sack ah doe* la gomme eraser *gum* la règle ruler *rehgluh* le feutre marker *feuhtr*

^ the word *professeur* is considered masculine at all times, even if the teacher is female. the only case when "professeur" can be preceded by feminine determinant is either when contracting it in colloquial language "la prof", or when adding a few words before : "madame/mademoiselle la/le professeur".

^ the way that grades are numbered in France is opposite the way they are in the US. Whereas American grade numbers go up as you approach your senior year, they descend in France.

^ Écrire is an irregular verb. You will learn to conjugate it in the next section.

^ In French, you do not "own" body parts. While in English, you would say *my hand* or *your hand*, the definite article is almost always used in French.

*la main* - *my hand la jambe* - *my leg le bras* - *my arm*

For example, you would say *Je me suis cassé la main* (I have broken my hand) and never *Je me suis cassé ma main*. But you must say "Ma main est cassée" (My hand is broken) and not "La main est cassée" (lit. the hand is broken) if you speak about your own hand.

^ *To* and *of* are built into the verbs *écouter* and *entendre* respectively. It is not necessary to add a preposition to the verb. Other verbs, such as *répondre {à)*, meaning *to respond (to)*, are almost always followed by a preposition.

EXERCISE Translator (http://translate.google.com/translate\_t) Exercise Appendix Print version

E: 2.01 1 - School Vocabulary - Complétez

[show ]

G: Écrire & Lire

*Écrire* is an irregular french verb, meaning *to write*. It varies from other s-res verbs in the plural conjugation, by adding a svs.

French Verb Print version

to write past participle: écrit Singular Plural first person j' écris *jay cree* I write nous écrivons *noozay creevohn*we write second person tu écris *tue aycree* you write vous écrivez *voozay creevay* you write

third person

il écrit *eel aycree* he writes elle écrit *ell aycree* she writes

ils écrivent *eel zaycreeve* they write (masc. or mixed) on écrit *ohn aycree* one writes elles écrivent *ell zaycreeve* they write (fem.)

*Lire* is an irregular french verb, meaning to read. Itss plural conjugation adds an additional sss.

French Verb Print version

to read past participle: lu Singular Plural first person je lis *jeuh lee* I read nous lisons *noo leezonn*we read second person tu lis *tue lee* you read vous lisez *voo leezay* you read

third person

il lit *eel lee* he reads elle lit *ell lee* she reads

ils lisent *eel leez* they read (masc. or mixed) on lit *ohn lee* one reads elles lisent *ell leez* they read (fem.)

V: School Subjects

French Vocabulary Print version

Les matières d'enseignement les langues languages les mathématiques

les maths mathematics lsanglais English lsalgèbre (f) algebra le français French le calcul calculus lsespagnol Spanish la géométrie geometry lsallemand German les sciences

sociales

social sciences le russe Russian lséconomie economics lsitalien Italian la géo(graphie) geography

lshistoire (f) history

School Subjects

lire

écrire

audio (upload)

audio (upload)

audio (upload)

natural les sciences naturelles

sciences

d'autres matières other subjects la biologie la bio biology le dessin drawing la chimie chemistry lsinformatique (f) computer science la technologie engineering la littérature literature la physique physics la musique music

G: Passé Composé with Regular Verbs

*Main article: French/Grammar/Tenses/Present perfect*

the passé composé is a perfect tense, and is therefore composed of an auxiliary verb and a past participle. With most verbs, that auxiliary verb is avoir.

Meaning

In English, verbs conjugated in the passé composé literally mean *have/has \_\_\_\_ed*. While there is a simple past tense in French, it is almost only used in formal writing, so verbs conjugated in the passé composé can also be used to mean the English simple tense.

For example, the passé composé form of parler (to speak), [*avoir*] parlé, literally mean *has/have spoken*, but also means *spoke*.

Basic Formation

to conjugate a verb in the passé composé, the helping verb, usually avoir, is conjugated in the present indicative and the past participle is then added.

Auxiliary Verb - Avoir

Conjugate avoir in the present indicative.

jsai I have nous avons we have tu as you have vous avez you have il a he has ils ont they have

Past Participle

-er verbs - replace -er with é -ir verbs - replace -ir with i -re verbs - replace -re with u irregular verbs - varies, must be memorized.

Formation of the Past Participle Verb Group Infinitive Stem Past Participle

-er verbs jouer jou joué -ir verbs finir fin fini

-re verbs répondre répond répondu

Avoir + Past Participle

Jsai joué. I have played Nous avons joué. We have played. tu as joué. You have played. vous avez joué. You have played. Il a joué. He has played. Ils ont joué. they have played.

EXERCISE Translator (http://translate.google.com/translate\_t) Exercise Appendix Print version

E: 2.01 2 - Passé Composé - English to French

EXERCISE Translator (http://translate.google.com/translate\_t) Exercise Appendix Print version

E: 2.02 3 - Passé Composé - Present Indicative to Passé Composé

[show ]

[show ]

Lesson 2.02 - Culture

this lesson is on the culture of France. the culture of France is diverse, reflecting regional differences as well as the influence of recent immigration. Also, try and reflect on how your culture is similar and different to French culture.

G: General Verbs Review

Most verbs in French are regular -er verbs. Others are regular -ir or -re verbs or are simply irregular.

Formation

French Grammar Print version

Les verbes réguliers -er Verbs -ir Verbs -re Verbs Stem: parl... fin... vend... SubjectEndingExampleEnding Verb EndingExample Je -e parle -is finis -s vends Tu -es parles -is finis -s vends Il -e parle -it finit - vend Nous -ons parlons -issons finissons -ons vendons Vous -ez parlez -issez finissez -ez vendez

Ils -e parlent -issent finissent -ent vendent

Irregular Verbs Ending in -er

aller

Common -ir Verbs

Finir

Irregular Verbs Ending in -ir

acquérir | avoir | ssasseoir | devoir | dormir | falloir | ouvrir | partir | pleuvoir | pouvoir | recevoir | savoir | servir | venir | voir | vouloir

Common -re Verbs

attendre - to wait (for) répondre - to answer

Irregular Verbs Ending in -re

Regular Verbs

audio (upload)

boire | conduire | connaitre | croire | dire | écrire | être | faire | lire | mettre | prendre | rire | suivre | vivre

G: Croire & Voir

Croire is an irregularly conjugated -re verb.

French Verb Present Indicative

to believe (past participle - cru) Singular Plural first person je crois *jeuh crah* I believe nous croyons *noo croy oh* we believe second person tu crois *too crah* you believe vous croyez *voo croy ay* you believe

third person

il croit *eel crah* he believes elle croit*ell crah* she believes

ils croient *eel crah* they believe (masc. or mixed) on croit *oh crah* one believes elles croient *ell crah* they believe (fem.)

voir is an irregularly conjugated -re verb.

French Verb Present Indicative

to see (past participle - vu) Singular Plural first person je vois *jeuh vwah* I see nous voyons *noo vwahyoh* we see second person tu vois *too vwah* you see vous voyez *voo vwah ay* you see

third person

il voit *eel vwah* he sees elle voit*ell vwah* she sees

ils voient *eel vwah* they see (masc. or mixed) on voit *oh vwah* one sees elles voient *ell vwah* they see (fem.)

V: Religion

la religion religion

le Christianisme Christianity

lsIslam Islam

le Juda sme Judaism

le Chrétien/la Chrétienne Christian

le Musulman/la Musulmane Muslim

le Juif/la Juive Jew

lsathée (m.) atheist

croire

voir

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audio (upload)