

Cambridge University Language Centre Learning Objects

First Contact: greetings, Introduction Dialogs Vocabulary Grammar Pronunciation Exercises
farewells and social
niceties

French Learning Object 1

First Contact: greetings, farewells and social niceties

Introduction

This lesson teaches learners how to greet and introduce themselves politely in French, use appropriate forms of address (tu/vous, Monsieur, Madame, Mademoiselle), and master common expressions for greetings, farewells, and social niceties. It also introduces key pronunciation points — nasal vowels (on/om), the French r, the oi sound, and the silent h — helping learners sound natural and confident in everyday French interactions.

Dialogs

▼ Meeting and greeting 1

Salut, ça va ?	Hi, are you well?	0:00 / 0:01
Salut ! Ça va ! Et toi ?	Hi, I'm fine and you?	0:00 / 0:02
Très bien, merci !	Very well, thank you!	0:00 / 0:01

▼ Meeting and greeting 2

Bonjour, Madame Foucher ! Comment ça va ?	Hello, Mme Foucher! How are you?	0:00 / 0:02
Bonjour Monsieur Letort ! Ça va très bien. Et vous ?	Hello M Letort, I'm very well, thank you. And you?	0:00 / 0:03
Ça va, merci !	I'm fine, thank you!	0:00 / 0:01

▼ Meeting and greeting 3

Comment t'appelles- tu ?	What's your name?	0:00 / 0:02
Je m'appelle Max, et toi ?	My name is Max. And you're....?	0:00 / 0:02
Je m'appelle Camille.	My name's Camille.	0:00 / 0:02

▼ Meeting and greeting 4

Comment vous appelez-vous ?	What's your name?	0:00 / 0:02
Je m'appelle Isabelle Martin.	My name is Isabelle Martin.	0:00 / 0:02

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Vocabulary

Bonjour	Hello, good morning, good afternoon	0:00 / 0:01
Bonsoir	Hello, good evening	0:00 / 0:01
Coucou	Hi, cooee, peek-a-boo	0:00 / 0:01
Salut	Hi, bye	0:00 / 0:01
Au revoir	Goodbye	0:00 / 0:01
À bientôt	See you soon!	0:00 / 0:01
Monsieur	Sir, Mr	0:00 / 0:01
Madame	Madam, Mrs / Ms	0:00 / 0:01
Mademoiselle	Young lady, Miss	0:00 / 0:01
Messieurs-dames	Ladies and gentlemen	0:00 / 0:01
Jeune homme	Young man	0:00 / 0:01
Mon petit (m) / Ma petite (f)	Poppet (literally: my little one)	0:00 / 0:03
Mon amour	My love	0:00 / 0:01
Mon chéri (m) / ma chérie (f)	My darling	0:00 / 0:03
Les enfants	Children	0:00 / 0:01
Tout le monde	Everyone (literally : all the world)	0:00 / 0:01

Ça va ?	Are you well / OK? Are things alright/ OK?	0:00 / 0:01
Comment ça va ?	How are you? (literally: how's it going?)	0:00 / 0:01
Très bien	Very well	0:00 / 0:01
Ça va.	(I'm) fine	0:00 / 0:01
Pas mal	Not bad	0:00 / 0:01
Comment t'appelles- tu ?	What's your name?	0:00 / 0:02
Comment vous appelez-vous ?	What's your name?	0:00 / 0:02
Je m'appelle ...	My name is ...	0:00 / 0:01
Bonne journée !	Have a nice day!	0:00 / 0:01
Bonne soirée !	Have a nice evening!	0:00 / 0:01
Bonne nuit !	Good night!	0:00 / 0:01
Bon voyage !	Have a safe journey! / Have a good trip!	0:00 / 0:01
Bonnes vacances !	Enjoy your holiday!	0:00 / 0:02
Oui, non	Yes, no	0:00 / 0:01
Merci	Thank you	0:00 / 0:01

D'accord	OK then, alright	0:00 / 0:01
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Aujourd'hui	Today	0:00 / 0:01
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Grammar / Use of Language

Enchanté.e	Pleased to meet you (literally: delighted)	0:00 / 0:01
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1 In French there is no equivalent to the English Ms. To be politically correct a woman is addressed as **Madame** regardless of her marital status unless she is unmarried and specifies that she wishes to be addressed as **Mademoiselle**. **Mademoiselle** is otherwise reserved for a teenage girl.

Abbreviations: Monsieur - **M**.

Madame - **Mme**.

Mademoiselle - **Mlle**.

2 **Tu** and **vous** both mean 'you'.

Tu is used when addressing one person and is familiar. That means you use it when speaking to your partner, a relative, a friend, a classmate or a child etc. When returning question i.e. when you ask 'and you?' you use the form **toi** instead of **tu**: **Je m'appelle Michel, et toi ?**

You use **vous** when addressing an adult that you don't know e.g. a shop assistant, bus driver, waiting staff etc or an adult to whom you wish to show a degree of distance or respect e.g. your professor, a health professional, a legal advisor, an acquaintance of your parents etc.

Vous is also used when addressing more than one person whatever your relationship to them.

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Demystifying French Pronunciation

How to pronounce:



1 -on / om

In French there are some sounds known as nasal vowels: o followed by n or m is one of these. (sound file -on) In this first topic you will have encountered this sound in the words [bonjour](#) and [bonsoir](#). The sound is created as air comes through both nose and mouth. If you have a slight cold or pinch your nose you will be able to produce the sound without difficulty!

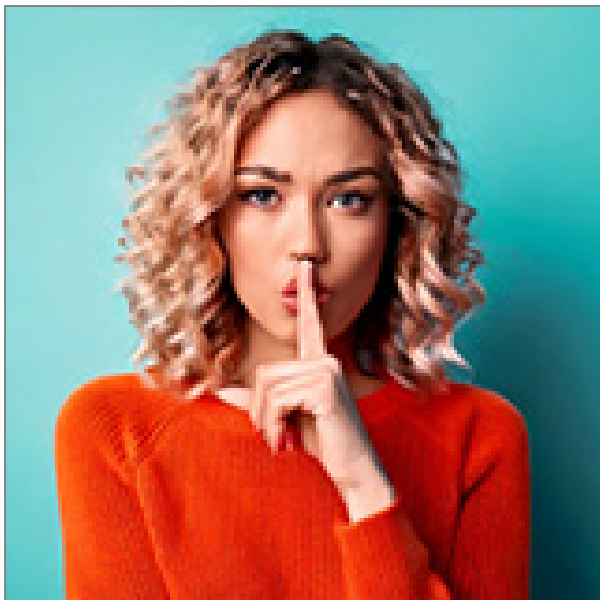
2 The letter [r](#)

The letter [r](#) in French can prove tricky to begin with, so it's worth practising it right way. It isn't the same sound as in English formed at the front of the mouth nor is it the rolled r of Spanish. It is formed in the throat. If you clear your throat first thing in the morning or when you are about to make an announcement, the French [r](#) is made in that very place. If you place your fingers on your neck, you should feel a very slight vibration. You will have encountered this sound in the words [bonjour](#), [bonsoir](#), [au revoir](#).

It is worth noting that the pronunciation of the letter [r](#) may vary across the French speaking world.

3 The digraph (vowel combination) [oi](#) in French.

It is worth being aware of this sound as the letter combination [oi](#) appears in many French words e.g. [moi](#), [toi](#), [au revoir](#)



4 The letter h

The letter **h** occurs in French words, but is never aspirated e.g. **homme**, **horrible**, **horizon**.

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Exercises

▼ 1. Select the parts of the words with the described sounds

[Reset](#)

b o n j o u r m o n c h é r i 0:00 / 0:01

b o n s o i r m o n a m o u r 0:00 / 0:01

a u r e v o i r m a c h é r i e 0:00 / 0:01

q u e l l e h o r r e u r V a l é r i e ! 0:00 / 0:01

▼ 2. Meeting and greeting gap fillers

très

toi

mon

chérie

va

Coucou amour ! Ça

0:00 / 0:02

aujourd'hui ?

Oui, ma ! Ça va

0:00 / 0:03

bien ! Et ?

Ça va !

0:00 / 0:00

▼ 3. Meeting and greeting (formal) gap fillers

Comment

merci

vous

Bonsoir Monsieur Galipot !

0:00 / 0:02

ça va ?

Bonsoir Madame Bernard, ça

va très bien, merci. Et

0:00 / 0:03

?

Ah pas mal

!

0:00 / 0:01

▼ 4. Meeting and greeting gap fillers

appelle

revoir

appelez

moi

enfants

Bonjour les .

0:00 / 0:04

Comment vous -

vous ?

Bonjour Madame ! Je m'
Annie.

0:00 / 0:03

Et , je m'appelle
David.

0:00 / 0:03

D'accord. Très bien !

0:00 / 0:03

Merci Madame ! Bonne
journée !

0:00 / 0:03

Au les enfants !

0:00 / 0:03

Bonne journée !

▼ 5. Develop your listening skills

Speech:

0:00 / 0:13

mon

bon

bonjour

son

ton

prénom

bonbon

non

1.		5.	
2.		6.	
3.		7.	
4.		8.	

✓ 6. Develop your listening skills

Speech: 0:00 / 0:15

quoi

roi

au revoir

trois

moi

toi

froid

loi

1.		5.	
2.		6.	
3.		7.	
4.		8.	

✓ 7. Develop your listening skills

Speech: 0:00 / 0:08

hôtel

hôpital

homme

horrible

1.		3.	
2.		4.	

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