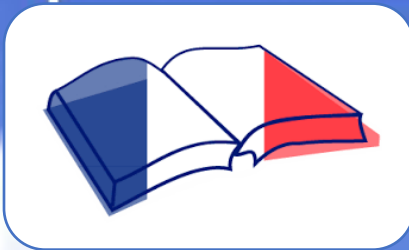


FRENCH TEACHER

Erick NGOIE MWEMA



FRENCH



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Lesson 0.1. 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 d'oïl* was developed. A dialect of *la langue d'oïl* 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 worldwide, including English. It is through French (or more precisely Norman, a dialect of *la langue d'oïl*) 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!

Lesson 0.2 - 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 'difficult' 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, if only for the specific purpose of passing a standardized test, such as the Test d'Evaluation de Français. According to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, in order to reach the level of 'Independent User' (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 it's 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 can't 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. Google's news page, which links to French-language news stories, is an excellent source that will enrich your vocabulary.

Lesson 0.3 - The Alphabet

Introduction

French Grammar									
The French Alphabet, L'alphabet français									
Characters	A a	B b	C c	D d	E e	F f	G g	H h	I i
Pronunciation	ah	bay	say	day	euH	eff	jhay	ash	ee
Characters	J j	K k	L l	M m	N n	O o	P p	Q q	R r

Pronunciation	ghee	kah	el	emm	enn	oh	pay	ku	air
Characters	S s	T t	U u	V v	W w	X x	Y y	Z z	
Pronunciation	ess	tay	oo	vay	Dubla-vay	eeks	ee-grehk	zed	

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, î, ô, û. A tréma (French for dieresis) is also applied: ë, ï, ü, ÿ. Two combined letters are used: æ 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		
The French Alphabet, L'alphabet français		
Letter	Pronunciation	Name in French
Aa	like a in father	/a/
Bb	like b in may"be	/be/
Cc	before e and i: like c in center	/se/
	before a, o, or u: like c in cat	
Dd	like d in dog	/de/
Ee	approx. like u in burp**	/ə/
Ff	like f in fog	/ɛf/
Gg	before e and i: like s in measure	/ze/
	before a, o, or u: like g in get	
Hh	aspirated h: see note below*	/aʃ/
	non-aspirated h: not pronounced***	
Ii	like ea in team	/i/
Jj	like s in measure	/ʒi/

Kk	like k in kite	/ka/
Ll	like l in lemon	/ɛl/
Mm	like m in minute	/ɛm/
Nn	like n in note	/ɛn/
Oo	closed: approx. like u in nut	/o/
	open: like o in nose	
Pp	like p in pen*	/pe/
Qq	like k in kite	/ky/ see 'u' for details
Rr	force air through the back of your throat near the position of gargling, but sounding soft	/ɛR/
Ss	like s in sister at beginning of word or with two s's or like z in amazing if only one s	/ɛs/
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 on the derivation of the word, like v as in violin, or w in water	/dubløve/
Xx	either /ks/ in socks, or /gz/ in exit	/iks/
Yy	like ea in leak	/igræk/
Zz	like z in zebra	/zɛd/

Final consonants

In French, certain consonants are silent when they are the final letter of a word. The letters p (as in 'coup'), s (as in 'héros'), t (as in 'chat'), d (as in 'marchand'), and x (as in 'paresseux'), are generally not pronounced at the end of a word. They are pronounced if there is an e letter after ('coupe', 'chatte', 'marchande', 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 one's mouth. It is very difficult to pronounce a word like 'voudrais' properly with the d formed in the English manner.

b and p

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

Exercise

Get a loose piece of printer paper or notebook paper. 1. Hold the piece of paper about one inch (or a couple of centimeters) in front of your face. 2. Say the words baby, and puppy like you normally would in English. Notice how the paper moved when you said the 'b' and the 'p' respectively. 3. Now, without making the piece of paper move, say the words belle (the feminine form of beautiful in French, pronounced like the English 'bell.'), and papa (the French equivalent of "Dad"). 4.

If the paper moved, your pronunciation is slightly off. Concentrate, and try it again. If the paper didn't 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, héroïne is a non-aspirated h. Therefore, when you put the definite article in front of it, it becomes l'héroïne, 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 (*) 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 (') 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)	héroïne , heroine (l'héroïne)
haïr , to hate (je hais or j'haïs...)	habiter , to live (j'habite...)
Huit , eight (le huit novembre)	Harmonie , harmony (l'harmonie)

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

French Vocabulary Punctuation, La ponctuation							
&	esperluette, et commercial	,	virgule	{ }	accolades	~	tilde
'	apostrophe	=	égal	%	pourcent	@	arobase, a commercial, arobe
*	astérisque	\$	dollar	.	point		
« »	guillemets	!	point d'exclamation	+	plus		
\	barre oblique inverse	>	supérieur à	#	dièse		
[]	crochets	<	inférieur à	?	point d'interrogation		
:	deux points	-	moins, tiret, trait d'union	_	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.

Lesson 0.4 – 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, î, ô, û	gâteau: cake, être: to be, île: island, chômage: unemployment, dû: past participle of devoir
diaeresis (tréma)	ë, ï, ü, ÿ	Noël: Christmas, maïs: corn, aigüe: acute(fem)
cedilla (cédille)	ç only	français: French

1. Note: The letter ÿ is only used in very rare words, mostly old town names like L'Haÿ-Les-Roses, a Paris suburb. This letter is pronounced like ï.
2. Note: As of the spelling reform of 1990, the diaeresis indicating gu is not a digraph on words finishing in guë 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)

è

Unlike 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 supporting word processing software, you can initiate an accent by entering an appropriate key combination.

accent	key combination
acute accent (accent aigu)	CTRL-'
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	Â	0194

ä	132	Ä	142
æ {ae}	145	Æ {ae}	146
œ {oe}	0156	Œ {oe}	0140
ç	135	Ç	128
é	130	É	144
ê	136	Ê	0202
è	138	È	0200
ë	137	Ë	0203
î	140	Î	0206
ï	139	Ï	0207
ô	147	Ô	0212
ù	151	Ù	0217
û	150	Û	0219
ü	129	Ü	154 or 0220
«	174	»	175

Lesson 0.5 – Greetings

Greetings

French Dialogue	
Greetings, Les salutations	
Jacques et Marie	
Jacques	Bonsoir, Marie.
Marie	Euh ? Tu t'appelles comment ?
Jacques	Moi, je m'appelle Jacques.
Marie	Ah, oui. Quoi de neuf, Jacques ?
Jacques	Pas grand-chose. Alors, au revoir, à demain, Marie.
Marie	À la prochaine, Jacques.
Olivier et Luc	
Olivier	Salut.
Luc	Bonjour.
Olivier	Tu t'appelles comment ?
Luc	Luc. Et toi ?
Olivier	Je suis Olivier.
Luc	Ah, oui. Alors, à bientôt, Olivier.
Olivier	Salut, Luc !

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

Greetings

French Vocabulary Greetings, 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?	What's up (about you)? (lit. what's new)	
Pas grand-chose.	Not much. (lit. no big-thing)	

Formal Lesson – Greetings

When talking to one's 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.

Good-bye

French Vocabulary Good-bye, 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 l'heure.	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 l'heure. À demain is used if you will be seeing the person the following day.

Names

Tu t'appelles 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 m'appelle [name] (I am called...). In the next lesson, you will learn more formal ways of asking someone for their name.

Example: Check for understanding One of your good friends is introducing you to his younger cousin who is visiting on a trip from France, and doesn't speak a word of English. You want to introduce yourself to him, tell him your name, and ask "What's up?"

Lesson 0.6 - Formal Speech

Formal conversation

French Dialogue	
A Formal Conversation, 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 m'appelle Jean-Paul Lambert. Et vous?
Monsieur Bernard	Moi, je suis Marc Bernard. Enchanté.
Monsieur Lambert	Enchanté.

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

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. You'd 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.

Courtesy

French Vocabulary Courtesy, La politesse		
Please	S'il te plait.	(Lit: If it pleases you.)
	S'il vous plaît.	(formal).
Thanks (a lot)	Merci (beaucoup).	
You're welcome.	De rien	(Lit: It's nothing.)
	Pas de quoi.	(Lit: Not of what.) (No problem.)
	De rien Je t'en prie.	I pray you (informal)
	Je vous en prie	(formal)

Titles

French Vocabulary Titles, Les titres				
	French	Abbr.	Pronunciation	English, Usage
Singular	Monsieur	M.	muhsyeu	Mr., Sir
Plural	Messieurs.		mehsyeu	Gentlemen.
Singular	Madame	M ^{me}	mahdamn	Mrs., Ma'am.
Plural	Mesdames		maydahm	Ladies

Singular	Mademoiselle	M ^{lle}	mahdmwazell	Miss, Young lady
Plural	Mesdemoiselles		mehdmwazell	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.

Asking for one's name

French Vocabulary	
Asking For One's Name, 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 t'appelles comment ?	What is your name? (informal) (lit: How do you call yourself?)
Je m'appelle... Je suis...	My name is... (lit. I call myself...) I am...

Lesson 0.7 - How are you?

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.

How are you ?

French Vocabulary How are you? Ça va?	
Comment allez-vous ? (formal), Comment vas-tu ? (informal), Comment ça va ? / Ça va ? (Informal)	How are you?
Ça va (très) bien	I'm doing (very) well (lit. It's 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)

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.

Basic phrases – Dialogue

French Exercise Basic Phrases Expressions de base				
Exercise Put the following conversation in order:				
	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Michel	Je ne vais pas très bien.	Bonjour, Jacques	Au revoir	Comment ça va ?
Jacques	Désolé.	Ça va très bien ! Et vous ? Allez-vous bien ?	À demain	Salut, Michel !
Solution :				
	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Michel	Bonjour, Jacques.	Comment ça va?	Je ne vais pas très bien	Au revoir.
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 I'm 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 0.8 – Numbers

Cardinal numbers

French Vocabulary Numbers, 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	
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".

Mathematics

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

Note : You may sometimes use "un plus un egal 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)

In school

Toto est un personnage imaginaire qui est un cancre à l'école. Il y a beaucoup d'histoires 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!

- L'instituteur : Bonjour, les enfants ! Aujourd'hui c'est mardi, nous allons réviser la table d'addition. Combien font huit plus six ? - Toto : Treize, monsieur ! - L'instituteur : Non Toto tu t'es trompé ! Huit plus six égal quatorze. Et combien font cinq plus neuf ? - Clément : Quatorze ! - L'instituteur : Très bien Clément.

Lesson 0.9 - The Date

The days of the week.

French Vocabulary				
The Days of the Week, 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 aujourd'hui?, Quel jour est-on aujourd'hui? or On est quel jour aujourd'hui? (Last one is less formal but more common) Quel jour sommes-nous aujourd'hui ? can be answered with Aujourd'hui c'est..., C'est... or Nous sommes ... / On est... Nous sommes... is not used with hier, aujourd'hui, or demain. C'était (past) or C'est (present/future) must be used accordingly. The days of the week are not capitalized in French.

French Vocabulary		
Asking for The Day, Demander le jour		
Aujourd'hui on est quel jour ?	Today is what day?	ojzoordwee on ay kell jzoor
Aujourd'hui on est [jour].	Today is [day].	
Demain c'est quel jour?	Tomorrow is what day?	Duhman say kell jzoor
Demain c'est [jour].	Tomorrow is [day].	

French Vocabulary	
Relative Days, Les jours relatifs	
avant-hier	the day before yesterday
hier	yesterday
aujourd'hui	today
ce soir	tonight

demain	tomorrow
après-demain	the day after tomorrow

The months of the year

French Vocabulary The Months of the Year, Les mois de l'année			
#	French	Pronounced	English
1	janvier	jzahnvyay	January
2	février	fayvryay	February
3	mars	mahrse	March
4	avril	ahvrill	April
5	mai	maye	May
6	juin	jzwan	June
7	juillet	jzuyay	July
8	août	oot/oo	August
9	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 Asking for The Date, Demander la date		
Quelle est la date (d'aujourd'hui) ?	What is the date (today)?	kell ay lah daht
C'est le [#] [month].	It's [month] [#].	say leuh...

Seasons

French Vocabulary Seasons, Les Saisons	
La saison	Season
Le printemps	Spring
L'été (m)	Summer
L'automne (m)	Autumn
L'hiver (m)	Winter

Lesson 10 - Telling Time

Asking for the time

French Vocabulary Asking for The Day, Date, Time, Demander le jour/la date/le temps		
Asking for the time.		
Quelle heure est-il?	What hour/time is it?	kell er ayteel
Quelle heure il est?		kell er eel ay
Il est [nombre] heure(s).	It is [number] hours.	eelay [nombre] er

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 Time, 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.

Times of day

French Vocabulary Times of Day, 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
Le soleil levant	rising sun
le matin	morning
...du matin	A.M., lit: of the morning
hier matin	yesterday morning
le midi	noon, midday
l'après-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

The Principal

French Dialogue The Principal, 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 vais bien merci. Et vous, comment allez-vous ? I am well, thank you. And you, how are you?
Daniel	Je vais bien. Je veux vous demander s'il est possible d'organiser une fête pour mon anniversaire. Je l'organiserais le 3 mars vers 14 h. I'm 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 vous voulez l'organiser où ? And you want to organize it where?
Daniel	Dans la grande salle de réunion au deuxième étage. On en aurait besoin jusqu'à 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 ! J'espère que je serais invité ? Agreed! I hope that I would be invited?
Daniel	Bien sûr! Merci Beaucoup! Of course! Thanks a lot!
Le directeur	Au revoir ! Good-bye !
Daniel	Au revoir et encore merci ! Good-bye and thanks again.

Lesson 0 - Review

The French alphabet

French Grammar

The French Alphabet, L'alphabet francais

Characters Aa, Bb, Cc, Dd, Ee, Ff, Gg, Hh, Ii, Jj, Kk, Ll, Mm

Pronunciation ah, bay, say, day, euh, eff, jhay, ash, ee, zhee, kah, el, em

Characters Nn, Oo, Pp, Qq, Rr, Ss, Tt, Uu, Vv, Ww, Xx, Yy, Zz

Pronunciation enn, oh, pay, ku, air, ess,tay, ue, vay, dubl-vay, eeks, ee-grehk, zedh

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, î, ô, û. A tréma (French for dieresis) is also applied: ä, ë, ï, ö, ü, ÿ. Two combined letters are used: æ and œ, and a cedilla is used on the c to make it sound like an English s: ç.

Basic phrases

French Vocabulary

Basic Phrases, 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 / I'm doing (very) well (lit. It's 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) / I'm sorry.

quoi de neuf? / what's up (about you)? (lit. what's 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

Numbers

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.

Asking for the day/date/time

French Vocabulary

Asking for The Day, Date, Time, Demander le jour, la date, le temps

Asking for the day.

Quel jour c'est Aujourd'hui? / What day is today? kell jzoor say ojzoordwee
c'est [jour]. / Today is [day].

Quel jour c'est demain? / What day is tomorrow? kell jzoor say duhman
Demain c'est [jour]. / Tomorrow is [day].

Asking for the date.

Quelle est la date / What is the date kell ay lah daht
(Aujourd'hui)? / (today)?
C'est le [#] [month]. / It's [month] [#].

Asking for the time.

Quelle heure est-il? / What hour/time is it? kell er ayteel
Il est quelle heure? / What hour/time is it? eel ay kell er
Il est [nombre] heure(s). It is [number] hours. eelay [nombre] er

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

Time, 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.

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.

The days of the week

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

French Vocabulary

The Days of the Week. Les jours de la semaine.

French	Pronunciation	English	Origin
lundi	luhndee	Monday	Moon
mardi	mahrdee	Tuesday	Mars
mercredi	maircruhdee	Wednesday	Mercury
jeudi	juhdee	Thursday	Jupiter

vendredi	vahndruhdee	Friday	Venus
samedi	sahmdee	Saturday	Saturn
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..., C'est... or on est... (last two are less formal). Nous sommes... is not used with hier, aujourd'hui, or demain. C'était (past) or C'est (present/future) must be used accordingly.

The months of the year

French Vocabulary

The Months of the Year, Les mois de l'année

French	Pron.	English
janvier	jzahnveeyay	January
février	fayvreeyay	February
mars	mahrse	March
Avril	ahvriil	April
Mai	maye	May
Juin	jzwan	June
Juillet	jzooeeyay	July
août	oot/oo	August
Septembre	septahmbruh	September
Octobre	oktuhbruh	October
novembre	novahmbruh	November
decembre	daysahmbruh	December

Relative date and time

French Vocabulary

Relative Date and Time, 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

l'après-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

Aujourd'hui / today

Ce soir / tonight

demain / tomorrow

après-demain / the day after tomorrow

Seasons

French Vocabulary

Seasons, Les Saisons

La saison season

Le printemps Spring

L'été (m) Summer

L'automne (m) Autumn

L'hiver (m) Winter

conversation between friends

French Dialogue

A Conversation Between Friends, Une conversation entre amis

Daniel

Bonjour Hervé. Comment vas-tu? / Hello, Hervé. How are you? [Lit: How do you?]

Hervé

Je vais bien, merci. Et toi ça va? / I'm good,1 thank you. And you, it goes (fine)?

Daniel

Ça va bien. Est-ce que tu viens à mon anniversaire ? J'organise une petite fête. / It goes well. You're coming to my party? I'm organizing a little party.

Hervé

C'est 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. You're having it at your place?

Daniel

Oui c'est chez moi. J'ai invité une vingtaine d'amis. On va danser toute la nuit. / Yes, it's at my place. I have invited (a set of) twenty friends. We are going to dance all night.

Hervé

C'est très gentil de m'inviter, merci. A bientôt. / It's very nice to invite me, thank you. So long.

Daniel

A demain, bonne journée. / Until tomorrow, good day.

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, I'm good, which uses the linking verb am, is followed by an adjective rather than an adverb. 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. 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 [name'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)

- ✓ 1.What day is today?
- ✓ How are you?
- ✓ What is your name?

French to English

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

- ✓ Bonjour ! Quel est ton nom ?
- ✓ Je m'appelle Jacques. Comment vous appelez-vous ?
- ✓ Je m'appelle Henri. Comment ça va ?
- ✓ Pas mal. Et toi, comment ça va ?
- ✓ Très bien, merci. À demain Jacques !
- ✓ À demain Henri.

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)