

FRENCH

Welcome to Living Language's *Starting Out In French*, an introductory course teaching the basics of the French language. This all-audio course is designed to be used without any printed material, but should you decide you want to read along as you listen to the lessons, visit www.livinglanguage.com for a free downloadable transcript and other resources.



Leçon Un: Les expressions essentielles

Lesson 1: Essential expressions

Bienvenue! *Welcome!* In this first lesson, you'll learn basic courtesy expressions and other useful words and phrases that will get you started speaking French. So, let's begin with some essential vocabulary. You'll hear the English first, and then the French. Repeat each new word or phrase every time you hear it. Ready?

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

Hello.

Bonjour.

Hi.

Salut.

Good-bye.

How are you? (familiar)

How are you? (polite)

I'm fine.

What's your name? (familiar)

What's your name? (polite)

ma'am/Mrs./Ms.

sir/Mr.

Miss

Au revoir.

Comment vas-tu?

Comment allez-vous?

Ça va.

Comment t'appelles-tu?

Comment vous appelez-vous?

Madame

Monsieur

Mademoiselle

TAKE A BREAK 1

Okay, let's stop there. You learned how to say *Hello* (**Bonjour**), *Hi* (**Salut**), *Good-bye* (**Au revoir**), *How are you?* (**Comment vas-tu?** or **Comment allez-vous?**), *I'm fine* (**Ça va**), *What's your name?* (**Comment t'appelles-tu?** or **Comment vous appelez-vous?**), *Mrs.* (**Madame**), *Mr.* (**Monsieur**), and *Miss* (**Mademoiselle**). Did you notice that there are two ways of asking how someone is or what someone's name is? One is familiar, used with friends, family, and children. Those are the questions with **tu**, which is the familiar way of saying *you*: **Comment vas-tu?** and **Comment t'appelles-tu?** The others use the polite form for *you*, **vous**. They're used with adults you don't know well, colleagues, and people in formal situations: **Comment allez-vous?** and **Comment vous appelez-vous?** So, in French **tu** and **vous** both mean *you*, but the first is familiar and the second is polite. When in doubt, use **vous** unless you're invited to use **tu**. Now let's look at some more greetings.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Good evening.

How's it going?

It's going well.

It's not going well.

Not bad.

So-so.

Super.

Fantastic.

Bonsoir.

Comment ça va?

Ça va bien.

Ça va mal.

Pas mal.

Comme ci, comme ça.

Super.

Formidable.

My name is . . .

Je m'appelle . . .

Pleased to meet you.

Enchanté(e).

TAKE A BREAK 2

Let's pause there for a moment. First you learned how to greet someone (**Bonjour, Salut, Bonsoir**), introduce yourself (**Je m'appelle . . .**), and address people both formally (**Comment allez-vous? Comment vous appelez-vous?**) and informally (**Comment vas-tu? Comment t'appelles-tu?**) Now you've learned how to say *Good evening* (**Bonsoir**) and ask *How's it going?* (**Comment ça va?**), along with a few different answers to this question: *well* (**ça va bien**), *not well* (**ça va mal**), *not bad* (**pas mal**), *so-so* (**comme ci, comme ça**), and *really well* (**super** or **formidable**). Finally, you learned how to tell someone what your name is (**Je m'appelle . . .**) and say *Nice to meet you* (**Enchanté/Enchantée**).

ONE MORE TIME

Okay, let's put everything you've learned so far together in a short comprehension exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the French, which you should repeat for practice.

Hello, ma'am, how are you?

Bonjour, madame, comment allez-vous?

Not bad, thank you.

Pas mal, merci.

My name's François.

Je m'appelle François.

Let me introduce my wife, Marguerite.

Je vous présente ma femme, Marguerite.

Pleased to meet you.

Enchantée.

What's your name?

Comment vous appelez-vous?

My name is Mrs. Beaulieu.

Je m'appelle Mme. Beaulieu.

Let me introduce my husband, Mr. Albert Beaulieu.

Je vous présente mon mari, M. Albert Beaulieu.

Pleased to meet you.

Enchanté.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

Hi, I'm Mark, what's your name?

Salut, je suis Marc, comment t'appelles-tu?

Hi, Mark, my name is Stephanie.

Ciao, Marc, je m'appelle Stéphanie.

Nice to meet you. How's it going?

Enchanté. Comment ça va?

Super!

Let me introduce my father.

Hello, sir. How are you?

I'm very well, thank you.

Good-bye, Stephanie!

Good-bye, Mark!

Super!

Je te présente mon père.

Bonjour, monsieur. Comment allez-vous?

Je vais très bien, merci.

Ciao, Stéphanie!

Salut, Marc!

Okay, you already knew a lot of that vocabulary, but there were a few new words, too. You probably figured out that **ciao** is like **salut**, an informal way of saying *Hello* or *Good-bye*. Did you notice that you can introduce yourself by simply saying **Je suis . . .** which means *I am . . .*? Say that again: **je suis, je suis, je suis . . .** Good. And to introduce someone else, you can say **je te présente . . .** if you're speaking to a friend or family member, or **je vous présente . . .** if you're speaking more formally.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, you'll hear a phrase in French, and you should translate it into English. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause.

Bonsoir.

Good evening.

Comment allez-vous?

How are you? (formal)

Comment vous appelez-vous?

What's your name? (formal)

Je suis Madame Simon.

I am Mrs. Simon.

Je vous présente M. Dubois.

Let me introduce Mr. Dubois.

Enchanté.

Pleased to meet you.

Great. Now do the opposite, translating the phrase from English into French. After a pause, you'll hear the right answer, which you should repeat for practice.

Fantastic.

Formidable.

So-so.

Comme ci, comme ça.

How's it going?

Comment ça va?

What's your name? (Use the familiar.)

Comment t'appelles-tu?

What's your name? (Use the formal.)

Comment vous appelez-vous?

I am Mr. Blanc.

Je suis Monsieur Blanc.

PARTING WORDS

Félicitations! *Congratulations!* You've finished the lesson. You've learned the basic vocabulary you need to meet and greet people, introduce yourself, and say how you're doing. Some other key phrases you might want to know are: **Comment?** (*Pardon?* as in, *What did you say?*) **Répétez, s'il vous plaît.** (*Repeat that, please.*) **Parlez plus lentement, s'il vous plaît.** (*Speak more slowly, please.*) **Je ne comprends pas.** (*I don't understand.*) **J'apprends le français.** (*I'm learning French.*) And finally, **Je parle un peu français.** (*I speak a little French.*) Those few phrases are important for beginners to know, so practice them a few times! In the next lesson, we'll learn how to talk about the family, but if you'd like to review lesson one first, go right ahead! You can learn at your own pace.



Leçon Deux: Les gens et la famille

Lesson 2: People and the family

Bienvenue! *Welcome!* In this lesson, you'll learn how to talk about your family, and you'll learn some key vocabulary related to people in general. At the same time you'll learn some of the basics of French grammar to get you speaking right away. But first, let's get started with some vocabulary. As always, you'll hear the English first, and you should repeat the French each time you hear it. **Prête, madame?** (*Ready, ma'am?*), **Prêt, monsieur?** (*Ready, sir?*)

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

a person

une personne

a woman

une femme

This is . . .

C'est . . .

This is a woman.

C'est une femme.

a man

un homme

This is a man.

C'est un homme.

a girl

une fille

This is a girl.

C'est une fille.

a boy

un garçon

This is a boy.

C'est un garçon.

a child

un enfant

This is a child.

C'est un enfant.

TAKE A BREAK 1

Okay, let's stop there. You learned how to say *a person* (**une personne**), *a woman* (**une femme**), *a man* (**un homme**), *a girl* (**une fille**), *a boy* (**un garçon**), and *a child* (**un enfant**). Did you notice that there are two words for *a*, either **un** or **une**? That's because French nouns are all either masculine or feminine. The feminine form of *a*, also known as the indefinite article, is **une**: **une femme**, **une fille**. The masculine form of the indefinite article is **un**: **un homme**, **un garçon**. It's easy to remember the gender of nouns like *man*, *woman*, *girl*, or *boy*, but in French, all nouns have gender. Sometimes it's not logical; a person is **une personne**, and a child is **un enfant**. And often it's downright impossible; cars, tables, houses, trees, rocks, and all other nouns have gender. It's best not to overthink it! Just memorize the gender of each new noun you learn. Speaking of new nouns, let's have some more vocabulary.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

This is a family.

C'est une famille.

Here is . . .

Voilà . . .

Here's the father.

Voilà le père.

Here's the mother.

Voilà la mère.

Here's the son.

Voilà le fils.

Here's the daughter.

Voilà la fille.

Here's the brother.

Voilà le frère.

Here's the sister.

Voilà la sœur.

TAKE A BREAK 2

Let's pause again. First you learned how to say *a* in French: **un** for masculine nouns, and **une** for feminine nouns. Now you've just learned how to say *the*, also known as the definite article. Again, gender is important. The masculine form is **le**, and the feminine form is **la**. So far you've learned a few feminine nouns: **la famille** (*the family*), **la mère** (*the mother*), **la fille** (*the daughter, or the girl*), **la sœur** (*the sister*) and **la personne** (*the person*). And you've learned a few masculine nouns, too: **le père** (*the father*), **le fils** (*the son*), **le garçon** (*the boy*), **le frère** (*the brother*), **l'homme** (*the man*), and **l'enfant** (*the child*). Notice in those last two words that **le** is shortened to just an *l* sound before nouns that start with a vowel sound. The same thing happens to **la**. So, **l'étudiant** is *the male student*, and **l'étudiante** is *the female student*. The same thing happens before many nouns that begin with *h*, such as **homme**, since

h is silent in French. In writing, this form of the definite article is *l'*-apostrophe. So, **l'homme** is spelled *l'*-apostrophe-*h*-*o*-*m*-*m*-*e*.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's put everything you've learned so far together in a short comprehension exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the French, and then you should repeat for practice.

This is the Lacroix family.

C'est la famille Lacroix.

Mrs. Lacroix is a woman.

Madame Lacroix est une femme.

Mr. Lacroix is a man.

Monsieur Lacroix est un homme.

Marc is a boy.

Marc est un garçon.

Sophie is a girl.

Sophie est une fille.

Mrs. Lacroix is the mother.

Madame Lacroix est la mère.

Mr. Lacroix is the father.

Monsieur Lacroix est le père.

Sophie is the daughter.

Sophie est la fille.

Marc is the son.

Marc est le fils.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

Hello!

Bonjour!

I'm Mark.

Je suis Marc.

I'm French.

Je suis français.

I have a small family.

J'ai une petite famille.

I have a father . . .

J'ai un père . . .

He's a policeman.

Il est policier.

And I have a mother . . .

Et j'ai une mère . . .

She's a teacher.

Elle est professeure.

And I have a sister.

Et j'ai une sœur.

She's a student.

Elle est étudiante.

And me, too, I'm a student.

Et moi aussi, je suis étudiant.

Okay, you already knew a lot of that vocabulary, but there were a few new words, too. You already know that **bonjour** means *hello* and **français** means *French*. Did you remember that **je suis** means *I am*? You also learned two other forms—**il est** for *he is*, and **elle est** for *she is*. You'll learn more about that useful verb later. And speaking of useful verbs, you also heard Marc say **j'ai . . .**, meaning *I have*, as in **j'ai une petite famille**, or *I have a small family*. Repeat that: **j'ai . . . j'ai . . . j'ai . . .** Finally, you heard Marc say that his father is **un policier**, or *a policeman*, his mother is **une professeure**, or *a teacher*, and both he and his sister are students, **étudiante** in the feminine, and **étudiant** in the masculine.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, you'll hear a phrase in French, and you should translate it into English. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause.

une personne	<i>a person</i>
un enfant	<i>a child</i>
la famille	<i>the family</i>
C'est une femme.	<i>This is a woman.</i>
Frédéric est un homme.	<i>Frederic is a man.</i>

Now translate the following phrases into French, and then make sentences beginning with **j'ai**, or *I have*. For example, if you hear *a small family*, you'd respond by saying **j'ai une petite famille**. Repeat the correct answers for practice.

<i>a small family</i>	J'ai une petite famille.
<i>a mother</i>	J'ai une mère.
<i>a father</i>	J'ai un père.
<i>a sister</i>	J'ai une sœur.
<i>a brother</i>	J'ai un frère.

PARTING WORDS

Félicitations! *Congratulations!* You've finished the lesson. You've learned the basic vocabulary you need to talk about your family. You may of course want to extend the discussion a bit, and talk about your *uncle* (**oncle**), your *aunt* (**tante**), your *female cousin* (**cousine**), or your *male cousin* (**cousin**). And what family reunion would be complete without your *grandmother* (**grand-mère**) and *grandfather* (**grand-père**). If you're **un oncle** or **une tante**, that means you must have *a nephew* (**un neveu**) or *a niece* (**une nièce**). Now, do you remember your survival phrases from lesson one? Here they are again: **Comment?** (*Pardon? What did you say?*) **Répétez, s'il vous plaît.** (*Repeat that, please*). **Parlez plus lentement, s'il**

vous plaît. (*Speak more slowly please.*) **Je ne comprends pas.** (*I don't understand.*) **J'apprends le français.** (*I'm learning French.*) **Je parle un peu français.** (*I speak a little French.*) See that, you're learning more and more!



Leçon Trois: Les nombres

Lesson 3: Numbers

Déjà plus de français? (*More French already?*) **Mais, bien sûr!** (*But of course!*) In this lesson you're going to learn a valuable skill, how to count. And with numbers, you'll be all set to learn plurals. But that's not all. We'll also cover the very common and important verb **être**, *to be*. **Allons-y!** *Let's go!*

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

one, two, three

un, deux, trois

four, five, six

quatre, cinq, six

seven, eight

sept, huit

nine, ten

neuf, dix

Now let's add eleven through twenty-two.

eleven, twelve, thirteen

onze, douze, treize

fourteen, fifteen, sixteen

quatorze, quinze, seize

seventeen, eighteen, nineteen

dix-sept, dix-huit, dix-neuf

twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two

vingt, vingt et un, vingt-deux

TAKE A BREAK 1

Now let's use some of those numbers to count things, which means using the plural form of nouns. Plurals in French are usually written with an **-s**, but they sound just like the singular because the **-s** is silent. You can tell the difference because the plural noun comes with the plural form of *the*, which is **les**, or a phrase like **beaucoup de** (*a lot of, many*), or a number. In fact, French uses articles like **le**, **la**, and **les** much more than English does, so you don't always translate them. Here are some examples:

<i>people</i>	les gens
<i>men and women</i>	les hommes et les femmes
<i>one man and three boys</i>	un homme et trois garçons
<i>two women and five girls</i>	deux femmes et cinq filles
<i>many families</i>	beaucoup de familles

So, even if a noun sounds the same in the singular and plural, if you hear it with a number, with **les** or with **beaucoup de**, you know it's plural.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Now let's add some more numbers. The numbers **vingt-deux** (22) through **soixante-neuf** (69) work a lot like in English; just put the ones place after the tens place. If the ones place is **un**, say the phrase **et un** (*and one*), as in **trente et un** (*thirty one*).

30, 31, 35	trente, trente et un, trente-cinq
40, 50, 66	quarante, cinquante, soixante-six

Seventy through ninety nine involve a little math: *seventy* is **soixante-dix** (or *sixty-ten*), *seventy-one* is **soixante et onze** (*sixty and eleven*), and so on. *Eighty* is **quatre-vingts** (*four twenties*) and *ninety* is **quatre-vingt-dix** (*four-twenty-ten*). *Ninety-one* is then **quatre-vingt-onze**. Notice that the **et** is dropped here, unlike in 71 (**soixante et onze**). Here are more examples:

70, 75, 79	soixante-dix, soixante-quinze, soixante-dix-neuf
80, 85, 90	quatre-vingts, quatre-vingt-cinq, quatre-vingt-dix
100, 1,000	cent, mille

TAKE A BREAK 2

Now let's look at pronouns and **être**, *to be*. You've already seen a few forms, but let's look at the whole conjugation.

<i>I am</i>	je suis
<i>you are (familiar)</i>	tu es
<i>he is, she is</i>	il est, elle est
<i>we are</i>	nous sommes

you are (polite and plural)

vous êtes

they are

ils sont, elles sont

Don't forget that in French there are two ways to say *you*. **Tu es** is the familiar *you are*, so you'd use it with your friends, family, or anyone you're close to. **Vous êtes** is more polite, and it is also used to refer to groups of people, as in *all of you are*. Also note that there are two forms of *they are*: **ils sont** is masculine or mixed, and **elles sont** is feminine. Another common pronoun in French is **on**, which means *people in general*, but which also is often used to mean *we*. So, **on est** can mean the same thing as **nous sommes**.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Let's put everything you've learned so far together in a short comprehension exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the French, and then you should repeat for practice.

Amélie is a girl, and Franck is a boy.

Amélie est une fille, et Franck est un garçon.

They are friends.

Ils sont amis.

Are you American or French?

Êtes-vous américain ou français?

We're Swiss.

Nous sommes suisses.

The students? They're here.

Les étudiants? Ils sont ici.

The women and the men are over there.

Les hommes et les femmes sont là-bas.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

It's a beautiful photo.

C'est une belle photo.

There are six people.

Il y a six personnes.

There are three men, two women, and a girl.

Il y a trois hommes, deux femmes et une fille.

Two men and one woman are standing.

Deux hommes et une femme sont debout.

And the others are sitting.

Et les autres sont assis.

There are also a lot of trees.

Il y a aussi beaucoup d'arbres.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, you'll hear a phrase in French, and you should translate it into English. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause.

Les hommes sont français.

The men are French.

Ils sont amis.

They are friends.

Nous sommes ici.

We are here.

Je suis américain.

I'm American.

Now restate each sentence with the pronoun you hear after it. For example, if you hear **Je suis français** and then **Il**, change the sentence to **Il est français**.

Je suis avec Jean/Elle.

Elle est avec Jean.

Les enfants sont ici/Nous.

Nous sommes ici.

Vous êtes debout/Je.

Je suis debout.

Nous sommes assis avec la famille/Tu.

Tu es assis avec la famille.

PARTING WORDS

Félicitations! *Congratulations!* You've finished the lesson. You've learned how to count, how to form plurals, and how to use the very essential verb **être**, *to be*, along with subject pronouns. In case you want to count a bit higher, the word for *one hundred* is **cent**, *two hundred* is **deux cents**, *three hundred* is **trois cents**, and so on. *One thousand* is **mille**, *five thousand* is **cinq mille**, *eight thousand* is **huit mille**, etc. A few other useful numbers are the ordinals: **premier** (*first*), **deuxième** (*second*), **troisième** (*third*), **quatrième** (*fourth*), **cinquième** (*fifth*), **sixième** (*sixth*), **septième** (*seventh*), **huitième** (*eighth*), **neuvième** (*ninth*), and **dixième** (*tenth*). And that wraps up Lesson 3. Feel free to go back and review, or go on for more French.



Leçon Quatre: À la maison

Lesson 4: At home

In this lesson, you'll learn how to name common objects around the home. You'll also learn how to say *have*, which is another very useful verb to know. As usual, let's get started with some vocabulary.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

I have a house.

My house has six rooms.

There is a sofa in the living room.

There is also a TV and a computer.

There is a table in the dining room.

There is a bed in the bedroom.

There is a refrigerator in the kitchen.

There is a shower in the bathroom.

There are books in the library.

There is wine in the cellar.

There are flowers in the garden.

And there is a car in the garage.

J'ai une maison.

Ma maison a six pièces.

Il y a un canapé dans le salon.

Il y a aussi une télé et un ordinateur.

Il y a une table dans la salle à manger.

Il y a un lit dans la chambre.

Il y a un réfrigérateur dans la cuisine.

Il y a une douche dans la salle de bains.

Il y a des livres dans la bibliothèque.

Il y a du vin dans la cave.

Il y a des fleurs dans le jardin.

Et il y a une voiture dans le garage.

TAKE A BREAK 1

Let's pause. You just learned a lot of useful vocabulary for talking about the home. Did you notice a room can be called **une pièce**, or **une salle**? Also note that **bibliothèque** means *library*. The word **librairie** exists in French, but it means *bookstore*. Can you remember how to say *in*? You heard it in several sentences. It's **dans**. With cities, *in* is **à**: **à Paris**, **à Montréal**. And how about *also*? It's **aussi**. Finally, notice that the phrase **il y a** means *there is* or *there are*. So, you could say **il y a une belle fleur dans le jardin** (*there is a beautiful flower in the garden*) or **il y a six pièces dans ma maison aussi** (*there are six rooms in my home, too*). A good phrase to know with **il y a** is **beaucoup de**, which means *many* or *a lot of*. You learned it with the plurals: **il y a beaucoup de musées à Paris** (*there are a lot of museums in Paris*).

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Jean and Marie have a big apartment.

The living room has a grandfather clock.

The library has a computer.

The bathroom has a mirror.

The kitchen has a microwave oven.

Jean et Marie ont un grand appartement.

Le salon a une pendule.

La bibliothèque a un ordinateur.

La salle de bains a un miroir.

La cuisine a un micro-ondes.

TAKE A BREAK 2

Now let's take a closer look at the forms of **avoir**, *to have*.

<i>I have</i>	j'ai
<i>you have (familiar)</i>	tu as
<i>he has, she has</i>	il a, elle a
<i>we have</i>	nous avons
<i>you have (polite or plural)</i>	vous avez
<i>they have</i>	ils ont, elles ont

Notice that in French you use **avoir** to give an age: **J'ai trente ans.** *I'm thirty years old.* It's also used in many other common expressions where English uses a form of *to be*: **j'ai chaud** (*I'm hot*), **j'ai froid** (*I'm cold*), **j'ai sommeil** (*I'm sleepy*), **j'ai peur** (*I'm afraid*), **j'ai raison** (*I'm right*), **j'ai tort** (*I'm wrong*).

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's put everything you've learned so far together in a short comprehension exercise.

<i>I have a small house.</i>	J'ai une petite maison.
<i>We have a computer in the library.</i>	Nous avons un ordinateur dans la bibliothèque.
<i>They have a sofa in the living room.</i>	Ils ont un canapé dans le salon.
<i>She has a big bed in the bedroom.</i>	Elle a un grand lit dans la chambre.
<i>There is a shower in the bathroom.</i>	Il y a une douche dans la salle de bains.
<i>And there is a lot of wine in the cellar.</i>	Et il y a beaucoup de vin dans la cave.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

<i>Hi! My name is Antoine.</i>	Salut! Je m'appelle Antoine.
<i>I have a big family.</i>	J'ai une grande famille.
<i>And we have a big house.</i>	Et nous avons une grande maison.
<i>My father has a new car.</i>	Mon père a une nouvelle voiture.
<i>And my mother has a new computer.</i>	Et ma mère a un nouvel ordinateur.

My brother is thirteen years old.

He has a lot of friends.

My sister is eight.

She has a lot of video games.

And me, I have a little dog.

Mon frère a treize ans.

Il a beaucoup d'amis.

Ma sœur a huit ans.

Elle a beaucoup de jeux vidéos.

Et moi, j'ai un petit chien.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, you'll hear a phrase in French, and you should translate it into English. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause.

Il y a quatre pièces dans mon appartement. *There are four rooms in my apartment.*

Le canapé est dans le salon. *The sofa is in the living room.*

La cuisine a un réfrigérateur. *The kitchen has a refrigerator.*

La salle de bains a une douche. *The bathroom has a shower.*

J'ai un ordinateur dans ma chambre. *I have a computer in my room.*

Nous avons une nouvelle voiture. *We have a new car.*

Now you'll hear a sentence in French, for example **J'ai un petit appartement**. Then you'll hear a new subject, for example **Marc**. You should restate the sentence with the new subject: **Marc a un petit appartement**.

J'ai une petite famille/Nous. **Nous avons une petite famille.**

Tu as beaucoup de livres/Isabelle. **Isabelle a beaucoup de livres.**

Nous avons un canapé/Vous. **Vous avez un canapé.**

Ils ont un beau jardin/Robert et Julie. **Robert et Julie ont un beau jardin.**

PARTING WORDS

Tu fais des progrès! *You're making progress!* Now you know plenty of **vocabulaire**—that means **beaucoup de mots**, *a lot of words*. And you can put them together in sentences, because you know **beaucoup de grammaire aussi**. **Tu parles déjà français!** *You're already speaking French!* If you're ready for Lesson 5, go right ahead. If you'd like to review, you can do that, too.



Leçon Cinq: Les descriptions

Lesson 5: Describing things

In this lesson, you'll learn to describe things, both with descriptive adjectives and with possessives. First, let's get started with a few simple descriptive adjectives. You'll hear the English first, followed by two forms in French, masculine and feminine. We'll come back to how to use them in a moment. Ready?

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

<i>big</i>	grand/grande
<i>small</i>	petit/petite
<i>good</i>	bon/bonne
<i>bad</i>	mauvais/mauvaise
<i>red</i>	rouge/rouge
<i>white</i>	blanc/blanche
<i>blue</i>	bleu/bleue
<i>new</i>	nouveau/nouvelle
<i>old</i>	vieux/vieille
<i>handsome/beautiful</i>	beau/belle
<i>American</i>	américain/américaine
<i>French</i>	français/française

TAKE A BREAK 1

Okay, let's stop there. Adjectives in French have to agree with the noun they describe. That means that you have to use a masculine singular adjective with a masculine singular noun, as in **un homme français** (*a French man*) and a feminine singular adjective with a feminine singular noun, as in **une femme française** (*a French woman*). In writing, you usually add an **-e** to the masculine to get the feminine, and in pronunciation that usually means that a consonant ending that's silent in the masculine, like the **-s** in **français** or the **-d** in **grand**, will be pronounced in the feminine: **française**, **grande**. If an adjective already ends in **-e** in the masculine singular, like **rouge**, the feminine is the same. In some cases, you double the final consonant, and in other cases there are irregulars, like **vieux/vieille** (*old*), or **blanc/blanche** (*white*), and **nouveau/nouvelle** (*new*). Let's hear some more examples.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

an athletic boy

un garçon sportif

an athletic girl

une fille sportive

a happy boy

un garçon heureux

a happy girl

une fille heureuse

my old grandfather

mon vieux grand-père

my dear mother

ma chère mère

my charming children

mes charmants enfants

an amusing game

un jeu amusant

a beautiful house

une belle maison

a red car

une voiture rouge

a new sofa

un nouveau canapé

a good library

une bonne bibliothèque

TAKE A BREAK 2

Did you hear the different forms of the adjectives? You probably also noticed that most French adjectives come after the noun they describe, but a few common ones come before it, like **grand/grande** (*big*), **petit/petite** (*small*), **bon/bonne** (*good*), **mauvais/mauvaise** (*bad*), **beau/belle** (*beautiful*), **vieux/vieille** (*old*), **nouveau/nouvelle** (*new*). Adjectives also have to agree in number, but the good news is, the pronunciation is just about always the same in the plural as in the singular. In writing, there's usually an **-s** added. So, if **le garçon sportif** means *the athletic boy*, then **les garçons sportifs** means *the athletic boys*, with an **-s** on both **garçons** and **sportifs**. In the feminine, we have **la fille sportive** (*the athletic girl*) and **les filles sportives** (*the athletic girls*), also with an **-s** on both **filles** and **sportives**. Again, you can tell that it's plural because of the article **les**.

You probably also noticed the possessive **mon/ma** (*my*). Now let's look at some other possessives, which agree in gender and number with the possession. **Mon** and **ma** mean *my*, **ton** and **ta** mean *your*, and **son** and **sa** can mean *his, her, or its*. For plural possessions, use **mes** (*my*), **tes** (*your*), and **ses** (*his/her/its*). Let's see some examples.

my father and my mother

mon père et ma mère

your brother and your sister

ton frère et ta sœur

his/her bike

son vélo

his/her car

sa voiture

my notebooks

mes cahiers

your friends

tes amis

his or her things

ses choses

Did you notice the pronunciation of **tes amis**? **Tes** is spelled t-e-s, and the s is usually silent: **tes**. But if the next word begins with a vowel sound, that -s is pronounced: **tes amis**. This happens a lot in French, and not just with s: **mes amis**, **ses amis**, **mon ami**, **ton ami**, and so on. Finally, we have **notre**, which means *our*, **votre**, which means *your* (plural or polite) and **leur**, which means *their*. These forms are used for both masculine and feminine singular possessions: **notre maison** (*our house*), **votre voiture** (*your car*), and **leur ami** (*their friend*). For plural possessions, use **nos**, **vos**, and **leurs**, with an -s. Here are some examples:

our father and our mother

notre père et notre mère

our parents

nos parents

your brother and your sister

votre frère et votre sœur

your friends

vos amis

their car and their bike

leur voiture et leur vélo

their things

leurs choses

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's put everything you've learned so far together in a short comprehension exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the French, and then you should repeat for practice.

I'm French. (masculine)

Je suis français.

I'm French. (feminine)

Je suis française.

My flag is blue, white, and red.

Mon drapeau est bleu, blanc et rouge.

You are American. (feminine)

Tu es américaine.

Your flag is red, white, and blue.

Ton drapeau est rouge, blanc et bleu.

He is Canadian.

Il est canadien.

His flag is white and red.

Son drapeau est blanc et rouge.

My company is good and generous.

Ma firme est bonne et généreuse.

My boss is nice.

Mon patron est gentil.

Her employees are happy.

Ses employés sont heureux.

*My colleagues are athletic.
Her tennis racket is expensive.*

**Mes collègues sont sportifs.
Sa raquette de tennis est chère.**

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

*I'm admiring an old painting.
It's the Mona Lisa.
She is beautiful.
Her smile is mysterious.
Her hair is black.
Her skin is very white.
What are your favorite paintings?
Paintings are expensive.*

**J'admire un vieux tableau.
C'est la Joconde.
Elle est belle.
Son sourire est mystérieux.
Ses cheveux sont noirs.
Sa peau est très blanche.
Quels sont tes tableaux préférés?
Les peintures sont chères.**

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, you'll hear a phrase in French, and you should translate it into English. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause.

Ma maison est grande.	<i>My house is big.</i>
Ton père est riche.	<i>Your father is rich.</i>
Son drapeau est bleu, blanc et rouge.	<i>His/Her flag is blue, white, and red.</i>
Ses enfants sont petits.	<i>His/Her children are small.</i>
Ma mère est heureuse.	<i>My mother is happy.</i>

Great. Now do the opposite, translating the phrase from English into French. After a pause, you'll hear the right answer, which you should repeat for practice.

<i>My friends are nice.</i>	Mes amis sont gentils.
<i>Their teacher is intelligent.</i>	Leur professeur est intelligent.
<i>Your children are big.</i>	Tes enfants sont grands. or Vos enfants sont grands.

The wine is good.

Le vin est bon.

Your photo is small.

Ta photo est petite.

PARTING WORDS

Félicitations! *Congratulations!* You've finished the lesson. You've learned the basic vocabulary and grammar you need to describe things. Here are some other descriptive terms you can use, in both their masculine and feminine forms: **chaud/chaude** (*hot*), **froid/froide** (*cold*), **laid/laide** (*ugly*), **long/longue** (*long*), **court/courte** (*short*), **fort/forte** (*strong*), **doux/douce** (*sweet or soft*), **haut/haute** (*high*), **bas/basse** (*low*), **délicieux/délicieuse** (*delicious*). A few others have the same forms for both genders: **facile** (*easy*), **difficile** (*difficult*), **malade** (*sick*), **jeune** (*young*), **triste** (*sad*), **pauvre** (*poor*), **sale** (*dirty*), **propre** (*clean*), **agréable** (*pleasant, enjoyable*), and **calme** (*quiet*).



Leçon Six: En ville

Lesson 6: Around town

In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask for directions, which means you'll learn a lot of useful vocabulary related to questions and getting around town. Let's get started with some basic question words. Ready? **On y va!** *Let's go!*

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

Where?

Où?

Where is the Eiffel Tower, please?

Où est la Tour Eiffel, s'il vous plaît?

Where is Sacré Cœur?

Où se trouve le Sacré-Cœur ?

Which?

Quel?

Which is the subway station for the Arc de Triomphe?

Quelle est la station de métro pour l'Arc de Triomphe?

Which is the bus stop for the Louvre museum?

Quel est l'arrêt de bus pour le musée du Louvre?

How?

Comment?

How does one get to the post office?

Comment va-t-on à la poste?

Who?

Qui?

Who is the guide?

Qui est le guide?

What?

Qu'est-ce que . . . ?

What do you want to do?

Qu'est-ce que vous voulez faire?

TAKE A BREAK 1

Okay, you've just learned a few useful question words: **où** (*where*), **quel** (*which*), **comment** (*how*), **qui** (*who*), and **qu'est-ce que** (*what*). Notice that you can ask where things are in two ways, by using the verb **être**, as in **où est . . . ?** (*where is*) or **où sont . . . ?** (*where are*), or you can say **où se trouve?** which asks specifically where something is located. To ask *what*, start a sentence with **qu'est-ce que . . .** A useful question to know is **qu'est-ce que c'est?** (*what is this?*). The question word **quel** (*which*) is like the adjectives that you've learned; it actually agrees with the noun it's asking about, but this difference doesn't come up in the pronunciation. Finally, since we're talking about questions, let's go over asking yes-no questions. We'll use the sentence **vous êtes de Paris** (*you're from Paris*) as a starting point. You can ask *are you from Paris?* in three different ways. First, you can switch the order of the subject and verb: **Êtes-vous de Paris?** Second, you can begin the question with **est-ce que . . .**: **Est-ce que vous êtes de Paris?** And finally, you can simply use question intonation: **Vous êtes de Paris?** To answer *yes*, say: **oui, je suis de Paris.** To answer *no*, put **ne** and **pas** around the verb: **non, je ne suis pas de Paris.** Let's see some more examples.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Is the post office far from here?

Est-ce que la poste est loin d'ici?

No, it's not far.

Non, ce n'est pas loin.

It's very close.

C'est tout près.

Is the train station close to here?

Est-ce que la gare est près d'ici?

No, it's farther.

Non, c'est plus loin.

Is this the Île de la Cité?

Est-ce que c'est l'île de la Cité?

No, you have to cross the bridge.

Non, il faut traverser le pont.

Is this the way to Beaubourg?

Est-ce que c'est la direction de Beaubourg?

Yes, go straight ahead.

Oui, allez tout droit.

Turn right.

Tournez à droite.

Turn left.

Tournez à gauche.

TAKE A BREAK 2

You've just heard examples of questions and answers, and you've also learned some more vocabulary. Now you know that **loin** is *far*, and **près** is *close*. **Tout près** is *very close*, and **plus loin** is *farther*. **Ici** is *here*, and **là** is *there*. **Droite** is *right*, and **gauche** is *left*. Earlier you learned some vocabulary for getting around town: **la station de métro** is *the metro station*, **l'arrêt de bus** is *the bus stop*, **la poste** is *the post office*, and **le musée** is *the museum*. Now you've just learned **la gare** (*the train station*) and **le pont** (*the bridge*). You also heard the very useful expression **il faut**, which means *you have to*, or *it's necessary to*, as in: **il faut traverser le pont** (*you have to cross the bridge*). **Allez tout droit** means *go straight ahead*, and you probably recognized that **tournez** means *turn*.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's put everything you've learned so far together in a short comprehension exercise. You'll hear the English first, and then the French, and then you should repeat for practice.

Excuse me, ma'am, which way is Notre Dame Cathedral?

It's the first street after the bridge.

Is the Place de la Concorde far?

Yes, you need to cross the Seine.

Which is the bus stop for the Eiffel Tower?

It is the Champ de Mars stop.

Which is the subway station for the Arc de Triomphe?

It is the Charles de Gaulle station.

Where is the train station?

The train station is straight ahead.

Pardon, madame, quelle est la direction pour la cathédrale Notre-Dame?

C'est la première rue après le pont.

Est-ce que la place de la Concorde est loin?

Oui, il faut traverser la Seine.

Quel est l'arrêt de bus pour la Tour Eiffel?

C'est l'arrêt du Champ de Mars.

Quelle est la station de métro pour l'Arc de Triomphe?

C'est la station Charles-de-Gaulle.

Où est la gare?

La gare est tout droit.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

Pardon me, sir, I'm lost.

Where's the Champs-Élysées theater?

It's the third street on the right.

And it's after the avenue Montaigne.

Pardon, monsieur, je suis perdu(e).

Où se trouve le théâtre des Champs-Élysées?

C'est la troisième rue à droite.

Et c'est après l'avenue Montaigne.

Is the Café de la Gare far from here?

No, it's very near.

Which is the subway station for Sacré Cœur?

It's Montmartre.

Thank you.

You're welcome.

Est-ce que le café de la Gare est loin d'ici?

Non, c'est tout près.

Quelle est la station de métro pour le Sacré-Cœur?

C'est Montmartre.

Merci.

De rien.

You already knew a lot of that vocabulary, but there were a few new words, too. **Perdu** means lost, as in **je suis perdu**, *I'm lost*. You also heard **le théâtre** (*the theater*), **la rue** (*the street*), **l'avenue** (*the avenue*), **le café** (*the café*). *The third street* is **la troisième rue**. You should also know **la première rue** (*the first street*) and **la deuxième rue** (*the second street*). **Après** means after, and its opposite is **avant** (*before*). You also heard some polite expressions that are useful when asking directions. **Pardon** means *pardon*, **merci** is of course *thank you*, and **de rien** is *you're welcome* or *it's nothing*.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, you'll hear a phrase in French, and you should translate it into English. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause.

Est-ce que c'est la station de métro de l'Opéra?

Is this the Opéra metro station?

C'est tout droit.

It's straight ahead.

C'est la première rue à droite.

It's the first street on the right.

Où est la gare Montparnasse?

Where is the gare Montparnasse?

Je suis perdu.

I'm lost.

Great. Now do the opposite, translating the phrase from English into French. After a pause, you'll hear the right answer, which you should repeat for practice.

The museum is very close.

Le musée est tout près.

The post office is far.

La poste est loin.

Which direction is the bus stop?

Quelle est la direction de l'arrêt de bus?

You need to cross the bridge.

Il faut traverser le pont.

Is it close to here?

Est-ce que c'est près d'ici?

PARTING WORDS

Félicitations! *Congratulations!* You've finished the lesson. You've learned the basic vocabulary you need to ask for directions around **une ville** (*a city*). You may of course want to extend your vocabulary a bit. Some other useful vocabulary to know is: **un magasin** (*a store*), **une école** (*a school*), **un hôpital** (*a hospital*), **un cinéma** (*a movie theater*), **un boulevard** (*a boulevard*), **un supermarché** (*a supermarket*), **un restaurant** (*a restaurant*), **une boulangerie** (*a bakery*), **une pâtisserie** (*a pastry shop*) and **une pharmacie** (*a pharmacy*).



Leçon Sept: Au restaurant

Lesson 7: At the restaurant

In this lesson, you'll learn to name and order your favorite foods and dishes at a restaurant. You'll also learn how to indicate what you'd like with the equivalents of *this* and *that*, and since it's important to be polite when asking to be passed the salt, you'll learn how to form polite requests. So, **bon appétit!** Ready for some vocabulary?

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

this restaurant

this table

a fork, a knife, and a spoon

the plate and the napkin

the menu.

this menu

The wine list, please.

a dish

This dish is delicious.

The appetizer.

I'd like . . .

I'd like some soup.

ce restaurant

cette table

une fourchette, un couteau et une cuillère

l'assiette et la serviette

la carte or le menu.

cette carte or ce menu

La carte des vins, s'il vous plaît.

un plat

Ce plat est délicieux.

Le hors-d'œuvre.

Je voudrais . . .

Je voudrais de la soupe.

I'd like a drink.

I'd like a salad.

some bread and some butter

the salt and the pepper

the meat and the fish

Chicken, beef, or pork?

some cheese and a dessert

some coffee and some tea

With some sugar and some milk?

Je voudrais une boisson.

Je voudrais une salade.

du pain et du beurre

le sel et le poivre

la viande et le poisson

Le poulet, le bœuf ou le porc?

du fromage et un dessert

du café et du thé

Avec du sucre et du lait?

TAKE A BREAK 1

Okay, let's stop there. You've learned a lot of useful vocabulary for food and other items associated with a restaurant or with eating. And you also learned how to say *this*. Again, gender is important. *This* is **ce** for masculine nouns, so **le restaurant** (*the restaurant*) becomes **ce restaurant** (*this restaurant*). *This* is **cette** for feminine nouns, so **la table** (*the table*) becomes **cette table** (*this table*). With masculine nouns beginning with silent *h* or a vowel, **ce** becomes **cet**, spelled c-e-t: **cet œuf** (*this egg*). In the plural, its **ces**: **ces fromages** (*these cheeses*).

You also heard the very common preposition **de** (*of*) used in a few different ways. You can say, for example, **le goût de la soupe**, or *the taste of the soup*. If **de** is followed by **le**, you use **du** instead: **le goût du plat** (*the taste of the dish*). And when **de** is followed by **les**, you say **des**, as in **la carte des vins** (*the wine list*), which literally means *the list or card of the wines*. The same constructions can be used to mean *some*: **du pain** (*some bread*), **de la salade** (*some salade*), **du thé** (*some tea*), **de la viande** (*some meat*), **des légumes** (*some vegetables*), **du lait** (*some milk*), **du vin** (*some wine*), **des vins** (*some wines*), and so on. Finally, you learned **avec** (*with*), so we can add its opposite **sans** (*without*). **Du café avec du sucre** (*some coffee with some sugar*). **Du thé sans lait** (*some tea without milk*).

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

I'd like a table for two, please.

Give me the menu, please.

Have you chosen?

To start?

Bring me some bread, please.

Give me these appetizers, please.

Je voudrais une table pour deux, s'il vous plaît.

Donnez-moi le menu, s'il vous plaît.

Vous avez choisi?

Pour commencer?

Apportez-moi du pain, s'il vous plaît.

Donnez-moi ces hors-d'œuvre, s'il vous plaît.

Bring me this drink, please.

And for dessert?

Show me these pastries, please.

Give me a coffee with cream, please.

Bring me the check, please.

Apportez-moi cette boisson, s'il vous plaît

Et pour le dessert?

Montrez-moi ces pâtisseries, s'il vous plaît.

Donnez-moi un café-crème, s'il vous plaît.

Apportez-moi l'addition, s'il vous plaît.

TAKE A BREAK 2

Let's pause there for a moment. You've already heard the polite request **je voudrais** (*I'd like*), which of course is often used with **s'il vous plaît** (*please*). You could also simply say **je veux** (*I want*). Other ways to ask for things are to say **apportez-moi** (*bring me*) or **donnez-moi** (*give me*). Notice that these command forms end in **-ez**, spelled e-z. Another example of this was **montrez-moi** (*show me*).

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's put everything you've learned so far together in a short comprehension exercise.

Miss, bring me the menu, please.

What are the specialties of the day?

What are crudités?

Raw vegetables, mostly radishes.

Bring me the fish, please.

And for dessert, sir?

Show me the cheeses, pastries, and fruit, please.

Give me a coffee, please.

With some sugar and some milk.

Bring me the check, please.

Mademoiselle, apportez-moi la carte, s'il vous plaît.

Quelles sont les spécialités du jour?

Les crudités, qu'est-ce que c'est?

Des légumes crus, surtout des radis.

Apportez-moi le poisson, s'il vous plaît.

Et pour le dessert, monsieur?

Montrez-moi les fromages, les pâtisseries et les fruits, s'il vous plaît.

Donnez-moi un café, s'il vous plaît.

Avec du sucre et du lait.

Apportez-moi l'addition, s'il vous plaît.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

I'd like to reserve a table, please.

Bring me the menu, please.

Je voudrais réserver une table, s'il vous plaît.

Apportez-moi le menu, s'il vous plaît.

To start, madam, some appetizers?

Give me some homemade pâté.

And a bottle of red wine, too.

I'd like this onion soup.

Bring me this duck à l'orange.

And for dessert?

Some crêpes suzette.

Give me the check, please.

Pour commencer, madame, des hors-d'œuvre?

Donnez-moi du pâté maison.

Et une bouteille de vin rouge aussi.

Je voudrais cette soupe à l'oignon.

Apportez-moi ce canard à l'orange.

Et pour le dessert?

Des crêpes suzette.

Donnez-moi l'addition, s'il vous plaît.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, you'll hear a phrase in French, and you should translate it into English. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause.

Je voudrais réserver une table pour quatre personnes.

I'd like to reserve a table for four people.

Donnez-moi le menu, s'il vous plaît.

Give me the menu, please.

Et pour commencer, monsieur?

And what will you have to start with, sir?

Apportez-moi cette soupe à l'oignon.

Bring me this onion soup.

Donnez-moi une boisson, s'il vous plaît.

Give me a drink, please.

Donnez-moi l'addition.

Give me the check.

Great. Now do the opposite, translating the phrase from English into French. After a pause, you'll hear the right answer, which you should repeat for practice.

Bring me a quiche lorraine, please.

Apportez-moi une quiche lorraine, s'il vous plaît.

Give me a menu, please.

Donnez-moi un menu, s'il vous plaît.

I'd like a table.

Je voudrais une table.

Bring me some bread and some butter.

Apportez-moi du pain et du beurre.

I would like some tea with some milk.

Je voudrais du thé avec du lait.

The check, please.

L'addition, s'il vous plaît.

PARTING WORDS

Félicitations! *Congratulations!* You've finished the lesson. You've learned the basic vocabulary you need to order from a menu at a restaurant, and to use demonstratives to point out certain choices. You may of course want to extend your vocabulary a bit. Here are some other well-known hors-d'œuvres: **sardines sauce tomate** (*sardines in tomato sauce*) and **melon** (*melon*). Some other dishes, or **plats**, are **consommé au vermicelle** (*noodle soup*), **la bisque de homard** (*lobster bisque*), **la côte de porc** (*pork chop*), **le carré d'agneau rôti** (*roast rack of lamb*), **la truite au bleu** (*trout cooked in wine*), **la sole Mornay** (*sole in wine and cheese*), **le rôti de bœuf** (*roast beef*). Side dishes include **le riz** (*rice*), **des légumes** (*some vegetables*) like **les haricots verts** (*green beans*) and **les pommes de terre** (*potatoes*). Red, white and rosé wines are: **vin rouge**, **vin blanc**, and **vin rosé**. For dessert, you might want to try **pêche melba** (*peaches with ice cream*), **salade de fruits** (*fruit salad*), **mousse au chocolat** (*chocolate mousse*), or **crème caramel** (*a creamy dessert made with caramel*). And remember, if you just order **un café**, you'll get a black coffee. If you want cream in your coffee, order **un café-crème**. **Bon appétit!**



Leçon Huit: La vie quotidienne

Lesson 8: Everyday life

In this lesson, you'll learn some common verbs so you can talk about everyday life. First, let's get started with typical activities of your daily routine.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

I get up.

Je me lève.

I wash up.

Je me lave.

I have my breakfast.

Je prends mon petit déjeuner.

I get dressed.

Je m'habille.

I go to the office.

Je vais au bureau.

I go to school.

Je vais à l'école.

I work a lot.

Je travaille beaucoup.

I have lunch.

Je déjeune.

I go home.

Je rentre à la maison.

I have dinner.

Je prends mon dîner.

I watch television.

Je regarde la télé.

I read a book.

Je lis un livre.

I go to bed.

Je me couche.

TAKE A BREAK 1

Verbs are an important part of any language, and they're also usually difficult to master. We're not going to go into a lot of detail about French verbs in this program, but you'll learn enough of the basics so that you can get started using them. Verbs in French are conjugated, which means that they change forms slightly depending on the subject.

The basic form of a verb is its infinitive, which is just like the *to* form in English. French infinitives have a few different endings, but the most common is *-er*, pronounced **-er**. So for example, **travailler** is *to work*, **déjeuner** is *to have lunch*, **rentrer** is *to go home*, and so on. To conjugate these verbs in the **je** form, the *-er* ending is replaced by just *-e*, which is silent, and which gives you **je travaille** (*I work*), **je déjeune** (*I have lunch*), and **je rentre** (*I go home*.) Try that now with **regarder**, *to watch*. Can you think of the **je** form? It's **je regarde** (*I watch*.)

If you know the **je** form of an *-er* ending verb like these, you automatically know the **tu** (*you, familiar*), **il** or **elle** (*he or she*) and **ils** or **elles** (*they*) forms. They're spelled differently, but they're all pronounced just like the **je** forms: **tu regardes** (*you watch*), **il rentre** (*he goes home*), **elle travaille** (*she works*), **ils travaillent** (*they work*). In spelling, the **tu** form ends in *-es*, the **il** and **elle** singular forms end in *-e*, just like the **je** form, and the **ils** and **elles** plural forms end in *-ent*, which is completely silent. But they're all pronounced the same: **je travaille** (*I work*), **tu travailles** (*you work*), **il travaille** (*he works*), **elle travaille** (*she works*), **ils travaillent** (*they work*), **elles travaillent** (*they work*). The missing forms are the **nous** (*we*) and **vous** (*you polite or plural*) forms. For **nous**, add *-o-n-s*, pronounced **-ons**. And for **vous**, add *-e-z*, which is pronounced **-ez**, just like the *to* infinitive form. So: **nous travaillons** (*we work*), **vous travaillez** (*you work*).

Now, let's do the whole thing with another common verb, **parler** (*to speak*). Ready? **Je parle** (*I speak*), **tu parles** (*you speak*), **il parle** (*he speaks*), **elle parle** (*she speaks*), **nous parlons** (*we speak*), **vous parlez** (*you speak*), **ils parlent** (*they speak*), **elles parlent** (*they speak*). And that is how to conjugate a verb in French.

You have noticed that some of the verbs in the examples you heard above have a little **me** before them: **je me lève** (*I get up*), **je me lave** (*I wash up*), **je m'habille** (*I get dressed*), and **je me couche** (*I go to bed*). These are, in technical terms, called reflexive verbs, and French has a lot of them. All that means is that they're conjugated with an extra pronoun, in this case, **me**, which can be thought of as meaning *myself*. So, **je me lève** means something like *I lift myself out of bed*, **je me lave** means *I wash myself*, **je m'habille** means *I dress myself*, and **je me couche** means *I put myself in bed*. In the infinitive, the pronoun is **se**, so **se laver** means *to wash oneself*. That pronoun is also used with *he*, *she*, and *they*, so **il se couche** means *he goes to bed*, **elle s'habille** means *she gets dressed*, and so on. With **tu**, use **te**: **tu te lèves** (*you get up*).

Nous and **vous** are easy; just use the same pronoun twice: **nous nous lavons** (*we wash ourselves*), **vous vous habillez** (*you get dressed*).

Finally, even though most French verbs end in *-er* in the infinitive form and are conjugated like **parler** (*to speak*) or **travailler** (*to work*), there are some verbs that end in *-ir*, like **finir** (*to finish*), some that end in *-re* like **prendre** (*to take*), and plenty of irregulars, like **être** (*to be*) and **avoir** (*to have*), which you've already learned. You could spend a lot of time on French verbs, but in this program we're just going to cover enough of the basics to get you started.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

I do the house cleaning.

You do the cooking.

He does the shopping.

She consults the doctor.

We have fun.

You go to the movies.

They go to the theatre.

Pierre and Louis go to the soccer stadium.

I take a vacation.

We take the train.

Je fais le ménage.

Tu fais la cuisine.

Il fait les courses.

Elle consulte le médecin.

Nous nous amusons.

Vous allez au cinéma.

Ils vont au théâtre.

Pierre et Louis vont au stade de foot.

Je prends des vacances.

Nous prenons le train.

TAKE A BREAK 2

Let's pause. You've heard two important irregular verbs in that list: **faire** (*to do*) and **aller** (*to go*). The full conjugation of **faire** is: **je fais, tu fais, il fait, elle fait, nous faisons, vous faites, ils font, and elles font**. Notice that in this case, the singular **il/elle fait** does not sound like the plural **ils/elles font**. The **vous** form, **vous faites**, doesn't sound like the infinitive, **faire**, either. **Aller** (*to go*) is also irregular. Its forms are **je vais, tu vas, il va, elle va, nous allons, vous allez, ils vont, and elles vont**. You also heard **prendre** (*to take*), whose forms are **je prends, tu prends, il prend, elle prend, nous prenons, vous prenez, ils prennent, and elles prennent**. These three verbs are good irregular verbs to know, since they come up very often in French. Practice them by listening to their forms and repeating until you're comfortable. Also, go back over the examples you heard above and change the subjects. For example, instead of saying **nous prenons le train** (*we take the train*), say **je prends le train** (*I take the train*) or **elles prennent le train** (*they take the train*).

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Now, let's bring it together in a short comprehension practice.

Michel and Julie get up, and then they wash up.

They go to the office.

Michel takes the bus, and Julie takes the metro.

After work they go home.

Michel and Julie go shopping.

They go to the supermarket.

They take a taxi.

Over the weekend, they stay at home.

Julie does the cooking and Michel does the house cleaning.

Then they watch television together.

Sometimes they go to the movies.

Michel et Julie se lèvent, et puis ils se lavent.

Ils vont au bureau.

Michel prend le bus, et Julie prend le métro.

Après le travail, ils rentrent à la maison.

Michel et Julie font les courses.

Il vont au supermarché.

Ils prennent un taxi.

Le week-end, ils restent à la maison.

Julie fait la cuisine et Michel fait le ménage.

Puis il regardent la télé ensemble.

Parfois ils vont au cinéma.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

Robert gets up.

You go to school.

Henri has fun at recess.

I go back home.

Marlène does her homework.

She has her dinner.

We watch TV.

Paul goes to bed.

Rémy visits the museum.

Odile buys clothes at the store.

Robert se lève.

Tu vas à l'école.

Henri s'amuse à la récréation.

Je rentre à la maison.

Marlène fait ses devoirs.

Elle prend son dîner.

Nous regardons la télé.

Paul se couche.

Rémy visite le musée.

Odile achète des vêtements au magasin.

You buy stamps at the post office.

Tu achètes des timbres à la poste.

You wait in line.

Tu fais la queue.

Okay, you already knew a lot of that vocabulary, but there were a few new words, too. The verb **acheter** means *to buy*, **visiter** means *to visit (a place)*, and the reflexive **s'amuser** means *to have fun*. Other words that will come in handy in everyday life are: **la récréation** (*recess*), **les devoirs** (*homework*), **les vêtements** (*clothes*), **le magasin** (*store*), and **les timbres** (*stamps*). The expression **faire la queue** means *to wait in line*.

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, you'll hear a phrase in French, and you should translate it into English. You'll hear the correct answer after a pause.

Je vais au bureau.

I go to the office.

Tu fais la queue à la poste.

You wait on line at the post office.

M. Leroux se lave.

Mr. Leroux washes up.

Elle achète des vêtements.

She buys clothes.

Nous faisons le ménage.

We do the house cleaning.

Great. Now do the opposite, translating the phrase from English into French. After a pause, you'll hear the right answer, which you should repeat for practice.

Jacques and David have fun at the soccer stadium.

Jacques et David s'amuse au stade de foot.

Leon gets up.

Léon se lève.

Marianne goes to the office.

Marianne va au bureau.

Etienne takes the metro.

Etienne prend le métro.

Germaine consults the doctor.

Germaine consulte le médecin.

The children go to bed.

Les enfants se couchent.

PARTING WORDS

Félicitations! *Congratulations!* You've finished the lesson. You've learned the basic vocabulary you need to describe a few aspects of your everyday life. You've also learned a lot about using verbs in French. Some other regular *-er* verbs that may come in handy are: **étudier** (*to study*), **penser** (*to think*), **manger** (*to eat*),

payer (to pay), **aimer** (to love, to like), **s'appeler** (to be called), **arriver** (to arrive), **entrer** (to enter, to come in), **célébrer** (to celebrate), **chercher** (to look for), **écouter** (to listen to), **voyager** (to travel), **commencer** (to begin), **téléphoner** (to phone), **demander** (to ask), **détester** (to hate), **donner** (to give), **fermer** (to close), **habiter** (to live), **inviter** (to invite), **jouer** (to play), **chanter** (to sing), **montrer** (to show), **porter** (to carry, to wear), **présenter** (to introduce), **décider** (to decide), **trouver** (to find), and **terminer** (to finish). They all follow the same pattern as the regular *-er* verbs you've learned in this lesson. Don't forget that to say that you don't do something, just use **ne** and **pas** around the verb: **je ne chante pas** (I don't sing), **ils ne voyagent pas beaucoup** (they don't travel a lot), **nous n'habitons pas ici** (we don't live here). If you want to review this lesson to really master the basics of French verbs, go right ahead!



Leçon Neuf: Au travail

Lesson 9: At work

In this lesson, you'll learn vocabulary related to your work life. First we'll cover the names of some professions, along with verbs. Next we'll talk about the days of the week and how to tell time. Finally, we'll cover some more grammar related to verbs, and we'll go over negation with **ne pas** again. Ready?

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

The doctor practices medicine.

Le médecin pratique la médecine.

The teacher teaches a lesson.

Le professeur enseigne une leçon.

The artist paints paintings.

L'artiste peint des tableaux.

A lawyer is speaking with a client.

Une avocate parle avec un client.

The actor plays roles.

L'acteur joue des rôles.

A cook cooks dishes.

Un cuisinier prépare des plats.

The singer sings songs.

La chanteuse chante des chansons.

The writer writes books.

L'écrivain écrit des livres.

The soccer player plays matches.

Le footballeur joue des matches.

The manager organizes a meeting.

La gérante organise une réunion.

TAKE A BREAK 1

You probably noticed that the names of professions have different forms for different genders. Sometimes just the article changes, as in **un artiste/une artiste** (*an artist*). Sometimes an *-e* is added to the masculine to form the feminine, as in **le professeur/la professeure** (*the teacher*), **le gérant/la gérante** (*the manager*) or **un avocat/une avocate** (*a lawyer*). There are also a few common patterns of changes to word endings: **le chanteur/la chanteuse** (*the singer*), **un acteur/une actrice** (*actor/actress*), **le cuisinier/la cuisinière** (*the cook*). A few professions don't change at all: **le médecin** can be a *male* or *female* doctor, and **un écrivain** can be a *male* or *female* writer.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Now let's look at the days of the week and time of day.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

lundi, mardi, mercredi

Thursday, Friday

jeudi, vendredi

Saturday, Sunday

samedi, dimanche

What time is it?

Quelle heure est-il?

It's 1:00.

Il est une heure.

It's 2:30.

Il est deux heures et demie.

It is a quarter after four.

Il est quatre heures et quart.

It is a quarter to seven.

Il est sept heures moins le quart.

It's noon.

Il est midi.

It's midnight.

Il est minuit.

TAKE A BREAK 2

Notice that to answer the question **quelle heure est-il** (*what time is it?*) you just say **il est**, followed by a number, followed by **heures**. So, **il est cinq heures** means *it's 5:00*. The phrase **et demie** means *half past*, the phrase **et quart** means *quarter past*, and the phrase **moins le quart** means *quarter to*. So, **il est huit heures et demie** (*it's 8:30*), **il est onze heures et quart** (*it's 11:15*), **il est neuf heures moins le quart** (*it's quarter to nine*). It's important to note that most people in France use the twenty-four hour clock, so you'll hear **il est quinze heures** (*it's 3:00 in the afternoon*), **il est dix-huit heures** (*it's 6:00 in the evening*), and so on.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's put everything you've learned so far together in a short comprehension exercise.

It's Monday today, and the manager goes to work.

She gets to the train station at 8:10.

She takes the train at 8:15.

She gets to the office at 9:00.

She drinks some coffee and reads her e-mail.

She speaks with her colleagues.

They go to a meeting at 10:30.

They have lunch together at 1:00 in the afternoon.

Aujourd'hui c'est lundi et la gérante va au travail.

Elle arrive à la gare à huit heures dix.

Elle prend le train à huit heures et quart.

Elle arrive au bureau à neuf heures du matin.

Elle boit du café et lit ses e-mails.

Elle parle avec ses collègues.

Ils vont à une réunion à dix heures trente.

Ils déjeunent ensemble à treize heures.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

The actress performs Sunday at eight o'clock.

The teacher teaches on Mondays.

The singer sings Saturday at ten o'clock.

The lawyer doesn't sing.

The salesman never arrives before 9:00.

The director always works on the weekend.

L'actrice joue dimanche à huit heures.

Le professeur enseigne le lundi.

Le chanteur chante samedi à dix heures.

L'avocate ne chante pas.

Le vendeur n'arrive jamais avant neuf heures.

La directrice travaille toujours le week-end.

You just heard a few examples of times and days being used in sentences. To say that something happens at a particular time, use the preposition **à**: **J'arrive à huit heures et demie** (*I get there at 8:30*). To say that something happens on a particular day, just say that day, as in: **nous arrivons lundi** (*we're arriving on Monday*). To say that something happens in general, use **le**: **Vous allez à l'école le lundi et le mercredi** (*you go to school Mondays and Wednesdays*). Finally, don't forget that you can negate a verb by putting **ne** and **pas** around it: **je ne voyage pas** (*I don't travel*) or **elle n'étudie pas** (*she doesn't study*). If you use **jamais** instead of **pas**, that means *never*: **elle n'étudie jamais** (*she never studies*). The opposite is **toujours**: **elle étudie toujours** (*she always studies*).

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, translate from French into English.

Il est deux heures et demie.	<i>It's 2:30.</i>
Le médecin ne chante pas.	<i>The doctor doesn't sing.</i>
La directrice travaille toujours.	<i>The director always works.</i>
Le chanteur chante le samedi à huit heures.	<i>The singer sings Saturdays at eight o'clock.</i>
La cuisinière prépare le dîner à neuf heures.	<i>The cook prepares dinner at nine.</i>

Great. Now do the opposite, translating the phrase from English into French.

It is a quarter to eleven.

The writer doesn't take the bus.

The teacher never arrives at 10:00.

It's noon.

It's not midnight.

Il est onze heures moins le quart.

L'écrivain ne prend pas le bus.

Le/La professeur(e) n'arrive jamais à dix heures.

Il est midi.

Il n'est pas minuit.

PARTING WORDS

Félicitations! You've finished the lesson. You've learned the basic vocabulary you need to discuss professions, to give the time of day, and to use the days of the week. Now that you've learned *the days of the week*, or **les jours de la semaine**, you might want to know **les mois de l'année** (*the months of the year*). They're easy to understand: **janvier, février, mars, avril, mai, juin, juillet, août, septembre, octobre, novembre, décembre**. To say that something is in a particular month, say **en**, as in **mon anniversaire est en novembre** (*my birthday is in November*.) Seasons might come in handy, too: **au printemps** (*in the spring*), **en été** (*in the summer*), **en automne** (*in the fall*), **en hiver** (*in the winter*). So you could say: **il fait froid en hiver** (*it's cold in winter*), **il fait chaud en été** (*it's hot in summer*), **il pleut au printemps** (*it rains in the spring*), and **il fait du vent en automne** (*it's windy in fall*).



Leçon Dix: La vie sociale

Lesson 10: Socializing

In this lesson we'll talk about all the things that you like to do for fun, so you'll learn a lot of vocabulary for entertainment activities and sports. When you're making plans with friends, it's important to say whether you like or dislike something, so we'll cover that as well. **Commençons!** Let's begin!

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

Let's go to the movies.

The film starts at 10:00 and finishes at midnight.

Who'll choose the film?

I have theatre tickets.

We're going to a party tonight.

Let's go dancing!

I love this club!

Let's go out in town!

We're having dinner at a friend's house.

I like soccer.

Do you like swimming?

I prefer tennis.

I don't like horseback riding.

Allons au cinéma.

Le film commence à vingt-deux heures et finit à minuit.

Qui choisit le film?

J'ai des places de théâtre.

On va à une soirée ce soir.

Allons danser!

J'adore cette boîte!

Sortons en ville!

Nous dînons chez un ami.

J'aime le football.

Aimes-tu la natation?

Je préfère le tennis.

Je n'aime pas l'équitation.

TAKE A BREAK 1

There are a few things worth mentioning. You can make a suggestion with the **-ons** form of a verb, so **allons** means *let's go* and **sortons** means *let's go out*. Also note that in conversational French, you'll often hear **on** used in place of **nous**, so **on va à une soirée** means the same thing as **nous allons à une soirée**. You also heard quite a few ways of expressing what you like or dislike. **J'aime** simply means *I like*, and **je n'aime pas** means *I don't like*. You can ask what someone else likes with **aimes-tu?** or **est-ce que tu aimes?** Of course, you can be more polite by asking **aimez-vous** or **est-ce que vous aimez?** If you really love something, you can say **j'adore**, and **je préfère** means *I prefer*. Notice that French uses **le** and **la** in places where English doesn't use *the*: **j'aime la natation** (*I like swimming*).

You also heard two examples of verbs that end in *-ir* in the infinitive: **finir** (*to finish*) and **choisir** (*to choose*). The conjugation of *-ir* verbs is a bit different from *-er* verbs. The singular forms sound the same: **je finis/je chois**, **tu finis/tu chois**/**il ou elle finit/il ou elle chois**. In spelling, the **je** and **tu** forms end in *-is*, and the **il** and **elle** form ends in *-it*. In the plural, these verbs take the same endings as *-er* verbs, that's **-ons**, **-ez**, and a silent *-e-n-t*, but *-i-s-s* is inserted first. So you have: **nous finissons/nous choisissons**, **vous finissez/vous choisissez**, and **ils ou elles finissent/ils ou elles choisissent**.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

I want . . .

I want to go to the movies.

Do you want to go to a party with me?

I like to go out to clubs.

We want to go to the park.

He wants to go to a friend's house.

The girls want to play soccer.

I don't want to play tennis.

We can go horseback riding.

I can go swimming.

You can choose the restaurant.

Je veux . . .

Je veux aller au cinéma.

Veux-tu aller à une soirée avec moi?

J'aime sortir en boîte.

Nous voulons aller au parc.

Il veut aller chez une amie.

Les filles veulent jouer au foot.

Je ne veux pas jouer au tennis.

Nous pouvons faire de l'équitation.

Je peux faire de la natation.

Tu peux choisir le restaurant.

TAKE A BREAK 2

You've just heard some examples of the verbs **vouloir** (*to want*) and **pouvoir** (*can, to be able*). Both of these verbs can be used with another verb in the infinitive, so **je veux rester** means *I want to stay* and **je peux rester** means *I can stay*. These verbs are irregular, but a lot of the forms are pronounced in the same way. The conjugation of **vouloir** is **je veux, tu veux, il veut, elle veut, nous voulons, vous voulez, ils veulent, and elles veulent**. The conjugation of **pouvoir** is **je peux, tu peux, il peut, elle peut, nous pouvons, vous pouvez, ils peuvent, elles peuvent**. Notice that you can also use the verbs **aimer, adorer, and préférer** with other infinitives, just like **vouloir** and **pouvoir**. So, you can say: **j'aime aller au cinéma** (*I like to go to the movies*), **j'adore aller au cinéma** (*I love to go to the movies*), **je préfère aller au cinéma** (*I prefer to go to the movies*), **je veux aller au cinéma** (*I want to go to the movies*), and **je peux aller au cinéma** (*I can go to the movies*). Finally, notice that **chez** is used to mean *at someone's house or place*, so **chez mes amis** means *at my friends' house*, **chez Marc** is *at Marc's house*, and **chez moi** is *at my place*.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Okay, let's put everything you've learned so far together in a short comprehension exercise.

Here's Camille.

Camille is athletic.

She likes to play tennis.

She doesn't like the movies.

Voici Camille.

Camille est sportive.

Elle aime jouer au tennis.

Elle n'aime pas le cinéma.

Jean prefers going to the theatre.

Jean goes to town every Saturday.

Jean goes to a friend's house.

They love to go out to clubs.

Jean préfère aller au théâtre.

Jean va en ville tous les samedis.

Jean va chez un ami.

Ils adorent sortir en boîte.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now let's bring it all together, and add a little bit more vocabulary and structure.

Hi, I'm Léon.

I am athletic. And you?

No, I prefer the theater.

I like movies and museums, too.

Me too, I like museums!

Do you want to come with me?

Okay, I'll come with you.

Afterwards, there's a party at my friend's house.

All my friends are coming.

Perfect. Let's go!

Salut, je suis Léon.

Je suis sportif. Et toi?

Non, moi je préfère le théâtre.

J'aime aussi le cinéma et les musées.

Moi aussi, j'aime les musées!

Veux-tu venir avec moi?

D'accord, je viens avec toi.

Après, il y a une fête chez mon amie.

Tous mes amis viennent.

Parfait. Allons-y!

TAKE A BREAK 2

You heard one more common verb in that list. That's the verb **venir**, *to come*. The forms are: **je viens, tu viens, il vient, elle vient, nous venons, vous venez, ils viennent, elles viennent**. You can say, for example, **je veux venir avec toi** (*I want to come with you*). Notice that you use the pronoun **toi** after **avec**. You could also say **avec moi** (*with me*), **avec lui** (*with him*), **avec elle** (*with her*), **avec nous** (*with us*), **avec vous** (*with you*), **avec eux** (*with them, masculine*), or **avec elles** (*with them, feminine*). These are good phrases to know when you're making plans: **Tu veux venir au cinéma avec nous ce soir?** (*Do you want to come to the movies with us tonight?*) **Tu veux aller au restaurant avec moi demain soir?** (*Do you want to go to the restaurant with me tomorrow night?*) **Non, je ne veux pas aller à la soirée avec eux!** (*No, I don't want to go to the party with them!*)

WORK OUT

Now let's practice some of what you've learned. First, you'll hear a phrase in French, and you should translate it into English.

Hervé n'aime pas l'équitation.	<i>Hervé doesn't like horseback riding.</i>
Tu veux sortir en boîte avec moi?	<i>Do you want to go out to a club with me?</i>
Je joue au football et au tennis.	<i>I play soccer and tennis.</i>
Veux-tu venir chez mon ami?	<i>Do you want to come to my friend's house?</i>
Nathalie choisit un bon film français.	<i>Nathalie chooses a good French film.</i>
Allons-y!	<i>Let's go!</i>

Now change the following likes to dislikes, or vice versa. So, if you hear **Jacques aime le théâtre**, you'd say **Jacques n'aime pas le théâtre**.

Jacques aime les sports.	Jacques n'aime pas les sports.
Je n'aime pas les magasins.	J'aime les magasins.
Stéphane joue au tennis.	Stéphane ne joue pas au tennis.
Je ne suis pas sportif.	Je suis sportif.
Je vais chez mes amis.	Je ne vais pas chez mes amis.

PARTING WORDS

Très bien! Tu as terminé la leçon. *Very good! You've finished the lesson.* You've learned the basic vocabulary you need to talk about some recreational activities. You may want to extend your vocabulary with some more popular activities: **le ski** (*skiing*), **l'alpinisme** (*climbing*), **l'haltérophilie** (*weight lifting*), **la course à pied** (*running*), **le patin à glace** (*ice skating*), **la voile** (*sailing*), **les jeux électroniques** (*electronic games*), **la danse** (*dancing*), **la cuisine** (*cooking*), **la moto** (*motorcycling*), or maybe even **prendre un verre avec des amis** (*having a drink with friends*). **A votre santé!** (*To your health!*)

CONVERSATIONS

Bienvenue! *Welcome!* Here's your chance to practice all the vocabulary and grammar you've mastered in ten lessons of *Starting Out in French* with these five everyday dialogues.

You'll hear the dialogue first in French at a conversational pace. Listen carefully for meaning. Can you get the gist of the conversation? Next, you'll hear each sentence individually, first in French and then in English. This should help fill in any gaps in understanding you had the first time. Finally, you'll do some role-play by taking part in the same conversation. You'll first hear the native speaker say a line from the dialogue, then you'll respond appropriately in the pause provided.

Have fun!

DIALOGUE 1: TALKING ABOUT THE FAMILY

- Corinne: **J'ai une petite famille. Et toi, Jean-Louis?**
I have a small family. How about you, Jean-Louis?
- Jean-Louis: **Moi, j'ai une grande famille.**
Me, I have a big family.
- Corinne: **Vous êtes combien?**
How many are you?
- Jean-Louis: **Il y a sept personnes dans ma famille.**
There are seven people in my family.
- Corinne: **Combien de frères as-tu?**
How many brothers do you have?
- Jean-Louis: **J'ai deux frères.**
I have two brothers.
- Corinne: **Et combien de sœurs?**
And how many sisters?
- Jean-Louis: **J'ai trois sœurs. Avec moi, ça fait six enfants. Avec maman et papa, ça fait huit personnes en tout.**
I have three sisters. With me, that makes six children. With Mom and Dad, that's a total of eight people.
- Corinne: **Oui, en effet c'est une grande famille.**
Yes, really, that is a big family.
- Jean-Louis: **Et dans ta famille, il y a combien de personnes?**
And in your family, how many people are there?
- Corinne: **Il y a quatre personnes: papa, maman et moi. Je n'ai pas de frères ou de sœurs. Je suis fille unique.**
There are four people: Dad, Mom, and me. I don't have any brothers or sisters. I'm an only child.
- Jean-Louis: **Mais qui est la quatrième personne?**
But who's the fourth person?
- Corinne: **C'est ma grand-mère. Elle habite chez nous.**
That's my grandmother. She lives with us.
- Jean-Louis: **Que fait ton père?**
What does your father do?
- Corinne: **Il est musicien. Et ton père?**
He's a musician. And your father?

- Jean-Louis: **Mon père et ma mère sont profs.**
My father and my mother are professors.
- Corinne: **Ma mère est prof aussi, à l'université.**
My mother is also a professor, at the university.
- Jean-Louis: **Quelle coïncidence!**
What a coincidence!

DIALOGUE 2: THE NEW HOUSE

- Thierry: **Salut, Naomi, bienvenue dans ma nouvelle maison!**
Hi, Naomi, welcome to my new house!
- Naomi: **Combien de pièces y a-t-il?**
How many rooms are there?
- Thierry: **Il y a neuf pièces. Veux-tu faire un tour de la maison?**
There are nine rooms. Would you like to take a tour of the house?
- Naomi: **Avec plaisir.**
With pleasure.
- Thierry: **Voilà le salon, avec un canapé confortable, une vieille pendule et une grande télé.**
Here's the living room, with a comfortable sofa, an old clock, and a large TV.
- Naomi: **Et ensuite . . .**
And then . . .
- Thierry: **Maintenant nous entrons dans la salle à manger, avec sa belle table et son lustre.**
Now we enter the dining room, with its beautiful table and its chandelier.
- Naomi: **C'est très joli. Et où est la cuisine?**
It's very nice. And where is the kitchen?
- Thierry: **La cuisine? C'est tout droit. Entrons. Il y a un grand réfrigérateur et un micro-ondes.**
The kitchen? It's straight ahead. Let's go in. There is a large refrigerator and a microwave oven.
- Naomi: **Et par ici, qu'est-ce que c'est?**
And what is this way?
- Thierry: **Voici la bibliothèque, ma pièce préférée. Il y a beaucoup de beaux livres, non?**
Here's the library, my favorite room. There are a lot of beautiful books, don't you think?
- Naomi: **Oui. Quelle collection!**
Yes. What a collection!

Thierry: **Et maintenant voyons les chambres. Il y en a trois.**
And now let's see the rooms. There are three of them.

Naomi: **Chaque enfant a sa propre chambre?**
Each child has their own room?

Thierry: **Oui, et ils ont chacun un ordinateur!**
Yes, and they each have a computer!

Naomi: **Thierry, où sont les toilettes?**
Thierry, where is the toilet?

Thierry: **À coté de ma chambre. Et la salle de bains aussi.**
Next to my room. And the washroom, too.

Naomi: **Merci. Tu m'excuses un moment?**
Thank you. Will you excuse me a moment?

Thierry: **Bien sûr.**
Of course.

DIALOGUE 3: GETTING AROUND TOWN

Colette: **Vous êtes perdu?**
Are you lost?

Omar: **Oui, mademoiselle. Où est la pharmacie, s'il vous plaît?**
Yes, miss. Where's the drugstore, please?

Colette: **La pharmacie? Il faut traverser le pont.**
The drugstore? You have to cross the bridge.

Omar: **C'est près d'ici?**
Is it near here?

Colette: **Non, c'est assez loin. Après le pont, il faut prendre la première rue à droite et descendre jusqu'au boulevard . . .**
No, it's quite far. After the bridge, you have to take the first street on the right and go down until the boulevard . . .

Omar: **Oui, et au boulevard?**
Yes, and at the boulevard?

Colette: **Vous traversez le boulevard et vous montez jusqu'au parc.**
You cross the boulevard and you go up to the park.

Omar: **C'est tout?**
Is that all?

- Colette: **Non, vous traversez le parc et vous arrivez devant une grande statue . . .**
No, you cross the park and you come to a big statue . . .
- Omar: **Une grande statue, oui . . . Et puis?**
A big statue, yes . . . And then?
- Colette: **Vous passez à gauche de la statue, et la pharmacie est dans la quatrième rue à gauche.**
You go to the left of the statue, and the drugstore is on the fourth street to the left.
- Omar: **Ah, enfin! C'est bien compliqué. Merci, mademoiselle.**
Oh, finally! It sure is complicated. Thank you, miss.
- Colette: **Je vous en prie, monsieur.**
You're welcome, sir.
- Omar: **Mais j'ai aussi une lettre à mettre à la poste. Où est la poste, s'il vous plaît?**
But I also have a letter to mail. Where's the post office, please?
- Colette: **La poste? C'est tout près d'ici.**
The post office? It's close by.
- Omar: **Super! Dans quelle direction?**
Great! In which direction?
- Colette: **Vous allez tout droit. Elle est devant vous.**
You go straight ahead. It's in front of you.
- Omar: **Alors, ça, c'est moins compliqué!**
Now, that's less complicated!

DIALOGUE 4: AT A RESTAURANT

- Élodie: **Monsieur, apportez-moi le menu, s'il vous plaît.**
Sir, please bring me the menu.
- Le serveur: **Voilà, madame.**
Here you are, madam.
- Élodie: **Quelle est la soupe du jour?**
What's the soup of the day?
- Le serveur: **C'est la bisque de homard, madame.**
It's lobster bisque, madam.
- Élodie: **Et quels sont les hors-d'œuvre?**
And what are the hors d'œuvres?
- Le serveur: **Nous avons des crudités ou du pâté maison.**
We have crudités or homemade pâté.

- Élodie: **Hmm, vous avez aussi de la soupe à l'oignon?**
Hmm, do you also have onion soup?
- Le serveur: **Oui, madame, et elle est excellente!**
Yes, madam, and it is excellent!
- Élodie: **Alors, donnez-moi une soupe à l'oignon.**
Then give me an onion soup.
- Le serveur: **Et comme plat principal, madame?**
And for a main dish, madam?
- Élodie: **Donnez-moi une côte de bœuf avec des pommes de terre.**
Give me a beef rib with potatoes.
- Le serveur: **Et comme boisson?**
And to drink?
- Élodie: **Du vin rouge, s'il vous plaît.**
Some red wine, please.
- Le serveur: **Et pour le dessert, madame?**
And for dessert, madam?
- Élodie: **Une mousse au chocolat et un café-crème.**
A chocolate mousse and a coffee with cream.
- Le serveur: **Voilà.**
Here you are.
- Élodie: **Merci, monsieur. Apportez-moi l'addition, s'il vous plaît.**
Thank you, sir. Bring me the check, please.

DIALOGUE 5: GOING TO THE MOVIES

- Joël: **Allô, Lilianne?**
Hello, Lilianne?
- Lilianne: **Oui, qui est à l'appareil?**
Yes, who is it?
- Joël: **C'est Joël. Veux-tu venir au cinéma avec moi samedi soir?**
It's Joël. Would you like to go to the movies with me Saturday night?
- Lilianne: **Oui, d'accord. Qu'est-ce qu'on donne?**
Yes, Okay. What are they showing?
- Joël: **Le dernier film de Hugh Grant.**
Hugh Grant's last film.

- Lilianne: **Est-ce que c'est en version originale?**
Is it in the original version?
- Joël: **Oui, bien sûr, et il y a des sous-titres.**
Yes, of course, and there are subtitles.
- Lilianne: **Parfait. Je n'aime pas les films doublés.**
Perfect. I don't like dubbed movies.
- Joël: **J'aime les comédies romantiques.**
I like romantic comedies.
- Lilianne: **Moi aussi. Et j'aime beaucoup Hugh Grant.**
Me too. And I like Hugh Grant a lot.
- Joël: **J'aime aussi les films d'action et les films policiers.**
I also like action films and crime dramas.
- Lilianne: **Moi, je n'aime pas les films policiers.**
I don't like crime dramas.
- Joël: **Même pas avec Robert de Niro?**
Not even with Robert de Niro?
- Lilianne: **Ah, si Robert de Niro joue dans le film, c'est différent.**
Oh, if Robert de Niro is acting in the film, that's different.
- Joël: **Alors, une autre fois, on va voir le nouveau film de Scorsese.**
So another time we'll see Scorsese's new film.
- Lilianne: **Excellente idée! Et ce week-end, on va dîner ensemble avant le film?**
Excellent idea! And this weekend, we'll have dinner together before the film?
- Joël: **Oui. Il y a un nouveau restaurant vietnamien dans le coin.**
Yes. There's a new Vietnamese restaurant in the neighborhood.
- Liliane: **Super. J'adore la nourriture vietnamienne.**
Super. I love Vietnamese food.

You've come to the end of *Starting Out In French*. We hope you've enjoyed your experience and plan to take your study of French even further. For more information on other Living Language French courses, visit www.livinglanguage.com.