



Beginner Lesson S1

French Lessons 1 to 25

1-25

Introduction

This is Innovative Language Learning.

Go to [InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks](https://www.innovativelanguage.com/audiobooks) to get the lesson notes for this course and sign up for your FREE lifetime account.

The course consists of lessons centered on a practical, real-life conversation.

In each lesson, first, we'll introduce the background of the conversation.

Then, you'll hear the conversation two times:

One time at natural native speed and one time with the English translation.

After the conversation, you'll learn carefully selected vocabulary and key grammar concepts.

Next, you'll hear the conversation 1 time at natural native speed at the end of the lesson.

Finally, practice what you have learned with the review track. In the review track, a native speaker will say a word or phrase from the dialogue, wait three seconds, and then give you the English translation. Say the word aloud during the pause. Halfway through the review track, the order will be reversed. The English translation will be provided first, followed by a three-second pause, and then the word or phrase from the dialogue. Repeat the words and phrases you hear in the review track aloud to practice pronunciation and reinforce what you have learned.

Before starting the lessons, go to [InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks](https://www.innovativelanguage.com/audiobooks) to get the lesson notes for this course and sign up for your FREE lifetime account.



Beginner Lesson S1

Have Them Chanting Your Name in French in No Time!

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Formal French

Robert Martin	Bonjour, je m'appelle Robert Martin.
Émilie	Bonjour, je suis Émilie.
Robert Martin	Enchanté, Émilie.
Émilie	Enchantée, Monsieur Martin.
Robert Martin	S'il vous plaît, appelez-moi Robert.

Formal English

Robert Martin	Hello, my name is Robert Martin.
Émilie	Hello, I'm Émilie.
Robert Martin	It's a pleasure, Émilie.
Émilie	Nice to meet you too, Mr. Martin.
Robert Martin	Please, call me Robert.

Informal French

Robert Martin	Salut, je m'appelle Robert Martin.
Émilie	Salut, je suis Émile.
Robert Martin	Content de te connaître, Émilie.
Émilie	Moi aussi.
Robert Martin	S'il te plaît, appelle-moi Robert.

Informal English

Robert Martin	Hi, my name is Robert Martin.
Émilie	Hi, I'm Émilie.
Robert Martin	Glad to meet you, Émilie.
Émilie	Me, too.
Robert Martin	Please, call me Robert.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
enchanté(e)	nice to meet you, pleased to meet you	adjective	feminine
suis	am (conjugated form of être)	verb	
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
s'il vous plaît	please (formal)	expression	
je m'appelle	My name is, I'm called	Phrase	
appelez-moi	Call me (formal singular or plural form)	phrase	
Mademoiselle	Miss	noun	feminine

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Il est enchanté de vous rencontrer.

"He is pleased to meet you."

Elle est enchantée de vous voir.

"She is pleased to see you."

Je suis pour l'équipe rouge.

"I'm for the red team."

Je suis dans le jardin.

"I am in the yard."

Je suis né en juin.

"I was born in June."

Je suis américain.

"I am American."

Je comprends le français.

"I understand French."

J'ai une voiture.

"I have a car."

Je vais bien.

"I am well."

Vous pouvez me donner un café, s'il vous plaît ?

"Can you give me a coffee, please?"

Je m'appelle Nicolas.

"I'm Nicolas."

Appelez-moi Nico.

"Call me Nico."

Mademoiselle et Madame.

"Miss and Mrs."

Mademoiselle, vous avez de la monnaie ?

"Miss, do you have change?"

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Giving Your Name in French

Bonjour, je m'appelle Robert Martin.

"Hello, my name is Robert Martin."

Appelez-moi (call me) is a direct request for someone to call you by a certain name or nickname. Both

statements, *appelez-moi* (call me) and *je m'appelle*, (my name is) are the conjugated forms of the verb *s'appeler*.

As we saw in Newbie Lesson #1, this is a pronominal verb. Please notice the -s' in the infinitive form of the verb *s'appeler*. The -s' indicates that the information given (in this case, a name) is reflected back to the subject.

Reflexive Pronouns

Je m'appelle vs. s'appelle

Use

We use pronominal verbs with a reflexive pronoun that corresponds to the same grammatical person as the subject.

1. *Je m'appelle*
2. *Elle s'appelle*

In each example, both personal pronouns and reflexive pronouns (-m' and -s') are in the same grammatical person. In example 1, the personal pronoun *Je* and object pronoun -m' are in the first person singular form. In example 2, both are in the third person singular form.

Form

Singular Form	
Person	<i>Personal Pronouns</i> <i>Reflexive Pronouns</i>
First Person	<i>Je me / m'*</i>
Second Person	<i>Tu te / t'*</i>
Third Person	<i>Il, Elle se / s'*</i>

Plural Form	
Person	<i>Personal Pronouns</i> <i>Reflexive Pronouns</i>
First Person	<i>Nous nous</i>
Second Person	<i>Vous vous</i>
Third Person	<i>Ils, Elles se / s'*</i>

* We only use the contracted form of the reflexive pronoun (m', t', or s') in front of verbs starting with a vowel.

Cultural Insight

Maintenance Festival

South Eastern France celebrates the Maintenance Festival in the region of Provence Alpes Cote d'Azur. This region shares its limits with Italy and the Mediterranean Sea. The Rhone Delta River is part of the region's identity and creates a peculiar area known as La Camargue, which is rich in traditions and customs. The maintenance festival, initiated by Frédéric Mistral, occurs yearly throughout the region and especially in Saintes Maries de la Mer, which is located in the heart of La Camargue. As its name indicates, they started this celebration to maintain the region's traditions, honor horses and bulls, and more specifically to honor the *provençal dialect* and traditional costumes. During the celebration, you can watch a parade where *gardians* (cowboys) and Arlesian women wear traditional costumes. They walk in procession to the sound of *galoubets* (flute) and *tambourins* (drums).

Other festivities, such as the *abrivado* and the *roussataïo*, offer the traditional Camargue horse breeders the opportunity to present their brood mares by taking them through the village. Finally, in the afternoon, a big Camargue bull-run takes place in the arenas to honor the *manades* (livestock) and their best-known bulls.





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The Potential French Peril They Won't Tell You About

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Formal French

Clever Robert Qu'est-ce que vous faites ?
 Jolie Émilie Je suis testeur d'odeur, et vous ?
 Clever Robert Je suis traducteur de braille.

Formal English

Clever Robert What do you do?
 Jolie Émilie I'm an odor tester, and you?
 Clever Robert I'm a Braille translator.

Informal French

Clever Robert Qu'est-ce que tu fais ?
 Jolie Émilie Je suis testeur d'odeur, et toi ?
 Clever Robert Je suis traducteur de braille.

Informal English

Clever Robert What do you do?
 Jolie Émilie I'm an odor tester, and you?
 Clever Robert I'm a Braille translator.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
Qu'est-ce que	what	interrogative pronoun	
vous	you - formal	personal pronoun	
testeur	tester	noun	masculine
faire	do, make	verb	
traducteur	translator	noun	masculine
braille	Braille	noun	masculine
odeur	odor	noun	feminine

toi	you	stressed pronoun (pronom tonique) corresponding to the 2nd person singular (Tu)	
un	a, an	indefinite article	masculine
et	and	coordinating conjunction	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Qu'est ce que c'est Le Louvre ?

"What is Le Louvre?"

Qu'est ce que tu as ?

"What do you have?"

Vous pouvez garder vos affaires de valeur.

"You can keep your valuable belongings."

Vous êtes contre la loi.

"You are breaking the law."

Il est testeur en logiciel d'informatique.

"He is a software tester."

Je peux lui montrer comment le faire.

"I can show him how to do it."

Le traducteur officiel est arrivé.

"The official translator arrived."

Le Braille est un moyen de communiquer pour les aveugles.

"Braille is a method of communication for the blind."

L'odeur nauséabonde est insupportable.

"The nauseating odor is unbearable."

L'odeur de ce parfum est agréable.

"The smell of this perfume is nice."

Tu fais quoi, toi ?

"What do you do?"

Toi, tu viens avec moi.

"You, you are coming with me."

Un peu d'eau.

"A little water."

Le roi et moi.

"The king and me."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking About Another's Occupation in French

Qu'est-ce que vous faites?

What Do You Do?

To ask for a person's occupation the question we use is *Qu'est-ce que vous faites?* This is an open question we use with the phrase *qu'est ce que* which means, "what" in English.

Qu'est-ce que

As seen in Newbie Lesson #5, *qu'est-ce que* has two other forms, *que* and *quoi*. Therefore, we formulate the question, *qu'est-ce vous faites?* ("what do you do" in standard French) as:

1. **Formal-** *Que faites-vous?*
2. **Informal-** *Vous faites quoi?* This is the most informal one of the three forms.

The word *faites* is a conjugated form of the infinitive *faire*, meaning "to do" or "to make." *Faire* is the most versatile verb in French because we can use it as the verb for playing sports, cooking, and many other situations.

Cultural Insight

Regional and National Parks in France

Since 1967, the French government, in association with local authorities, has created seven national parks and forty-five regional parks. Their purpose is to protect, promote, and manage a rural environment rich in biodiversity, as well as ancient traditions, customs, and crafts. Their goals are to maintain and develop a project that will promote a natural cultural heritage.

Ecomuseums

Each ecomuseum is a reproduction of a traditional village, and operational. They offer demonstrations of ancient professions or crafts from the region. You can find the ecomuseums within a regional or national park.



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Slow Down! You Haven't Even Asked if She's From France!

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Formal French

Clever Robert	Denzel, je vous présente Sophie Weber.
Denzel Snipes	Bonjour Mademoiselle. Enchanté.
Clever Robert	Sophie, voici le célèbre acteur Denzel Snipes !
Sophie Weber	Bonjour Monsieur Snipes,
Denzel Snipes	Vous êtes d'où ?
Sophie Weber	Je suis d'ici. Nous sommes nés dans le sud de la France.

Formal English

Clever Robert	Denzel, I'd like you to meet Miss Sophie Weber.
Denzel Snipes	Hello, Miss. Nice to meet you.
Clever Robert	Sophie, this is the very famous actor, Denzel Snipes!
Sophie Weber	Hello, Mr. Snipes.
Denzel Snipes	Where are you from?
Sophie Weber	I'm from here. We (Robert and I) were born in southern France.

Informal French

Clever Robert	Denzel, je te présente Sophie.
Denzel Snipes	Bonjour Sophie, enchanté.
Clever Robert	Sophie, voici le célèbre acteur Denzel Snipes !
Sophie Weber	Bonjour Denzel,
Denzel Snipes	Tu es d'où ?
Sophie Weber	Je suis d'ici. Nous sommes nés dans le sud de la France.

Informal English

Clever Robert	Denzel, I'd like you to meet Sophie.
Denzel Snipes	Hello, Sophie. It's a pleasure.
Clever Robert	Sophie, this is the very famous actor, Denzel Snipes!
Sophie Weber	Hello, Denzel.
Denzel Snipes	Where are you from?
Sophie Weber	I'm from here. We (Robert and I) were born in southern France.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
d'où	from where	prepositional phrase	
vous	you - formal	personal pronoun	
voici	here is, this is	preposition	
monsieur	sir, mister	noun	masculine
nous	we	personal pronoun	
ici	here	Adverb	
célèbre	famous	Adjective	feminine or masculine
être	to be	verb	
sud	south	Noun, Adjective (invariable)	masculine
acteur	actor	Noun	masculine

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

D'où tu viens ?

Vous êtes le bienvenu chez nous.

Vous êtes un ami de Madame Smith ?

Regardez ! Voici la Tour Eiffel.

Monsieur Moulin est le président de l'association.

Monsieur n'aime pas du tout le café sucré.

Monsieur Martin achète une voiture.

Nous voulons vous donner ce cadeau de remerciement.

Nous voyageons ensemble.

Nous apprenons le français.

Voici le musée d'Orsay.

Je suis ici.

Un célèbre général français est le général De Gaulle.

Il vaut mieux être seul que mal accompagné.

Il semble être heureux.

Être ou ne pas être.

Le climat du sud est doux.

Cet acteur a un don naturel.

Gaspard Ulliel est un jeune acteur français.

"Where are you from?"

"You are welcome in our home."

"Are you Mrs. Smith's friend?"

"Look! Here is the Eiffel Tower."

"Sir Moulin is the president of the association."

"Sir doesn't like sweet coffee at all."

"Mr. Martin is buying a car."

"We want to give you this thank you gift."

"We travel together."

"We learn French."

"Here is the Orsay museum."

"I am here."

"A famous French general is General De Gaulle."

"It is worth more to be alone than badly accompanied."

"He seems to be happy."

"To be or not to be."

"The climate of the South is mild."

"This actor has a natural gift."

"Gaspard Ulliel is a young French actor."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Formal Introductions

Vous êtes d'où ?

"Where are you from?"

For people meeting one another for the first time, or in formal or unfamiliar situations, we use the verb *être* and the personal pronoun *vous*.

For example:

1. *Je suis d'ici.*

"I am from here."

2. *Vous êtes d'où ?*

"Where are you from?"

The Focus of This Lesson is Informal Introductions

Tu es d'où ?

"Where are you from?"

For an informal introduction among friends or at a party, we use the verb *être* and the personal pronoun *tu*.

For example:

1. *Tu es d'où ?*

"Where are you from?"

The Focus of This Lesson is the French Verb *Être*

Nous sommes nés dans le sud de la France.

"We were born in southern France."

Suis and *êtes* are two separate conjugations for the verb *être*, the English verb "to be." This verb is the most versatile, and the most often used in French.

In the statement, *nous sommes nés dans le sud de la France* (we were born in south of France), the verb we use is *sommes nés*. The first element of the verb is *sommes*. It is a form of *être*. *Née* is the past participle of the verb *naître*. Consequently, the verb conjugated is *naitre* in the past tense. Therefore, *sommes* doesn't have its own meaning in this statement, but rather we use it as an auxiliary verb for *sommes nés*.

Cultural Insight

France and Immigration

France is a country with a history of immigration dating back for over 150 years. One of the main reasons is to maintain cultural and demographic enrichment.

France also likes to think of itself as a land of asylum for political refugees. In 1952, France signed the 1951 Geneva Convention, which governs current asylum methods. This created the *Office français de protection des réfugiés et apatrides* (OFPRA- French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons).

The second reason for immigration was the lack of human resources needed to rebuild the country after World War II. Family reunification has also been a factor in the trend of migration to *l'hexagon*. In July 1974, when economic growth was slowing down, the government announced that they would officially end immigration, although the right to asylum and family reunification would continue.

Recently, Nicolas Sarkozy's new immigration policy has aimed at lowering immigration by implementing newer, stricter laws on family reunification. His policy would call for DNA testing to verify the authenticity of blood related family members.



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Are We Feeling a Little Rude Today in France?

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Informal French

Sweetie Aurélie	Hé Danny. Comment ça va ?
Pimple Daniel	Ça va, merci. Et toi ?
Sweetie Aurélie	Ça roule Raoul !
Pimple Daniel	Oui, si tout va bien, on va bien !

Informal English

Sweetie Aurélie	Hey, Danny. What's up?
Pimple Daniel	I'm okay thanks, and you?
Sweetie Aurélie	I'm all right.
Pimple Daniel	Yes, if everything is well, we are well!

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
et toi	and you	interjection	
merci	thank you	phrase	
oui	yes	adverb	
ça roule	it's going, everything is fine, all is well	phrase	
bien	well, good	adverb	
(Comment) ça va?	How are you? How is it going?	phrase	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Moi, je vais bien. Et toi, ça roule ?</i>	"Me, I'm fine. And you, what's up?"
<i>Lui et toi, vous êtes bons amis.</i>	"Him and you, you are good friends."
<i>Merci énormément.</i>	"Thanks a lot."
<i>Milles mercis.</i>	"A thousand thanks."
<i>Oui, c'est certain.</i>	"Yes, it's certain."
<i>Oui, je suis d'accord.</i>	"Yes, I agree."
<i>Moi, je vais bien. Et toi, ça roule ?</i>	"Me, I'm fine. And you, what's up?"

C'est bien fait.
On vit bien.
Tout va bien.
Comment ça va ?

"It's well done."
 "We live well."
 "Everything is well."
 "What's up? How are you?"

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking "How Are You?" in French

Comment ça va ?

"How are you doing?"

To ask how a person is doing in French, we use the verb *aller*. It literally means, "to go."

With friends or people you know well, one can say *comment ça va*. We can omit the word "comment" and we can ask, *Ça va* instead. *Va* is a conjugated form of the third person singular verb *aller*. *Ça* is the neutral (neither feminine nor masculine) demonstrative pronoun which is equivalent to it.

Following are the alternative structures to ask how a person is:

French	"English Translation"
<i>Comment ça va?</i>	"How are you doing?" / "How's everything?"
<i>Ça va comment?</i>	"How are you doing?" / "What's up?"
<i>Ça va?</i>	"How are you doing?"
<i>Comment tu vas?</i>	"How are you?" / "How are you getting on?""*
<i>Comment vas-tu?</i>	"How are you?"

*For our listeners who speak British English.

Cultural Insight

Ça roule Raoul!

Ça roule raoul is a play on words that we also use when dealing with the verb *roule* when people use it as a slang term. *Roule* comes from the infinitive *rouler*, meaning to roll. However, in slang it means to either drive or cruise. Therefore, *ca roule raoul* would be equivalent to "everything's cool" in English.

We call slang *argot* in French. We use slang to convey secret messages or to talk about something in a

secretive manner. There are no boundaries on slang; each social group has a unique jargon.

Nowadays its main functions are encoding. For example, contemporary French slang refers to people from the housing projects who attempt to distance themselves from the productive society.

The origin of *l'argot* appeared during the middle age era with the immigrants from Brittany. People ridiculed the low level of French the immigrants spoke in the markets, as it always seemed to lead to disputes and arguments.

A little before 1630, the world of beggars adopted the word *Argot*, although its connotation was negative. Then around the 1700s, people also began referring to robbers as *l'argot*. Other argots (antagonists) developed in other social groups and each profession; each group had its own particular argot.



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Is That French Croissants and Coffee I Smell?

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Informal French

Pretty Julie	Bruno, ça va ?
Cheapo Bruno	Non, ça ne va pas.
Pretty Julie	Pourquoi ?
Cheapo Bruno	Parce que j'ai faim ! J'ai soif ! Je suis fatigué, je ...
Pretty Julie	D'accord, d'accord... À plus tard.

Informal English

Pretty Julie	Bruno, are you okay?
Cheapo Bruno	No, I'm not (okay).
Pretty Julie	Why?
Cheapo Bruno	I'm hungry! I'm thirsty! I'm tired, I'm...
Pretty Julie	Okay, okay...later.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
d'accord	okay	adverb, interjection	
fatigué(e)	tired	adjective	fatiguée (fem)
soif	thirst	noun	feminine
faim	hunger	noun	feminine
parce que	because	conjunction	
pourquoi	why	adverb	
non	no	adverb	
à plus tard	see you later	phrase	
être	to be	verb	
je suis	I am	phrase	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

On y va ? D'accord !

"Let's go? Okay!"

Non, je ne suis pas d'accord.

"No, I don't agree."

Elle est tellement fatiguée, elle ne peut pas dormir. "She's so tired, she can't sleep."

Tu as soif ?

La soif est une conséquence de la déshydratation.

J'ai faim.

La faim est une source de problème.

Il est triste parce qu'il a perdu son chat.

Pourquoi es-tu ici ?

Non, ce n'est pas vrai.

Je rentre à la maison. À plus tard !

Il vaut mieux être seul que mal accompagné.

Il semble être heureux.

Être ou ne pas être.

Je suis à la maison.

Excusez-moi, je suis maladroit.

"Are you thirsty?"

"Thirst is a consequence of dehydration."

"I'm hungry."

"Hunger is the source of problems."

"He's sad because he lost his cat."

"Why are you here?"

"No, it's not true."

"I went back home; see you later!"

"It is worth more to be alone than badly accompanied."

"He seems to be happy."

"To be or not to be."

"I'm at home."

"Excuse me, I'm clumsy."

Grammar Points

Some Usage of the Verb *Avoir*

Parce que j'ai faim ! J'ai soif ! Je suis fatigué...

"I'm Hungry, I'm Thirsty, I'm Tired..."

In order to express your physical sensations about hunger and thirst, talk about your possessions, or give other information, we use the verb *avoir*. It is as common as *être* and we use it in many contexts such as:

Idiomatic Expressions with *avoir*

Physical sensation	
French	"English"
<i>J'ai faim.</i>	"I'm hungry."
<i>J'ai soif.</i>	"I am thirsty."
<i>J'ai mal à la tête.</i>	"I have a headache."
<i>J'ai chaud.</i>	"I'm warm."

Age	
French	"English"
<i>J'ai cinquante ans.</i>	"I'm 50 years old."
<i>J'ai vingt-six ans.</i>	"I am 26."
<i>J'ai 33 ans.</i>	"I am thirty-three years old."

Possessions	
French	"English"
<i>J'ai un chien.</i>	"I have a dog."
<i>J'ai deux stylos.</i>	"I have two pens."
<i>J'ai trois frères.</i>	"I have three brothers."
<i>J'ai une idée.</i>	"I have an idea."

Enumeration	
French	"English"
<i>Il y a un stade.</i>	"There is a stadium."
<i>Il y a des nuages.</i>	"There are clouds."
<i>Il y a quelqu'un à la porte.</i>	"There is someone at the door."





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How Much Money Can You Afford to Throw Away in France?

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Formal French

Cheapo Bruno	Excusez-moi, combien ça coûte ?
Vendeuse	C'est un euro.
Cheapo Bruno	Et ça, c'est combien ?
Vendeuse	C'est aussi un euro.
Cheapo Bruno	Houah ouh ! Un euro ! Ce n'est pas cher !
Vendeuse	Monsieur, c'est le rayon à un euro !

Formal English

Cheapo Bruno	Excuse me, how much is this?
Salesperson	(It's) One Euro.
Cheapo Bruno	And this, how much is it?
Salesperson	That's also one Euro.
Cheapo Bruno	Wow! One Euro! How inexpensive!
Salesperson	Sir, this is the one Euro shelf.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
excusez-moi	excuse me	phrase	
combien	how much, how many	adverb	
coûter	to cost	verb	
vendeuse	saleswoman	noun	feminine
cher(e)	expensive	adjective	chère (feminine)
rayon	display, section (in small shop), department (in big store)	noun	masculine
monsieur	sir, mister	noun	
aussi	too	adverb	
un euro	one euro	phrase	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Excusez-moi avez-vous du pain ?</i>	"Excuse me, do you have some bread?"
<i>Combien coûte cette voiture ?</i>	"How much does this car cost?"
<i>Cette bouteille coûte vingt-cinq euros.</i>	"This bottle costs twenty-five Euros."
<i>La vendeuse est professionnelle.</i>	"The saleswoman is professional."
<i>Le voyage en Europe est cher.</i>	"This trip in Europe is expensive."
<i>Le rayon fromage est à droite.</i>	"The cheese display is on the right."
<i>Monsieur Martin achète une voiture.</i>	"Mr. Martin is buying a car."
<i>Elle aussi, elle est d'Algérie.</i>	"Her too, she is from Algeria."
<i>J'ai aussi un chien.</i>	"I have a dog, too."
<i>Ce jouet coûte un euro.</i>	"This toy costs one Euro."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking and Commenting on Prices in French

Going shopping involves asking about prices. To do so, make sure you know how to formulate questions.

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking About Prices

Excusez-moi, combien ça coûte ?

"Excuse me, how much is this?"

In order to ask the price of an item, we use questions with *combien*.

For example:

1. *Combien ça coûte?*
"How much is it?"
2. *Combien ça fait?*
"How much is it?"

You can place the question-word *combien* at the beginning or the end of the question:

For example:

1. *Ça coûte combien?*
"How much is it?"
2. *Ça fait combien?*
"How much is it?"

The Focus of This Lesson is Commenting on Prices*Houah ouh ! Un euro ! Ce n'est pas cher !***"Wow! One Euro! How Inexpensive!"**

In order to make comments on prices and express your joy or displeasure, you can use several expressions. They usually contain an adjective to describe the prices.

For example:

1. *C'est cher.*
"It's expensive."
2. *Ce n'est pas cher.*
"It's not expensive."

These comments may help you bargain. Bargaining is not very common, but you can initiate negotiating in open-air markets, flea markets, or in thrift stores carrying antiques or second-hand items. You can find flea markets and weekly open-air markets in villages or in the suburbs of bigger cities.

Cultural Insight

Shows, Fairs, Expositions and Much More

Do you want to experience Paris as a Parisian? For those who want to get off the tourists' beaten path, here are the smartest ways to do so.

You can purchase a modestly priced magazine (for 0.40 Euro) called *L'Officiel des spectacles*. This weekly magazine will tell you the schedule for every concert, show, movie, fair, open-air market,

exposition, and so on, for the week in Paris. You can buy a new edition each Wednesday in newsstands or in a *Bureau de tabac* (a tobacco shop). Of course, you will only find it in French, but isn't that the fun part? It is fun to be able to look through a French magazine and practice what you've learned by discovering how much more you know than you think.

Don't Get Ripped-off

Any price will always include the VAT tax of 19.6%. Follow is an index of prices:

Item	Price (in Euros)
Small bottle of water	0.50
Liter of petrol	1.30
Bottle of cheap wine	4.00
Filled baguette	4.50
Ten-minute taxi ride	10.00
Develop 36-exposure film	18.00
Hostel bed in Paris with breakfast	18.00
Rental of small canal boat per week	1,200.00

Average Room Prices (in Euros)	
Low	€15-50.00
Mid	€50-100.00
High	€100-150.00
Deluxe	€150.00+

Average Meal Prices (in Euros)	
Low	€4-15.00
Mid	€15-25.00
High	€25-35.00

Save 12% on Vat Tax!

How does the tourist tax refund work?

As a non-resident of the European Union, you are entitled to get back the 12% VAT tax (Value Added

Tax) you pay on some of your purchases. Items excluded are food, tobacco, and services (i.e., hotels, transportation, restaurants, and tips).

The procedure of filing the "Retail Export Form(s)" allows travelers to benefit from the exoneration of the VAT in stores that supply these forms.

Conditions (subject to government regulations):

1. At the airport when you exit the European Union (within three months of the purchase date) you must present:
 - A. Your passport attesting that you are a non-resident of the European Union and over the age of 15 years
 - B. The price tags of your purchases. They must be over 175.01 Euros and made on the same day, in the same store

The Customs Officer will stamp these items and you must mail them from the port of exit in the European Union.



Beginner Lesson S1

Why Would You Bring That to School in France?

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Informal French

Sweetie Aurélie	Qu'est-ce que c'est ? Est-ce que c'est ton animal de compagnie ?
Pimple Daniel	Oui, c'est ça !
Sweetie Aurélie	Incroyable ! Est-ce qu'il vit dans la baignoire ?
Pimple Daniel	Oui, c'est ça !
Sweetie Aurélie	C'est une anguille ?
Pimple Daniel	Ouais, mon père l'a trouvée.

Informal English

Sweetie Aurélie	What is that? Is that your pet?
Pimple Daniel	Yes, it is!
Sweetie Aurélie	Incredible! Does he live in the bathtub?
Pimple Daniel	Yes, it does.
Sweetie Aurélie	Is this an eel?
Pimple Daniel	Yeah, my father found it.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
C'est ça.	that's it	phrase	
Est ce que c'est?	Is it?	question	
animal de compagnie	pet	noun	masculine
incroyable	incredible	adjective	feminine or masculine
dans	in	preposition	
vivre	to live	verb	
baignoire	bathtub	noun	feminine
trouver	to find	verb	
père	father	Noun	masculine
Qu'est ce que c'est ?	what is it?	phrase	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

La vie, c'est ça !

"Life, that's it!"

<i>Est ce que c'est une Cadillac ?</i>	"Is it a Cadillac?"
<i>J'ai un animal de compagnie.</i>	"I have a pet."
<i>Cet animal de compagnie est une anguille.</i>	"This pet is an eel."
<i>Cette montre est incroyable.</i>	"This watch is incredible."
<i>Incroyable, mais vrai.</i>	"Incredible, but true."
<i>Papa est dans la cuisine.</i>	"Dad is in the kitchen."
<i>Nous sommes dans la ville de Mexico.</i>	"We are in Mexico City."
<i>Je veux vivre en France.</i>	"I want to live in France."
<i>On vit bien.</i>	"We live well."
<i>Il y a une baignoire dans ma salle de bain.</i>	"There is a bathtub in my bathroom."
<i>Dans mon bateau, j'ai une baignoire.</i>	"In my boat, I have a bathtub."
<i>Il a trouvé hier son ticket de loto.</i>	"He found his lotto ticket yesterday."
<i>C'est un bon père.</i>	"He is a good father."
<i>Le père de Christine est marié à sa mère !</i>	"Christine's father is married to her mother!"
<i>Qu'est ce que c'est Le Louvre ?</i>	"What is Le Louvre?"

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking Questions in French

To get information from someone, we can ask wh- questions or yes/no questions in French.

Asking Wh- Questions

Qu'est-ce que c'est ? Est-ce que c'est ton animal de compagnie ?

"What Is that? Is That Your Pet?"

Wh- questions are open questions (*questions ouvertes*). For these questions, the answers can be different according to the context.

For example:

1. *Qu'est ce que c'est ?*
"What is it?"

Asking Yes/No Questions*C'est une anguille ?***"Is this an eel?"**

Yes/no questions can only be answered with "yes" or "no." In French, we call these closed questions (*questions fermées*) in which the answer is limited to affirming or negating the information.

For example:

1. *Est-ce que c'est ton animal de compagnie?*
"Is that your pet?"
2. *Est-ce qu'il vit dans la baignoire?*
"Does he live in the bathtub?"
3. *C'est une anguille?*
"Is this an eel?"

Cultural Insight

S.P.A.: A Well-Known Organization in France

The *Animal Protection Society* (SPA) was created in 1845. Its first vocation was to protect horses, which were at the time numerous and used daily for transportation.

During the early years of its existence, many personalities such as Victor Hugo or Guy De Maupassant were active members. Victor Hugo was involved in a law proposal to protect animals. Guy De Maupassant launched and pushed the idea of opening the first animal rescue in 1881, which only opened its doors in 1903.

The activity of this organization grew not only to protect animals, but also to defend their conditions by denouncing experimentation on dogs.

Today, it continues its mission of prevention and information through animal hospitals where people in financial difficulty can bring their pets for sterilization and care. It continues with the publication of a magazine, a youth section to educate children to respect animals, and of course their political action to obtain laws in France and Europe that protect animals.





Beginner Lesson S1

Who Do You Think I Am...Your French Secretary?

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Informal French

Wiz Alice Allô ? Bien sûr, un instant. Aurélie, c'est pour toi.
 Sweetie Aurélie Qui c'est ?
 Wiz Alice C'est Daniel.
 Sweetie Aurélie Qu'est-ce qu'il veut ?
 Wiz Alice Hmm...
 Sweetie Aurélie ...Je ne suis pas là !
 Wiz Alice Aurélie !
 Sweetie Aurélie Okayay...

Informal English

Wiz Alice Hello? Sure, hold on. Aurélie, it's for you.
 Sweetie Aurélie Who is it?
 Wiz Alice It's Daniel.
 Sweetie Aurélie What does he want?
 Wiz Alice Hmm...
 Sweetie Aurélie ...I'm not here!
 Wiz Alice Aurélie!
 Sweetie Aurélie Okay...

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
instant	moment	noun	
bien sûr	of course	adverb	
Allô	hello (on the phone)	interjection	
vouloir	to want	verb	
toi	you (informal)	stressed pronoun (pronom tonique)	
pour	for	preposition	
Qui c'est ?	Who is it?	question	
là	there	adverb of place	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Un instant, s'il vous plaît.

Bien sur je vais faire un gateau pour ton anniversaire!

Allô qui est à l'appareil ?

Elle te veut.

Tu fais quoi, toi ?

Je suis pour l'équipe rouge.

Qui c'est ? C'est Kamel, le voisin.

Il est là.

"One moment, please."

"Of course, I make a cake for your birthday."

"Hello, who is on the phone?"

"She wants you."

"What do you do?"

"I'm for the red team."

"Who is it? It's Kamel, the neighbor."

"He is there."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Learning More About Wh- Questions

Qui c'est ? Qu'est-ce qu'il veut ?

Who Is It? What Does He Want?

We ask questions to get information or to learn something. We call questions with *qu'est-ce que* (what) and *qui* (who), "wh- questions" in English. We refer to them as open questions, or partial questions, in French. In fact, we identify partial questions as such because the questioning concerns only part of the interrogative phrase. This is the opposite in closed questions (total interrogation) in which the questions embrace the complete interrogative phrase. Let's see some examples for clarification:

Partial Interrogation or Open Questions:

The information asked is only about the subject.

For example:

1. *Qui tu invites?*

"Whom will you invite?"

Total Interrogation or Closed Questions:

The information asked is about the whole phrase: subject/verb/complement.

For example:

1. *Est-ce que tu invites Anne et Jean?*
"Will you invite Anne and John?"

Questions with Qu'est-ce que

Questions with qu'est-ce que ask about things. They inquire about a direct object (shown in bold in the example below):

1. *Qu'est-ce que tu lis?*
"What do you read?"
*Je lis un **roman**.*
"I read a **novel**."
2. *Qu'est-ce que c'est?*
"What is it?"
*C'est un **bijou**.*
"It's a **jewel**."

Questions with Qui

Questions with qui ask about people. These mainly ask questions about the subject (shown in bold in the example below):

1. **Formal:**
Qui est-ce?
"Who is it?"
C'est Paul.
"It's Paul."
2. **Informal:**
Qui c'est?/C'est qui?
"Who is it?"
C'est Paul.
"It's Paul."

Qui va au carnaval?

"Who is going to the carnival?"

Marie et Pierre vont au carnaval.

"Mary and Peter are going to the carnival."

Cultural Insight

How French Teenagers Dress?

Well, mostly as a teenager! Of course, that doesn't help much! The general tendency is not to wear shorts much except in summer on the beach, or when a heat wave hits the French territory without any warning! Sneakers are not very trendy either. Instead, girls and boys wear tennis shoes, the ones that are more casual. Oversized clothes are definitely out of style with the exception of maybe a few of them that follow the *cit * culture. *Les cit s* refers to the suburbs of the city where the you find low-income apartment buildings all built so closely together. Uggs or hoodies are not popular either. The teenagers consider Hoodies as more relaxing, home clothes for the rap music fanatics.

The best advice I can give any teenagers going to France for a while is to check the magazines for teenager's clothing that is sold in France, such as *OK Magazine* or *Jeune et jolie*. Another strategy would be to visit websites of clothes designer labels or shops such as *Diesel*, *Le temps des cerises*, *Colette*, or more affordable one such as *H&M*, *La Redoute* and *les 3 Suisses*.





Beginner Lesson S1

When Are You Going To Introduce Me To All Your Little Friends?

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Informal French

Wiz Alice Aurélie !
 Sweetie Aurélie Okayay...Pardon.* Hé Daniel !
 Sweetie Aurélie Super. Où est la fête ? *
 Sweetie Aurélie La fête est quand ? *
 Sweetie Aurélie À quelle heure est-elle ? *
 Sweetie Aurélie Ok, samedi à 18 heures. Au revoir.
 *Daniel is talking on the phone.

Informal English

Wiz Alice Aurélie!
 Sweetie Aurélie Okay...sorry.* Hey, Daniel!
 Sweetie Aurélie Great. Where is the party? *
 Sweetie Aurélie When is the party? *
 Sweetie Aurélie What time is it? *
 Sweetie Aurélie Okay, Saturday at 6
 *Daniel is talking on the phone.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
à quelle heure	at which time	interrogative phrase	
au revoir	good bye	phrase	
samedi	Saturday	noun	masculine
où	where	adverb	
quand	when	adverb	
pardon	excuse-me, sorry.	noun	masculine
fête	party	noun	feminine
super	great	interjection	
quel(le)	which, what	interrogative adjective	feminine
heure	hour	noun	feminine

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

À quelle heure tu viens demain ?

Au revoir, à demain.

Samedi, c'est le premier jour du week-end.

Où tu habites ?

Quand est-ce que tu viens ?

Pardon, vous pouvez me laisser passer ?

La fête de la Sainte Angèle est le 27 janvier.

C'est super d'être dans un pays exotique.

Quelle ville tu visites?

C'est l'heure de partir.

"What time are you coming tomorrow?"

"Bye, see you tomorrow."

"Saturday is the first of the weekend."

"Where do you live?"

"When do you come?"

"Excuse-me can you let me go through?"

"The celebration for Saint Angele is on January 27th."

"It's great to be in an exotic country."

"Which city are you visiting?"

"It's time to go."

Grammar Points

Gathering All The Information

Où est la fête ? La fête est quand ? À quelle heure est-elle ?

"Where is the party? When is the party? What time is it?"

To ask when (*quand*), what time (*quelle heure*), and where (*où*) an event happens, we ask partial or open questions. These types of questions give information on an event, such as a party or a festival. To formulate a partial or open question, you can use two-word order sequences.

Interrogative pronoun + verb + subject

Example:

1. *Où est la fête?* "Where is the party?"

Subject + verb + interrogative pronoun

Example:

1. *La fête est quand?* "When is the party?"
2. *À quelle heure est-elle?* "What time is the party?"

Cultural Insight

Vive la Musique!

Either at private parties or in public places, music is everywhere! The 21st of June, which corresponds to the 1st day of summer, is the worldwide day of music. It became an official national celebration in France in 1982. Its birth took place in Metz in Alsace, a northeastern region of France. Later, they extended it to the whole country, and now hundreds of countries have embraced it.

They chose June 21st because it takes place during the summer solstice and is one of the longest days of the year. It also symbolizes nature as being sacred, just as the pagans celebrated it and their harvests during the antiquity era. The music festival promotes music and encourages professional musicians or amateurs to play voluntarily in the streets. It enables a large number of people in the public to become acquainted with all sorts of music from different origins.



Beginner Lesson S1

Where Did You Say You Would Like To Go in France?

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Formal French

Enseignant	Daniel, Qu'est-ce que tu aimes ?
Daniel	Oh j'adore les animaux ! J'ai une anguille.
Enseignant	Une anguille ?
Daniel	Oui, une anguille. Elle vit dans notre baignoire !
Enseignant	Qui aime les anguilles ?
Fille	Je n'aime pas du tout les poissons.
Garçon	Je déteste les poissons !
Daniel	Si vous n'aimez pas mon anguille, alors je ne vous aime plus !

Formal English

Teacher	Daniel, What do you like?
Daniel	Oh, I love animals! We have an eel.
Teacher	An eel?
Daniel	Yes, an eel. It lives in our bathtub!
Teacher	Who likes eels?
Girl	I don't like fish at all.
Boy	I hate fish!
Daniel	If you don't like my eel, then I don't like you anymore!

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
si	if	conjunction	
poisson	fish	noun	masculine
les	the	definite article	
notre	our	possessive adjective	
avoir	to have	auxiliary verb	
animaux	animals	noun	masculine
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
adorer	to be fond of, to love	verb	
aimer	to love	verb	
alors	then, yet, so	adverb	
vivre	to live	verb	
pas du tout	not at all	phrase	

détester	to hate	verb	
baignoire	bathtub	noun	feminine

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Si vous acceptez, je peux vous offrir dix pourcent de réduction.</i>	"If you accept, I can offer a 10% discount."
<i>J'adore les poissons d'eau douce.</i>	"I'm fond of fishes from fresh water."
<i>Les gens peuvent être amusants.</i>	"People can be funny."
<i>Notre compte en banque est à zéro.</i>	"Our bank account is at zero."
<i>J'ai trente-trois ans.</i>	"I am thirty-three years old."
<i>Dee Dee Bridgewater et Nina Simone ont de belles voix.</i>	"Dee Dee Bridgewater and Nina Somine have beautiful voices."
<i>Excusez-moi avez-vous du pain ?</i>	"Excuse me, do you have some bread?"
<i>Il a le regard glacé.</i>	"He has an intimidating glance."
<i>C'est une idée surprenante que tu as là !</i>	"It's a surprising idea you have here!"
<i>Les animaux sont nourris.</i>	"The animals are fed."
<i>J'admets mes erreurs.</i>	"I admit my mistakes."
<i>Je vais bien.</i>	"I am well."
<i>Il adore sa femme.</i>	"He's fond of his wife."
<i>On aime l'apéritif.</i>	"We love the aperitif." (See cultural insight newbie lesson # 2)
<i>Alors, que faites-vous ?</i>	"So, what do you do ?"
<i>Je veux vivre en France.</i>	"I want to live in France."
<i>On vit bien.</i>	"We live well."
<i>Je n'aime pas du tout ta réaction !</i>	"I don't like at all your reaction!"
<i>On déteste le froid.</i>	"We hate the cold."
<i>Il y a une baignoire dans ma salle de bain.</i>	"There is a bathtub in my bathroom."
<i>Dans mon bateau, j'ai une baignoire.</i>	"In my boat, I have a bathtub."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Discussing Your Likes and Dislikes Using Different French Verbs

Qu'est-ce que tu aimes ?

"What do you like"

Verbs such as *adorer*, *préférer*, *aimer*, or *détester* express different degrees of preference. You may

use other verbs of preference as seen in French Newbie lesson #25.

To express dislike with the verb *détester*, you can use another phrase: the negative one.

For example, *ne pas aimer*, *ne pas du tout aimer*, or *ne plus aimer*, are some of the possible negative forms.

Covered in Newbie lesson 7, the negative form has two particles. The first particle can have either *ne* in front of verbs beginning with a consonant, or *n'* in front of verbs beginning with a vowel. The second particle can be either *pas*, *pas du tout*, or *plus*, (dependent on what you say) as we see in the dialogue phrases.

Examples:

1. *Je n'aime pas les anguilles.*
"I don't like eels."
2. *Je n'aime pas du tout les anguilles.*
"I don't like eels at all."
3. *Je ne vous aime plus.*
"I don't like you anymore."

Cultural Insight

French Preferences

With increasingly more time on their hands, French people have more opportunities to travel during the weekend or plan for a longer trip. Nowadays, the French are using about thirty percent of their time for leisurely activities. This phenomenon is due to several factors such as a shorter workweek (thirty-five hours a week) and check-holidays. These checks are a financial help for low-income families that allows them to leave their residence and spend money on their vacation. Consequently, hobbies have become the fourth largest area of spending in France, and tourism is the number one pastime in France. Vacation is a time that French people reserve in order to educate and enrich

themselves by visiting companies, museums, or sites of interest that promote regional customs. After travel and vacations, the next big pastime is watching television, which people do on average for about two hours a day, followed by reading (half an hour), and walking (twenty minutes a day). Other important hobbies include gardening and home remodeling. Computers and the Internet are also becoming more popular.

For the French, hobbies and pastimes are an occasion to unwind by doing what they enjoy and educating themselves.





Beginner Lesson S1

Who Will Be The First Branch They Cut Off The French Family Tree?

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Informal French

Aurélie Hé ! Qu'est-ce que DM signifie sur l'assiette ?
 Daniel Dufour Marie. C'est l'assiette de ma grande tante Marie.
 Aurélie Et là, c'est sa photo ?
 Daniel Oui, elle est avec mon oncle.
 Aurélie Elle semble de mauvaise humeur !
 Daniel On l'a surnommée Tatie la furieuse.

Informal English

Aurélie Hey! What does DM mean on this plate?
 Daniel Dufour Marie. It's my great aunt Mary's plates.
 Aurélie And there, is it her picture?
 Daniel Yes, she is with my uncle.
 Aurélie She seems nasty.
 Daniel We nicknamed her Nasty Auntie!

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
signifier	to mean	verb	
photo (photographie)	picture	noun	feminine
assiette	plate	Noun	feminine
sembler	to seem	verb	
surnommer	to nickname	verb	masculine (feminine)
humeur	mood	Noun	feminine
mauvais(e)	bad	adjective	mauvaise (feminine)
furieux (-euse)	furious, angry	adjective	furieuse (feminine)
oncle	uncle	noun	masculine
grande tante	great-aunt	noun	feminine

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Ça signifie que c'est interdit.

"It means that it's forbidden."

Le paparazzi acharné attend patiemment de prendre une photo.

Il est à gauche sur la photo.

La photo est nette.

Les assiettes sont lavées.

Cette assiette est sale.

Il semble être heureux.

Il est surnommé Momo.

Tu es de bonne humeur.

Je suis de mauvaise humeur aujourd'hui.

Elle est mauvaise en chimie.

La cliente est furieuse et le receptionniste est furieux.

Mon oncle s'appelle Eugène.

Ma tante est la soeur de ma mère.

"The fierce paparazzi waits patiently to take a picture."

"He is on the left in the picture."

"The picture is clear."

"The plates are washed."

"This plate is dirty."

"He seems to be happy."

"He is nicknamed Momo."

"You are in a good mood."

"I am in a bad mood today."

"She is bad in chemistry."

"The customer is furious and the receptionist is furious."

"My uncle is Eugene."

"My aunt is the sister of my mother."

Grammar Points

Family: Part 1

C'est l'assiette de ma grande tante Marie.

"It's my great aunt Mary's plates."

When socializing or getting to know people, a comfortable subject to talk about is your family. Families come in all shapes and sizes! Let's consider all the ethnicities present in France. The different ethnicities are due to colonization, decolonization, and European conflicts which encourage population movements in and out of the French territory.

Many immigrants arrived during the twentieth century from Arabian and African countries (such as Morocco and Algeria or other ancient colonies), Asian countries (such as Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos), as well as southern and eastern Europe. These groups depict the French population of today and shape one of the most multicultural nations in Europe.

Today, we will discover how to refer to family members. Much like Pimple Daniel talks about his *grande tante Tatie Marie* (great aunt), and his *oncle* (uncle).

Friendly Nicknames for Family Members:

Tatie is commonly used as a friendly nickname for aunt (*tante*) in families.

Papi is the nickname for *grand-père* (grandfather).

Mamie is the nickname for *grand-mère* (grandmother).

Papa is the nickname for *père* (father).

Maman is the nickname for *mère* (mother).

Cultural Insight

The French Family

After World War II, the French family changed. Before the war, ninety percent of French people got married, and ten percent had divorces. The average number of children was two to three.

Today, only half of them choose to marry and more than fifty percent divorce. People usually get married between twenty-seven and thirty years of age and have only one child. However, there are other forms of unions, such as the free union, that represent about fifteen percent of the population.

There is also the PACS (*Pacte Civil de Solidarité*/Civil Pact of Solidarity), established in 1999, which gives a couple more rights than being single, but makes it easier for them to separate than married couples. This pact also permits union between people from the same sex. Finally, there are also around two-million single parent families. The majority are mothers of one or more children. Among them, less than half are divorced. Single people are about one-third of the adult population.



Beginner Lesson S1

Who Turned Up The Heat In Here?

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Informal French

Pimple Daniel	Là c'est mon père, et là c'est ma mère. Ici c'est ma jeune soeur Estelle et mon frère aîné.
Sweetie Aurélie	Oh ouha ouh...ton frère est mignon !
Pimple Daniel	Quoi ? Mais, non !
Sweetie Aurélie	Ses yeux sont magnifiques. Il est mignon ! Et ton père, il est pas mal !

Informal English

Pimple Daniel	This is my dad, and this is my mom. Here is my younger sister, Estelle, and my older brother.
Sweetie Aurélie	Wow...your brother is hot!
Pimple Daniel	What? He is not!
Sweetie Aurélie	His eyes are beautiful. He's cute! And your Dad, he's not bad.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
aîné	elder	Adjective	masculine
mais	but	Coordinate conjunction	
mignon(ne)	cute	adjective	mignonne (feminine)
yeux (oeil)	eyes (eye)	noun	masculine
frère	brother	noun	masculine
pas mal.	not bad.	expression	
ton	your informal	Possessive Adjective	masculine or feminine
là	there	adverb of place	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

C'est mon frère aîné.

"It's my elder brother."

Il boit, mais il a encore soif.

"He drinks, but he's still thirsty."

Ce bébé est mignon.

"This baby is cute."

Les yeux des chiens husky sont bleus.

"Husky dogs' eyes are blue."

Mon frère est très mignon.

"My brother is very cute."

Le cousin de Colette est pas mal.

C'est ton stylo ?

Il est là.

"Colette's cousin is not bad."

"Is this your pen?"

"He is there."

Grammar Points

Overthere! Ici, là, là-bas...

To refer to a person on a picture, poster, or an object on a display, we use adverbs of place. For example:

Ici "here"

Là "there"

Là-bas "over there"

Pointing Out

We use these adverbs to point out someone or something to someone else. To locate or indicate where a person or an object is, you can use the following adverbs:

Loin "far"

Près "close"

Dehors "outside"

Dedans "inside"



Beginner Lesson S1

Do You Wear Spandex To Work?

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Informal French

Sweetie Aurélie Et ton frère, il fait quoi ?
 Pimple Daniel J'y crois pas !
 Sweetie Aurélie S'il te plaît !
 Pimple Daniel Ok. Mon frère est artisan ébéniste. Il a sa propre entreprise.
 Sweetie Aurélie Ah, ouais ?
 Pimple Daniel Et il joue à la guitare.
 Sweetie Aurélie La guitare ? Moi aussi !

Informal English

Sweetie Aurélie And your brother, what does he do?
 Pimple Daniel I don't believe this.
 Sweetie Aurélie Please!
 Pimple Daniel Okay, my brother is a cabinetmaker. He has his own company.
 Sweetie Aurélie Oh, yeah?
 Pimple Daniel And he plays the guitar.
 Sweetie Aurélie The guitar? Me, too!

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
croire	to believe	verb	
propre	own, clean	adjective	masculine or feminine
ébéniste	cabinetmaker	noun	feminine or masculine
artisan	craftsperson	noun	feminine or masculine
jouer	to play	verb	
entreprise	company, enterprise	noun	feminine
guitare	guitar	noun	feminine
y	it, there	pronoun	
sa	her, his	possessive adjective	feminine
aussi	too	adverb	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Je crois en lui.

Les chaussettes sont propres.

C'est ma propre voiture.

Un ébéniste fait des meubles en bois.

Un bijoutier est un artisan.

Je joue à l'harmonica.

L'entreprise fait faillite.

La guitare est un instrument à cordes.

J'y vais.

Sa moto est belle.

Elle aussi, elle est d'Algérie.

J'ai aussi un chien.

"I believe in him."

"The socks are clean."

It's my own car.

"A cabinetmaker makes wood furniture."

"A jeweler is a craftperson."

"I play harmonica."

"The company is bankrupted."

"A guitar is a cord instrument."

"I go there."

"Her motorbike is beautiful."

"Her too, she is from Algeria."

"I have a dog, too."

Grammar Points

Occupation

When socializing, asking about someone's occupation is a recurrent question you can ask in order to become acquainted with someone.

Asking about someone's job

As seen in FrenchPod101.com's Beginner Lesson #2, there are different ways to ask about someone's job. In a formal situation you would say *Qu'est-ce que vous faites*, or *Qu'est-ce que tu fais*, if you are confident that you've reached a certain familiarity level.

In the dialogue presented in this lesson, since Sweetie Aurélie and Pimple Daniel are teenagers and friends, the speech they use is familiar by asking *Il fait quoi?* Pimple Daniel's answer is *Il est artisan ébéniste*, "a cabinet maker." Note that when stating someone's job, we don't use an article in front of the occupation:

Il est artisan ébéniste. "He is a cabinet maker."

Il est ingénieur. "He is an engineer."

This particular profession doesn't have a feminine form.

In France, many others don't have any feminine equivalent used commonly in the language. Another example is, *un professeur*, which we use consistently for both men or women even though a decree from 1986 allows the "feminization" of occupations.

Cultural Insight

Traditional Professions

A craftsman is someone who is motivated by the rarity of his activity and is usually proud to expose or pass on his knowledge. They usually group themselves in a fraternity to promote their craft and let people know about their work as a fraternal society of cutler, jeweler, perfumer, cabinetmaker, chocolate maker, or baker, among many others.

In the sector where artisans are present, the craft industry represents about twenty-seven percent of the total employees. This proportion reaches one-third of the food, wood, and furniture industries; almost one-half of the construction industry, as well as in the transportation, repair, and other-services industries.

The craft industry takes an important place in the French economy. It is an industry that carries ancient traditions, enriching the culture and adapting to society and evolution. By combining traditional craft and new technologies, the craft industry became the first enterprise of France.

Among typical crafts job, there are:

1. Silver and goldsmith
2. Cutter
3. Iron craftsman
4. Ceramist
5. Glassblower
6. Wig maker
7. Pastry chef
8. Bookbinder



Beginner Lesson S1

Two Little Words That Can End Your Misery!

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Informal French

Sweetie Aurélie Mais, écoute ! Je l'aime bien !
 Pimple Daniel Oh, c'est dommage. Il a une petite amie.
 Sweetie Aurélie Il a une petite amie ? Oh, non !
 Pimple Daniel Et, si ! Désolé. Elle l'aime vraiment et il l'aime vraiment !
 Sweetie Aurélie Mais, je l'adore !
 Pimple Daniel Et moi ?
 Sweetie Aurélie Toi ? Hahahahahaha.

Informal English

Sweetie Aurélie But, listen! I like him!
 Pimple Daniel Oh, that's too bad. He has a girlfriend.
 Sweetie Aurélie He has a girlfriend? No way!
 Pimple Daniel Yes way. Sorry. She really likes him, and he really likes her!
 Sweetie Aurélie But I like him!
 Pimple Daniel What about me?
 Sweetie Aurélie You? Hahahahahaha.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
écouter	to listen	verb	
petite amie	girl friend	noun	feminine
vraiment	truly, really	adverb	
désolé(e)	sorry	adjective	
dommage	unfortunately	masculine noun	
si	yes	adverb	
petit(e)	small	adjective	masculine
ami(e)	friend	noun	masculine

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Écoute la chanson.

"Listen to the song."

Ma petite amie est Marie.

C'est vraiment le cas.

Madame est désolée.

Les dommages et intérêts sont élevés.

Mais si, il a raison.

Elle est petite.

Jean, c'est mon ami.

Marie est mon amie.

"My girl friend is Mary."

It's really the case.

"Madam is sorry."

"The damages and interests are high."

"But yes, he is right."

"She is small."

"Jean is my friend."

"Mary is my friend."

Grammar Points

Part 1: I Like Him! I'm Fond of You!

To Like or Not to Like!

To talk about likes and dislikes, you can use many different verbs. Verbs such as *adorer*, *préférer*, *aimer*, and *détester* express your degree of preference. You can also use other verbs of preference as seen in FrenchPod101.com's Newbie Lesson #25.

To express dislike, as in the verb *détester*, you can use another form of the phrase—the negative one you studied in FrenchPod101.com's Newbie Lessons 7 and 10. For example, *ne pas aimer*, *ne pas du tout aimer* or *ne plus aimer* are some of the possible negative forms. Following is a list of phrases from the strongest dislike to the strongest likes.

Examples:

Je déteste l'impatience. "I hate impatience."

Nous n'aimons pas du tout le froid. "We don't like cold weather at all."

Il n'aime pas être dérangé. "He doesn't like to be bothered."

Tu n'aimes plus les alcools forts. "You don't like strong alcohol anymore."

Eric aime un peu le folklore. "Eric hardly likes folklore."

Vous aimez bien l'histoire. "You like history."

J'aime les sports nautiques. "I love water sports."

Elle aime beaucoup le ski. "She loves skiing a lot."

Part 2: Et toi? Moi? "And You? Me?"

Stressed Pronoun Use

In order to ask a question back to the person you are talking to, we use the phrase *et toi*. *Toi* is a stressed pronoun, or in French *un pronom tonique*. We use French stressed pronouns (also known as disjunctive pronouns) to emphasize a noun or pronoun that refers to a person.

Examples:

Moi, j'aime bien les langues. "Me, I like languages."

Eux, ils sont de Barcelone. "Them, they are from Barcelona."

Et lui, il fait quoi? "And him, what does he do?"

Lui, il est comptable. "Him, he is an accountant."

Note that the English translations sometimes require different sentence structures than the object pronoun me, you, him her, and so on.

Stressed Pronoun Forms

There are nine forms of the stressed pronouns: *Moi/Toi/Lui/Elle/Nous/Vous/Eux/Elles*

Following are the subject or personal pronouns that correspond to the nine stressed pronouns:

Personal Pronouns/Corresponding Stressed pronouns

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
First person	Je / Moi	Nous / Nous*
Second person	Tu / Toi	Vous / Vous*
Second person of politeness	Vous / Vous*	- / -
Third person masculine	Il / Lui	Ils / Eux
Third person feminine	Elle / Elle*	Elles / Elles*

***Note** that the personal and stressed pronouns are identical for:

1. The first and second person plural
2. The second person (polite)
3. The third person feminine





Beginner Lesson S1

How Nice of You to Remember... umm... Someone's Birthday!

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Informal French

Collègues	Joyeux anniversaire. Joyeux anniversaire Alice.....
Wiz Alice	Non, non, non... ce n'est pas mon anniversaire aujourd'hui.
Lazy Zacharie	Quoi ?
Wiz Alice	Oui, mon anniversaire, c'est vendredi. Aujourd'hui, c'est l'anniversaire d'Anne.
Lazy Zacharie	Quel âge elle a ?
Wiz Alice	Elle a 40 ans.

Informal English

Coworkers	Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you...
Wiz Alice	No, no, no! Today's not my birthday.
Lazy Zacharie	What?
Wiz Alice	Yeah, my birthday is on Friday. It's Anne's birthday today.
Lazy Zacharie	How old is she?
Wiz Alice	She is forty years old.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
anniversaire	birthday, anniversary.	noun	masculine
joyeux (-euse)	happy	Adjective	joyeuse (feminine)
vendredi	Friday	noun	masculine
aujourd'hui	today	adverb	
an(s)	year(s)	noun	masculine
ce n'est pas.	it's not.	phrase	
âge	age	masculine noun	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Notre anniversaire de mariage c'est le 25 mai.</i>	"Our wedding anniversary is on May 25th."
<i>Il est toujours joyeux.</i>	"He is always happy."
<i>Joyeux Noël.</i>	"Merry Christmas."

Vendredi treize est considéré néfaste.

"Friday 13th is considered harmful."

Aujourd'hui c'est le quatre février.

"Today is the 4th of February."

Il a 3 ans.

"He is three years old."

Ce n'est pas mon cas, je suis dans une situation différente.

"It's not my case, I'm in a different situation."

Le moyen âge.

The middle ages.

Grammar Points

C'est/il est-Ce sont/ils sont

To describe and introduce things or people in French, we use two common phrases: *c'est* and *il/elle est*. Their plural forms are *ce sont* and *ils/elles sont*. However, the choice between *c'est* and *il/elle est* is not always easy.

C'est - Ce sont

C'est or *ce sont* are followed by a determined noun. Some examples are "*c'est vendredi*", "*c'est une Américaine*", and "*ce sont mes livres*".

We use these phrases to identify someone or something.

Ils sont / Elles sont - Ce sont

Il / elle est and *ils / elles sont* are followed by an adjective (such as *content*, or *sympathique*), or a noun referring to a qualification such as nationality, occupation, or religion.

An example of this use would be, *Il est medecin* ("he is a doctor"). We use these phrases to indicate a quality.



Beginner Lesson S1

But... I am Not Even Supposed To Work On Saturdays!!!

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Formal French

Lazy Zacharie Quel jour sommes-nous ?
 Wiz Alice Quel jour, quel mois, quelle saison nous sommes ?! Oh, Zacharie !
 Lazy Zacharie Mars c'est le mois des anniversaires. Tout le monde a son anniversaire.
 Alors nous sommes lundi, mardi ?
 Wiz Alice Lundi...c'est l'anniversaire d'Anne la Directrice commerciale et
 vendredi c'est mon anniversaire...
 Lazy Zacharie Aah...

Formal English

Lazy Zacharie Which day is this?
 Wiz Alice Which day, which month, which season is it!? Oh, Zacharie!
 Lazy Zacharie It's March; it's the birthday month! Everybody has their birthday! So, is
 it Monday, Tuesday?
 Wiz Alice Monday...it's Anne's birthday, the Commercial Director and on Friday,
 it's my birthday.
 Lazy Zacharie Aah...

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
monde	people	noun	masculine
tout(e)	everything, all, every	adverb	toute (feminine)
directeur (trice)	director	noun	directrice (feminine)
mars	march	noun	masculine
saison	season	noun	feminine
commercial(e)	commercial	adjective	commerciale (feminine)
mois	month	noun	masculine
jour	day		
quel(le)	which, what	interrogative adjective	feminine

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Le bar est plein de monde.</i>	"The bar is full of people."
<i>Il y a tout ici.</i>	"There is everything here."
<i>La directrice est au téléphone.</i>	"The director is on the phone."
<i>J'ai eu mon travail en mars.</i>	"I got my job in March."
<i>La saison des couleurs est l'automne.</i>	"The season of colors is fall."
<i>Elle est assistante commerciale.</i>	"She is a commercial assistant."
<i>Le mois de mai est le mois des jours fériés.</i>	"The month of May is the month of holidays."
<i>Quelle ville tu visites?</i>	"Which city are you visiting?"

Grammar Points

Which Day, Which Month, Which Season?

To ask about the nature of something or someone, we use the interrogative adjective *quel*. The question, *quel jour sommes-nous* means, "what day is it?" We can also use *quel* to:

1. Give an option- *Quelle boisson voulez-vous?* "Which drink would you like?"
2. Ask for the time- *Quelle heure il est?* "What time is it?"
3. In idioms- *Quelle barbe!* "What a drag!" / *Quelle galère!* "How difficult!"

Indicating The Seasons:

French: "English"

Le printemps "spring"

L'été "summer"

L'automne "fall"

L'hiver "winter"

When indicating the season, we use the prepositions *au* and *en*.

For example:

Au printemps

En automne

En hiver

En été

Le climat est meilleur au printemps. "The climate is better in spring."

Cultural Insight

Vive la France: up to Seven Weeks Paid-Vacation

Each year, August is the month of vacation for the French, who enjoy an average of seven paid weeks of time off. Unfortunately, with unemployment and travel costs rising, the ritual summer vacation that has for so long symbolized the good life-à *la française*-may be out of reach. Consequently, it seems less French people take an extended trip away from home during this time.

Until the mid 50s, going on vacation was a privilege of the elite. Vacation was "democratized" during the economic growth after World War II. The number of French who took annual vacations rose from about thirty percent of the population in 1950, to more than seventy percent in the early 1980s.

Nowadays, the number of French leaving on vacation for four nights or more seems to be declining. Nearly forty percent of French people don't go on vacation, and half of them don't leave France because of financial issues (according to a 2004 study by the Tourism Ministry).

Despite this phenomenon, France still shuts down in August. In Paris, so many shops, restaurants, and pharmacies close that those staying open often put up signs stating, "We're here in August." However, staying open in August is the exception rather than the rule. The subways are empty during the usual peak hours and most often, you hear only foreign-speaking tourists in the stations.

However, concerned officials reacted as the number of people staying in their city of residence during their vacation increased. Beginning in 2001, Paris built a two-mile beach on the right bank of the Seine, complete with sand and palm trees. In 2004, 3.9 million Parisians and tourists were able to enjoy this beach.



Beginner Lesson S1

The Best Place to Shop for Days!

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Informal French

Lazy Zacharie	Oh, c'est lundi, aujourd'hui !
Wiz Alice	Oui lundi. Et demain mardi, et après-demain mercredi !
Lazy Zacharie	Puis jeudi et vendredi.
Wiz Alice	Bravo Zacharie ! Et le week-end, samedi et dimanche.
Lazy Zacharie	Oh, oh quelqu'un arrive !

Informal English

Lazy Zacharie	Oh, it's Monday today.
Wiz Alice	Yes, it's Monday. And tomorrow—Tuesday, and after tomorrow—Wednesday!
Lazy Zacharie	Then, Thursday and Friday.
Wiz Alice	Bravo, Zacharie! And the weekend—Saturday and Sunday!
Lazy Zacharie	Oh, oh, someone's coming!

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
après-demain	the day after tomorrow	adverb	
arriver	to arrive	verb	
demain	tomorrow	adverb	
quelqu'un	someone	pronoun	
puis	next, then	adverb	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Après-demain nous sommes le seize février.

J'arrive bientôt!

Il arrive à toute allure.

Demain je vais à la piscine.

À quelle heure tu viens demain ?

Je parle à quelqu'un.

Quelqu'un frappe à la porte.

Il parle et puis il part.

"The day after tomorrow, it is February 16th."

"I'll be there soon!" (literally, "I arrive soon!")

"He arrives at top speed."

"Tomorrow, I'm going to the swimming pool."

"What time are you coming tomorrow?"

"I am talking to someone."

"Someone is knocking on the door."

"He talks and then leaves."

Grammar Points

Today is Monday

The history of the days of the week is an interesting one. The Babylonians developed the seven-day week over 3,000 years ago. The first convenient division of time they devised (after the day) was the month by observing the cycles of the moon. In order to find a more convenient measurement of time, Babylonians began using the seven-day week that we still use today.

Why Seven Days in a Week?

To find a division of time greater than a day and smaller than a month, the Babylonians created the seven-day week. As the moon-cycle lasts twenty-nine and one-half days, and it is impossible to divide it with a round number, they chose four as the most accurate number for the division. They spread the rest of the equation out over four years, creating the leap year adopted by Julius Caesar. The Hebrews, Christians, and Romans adopted the seven-day week, through which it spread it to other civilizations.

Nowadays, the seven-day week is still in use and related more to man's productivity than divinities or celestial bodies.

Les jours de la semaine - Weekdays

lundi "Monday"- Day of the moon

Luna is the Latin word for moon becoming lundi.

mardi "Tuesday"- Day of the god of war

First Roman God of War Martius, and then the Norse God of War Tyr (or Tiw), later becoming *tiwesdaeg*, and finally, Tuesday.

mercredi "Wednesday"- From the Roman messenger God, Mercury, and becoming *mercredi*. Norse God, Odin the chief God of Asgard (also called *Woden* or *Wotan*), later becoming *Wodnesdaeg*, and then Wednesday.

jeudi "Thursday"- Day of the god of thunder

The Norse God of Thunder was Thor, which became *Thorsdaeg* and Thursday. To the Romans, his name was Jupiter, becoming *jeudi*.

vendredi "Friday"- From the Roman goddess of beauty, Venus, and the Norse Goddess of Marriage and the Hearth, Frigga (wife of Odin), later becoming *frigedaeg* and later, Friday.

samedi "Saturday"- Roman God of Time and the Harvest, Saturn.

dimanche "Sunday"- Day of rest and the sun.

NOTE: Weekdays in French don't take a capital letter.

Erratum: In the podcast, you hear the translation for *jeudi* with the English word Tuesday. This is an editing mistake. You should hear: *jeudi* Thursday.

Cultural Insight

French Holidays- *jours fériés*

There are ten holidays in France, which is one of the highest numbers of holidays in Europe:

January 1st: New Year's Day- *Le jour de l'an*

May 1st: Labor Day- *Le jour du travail*

May 8th: Celebration of the end of World War II- *Le jour de la Victoire* (Victory Day)

Easter Monday: Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus- *Le jour de Pâques*.

Ascension Thursday: Jesus' ascension into heaven- *Le jeudi de l'Ascension*

July 14th: National day celebrating the French Revolution- *Le jour de la prise de la Bastille/La fête nationale*

August 15th: We celebrate the Assumption of the Virgin Mary's passage into Heaven- *Le jour de l'Assomption*



November 1st: Day of the Dead- *La Toussaint*

November 11th: First World War peace treaty- *Le jour de l'armistice de la première guerre mondiale*

December 25th: Christmas- *Le jour de Noël*

On these days, administration, banks, and the majority of city museums and stores are closed.





Beginner Lesson S1

That's One Way to Be Fired Up for a Date!

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Formal French

Wiz Alice	C'est le patron.
Le patron	Zacharie, vous ne savez pas quel jour nous sommes ?
Lazy Zacharie	Je ne suis pas sûr. Le treize, quatorze, quinze ?
Le patron	Non.
Lazy Zacharie	Non plus le seize, dix-sept ou dix-huit ?
Wiz Alice	Non, nous sommes le dix-neuf.
Le patron	Oui, le dix-neuf. Zacharie, vous êtes renvoyé !

Formal English

Wiz Alice	It's the boss.
Boss	Zacharie, you don't know which day it is?
Lazy Zacharie	I'm not sure. The thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth?
Boss	No.
Lazy Zacharie	Neither the sixteenth, seventeenth or eighteenth?
Wiz Alice	No, it's the nineteenth.
Boss	Yes the nineteenth. Zacharie, you're fired!

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
savoir	to know	verb	
patron	boss	noun	masculine
ou	or	conjunction	
sûr	sure	adjective	masculine
(être) renvoyé	(to be) fired	verb	feminine
non plus	neither	phrase	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Vous savez que le mot miss est "Mademoiselle" en français ?</i>	"Do you know that the word miss is "Mademoiselle" in French?"
<i>Le patron de la petite entreprise est en voyage d'affaires.</i>	"The small company boss is in a business trip."

Je voudrais un chat ou un chien.

"I'd like a cat or a dog."

Il est sûr de lui.

"He is sure of himself."

Zacharie est renvoyé parce qu'il est ignorant.

"Zachary is fired because he is ignorant."

Grammar Points

Tell the Date

1 -Indicate the date in official document or letters:

To indicate the date in French, we only use cardinal numbers such as *un, deux, trois* with the article "*le*" as in

Day of the week + *le* + # + **month** + year

Example:

Lundi le 15 mai 2030. Monday, May 15th 2030

2 -Indicate the date orally:

In formal situation while using formal or standard French, you would say the date either way as follow

Nous sommes + **Day of the week** + *le* + # + **month** + year.

Nous sommes + *le* + # + **month** + year.

Example:

Nous sommes Lundi le 15 mai 2030. It's Monday, May 15th 2030.

Nous sommes le 15 mai 2030. It's May 15th 2030.

In informal situation you can say the date as follow

C'est + **Day of the week** + *le* + # + **month** + year

On est + **Day of the week** + *le* + # + **month** + year

Example:

C'est mardi le 25 juin 2030. We are Tuesday, June 25th 2030.

On est mardi le 25 juin 2030. We are Tuesday, June 25th 2030.





Beginner Lesson S1

Wow! This is a Well Lit Room!

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Informal French

Wiz Alice Rémi !! Viens ici.
 Tiny Rémi Oui, maman.
 Wiz Alice C'est quoi ce désordre! Range ta chambre !
 Tiny Rémi Heu...
 Wiz Alice La chaise est sur le lit la lampe est par terre.
 Tiny Rémi Heu, oui...
 Wiz Alice La commode est dans le placard ! La moquette est sale. Passe l'aspirateur !

Informal English

Wiz Alice Rémi!! Come here now.
 Tiny Rémi Yes mommy.
 Wiz Alice What's this mess?! Clean your room!
 Tiny Rémi Huh...
 Wiz Alice The chair is on the bed! The lamp is on the floor!
 Tiny Rémi Huh, yes....
 Wiz Alice The dresser is in the closet! The carpet is dirty. Vacuum!

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
ranger	to put in order	verb	
désordre	mess	noun	masculine
parterre	floor	noun	masculine
aspirateur	vacuum cleaner	noun	masculine
sale	dirty	adjective	feminine or masculine
venir	to come	verb	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Range le grenier.
C'est un désordre.*

"Put the attic in order."
"It's a mess."

Il est assis parterre.

L'aspirateur est dans le placard.

La voiture est sale.

L'ambulance est venue tout de suite.

"He is seated on the floor."

"The vacuum cleaner is in the closet."

My car is dirty.

The ambulance came right away.

Grammar Points

Accommodations: Part 1

When you book a hotel or look through brochures to reserve a hotel, being able to understand their amenities is quite practical. Following is some vocabulary that you can find in a bedroom.

La chambre et ses meubles "A Room and its Furnishings"

French "English"

Une chambre "a bedroom"

Une chambre double "a room for two"

Une chambre simple "a room for one person"

Un meuble "a furniture piece"

Un lit "a bed"

Une table de chevet "a night stand"

Une chaise "a chair"

Une lampe "a lamp"

Un placard "a closet"

Une armoire "a wardrobe"

Une commode "a chest"

Une étagère "a shelf"

Une fenêtre "a window"

La moquette "carpet"

Le tapis "a rug"

Cultural Insight

Antique French Furniture

From the 1700s to the 1900s many cabinetmakers came to France, as it was the center of fashionable art, clothing, and furniture styles among other things to market their products and services to the aristocrats. For nearly 250 years, Paris was the center of furniture making. During the 1800s, the French artisans incorporated different styles to innovate their pieces. One influence came from Asia. Their styles were so dominant that other European countries began to reproduce French furniture.

As the French furniture was so successful at the time, it became a highly collectible item for a long period. In fact, the Rothschild's already collected French furniture in the mid 1800s as they purchased some from Versailles right after the Revolution. Some Louis XIV and Louis XV pieces are valued up in the millions of dollars.



Beginner Lesson S1

Now Honey, Just Tell Auntie if I am Getting Hot or Cold!

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Informal French

Wiz Alice	Okay les enfants, quel désordre ! Cette salle de séjour est un désastre. Qu'est-ce qui se passe ici ?
Tiny Rémi	La télé est allumée.
Wiz Alice	Bien et ?
Sweetie Aurélie	Il y a du chocolat sur le mur.
Wiz Alice	Et que fait la fourmilière sur la table basse ?
Tiny Rémi	C'est la fourmilière de Daniel !

Informal English

Wiz Alice	Okay kids, what a mess! This living room is a disaster. What's wrong here?
Tiny Rémi	The TV is on.
Wiz Alice	Good...and?
Sweetie Aurélie	There is chocolate on this wall.
Wiz Alice	Why is Remi`s ant farm on the table?
Tiny Rémi	This is Daniel's ant farm!

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
allumé(e)	lighted, on.	adjective	allumée (feminine)
désastre	disaster	noun	masculine
télé(vision)	TV	noun	feminine
enfant	kids, children	noun	masculine
aliment	food, ingredient	noun	masculine
table basse	coffee table	noun	feminine
fourmilière	ant farm	noun	feminine
mur	wall	noun	masculine
salle de séjour	living room	noun	feminine

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>La lampe est allumée.</i>	"The lamp is on"
<i>Quel désastre !</i>	"What a disaster!"
<i>La télévision est éteinte.</i>	"The TV is off."
<i>Les enfants jouent dehors.</i>	"The kids play outside."
<i>Les aliments sont frais.</i>	"The food ingredients are fresh."
<i>La table basse est devant le canapé.</i>	"The coffee table is in front of the couch."
<i>Une fourmilière est chère.</i>	"An ant farm is expensive."
<i>Les murs sont blancs.</i>	"The walls are white."
<i>Allons prendre le thé dans la salle de séjour !</i>	"Let's have some tea in the living room!"

Grammar Points

Accommodations: Part 2

While traveling, someone in France might invite you to their private home for a meal, or you may simply wait in the airport or hotel lodge. These rooms are typically the most social ones in a building or house, the living room in particular being where people are entertained. In order to become acquainted with such an environment, we provide you with some useful vocabulary about the living room and its furniture.

La salle de séjour et ses meubles

French "English"

<i>La salle de séjour</i>	"the living room"
<i>La table basse</i>	"the coffee table"
<i>Le fauteuil</i>	"the arm chair"
<i>Le canapé</i>	"the couch"
<i>La cheminée</i>	"the fire place"
<i>La bibliothèque</i>	"the book shelves"
<i>La télévision</i>	"the TV"
<i>Le lecteur de CD</i>	"the CD player"
<i>Le lecteur de DVD</i>	"the DVD player"
<i>La chaîne stéréo</i>	"the stereo system"
<i>La table</i>	"the table"
<i>Le mur</i>	"the wall"

Cultural Insight

The living room

It is often the most hospitable place in a home. It is common to divide the living room into two parts: the entertaining section and the dining section. It's the place where you invite your guests into your home. The custom is first to be seated in the entertaining section on a couch or sofa. Here, a guest enjoys their first drink with some snacks or *canapés*, which are also called *amuse-bouches* or *petit-fours*. They generally consist of a miniature cold or warm food, such as small pieces of bread with *pâté*, or warm finger foods. The French call this *un apéritif*, which allows time for the guest and the host family to engage in conversation and prepare their appetite for the next meal.

In most homes, they allow smoking as part of the well-being of the guest, except as otherwise specified. Once the meal is ready, the guests sit at the dining table, which is dressed with a more or less formal tablecloth and table decoration, as well as plates, glasses, and other useful utensils with which they can eat! Generally, a planned invitation to share a meal is composed of an appetizer, a main dish, some cheese, and finally a dessert with coffee.

The guests always bring a gift to the hostess such as a bottle of wine, flowers, or an agreed upon dessert made by the local favorite baker, to say thank you. As you will notice, eating is an important part of the French culture and they view it as a valuable opportunity to spend time with family and friends.



Beginner Lesson S1

Don't Let Your Goose Get Cooked!!!

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Informal French

Wiz Alice	Okay les enfants, ça c'est la cuisine, ma cuisine.
Tiny Rémi	L'anguille de Daniel est dans l'évier.
Wiz Alice	Les jouets sont sous la table.
Sweetie Aurélie	Les vêtements de Rémi sont sur le four.
Wiz Alice	Oui, les vêtements sales! Rémi! Où es-tu?

Informal English

Wiz Alice	Okay kids this is the kitchen, my kitchen.
Tiny Rémi	Daniel's eel is in the sink.
Wiz Alice	There are toys under the table.
Sweetie Aurélie	Rémi's clothes are on the oven.
Wiz Alice	Yes, his filthy clothes! Rémi! Where are you?

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
sales	dirty	adjective	feminine or masculine
vêtement	clothe	Noun	masculine
anguille	eel	noun	feminine
jouet	toy	noun	masculine
evier	sink	noun	masculine
four	oven	noun	masculine
cuisine	kitchen	noun	feminine
ma	my feminine singular	possessive adjective	feminine

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Les chaussures sont sales.

Les vêtements de marque sont chers.

Mes vêtements sont mouillés.

Il a toujours des vêtements de valeur.

L'anguille ressemble à un serpent.

"The shoes are dirty."

"The clothes with a label are expensive."

"My clothes are wet."

"He always has clothing of value."

"An eel looks like a snake."

Le père Noël donne des jouets.

Le plombier répare l'évier.

Je fais un gratin au four.

La cuisine est à côté du salon.

Ma petite amie est Marie.

Ma mère est grande.

"Santa Claus gives toys."

"The plumber repairs the sink."

"I brown the cheese in the oven." ("Un gratin" is a dish topped with browned cheese.)

"The kitchen is on one side of the living room."

"My girl friend is Mary."

"My mom is tall."

Grammar Points

Accommodation 3

French people who love to eat consider preparing food an art form. In some regions, family gathers on Sunday, at a restaurant or at a family member's home, to enjoy food and company for a few hours. Of course, the kitchen then becomes essential.

La cuisine et ses ustensiles.

"The Kitchen and Its Utensils"

French: "English"

La cuisine: "the kitchen"

Le four: "the oven"

L'évier: "the sink"

Le lave-vaisselle: "the dishwasher"

Le micro-onde: "the microwave"

Une assiette: "a plate"

Une fourchette: "a fork"

Un couteau: "a knife"

Une cuillère à soupe: "a spoon"

Une cuillère à café: "a teaspoon"



Beginner Lesson S1

You Have No More Excuses!

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Formal French

Secrétaire	Monsieur ! Aujourd'hui vous êtes très occupé.
Tranquil Emile	Quelle heure est-il ?
Secrétaire	Tard. Il est six heures quarante-cinq du matin. Vous avez un petit-déjeuner avec Nicolas Sarkozy et Carla Bruni à sept heures trente, une présentation à la convention "funky strategies" à deux heures quarante de l'après-midi, et un dîner d'affaire à huit heures trente le soir.
Tranquil Emile	Ahh...j'ai sommeil.

Formal English

Secretary	Sir, today you are very busy!
Tranquil Emile	What time is it?
Secretary	Late! It's 6.45 AM. You have breakfast with Nicolas Sarkozy and Carla Bruni at 7
Tranquil Emile	Ahh...I'm sleepy.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
présentation	presentation	noun	feminine
convention	convention	noun	masculine
petit-déjeuner	breakfast	noun	masculine
occupé(e)	busy	Adjective	occupée (fem)
très	very	adverb	feminine
sommeil, avoir sommeil	sleepy (to be sleepy)	noun	masculine
dîner d'affaires	business diner	noun	masculine
avec	with	preposition	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*La présentation dure une heure trente.
La convention est au palais des congrès.*

"The presentation last an hour and a half."
"The convention is at the congress palace."

<i>Le petit-déjeuner est servi de six heures à onze heures.</i>	"Breakfast is served form 6 to 11 am."
<i>Je suis occupé aujourd'hui. Je ne peux pas venir.</i>	"I am busy. I can't come."
<i>Je suis occupée toute la journée.</i>	"I am busy the whole day."
<i>Il parle très vite.</i>	"He speaks very fast."
<i>Il bâille, il a sûrement sommeil.</i>	"He yawns, he is surely sleepy."
<i>J'ai un dîner d'affaires avec un client important ce soir.</i>	"I have a business diner with a big client tonight."
<i>C'est avec intérêt que je vous écoute.</i>	"It's with interest that I listen to you."
<i>Je suis avec Frédéric.</i>	"I am with Frederic."

Grammar Points

Watch your Time Schedule!

Time regulates our days and activities . Our watch is the instrument we go by to able to tell time and make sure we are on time. To use it appropriately in French speaking environment, let's see about

Asking about the time

When asking the time, we use the interrogative adjective *quelle*, as the noun *heure* is feminine.

Examples:

French "English"

Quelle heure est il ? What time is it?

Telling the time

To tell the time, the conjunction *et* is used when it is 15 or 30 minutes after the hour. However *et* can only be used with the words *quart* or *demi*.

To precise which part of the day you are referring to use the time expression as follow

- From 1 to 11 am: time + du matin
- From 12:01 to 5:59: time + de l'après-midi
- From 6:00 to 11:59: time + du soir

Note

the time expressions *soir* and *après-midi* are interchangeable when referring to late afternoon or early evening.

Formation

Noon *Midi*

Midnight *Minuit*

1 pm or 1 am *Une heure*

1:10 am or pm *Une heure dix*

1:20 am or pm *Une heure vingt*

1:30 am or pm *Une heure et demi / Une heure trente*

1:45 am or pm *Une heure quarante-cinq*

1:50 am or pm *Une heure cinquante*

To change the hour simply indicate the number of hours as in

HH heures MM *Deux heures dix* (2 h 10)

3:10 *trois heures dix*

5:15 *cinq heures et quart*

8:30 *huit heures trente / huit heures et demi*

9:43 *neuf heures quarante-trois*

Examples:

7:15 *Il est 7 heures cinq.*

10:00 am *Il est 10 heures du matin.*

11:35 am *Il est 11 heures trente-cinq du matin.*

Noon *Il est midi.*

3:30 pm *Il est 3 heures et demi de l'après-midi.*

8:00 pm *Il est 8 heures du soir.*

Language Expansion

When making comments about the time, here are some phrases to describe different situations regarding a person's use of time:

French Word- Use in French "English Translation"

Tard- 9 pm c'est tard pour rentrer du travail. "9 pm is late to come from work."

Tôt- 5 heures du matin, c'est tôt. "It's 5 am, it's early."

En retard- Pardon, je suis en retard. "I am late."

En avance- Tu es en avance de 10 minutes. "You are 10 minutes early."

Être à l'heure- Tu es à l'heure. "You are on time."

Être pile à l'heure- Tu es pile à l'heure. "You are exactly on time."

Cultural Insight

The Speaking Clock!

If you are not sure about the time once you touch French soil, there is a number you can call which will give you the exact time in French. The French call it the speaking clock. The number you dial from France is 3669.

France is located in the Central European Time zone (CET), one hour ahead of the Greenwich Mean Time zone, or the GMT. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is a term originally used at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London. Often, we use GMT when referring to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) as a time zone. The first official adoption of the GMT by a railway company was in 1847.

The United Kingdom has an extended experience in maritime expedition. British mariners used to have at least one timepiece set in GMT in order to calculate their location from the Greenwich meridian. This was by convention considered to have zero longitude degrees. Moreover, many mariners from other nations calculated time from Nevil Maskelyne's method of lunar distances based on observations at Greenwich. These two facts naturally led to GMT being used worldwide as a reference time. We base most time zones upon the reference as a number of hours and half-hours "ahead of GMT" or "behind GMT."



Beginner Lesson S1

Who Will You Be Lucky Enough to Tour The French Countryside With?

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Informal French

Tranquil Emile	Au fait, qu'est-ce que tu fais ce week-end ?
Pretty Julie	Heu, je ne sais pas.
Tranquil Emile	On peut faire la virée farfelue en 2CV à Paris.
Pretty Julie	Si tu veux.
Tranquil Emile	On se retrouve à huit heures place Vendôme.
Perty Julie	D'accord !

Informal English

Tranquil Emile	By the way, what are you doing this weekend?
Pretty Julie	Hmmm, I don't know.
Tranquil Emile	We can go on a 2CV drive in Paris.
Pretty Julie	If you want.
Tranquil Emile	Let's meet at 8
Secretary	Okay!

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
si	if	conjunction	
2CV (2 chevaux)	Ugly duckling commonly referred as such (2 horse power)	noun	feminine
place	plaza, square	noun	feminine
se retrouver	to meet	verb	
farfelu	eccentric	adjective	
virée	drive, ride, go out for a tour (by any means of transportation, foot, car, bike etc...) for fun	noun	feminine
savoir	to know	verb form of savoir	
Au fait.	By the way.	expression	
on	we / people	personal pronoun 3rd person singular	
d'accord	okay, I agree	expression	

Si tu veux.	If you want.	expression	
Je ne sais pas.	I don't know.	expression	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Si tu acceptes, on part pour Bruxelles ce soir.</i>	If you accept, we leave for Brussels tonight.
<i>La 2CV est une voiture Citroën.</i>	The ugly duckling is a Citroën car.
<i>La place Vendôme est le point de départ de la rue de la paix à Paris.</i>	Place Vendôme is the starting point of the Peace street in Paris.
<i>On se retrouve au bistrot le coq d'or.</i>	We meet at the bar the golden rooster.
<i>C'est un costume de carnaval farfelu.</i>	It's a carnival costume eccentric.
<i>Je fais une virée avec les copains.</i>	I go out for a tour with my pals.
<i>Tu sais ce qu'il a fait?</i>	Do you know what he did?
<i>Au fait, tu peux aller chercher le courrier ?</i>	By the way can you go get the mail ?
<i>Toi et moi, on parle anglais et français.</i>	You and me, we speak English and French.
<i>Je suis d'accord.</i>	"I agree."
<i>Allons à la mer cet après-midi. Si tu veux.</i>	Let's go to the sea this afternoon. If you want.
<i>Qui est cet acteur? Je ne sais pas!</i>	Who is this actor? I don't know!

Grammar Points

Personal Pronoun "On"

In the dialogue, the French pronoun *on* appears. It is always informal and commonly used in conversation. It takes third-person singular verb forms (as *il* and *elle*).

Meaning

1. Generalization: The subject *on* is generalized or otherwise unclear or unimportant. For example, one could say, *on dit que*.

Following are more examples of *on*:

French: "English"

On y va! "Let's go!"

On dit que ce "restau" est bon. "They say that this restaurant is good."

On a trouvé mon portefeuille hier. "Someone found my wallet yesterday."

On n'aime plus cette ville. "People don't like this city any more."

We usually use *on* as an informal replacement for we, you, they, someone, everyone, or people in general.

2. *On* can also mean "we." It replaces the subject pronoun *nous* in informal speech as in:

Nous, on est américain, et vous, vous êtes français. "We're American and you're French."

3. *On* can also mean "let's." We use it to make a suggestion as in:

On fait du golf demain. "Let's go golfing tomorrow."

Cultural Insight

The Citroën 2CV, Dedeuche, or Ugly Duckling

As French as the Eiffel Tower, automakers originally built the cheap and fun 2CV for the transportation needs of farmers. Its promotion focused on the fact that it could be driven with 100 kg (220 lb) of farm goods to sell to the next market-across muddy unpaved roads if necessary.

At that time, most of the large rural population didn't own a car. The car used no more than 3 liters of gasoline to travel 100 km. The company claimed it would be able to drive across a field without breaking any eggs.

Somewhere between 1948 and 1990, the simple 2CV became a symbol of coolness. The car has a following and has earned nicknames including "the tin snail," "the duck," and "the flying ragtop," because of its foldable canvas roof. The 2CV remained relevant and competitive for forty-two years.



Beginner Lesson S1

Are You Sure That's the Best Month to Schedule Your Vacation to France?

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Informal French

Tiny Rémi	Papa, Je suis tellement bon ! Écoute mon poème.
Clever Robert	J'écoute, vas-y, vas-y, allons.
Tiny Rémi	Janvier, premier du calendrier
Tiny Rémi	Le deuxième, c'est février
Tiny Rémi	Mars, la fin des glaces
Tiny Rémi	Avril, fleurs fragiles

Informal English

Tiny Rémi	Papa, I am so good! Listen to my poem.
Clever Robert	I'm listening! Go ahead, go ahead!
Tiny Rémi	January, first of the calendar,
Tiny Rémi	The second is February,
Tiny Rémi	March, end of ice,
Tiny Rémi	April, fragile flowers,

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
tellement	so, that much	adverb	
papa	daddy	noun	masculine
calendrier	calendar	Noun	masculine
y	it, there	pronoun	
poème	poem	Noun	masculine
bon	good	adjective	masculine
fragile	fragile	adjective	Feminine or masculine
fleur	flower	noun	feminine
été	summer	noun	masculine
muguet	lily of the valley	noun	masculine
glace	ice, ice cream	noun	feminine
fin	end	noun	feminine
temps	climate, weather	noun	masculine
loin	far	adverb	
ensoleillé	sunny	adjective	masculine
Vas-y	Go ahead	expression	

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Je suis tellement contente.

Mon papa est meilleur que le tien.

J'ai un joli calendrier de la nouvelle année.

Ce calendrier de la poste est joli.

J'y vais.

Verlaine a écrit des poèmes en Français.

Les poèmes d'amour sont les plus beaux.

C'est bon le chocolat.

Les objets en verre sont fragiles.

Les tulipes sont des fleurs.

L'été est la saison chaude.

Les gens offrent du muguet le premier mai.

Un hiver dans les glaces est un livre de Jules Verne.

C'est la fin de la représentation.

Le temps est froid.

Cent kilomètres, c'est loin pour aller à une soirée.

Aujourd'hui, c'est une journée ensoleillée.

Aie du courage. Vas-y. Réalise ton rêve.

"I'm so happy."

"My dad is better than yours is."

"I have a nice calendar from the New Year."

"The calendar from the Post Office is pretty."

"I go there."

"Verlaine wrote poems in French."

"Love poems are the most beautiful ones."

"Chocolate is good."

"The glass objects are fragile."

"Tulips are flowers."

"Summer is the hot season."

"People offer lily of the valley on the first of May."

"A *Winter in the Ice* is a book from Jules Verne."

"It's the end of the presentation."

"The climate is cold."

"100 kilometers is far to go to a party."

"Today, it's a sunny day."

"Have some courage. Go ahead. Realize your dream."

Grammar Points

Memorize this French calendar vocabulary so that you can talk about the month when you were born, or reference them in dates.

"Months of the Year" *Les mois de l'année*

French	"English"
<i>janvier</i>	"January"
<i>février</i>	"February"
<i>mars</i>	"March"
<i>avril</i>	"April"

<i>mai</i>	"May"
<i>juin</i>	"June"

Notice that the months in French don't have a capital letter.

Cultural Insight

The Weather in France

There are four kinds of climate in France.

You will find a temperate maritime climate in the west, on the Atlantic coasts. For example, in Brest the winters are mild (7° C/45° F in January), summers are cool (16° C/61° F in July), and rainfall is frequent (800 mm/32 in.) 180 days out of the year.

A mid-latitude continental climate is present in the interior of the country. For example, in Paris you will find hotter summers (average July temperature of 18° C/64° F), more rigorous winters (average January temperature of 2° C/36° F), and rain falls on fewer days of the year.

You will find a mountain climate at high elevations, altitude is a huge influence on temperatures, and winters are generally cold and long. Precipitation increases with elevation and occurs in the form of snow in winter. Many villages in the high valleys receive more than fifty days of snow each year. For example, in Briançon in the Alps you will find very cold winters (average temperature is -2° C/28° F in January), cool summers (17° C/63° F in July), and the annual precipitation averages 587 mm/23 in.

You will find a Mediterranean type of climate in a zone (20 to 60 km. /12 to 35 mi. wide) along the Mediterranean coast. For instance, in Marseille, summers are warm and dry (23° C/ 73° F in July), winters are mild and humid (average temperature is 7° C/ 45° F in January), and rain is rare and very little. The sun shines for more than 250 days out of the year, with rain falling during sixty days of the year (550 mm/22 in.).

In conclusion, regardless of where you go in France, it is best to go from June to August, the hottest months of the year.



Beginner Lesson S1

Is Everything too Much for You to Handle?

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Informal French

Clever Robert	Continue, c'est joli.
Tiny Rémi	Août, vacances et sur les routes.
Tiny Rémi	Septembre, l'automne aux couleurs d'ambre.
Tiny Rémi	Octobre, la nature est sobre.
Tiny Rémi	Novembre, met ta robe de chambre.
Tiny Rémi	Décembre, grelotte de tous ses membres.
Tiny Rémi	Voici tous les mois de l'année ! Et youpi yé !

Informal English

Clever Robert	Go on, it's lovely.
Tiny Rémi	August, vacation on the road,
Tiny Rémi	September, fall of amber colors,
Tiny Rémi	October, nature is sober,
Tiny Rémi	November, put on your dressing gown,
Tiny Rémi	December, all your members shiver,
Tiny Rémi	Here you go, all the months of the year! Yahoo!

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
vacances	vacation	Noun	feminine
continuer	to go on, to continue	Verb	
automne	autumn	Noun	masculine
routes	roads	Noun	feminine
ambre	amber	Noun	masculine
couleur	color	Noun	feminine
sobre	sober	Adjective	
nature	nature	Noun	feminine
mettre	to put	Verb	
membre	member, limb	Noun	masculine
grelotter	to shiver	Verb	
robe de chambre	a nightgown	Noun	feminine
mois	month	Noun	masculine
année	year	Noun	masculine

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

Mes vacances sont en juillet et en décembre.

Elle continue le cours de Français avec Frenchpod101.

L'automne commence fin septembre.

Les routes sont glacés en hiver.

L'ambre est une couleur chaude.

Les couleurs d'automne sont chaudes.

Ce roman décrit une atmosphère sobre.

La nature est bien faite.

Tu veux mettre quel chemise?

Elle met son manteau.

Les mouvements de ses membres sont gracieux.

Je grelotte, j'ai froid.

Cette robe de chambre est confortable.

Les mois d'été sont agréables.

L'année 2009 sera fructueuse.

"My vacations are in July and December."

"She goes on with her course with Frenchpod101."

"Fall begins at the end of September."

"The roads are icy in winter."

"Amber is a warm color."

"The fall's colors are warm."

"This novel describes a sober atmosphere."

"Nature is well done."

"You want to put on which shirt?"

"She puts on her coat."

"The movements of her body members are graceful."

"I shiver. I'm cold."

"This dressing gown is comfortable."

"The summer months are nice."

"The year 2009 will be profitable."

Grammar Points

All and everything

Tout, tous, toute, and toutes mean "all or whole" as well as "all, any, every, or very" depending on the context you use it in. It can be an adjective, adverb, noun, or pronoun.

Singular

Masculine- *tout*

Feminine- *toute*

Plural

Masculine- *tous*

Feminine- *toutes*

Adjective: tout, tous, toute, toutes

Example:

Il peint toute la voiture. "He paints the whole car."

Adverb: tout (unchanging)

Examples:

Je mange tout. "I eat everything."

C'est tout. "That's all."

Noun: le tout

Example:

Il a bu le tout. "He drank the whole (glass of juice)."

Pronoun: tout (singular neuter), tous, toutes (plural)

Example:

Tous sont venus. "Everyone came."

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