



## Absolute Beginner S2

Lessons 1 to 25

1-25

## Introduction

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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. 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.



## Newbie Lesson S2

Counting in French Part 1: As Easy as Un, Deux, Trois?

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## Formal French

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Touriste	L'addition, s'il vous plait.
Serveuse	Un café 1,10 euro, un croissant 2 euros.
Touriste	Je n'ai que 5 euros.
Serveuse	Oh, j'ai de la monnaie. [with the intonation of do not worry] 1 euro, 2 euros et 3 euros. [counting slowly as getting each coin]

## Formal English

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Tourist	The bill, please.
Waitress	A coffee is 1.10 Euros and a croissant is two Euros.
Tourist	I only have five Euros.
Waitress	Oh, I have change. There's one, two, and three Euros. Here you go!

## Informal French

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Touriste	La douloureuse, s'te plait.
Serveuse	Un <i>kawa</i> * à 1,10 euro et un croissant, hmmm 2 euros.
Touriste	S'cusez-moi ma belle, j'ai que 5 euros.
Serveuse	Oh, j'ai de la monnaie. [with the intonation of do not worry] 1 euro, 2 euros et 3 euros. [counting slowly as getting each coin] Voilà!

\*Kawa is the French slang term for cup of coffee!

## Informal English

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Tourist	The painful bill, please.
Waitress	A coffee at 1.10 Euros and a croissant, hmm...at two Euros.
Tourist	Sorry beauty, I just have five Euros.
Waitress	Oh, I have change (with the intonation of "do not worry"). There's one Euro, two Euros, and three Euros (counting slowly as she gives each coin to the tourist). Voilà!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
S'il vous plaît.	Please. (formal)	expression	
café	coffee	noun	masculine
croissant	croissant	noun	masculine
addition	bill, check, addition	noun	feminine
désolé(e)	sorry	adjective	
c'est	it's	contraction	
avoir	to have	verb	
monnaie	change (coins)	noun	feminine
voilà	here you are, here is, this is, here are, these are	preposition	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*La carte des vins, s'il vous plaît.*

*Monsieur n'aime pas du tout le café sucré.*

*Nous avons des croissants nature au beurre et des croissants aux amandes.*

*3 + 4 est une addition mathématique.*

*L'addition est 1,10 euro plus 0,90 centimes d'euros, ça fait 2 euros.*

*Madame est désolée.*

*C'est mon père.*

*Dee Dee Bridgewater et Nina Simone ont de belles voix.*

*Excusez-moi avez-vous du pain ?*

*Il a le regard glacé.*

*C'est une idée surprenante que tu as là !*

*J'ai 33 ans.*

*Mademoiselle, vous avez de la monnaie?*

*Voilà la clef de la voiture! Elle était sur la table.*

*Voilà! Vous êtes arrivé à destination!*

"The wine list, please."

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

"We have plain croissants with butter, and almond filled croissants."

"3 + 4 is math addition."

"The bill is 1.10 Euros plus 0.90 cents of a euro; it is two Euros."

"Madam is sorry."

"It's my father."

"Dee Dee Bridgewater and Nina Somine have beautiful voices."

"Excuse me, do you have some bread?"

"He has an intimidating glance."

"It's a surprising idea you have here!"

"I am thirty-three years old."

"Miss, do you have change?"

"Here is the car key! It was on the table."

"Here you go! You arrive at your destination!"

## Grammar Points

**Counting In French! Part 1 of 3***1 euro, 2 euros et 3 euros.***"There's 1 Euro, 2 Euros, and 3 Euros."**

Counting is necessary when traveling or living in a foreign country. Numbers are essential to function in an unknown place. You will need either to know numbers for handling financial situations, exchanging personal information such as age, addresses, phone numbers in case of a romantic encounter, or even to resolve theft when dialing your bankcard emergency number!

**Counting from 1 to 10!**

Number in English	French	[pronunciation]
1	<i>un</i>	[uhn]
2	<i>deux</i>	[duh]
3	<i>trois</i>	[troa]
4	<i>quatre</i>	[katr]
5	<i>cinq</i>	[suhnk]
6	<i>six</i>	[sis]
7	<i>sept</i>	[set]
8	<i>huit</i>	[u-it]
9	<i>neuf</i>	[noef]
10	<i>dix</i>	[dis]

**Prices and Numbers Pronunciation***1 Euro: Un café à 1,10 euro.***"A coffee at 1.10 Euro."**

In the dialogue, the croissant costs 1.10 Euro. Notice how they say this number:

**For example:**

- un euro dix* [uhn-noero-dis]  
"1.10 euro"

The last letter -n of the number 1 is linked with the following word euro to facilitate its pronunciation.

**Language Tip**

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You always use the word euro when stating a price. You cannot omit it as you might the word "dollar" when giving a price with a decimal in English.

**2 and 3 Euros: *C'est 2 euros.***  
**"It's 2 euros."**

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In this phrase, we link 2 (deux) with the word Euros by using the sound -s. The linked sound is identical for the number 3 (trois), followed by the European currency or any word starting with a vowel or silent -h.

**For example:**

1. *Il y a trois arbres.* [il-hi-ya-troa-zarbr]  
 "There are three trees."

**Language Tip**

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The sound /s/ in numbers:

We pronounce the numbers 6 (six) and 10 (dix) respectively [sis] and [dis] when used alone. When followed by a word starting with a vowel or a silent -h, they are pronounced [siz] and [diz].

**For example:**

1. *Il est six heures.* [il-he-sizhoer].  
 "It is six o'clock."

When followed by a word starting with a consonant, they are pronounced [si] and [di].

**For example:**

1. *Il habite Paris depuis 6 mois.* [il-abit-pari-dheu-puhi-si moa].  
 "He has lived in Paris for six months."
2. *J'arrive dans 10 minutes.* [ge-hariv-dhoan-di-minut]  
 "I arrive in ten minutes."

**5 Euros: *Je n'ai que 5 euros.***  
**"I have only 5 Euros."**

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In this sentence, the number 5 (*cinq*) is pronounced with the word Euros. We pronounce the last letter -q as a "k" when followed by a word starting with a vowel or silent -h.

**For example:**

1. *Cinq oranges, s'il vous plaît.* [sunk-oranj-sil-vupleh]  
 "Five oranges, please."

We do not pronounce the -q when followed by a consonant, BUT many French people still do anyway.

**For example:**

1. *Cinq pour 3 euros.* [sunk-pur-troa-zoero.]  
 "Five for three Euros."

**Language Tip**

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We pronounce the last letter of 5 (*cinq*), 7 (*sept*), and 8 (*huit*) when they stand alone or the following word starts with a vowel or a silent -h (or *h muet*).



## Newbie Lesson S2

Have You Found the French Fountain of Youth?

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## Formal French

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Touriste	Vous semblez jeune !
Jeune femme	Merci. J'ai 30 ans.
Touriste	Vous semblez avoir 20 ans ! J'ai 40 ans.
Jeune femme	Ouhah, vous semblez vieux !

## English

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Tourist	You seem young!
Young woman	Thank you. I am thirty years old.
Tourist	You seem to be twenty! I am forty years old.
Young woman	Whoa, you seem old!

## Informal French

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Touriste	Hé toi, tu es jeune !
Jeune femme	Merci. J'ai 30 ans.
Touriste	Tu sembles avoir 20 ans ! J'ai 40 ans.
Jeune femme	Ouhah, tu sembles vieux !

## Informal English

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Tourist	Hey you, you are young!
Young woman	Thanks, I'm thirty.
Tourist	You seem twenty! I'm forty.
Young woman	Whoa, you seem old!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
sembler	to seem	verb	
jeune	young	adjective	
vieux	old	adjective	masculine

un an	a year	noun	masculine
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## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Il semble être heureux.*

"He seems to be happy."

*C'est un jeune acteur.*

"He is a young actor."

*C'est un vieux livre.*

"It's an old book."

*Je vais à Paris une fois par an.*

"I go to Paris once a year."

*Tu as trois ans.*

"You are three years old."

## Grammar Points

### The Focus of This Lesson is Counting in French: Part 2

*J'ai 30 ans.*

"I am thirty years old."

This time instead of counting, we will state numbers to give one's milestone age!

### Age and Numbers Pronunciation: Counting by 10 from 10 to 100!

English	French	Pronunciation
10	<i>dix</i>	[dis]
20	<i>vingt</i>	[vuhnt] or [vuhn]
30	<i>trente</i>	[troant]
40	<i>quarante</i>	[karhoant]
50	<i>cinquante</i>	[suhnk-hoant]
60	<i>soixante</i>	[soa-zhoant]
70	<i>soixante-dix</i>	[soa-zhaont-dis]
80	<i>quatre-vingt</i>	[katr-vuhn]
90	<i>quatre-vingt-dix</i>	[katr-vuhn-dix]
100	<i>cent</i>	[soan]

### The Focus of This Lesson is Stating Your Own Milestone Age

*J'ai 40 ans.*

"I am forty years old."

<i>Age in French</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>
<i>J'ai dix ans</i>	[jaey-diz-haon]
<i>J'ai vingt ans</i>	[jaey-vuhn-t-hoan]
<i>J'ai trente ans</i>	[jaey-troan-t-hoan]
<i>J'ai quarante ans</i>	[jaey-karhoan-t-hoan]
<i>J'ai cinq ans</i>	[jaey-suhnk-hoan-t-hoan]
<i>J'ai soixante ans</i>	[jaey-soa-zhoan- t-hoan]
<i>J'ai soixante-dix ans</i>	[jaey-soa-zhaont-diz-haon]
<i>J'ai quatre-vingt ans</i>	[jaey-katr-vuhn-z-haon]
<i>J'ai quatre-vingt-dix ans</i>	[jaey-katr-vuhn-diz-haon]
<i>J'ai cent ans</i>	[jaey-soan-t-hoan]

In the dialogue, the young professional woman states her age using the verb *avoir* (to have) and plural noun *ans* (years). Notice further in the dialogue, when stating anyone's age we use the verb *avoir* instead of the verb *être*, or "to be" in English. Moreover, we always use the word *ans* when giving someone's age. We cannot omit it, even in informal or slang speech.

### Language Tip

The written form *-en* that we find in the word *trente* (thirty) is quite a challenge for foreigners to produce, as it is a nasal sound typical of French. Imagine you have a cold and your nose is congested. The sounds written [-en, -an, -am, -em, -aen, -aon] with the phonetic symbol /ã/ are pronounced exactly the same way. We could transcribe it in an English written form as [hoan]. To listen for the /ã/ sound, go to the learning center and check the audio files for the numbers that include the written form corresponding with the /ã/ sound above.

### The Focus of This Lesson is The Number 20 in French

*Tu sembles avoir 20 ans.*

"You seem to be twenty years old."

In this phrase, we say *vingt* (twenty) as one word with the term *ans* (years). This pronunciation doesn't fall into a particular rule, but rather takes practice to make it easier to say the two words together. However, depending on the region they are from, some French people will pronounce the last -t when a word starting with a vowel follows it.

### Language Tip

The pronunciation of the number *vingt* (twenty) has some particularities. A linked sound with the last letter -t of *vingt* (twenty) and the word *et* is done in *vingt-et-un* (twenty-one). **HOWEVER**, when used

in *quatre-vingt-un* (eighty-one), *quatre-vingt-onze* (ninety-one), *cent-un* (101), or *cent-onze* (111), we do not pronounce the -t in *vingt* (twenty).

### The Focus of This Lesson is The Number 9 in French

*9 ans.*

"Nine years old."

In the word *neuf* (nine), we pronounce the last letter -f as a -v, making its pronunciation [noev] in front of *ans* and *heure*.

## Cultural Insight

### A Typical Restaurant-café in a French Town

In most mid-sized towns, you will usually find *un café-restaurant* in the city center. Large and smaller towns look like a round concentric maze from the main square where the church, city hall, and sometimes a school are located. Occasionally, small villages of thousands or hundreds of inhabitants have a small *bistrot* or *café*, which opens only during the tourist season or on weekends depending on their location and average visitors. You'll observe that the names of many *restaurant-café*s include the owner's first name, such as "Chez Marcel" or "Chez Joséphine." *Chez* means, "at the domicile of," or simply, "at" in French. Others may take either a personality's name for their location or the name of the square or street they are on.

*Restaurant-café*s are nominated as such for what they serve and their opening hours. Typically, *un restaurant-café* operates from early morning to late at night. They serve breakfast from 6:00 AM or even earlier for the early birds before they go to their corporate jobs, or later in the morning for the professional crowd. The office staff or nearby students can enjoy a two or three course simple lunch (composed of *une entrée*\* and/or *un dessert*\*\* and a main dish from 7 to 25 Euros) in an hour. They offer snacks as well to satisfy your hunger during the day. These are composed of salad, French style grilled-cheese sandwiches, quiches (salty pie without the top crust with various ingredients such as cheese, ham, bacon bits, and a smooth filling) or other small dishes. Dinner of course is part of their menu as well, either *à la carte* or pre-designed including a choice of two or three *entrées*\*, main dishes, and desserts.

\*Un entrée- "an appetizer"

\*\*Un dessert- "a dessert"





## Newbie Lesson S2

Mom, I Was Really Counting on You in France!

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## Formal French

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Touriste	Vous avez le numéro de téléphone ?
Agent bancaire	Oui. 0-800-59-72-91.
Touriste	OK le 0-859-60-12-80-11 ?
Agent bancaire	Non, le 0-8-0-0-5-9-7-2-9-1 !
Touriste	Ah... un numéro de téléphone à 10 chiffres !

## Formal English

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Tourist	Do you have the phone number?
Bank clerk	Yes, 0-800-59-72-91.
Tourist	Okay, 0-859-60-12-80-11?
Bank clerk	No, 0-8-0-0-5-9-7-2-9-1!
Tourist	Ah...a ten digit phone number!

## Informal French

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Touriste	Tu as le numéro de téléphone ?
Agent bancaire	Oui, le 0-800-59--72-91.
Touriste	OK, le 0-859- 60-12-80-11.
Agent bancaire	Non, le 0-8-0-0-5-9-7-2-9-1.
Touriste	Ah un numéro de téléphone à 10 chiffres !

## Informal English

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Tourist	Do you have the number in case of credit card theft?
Bank clerk	Yes, 0-800-59-72-91.
Tourist	Okay, 0-859-60-12-80-11.
Bank clerk	No, 0-8-0-0-5-9-7-2-9-1.
Tourist	Ah...a ten digit phone number!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
oui	yes	adverb	
numéro	number	noun	masculine
téléphone	phone, telephone	noun	masculine
chiffre	digit	noun	masculine
numéro de téléphone	telephone number	noun	masculine
avoir	to have	auxiliary verb	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Oui, c'est certain.</i>	"Yes, it's certain."
<i>J'ai son numéro d'appartement, c'est le 36.</i>	"I have her apartment number; it's 36."
<i>Tu as un téléphone fixe ?</i>	"Do you have a regular phone line?"
<i>Mon numéro de compte bancaire contient douze chiffres.</i>	"My bank account number contains twelve digits."
<i>Je voudrais ton numéro de téléphone.</i>	"I'd like your phone number."
<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>J'ai 33 ans.</i>	"I am thirty-three years old."

## Grammar Points

### Counting In French: Part 3/3

Numbers, numbers, and more numbers! In the previous two Newbie lessons, we looked at numbers from 1 to 10, and by 10s from 10 to 100. Now we will observe how numbers are put together to count one by one from 10 to 100 (including 0) and how to state phone numbers.

First, let's get zero out of the way:

#### Number - French [Pronunciation]

0 - Zéro [zhay-ro]

**Counting 1 by 1 from 10 to 100!**

<b>From 10 to 69</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
10	<i>dix</i>	[dis]
11	<i>onze</i>	[oanz]
12	<i>douze</i>	[duz]
13	<i>treize</i>	[trez]
14	<i>quatorze</i>	[ko-torz]
15	<i>quinze</i>	[kuhnz]
16	<i>seize</i>	[shayz]
17	<i>dix-sept</i>	[dis-set]
18	<i>dix-huit</i>	[dis-u-hit]
19	<i>dix-neuf</i>	[dis-noef]
20	<i>vingt</i>	[vuhnt] or [vuhn]
21	<i>vingt et un</i>	[vunt-hey-hun]
22	<i>vingt-deux</i>	[vuhnt-duh]
23	<i>vingt-trois</i>	[vuhnt-troa]
30	<i>trente</i>	[troant]
31	<i>trente et un</i>	[troant-hey-hun]
40	<i>quarante</i>	[karhoant]
41	<i>quarante et un</i>	[ka-rhoant-hey-hoan]
50	<i>cinquante</i>	[suhnk-hoant]
51	<i>cinquante et un</i>	[suhnk-hoant-hey-hoan]
60	<i>soixante</i>	[soa-zhoant]
61	<i>soixante et un</i>	[soa-zhoant-hey-haon]

<b>From 70 to 100</b>			
<b>Number</b>	<b>Literal Meaning</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
70	60 + 10	<i>soixante-dix</i>	[soa-zhoant-dis]
71	60 + 11	<i>soixante-et-onze</i>	[soa-zhoant-hey-hoanz]
72	60 + 12	<i>soixante-douze</i>	[soa-zhaont-duz]
73	60 + 13	<i>soixante-treize</i>	[soa-zhaont-treyz]
74	60 + 14	<i>soixante-quatorze</i>	[soa-zhaont-katorz]
75	60 + 15	<i>soixante-quinze</i>	[soa-zhaont-khunz]
76	60 + 16	<i>soixante-seize</i>	[soa-zhaont-seyz]
77	60 + 17	<i>soixante-dix-sept</i>	[soa-zhaont-diset]
78	60 + 18	<i>soixante-dix-huit</i>	[soa-zhaont-disu-hit]

79	60 + 19	<i>soixante-dix-neuf</i>	[soa-zhaont-dis-noaf]
80	4 x 20	<i>quatre-vingt</i>	[katr-vhun]
81	4 x 20 + 1	<i>quatre-vingt-un</i>	[katr-vhun-hay-hoan]
82	4 x 20 + 2	<i>quatre-vingt-deux</i>	[katr-vhun-duh]
90	4 x 20 + 10	<i>quatre-vingt-dix</i>	[katr-vhun-dis]
91	4 x 20 + 11	<i>quatre-vingt-onze</i>	[katr-vhun-hoanz]
92	4 x 20 + 12	<i>quatre-vingt-douze</i>	[katr-vhun-duz]
93	4 x 20 + 13	<i>quatre-vingt-treize</i>	[katrvhun-treyz]
94	4 x 20 + 14	<i>quatre-vingt-quatorze</i>	[katr-vhun-katorz]
95	4 x 20 + 15	<i>quatre-vingt-quinze</i>	[katr-vhun-khunz]
100		<i>cent</i>	[soan]

**Note:** In [ ] you'll find the approximate English pronunciation written for each number.

### Tips for Memorizing Numbers

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As you certainly noticed, not all of the numbers are included in the tables. The reason for this is that there is a technique to forming numbers and helping you memorize them.

Obviously, the oddest numbers from 70 to 99 might be the numbers that will give you the most difficulty remembering. However, to overcome this challenge you'll find some helpful notes below:

### Missing Numbers from the Table

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Most numbers follow a pattern when counting in French. The missing numbers are the ones that follow that pattern. Look closely at 20, 21, 22, and 23. First, say the tens, and then add the last digit referring to units.

#### Examples:

1. 20 + 2 = 22 *vingt-deux*
2. 20 + 3 = 23 *vingt-trois*
3. 20 + 4 = 24 *vingt-quatre*
4. 20 + 6 = 26 *vingt-six*

The same is true for the numbers from 30 to 60.

#### Examples:

1.  $30 + 5 = 35$  *trente-cinq*
2.  $40 + 7 = 47$  *quarante-sept*
3.  $50 + 8 = 58$  *cinquante-huit*
4.  $60 + 9 = 69$  *soixante-neuf*

### Numbers Such as 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, and 71

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Numbers with the last digit 1 from 21 to 71, always include the word *et* between the two digits.

#### Examples:

1. 21- *vingt et un*
2. 31- *trente et un*
3. 41- *quarante et un*
4. 51- *cinquante et un*

### Writing Numbers

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**Hyphen:** When writing numbers with letters (on checks for example), remember to include the hyphen [-]. All compound numbers (numbers written with two words or more) below 100 which don't end with the digit 1 (EXCEPT for 81 and 91) have a hyphen.

#### Examples:

1. 72- *soixante-douze*
2. 81- *quatre-vingt-un*
3. 91- *quatre-vingt-onze*

#### The -s in plural numbers:

20 and 100 take an -s when they are last.

**Examples:**

1. 80 (4 x 20) *quatre-vingts*- *Vingt* takes an -s
2. 83 (4 x 20 + 3) *quatre-vingt-trois*- *Vingt* doesn't take an -s
3. 100 *cent*- doesn't take an -s
4. 400 (4 x 100) *quatre cents*- *cent* takes an -s
5. 401 (4 x 100 + 10) *quatre cent dix*- *cent* doesn't take an -s

**Telephone # Pronunciation****C'est le 0-800-59-72-91****"It's 0-800-59-72-91"**

When giving a phone number such as in the dialogue, the simplest way is to use *c'est*, meaning, "it's" followed by the definite masculine article *le*. We use the masculine article in this case simply because the sentence implies the masculine noun *numéro* (number) in *c'est le numéro de téléphone*, meaning, "it's the phone number."

**Language Tip: Giving a Phone Number**

When telling someone a French phone number, always remember there are ten digits. You should always say them two at a time.

**Example:**

1. *C'est le 01-12-13-14-15*. "It's 01-12-13-14-15."

Concerning the 800 free-to-call phone number, we say the digits following 800 either two or three at a time depending on the phone number presentation. In the conversation, the speakers say the digits of the 800 number two at a time. If the number is easiest to remember by three, you can say the digits three at a time or one by one.

**Examples:**

1. *C'est le 800-123-456*.
2. *C'est le 0-800-1-2-3-4-5-6*.

"It's 800-123-456."

## Cultural Insight

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### French Phone Numbers

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All French phone numbers have ten digits. The first two digits correspond to a geographic area. It would be the equivalent to the three-digit area code in the US. In France, there are five of them. For example, if you have a French phone number beginning with 01, it means that you are located in Paris or its region. The number 06 indicates you're calling a cell phone. The numbers 08 indicate that it is a business line, usually to contact customer service, which charges an expensive rate per minute (from 0.12 Euros to 1.20 Euros, or more).

Once on the French territory, if you wish to call your hotel or any other French number, dial the ten-digit phone number always starting with zero (0). To call from France to other foreign countries, first dial 00 + the country area code + the phone number. On the contrary, to call France *from* other foreign countries, be aware of the country code for France being 33.



## Newbie Lesson S2

How to French Kiss your Best Friend?

4

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## Informal French

---

Julie                    Eric ?  
 Eric                    Oui ?  
 Julie                    Catherine..... Elle t'aime ...  
 Eric                    Hein, mais moi je t'aime !  
 Julie                    Tu m'aimes ? Moi aussi je t'aime !!!  
 Eric                    Nous nous aimons !

## Informal English

---

Julie                    Eric ?  
 Eric                    Yes?  
 Julie                    Catherine...she loves you...  
 Erik                    Huh, but I love you! (Revelation)  
 Julie                    You love me? I love you, too!!!  
 Erik and Julie        We love each other!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
aimer	to love	verb	
elle	she	pronoun	feminine
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
nous	we	personal pronoun	
tu	you (informal)	personal pronoun	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Je t'aime à ma façon.*

"I love you in my own way."

*Tu aimes faire des marches dans la montagne.*

"You love to go for walks in the mountain."

*Elle est petite.*

"She is small."

*Marie, elle est jolie.*

"Mary, she is pretty."

*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."

*Nous apprenons le français.*

"We learn French."

*Nous sommes au cinéma.*

"We are at the movie theater."

*Tu as 20 ans.*

"You are twenty years old."

*Tu vas au travail.*

"You go to work."

## Grammar Points

---

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Designating People in Conversation**

*Tu m'aimes ? Moi aussi je t'aime!!!*

**"You love me? I love you, too!!!"**

---

Everybody loves to talk about people, and especially themselves. Referring to oneself or other people in a conversation is a basic skill you obtain when learning to talk as a young child or when learning a new language later in life. One of the first and most well known words is probably the term you use to designate yourself when talking. In order to do so and refer to your interlocutor and other people, make sure to use the right words so you don't confuse people who are listening.

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Saying, "Me, Myself, and I" in French**

*Tu m'aimes ?*

**"You love me?"**

---

You will inevitably refer to yourself to tell what you have done, your opinions, feelings, or plans for the future. In the conversation, two friends (Eric and Julie) are discovering each other's feelings. First, Julie let Eric know about the emotions her mutual friend Catherine feels for him. Discovering the news, and getting up his courage, he replies to Julie that he is in love with her with the phrase, *hein, mais moi je t'aime*, meaning, "huh, but I love you." Note that in the French phrase, the first word, *hein*, is an exclamation to express Eric's surprise about the piece of news.

To refer to himself, Eric uses the word *je*, meaning "I." *Je* is also found in Julie's reply, *moi aussi je t'aime* meaning, "me too, I love you." *Je* is a personal pronoun we use to refer to the person who is speaking it. We place it before the conjugated verb in a simple phrase. Personal pronouns such as *je* designate the person or persons that are the subject of the verb. When you place *je* before a verb that starts with a vowel or an -h, drop the letter -e and then replace it with an apostrophe. Let's see some illustrations.

### **Examples:**

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>J'aime la musique.</i>	"I love music."
<i>J'habite à Montpellier.</i>	"I live in Montpellier."
<i>Je m'appelle Maxime.</i>	"I'm Maxime."
<i>Je parle français.</i>	"I speak French."
<i>Je conduis une voiture décapotable.</i>	"I drive a convertible car."

## Language Expansion

---

### Hein

You can also use the exclamation *hein* to make a person repeat what he/she just said or to solicit your interlocutor's approbation. You can translate it as, "huh / eh," or "what," according to the context.

#### Examples:

1. **To express approbation:**

*Tu es d'accord, hein?*

"You agree, eh?"

2. **To make someone repeat something:**

*Paul vient, hein?*

"Paul is coming, huh?"

### Moi

The word *moi* refers to the person using it as *je*. However, *moi* differs from *je* because one uses it to place emphasis on the person using it. It is a stressed pronoun, or *pronom tonique* in French. You use it to reinforce the subject of the verb.

#### Examples:

1. *Moi, je suis fort.*

"Me, I am strong."

2. *Moi, je suis contre ça.*

"Me, I am against it."

3. *Moi, j'adore ça!*

"Me, I love it."

**The Focus of This Lesson is Referring to "You" in Conversation**

*Catherine...Elle t'aime ...***"Catherine...she loves you..."**

After she learns that Eric-the object of her love-has the same feelings for her, she is startled. With a bit of disbelief, she solicits Eric's confirmation with the yes/no question, *tu m'aimes* ("do you love me?"). In this question, she refers to her one and only interlocutor Eric with the word *tu*.

The personal pronoun *tu* designates the person someone is talking with. It follows the same rules as *je* regarding its place in a sentence. However, there isn't any contraction for this personal pronoun when you use it as a subject of a verb. You use this pronoun with people you know both well and familiar (a friend, a family member, a child).

**Examples:**

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Tu vas au cinéma.</i>	"You go to the movie theater."
<i>Tu es étudiant.</i>	"You are a student."
<i>Tu aime le café?</i>	"Do you like coffee?"
<i>Tu travailles au bureau.</i>	"You work at the office."

**The Focus of This Lesson is Referring to "We" in Conversation***Nous nous aimons !***"We love each other!"**

Now that both Eric and Julie know that they are sharing the same feelings, they are thrilled. To express their excitement, they exclaim with one voice, *nous nous aimons* meaning, "we love each other."

To include both you and the person you're speaking to, use *nous*. Accordingly, the personal pronoun *nous* refers to the person speaking the phrase and one or more other individuals. You can use it for either the masculine (only men) or the feminine (only women) or both (men and women).

**Examples:**

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Nous, Marie et moi, avons une réunion.</i>	"We, Mary and I, have a meeting."
<i>Nous, les hommes, allons au match de football.</i>	"We men, go to the football game."
<i>Nous habitons dans le nord.</i>	"We live north."
<i>Mes soeurs et moi, nous travaillons ensemble.</i>	"My sisters and I, we work together."
<i>Nous apprenons le français.</i>	"We are learning French."



## Newbie Lesson S2

I'm Sorry...Me, Were You Talking to Me in French?

5

Informal French	2
Informal English	2
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## Informal French

---

Catherine	Moi, je t'aime !
Eric	Elle aussi.
Catherine	Toi, tu as de beaux yeux.
Eric	Elle aussi.
Eric et Julie	Nous, nous avons de beaux yeux !

## Informal English

---

Catherine	Me, I love you!
Eric (glancing at Julie)	Her as well.
Catherine (ignoring Julie's presence)	You, you have beautiful eyes!
Eric	Her as well.
Eric & Julie	Us, we have beautiful eyes!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
moi	me	stressed pronoun (pronom tonique)	
elle	her	stressed Pronoun (pronom tonique)	feminine
toi	you	stressed pronoun (pronom tonique) corresponding to the 2nd person singular (Tu)	
beau	beautiful	adjective	feminine
yeux (oeil)	eyes (eye)	noun	masculine

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Allons à la plage toi et moi !*

"Let's go to the beach, you and me!"

<i>Jacques et moi, nous sommes amis.</i>	"Jacques and me, we are friends."
<i>Elle là-bas, elle est la femme de Jean.</i>	"Her over there, she is Jean's wife."
<i>Elle, elle est italienne.</i>	"Her, she is Italian."
<i>Elle, c'est Sophie.</i>	"Her, it is Sophie."
<i>Tu fais quoi, toi ?</i>	"What do you do?"
<i>Toi, tu viens avec moi.</i>	"You, you are coming with me."
<i>Les beaux jours sont arrivés.</i>	"Beautiful days (arrived) are here."
<i>Le tableau "crépuscule, venise" de Monet est beau.</i>	"The painting, <i>Dusk, Venise</i> of Monet's is beautiful."
<i>Vous êtes beau.</i>	"You are beautiful."
<i>Un beau chat noir.</i>	"A beautiful, black cat."
<i>Les yeux des chiens husky sont bleus.</i>	"Husky dogs' eyes are blue."

## Grammar Points

---

### The Focus of This Lesson is Using Stressed Pronouns

*Moi, je t'aime!*

"Me, I love you!"

---

Sometimes, to be sure everyone is on the same page, you need to be clear! You can express clarity in speech in many ways. One of them is to reinforce what you have said. In particular, it is always useful to make sure every knows whom you are talking about. You can accomplish that by getting your audience's attention on that particular piece of information. To do so, French has a specific linguistic tool, which doesn't match any language point specific to the English tongue.

*Moi, je t'aime!*

"Me, I love you!"

---

Who doesn't like to get someone's attention? Most people do, even though some individuals exposed heavily to a large public or audience, may not! When in a discussion that becomes passionate, reinforcement can be a key to grab people's interest.

In the conversation, Catherine is revealing her flame to Eric by saying, "*moi, je t'aime*," which literally means, "me, I love you." In this sentence, Catherine wants to assure herself that Eric pays attention to her. She does it by using the word *moi*, which in English is "me."

*Moi* is a stressed pronoun we call *pronom tonique*, which refers to the subject of the verb. We use it to reinforce the subject, as Catherine does when she uses *moi* in front of *je*, the subject of the sentence, to

talk about her feelings for Eric who is her interlocutor.

### Examples:

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Moi, j'ai 20 ans.</i>	"Me, I am twenty years old."
<i>Moi, je commence demain.</i>	"Me, I begin tomorrow."
<i>Moi, je prépare le repas.</i>	"Me, I prepare the meal."
<i>Moi, j'ai peur des chiens.</i>	"Me, I am scared of dogs."
<i>Moi, j'écris un poème.</i>	"Me, I write a poem."

***Toi, Tu as de beaux yeux!***

**"You, you have beautiful eyes!"**

Make sure he gets it! That is advice that you can give when someone is looking to get an idea across. Catherine makes it happen by turning Eric's attention on himself while giving him a compliment. She praises him about one of his physical features by stating, "*toi, tu as de beaux yeux,*" meaning, "you, you have beautiful eyes!" To cast his interest upon himself, she uses *toi*, referring to the sentence subject *tu*, which corresponds to Catherine's interlocutor Eric.

*Toi* as well as *je* are *pronom toniques*, or in English, stressed pronouns. *Toi* also has logically the same use as *je*. The stressed pronoun *toi* corresponds to the second singular person in which the personal pronoun is *tu*.

### Examples:

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Toi, tu es maladroit!</i>	"You, you are clumsy."
<i>Toi, tu pars en Italie.</i>	"You, you go in Italy."
<i>Toi, tu cherches le livre.</i>	"You, you search for the book."
<i>Toi, tu travailles bien.</i>	"You, you work well."

### Language Expansion

You can also use *toi* (just as the other stressed pronouns) to imply or sum up a whole sentence.

### Examples:

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Quelle est ta nationalité?</i>	"What is your nationality?"
<i>Je suis français, et toi? (quelle est ta</i>	"I am French, and you?" (what is your

<i>nationalité)</i>	nationality?)
<i>Il va dormir, et toi?</i>	"He is going to sleep, and you?"
<i>Il pense à Marie. Et moi? (il pense à moi)</i>	"He thinks of Mary, and me?" (does he think of me?)

***Nous, nous avons de beaux yeux!***

**"Us, we have beautiful eyes!"**

Once Catherine told her compliment to Eric, Julie and him object it with this teasing comment, "*nous, nous avons de beaux yeux,*" meaning, "us, we have beautiful eyes!" Here, to reinforce themselves, Julie and Eric use *nous* placed at the very beginning of the sentence. The first *nous* in the phrase is a stressed pronoun whose function is to focus Catherine's attention on Julie and Eric. The second *nous* replaces Julie and Eric as the subject in the sentence, *Nous, nous avons de beaux yeux*. Therefore, note that the first person plural has the identical form for the stressed pronoun *nous* and for the personal pronoun *nous*.

### Language Tip

To memorize the stressed pronoun forms, remember that at the persons mentioned below, the personal and stressed pronouns are identical.

<b>Person</b>	<b>Personal Pronoun</b>	<b>Stressed Pronoun</b>
Third Person Singular Feminine	<i>elle</i>	<i>elle</i>
First Person Plural	<i>nous</i>	<i>nous</i>
Second Person Plural	<i>vous</i>	<i>vous</i>
Third Person Plural Feminine	<i>elles</i>	<i>elles</i>

### Dialogue Expansion

***Elle aussi.***

**"Her too!"**

Eric says this short phrase twice. The first time, Eric uses *elle* to refer to Julie by telling Catherine that Julie loves him, too. The second time he says the phrase, the word *elle* refers to Julie again. This time he let Catherine know that Julie also has beautiful eyes just as she mentioned about him in the prior phrase.

The word *elle* in the phrase *Elle aussi* refers to Eric's newfound love, Julie, in both contexts. *Elle* is a personal pronoun as the implied complete sentences indicate. The first one should be, *elle m'aime aussi*, meaning, "she loves me, too." The second one is, *elle a aussi de beaux yeux*, meaning, "she has beautiful eyes, too."

## Cultural Insight

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### **Famous French Movie Quote**

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Movie fanatics might have heard of the French actor *Jean Gabin*. He appeared in many classical French movies in the 30s and 40s. One of his famous quotes, *Tu as de beaux yeux, tu sais*, ("You have beautiful eyes, you know"), which inspired the dialogue of this lesson, appears in the 1938 movie, *Quai des brumes* ("Foggy Bank").

This classical movie portrays a deserter meeting a beautiful woman, which he falls in love with in the port of Brest city located in North West France. However, destiny will decide otherwise and stops him from living his love affair. You often find this style of movie, poetic realism, in the French cinema of the 30s. The very young *Michèle Morgan* acting with *Gabin* formed a remarkable duo with *Michèle's* enigma and *Gabin's* mixture of strength and tenderness.

Their first meeting takes place in a café that seems to be in the middle of nowhere. Shots are fired. A deserter and a woman wearing a beret and a transparent raincoat exchange names and fall in love. This scene defines French film noir, its style, its challenge to bourgeois style, and its ethics. Here, far from families and social contexts, even far from conventional plots with their careful, logical identifications of situation and character, flourish gallantry and beauty.



## Newbie Lesson S2

No, What Makes you Think That's My French Napkin?

6

Informal French	2
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## Informal French

---

Marc                    Ma chérie...  
 Julie                    Mon amour?  
 Marc                    Nous sommes ensemble !  
 Julie                    Mes deux amours, toi et le chocolat !

## Informal English

---

Marc                    My darling...  
 Julie                    My love?  
 Marc                    We are together!  
 Julie                    My two loves, you and chocolate!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
ma	my	singular possessive adjective	feminine
mon	my	singular possessive adjective	masculine or feminine
mes	my	possessive adjective	feminine or masculine
chéri(e)	darling, honey	noun	chérie (feminine)
amour	love	noun	masculine
chocolat	chocolate	noun	masculine
ensemble	together	adverb	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Ma petite amie est Marie.*

"My girl friend is Mary."

*Ma mère est grande.*

"My mom is tall."

*Dans mon bateau, j'ai une baignoire.*

"In my boat, I have a bathtub."

*C'est mon père.*

"It's my father."

*C'est une jolie armoire. C'est mon armoire.*

"It's a nice wardrobe. It's my wardrobe."

*Mes examens sont difficiles.*

"My exams are difficult."

<i>J'adore regarder ce DVD avec mes amis.</i>	"I love to watch this DVD with my friends."
<i>J'admets mes erreurs.</i>	"I admit my mistakes."
<i>Ma chérie est partie.</i>	"My darling left."
<i>Les poèmes d'amour sont les plus beaux.</i>	"Love poems are the most beautiful ones."
<i>Le chocolat de Suisse.</i>	"the chocolate of Switzerland"
<i>C'est bon le chocolat.</i>	"Chocolate is good."
<i>Partons ensemble !</i>	"Let's go together!"
<i>Allons-y ensemble !</i>	"Let's go together."
<i>Cette épreuve, nous la surmonterons ensemble.</i>	"This challenge, we'll overcome it together."

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson is French Possessive Adjectives *mon, ma, and, mes***

*Ma chérie...*

"My darling..."

---

To be in love with two people at the same time can be a problematic position. To modify hostile situations, change your point of view and avoid regretful actions and consequences.

Most of us know that human beings need to belong to a group and associate with other people. The feeling of belonging nourishes a person's social self-esteem when the individual feels important to others. To be in such a healthy condition as often as possible, a person's point of view can change while they are in a challenging situation in order to make it tolerable or even worry free. To do so, take inventory, be thankful, and value your good fortune.

Any sort of relationship is successful when both individuals feel fulfilled or have more favorable benefits than negative ones. To enhance the feel of belonging to someone and therefore feel important, express what you have.

In the dialogue, Marc and Julie express the affection they have for each other. Marc uses *ma chérie* ("my darling") to state that Julie is his sweetheart. Julie does the same by calling him *mon amour*, literally "my love," while implying whether he needs anything through the intonation of a question.

To express your possession or relation to a person or to an object, use *ma* with feminine nouns and *mon* for masculine nouns.

### Examples:

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
Robert: <i>Mon fils David.</i>	"Robert: My son, David."
Anne: <i>Ma fille Sandra.</i>	"Ann: My daughter, Sandra."
Robert: <i>Ma voiture* est là.</i>	"Robert: My wife is there."
Anne: <i>Mon hélicoptère** est ici.</i>	"Ann: My husband is here."

\*Une voiture (feminine noun)

\*\*Un hélicoptère (masculine noun)

### Language Tip

---

The possessed object or related person determines the gender of the possessive adjective.

#### For example:

1. *Un petit-ami* ("a boyfriend") - *Mon petit-ami* ("My boyfriend")  
**Correct:** Marie: *C'est mon petit-ami.* ("Mary: It's my boyfriend.")  
**Incorrect:** Marie: *C'est ma petit-ami.* ("Mary: It's my boyfriend.")
2. *Un colis* ("a package") - *Mon colis.* ("My package.")  
**Correct:** Marie: *Mon colis est ici.* ("Mary: My brother is here.")  
**Incorrect:** Marie: *Ma frère est ici.* ("Mary: My brother is here.")

### Possessing Multiple Objects

---

Being in love with two persons can happen, but be sure to look at your situation! Having two love relationships can be detrimental to you. Therefore, before doing so and becoming possessed by two loves, manage your feelings by looking at the two people, and considering what you have with each of them. When you figure out which relationship is the most beneficial, you'll surely know what to do to engage a deeper relation with the one you choose.

Got you! In the dialogue, the two loves Julie possesses are her boyfriend Marc and chocolate! By stating, *mes deux amours, toi et le chocolat*, translated as "my two loves, you and chocolate," Julie appreciates what she has in her possession.

To express that you possess several objects or your relation to various people, use *mes*. Make sure that either a feminine or a masculine plural noun follows the possessive adjective.

**Examples:**

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Mes chaussettes noires.</i>	"My black socks."
<i>Mes grand-mères.</i>	"My grandmother."
<i>Mes poèmes.</i>	"My poems."
<i>Mes paires de chaussures.</i>	"My pairs of shoes."

---

## Cultural Insight

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### **TV Series: *Un gars, une fille* ("A Guy, A Girl")**

---

It is a popular comedy TV series watched by seven million people on the French channel, "France 2." Six minutes long, each episode portrays the ins and outs of a thirty year old couple, Alex (nicknamed *Chouchou*, or "her") and Jean (nicknamed *Loulou*, or "him"), in their everyday life.

They receive friends for supper, go to the convenience store, leave on a trip, and sometimes get on each other's nerves. The camera focuses mostly on the couple while pointing out their complicity, crises, and worries. The tone is extremely realist. How it can't be in a real life situation I don't know, the dialogues are very raw at times!

Fans are laughing, get surprised, or even reflect about the show. They are either discovering how life as a couple will be, identify themselves with Chouchou and Loulou, or enjoy watching how sharing a life is! The overall aim of the series is to be able to understand the difference between man and woman while not being too serious! First written, created, and broadcasted in Canada, it is the most successful Quebec show exported to more than thirty countries, including the US.



## Newbie Lesson S2

Give Him the Present He's Asking for in French

7

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## Informal French

---

Sandrine Vous jouez ? Vous somnolez ?  
 Hervé Non, je regarde les règles.  
 Sandrine Tu joues ?  
 Hervé Non ! Stéphane pioche !  
 Sandrine Ah bon.

## Informal English

---

Sandrine Are you all playing? Are you drowsing?  
 Hervé No, I'm looking at the rules.  
 Sandrine Are you playing?  
 Hervé No, Stéphane draw a card!  
 Sandrine Ah well.

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
jouer	to play	verb	
somnoler	to drowse	verb	
regarder	to watch, to look	verb	
règles	rules	noun	feminine
piocher	to dig up, to draw/take from a stack of cards	verb	
Vous jouez ?	Are you playing?	question	
Vous somnolez ?	Are you drowsing?	question	
Pioche !	Draw a card!	phrase	
Tu joues ?	Are you playing? (informal)	question	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Je joue à l'harmonica.*

"I play harmonica."

*En attendant son tour, il somnole au soleil.*

"While waiting for his turn, he's drowsing in the

<i>Nous avons regardé un bon film.</i>	sun."
<i>Je regarde ma montre.</i>	"We saw a good movie."
<i>La convention a instauré de nouvelles règles.</i>	"I look at my watch."
<i>Pour commencer à jouer, il faut piocher une carte.</i>	"The convention established new rules."
	"To start to play, you need to draw a card."

## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson is the French Present Tense

*Vous jouez ? vous somnolez ?*

"Are you all playing? Are you drowsing?"

---

Games are fun! Which ones are your favorites right now-cards, board games, word games, strategy games? Trends for specific games come and go! Poker was recently the game of choice! Its rebirth gathered people together. There are of course games known worldwide such as Twister, Trivial Pursuit, and Taboo-the three most popular board games in France. To describe what you usually do, what game you usually play, or what you do during the game, be sure to use the correct tense-the present!

### Enjoy the Moment: Describe Present Actions

---

Days are full of unpredicted incidents! You never know what tomorrow will bring. So don't be short or impatient, just enjoy the moment-it will not come back! Take a step back and avoid being pushy as Sandrine is. Because of her engaged nature in the game, Sandrine asks the other players to wake up and play with, *vous jouez? vous somnolez?* In English this means, "are you all playing? Are you drowsing?" She describes here what people are doing during the action of the game.

The two conjugated verbs she uses are *jouez* and *somnolez*, which are both part of the first verb group since their infinitive forms, *jouer* and *somnoler*, end with the letters -er. We group all verbs that end in -er in their infinitive form in the first group (there are three groups). This only includes regular verbs.

When addressing a group of friends or one person formally:

1. Take *vous* and add the verb
2. To form the conjugation take the infinitive verb and eliminate the two last letters (-er)
3. Add the second person plural ending (-ez)

**Examples:**

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Vous rentrez ou vous sortez ?</i>	"You go in or go out?"
<i>Vous achetez le journal.</i>	"You buy the newspaper."
<i>Cyril et toi, vous coupez les oignons.</i>	"Cyril and you, you cut the onions."
<i>Monsieur et Madame vous souhaitez du thé ?</i>	"Sir and Madam, you all wish for tea?"
<i>Vous parlez fort.</i>	"You speak loudly."

**Language Note:**

*Vous* has two meanings:

1. You (one person)- *Vous* can refer to one person in a formal context or when the person is not someone you know well
2. You (all/several persons)- *Vous* can refer to several persons in an informal situation, and/or when you know them well, or in a formal context

**For example:**

1. *Non, je regarde les règles.*  
"No, I'm looking at the rules."

After Sandrine asked her questions, Hervé, one of the other players, says that he is checking the rules of the game they are playing for the first time with, *non, je regarde les règles*. This means, "no, I'm looking at the rules," in English. He is therefore describing what he is doing while the game had already started. He uses the verb *regarde*, whose infinitive is *regarder*. The English match for this verb is "to look at."

When you are describing what you do using a regular verb, conjugate the phrase in the *indicative présent* (equivalent of the simple present in English). To do so:

1. Take the first person singular personal pronoun *je*
2. Eliminate the (-er) ending of the regular verb needed from the first verb group (as in the infinitive verb *regarder*)
3. Add the first person singular ending (-e)

**Examples:**

<i>French Infinitive Verb</i>	<i>French</i>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Manger</i>	<i>Je mange</i>	"I eat"
<i>Préparer</i>	<i>Je prépare</i>	"I prepare"
<i>Penser</i>	<i>Je pense</i>	"I think"
<i>Dessiner</i>	<i>Je dessine</i>	"I draw"
<i>Contempler</i>	<i>Je contemple</i>	"I admire"

**Language Expansion**

---

To describe what you are doing at the time of speaking you can also use *être* and *en train de* with the verb describing the action in the infinitive form. The expression, *en train de*, means "in the action of doing something."

**Examples:**

<i>French Infinitive Verb</i>	<i>French</i>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Manger</i>	<i>Je suis en train de manger</i>	"I'm eating"
<i>Préparer</i>	<i>Je suis en train de préparer</i>	"I'm preparing"
<i>Penser</i>	<i>Je suis en train de penser</i>	"I'm thinking"
<i>Dessiner</i>	<i>Je suis en train de dessiner</i>	"I'm drawing"
<i>Contempler</i>	<i>Je suis en train de contempler</i>	"I'm admiring"

**Language Tip**

---

Even though we only use the present progressive to describe actions while speaking, it is not the case in French. We use the *indicatif présent* (or simple present in English) as often or more often than the conjugation with *être en train de* in the *présent progressif* (or present continuous or progressive) when describing actions that are happening while speaking.

***Tu joues ?*****"Are you playing?"**

---

In the sentence, *tu joues*, Sandrine proves again she's thinking only about playing the game and is probably a poor loser. She firmly invites Hervé to play in order to get the game going by saying, *tu joues?* This translates as, "are you playing?" She talks directly to her friend Hervé on an informal tone by using *tu* and *joues*, the first verb group conjugation of the infinitive verb, *jouer* ("to play").

When you wish to speak directly to someone you know well, or when in an informal situation as with friends or family, use *tu* in order to complete your phrase using a regular infinitive verb ending with

-er.

1. Add *tu* after the verb
2. To conjugate it, eliminate the two last letters (-er)
3. Add the second person singular ending (-es)

### Examples:

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Tu voyages.</i>	"You travel."
<i>Tu marches!</i>	"You walk!"
<i>Tu racontes une histoire.</i>	"You tell a story."
<i>Tu discutes beaucoup.</i>	"You discuss a lot."
<i>Tu montes les escaliers.</i>	"You climb the stairs."

### Language Expansion: Question Marks and Using the Imperative

---

I. When typing questions in French into any word processor, e-mails, or any other support involving typographical rules, make sure to add a space before the interrogation mark as in:

1. **Correct:** *Tu joues ?*  
**Incorrect:** *Tu joues?*

II. Being a bit annoyed by Sandrine insisting on going on with the game, Hervé realizes that in fact it is Stéphane's turn and lets him know about it with, "*Non! Stéphane pioche!*" This matches the English phrase, "No. Stéphane, draw a card!" Here, Hervé gives Stéphane an order.

In French, to give an order directly to a person you need to use the *imperative*. The verb *pioche* is the second person singular verb form of the infinitive *piocher*.

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## Cultural Insight

## ***Loups-garous (Werewolf): a French Board Game***

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Inspired by a Soviet game of oral tradition, the board game *les Loups-garous de Thiercelieux* is at the same time a nice enhancement and an enrichment of the basic rules.

You can play the game Les Loups-garous ("werewolves") with anywhere from eight to eighteen players. Two werewolves get into a village where they kill the inhabitants, one after the other. Suspicions are drawn from one player to another. None of the players really have any proof of their accusations. However, guilty or not, a victim is needed to burn on the village square. The most important fact is to save your own skin.





## Newbie Lesson S2

Do You Take Mustard With Your Metal Sandwich?

8

Formal French	2
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## Formal French

---

Sandrine	Feu rouge ! Ah non...
Hervé	Je choisis 100 bornes !
Sandrine	Haaa !!! Tu réussis ! Héhéhéhé pneu crevé !
Hervé	Haaa Je réfléchis...

## Formal English

---

Sandrine	Red light! Oh, no...
Hervé	I choose 100 kilometers!
Sandrine	Ha! You succeed! Hehe Hehe, flat tire!
Hervé	Haaa! I'm thinking...

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
Feu rouge	Red light (traffic light)	noun	masculine
choisir	to choose	verb	
pneu	tire	noun	masculine
réussir	to succeed	verb	
crevé	punctured, tired (familiar)	adjective	masculine
réfléchir	to think (of-about)	verb	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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Arrête-toi au feu rouge!	<i>Stop at the red (traffic) light!</i>
Le feu est rouge.	<i>The stoplight is red.</i>
J'ai réussi mon test hier.	<i>I pass my test yesterday.</i>
Il n'a pas réfléchi aux conséquences de ses actes.	<i>He didn't think about the consequences of his actions.</i>

## Grammar Points

### Concentrate And Play Seriously!

What kind of player are you-happy go lucky, serious and angry, let's have fun and try to win, card games are for kids, or card games...how boring?

Among the many card games you can play, some require more strategy or luck and a minimum of diplomacy. You can also use some psychology in which you act as if none of your cards has any value in order to bluff your opponent. Some people can't help but cheat for hours to make sure they'll win. Others simply act as the wise one who after a while can't fight themselves and they let a small smile escape only to end up laughing aloud about their illegal performance.

### **Make Sure They Know: Describe Present Actions**

*Feu rouge, ah non... Je choisis 100 bornes! Je réfléchis.*

**"Red light! Oh, no... I choose 100 kilometers! I am thinking."**

No matter what kind of player you are, if you decide to play cards with your friends, surely it's because you enjoy it!

Sandrine and Hervé certainly do the same. They are enjoying their friends' company while playing the *1000 Bornes* card game in which they are drivers racing each other. The French word *borne* is slang for kilometer. It's also short in standard French for *une borne kilométrique*, meaning a kilometer marker.

Sandrine started well with the first card required, the green traffic light, which she laid down face-up on her turn during the first round. Unfortunately, one of her opponents gave her a red traffic light card right after that, forbidding her to drive and adding kilometers to her kilometer reader, which counts as points at the end of each hand.

Disappointed by her opponent's move, she complains with the phrase, "*Feu rouge! Ah non...*," meaning in English, "red light! Oh no...." Hervé on the other hand, can drive and add on kilometers to the cards in front of him to score points. He does so by choosing the one hundred kilometers marker card while using the phrase, "*Je choisis 100 bornes!*" In English this means, "I choose 100 kilometers!" By stating the card, it means Hervé is ready to lay it down and he wishes to make the others envious!

In the last phrase, the conjugated verb they use is *choisis*, from the infinitive *choisir*, meaning "to choose." Ending in [-ir], this regular verb is part of the second verb group. The verb *choisis* is the conjugation of the first person singular in the indicative present (equivalent of the simple present in English) in the phrase, *Je choisis 100 bornes!* In the last phrase of the dialogue, *Haaa Je réfléchis*, translated as "Ah, I'm thinking...", the verb *réfléchir* (to think or to reflect) has the same characteristic as the prior verb, *choisir*. It is part of the same verb group and we conjugate it in the same person and tense.

When using a regular verb ending in [-ir], form the second verb group with the first person singular pronoun *Je*, translated as "I," following the steps below.

1. Take *Je* and add the verb
2. To form the conjugation, take the infinitive verb, eliminate the two last letters [-ir]
3. Add the first person singular ending [-is]

#### Examples:

<i>Infinitive Verb</i>	<i>French</i>	"English"
<i>Grandir</i>	<i>Je grandis</i>	"I grow"
<i>Investir</i>	<i>J'investis</i>	"I invest"
<i>Rougir</i>	<i>Je rougis</i>	"I blush"
<i>Compatir</i>	<i>Je compatis</i>	"I sympathize"
<i>Bénir</i>	<i>Je bénis</i>	"I praise"

#### CULTURAL EXPANSION:

*Les bornes kilométriques*, or kilometer markers, are located on the road shoulders to indicate the road

category (freeway, national road, etc.) and road number. Some have additional information such as the closest city name and the number of kilometers between the marker itself and the next city. It allows any travelers to reacquaint themselves on the road.

In case of mechanical car issue, a driver is advised to locate the closest kilometer marker first. Then, he needs to locate an emergency booth also called in French, *une borne d'appel d'urgence* or *une borne SOS*. They look like a square orange column and set every 2 ½ kilometers, or 1.55 miles apart, on the shoulders of the freeway. The receiver is placed on the back, just pick it up and explain your situation.

If time is a factor in case of an accident, go straight to the emergency booth and pick up the receiver. Listen attentively to your interlocutor, reply to the questions asked, and follow the instructions. The authorities are easily able to locate emergency booths so they may send ambulance, fire fighters, and first aid rescue teams as needed.

***Haaa!!! Tu réussis! Héhéhéhé pneu crevé! "Ha! You succeed! Hehe Hehe Flat Tire!"***

A game is a game not a contest, let's play it.

That's what Hervé and Sandrine are doing! After Hervé takes his turn and scores points, Sandrine first states the obvious by commenting that he is on the right pass to win with, "*Ha! Tu réussis!*" In English this means, "Ha! You succeed." Then she takes her turn to attack by laying a flat tire card in front of Hervé and announcing it with, "*Héhéhéhé pneu crevé!*" Literally, this means, "Hehe hehe, flat tire." Now Hervé isn't able to drive and cumulate kilometers to get more points.

In this phrase, the one verb Sandrine uses is *réussis* from the infinitive *réussir*, meaning to succeed. The verb form *réussis* in the phrase said by Sandrine is the conjugation in the *indicative présent*, or simple present tense of the second person singular as indicated with the preceding personal pronoun *tu* or "you" in English.

To conjugate a verb in the second verb group [-ir] in the *indicatif présent* when speaking to your interlocutor follow the steps below.

1. Take the second person singular personal pronoun *tu*
2. Eliminate the [-ir] ending of the infinitive verb     needed
3. Add the second person singular ending [-is]

**Examples:**

<b>Infinitive verb</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Grandir</i>	<i>Tu grandis</i>	"You grow"
<i>Investir</i>	<i>Tu investis</i>	"You invest"
<i>Rougir</i>	<i>Tu rougis</i>	"You blush"
<i>Compatir</i>	<i>Tu compatis</i>	"You sympathize"
<i>Bénir</i>	<i>Tu bénis</i>	"You praise"

## Cultural Insight

---

**Another French card game: *la belotte!***

You play this national French card game with a regular card deck of thirty-two cards. Some say that Sr Belot invented *La belote*. However, others seem to think it originates in the ancient Alsacian (from the French region of *Alsace*) game and is a deformation of the phrase *Bel atout*, meaning "beautiful trump up card." The mystery goes on... The only certainty is that *la belotte*, or *le jass* (in Switzerland), and *le klevérjas* (from Holland), have the same ancestor.

You play *La belote* with four players by teams of two. The goal is to get a maximum of hands by reaching a certain number of points (example: 2 hands of 1000 points). You place the first card that you have left over from the first turn of dealing the cards face up. This card color determines the trump up cards. For example, if it is a Queen of hearts, hearts are the trump up cards. Each player can accept or refuse to take the card as trump up cards according to the cards he or she is holding.



## Newbie Lesson S2

Beating You in France is Going to Be Extra Sweet!

9

Informal French	2
Informal English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	3

## Informal French

---

Hervé                    Tu lances les dés ?  
 Sandrine                D'accord.  
 Hervé                    Tu bouges ton pion ?  
 Sandrine                D'accord.  
 Hervé                    Tu obéis ?  
 Sandrine                Ben non ! Je réfléchis !

## Informal English

---

Hervé                    Are you throwing the dice?  
 Sandrine                Okay.  
 Hervé                    Are you moving your piece?  
 Sandrine                Okay.  
 Hervé                    Are you obeying me?  
 Sandrine                Huh, no! I'm thinking!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
lancer	to throw	verb	
dé	dice	noun	masculine
d'accord	okay, I agree	expression	
bouger	move	verb	
ton	your informal	possessive adjective	masculine or feminine
pion	piece (board game piece)	noun	masculine
obéir	to obey	verb	
réfléchir	to think (of or about)	verb	
Tu lances ?	Are you throwing?	question	
Tu obéis ?	Are you obeying?	question	
Je réfléchis.	I am thinking.	phrase	
Tu bouges ?	Are you moving?	question	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Lance-moi les clés du balcon !</i>	"Throw me the keys from the balcony!"
<i>Il y a six dés dans le jeu du Yahtzee.</i>	"There are six dice in the Yahtzee game."
<i>Je suis d'accord.</i>	"I agree."
<i>Bouge de là !</i>	"Move from here!"
<i>C'est ton stylo ?</i>	"Is this your pen?"
<i>Avance ton pion jusqu'à la case départ !</i>	"Move your pawn/counter forward to the start."
<i>Tu dois obéir aux règles du jeu.</i>	"You must obey the game's rules."
<i>Il n'a pas réfléchi aux conséquences de ses actes.</i>	"He didn't think about the consequences of his actions."

## Grammar Points

### The Focus of This Lesson is the French Present Indicative Tense

*Tu lances les dés? Tu bouges ton pion?*

**"Are you throwing the dice? Are you moving your piece?"**

Have you ever heard someone say, "I learn fast when something is explained to me for a long time?" To present your flaws in such a manner in a job interview for example, will probably make your interlocutor laugh and forget about it!

You will find a similar humorous contradictory sense in today's dialogue. Effectively, "think well but play fast," can summarize the dialogue and have a favorable fun effect due to its inevitable entertaining contradictory matter. How can someone do something fast if one needs further reflection? Make any situation yours by spreading positive thoughts and amusing comments.

### Conjugating the First Verb Group, or Verbs Ending in -er

Common insignificant situations can be amusing if you look at them from an outsider's point of view. After playing cards, Sandrine and Hervé (refer to previous Newbie Lesson Season 2 #8) decide to go on with their game night, but with a board game. Sandrine's turn started already and it's time for her to play. Hervé reminds her of it with the question, *Tu lances les dés?* In English this means, "are you throwing the dice?" She of course agrees with him and answers with the one word *D'accord*, meaning, "okay." Once she rolls the dice, Hervé keeps Sandrine's attention on the game by asking, *Tu bouges ton pion?* The English translation is, "are you moving your piece?" Again, Sandrine accepts with the identical one word answer.

In both questions, we use the same type of verbs and the same tense. Both the conjugated verb *lances* from the infinitive *lancer* ("to throw"), and *bouges* from the infinitive *bouger* ("to move"), are regular

verbs from the first verb group as their infinitive endings are -er. Moreover, you conjugate them both in the same person with *tu* ("you"), the second person singular of the *indicatif présent* or simple present.

To conjugate a regular verb ending in -er from the first verb group, follow the steps below.

1. Determine the subject of your sentence and its person
2. To find the correct verb conjugation, take the infinitive verb and eliminate the last two letters, -er
3. Add the ending corresponding to the correct person from the table below

<b>Person</b>	<b>Personal Pronoun</b>	<b>Verb Ending</b>
<b>First Singular</b>	<i>Je</i>	- <u>e</u>
<b>Second Singular</b>	<i>Tu</i>	- <u>es</u>
<b>Third Singular (masculine)</b>	<i>Il</i>	- <u>e</u>
<b>Third Singular (feminine)</b>	<i>Elle</i>	- <u>e</u>
<b>First Plural</b>	<i>Nous</i>	- <u>ons</u>
<b>Second Plural</b>	<i>Vous</i>	- <u>ez</u>
<b>Third Plural (masculine)</b>	<i>Ils</i>	- <u>ent</u>
<b>Third Plural (feminine)</b>	<i>Elles</i>	- <u>ent</u>

Here is an illustration:

You'd like to say that Mary walks every day. You know that "to walk" is *marcher* and "every day" is *tous les jours*.

1. Mary is the subject. Mary, the sentence subject corresponds to the third person singular.
2. *Marcher* becomes *march-*
3. The third person singular ending is -e, so the verb form is *marche*
4. The complete sentence is, *Mary marche tous les jours*

### Examples:

<b>Infinitive Verb</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Couper</i>	<i>Je coupe</i>	"I cut"
<i>Inventer</i>	<i>Tu inventes</i>	"You invent"
<i>Crier</i>	<i>Il crie</i>	"He screams"
<i>Pleurer</i>	<i>Nous pleurons</i>	"We cry"

<i>Déchirer</i>	<i>Vous déchirez</i>	"You tear"
<i>Chercher</i>	<i>Elles cherchent</i>	"They look for"

### Dialogue Expansion

When playing a board game, instead of asking, *tu lances les dés* ("are you throwing the dice?"), you can get your opponent to play by saying, *lance les dés!* ("throw the dice!") Here, you leave out the subject *tu*. In this case, the phrase is not a request, but a strong instruction or even an order depending on body language and voice intonation. We conjugated the verb form *lance*, in *lance les dés*, here in the imperative of the second person singular.

### Conjugating the Second Verb Group, or Verbs Ending in -ir

Rude is not French! Well, no it's English. In French you'd say instead *impoli(e)* or *mal élevé(e)*. Even though some believe French people to be rude, we still have words as *poli(e)* or *bien-élevé(e)* to describe well-educated and polite people!

However, we could say that our imaginary character Hervé is rude with his fiancé-to-be by strongly requesting her to obey him with the question, *tu obéis*, which means, "are you obeying me?" Doing as she desires to choose the best play, she replies with, *ben non! Je réfléchis!* In English this means, "huh, no! I'm thinking!"

Both the verbs *obéir* ("to obey") and *réfléchir* ("to think, reflect") are from the second verb group as their endings are -ir. In both sentences, we conjugate these two verbs in the *présent de l'indicatif* or simple present in English.

To conjugate an infinitive verb that ends in [-ir] from the second verb group in the *indicatif présent*, follow the directions below.

1. Determine the subject of your sentence and its person
2. Take the infinitive verb and eliminate the last two letters, -ir
3. Add the ending corresponding to the correct person from the table below

<b>Person</b>	<b>Personal Pronoun</b>	<b>Verb Ending</b>
<b>First Singular</b>	<i>Je</i>	<i>-is</i>
<b>Second Singular</b>	<i>Tu</i>	<i>-is</i>
<b>Third Singular (masculine)</b>	<i>Il</i>	<i>-it</i>
<b>Third Singular (feminine)</b>	<i>Elle</i>	<i>-it</i>
<b>First Plural</b>	<i>Nous</i>	<i>-issons</i>
<b>Second Plural</b>	<i>Vous</i>	<i>-issez</i>

<b>Third Plural (masculine)</b>	<i>Ils</i>	<i>-issent</i>
<b>Third Plural (feminine)</b>	<i>Elles</i>	<i>-issent</i>

Here is an illustration:

You'd like to say that Paul acts fast. You know that "to act" is *agir* and "fast" is *vite*.

1. Paul is the subject of the sentence, and corresponds to the third person singular.
2. *Agir* becomes *ag-*
3. The third person singular ending is *-it*, so the verb form is *agit*
4. The correct sentence is, *Paul agit vite*

### Examples

<i>Infinitive Verb</i>	<i>French</i>	"English"
<i>Finir</i>	<i>Je finis</i>	"I finish"
<i>Avertir</i>	<i>Tu avertis</i>	"You invent"
<i>Fournir</i>	<i>Il fournit</i>	"He provides"
<i>Remplir</i>	<i>Nous remplissons</i>	"We fill"
<i>Nourrir</i>	<i>Vous nourrissez</i>	"You feed"
<i>Garantir</i>	<i>Elles garantissent</i>	"They guarantee"

### Conjugation Focus

Some -ir verbs are unfortunately irregular and are classified in the 3rd verb group. To help you differentiate them, note that all verbs' present participles from the 2nd verb group always end in *-issant*.

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So when practicing French while reading or writing for example, try to check the verbs you encounter for their infinitive and present participle. Then make a list of each -ir verb of the 2nd verb group you find. Doing this will help you memorize them through practice. After reusing them at different times and when practicing your French, you'll have a better chance to remember them and you will improve your conjugation!



## Newbie Lesson S2

Do You Know What the Word “NO” Means?

10

Informal French	2
Informal English	2
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Grammar Points	2
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## Informal French

---

Phillipe	Sophie, tu écris ?
Sophie	Non, je n'écris pas !
Philippe	Tu gribouilles ?
Sophie	Non, je ne gribouille pas. Je dessine !
Phillipe	Oh non! Tu ne dessines pas sur la table ! Papa, sophie n'écoute pas !

## Informal English

---

Phillippe	Sophie, are you writing?
Sophie	No, I'm not writing!
Philippe	Are you scribbling?
Sophie	No, I'm not scribbling! I am drawing!
Phillipe	Oh, no! You don't draw on the table! Dad! Sophie doesn't listen!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
non	no	adverb	
dessiner	to draw	verb	
écouter	to listen	verb	
sur	on	preposition	
table	table	noun	feminine
ben	Hmmf	interjection	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

Non, je ne suis pas Madame Henri.	<i>No, I'm not Madame Henri.</i>
Non, je ne suis pas d'accord.	<i>No, I don't agree.</i>
Non, ce n'est pas vrai.	<i>No, it's not the truth.</i>
Il aime dessiner des soldats et des voitures.	<i>He likes to draw soldiers and cars.</i>
J'adore dessiner des cœurs.	<i>I love to draw hearts.</i>
Ecoute la chanson.	<i>Listen to the song.</i>
Le pain est sur la table.	<i>The bread is on the table.</i>

## Grammar Points

### **Spoiled or Stubborn?**

Some are angels and others are demons! Education, boredom, and character can shape a child's behavior. Being a parent is certainly not a relaxing job! It is full of responsibilities and obligations.

However, taking care of, nurturing, and developing a child's health, mental capacity, and feelings will improve their behavior. If you don't pay attention to them, or give them too much attention, a child can behave badly. Therefore, when watching a kid doing odd things or being foolish, take precaution before handing in your judgment as a family outsider. The child may be either spoiled or stubborn!

Listen: Question or Statement?

*Sophie, tu écris? Tu gribouilles?*

**"Sophie, are you writing? Are you scribbling?"**

Everyone had fun as a child disobeying their parents or using their wild imagination to occupy themselves. Six-year-old Sophie is spending the afternoon at her cousin Philip's seventh birthday. Bored and out in the yard, Sophie finds some paint and brushes and starts to use them in an unusual way-on the table! She seems to have a lot of fun! Philippe, wondering what she's doing, asks first if she's writing with the question, "*Sophie, tu écris?*" (Sophie, are you writing?). As this is not the case, he tries to guess again to find out what she is doing with brushes by asking, "*tu gribouilles?*" In English this means, "are you scribbling?"

*Je dessine ! Tu ne dessines pas sur la table !*

**"I draw! You don't draw on the table!"**

After Philippe asks his questions, Sophie snaps back by replying very fast! She seems bothered while creating her fine, demanding art! Concentrating in her craft, she first tells her cousin that she's not writing. It seems so evident! Then, as Philippe didn't yet guess correctly, she adds that she's drawing with the phrase, *je dessine!* It's then that Philippe realizes Sophie's foolish action and attempts to get her into the right path by warning her she's making a BIG mistake with the statement, *tu ne dessines pas sur la table*, meaning, "You don't draw on the table!"

**Dialogue Expansion:**

Note that the questions, *Sophie, tu écris* and *tu gribouilles*, and the statements, *je dessine* and *tu ne dessines pas sur la table*, have the same word order. The questions included in the dialogue are yes-no questions, or as we call them in French-*questions fermées*. When listening, the only way to distinguish the French yes-no questions presented in the dialogue from statements is by their intonation. Since their word order is the same as a statement, people raise the intonation when asking questions. On the contrary, for a statement the intonation will fall.

**Negating a Statement**

*Non, je n'écris pas! Non, je ne gribouille pas.*

**"No, I'm not writing! No, I'm not scribbling!"**

Some people or cultures have a hard time saying "No!" For others it comes easy as it is for Sophie! Just when Philippe finished speaking, Sophie, irritated by what is a nonsense question in her opinion, replies firmly, "*non, je n'écris pas,*" or in English, "no, I'm not writing!" By using the word no followed by the negative phrase in which she repeats the verb *écrire*, she makes sure her cousin

understands she's irritated.

The same happens with her second replies, *non, je ne gribouille pas*, (no, I'm not scribbling!) and the even more specific answer, *je dessine*, which explains what she is doing.

Both of Sophie's replies contain negative statements. They are identifiable in the dialogue by the words *non* (the English word "no"), and the particles *ne* or *-n* and *pas* (the equivalent of "not" or its possible contractions in English). To negate information, you can only use *non* or make a negative statement. To do so:

1. Make a simple affirmative statement always composed of the subject, verb and complement.
  - A. Observe the verb first letter
    1. If it is a consonant, add ***ne*** before and ***pas*** after
    2. If it is a vowel, add ***-n*** before and ***pas*** after

Here is an illustration with the English phrase "Sophie is a spoiled child."

1. *Sophie est une enfant gâtée.*
  - A. The verb used is *est* starting with:
    1. A vowel- the letter [e-]. So the negative phrase is:  
"*Sophie n'est pas une enfant gâtée.*"

<b><i>French Negative Phrases</i></b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Philippe ne gronde pas Sophie.</i>	"Philippe doesn't tell off Sophie."
<i>Elle ne parle pas gentiment.</i>	"She doesn't speak nicely."
<i>Il ne répond pas.</i>	"He doesn't answer."
<i>Le père n'arrive pas.</i>	"The father doesn't come."
<i>Les amis de Philippe n'aiment pas Sophie.</i>	"Philippe's friend doesn't like Sophie."
<i>Les parents n'organisent pas un jeu.</i>	"Parents are not organizing a game."

## Cultural Insight

### Classic Story

---

Today's dialogue was inspired by a very well-known book in France which was the subject of many new editions. Its success is undeniable still today. Published in Great Britain in 1859, they used it to train young girls translating French.

*Les Malheurs de Sophie*, or *The Unfortunate Events of Sophie*, is a story written for kids by the Countess of Ségur. From Russian origin, her family moved to France in 1817 when she was sixteen. Two years later, she married the Count of Ségur and only started her career as a writer in her fifties.

Her book is part of a trilogy-*Les Petites Filles modèles* ("The Perfect Little Girls," 1858), and *et Les Vacances* ("The Holidays," 1859). The story takes place in a castle in the French country during the second Empire where Sophie and her parents live. She is a victim of her curiosity and adventurous spirit by committing many foolish things with her cousin Paul who tries in vain to show her the right path. Her friends are Camille and Madeleine de Fleurville, *the perfect little girls* that she has a hard time trying to imitate.





## Newbie Lesson S2

Discontinued Activities: If French Food Stinks, Then Don't Eat!

11

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## Informal French

---

Nicolas            Je ne bois plus !  
 Mère                Pourquoi ?  
 Nicolas            Je ne mange plus !  
 Mère                Pourquoi ?  
 Nicolas            Berk ça pue !

## Informal English

---

Nicolas            I don't drink anymore!  
 Mère                Why?  
 Nicolas            I don't eat anymore!  
 Mère                Why?  
 Nicolas            Phew! It stinks!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
boire	to drink	verb	
pourquoi	why	interrogative adverb	
manger	to eat	verb	
puer	to stink	verb	
non plus -ne/n' + verbe + plus	not anymore, don't/doesn't + verb + anymore	adverb	
Ça pue !	It stinks!	phrase	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Il boit mais il a encore soif.*

*A: Tu ne bois pas un café? B: Si, avec du sucre.*

*Pourquoi es-tu ici ?*

*Pourquoi es-tu triste?*

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

"A: You aren't drinking coffee, are you? B: Yes, with some sugar."

"Why are you here?"

"Why are you sad?"

*En France, on peut bien manger.*

*Il mange le quart du gâteau.*

*Vous mangez le déjeuner à midi ?*

*Le linge sale pue.*

*Il a les pieds qui puent.*

*Tu n'aimes plus les films d'horreur.*

"In France, we can eat well."

"He eats a quarter of the cake."

"You eat lunch at noon?"

"Dirty laundry stinks."

"His feet stink."

"You don't like horror movies anymore."

## Grammar Points

---

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Discussing Discontinued Activities in French**

***Je ne bois plus! Je ne mange plus!***

**"I don't drink anymore! I don't eat anymore!"**

---

Doing as one pleases is not always the wisest choice. Imagine everyone you meet in the street or in your entourage doing exactly what they want, when they want! It would certainly be a disaster! Staff wouldn't work. Bosses would impose rules and throw orders around. Secretaries would do their hair and nails all day long. Students would never show up for class...and the list goes on.

Living within society requires following some rules of conduct. So be aware and do as you please while considering others!

### **Change: Express a Discontinued Activity**

---

The only thing guaranteed is change. Nothing stays the same. Kids grow, employees move up the ladder, companies are restructured, and markets fluctuate. Individuals also evolve and may decide to end a hobby or activity, sometimes for another or simply to lighten their free time.

Nicolas also ends what he is doing. At Phillip's 7th birthday, one of his friends, Nicolas, ate like a French man on a hunger strike! The host, Phillip's mother, not being aware of his fulfilled appetite, offers him something to drink and cake to eat. However, Nicolas is stuffed and with his stomach full, refuses with an attitude by saying, *je ne bois plus!* In English, this means that he doesn't want to drink anymore. The mother-a bit surprised-tries to find an explanation by asking for the reason for Phillip's reaction with the one word question, *pourquoi*, or in English, "Why?"

Thereafter, Phillip adds, *je ne mange plus*, to let the woman know he doesn't want to eat anymore. Still in awe, she repeats her question and Phillip responds frankly with, *Berk ça pue*, translated as "Phew! It stinks!"

In both Nicolas' lines, the young boy expresses a discontinued activity. In the two phrases, *je ne bois plus* and *je ne mange plus*, we use the identical negative form composed of the two particles *ne* and *plus*. Both are adverbs and display the fact that the actions introduced (e.g., drinking and eating in the dialogue), which were occurring in the past, have now ended. We place the particles *ne* and *plus* around a verb in the simple tense.\* We place the adverb *ne* before the verb and *plus* after the verb.

**\*Note:** A simple tense is a tense which does not include an auxiliary (such as *avoir* ou *être*), but rather just one verb conjugated in any tense.

### Examples:

<b>French Negative Phrases</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Je ne vois plus Jean.</i>	"I don't see Jean anymore."
<i>Elle ne parlera plus de ses problèmes.</i>	"She won't talk about her problem anymore."
<i>La mère de Phillippe n'invitera plus Nicolas.</i>	"Phillip's mother won't invite Nicolas anymore."
<i>Il n'était plus malade lundi.</i>	"He wasn't sick anymore on Monday."
<i>Mes amis ne viennent plus.</i>	"My friends don't come anymore."
<i>Les gens ne voyagent plus.</i>	"People don't travel anymore."



### Language Expansion

To use the negative form *ne/plus* with a verb in the composed form (e.g., with an auxiliary such as in the following tenses: *passé composé*, *futur antérieur*, *subjonctif présent*, *imparfait*, the passive voice etc.), put the first adverb *ne* before the auxiliary and *pas* after it, as in a phrase with the auxiliary *avoir*.

### For example:

1. *Je n'ai plus mangé de desserts depuis le mois de mars.*  
"I didn't eat desserts anymore since the month of March."

## Cultural Insight

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### *Le Petit Nicolas from Sempé and Goscinni "The Little Nicolas"*

---

Today's young character was inspired from the famous character *Le petit Nicolas* ("the Little Nicolas"). He appears in a series of humoristic illustrated books. The stories focus on Nicolas, a young boy living in the city. The narration is through the little boy's intimate thoughts using a children's language in which they combine tenderness and humor. In 2009, a film and animated TV show will be released depicting Nicolas' adventures to celebrate his 50th year of existence.





## Newbie Lesson S2

Negation: Tell Them Everything You Will NEVER Do in France!

12

Informal French	2
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## Informal French

---

Une française	Je ne râle jamais !
Un étranger	Ah oui ?
Une française	Je ne bois jamais !
Un étranger	heu d'eau ?
Une française	Je ne fume jamais !
Un étranger	de cigarettes roulées !

## Informal English

---

A French woman	I never complain!
A foreigner	Oh yeah?
A French woman	I never drink!
A foreigner	Huh, water?
A French woman	I never smoke!
A foreigner	Hand rolled cigarettes!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
râler	to complain, to protest, to moan	verb	
boire	to drink	verb	
eau	water	noun	
fumer	to smoke	verb	
cigarette roulée	hand-rolled cigarette	noun	
jamais	never	adverb	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Arrête de râler en permanence !*

*Il boit mais il a encore soif.*

*A: Tu ne bois pas un café? B: Si, avec du sucre.*

“Stop moaning all the time!”

“He drinks, but he's still thirsty.”

“A: You aren't drinking coffee, are you? B: Yes, with some sugar.”

<i>Le niveau accru de l'eau de la rivière cause des dommages.</i>	"The increased water level of the river causes damages."
<i>C'est hors de question que tu fumes !</i>	"It's out of the question that you smoke!"
<i>Prenez soin de vous ! Vous fumez trop !</i>	"Take care of yourself! You're smoking too much!"
<i>Il fume des cigarettes roulées.</i>	"He smokes rolled cigarettes."
<i>Je ne dirais Jamais oui!</i>	"I would never say yes!"

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson is Negation in French Using *ne...jamais* ("never, not ever")**

*Je ne râle jamais.*

**"I never complain."**

---

Negation is essential for enjoyment and free will! Making a choice can only be possible through either accepting, or refusing by using negation or simply stating things you don't do. After looking at the most common negation with *NE* + verb + *PAS* (Newbie Season 2 #11), and learning how to slightly change the previous grammar structure to express "not anymore" (Newbie Season 2 #10), we are going to explain how to say things you'd never do...at least until you change your mind!

There are many ways to say "no." You can either use the silent treatment, gesture, or express how you feel. When you are sure of yourself and want to make clear that you won't ever do something, you will use the word *jamais* in the "two particle negative structure." Let's observe the negative phrases used in the conversation.

After meeting and spending some time together, the conversation between a French lady and a foreigner gets more relaxed and a bit more personal. They are talking about themselves to each other and the French lady says, *Je ne râle jamais* ("I never complain!")!

In order to express the fact that something never happens, we use the word *jamais* in conjunction with the negative particle *ne*. We place these two words, *ne* corresponding to "not," and *jamais* translated as "never," in a negative sentence, as you will see in the following examples.

### Negation with *ne / jamais*

---

**Subject + *ne / n'\** + verb + *jamais***

**For Example:**

1. *Je ne râle jamais.*  
"I don't complain."

Observe *jamais* takes the same place as *pas*, which it replaces, as in *Je ne râle pas* Meaning, "I don't complain."

\* *Ne* is written *n'* (-n apostrophe) when the following verb starts with a vowel (see examples #4 and 5).

### More Examples

---

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Je ne crie jamais.</i>	"I never scream."
<i>Je ne lis jamais.</i>	"I never read."
<i>Je ne rigole jamais.</i>	"I never laugh."
<i>Je n'écris jamais.</i>	"I never write."
<i>Je n'arrête jamais.</i>	"I never give up."

***Je ne bois jamais d'eau. Je ne fume jamais de cigarettes roulées.***  
**"I never drink water. I never smoke rolled cigarettes."**

---

Later, the woman goes on talking about her perfect habits by stating that she never drinks with *Je ne bois jamais*. The man, not sure of her honesty, turns her statement into a joke by adding *d'eau* meaning, "she never drinks water!" Therefore, the complete phrase is *Je ne bois jamais d'eau*.

The last sentence of the dialogue, *Je ne fume jamais* means, "I never drink," and it follows the same pattern as previously. The man adds his own comment by saying *de cigarettes roulées*. This complete sentence is *Je ne fume jamais de cigarettes* ("I never smoke rolled cigarettes.").

In the two sentences, *Je ne bois jamais d'eau* and *Je ne fume jamais de cigarettes*, we added information. The speaker gives precise information and restricts what he would never do, from not drinking to not drinking water. The pattern we use to give more details about never do something is negation with *ne / pas* followed by *de* and a noun.

### Negation with *ne / jamais* + **Thing**

---

**Subject + *ne* + verb + *jamais* + *DE*\* + noun with consonnant.**

**Subject + *ne* + verb + *jamais* + *D'*\* + noun with vowel.**

\*We use *de* or *d'* when talking about uncountable things or talking in general context (not one thing in particular). For example, you could say *Je ne regarde jamais la television*, which means, "I never watch TV." Here, we talk about TV in general, not a TV in particular. (For more details about when to use *ne / jamais de* or *ne / jamais + article defini + noun*, check the Grammar links of this lesson).

### More Examples

---

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Je ne crie jamais de gros mots.</i>	"I never scream bad words."
<i>Je ne lis jamais de littérature.</i>	"I never read literature."
<i>Je ne rigole jamais de toi.</i>	"I never laugh about you."
<i>Je n'écris jamais de lettres.</i>	"I never write."
<i>Je n'arrête jamais d'étudier.</i>	"I never give up."





## Newbie Lesson S2

Use Être to Tell Him Everything He Wants to Know in French!

13

Informal French	2
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## Informal French

---

Céline Je suis un homme. Je suis français. Qui suis-je ?  
 Alex Sylvain ?  
 Céline Non ! Je suis petit.  
 Alex Christophe ?  
 Céline Non ! Je suis empereur !  
 Alex Ahhhh ! Napoléon !  
 Céline Ouiiiii !

## Informal English

---

Céline I'm a man. I'm French. Who am I?  
 Alex Sylvain?  
 Céline No! I am small.  
 Alex Christophe?  
 Céline No! I'm an emperor!  
 Alex Ahh! Napoléon!  
 Céline Yes!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
être	to be	verb	
homme	man	noun	masculine
français	French	adjective	masculine
qui	who, that	relative/ interrogative pronoun	
non	no	adverb	
petit(e)	small	adjective	masculine
empereur	emperor	noun	masculine
je suis	I am	phrase	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Il vaut mieux être seul que mal accompagné.*

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

*Il semble être heureux.*

"He seems to be happy."

*Être ou ne pas être.*

"To be or not to be."

*L'homme de la situation n'est pas venu.*

"The right man for the job didn't come."

*Gaspard Ulliel est un jeune acteur français.*

"Gaspard Ulliel is a young French actor."

*Elle continue le cours de français avec Frenchpod101.*

"She goes on with her course with Frenchpod101."

*Oui, je suis français.*

"Yes, I'm French."

*Je cherche la personne qui a laissé un message.*

"I look for the person who left a message."

*Qui veut un gâteau au chocolat?*

"Who wants a chocolate cake?"

*Non, je ne suis pas Madame Henri.*

"No, I'm not Madame Henri."

*Non, je ne suis pas d'accord.*

"No, I don't agree."

*Non, ce n'est pas vrai.*

"No, it's not true."

*Elle est petite.*

"She is small."

*L'empereur Napoléon trois est sur les pièces de monnaie en cuivre de 1859.*

"The Emperor Napoleon III is on the copper coin from 1859."

*Je suis à la maison.*

"I'm at home."

*Excusez-moi, je suis maladroit.*

"Excuse me, I'm clumsy."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson is Using the Verb *être* to Talk About Yourself in French**

*Alors, je suis un homme. Je suis français. Qui suis-je ?*

**"So, I am a man. I am French. Who am I?"**

One of the most popular subjects to talk about is yourself. Generally speaking, people enjoy telling others about what they achieve, sharing problems that they may have, or just giving basic personal information. Today, our focus is to describe your physical appearance, your profession, and your nationality, with the verb *être* ("to be").

### Physical Descriptions

***Non! Je suis petit.***

**"No! I am small."**

Regardless how you look, being able to describe your own appearance can be useful when meeting a person face-to-face for the first time in a public place. While Céline and Alex engaged in the guessing game, Céline describes the height of the person she's thinking about as small with *Je suis petit*,

meaning "I'm small." To describe your physical appearance, use the first person pronoun *je* and the verb *être* ("to be") conjugated as *suis*, followed by an adjective describing your height, body shape, weight, and so on.

### Examples:

<b>French Phrases For Men</b>	<b>French Phrases For Women</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Je suis de taille moyenne.</i>	<i>Je suis de taille moyenne.</i>	"I am average height."
<i>Je suis grand.</i>	<i>Je suis grande.</i>	"I am tall."
<i>Je suis gros.</i>	<i>Je suis grosse.</i>	"I am fat."
<i>Je suis grassouillet.</i>	<i>Je suis grassouillette.</i>	"I am chubby."
<i>Je suis fort.</i>	<i>Je suis forte.</i>	"I am strong."
<i>Je suis athlétique.</i>	<i>Je suis athlétique.</i>	"I am athletic."
<i>Je suis musclé.</i>	<i>Je suis musclée.</i>	"I am muscular."
<i>Je suis robuste.</i>	<i>Je suis robuste.</i>	"I am robust."
<i>Je suis chétif.</i>	<i>Je suis chétive.</i>	"I am sickly."
<i>Je suis frêle.</i>	<i>Je suis frêle.</i>	"I am frail."
<i>Je suis svelte.</i>	<i>Je suis svelte.</i>	"I am slender."
<i>Je suis mince.</i>	<i>Je suis mince.</i>	"I am slim."
<i>Je suis maigre.</i>	<i>Je suis maigre.</i>	"I am thin."
<i>Je suis pâle.</i>	<i>Je suis pâle.</i>	"I am pale."
<i>Je suis bronzé.</i>	<i>Je suis bronzée.</i>	"I am suntanned."
<i>Je suis hâlé.</i>	<i>Je suis hâlée.</i>	"I am tanned."

### Language Tip

To form the feminine of most adjectives, add an -e. Refer to the exceptions in the grammar links attached to this lesson.

### Tell Them Where You're From

*Je suis français.*

**"I am French."**

After deciding to kill time by playing the guessing game, Céline gives her first clue about the person's sex and his origin by stating *Je suis un homme Je suis français*. To describe your nationality, use the first person pronoun *je*, followed by *suis* (the conjugation of *être*, "to be"), and the adjective of nationality.

### Examples:

<b>French Phrases For Men</b>	<b>French Phrases For Women</b>	<b>"English"</b>
-------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------

<i>Je suis français.</i>	<i>Je suis française.</i>	"I am French."
<i>Je suis japonais.</i>	<i>Je suis japonaise.</i>	"I am Japanese."
<i>Je suis polonais.</i>	<i>Je suis polonaise.</i>	"I am Polish."
<i>Je suis américain.</i>	<i>Je suis américaine.</i>	"I am American."
<i>Je suis mexicain.</i>	<i>Je suis mexicaine.</i>	"I am Mexican."
<i>Je suis tunisien.</i>	<i>Je suis tunisienne.</i>	"I am American."
<i>Je suis australien.</i>	<i>Je suis australienne.</i>	"I am Australian."
<i>Je suis autrichien.</i>	<i>Je suis autrichienne.</i>	"I am Austrian."
<i>Je suis chinois.</i>	<i>Je suis chinoise.</i>	"I am Chinese."
<i>Je suis allemand.</i>	<i>Je suis allemande.</i>	"I am German."
<i>Je suis espagnol.</i>	<i>Je suis espagnole.</i>	"I am Spanish."
<i>Je suis russe.</i>	<i>Je suis russe.</i>	"I am Russian."
<i>Je suis belge.</i>	<i>Je suis belge.</i>	"I am Belgium."
<i>Je suis suisse.</i>	<i>Je suis suisse.</i>	"I am Swiss."

### Language Tip

Note that we spell the adjectives of nationality without a capital letter. However nouns such as "a Frenchman, a Frenchwoman" have the same form but are written with a capital letter, as in *Anne est une Française de Londres* ("Anne is a Frenchwoman from London.").

### Tell Them Your Profession

*Je suis empereur.*

"I am an emperor."

An additional clue Céline provides about the person's profession is *Je suis un empereur* meaning, "I am an emperor." To state your job title, use the first person pronoun *je*, followed by the profession.

### Examples:

<b>French Phrases For Men</b>	<b>French Phrases For Women</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Je suis employé.</i>	<i>Je suis employée.</i>	"I am an employee."
<i>Je suis ouvrier.</i>	<i>Je suis ouvrière.</i>	"I am a factory worker."
<i>Je suis secrétaire.</i>	<i>Je suis secrétaire.</i>	"I am a secretary."
<i>Je suis conseiller.</i>	<i>Je suis conseillère.</i>	"I am an adviser."
<i>Je suis ingénieur.</i>	<i>Je suis ingénieur.</i>	"I am an engineer."
<i>Je suis chargé de clientèle.</i>	<i>Je suis chargée de clientèle.</i>	"I am a customer service representative."
<i>Je suis acheteur.</i>	<i>Je suis acheteur.</i>	"I am a buyer."
<i>Je suis chauffeur.</i>	<i>Je suis chauffeur.</i>	"I am a driver."

<i>Je suis délégué commercial.</i>	<i>Je suis déléguée commerciale.</i>	"I am a sales manager."
<i>Je suis aide comptable.</i>	<i>Je suis aide comptable.</i>	"I am an accountant assistant."
<i>Je suis électromécanicien.</i>	<i>Je suis électromécanicienne.</i>	"I am an electro-mechanic."
<i>Je suis responsable commercial.</i>	<i>Je suis responsable commercial.</i>	"I am a sales representative."

### Language Tip

---

Notice in French the absence of an article in front of the profession.

#### For Example:

1. *Je suis boulanger.*  
"I am a baker."



## Newbie Lesson S2

French Verb Avoir: Well, You Are No French Beauty Queen Yourself!

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## Informal French

---

Alex J'ai les yeux verts. Qui suis-je ?  
 Céline Hmmmm ....Christophe ?  
 Alex Non! J'ai les cheveux longs.  
 Céline Hmmmm ... Angèle ?  
 Alex Non ! J'ai une mini-jupe.  
 Céline Hahah, c'est moi !

## Informal English

---

Alex I have green eyes! Who am I?  
 Céline Hmmmm...Christophe?  
 Alex No! I have long hair.  
 Céline Hmmmm...Angèle?  
 Alex No! I have a mini-skirt.  
 Céline Ha ha ha, It's me!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
yeux (oeil)	eyes (eye)	noun	masculine
vert	green	noun	masculine
j'ai	I have	verb	
cheveux	hair	noun	masculine / plural
long	long	noun	masculine
mini-jupe	mini-skirt	noun	feminine

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Les yeux des chiens husky sont bleus.*  
*J'adore les haricots verts au beurre !*  
*J'ai une voiture.*  
*Il a une coupe de cheveux farfelue.*  
*Les procédés administratifs sont longs.*

"Husky dogs' eyes are blue."  
 "I love green beans with butter."  
 "I have a car."  
 "He has an eccentric haircut."  
 "The administrative processes are long."

*Les femmes portaient souvent des mini-jupes dans les années 60.* "Women often wore mini-skirts in the 60s."

## Grammar Points

---

### The Focus of This Lesson is Using the French Verb *Avoir* to Give Detailed Descriptions

*J'ai les yeux verts.*

"I have green eyes!"

---

When reading personal ads, it is always fun to read about what people are looking for in a potential partner. Often, they have a physical description and personality traits (see grammar point Newbie lesson #15) for the ideal partner. Being able to describe yourself or someone else can be handy in everyday situations such as greeting a friend of a friend at the rail station or airport, going on a blind date, or recognizing a person in a crowd.

Eyes and their glance can tell you a lot regardless of what color they are! However, they might be nicer to look at depending on your taste and the other person's eye color.

Just for fun in the conversation, Alex pretends to be a person very well known by Céline. She has to guess who it is. First, Alex describes the mysterious person's eyes with the phrase, *J'ai les yeux verts*, meaning, "I have green eyes." After Céline's wrong answer, Alex gives her another hint-this time about hair-with, *J'ai les cheveux longs*, translated as "I have long hair." Both sentences describe a physical feature with the verb *avoir*. To make a sentence describing a physical feature of your own, first use *J'ai*, the first person singular conjugation of *avoir* in the present indicative. Then, add the definite article corresponding to the following noun and the adjective referring to your feature.

#### For example:

1. *J'ai les jambes longues.*  
"I have long legs."
2. *J'ai la taille fine.*  
"I have a fine waste."
3. *J'ai le visage oval.*  
"I have an oval face."

Remember to use the definite article *le* with a masculine noun, *la* with a feminine noun, and *les* with a

plural noun. See more examples below.

## Eyes

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>J'ai les yeux bleus.</i>	"I have blue eyes."
<i>J'ai les yeux noisettes.</i>	"I have brown eyes."
<i>J'ai les yeux foncés.</i>	"I have dark eyes."
<i>J'ai les yeux bleus clairs.</i>	"I have bright blue eyes."

## Hairstyle

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>J'ai les cheveux longs.</i>	"I have long hair."
<i>J'ai les cheveux mi-longs.</i>	"I have medium length hair."
<i>J'ai les cheveux courts.</i>	"I have short hair."
<i>J'ai les cheveux bouclés.</i>	"I have curly hair."
<i>J'ai les cheveux plats.</i>	"I have flat hair."
<i>J'ai les cheveux ondulés.</i>	"I have wavy hair."
<i>J'ai les cheveux frisés.</i>	"I have tiny, curly hair."

## Hair Color

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>J'ai les cheveux noirs.</i>	"I have black hair."
<i>J'ai les cheveux auburn.</i>	"I have auburn hair."
<i>J'ai les cheveux roux.</i>	"I have red hair."
<i>J'ai les cheveux bruns.</i>	"I have brown hair."
<i>J'ai les cheveux blonds.</i>	"I have blond hair."

## Other

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>J'ai les bras fins.</i>	"I have fine arms."
<i>J'ai les épaules carrées.</i>	"I have square shoulders."
<i>J'ai les abdominaux musclés.</i>	"I have muscular abdominal muscles."
<i>J'ai le dos large.</i>	"I have a large back."
<i>J'ai les jambes arquées.</i>	"I have arched legs."
<i>J'ai un long nez.</i>	"I have a long nose."



## Language Expansion

---

In most cases, we place the qualitative adjectives after the nouns. When they are short and we very frequently use them in French, we generally place the adjectives before the noun.

<b>Masculine</b>	<b>Feminine</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>beau</i>	<i>belle</i>	"beautiful"
<i>jeune</i>	<i>jeune</i>	"young"
<i>vieux</i>	<i>vieille</i>	"old"
<i>bon</i>	<i>bonne</i>	"good"
<i>petit</i>	<i>petite</i>	"small"
<i>grand</i>	<i>grande</i>	"tall"
<i>gros</i>	<i>grosse</i>	"fat"

### Describe the Clothes You're Wearing with the Verb *Avoir*

*J'ai une mini-jupe.*

"I have a mini-skirt."

---

Fashion and having a good appearance can be very important in life. Choosing the right clothes for the right occasion can have a positive or negative effect on your interlocutor or audience.

In the conversation, Alex is still pretending to be someone else in his guessing game by indicating that he is wearing a mini-skirt with the phrase, *J'ai une mini-jupe*, meaning, "I have a mini-skirt." To describe clothes and accessories you're wearing without any detail (or what you have in your closet or jewelry box), use *J'ai* followed by an indefinite article and a noun. Use *un* for masculine nouns, *une* for feminine nouns, and *des* for plural nouns.

### Clothes

---

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>J'ai une robe.</i>	"I have a dress."
<i>J'ai une pair de jeans.</i>	"I have jeans."
<i>J'ai un pantalon.</i>	"I have some pants."
<i>J'ai un chemisier.</i>	"I have a blouse."
<i>J'ai une chemise.</i>	"I have a shirt."
<i>J'ai un t-shirt.</i>	"I have a t-shirt."
<i>J'ai un short.</i>	"I have shorts."
<i>J'ai un bermuda.</i>	"I have Bermuda shorts."
<i>J'ai un maillot de bain.</i>	"I have a swimming-suit."

## Jewelry

---

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>J'ai une bague.</i>	"I have a ring."
<i>J'ai un collier.</i>	"I have a necklace."
<i>J'ai des boucle-d'oreilles.</i>	"I have some earrings."
<i>J'ai un bracelet.</i>	"I have a bracelet."
<i>J'ai un piercing.</i>	"I have a piercing."

## Accessories

---

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>J'ai une écharpe.</i>	"I have a scarf."
<i>J'ai un foulard.</i>	"I have a headscarf."
<i>J'ai une ceinture.</i>	"I have a belt."
<i>J'ai une broche.</i>	"I have a brooch."
<i>J'ai un pendentif.</i>	"I have a pendant."
<i>J'ai des lunettes.</i>	"I have glasses."
<i>J'ai des lentilles de contact.</i>	"I have contact lenses."





## Newbie Lesson S2

Get Some Attention by Describing Yourself in French!

15

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## Informal French

---

Alex	Je suis canon !
Céline	Tu es canon ? Pfff, et moi je suis belle.
Alex	Je suis sympa !
Céline	Tu es sympa ? Pfff moi, je suis amusante !
Alex	Je suis intelligent !
Céline	Tu es intelligent? Et moi, je suis maline!

## Informal English

---

Sam	I am handsome!
Céline	You're handsome? Pfft! And me, I am beautiful!
Sam	I am nice!
Céline	You're nice? Pfft! Me, I am fun!
Sam	I am smart!
Céline	You're smart? And me, I am clever!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
je suis	I am	phrase	
tu es	you are (informal)	phrase	
beau	beautiful	adjective	feminine
belle	beautiful	adjective	feminine
sympa (informal)	kind	adjective	
canon	gorgeous	adjective	masculine or feminine
maligne	sly, clever	adjective	feminine

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

<i>Je suis à la maison.</i>	"I'm at home."
<i>Excusez-moi, je suis maladroite.</i>	"Excuse me, I'm clumsy."
<i>Les beaux jours sont arrivés.</i>	"Beautiful days (arrived) are here."
<i>Le tableau "crépuscule, venise" de Monet est beau.</i>	"The painting, <i>Dusk, Venise</i> of Monet's is

*Vous êtes beau.*

*Un beau chat noir.*

*Cette région est belle.*

*C'est quelqu'un de très sympa.*

*Elle est canon.*

*Il est canon.*

*Ce mec et cette meuf sont canons. (slang phrase)*

*Elle est maligne comme un renard.*

beautiful."

"You are beautiful."

"A beautiful, black cat."

"This region is beautiful."

"It is somebody very kind."

"She is gorgeous."

"He is gorgeous."

"This man and woman are gorgeous."

"She's clever as a fox."

## Grammar Points

---

### The Focus of This Lesson is Physical Descriptions and Personality Traits

*Je suis canon !*

**"I am handsome!"**

---

Each of us is unique by our physical appearance and character. Life, work, and nutrition can shape our body, mind, and even character and attitude. Being able to describe one's physical aspect and personality has various advantages. In a business environment for example, it is useful when hiring to recognize if the person fits a particular demanding job. Other advantages to describing a person's appearance are recognizing someone in a crowd, from a group picture, or meeting in a public place for the first time. You can make your own character or physical description by using either the verb *avoir* (see grammar point of previous Newbie Lesson #14) or the verb *être*, as explained below.

### Describe Yourself Physically With the Verb *être*

---

Alone in front of the bathroom mirror, you can surprise yourself by talking aloud saying that you are awful or looking cute that day. Depending on your mood and the prospect of the day ahead of you, you might have a more or less positive attitude. Obviously, our two speakers are quite positive and find themselves gorgeous with the phrases from the dialogue. Alex says *Je suis canon*,\* meaning, "I am handsome!" Céline states *Je suis belle*, or in English, "I am beautiful!"

In order to describe your own physical appearance use *Je suis*, meaning "I am," which includes *suis*, the first person singular form of *être*. Then add an adjective referring to your physical description to the uncompleted phrase, *Je suis*. See many examples of physical descriptions with *être* followed by an adjective below.

**NOTE:** The adjective *canon* is an informal word we only use with friends, family, or people we know

well.

### For Men

---

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Je suis petit.</i>	"I am small."
<i>Je suis grand.</i>	"I am tall."
<i>Je suis de taille moyenne.</i>	"I'm average height."
<i>Je suis mince.</i>	"I'm thin."
<i>Je suis potelé.</i>	"I'm round."
<i>Je suis gros.</i>	"I'm fat."
<i>Je suis blond.</i>	"I'm blond."
<i>Je suis roux.</i>	"I'm a redhead."
<i>Je suis brun.</i>	"I have brown hair."
<i>Je suis musclé.</i>	"I have muscles."

### For Women

---

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Je suis petite.</i>	"I am small."
<i>Je suis grande.</i>	"I am tall."
<i>Je suis de taille moyenne.</i>	"I'm average height."
<i>Je suis mince.</i>	"I'm thin."
<i>Je suis potelée.</i>	"I'm round."
<i>Je suis grosse.</i>	"I'm fat."
<i>Je suis blonde.</i>	"I'm blond."
<i>Je suis rousse.</i>	"I'm a redhead."
<i>Je suis brune.</i>	"I have brown hair."
<i>Je suis musclée.</i>	"I have muscles."

### Tell Your Own Personality Traits With the Verb être

---

Who am I? What are my personal qualities? What are my flaws? These questions are difficult to answer. Analyzing oneself is not an easy task. Talking about who you are and what your personality is like can happen during a job interview, a discussion when trying to know someone better, or when dating.

In the conversation, Alex provokes Céline by stating his personal qualities. Of course, our female host replies right away by telling her qualities. The match begun with Alex's phrase *Je suis sympa!* ("I'm



nice."). It continued with *Je suis intelligent* ("I'm smart.")!

To tell your own qualities or flaws, use *Je suis*, the conjugation of *être* in the first person singular, followed by the adjective corresponding to your character as follows:

### For Men

---

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Je suis intelligent.</i>	"I am intelligent."
<i>Je suis gentil.</i>	"I am kind."
<i>Je suis sympa.*</i>	"I'm nice."
<i>Je suis amusant.</i>	"I'm fun."
<i>Je suis généreux.</i>	"I'm round."
<i>Je suis actif.</i>	"I'm active."
<i>Je suis sportif.</i>	"I'm sport oriented."
<i>Je suis curieux.</i>	"I'm curious."
<i>Je suis extraverti.</i>	"I'm outgoing."
<i>Je suis honête.</i>	"I'm honest."

### For Women

---

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Je suis intelligente.</i>	"I am intelligent."
<i>Je suis gentille.</i>	"I am kind."
<i>Je suis sympa.*</i>	"I'm nice."
<i>Je suis amusante.</i>	"I'm fun."
<i>Je suis généreuse.</i>	"I'm generous."
<i>Je suis active.</i>	"I'm active."
<i>Je suis sportive.</i>	"I'm sport oriented."
<i>Je suis curieuse.</i>	"I'm curious."
<i>Je suis extravertie.</i>	"I'm outgoing."
<i>Je suis honête.</i>	"I'm honest."

### Language Tip

---

To describe your flaws (sorry, nobody is perfect), refer to the list below for the opposite of the adjectives seen in the above examples:

#### Personality Traits:

<b>French Masculine</b>	<b>French Feminine</b>	<b>"English"</b>



<i>intelligent</i>	<i>intelligente</i>	"clever"
<i>gentil</i>	<i>gentille</i>	"kind"
<i>sympa*</i>	<i>sympa*</i>	"nice"
<i>amusant</i>	<i>amusante</i>	"fun"
<i>généreux</i>	<i>généreuse</i>	"generous"
<i>actif</i>	<i>active</i>	"active"
<i>sportif</i>	<i>sportive</i>	"sport oriented"
<i>curieux</i>	<i>curieuse</i>	"curious"
<i>extraverti</i>	<i>extravertie</i>	"extrovert"
<i>honnête</i>	<i>honnête</i>	"honest"
<i>idiot</i>	<i>idiote</i>	"idiot"
<i>méchant</i>	<i>méchante</i>	"nasty"
<i>antipathique</i>	<i>antipathique</i>	"unpleasant"
<i>ennuyeux</i>	<i>ennuyeuse</i>	"boring"
<i>avare</i>	<i>avare</i>	"cheap"
<i> paresseux</i>	<i>parresseuse</i>	"lazy"
<i>inactif</i>	<i>inactive</i>	"inactive"
<i>indifférent</i>	<i>indifférente</i>	"indifferent"
<i>introverti</i>	<i>introvertie</i>	"introvert"
<i>malhonnête</i>	<i>malhonnête</i>	"dishonest"

**\*NOTE:** *Sympa* is informal and we use it in informal writing or orally as it is short for *sympatique*, which is considered standard French.

## Language Expansion

I. To ask about someone's physical or personality traits in the form of a yes-no question, use *Tu* in an informal situation followed by the *es* verb conjugation of the infinitive verb *être* meaning, "to be" and the adjective describing a physical appearance or personality.

### For Example:

1. *Tu es sympa?*  
"Are you nice?"
2. *Tu es canon?*  
"Are you gorgeous?"

Notice in the statement *Tu es sympa* ("You're nice.") as well as the yes-no question *Tu es sympa?*

("Are you nice?"), the word order is the same. To differentiate one phrase from another when speaking, use a raising intonation when questioning and a falling intonation when making a statement.

II. In a formal situation, use *vous* and add *êtes*, the corresponding conjugation form of *être*, followed by the adjective.

### For Example:

1. *Vous êtes sympa?*  
"Are you nice?"

## Cultural Insight

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### Informal Every Day French Slang

---

When becoming acquainted with French people and building a friendship, you will very soon come across some every day slang they use in informal situations. The French commonly accept this slang as not being offensive, especially with teenagers and young adults.

Here is a short list of slang word you might encounter:

<b>French</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>canon</i>	adjective	masculine	"beautiful"
<i>moché</i>	adjective	masculine or feminine	"ugly"
<i>meuf</i>	noun	feminine	"woman"
<i>nana</i>	noun	feminine	"woman" / "young woman"
<i>gonzesse</i>	noun	feminine	"woman" / "young woman"
<i>mec</i>	noun	masculine	"guy" / "man"



## Newbie Lesson S2

Have You Discussed All Your Options in French?

16

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## Informal French

---

Céline            Alex, tu peux venir chez moi?  
 Alex                Oui, je peux venir samedi.  
 Céline            Et, tu peux sortir après?  
 Alex                Oui je peux sortir après.  
 Céline            Alors, tu peux dire à Sam, samedi ?

## Informal English

---

Céline            Alex, can you come to my house?  
 Alex                Yes, I can come Saturday.  
 Céline            And, can you go out after?  
 Alex                Yes, I can go out after.  
 Céline            Then, can you tell Sam Saturday?

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
je peux	I can	phrase	
tu peux	you can	phrase	
venir	to come	verb	
sortir	to go out, to come out	verb	
dire	to say, to tell	verb	
chez	at (someone's home)		
moi	me	stressed pronoun (pronom tonique)	
samedi	Saturday	noun	masculine
alors	then, yet, so	adverb	
après	after	adverb	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Je peux lui montrer comment le faire.*  
*Tu peux aider ta soeur?*

"I can show him how to do it."  
 "Can you help your sister?"

*L'ambulance est venue tout de suite.  
Je viens de sortir de chez moi.  
Sortir en boîte, c'est pas ma tasse de thé.*

"The ambulance came right away."  
"I just got out of my house."  
"Going out in nightclubs, it's not my cup of tea."  
*Une discothèque* (standard French) and *Une boîte* (slang), both mean, "nightclub."

*Il doit dire la vérité!  
Chez elle, c'est joli.  
Allons à la plage toi et moi !  
Moi je suis contente.  
Samedi, c'est le premier jour du week-end.*

"He must tell the truth!"  
"It's pretty at her place."  
"Let's go to the beach, you and me!"  
"Me, I'm happy."  
"Saturday is the first of the weekend."

*Alors, que faites-vous ?  
Avant l'heure, c'est pas l'heure. Après l'heure, c'est plus l'heure.  
Après une heure de gym, nous sommes crevés.*

"So, what do you do?"  
"Before the hour, it's not being on time. After the hour, it's not being on time anymore."  
"After an hour of gym, we are tired."

## Grammar Points

---

### The Focus of This Lesson is Expressing Possibilities in French

*Alex, tu peux venir chez moi?*

"Alex, can you come to my house?"

---

Often before making a decision, or to make something happen, one has to do some homework. By homework, I am referring to gathering information. It is advisable to do some research in order to make a wise decision or find the best solution for you. This will help you to find the best outcome to your inquiry. When you gather information either to solve a problem or organize yourself, expressing different possibilities can be useful.

### Asking If Someone Can Do Something

---

Expressing possibilities can be convenient when wondering and making guesses about people's abilities. In the dialogue, Céline is trying to solve the problem of finding a day when everyone is available to go out and have fun by asking, *Tu peux venir chez moi?* In English this means, "Can you come to my house?" With this informal sentence, she's trying to get everyone to meet at her place to start the evening.

To express possibility, use the irregular verb *pouvoir*, part of the third verb group. To ask if your friend or someone you are comfortable with can do something, use *pouvoir* conjugated with *tu*, as in the dialogue phrases Céline uses with *tu peux*. Always add an infinitive verb afterwards as in the examples

below:

Explanation	French	"English"
	<i>Tu peux partir à 16 heures?</i>	"Can you leave at 4:00 PM?"
You'd like your friend to pick you up in the French city of Lyon* at the airport. Your flight arrives early in the afternoon and you're asking if your friend can leave work early.	<i>Tu peux prendre le bus?</i>	"Can you take the bus?"
You have gotten lost while driving to La Rochelle for a rock concert. You ask a young person for help.	<i>Tu peux m'aider?</i>	"Can you help me?"
You are in the plane to Paris. Your small friend sits behind you and you ask her if she can see the movie on the screen.	<i>Tu peux voir?</i>	"Can you see?"
You arrived at the Lyon* airport. Your friend sent his cousin to pick you up, but he doesn't seem to be very aware of his surroundings.	<i>Tu peux conduire?</i>	"Can you drive?"

\*Lyon is a city in east-central France.

### Language Tip

1. For a better understanding of how we used *tu peux* in this dialogue, you can substitute "can you" in the translation with "Is it possible for you to."
2. To be formal, use *vous* instead of *tu* with *pouvoir*, which becomes *vous pouvez*.

### Language Expansion

The verb *pouvoir* can also express ability. For example, *je peux conduire un camion de 2 tonnes* ("I can drive a two ton truck"), *je peux voir en 3D* ("I can see in 3D"), and *je peux parler très vite en français* ("I can speak French fast").

### Tell Others That You Can Do Something

<b>Explanation</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
Marianne is at work. Her best friend asks her if she can leave shop earlier to meet in the evening. Marianne replies that it's possible.	<i>Je peux partir. Ce soir, c'est possible.</i>	"I can leave. Tonight, it's possible."
A young teen living in an urban area tells his parents they don't have to pick him up from soccer practice in the evening and that there are still buses running.	<i>Je peux prendre le bus.</i>	"I can take the bus."
A foreign exchange student in an internship for a French company is in trouble with her tasks. An employee tells her she has the possibility to assist her but only in a few minutes.	<i>Je peux t'aider dans 2 minutes.</i>	"I can help you in two minutes."
You're traveling in a huge aircraft. You are sitting behind your traveling companion and he asks you if you can see the screen where the movie will start in a few minutes.	<i>Je peux voir l'écran.</i>	"I can see the screen."
Nicolas and Christian want to go out. Christian had mechanical problems with his car the day before. Nicolas, not knowing if the car is fixed, asks him if there is a possibility to use his car.	<i>Oui, je peux utiliser la voiture.</i>	"Yes, I can use the car."





## Newbie Lesson S2

How Many Times Do I Have To Tell You in French?

17

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## Informal French

---

Céline                   allo ?  
 Alex                     Allo Celine?, C'est Alex. Sam dit "Ok pour samedi."  
 Céline                   Genial ! Tu dis "Samedi" aussi ?  
 Alex                     Oui.  
 Céline                   OK, donc Je dis "ok pour samedi à minuit !"

## Informal English

---

Céline                   Hello?  
 Alex                     Hello, Céline? It's Alex. Sam says, 'Okay for Saturday.'  
 Céline                   Great! You say Saturday, too?  
 Alex                     Yes.  
 Céline                   Okay! So, I say okay for Saturday at midnight!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
aussi	too	adverb	
dire	to say, to tell	verb	
à minuit	at midnight	phrase	
samedi	Saturday	noun	masculine
Allô	hello (on the phone)	interjection	
génial	awesome, great, brilliant	adjective	masculine

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

<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>Il doit dire la vérité!</i>	"He must tell the truth!"
<i>La soirée commence à minuit!</i>	The evening starts at midnight.
<i>Samedi, c'est le premier jour du week-end.</i>	"Saturday is the first of the weekend."
<i>Allô qui est à l'appareil ?</i>	"Hello, who is on the phone?"
<i>Ton idée est géniale.</i>	"Your idea is awesome."

## Grammar Points

### The Focus of This Lesson is To Report Someone's Words

*Sam dit 'Ok pour samedi.'*

"Sam says, 'Okay for Saturday.'"

When talking to someone face to face or one-on-one over the phone or *Skype* for example, the style of speech one uses is direct speech. Once you tell someone else what someone just told you, you are using indirect speech. This is particularly useful when reporting what you've done involving a discussion with a third party using the verb *dire* as seen in the dialogue. A great example of indirect speech is the song, *Hello, Good-bye*, from the Beatles with the phrases, "I say Hello. She says Goodbye," in which you'll find some references here.

### Tell What a Third Person Says

To tell your life or business partners about what is going on requires at some point for you to discuss what they have said. In the dialogue, Alex tells Céline what Sam said earlier in order to confirm which day they are going out together.

When you talk about what another person says or just said a few seconds ago, you will use *dit*, the third person singular verb form of *dire*, which translates as "to say," preceded by either *il* ("he" in English) if a man was talking, or *elle* ("she") if it was a woman. Find several examples below in context.

Explanation	French	"English"
You are listening to Alex in a podcast with a friend of yours. To clarify, you say:	<i>Il dit 'C'est parti!'</i>	"He says, 'Let's go!'"
You're talking to your French study partner about a French lady who agrees to help you. You're telling your friend:	<i>Elle dit 'D'accord.'</i>	"She says, 'I agree.'"
You're listening to Sam in a podcast and repeating what he said:	<i>Il dit 'Pourquoi?'</i>	"He says, 'why?'"
You're asking your way in a French village and repeating what the woman said:	<i>Elle dit 'Je ne sais pas!'</i>	"She says, 'I don't know!'"
You're asking what he said. You hear:	<i>Il dit 'C'est ça?'</i>	"He says, 'That's it!'"

## Report What Your Interlocutor Says

---

Sometimes what you hear or what you're listening to is not clear. One simple way to make sure what you heard is correct is to repeat or report what your interlocutor has said. The situation in the dialogue is a bit different. Céline anticipates what Alex is going to say by predicting and asking for confirmation about the most convenient day for him to go out with, *tu dis samedi aussi?*

To simply report or tell what the person you're talking to just said, use *tu dis* followed by the quote. Note that *dis* is the first and second person singular verb form of *dire*, meaning "to tell" or "to say."

<b>Explanation</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
You are on the beach and hear a mother say to her young child:	<i>Tu dis, 'Bonjour?'</i>	"You say, 'Hello?'"
You are on the beach and a dog owner screams:	<i>Tu dis, 'Viens ici!'</i>	"He says, 'Come here!'"
You're asking for confirmation about where the restrooms are from your French hostess:	<i>Tu dis, 'en-bas?'</i>	"You say, 'down stairs?'"
Someone is asking you who the pilot is. The person didn't hear you well and asks:	<i>Tu dis, 'lui?'</i>	"You say, 'Him?'"

## To Report What I Say or to Insist On What I Say

---

To insist, you might report your own words! You might repeat what you said also when someone needs clarification. In the dialogue's case, Céline insists on her answer by using *je dis*. The phrase *je dis* includes the pronoun *je*, meaning "I," and the verb *dire* in the first person singular tense, to report or insist on what the person is saying.

### Examples:

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Je dis, au revoir.</i>	"I say, Bye."
<i>Je dis, allons-y.</i>	"I say, let's go!"
<i>Je dis, Je pars d'ici!</i>	"I say, I'm leaving from here!"
<i>Je dis, en-haut.</i>	"I say, upstairs."
<i>Je dis, elle.</i>	"I say, her."

## Language Expansion

For higher-level members, you can use the structure *je/tu dis que* + subject + *indicatif* tenses.

<b>Explanation</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
Direct speech:	<i>Marc: Je télécharge un fichier mp3.</i>	"I am downloading an Mp3 file."
Indirect speech reported in present context:	<i>Marc dit qu'il télécharge un fichier mp3.</i>	"Marc says he is downloading an Mp3 file."
Indirect speech reported in the past context:	<i>Marc m'a dit qu'il a téléchargé un fichier mp3.</i>	"Marc said he was downloading an Mp3 file."

## Cultural Insight

### *Jacques (or Simon) Says!*

This way of reporting speech is widely used in the game *Jacques a dit* ("Jacques said"), often played by young children or in language classes. In English, it is called "Simon says." The aim of the game is to listen to the orders and perform them only when someone says the phrase *Jacques a dit*.

Players lose if they perform an action without someone first saying *Jacques a dit* ("Jacques said"). Let's say a player says *Jacques a dit applaudissez* ("Jacques says clap"). In that case, everyone must clap. However, if the order they give is just "to clap" without mentioning *Jacques a dit*, players shouldn't do anything.



## Newbie Lesson S2

French Idiomatic Expressions: Are You Ready? Let's Go!

18

Informal French	2
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## Informal French

---

Alex Céline tu es prête ?  
 Céline Non ! attends !  
 Alex Oh la la ! dépêche toi !  
 Celine Ok ! On y va !  
 Alex Sam, tu es prêt?  
 Sam Oui ! On y va !  
 Céline Alex tu es prêt ?  
 Alex Oh non ! Le café ! {cup of coffee breaking}  
 Celine pfff !!!

## Informal English

---

Alex Céline, are you ready?  
 Céline No! Wait!  
 Alex Oh la la! Move!  
 Céline Let's go!  
 Alex Sam, are you ready?  
 Sam Let's go!  
 Céline Alex, are you ready?  
 Alex Oh no! The coffee!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
être	to be	verb	
aller	to go	verb	
attendre	to wait	verb	
tu es	you are (informal)	phrase	
café	coffee	noun	masculine
attends	wait	verb form	
dépêche-toi	hurry	expression	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Il vaut mieux être seul que mal accompagné.*

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

*Il semble être heureux.*

"He seems to be happy."

*Être ou ne pas être.*

"To be or not to be."

*Marie va en Egypte.*

"Mary goes to Egypt."

*Je déteste attendre les gens.*

"I hate to wait for people."

*Monsieur n'aime pas du tout le café sucré.*

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

*Qui tu attends ? J'attends mes amis. (indicative present)*

"Who are you waiting for? I'm waiting for my friends."

*Attends le feu vert. (imperative)*

"Wait for the green light."

*C'est l'heure ! Dépêche-toi !*

"It's time! Hurry!"

## Grammar Points

### The Focus of This Lesson is Idiomatic Expressions on the Go!

*Céline tu es prête ?*

**Céline, are you ready?**

When at the point of leaving with someone or a group of people, it is always convenient to coordinate the departure of everyone. To do so, some idiomatic expressions might be convenient. The first one is to make sure everyone is ready and the second to give the word go!

### Asking if Someone is Ready

Leaving with people, such as your family or friends always requires organization at some point. When some or all decide on going somewhere together, one person ends up being the leader to get the group ready and going at the same time. To ask to your interlocutor if he is ready to go, use *Tu es prêt?* if the person is a man, or *Tu es prête?* if you are talking to a woman. The verbal phrase *es prêt* or *es prête* includes the verb form *es* in the second person singular (equivalent to "are") from the infinitive *être* ("to be"). After the verb *être*, follows the adjective *prêt* in the masculine form or *prête* in the feminine form, both meaning "ready." Of course, we can use the phrasal verb *être prêt / prête* with other persons as shown below:

Explanation	French	"English"
Michel is going to compete in the highest challenge he ever undertook - watermelon seed spitting!	<i>Tu es prêt ?</i>	"Are you ready?"

The manager of the Crazy Horse tells the women dancers:	<i>Vous êtes prêtes ?</i>	"Are you ready?"
You are among a group of people waiting for the guide before touring Versailles.	<i>Il est prêt ?</i>	"Are you ready?"
You are at the July 14 dance in a French city, you see the fanfare getting ready.	<i>Ils sont prêts ?</i>	"Are they ready?"
Carla Bruni is giving a concert for charities during the Music Festival, she's not yet on stage.	<i>Elle est prête ?</i>	"Is she ready?"
You are the last to show in the hotel lobby, everyone is here. Someone tells you:	<i>Nous sommes prêts !</i>	"We are ready!"

### Language Tip

Be aware that the adjective *prêt* ("ready") and the subject of the sentence must agree in gender and number. Observe the endings of *prêt* ("ready") according to the subject in each example. You'll find that in the fourth example above, the adjective *prêt* ("ready") ends with an -s to mark the plural according to the masculine plural subject *Ils* ("they").

### Tell Others to Go, Go, Go!

Once everybody is sound and ready, it's time to announce to everyone present it's time to go! The expression we use for this is *On y va !* It is an informal expression we use frequently among friends and family. We use the expression *On y va* on its own in various contexts either to give the go, or for example to motivate a team of employees in sales. Read more illustrations of the phrase *On y va* in the illustrations below.

<b>Explanation</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
The tour guide of Versailles is ready and tells your group:	<i>On y va ?</i>	"Let's go?"
The customer service manager of Disneyland Paris tells his agents to be courteous and motivates them with:	<i>On y va ?</i>	"Let's go?"
You are tired of walking around the city after a long day. You offer your friendly French guide a chance to rest and enjoy the close	<i>On y va ?</i>	"Let's go?"

public garden.		
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### Language Tip

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To be more educated or polite sounding, say *Allons-y !* This expression means, "Let's go" and is the formal equivalent of *On y va*. We can use the formal phrase *Allons-y!* among colleagues or in formal contexts.





## Newbie Lesson S2

Now Do You Really Think That French Was Really Necessary?

19

Informal French	2
Informal English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	3

## Informal French

---

Phillipe Oh non... les tâches de vin. Il faut faire attention !  
 Alexandra Pardon...Il faut du sel !  
 Phillipe Non ! Il faut être adroit !

## Informal English

---

Phillipe Oh, no...wine stains! It's necessary to be careful!  
 Alexandra Sorry...it's necessary to get some salt!  
 Phillipe No! It's necessary to be dexterous!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
non	no	adverb	
tâche	stain	noun	feminine
il faut	it's necessary that	expression	
attention	attention	noun	feminine
faire attention	to pay attention	verb	
sel	salt	noun	masculine
adroit	dexterous	adjective	masculine

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Non, je ne suis pas Madame Henri.*

"No, I'm not Madame Henri."

*Non, je ne suis pas d'accord.*

"No, I don't agree."

*Non, ce n'est pas vrai.*

"No, it's not true."

*Ne fais pas de tâches sur ta chemise.*

"Don't stain your shirt."

*Il faut allier travail et réjouissances !*

"You should combine what's useful with what's fun!"

*Je fais attention à mon travail.*

"I pay attention to my work."

*Nous faisons attention en traversant la rue.*

"We pay attention while crossing the street."

*Passe-moi le sel.*

"Pass on the salt."

*Cet artiste est adroit avec ses pinceaux.*

"This artist is dexterous with his brushes."

## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson is Talking About Obligation and Mandatory Instruction

*Il faut faire attention! Il faut être adroit!*

"You need to be careful! It's necessary to be dexterous!"

---

Rules, obligation, and legislation are everywhere. Living in groups, communities, and having interconnected relationships for all different purposes require a minimum of regulation in order to function in harmony. When someone or something alters the harmony, society puts rules and regulations into place. These can range from moral standards to road signs and nationwide laws. To be able to make a mandatory request or tell someone what his obligations are, the short phrase *Il faut* is available. Others can also use it to tell what they expect from you!

### Tell Obligations

---

When accidents happen, we learn lessons from our mistakes in order to avoid repeating the same error. In the conversation, Alexandra is clumsy and unintentionally pours some wine on Philippe. A little frustrated, he wants to give the hostess a lesson by telling her to be careful of her movements with two phrases. The first one is *Il faut faire attention!* Literally, in English this means, "it's necessary to be careful" or more commonly, "you need to be more careful." The second phrase, *Il faut être adroit*, is the exact translation of "it's necessary to be dexterous." In other words, "you need to be dexterous!" Both sentences use the same pattern-*Il faut* plus an infinitive verb. Observe the following examples:

#### Examples:

Explanation	French	"English"
On the road at a stop sign:	<i>Il faut s'arrêter!</i>	"It's necessary to stop."
To learn French:	<i>Il faut lire en français.</i>	"It's necessary to read in French."
In an upper class social event:	<i>Il faut être courtois.</i>	"It's necessary to be courteous."
When watching a French movie without subtitles:	<i>Il faut comprendre le français.</i>	"It's necessary to understand French."
In the Royal Tapestry Manufacture of the Gobelins, Beauvais, and soap factory museum in Paris:	<i>Il faut respecter les consignes.</i>	"It's necessary to respect the regulations."

## Tell What is Necessary

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To correct a mistake, one can give a strong instruction. In the conversation, Alexandra remembers a remedy to get out the fresh wine stains from Philippe's clothes and thinks of salt. At this moment, she tells everyone she needs some salt to absorb the wine. She uses the phrase, *Il faut du sel!* Literally, in English this means "salt is necessary" or more commonly "I need salt." This sentence is similar but not identical to the two phrases presented earlier. The structure changes slightly with *Il faut* followed by *du sel*. The structure can be broken down as follows.

## Construction

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### The segment *Il faut + du / de l' / de la / des*

1. Use *du* + masculine noun (see example #1)
2. Use *de l'* + noun starting with a vowel (see example #3)
3. Use *de la* + feminine noun (see example #2)
4. Use *des* + masculine nouns (see example #4)

### Examples:

Explanation	Construction	French	"English"
To make a French pastry: <i>sucre</i> "sugar"	masculine noun: <i>le sucre</i>	<i>Il faut du sucre.</i>	"Sugar is necessary."
To learn French: <i>motivation</i> "motivation"	feminine noun: <i>la motivation</i>	<i>Il faut de la motivation.</i>	"Motivation is necessary."
To be a language teacher: <i>autorité</i> "authority"	starts with a vowel	<i>Il faut de l'autorité.</i>	"Authority is necessary."
To travel in France and Europe:	plural masculine nouns	<i>Il faut des euros.</i>	"Euros are necessary."
To ask for the French president's autograph: <i>courage</i> "bravery"	masculine noun: <i>le courage</i>	<i>Il faut du courage.</i>	"Bravery is necessary."





## Newbie Lesson S2

All the Things You Must and Must NOT do in France!!

20

Informal French	2
Informal English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	3

## Informal French

---

Alexandra	A la tienne, Phillipe!
Phillipe	Santé...
Alexandra	Aaargh! On doit ouvrir un autre vin!
Phillipe	Hmmmpf On doit chercher une autre bouteille.
Alexandra	Quel vin dégoutant !

## Informal English

---

Alexandra	Cheers, Philippe!
Phillipe	To you...[clink of glasses]
Alexandra	Aaargh! We must open another wine!
Phillipe	We must get another bottle!
Alexandra	What a disgusting, awful wine!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
vin	wine	noun	masculine
chercher	to look for, to get, to search	verb	
à la tienne	cheers	expression	
santé	cheers	elocution	
ouvrir	to open	infinitive verb	
bouteille	bottle	noun	feminine

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*La carte des vins, s'il vous plaît.*

*Elle cherche son portefeuille.*

*Voilà ton verre. À la tienne, Richard !*

*À votre santé les nouveaux mariés.*

*Santé, Maurice !*

*Tu peux ouvrir le pot de confiture ?*

"The wine list, please."

"She looks for her wallet."

"Here is your glass. Cheers Richard!"

"Cheers to the newlyweds."

"Cheers Maurice!"

"Can you open the marmalade jar?"

*Une bouteille d'eau, s'il te plaît ?*  
*Cette bouteille coûte 25 euros.*

"A water bottle, please?"  
 "This bottle costs twenty Euros."

## Grammar Points

### The Focus of This Lesson is Talking About Necessity Using *On doit*

#### *On doit ouvrir un autre vin!*

#### "We must open another wine!"

Sometimes the choice is not ours. We need to accomplish tasks or make decisions we would rather avoid! In the dialogue for instance, an unexpected incident happens and the couple needs to fulfill their necessities with the very common informal phrase *on doit*.

1. Alexandra: *A la tienne, Philippe!*
2. Philippe: *Santé...*[clink of glasses]
3. Alexandra: *Aaargh! On doit ouvrir un autre vin !*
4. Philippe: *Hmmmpf... on doit chercher une autre bouteille.*
5. Alexandra: *Quel vin dégoûtant!*

### Tell What Needs to Done!

Tasting wine can be full of surprises. In the dialogue, the unfortunate incident of tasting bitter wine disappoints Philippe and Alexandra. To overcome the deception, they express what they need to do with the expression of necessity, *On doit*. *On* is the third person singular just as *il* ("he"), or *elle* ("she"). However, the personal pronoun *on* doesn't refer to a unique person, but rather several including the person speaking the phrase *on doit*, which translates in English as "we need" or "we must." It is therefore identical in meaning with the personal pronoun *nous*, or "we" in English. The difference between the two pronouns is the conjugation form. *On* requires the third person singular verb form and the language register of *on* is informal. The word *doit* comes from the infinitive verb *devoir*, meaning, "have to" or "must." Be aware that *devoir* is an irregular verb from the third verb group. To express any obligations or necessities you and your interlocutor have to accomplish, you use *on doit* followed by a verb in the infinitive form. For illustrations of the phrase *on doit* + an infinitive verb, observe the sentences below:

#### Examples:

Explanation	French	"English"
You are in a crowded French music	<i>On doit chercher Manu.</i>	"We must look for

festival and lost one of your friends:		Manu."
After spending a few weeks in a bus traveling around Europe, you are finally in France. You say to the friend you recently made:	<i>On doit prendre des photos de la tour Eiffel.</i>	"We have to take pictures of the Eiffel tower."
In an UNESCO conference:	<i>On doit faire des contacts.</i>	"We must make contacts."
When buying French soccer game tickets:	<i>On doit acheter des bonnes places.</i>	"We have to buy good seats."
At a French-speaking gathering:	<i>On doit apporter des journaux français.</i>	"We must bring a French newspaper."





## Newbie Lesson S2

Find Out the Easiest Way You Can Specialize in French!

21

Formal French	2
English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	3

## Formal French

---

Madame Lanvin      Vous êtes docteur ?  
 Monsieur Cardin    Oui. Ma spécialité, c'est l'ophtalmologie. Et vous, vous êtes avocat ?  
 Madame Lanvin      Oui. Ma spécialité, c'est le droit médical.

## English

---

Madame Lanvin      Are you a doctor?  
 Monsieur Cardin    Yes, my specialty is ophthalmology. And you, are you a lawyer?  
 Madame Lanvin      Yes, my specialty is medical law.

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
vous êtes	you are (formal or plural)	conjugation	
c'est	it's, this is, that is	contraction	
spécialité	specialty	noun	feminine
ophtalmologie	ophthalmology	noun	
avocat	lawyer, avocado	noun	masculine
docteur	doctor	noun	masculine
droit	law	noun	masculine
médical(e)	medical	adjective	médicale

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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<i>Et vous, vous êtes en vacances?</i>	"And you, you are on vacation?"
<i>C'est mon père.</i>	"It's my father."
<i>Je suis mécanicien et ma spécialité ce sont les voitures de courses.</i>	"I'm a mechanic and my specialty is car racing."
<i>J'étudie l'ophtalmologie pour soigner les yeux des patients.</i>	"I study ophthalmology to care for the patients' eyes."
<i>Mon ami est avocat.</i>	"My friend is a lawyer."
<i>Le docteur travaille aux urgences.</i>	"The doctor works in the emergency."
<i>Le docteur arrive.</i>	"The doctor is coming."

*Le droit est une réglementation.  
C'est un instrument médical.*

"Law is a regulation."  
"It's a medical tool."

## Grammar Points

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### **The Focus of This Lesson is Talking About Jobs and Specialties**

***Vous êtes docteur ?***

**"Are you a doctor?"**

---

A rhetorical question you can use when meeting people for the first time is to ask about their job and how they make their living. To ask about someone's job, you can use many different questions. The most common one is the open question "What do you do?" We translate this as *Qu'est-ce que vous faites?* [kes-khoe-vu-fet] or at a Newbie level, you can simply ask, "Are you a lawyer, doctor, engineer?"

This yes-no question can be useful for several reasons. The first one is to know the person's professional activity (of course) and the second is, at worst, to flatter them (if they don't have such a job), or at best, to give a nice impression about yourself by guessing their way of making a living! Isn't it nice to be a newbie?

### **Asking About Someone's Job**

---

Before speaking with someone you don't know, the person's appearance plays an important role for in your decision to engage in conversation. At first sight, you might suspect their social, professional, and even marital status. Even though the appearance can be misleading, you can confirm first impressions (at least some) after getting to know the person better. In the conversation, A's feeling about B's appearance leads him to engage in dialogue and soon after, asks about B's suspected job with *Vous êtes docteur ?* This means, "Are you a doctor?" You can also ask this English translation in French with a different word-order than the first question in the conversation as in the following: *Êtes-vous docteur ?*

Both questions include the verb *êtes* in the second person plural form used with the formal pronoun *vous*, the equivalent of "you." Also in both French questions, *Vous êtes docteur ?* and *Êtes-vous docteur ?* you can replace the last word *docteur* with other professional titles in its place.

## Sample Sentences

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<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Vous êtes cuisinier ?</i>	"Are you a cook?"
<i>Êtes vous comptable ?</i>	"Are you an accountant?"
<i>Vous êtes pilote d'avion ?</i>	"Are you a plane pilot?"
<i>Êtes vous serveur ?</i>	"Are you a waitress?"
<i>Vous êtes représentant commercial ?</i>	"Are you a salesman?"
<i>Vous êtes infirmier ?</i>	"Are you a nurse?"
<i>Vous êtes assistant maternelle ?</i>	"Are you a homemaker?"
<i>Vous êtes informaticien ?</i>	"Are you a computer specialist?"
<i>Vous êtes chargé d'opération ?</i>	"Are you an operation manager?"
<i>Vous êtes ouvrier ?</i>	"Are you a factory worker?"
<i>Vous êtes directeur de communication ?</i>	"Are you a director of communication?"
<i>Vous êtes journaliste ?</i>	"Are you a journalist?"
<i>Vous êtes Responsable développement des ventes ?</i>	"Are you a sales director?"

## Language Tip

---

4

Notice the difference between the English and French question structures. The English question includes an article in front of the profession, which isn't present in the French question. So while speaking and formulating the French question, be sure to not include an article in front of the profession:

### For Example:

#### 1. CORRECT:

*Vous êtes agent immobilier ?*  
 "Are you a real estate agent?"

#### 2. INCORRECT:

*Vous êtes un agent immobilier ?*  
 "Are you a real estate agent?"

## Language Expansion

The professions given in examples 1 to 13 are in the masculine form. Below, you will find the feminine form:

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Vous êtes cuisinière ?</i>	"Are you a cook?"
<i>Êtes vous comptable ?</i>	"Are you an accountant?"
<i>Vous êtes pilote d'avion ?</i>	"Are you a plane pilot?"
<i>Êtes vous serveuse ?</i>	"Are you a waitress?"
<i>Vous êtes représentante commercial ?</i>	"Are you a salesman?"
<i>Vous êtes infirmière ?</i>	"Are you a nurse?"
<i>Vous êtes assistante maternelle ?</i>	"Are you a kindergarten assistant?"
<i>Vous êtes informaticienne ?</i>	"Are you a computer specialist?"
<i>Vous êtes chargée d'opération ?</i>	"Are you an operation manager?"
<i>Vous êtes ouvrière ?</i>	"Are you a factory worker?"
<i>Vous êtes directrice de communication ?</i>	"Are you a director of communication?"
<i>Vous êtes journaliste ?</i>	"Are you a journalist?"
<i>Vous êtes responsable développement des ventes ?</i>	"Are you a sales director?"

**Note:**

For other job titles or professions post a comment for us in this lesson and we will reply with the most common and up to date terminology.

### **Tell Your Job Specialty**

Most professional activities have various specialties. A cook can be more skillful in desserts or Indian cuisine. A nurse can choose to specialize in ambulatory care or cardiology. In today's dialogue, individuals ask the other what specialty they are in by replying with *Oui* to confirm their suspected job position and with the following sentences to confirm their specialties:

**1. The doctor:**

*Ma spécialité, c'est l'ophtalmologie.*

"My specialty is ophtalmology."

**2. The lawyer:**

*Ma spécialité, c'est le droit médical.*

"My specialty is medical law."

The standard phrase to use to tell your job specialty is *Ma spécialité, c'est....* Word-for-word, we translate this as "My specialty, it's...", best matching "My specialty is\_\_\_." One of the following three definite articles should follow this element:

1. *l'* and a noun starting with a vowel
2. *le* and a masculine noun
3. *la* and a feminine noun.

If your specialty requires a plural noun, the standard also requires modification by switching *c'est* to *ce sont* to match the verb form number with the specialty. (See examples # 4 and 5.)

### Sample Sentences

<b>Profession</b>	<b>French Specialty</b>	<b>"English Specialty"</b>
For a professor:	<i>Ma spécialité, c'est l'éducation de la petite enfance.</i>	"My specialty is young children's education."
For a professional dancer:	<i>Ma spécialité, c'est la valse.</i>	"My specialty is valse."
For a waitress:	<i>Ma spécialité, c'est les cocktails.</i>	"My specialty is cocktails."
For an airplane pilot:	<i>Ma spécialité, c'est les avions airbus.</i>	"My specialty is airbus planes."



## Newbie Lesson S2

Do You Know What You Are Responsible for in France?

22

Formal French	2
English	2
Vocabulary	2
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## Formal French

---

Ingénieur	Quelles sont vos responsabilités ?
Directeur	Je suis chargé du département marketing. Et vous, quelles sont vos responsabilités ?
Ingénieur	Je suis chargée de l'analyse système.

## English

---

Engineer	What are your responsibilities?
Director	I'm in charge of the marketing department. And you...what are your responsibilities?
Engineer	I'm in charge of system analysis.

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
quelles	which (feminine, plural)	interrogative adjective	feminine
département	district, department (company)	noun	masculine
responsabilité	responsibility	noun	feminine
marketing (mercatique)	marketing	noun	feminine
étude	study	noun	feminine
quel(le)s sont	what are	phrase	
être chargé(e) de	to be in charge of	expression	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Quelles places de concert vous voudriez ?*

*Vous hésitez entre quelles options ?*

*Les départements sont des divisions administratives et territoriales de la France.*

*Il faut prendre ses responsabilités sérieusement.*

*Le marketing ou la mercatique c'est l'étude d'un marché.*

"Which seats for the concert would you like?"

"Which option are you hesitating about?"

"Departments are territorial and administrative divisions of France."

"One must take his responsibilities seriously."

"Marketing, or *la mercatique* is the study of the market."

*Les études des analyses sont en cours.*

"The studies of the analysis are in process."

*Quels sont ces objets ?*

"What are these objects?"

*Je suis chargée de la caisse.*

"I'm in charge of the cashier."

## Grammar Points

---

### The Focus of This Lesson is Discussing Responsibilities

*Quelles sont vos responsabilités ?*

"What are your responsibilities?"

---

### First Encounter in Business!

When meeting someone in a business setting, one of the most common conversation topics is your responsibilities on your job. Naturally, this topic is quite common as well when meeting someone for the first time in a social situation!

### Asking About Someone's Responsibilities

---

After you've exchanged names, often the next question is about what a person does for a living. This allows you to get a first impression about the person you're speaking with. In the conversation, the question asked is not about his job title but rather concerns his professional responsibilities with *Quelles sont vos responsabilités?* Literally, this means, "What are your responsibilities?" We can also use this question in other contexts such as for the responsibilities you might have as a student, volunteering in a charity, as a member of an association, or as a parent.

### Language Expansion

---

#### Questions with *Quelles sont*

The word *Quelles* in the feminine and plural form means "which," and combined with *sont*, literally means, "which are." Therefore, we can use *Quelles sont* with any feminine and plural nouns as in the examples below.

#### Examples:

Situation	French	"English"
You are waiting for some fresh news	<i>Quelles sont les</i>	"What is the news?"

from your long gone cousin who decided to be a French Chef in a luxurious hotel on the French riviera. You could ask:	<i>nouvelles?</i>	
You meet a French policeman on the <i>Champs Elysées</i> who is ready to chat with you for a few minutes. You could ask:	<i>Quelles sont vos* missions ?</i>	"What are your missions?" (formal you)
You are asking for compensation and a free rental day on your car rental as the 2CV (2 cylinder Citroen car) you reserved is out of order. You could ask the receptionist and supervisor:	<i>Quelles sont vos* décisions ?</i>	"What are your decisions?" (informal you)
You're deciding to stay a few more days in the 4-star hotel in one of the <i>Châteaux</i> on the Loire River. You could say:	<i>Quelles sont les chambres disponibles ?</i>	"What are the available rooms?"

**\*NOTE:** *Vos*, meaning "your," is the possessive adjective corresponding to the second person plural *vous*.

### Talking About Your Responsibilities

4

Once the question is asked, the answer is expected! In the dialogue, the first person talking is a marketing director and says *Je suis chargé du département marketing*. This is the equivalent of "I am in charge of the marketing department." This response uses the phrase *Je suis chargé de* meaning, "I'm in charge of," to tell others in a simple way what your responsibilities are. The engineer also uses *Je suis chargée de* in the sentence, *Je suis chargée de l'analyse systèmes*. It is a formal expression commonly used during interviews or business presentations and can also be written in business correspondence.

To enumerate your responsibilities, the phrase includes *je* referring to the person speaking followed by *suis*, the verb form of *être* corresponding to the verb "be" in English.

After the verb follows the word group *chargé de*. The last particle *de* is a preposition in the verb phrase *être chargé de* ("be in charge of") which will vary according to the noun used afterward.

As seen in the dialogue, the particle *de* is switched to *du* because *département* is a masculine French noun requiring the masculine contracted article *du* (its non-contracted form is *de + le* and we only use it in its contracted form *du*). If the noun following *être chargé* is feminine, the contracted article is *de la*. If the noun is plural, use *des*. Finally, if the noun starts with a vowel, use *de l'* as seen in the last

dialogue phrase *Je suis chargée de l'analyse systèmes*. For more illustrations, see the examples below.

### Examples:

<b>Situation</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
A woman in the airport asks you a few questions about your luggage. She tells you:	<i>Je suis chargée* de la sécurité.</i>	"I am in charge of safety."
You are speaking on the phone to your French boss.	<i>Je suis chargé des relations publiques.</i>	"I am in charge of public relations."
You enter a tourism office in a small town. A person greets you and says:	<i>Je suis chargée* de l'accueil.</i>	"I am in charge of the reception."
Your best French friend has his 30th birthday and you're talking to his sister planning a party. She says:	<i>Je suis chargé de l'organisation.</i>	"I am in charge of the organization."

**\*NOTE:** *Chargée* takes the final letter -e to mark the feminine form corresponding to the gender of the person speaking the phrase.

### Language Expansion

---

We can substitute *être chargé de* with *être responsable de*, *avoir la charge de*, or *avoir la responsabilité de*.





## Newbie Lesson S2

Stop Her Before She Spends All Your Money in France!!

23

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Informal English	2
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## Informal French

---

Sophie                    Nicolas, je n'entends que toi !  
 Nicolas                 Et moi, je ne vois que toi !  
 Sophie                  Pff, je n'écoutes que toi !  
 Nicolas                 Alors, tu n'as qu'à partir !

## Informal English

---

Sophie                    Nicolas, I only hear you!  
 Nicolas                 And me, I just see you.  
 Sophie                  Pfft, I only hear you.  
 Nicolas                 So, just leave!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
entendre	to hear	verb	
toi	you	stressed pronoun (pronom tonique) corresponding to the 2nd person singular (Tu)	
voir	to see	verb	
écouter	to listen	verb	
partir	to leave	verb	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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<i>Tu entends les oiseaux?</i>	"Do you hear the birds?"
<i>Tu fais quoi, toi ?</i>	"What do you do?"
<i>Toi, tu viens avec moi.</i>	"You, you are coming with me."
<i>Elles ont vu des animaux sauvages.</i>	"They saw wild animals."
<i>Écoute la chanson.</i>	"Listen to the song."
<i>Elle est partie en courant.</i>	"She left, running."

## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson is Communicating What You Want in French

*Je n'entends que toi! Je ne vois que toi!*

"I only hear you! I just see you!"

---

### Be Assertive! Stand Up For Yourself!

To be assertive isn't to say you are mean or rude. It just means that you say the truth and get your opinion and needs across in an honest and respectful manner. In most situations, either you can be passive, assertive, or aggressive. Being assertive is often the best choice. It differs from aggression in that standing up for yourself does not trespass on the rights of others. Assertiveness means communicating what you want in a clear manner, respecting your own rights and feelings, and the rights and feelings of others.

### Express Restrictions

---

Sometimes, to express your feelings and the causes of what is bothering you, you need to be assertive! In some uncomfortable situations, the root of the problem might a restricted position you are in.

In the dialogue, Sophie and Nicolas are brother and sister. They are both in a movie theater with some friends watching the famous comedy, *Bienvenu chez les Chiti*. The talkative Nicolas is sitting behind his sister and is chatting a little too loudly to be in a movie theater. Sophie doesn't hesitate to let him know about his disrespectful attitude by telling him *je n'entends que toi*, meaning, "I only hear you!" To counterbalance her statement, Nicolas replies with equal assertiveness, *je n'entends que toi*, literally, "I only hear you!" Not satisfied with her brother's reaction, she insists on the fact that she can only listen to his loud talking with, *je n'écoutes que toi*, meaning, "I only listen to you!"

In each of these sentences, the speaker describes a restricted situation where they can only see, hear, or listen to one particular thing. We call these types of phrases "restrictive phrases" composed of the words *ne* and *que*. The restrictive phrase structure is the subject first, and then the word *ne* followed by the verb in the indicative present tense and the word *que*. Finally, after *que* add a complement.

To describe a restricted situation or fact about yourself, use:

**Je + Ne/N'\* + verb + Quel/Qu'\*\*\* + complement**

1. \*Use N' with verbs starting with a vowel
2. \*\*Use Qu' when the following word starts with a vowel

**Examples:**

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Je n'ai que besoin de 10 euros.</i>	"I only need ten Euros."
<i>Je ne lis que l'horoscope.</i>	"I just read the horoscope."
<i>Je n'écris qu'avec un stylo noir.</i>	"I only write with a black pen."
<i>Je ne mange que des légumes.</i>	"I just eat vegetables."

**Language Expansion**

Another way to express restriction is by using *seulement*, *juste* after the verb conjugated in the indicative present.

**Examples:**

1. *J'entends seulement toi! J'entends juste toi!*  
"I only hear you!"
2. *J'écoute seulement toi! J'écoute juste toi!*  
"I just listen to you!"
3. *Tu as seulement à partir! Tu as juste à partir!*  
"You only have to leave!"

**To Go Further**

When the complement is absent, use the verb *faire* when you need to talk about one activity that you or someone else does without specifying what that activity is, as in "she only reads," or "I only work."

**Examples:**

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Elle ne fait que lire.</i>	"She only reads."
<i>Je ne fais que travailler.</i>	"I only work."
<i>Nous ne faisons que rire!</i>	"We just laugh!"

<i>Vous ne faites que dormir.</i>	"You all just sleep."
-----------------------------------	-----------------------

### Express Strong Suggestions

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A restricted situation can also be a strong suggestion not allowing any options for the person you're talking to. In the dialogue, Nicolas doesn't want to argue anymore and wants to end the conversation with his sister Sophie by telling her *tu n'as qu'à partir*, literally, "you just leave!" This better translates as "just leave!"

To give strong suggestions to your interlocutor, use:

#### **Tu + N' + As + Qu'a + infinitive verb**

1. \*Use *N'* with verbs starting with a vowel
2. \*\*Use *Qu'* when the following word starts with a vowel

#### Examples:

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Tu n'as qu'à murmurer.</i>	"You only have to whisper."
<i>Tu n'as qu'à étudier.</i>	"I just have to study."
<i>Tu n'as qu'à téléphoner.</i>	"I only have to call."
<i>Tu n'as qu'à communiquer.</i>	"I just have to communicate."

### Language Expansion

---

Another way to express strong suggestions with the restriction *ne* and *que*, is to use *Il suffit de* instead of *tu n'as qu'à*. *Il suffit de* literally means "it is sufficient to," which better translates as "you should."

#### Examples:

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Tu n'as qu'à murmurer. Il suffit de murmurer.</i>	"You only have to whisper."
<i>Tu n'as qu'à étudier. Il suffit de étudier.</i>	"I just have to study."
<i>Tu n'as qu'à téléphoner. Il suffit de téléphoner.</i>	"I only have to call."
<i>Tu n'as qu'à communiquer. Il suffit de</i>	"I just have to communicate."

<i>communiquer.</i>	
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### **Pronunciation Particularities: *Taka***

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When listening to restrictive phrases with *tu*, as in the one from the dialogue, *tu n'as qu'à partir*, you may hear, [Taka par-tir]. The pronunciation of this phrase may seem strange in its phonetic aspect. We do not pronounce *tu* and *n'* but rather they are smashed forming the sound /taka/.

#### **Examples:**

<b>French</b>	<b>[pronunciation]</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>Tu n'as qu'à faire attention!</i>	[take-fer-athaen-si-hon]	"You only have to pay attention!"
<i>Tu n'as qu'à parler deux langues, pas plus.</i>	[take-par-leh-doe-laeng-pa-plus]	"You just have to speak two languages, not more."
<i>Tu n'as qu'à lui parler.</i>	[take-lu-hi-par-leh]	"You only have to speak with him."
<i>Tu n'as qu'à prendre l'avion. C'est plus rapide.</i>	[take-prhaen-dr-la-vihon-se-plu-rapid]	"You just have to take the plane. It's faster."

## Cultural Insight

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### **French Film Industry**

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The French film industry is one of the oldest of the film industries, and it is still autonomous at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. From the 80s with Hollywood's competition, the French movie industry specialized in French comedies and author movies.

The high quality of the network of art movie theaters makes France a cinema enthusiast's country. Paris has the highest concentration of art movie theaters, offering one of the widest and most diverse ranges of movie programming in all the major cities worldwide.

The movie, *Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis* ("Welcome to the *Ch'tis* Home"), is a comedy launched in

theaters in February 2008. *Ch'tis* designates the northern inhabitants of France. It is one illustration of a French movie produced recently to set the French movie industry apart from Hollywood movie productions. The movie humorously and simply explains the incidents of a Post Office Director transferred from South to North of France. The movie, directed by the famous French comedian Dany Boon, was highly successful taking second place (with 20,371,144 viewers) at the French box-office after Titanic (20,758,887 viewers).



## Newbie Lesson S2

So, What's Your Opinion in This – in French?

24

Formal French	2
English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	3
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## Formal French

---

- Friend 1 Ah, La visite-conférence, les bars parisiens. À mon avis, c'est intéressant !
- Friend 2 Hmm ok.... Ah! la visite-conférence, les plus belles fesses du Louvre. Selon moi, c'est exaltant !
- Friend 1 Pour moi, c'est hilarant !

## English

---

- Friend 1 Ah, the visit-conference, the Parisian bars. In my opinion, it's interesting!
- Friend 2 Hmm, okay...ah, the visit-conference, the most beautiful buttocks of the Louvre. According to me, it's thrilling!
- Friend 1 For me, it's hilarious!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
visite-conférence	visit-conference	noun	feminine
bar	bar, café	noun	
parisien	parisian	adjective	masculine
fesses	buttocks	noun	feminine
intéressant	interesting (at a good price), raise interest	adjective	feminine - intéressante
exaltant	thrilling	adjective	masculine
hilarant	hilarious	adjective	masculine
À mon avis.	In my opinion.	phrase	
Selon moi.	According to me.	phrase	
Pour moi	For me	phrase	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Les visites-conférences sont des guidages sur un thème spécifique d'un quartier d'une ville faites* "Visit-conferences are tours of neighborhoods in a city on a specific theme done by university

*par des professeurs d'université.*

*Le bar est plein de monde.*

*Certains parisiens sont chauvins !*

*Je suis tombé sur mes fesses.*

*Le comité d'entreprise propose des sorties intéressantes.*

*Les chemises sont à des prix intéressants.*

*Ce roman est exaltant.*

*Cette histoire est hilarante !*

professors."

"The bar is full of people."

"Certain people from Paris are chauvinists!"

"I fell on my butt."

"The shop committee offers interesting outings."

"The shirts are at interesting prices."

"This mystery novel is thrilling."

"This story is hilarious!"

## Grammar Points

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### **The Focus of This Lesson is Sharing Your Thoughts and Opinions in French!**

*A mon avis, c'est intéressant !*

**"In my opinion, it's interesting!"**

---

Socializing is important to becoming better balanced. Socializing allows people to share information and learn. It also provides the opportunity for people to express themselves. Through exchanging ideas, discussions, and debates a person can evolve, mature and grow while spending a good time with friends and family. Expressing your opinion helps define your personality and shape your character. To be able to state your views in a simple and easy manner, share your opinion with the following phrases.

3

### **Don't Be Shy: Tell Your Opinion**

---

Stating your opinion can be difficult and complex or it can be effective and simple. In the dialogue, the two friends are in a Parisian tourist office choosing a visite-conference that suits their schedule of the day. Each character makes a suggestion, and tells the other their first impression about the visite-conference's themes. The phrases they use are, *à mon avis, c'est intéressant*, and, *pour moi, c'est hilarant*. Respectively, this means, "in my opinion, it's interesting," and "for me, it's hilarious!"

Both people introduce very simple thoughts and opinions with the expressions, *à mon avis*, which matches the English phrase, "in my opinion," and, *pour moi*, meaning, "for me." You can use these

phrases in formal and informal situations. To tell a simple opinion, add the same grammatical pattern to both phrases, *c'est*, which is the French equivalent of "it's," followed by a descriptive adjective appropriate to what you're commenting on.

### Examples:

<b>Situation</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<b>About a new concept:</b>	<i>A mon avis, c'est innovant!</i>	"In my opinion, it's innovating!"
	<i>Pour moi, c'est inutile.</i>	"For me, it's pointless."
<b>About a theatrical performance:</b>	<i>A mon avis, c'est émouvant!</i>	"In my opinion, it's moving!"
	<i>Pour moi, c'est déprimant.</i>	"For me, it's depressing."
<b>About a book:</b>	<i>A mon avis, c'est passionnant!</i>	"In my opinion, it's fascinating!"
	<i>Pour moi, c'est barbant.</i>	"For me, it's boring."

### Language Expansion

When the speakers already know what they are stating their opinion about, you can also use:

*Je pense que* ("I think that"), *Je crois que* ("I believe that"), or *Je trouve que* ("I find that"), followed by *c'est* and an adjective.

### Examples:

<b>Situation</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<b>About a strike: French</b>	<i>Je pense que c'est intolérable.</i>	"I think it is intolerable."
<b>About a political issue:</b>	<i>Je crois que c'est nécessaire.</i>	"I believe that it is necessary."
<b>About volunteering for a charity:</b>	<i>Je trouve que c'est admirable.</i>	"I find it's admirable."

When the speaker needs to specify what they are giving their opinion about, use the same phrases.

*Je pense que* ("I think that"), *Je crois que* ("I believe that"), or *Je trouve que* ("I find that"), followed by a subject, a verb in the indicative tense\* and a complement.

### Examples:

1. *Je pense que les frères Cohen produisent des films captivants.*  
"I think that the Cohen brothers produce captivating films."
2. *Je crois que la télévision influence les téléspectateurs.*  
"I believe that TV influences viewers."
3. *Je trouve que tu es perspicace.*  
"I find that you are perceptive."

## Cultural Insight

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### Visit the French Capital on Foot

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*Visite-conferences* or *promenade-conferences* are guided walks with a professor or lecturer about a specific theme and part of Paris. The guide is usually highly qualified and possesses an agreement from the Minister of the culture, which gives him the freedom to offer his skills nationwide.

These visits are packed full of information and provide a glimpse of French history, art history, and archeology. To find a visite-conference while you are staying in the capital, inquire in any tourist office about which lecturer provides commented walks in English.

The themes of these visits are as varied as the lecturers themselves—from commentary on *The Underground of the Parisian Neighborhood Le Marais*, to commentary on *The River Seine Banks, Bridges, Quays and Old Professions*, or even *The Covered Passageways: a Walk during Balzac and Zola's Time*.





Newbie Lesson S2  
I Need...Well, Everything!

00

Informal French	2
Informal English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	3

## Informal French

---

Alexandra Philippe, tu as besoin de quelque chose ?  
 Philippe Oui, j'ai besoin de vin.  
 Alexandra Et, tu as besoin d'autre chose ?  
 Philippe Oui, j'ai besoin d'un verre !

## Informal English

---

Alexandra Philippe, do you need anything?  
 Philippe Yes, I need some wine.  
 Alexandra ...and, do you need anything else?  
 Philippe Yes, I need a glass!

## Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
avoir	to have	verb	
ai	have	verb form	
as (tu)	have	verb form	
verre	glass	noun	
un	a, an	indefinite article	masculine
tu	you (informal)		
quelque chose	something	noun	masculine
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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<i>Il a une voiture.</i>	"He has a car."
<i>J'ai trente-trois ans.</i>	"I am thirty-three years old."
<i>Excusez-moi avez-vous du pain ?</i>	"Excuse me; do you have some bread?"
<i>J'ai deux frères.</i>	"I have two brothers."
<i>J'ai de nombreux amis.</i>	"I have numerous friends."
<i>J'ai aussi un chien.</i>	"I have a dog, too."
<i>Tu as tort de mentir.</i>	You are in fault to lie.

*Tu as soif ?*

*Tu as mon stylo.*

*Vous prenez un verre ?*

*Tu peux me donner un verre d'eau, s'il te plaît ?*

*Un peu d'eau.*

*Pourquoi es-tu ici ?*

*Je veux quelque chose de frais, comme un coca!*

*Les enfants boudent lorsqu'ils n'aiment pas quelque chose.*

*Je vais bien.*

"Are you thirsty?"

"You have my pen."

"Would you like a drink ?"

Can you give me a glass of water, please?

"a little water"

"Why are you here?"

"I want something refreshing, like a coke!"

"Kids refuse to talk (sulk) when they don't like something."

"I am well."

## Grammar Points

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### Expressing Your Needs!

At every moment of the day, human beings appeal to satisfy their needs. It can range from simple material things or physical necessities, to our psychological or emotional well-being. To be able to express what you need, we will present a simple phrase that is easily reusable with the verb *avoir*.

#### Ask if Someone Needs Anything

*Tu as besoin de quelque chose? Tu as besoin d'autre chose?*

**"Do you need anything? Do you need anything else?"**

When caring for one another or making sure someone is at ease, you may ask a recurrent question. It is found in the dialogue when Alexandra, the host and cook of the offered meal, asks, "*tu as besoin de quelque chose?*" With this question translated as "do you need anything," she wants to be sure every guest has what he needs to start the prepared dinner.

The expression she uses in the first line of the dialogue to ask about the needs of others is *avoir besoin*

*de*. As Alexandra invites her friends to her humble home, she refers to Philippe with the informal *tu*. Therefore, we conjugate the verb *avoir* in the second person singular, taking the form *as* followed by *besoin de*.

On the contrary, if you are talking to a group of people or are in a formal situation, switch *tu* with *vous* and conjugate the verb *avoir* accordingly. In case you want to check a second time to see if your host is okay, you can use *autre chose*, meaning "something else" instead of *quelque chose*, translated as "something or anything." The complete question would then be, *tu as besoin d'autre chose* (do you need anything else?).

Find additional examples below of questions with *avoir besoin de* with either *tu* or *vous*.

### Examples:

1. You are lost in the maze of the bed-and-breakfast you just walked into. The hostess's seven-year-old son asks you:

*Tu as besoin de quelque chose?* "Do you need anything?" (informal you)

2. You enter a small store full of beautiful old objects. You might hear:

*Vous avez besoin de quelque chose?* "Do you need anything?" (formal you)

3. While admiring and looking up the Vauban fortifications on the Ré Island, your French speaking travel mate misses a step. Concerned, you ask:

*Tu as besoin de quelque chose?* "Do you need anything?" (informal you)

4. You're helping your travel mate to get up and notice he seems to be in pain. You ask again:

*Tu as besoin d'autre chose?* "Do you need anything else?" (informal you)

5. As a hyper-busy-around-the-clock business man, you are getting your shoes off while entering the Ritz room you're going to sleep in while in Paris. *La concierge* comes back to assist you and makes sure you have everything with the question:

*Vous avez besoin d'autres choses?* "Do you need anything else?" (formal you)

**Language Tip:**

Another very common question you might hear, especially in stores is *Je peux vous aider?* In English this means, "Can I help you?" To answer this question you can easily reuse the expression you learned with the reply, *J'ai besoin de*, which we are going to detail in the following passage.

**Reply With What You Need**

*J'ai besoin de vin. J'ai besoin d'un verre.*

**"I need some wine. I need a glass."**

After someone has asked you if you need anything, it is time to reply. In the dialogue, Philippe is wishing for some wine, which he expresses with *j'ai besoin de vin*. The English translation is "I need some wine." But that's not all-he is also missing a glass, which he lets Alexandra know with *j'ai besoin d'un verre*, meaning, "I need a glass."

Now it's your turn to express your needs. You are either satisfied and can say the shortest and most polite answer available with, *non, merci*, meaning, "no, thank you." On the other hand, you might be in need of something in order to experience the best French hospitality. If so, you'll need to use the incomplete phrase *j'ai besoin*, translated as "I need," followed by *de* or *-d* (translation will vary upon the context and phrase). We use the particle *de* when followed by a word that begins with a consonant. If the following word starts with a vowel, use *-d*. Notice in the examples below, we use *de* and *-d* with non-count nouns (see example #1 and 2) or an article plus a count noun (see examples #3 and 4).

**Examples:**

1. It's a hot day in Morocco. You're thirsty so you go to the local store and say:  
*J'ai besoin d'eau.* "I need some water."

2. You are on the ferry to Calvi on the island of Corsica and realize you don't have enough money to get a snack. You say:

*J'ai besoin d'argent.* "I need money."

3. You're hungry after skiing in the Alps at Courchevel. You ski to the highly perched restaurant Le Pilatus where you're planning to get a hearty regional *savoyard* meal. You could say:

*J'ai besoin d'un repas chaud.* "I need a hot meal."

4. French experience is so wonderful that you decide to stay one more week and you go to a travel agency to postpone your return flight. You tell them:

*J'ai besoin d'un autre billet retour.* "I need another return ticket."

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