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LEVEL

8



# French

## Upper Intermediate



*Unabridged Edition*

innovative LANGUAGE

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #1 Is That French Person Famous?

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- 2 English
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# 1

## FRENCH

1. (at the bottom of the Eiffel Tower)
2. Jack: Excusez-moi, monsieur. Savez-vous combien elle mesure, la tour Eiffel?
3. Jean : Attendez, laissez-moi vérifier sur mon téléphone.... Voilà, elle fait 327 mètres exactement.
4. Jack: Seulement 327? Elle avait l'air plus grande que ça. Elle est assez petite alors...
5. Jean : Vous savez, cette tour a été construite il y a plus d'un siècle. A la date de son inauguration , c'était la plus grande structure du monde!
6. Jack: C'est vrai qu'elle fait vieille. Mais vous me paraissiez un peu pâle, monsieur. Ça va bien?
7. Jean : C'est parce que je suis monté en haut, et j'ai un peu eu le vertige. Je vous assure qu'elle paraît très grande au sommet.
8. Jack: Je vois... Vous savez, vous me faites vraiment penser au célèbre acteur, Jean Reno. On dirait une copie!
9. Jean : On me le dit souvent.
10. Jack: Mais avec vos lunettes de soleil, vous avez l'air d'un criminel. Vous pouvez les enlever une seconde?
11. Jean : Ah, ça va comme ça, merci. Je dois partir.
12. Jack: Il avait l'air pressé, ce monsieur...

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at the bottom of the Eiffel Tower)
  
2. Jack: Excuse me, sir. Do you know how tall the Eiffel Tower measures?
  
3. Jean: Wait, let me check on my phone... Right, it's 327 meters tall exactly.
  
4. Jack: Only 327? It looked taller than that. It's quite small then...
  
5. Jean: You know, this tower was built more than a century ago. At the time of its inauguration, it was the tallest structure in the world!
  
6. Jack: It does look old. But you know, sir, you seem kind of pale. Are you all right?
  
7. Jean: That's because I went up, and I got a little height sick. I can assure you it looks tall at the summit.
  
8. Jack: I see... You know, you really remind me of that famous actor, Jean Reno. You look like a copy!
  
9. Jean: People often tell me so.
  
10. Jack: But with your sunglasses, you look like a criminal. Can you take them off for a second?
  
11. Jean: Ah, I'm fine like this, thanks. I have to go.
  
12. Jack: That man looked to be in a hurry...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
pressé	in a hurry	adjective	

vertige	height sickness, fear of heights	noun
monter	to go up	verb
Me faire penser à	to make me think of	Expression
célèbre	famous	adjective feminine or masculine
lunettes de soleil	sunglasses	noun
faire + adjective or noun	to look like	Expression
paraître	to appear	verb
vérifier	to check	verb
enlever	to take off, to remove	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Pourquoi es-tu pressé, il te reste du temps non?</b>  "Why are you in a hurry, you have time left, right?"	<b>Il a le vertige quand il se met debout sur une chaise.</b>  "He gets height sick when he stands on a chair."
<b>Il a monté les escaliers deux par deux.</b>  "He went up the stairs two at a time."	<b>Vous me faites penser à ... quand j'avais votre âge.</b>  "You make me think of when I was your age."
<b>Si tu veux devenir célèbre, il faut travailler plus dur que ça.</b>  "If you want to become famous you have to work harder than that."	<b>Un célèbre général français est le général De Gaulle.</b>  "A famous French general is General De Gaulle."
<b>Les gens qui portent des lunettes de soleil en hiver m'énervent.</b>  "People who wear sunglasses in winter anger me."	<b>Malgré son âge, il fait encore assez jeune.</b>  "Despite his age, he still looks quite young."

<p><b>Elle m'a paru énervée quand je l'ai vue ce matin</b></p> <p>"She looked angry when I saw her this morning."</p>	<p><b>Cette ombre paraît être un visage.</b></p> <p>"This shadow seems to be a face."</p>
<p><b>Je vais vérifier votre ticket, Monsieur</b></p> <p>"I'm going to check your ticket, Sir."</p>	<p><b>Je vais enlever mon pull, il fait trop chaud</b></p> <p>"I'm going to take off my sweater, it's too hot."</p>

**L'avocat enlevait ses vêtements.**

"The lawyer took off his clothes."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***faire + [adjective/noun]***

We can use this expression in objective and subjective situations producing different meanings.

### ***monter***

This word's original meaning is "to go up," but it can also mean "to start up" a business, a restaurant, etc.

### ***célèbre***

The word comes from "celebrated," and one can thus remember its meaning as "famous" in the sense of being celebrated.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Expressing an Opinion of a Visual Element.**

***Elle avait l'air plus grande que ça...***

**"It looked taller than that."**

There are many expressions to express a subjective opinion based on visual information. *Avoir l'air* is one of these. The other examples in this lesson for subjective analysis are *fait + [adjective/noun]*, *parait + [adjective]*, *me faire penser à + [noun]*, and *on dirait + [noun]*. These are roughly the English equivalent of "it seems" or "it looks." *Me faire penser à + [noun]* translates literally to "makes me think of."

### The Grammatical Usage of *Avoir L'Air*

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*avoir l'air + [adjective]*

*avoir l'air de + [noun, verb]*

*Avoir l'air* contains the verb *avoir*, which means you can conjugate this expression to all tenses, including the past, future, and conditional: *tu as l'air..., il aura l'air..., ça avait l'air..., j'aurais l'air...*"

### For Example:

1. *Le restaurant a l'air fermé.*  
"The restaurant looks closed."
2. *La lumière a l'air d'être éteinte.*  
"The light looks like it's off."

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *Elle avait l'air plus grande que ça.*  
"It looked taller than that."
2. *Mais avec vos lunettes de soleil vous avez l'air d'un criminel.*  
"But with your sunglasses you look like a criminal."

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Il a l'air fatigué aujourd'hui!*  
"He looks tired today!"
2. *Il avait l'air de vouloir partir.*  
"He looked like he wanted to leave."

### Language Tip

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In grammatical usage, *avoir l'air* is the most versatile of the expressions presented in this lesson, but it is also the most flexible in tone, and we can use it in almost any situation translating to "it looks," regardless of whether it is formal. On the other hand, the other terms we discussed can be a little more specific. *Parait* is a little bit more stiff and formal than *avoir l'air*. *On dirait* is similar in that sense to *parait* and can have a bit of a dramatic effect. *Faire + [adjective/noun]* is a very difficult expression to use, in that depending on the word following it, it will not translate to "looks like" but something else entirely.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### **How Many Times Has the Eiffel Tower Been Destroyed?**

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The Eiffel Tower, built in 1889 for the World's Fair in Paris, consequently appeared in many films, but it took a long time for a director to consider destroying it. The first occurrence was in 1965's *The Great Race*, and most recently, it was laid to waste by machines in the *G.I. Joe* franchise big screen adaptation in 2009.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #2

## A Pricey French Pastry

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# **2**

## FRENCH

1. (at a bakery in Elodie's neighborhood.)
2. Élodie: Bonjour, je voudrais un pain de mie, coupé en tranches, s'il vous plaît.
3. La boulangère : Voilà, un pain de mie pour Madame. Vous désirez autre chose ?
4. Élodie: Oui, j'aimerais aussi ce pain au chocolat et cet escargot.
5. La boulangère : Voilà, ce sera tout ?
6. Élodie: Voyons... A quelle température vous conservez vos pâtisseries?
7. La boulangère : Cela vous intrigue ? A 5, 6 degrés environ.
8. Élodie: Très bien, je prendrais un éclair au café aussi alors.
9. La boulangère : Voilà, un éclair au café, une baguette, un pain au chocolat et un escargot pour Madame. Ça fera 7 euros 50.
10. Élodie: Ah, excusez-moi, j'aimerais aussi ajouter ce mille-feuilles, il a vraiment l'air délicieux.
11. La boulangère : Entendu, cela fait maintenant 15 euros!
12. Élodie: Quoi? Mais avant le mille-feuilles, le total était de 7 euros 50 !
13. La boulangère : Oui, mais je vous promets, notre mille-feuilles vaut le coup. Et puis, les prix sont écrits, vous savez ?

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at a bakery in Elodie's neighborhood)
  
2. Élodie: Hello, I'd like one white bread, and sliced please.
  
3. La boulangère: Here you go, one white bread for Madam. Would you like something else?
  
4. Élodie: Yes, I'd like this chocolate croissant and this escargot.
  
5. La boulangère: All right, will that be all?
  
6. Élodie: Well... At what temperature do you keep your pastries?
  
7. La boulangère: Does it interest you? At about five or six degrees.
  
8. Élodie: Very well, I'll have a coffee éclair as well then.
  
9. La boulangère: All right, a coffee éclair, a chocolate croissant and an escargot for madam. That will be seven euros and fifty cents.
  
10. Élodie: Ah, excuse me, I'd like to add this mille-feuilles as well; it looks really delicious.
  
11. La boulangère: Very well, that will be fifteen euros now.
  
12. Élodie: What? But before the mille-feuilles, the total was seven-fifty!
  
13. La boulangère: Yes, but I promise you, our mille-feuilles is worth it. And really, the prices are written, you know?

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
intriguer	to intrigue, to interest	verb

valoir le coup	to be worth it	Expression
promettre	to promise	verb
entendu	understood	Expression
pâtisserie	pastry	noun
escargot	snail	noun
désirer	to desire, to like (wish)	verb
mie	the inside of bread, not the crust.	noun
couper	to cut, to slice	verb
conserver	to keep, to conserve	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Je ne vais pas cacher que ça m'intrigue.</b> "I won't hide that it intrigues me."	<b>Ca vaut le coup d'y penser.</b> "It's worth thinking about."
<b>Je te promets de rentrer ce soir.</b> "I promise you I'll come back tonight."	<b>Entendu, j'arrive maintenant.</b> "Understood, I'm coming now."
<b>Il ne mange que des pâtisseries récemment.</b> "He's been eating only pastries lately."	<b>Manger des escargots c'est cruel.</b> "It's cruel to eat snails."
<b>Il est lent comme un escargot.</b> "He's slow like a snail."	<b>Je désire rentrer tôt aujourd'hui, s'il vous plaît.</b> "I'd like to go home early today please."

<b>Nous désirons un abonnement au journal.</b> "We desire a subscription to the newspaper."	<b>Ne te plains pas, mange la mie.</b> "Don't complain, eat the inside of the bread."
<b>J'ai coupé une bûche en deux.</b> "I cut a log into two."	<b>Elle veut conserver le charme ancien de l'immeuble.</b> "She wants to keep the old charm of the building."
<b>J'ai conservé tous les documents qu'on m'avait demandé.</b> "I kept all the files I had been asked to."	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***mie***

This is the inside, soft part of bread. In other words, everything but the crust. In France, a *pain de mie* is the name for a square bread, because compared to others, these have less outside crust when sliced and more inside soft bread. Sometimes difficult eaters or children will ask to take *mie* out when making a sandwich. Do you do this sometimes as well?

### **For Example:**

1. *Vous pouvez enlever la mie pour mon sandwich?*  
"Can you take out the soft inside of the bread out for my sandwich?"

### ***conserver***

We can use this word in the sense of keeping something in its current state. This can apply to food you keep in a refrigerator or an old building taken care of for historical value.

### **For Example:**

1. *Ces fruits peuvent être conservés dans le frigo quelques semaines.*  
"These fruits can be kept in the refrigerator for a couple of weeks."

## **valoir le coup**

This expression means "to be worth it," and we can use it in the same context as its English counterpart. If you know your grammar rules, you know that you must connect this expression to the clause following it by *de*, because *coup* is a noun. *Valoir la peine* is another expression with the same meaning as this one.

### **For Example:**

1. *Ca vaut le coup de l'acheter.*  
"It's worth buying."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the Conditional Verb Form to Express Polite Requests.**

*Bonjour, je voudrais un pain de mie...s'il vous plaît.*

"Hello, I'd like one baguette, please."

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There are different levels of politeness in French language. Besides the *vous* and *tu* forms, you can, as in English, use the conditional verb form to express requests. We use the conditional form for unsure results, so it lowers yourself, allowing the conversation partner to reject your statement. Mostly, you use this form when you ask something of a person you've never met before or in a commercial setting with store staff. The verb we use most in this form is *vouloir* when you directly order an action or an object. If the speaker wants an action to be done for him or her, he or she uses *pouvoir* in a question sentence, such as *pourriez-vous...?*

### **The Grammatical Usage of the Conditional Form**

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The conditional tense is very easy to form as you simply conjugate a verb to the future tense, then change the ending to that of the imperfect tense for that same verb.

### **For Example:**

*aimer* ("to like")

Singular:

Future simple: *j'aimerai*

Imperfect: *j'aimais*

Conditional: *j'aimerais*

Plural:

Future simple: **nous aimerons**

Imperfect: **nous aimions**

Conditional: **nous aimerions**

We have highlighted the changed endings in the example sentences below.

conditional + noun, verb

### For Example:

1. *Je voudrais cette part de gâteau, s'il vous plaît.*  
"I would like to have this piece of cake, please."
2. *J'aimerais partir en voyage avec vous, si possible.*  
"I would like to go on a trip with you if possible."
3. *Pourriez-vous me faire la coupe de Justin Bieber, s'il vous plaît?*  
"Could you give me a Justin Bieber haircut, please?"

As this is a polite form, *s'il vous plaît* often follows the sentence.

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *Je prendrais un éclair au café alors.*  
"Well...actually, I'll take this coffee éclair as well." (literally, "I would take")
2. *Ah, excusez-moi, j'aimerais aussi ajouter ce mille-feuilles, il a vraiment l'air délicieux.*  
"Ah, excuse me, I'd like to add this mille-feuilles as well; it looks really delicious."

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Nous aimerions rentrer avant 20h, nous nous levons tôt demain!*  
"We'd like to get back home before eight p.m.; we're waking up early tomorrow!"
2. *Je voudrais aller voir ce film, l'affiche est très intriguante.*  
"I'd like to see this movie; the poster is really intriguing."

### Language Tip

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We use different verbs depending on the situation we're in. *Vouloir* is the standard verb that

we use to express a polite request. We use *aimer* to imply more overtly the speaker's subjective desire.

*Souhaiter* means "to wish," but when we use it as *je souhaiterais*, it is better to be translated as "I'd like." *Je prendrais* comes from the verb *prendre*, which means "I'll take," and it is almost only used in shops and restaurants to order.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### **Are You Sure You Don't Want a French Snail With That?**

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In French bakeries, they sell a different kind of snail. An *escargot* is also the name of a kind of *viennoiserie*, a local term for "pastry." And an *éclair* doesn't buy you "lightning," which is the usual meaning of the word, but the famous cream-filled, chocolate topped sweet. A pastry name like *mille-feuille* makes sense, as a "thousand paper sheets" is exactly what it looks like. As for the snail, you'll have to think a little harder about that one.

French bakeries are almost always combined with pastry shops and usually sell cakes and pies as well as bread.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #3

## A Visit from a French Friend

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# **3**

# FRENCH

1. (at Corinne's apartment.)
2. Corinne: Jack, enfin tu es là ! Tu t'es perdu ?
3. Jack: Bonjour, désolé pour le retard ! J'ai eu du mal à trouver l'entrée de ton immeuble. Le voisin a fini par me la montrer.
4. Corinne: Tout le monde a le même problème la première fois. Enfin, bienvenue chez moi. Je vais te présenter quelqu'un. Voici Élodie, elle est venue d'Alsace aujourd'hui.
5. Élodie: Salut !
6. Jack: Bonjour, je suis Jack, enchanté. On se fait la bise combien de fois en Alsace ?
7. Élodie: Chez nous, deux fois c'est bon.
8. Corinne: Je vais vous laisser.
9. (...)
10. Jack: Alors, tu as des amis ici ?
11. Élodie: J'en avais mais ils sont partis.
12. Jack: Ah bon, où ça ?
13. Élodie: À la Tour Eiffel, elle est ouverte la nuit aujourd'hui. J'ai facilement le vertige alors je les ai laissés y aller sans moi.
14. Jack: Ça alors...

# ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at Corinne's apartment)
2. Corinne: Jack, you're finally here! Did you get lost?
3. Jack: Hello, sorry I'm late! I had a hard time finding the entrance to your building. The neighbor ended up showing it to me.
4. Corinne: Everyone has the same problem the first time. Anyway, welcome to my home. I'm going to introduce you to somebody. This is Élodie, she came from Alsace today.
5. Élodie: Hi!
6. Jack: Hello, I'm Jack, nice to meet you. How many times do you kiss on the cheek in Alsace?
7. Élodie: Twice is fine with us.
8. Corinne: I'm going to leave you two.
9. (...)
10. Jack: So, do you have friends here?
11. Élodie: I did, but they left.
12. Jack: Oh yeah, where to?
13. Élodie: To the Eiffel Tower, it's open at night today. I get dizzy easily, so I let them go without me.
14. Jack: How about that...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
(se) faire la bise	to kiss on the cheek	Expression	
laisser	to let	verb	
ça alors	how about that, wow..	Expression	
avoir du mal (à)	to have trouble	expression	
tout le monde	everyone	Expression	
présenter	to present, to show, to display, to introduce	verb	
se perdre	to get lost	verb	
montrer	to show	Verb	
immeuble	building	noun	masculine
voici	here is, here are	preposition	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Tu vis en France et tu ne sais pas comment faire la bise?</b>  "You live in France and you don't know how to kiss on the cheek?"	<b>Je te laisse partir, à condition que tu ne parles de moi à personne.</b>  "I will let you leave, on condition that you speak to no one about me."
<b>Ça alors, il est déjà huit heures? Je vais rater le train.</b>  "Wow, is it eight o'clock already? I'm going to miss the train."	<b>J'ai du mal à comprendre ce que tu dis parfois.</b>  "I have trouble understanding what you say sometimes."
<b>Il taquine tout le monde, même ses grand-parents.</b>  "He makes fun of everyone, even his grandparents."	<b>Les employés présentent leurs projets aujourd'hui, ça va être long.</b>  "The employees are presenting their projects today, it's going to be long."

<b>Il s'est perdu en rentrant à la maison.</b> "He got lost coming home."	<b>Je me perds dans la ville.</b> "I get lost in the city."
<b>Peux-tu me montrer ta grimace la plus drôle?</b> "Can you show me your funniest face?"	<b>Elle a reçu une montre de ses parents après la cérémonie de remise des diplômes.</b> "She got a watch from her parents after the graduation ceremony."
<b>La télévision montrait les Jeux Olympiques pendant tout l'été.</b> "The television was showing the Olympic games during the whole summer."	<b>Je peux lui montrer comment le faire.</b> "I can show him how to do it."
<b>La nuit dernière il y avait un incendie dans l'immeuble en face.</b> "Last night, there was a fire in the building across the street."	<b>Elles voulaient monter sur le toit de l'immeuble mais je les ai arrêtées.</b> "They wanted to climb on the roof of the building but I stopped them."
<b>Voici ma chambre, je l'ai repeinte en rose la semaine passée.</b> "Here is my room, I painted it pink last week."	<b>Voici une baguette avec de la confiture pour toi, Jacques!</b> "Here is a baguette with some jam for you, Jacques!"

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **présenter**

This word can take on the meaning of introducing something or someone to someone.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je te présente ma fille, Audrey.*"  
"Let me introduce my daughter, Audrey."

We can also simply use it to express someone making a presentation of some kind of information.

## For Example:

1. C'est moi qui présente sur les singes en classe aujourd'hui.  
"I'm the one presenting on monkeys in class today."

## (se) faire la bise

This is an expression that we use specifically for the kiss on the cheek that French people use as greetings, the *bise*. When we place *se* in front of the verb, it means that two people are exchanging kisses on the cheek.

For example, *On se fait la bise?* is a very common sentence that translates roughly to

"Shall we kiss on the cheek?" (to greet each other). Without the *se*, we can use the expression from the point of one person.

## For Example:

1. Je ne fais pas la bise.  
"I don't kiss on the cheek."

## ça alors

**Ça alors** is an expression to use when the revelation of information surprises us.

## For Example:

1. Ça alors, il est déjà huit heures?  
"Wow, is it already eight o'clock?"

This sentence implies you are surprised at realizing how late the time is.

## For Example:

1. Ça alors, je ne savais pas que tu serais là aujourd'hui!  
"Hey, I didn't know you would be here today!"

This sentence implies that you did not expect the person to be there today and are surprised to see him.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Using *En*, *La*, *Les*, *Y*...All the Pronouns to Make Shorter Sentences.**

**J'ai eu du mal à trouver l'entrée de ton immeuble. Le voisin a fini par me la montrer...**  
**"I had a hard time finding the entrance to your building. The neighbor ended up showing it to me."**

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French people don't like to repeat words, so they use many pronouns to avoid repetitions in a sentence.

Our first example is the *complément d'objet direct*, or COD. The COD is the group of words that comes right after a verb and answers the question of "What?" in relation to that verb. You can replace it with *le*, *la*, or *les*, depending on the gender and the number.

The second group of words that we can replace are nouns that begin with the different forms of *de*: *du*, *de la*, *des*. When we replace them, we change these groups of words into the replacement pronoun *en* and come after the subject in the sentence.

Finally, the last in this series of replacement pronouns is *y*, which replaces all location-related nouns.

## The Grammatical Usage of the Replacing Pronouns

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**COD: le, la, les**

### For Example:

1. *Tu manges cette pomme? Oui, je la mange.*  
"Are you eating this apple? Yes, I'm eating it."
2. *J'aimerais avoir le sel, tu peux me le passer?*  
"I'd like to have the salt, can you pass it to me?"

**du, de la, des**

### For Example:

1. *Il faut du sucre pour faire les crêpes, va en acheter!*  
"We need sugar for the crepes; go buy some!"

**Place**

### For Example:

1. **Tu travailles toujours au restaurant italien?**  
Ah non, je n'y travaille plus depuis janvier.  
"Are you still working in the Italian restaurant?"  
"No, I haven't worked there since January."

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. **Alors, tu as des amis ici ?**  
**J'en avais mais ils sont partis.**  
"So, do you have friends here?"  
"I did, but they left."
2. **J'ai eu du mal à trouver l'entrée de ton immeuble. Le voisin a fini par me la montrer.**  
"I had a hard time finding the entrance to your building. The neighbor ended up showing it to me."
3. **À la Tour Eiffel, elle est ouverte la nuit aujourd'hui. J'ai facilement le vertige alors je les ai laissé y aller sans moi.**  
"To the Eiffel Tower; it's open at night today. I get dizzy easily, so I let them go without me."

## Sample Sentences

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1. **Tu fais la cuisine des fois? Non, je ne la fais jamais.**  
"Do you cook sometimes? No, I never do."
2. **J'adorais prendre des photos, mais je n'en prends plus du tout récemment.**  
"I loved taking pictures, but I haven't taken any at all lately."
3. **Vous allez souvent au cinéma?**  
**J'y vais environ une fois par semaine, oui.**  
"Do you often go to the movies?"  
"Yes, I go about once a week."

## Language Tip

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For all of these particles, the rule is to put them before the verb. In a negative sentence, the particles *en* and *y* combine with *ne* to form one word: *n'en*.

## For Example:

1. *je n'en ai pas* .  
"I don't have any [of something]"

*En* technically replaces *de ça*, with *ça* itself already replacing a longer sentence.

*Je n'en ai aucune idée* ("I have no idea") is originally made from *je n'ai aucune idée de ça*. *Ça* already replaces something that has been talked about earlier in the conversation.

We use *le-la-les* for all CODs, so we can also use them when speaking of people. In *Tu as vu Corinne aujourd'hui ? Oui, je l'ai vue, l'* is the abbreviation before the verb for *la*, the feminine particle.

We use *y* to replace places and locations, so it is usually with a group of words introduced by *à* forms: *au, à la, aux*.

### For Example:

1. *Je vais au restaurant => J'y vais.*

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### How Many Kisses Will You Get in France?

---

Kissing on the cheek when you meet someone, be it a friend or a first-time acquaintance, is the common form of greetings in France, except professionally. The actual number of kisses on the cheek will change depending on the customs of each region, but they commonly go from one to four and possibly more. This is done in a family setting as well as between men, and the only noticeable exception is that young children are excepted from the custom. This might simply be a height problem, as you can usually see young adults start mingling and kissing in society as they come into their teens.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #4

## Where's the Best Place for a Steak in France?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

# **4**

## FRENCH

1. (at a restaurant)
2. Frank: C'est des amateurs, ici. Ma fourchette et mon couteau sont à l'envers.
3. Corinne : Fais plutôt attention à la nourriture. Ce steak est vraiment délicieux.
4. Frank : Tu as raison, il n'est pas mal.
5. Corinne : Pas mal ? Il est excellent, oui !
6. Frank : Je ne le déteste pas, mais j'ai déjà mangé mieux, franchement.
7. Corinne : Ah oui, et où donc ?
8. Frank : Où c'était déjà... Donne-moi une seconde pour réfléchir.
9. Corinne : Si ça ne te dérange pas, je suis curieuse de savoir...Je veux y aller aussi.
10. Frank : C'était quelque part près de chez moi, quand j'habitais en Alsace... Quelqu'un m'a préparé un steak bien meilleur que celui-ci.
11. Corinne : Tu te souviens du nom du chef du restaurant, peut-être ?
12. Frank : Ah oui, ça y est, ça me revient !
13. Corinne : Alors ?
14. Frank : Maman...

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at a restaurant)
  
2. Frank: These waiters are amateurs. My knife and fork are reversed.
  
3. Corinne: How about paying attention to the food? This steak is really good.
  
4. Frank: You're right, it's not bad.
  
5. Corinne: Not bad? It's excellent!
  
6. Frank: I don't hate it, but I've had better, honestly.
  
7. Corinne: Oh yeah, and where was that?
  
8. Frank: If I remembered, I'd tell you right away... Give me a second to think.
  
9. Corinne: If it doesn't bother you, I'm curious to know... I want to go as well!
  
10. Frank: It was somewhere around home, back when I lived in Alsace... Someone made me a much better steak than this one.
  
11. Corinne: Do you remember the name of the chef of the restaurant, maybe?
  
12. Frank: Oh, right, it's coming back to me!
  
13. Corinne: Well?
  
14. Frank: Mom...

## VOCABULARY

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French	English	Class	Gender
revenir (à quelqu'un)	to come back	verb	

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déranger	to bother	verb
franchement	honestly, quite frankly	adverb
à l'envers	backwards, upside down	Adverbial clause
faire attention	to pay attention	verb
plutôt	rather, instead	adverb
couteau	knife	noun
fourchette	fork	noun
préparer	to prepare, to make	verb
se souvenir	to remember	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Ça ne vous revient pas ? Faites un effort !</b>  "It's not coming back to you? Try harder!"	<b>Notre chien dérange les voisins, parce qu'ils ont un chat.</b>  "Our dog bothers the neighbors, because they have a cat."
<b>C'est franchement dur de l'écouter sans s'endormir.</b>  "It's quite frankly hard to listen to him without falling asleep."	<b>Je pensais que le tableau était à l'envers mais c'était fait exprès.</b>  "I thought the painting was upside down but it was on purpose."
<b>Quand tu ne fais pas attention en cours, à quoi tu penses?</b>  "When you're not paying attention in class, what do you think about?"	<b>Elle est plutôt gentille.</b>  "She is rather nice."
<b>Je préfère plutôt me reposer.</b>  "I'd rather rest."	<b>Il coupe ses cheveux avec un couteau, pour une certaine raison.</b>  "He cuts his hair with a knife, for some reason."

<b>Quand tu plantes ta fourchette dans le gâteau, ça fait un drôle de bruit.</b>  "When you stick your fork in that cake it makes a weird sound."	<b>Il prépare son repas du midi tous les matins chez lui.</b>  "He makes his lunch at home every morning ."
<b>Qu'est-ce que tu prépares pour ce soir ?</b>  "What are you preparing for this evening?"	<b>Essayez de vous souvenir de ce qui s'est passé hier sur la scène du crime s'il vous plaît.</b>  "Please try to remember what happened yesterday at the crime scene."
<b>Tu as cru que je ne me souviendrais pas de ton anniversaire.</b>  "You thought I wouldn't remember your birthday."	<b>Il ne se souvient de rien de ce qui s'est passé avant l'accident.</b>  "He doesn't remember anything that happened before the accident."
<b>Il s'est souvenu de son rendez-vous à la dernière seconde.</b>  "He remembered his meeting at the last second."	<b>Nous nous souvenons de son discours.</b>  "We remember his speech."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***plutôt***

This is a versatile expression that we generally use as an introduction to a counterpoint statement.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Tu vas à la fête d'anniversaire de Jean ?*  
*Je préférerais plutôt rester chez moi, mais ça ne serait pas sympa pour lui.*  
 "Are you going to Jean's birthday party tomorrow?"  
 "I'd rather stay at home, but that wouldn't be nice to him."

*Plutôt* has another meaning that also translates to "rather" in English: that of "quite."

## For Example:

1. *J'étais plutôt fatigué après l'entraînement mais je suis quand même rentré à pied.*  
"I was rather tired after practice, but I still walked home by foot."

## **préparer**

In this lesson, we use this word to signify the actual making of a certain dish. But just like in English, we can also use it when speaking of the actual act of preparation.

## For Example:

1. *Ça fait deux mois qu'il prépare cet examen.*  
"He's been studying for this test for two months."
2. *Commence à préparer tes affaires pour demain.*  
"Start preparing your things for tomorrow."

## **revenir (à quelqu'un)**

We use this expression in the same way as its English counterpart, and at other times, we will replace it with other appropriate English expressions.

## For Example:

1. *Ah, ça me revient !*  
"Ah, it's coming back to me!"
2. *Ton visage ne lui revient pas.*  
"Your face doesn't ring a bell to him."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Express the Degree to Which You Like Things.

**Ce steak est vraiment délicieux.**

**"This steak is really good."**

---

There are many words to describe how much one likes something. Between very bad and very good, there are quite a few expressions to help you accurately express your feelings.

When you use comparisons, the general rule is to place *plus* in front of an adjective, such as *Il est plus grand que moi*. However, three exceptions are the words *bon*, which becomes

*meilleur; bien*, which becomes *mieux*; and *mauvais*, which becomes *pire*.

## The Grammatical Usage of Approval Expressions

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Commonly used hate/like expressions:

Negative:

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<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>je n'aime pas</i>	"I don't like"
<i>je déteste</i>	"I hate"
<i>je hais</i>	"I hate," stronger version
<i>horrible</i>	"horrible"
<i>mauvais</i>	"bad"
<i>pas bon</i>	"not good"
<i>nul</i>	"worthless"

Positive:

---

<b>French</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>j'aime</i>	"I like"
<i>j'adore</i>	"I love"
<i>bien</i>	"good"
<i>excellent</i>	"excellent"
<i>superbe</i>	"superb"
<i>parfait</i>	"perfect"
<i>bon</i>	"good"
<i>pas mal</i>	"not bad"
<i>passable</i>	"passable"

*Bon* and *mauvais* will often take the superlatives *très* ("very") and *vraiment* ("really") to accentuate their meaning.

## Verbs:

### For Example:

1. *Je déteste ce gâteau, il a un goût d'ordure.*  
"I hate this cake, it tastes like garbage."
2. *Mon mari adore aller à la montagne en été.*  
"My husband loves to go to the mountain in summer."

## Adjectives:

### For Example:

1. *Ce gâteau n'est pas très bon mais le café est pas mal.*  
"This cake isn't very good, but the coffee isn't bad."
2. *Ton frère joue très bien du piano. Bien mieux que la dernière fois. Il est devenu meilleur!*  
"Your brother plays piano very well. He's much better than last time. He got better!"

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *Je ne le déteste pas, mais j'ai déjà mangé mieux, franchement.*  
"I don't hate it, but I've eaten better, honestly."
2. *Pas mal? Il est excellent, oui!*  
"Not bad? It's excellent!"

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Je déteste aller à la messe le dimanche mais c'est toujours mieux que de travailler.*  
"I don't like to go to mass on Sundays, but it's still better than going to work."
2. *Ce steak est délicieux et en plus, il n'est pas cher. J'adore cet endroit!*  
"This steak is delicious, and on top of that, it's not expensive. I love this place!"

## Language Tip

---

To express a more nuanced opinion, we can combine adverbs with approval adjectives. *Très* ("very") and *bien*, which means "much" or *plutôt* ("quite") when we use it as an adverb, are the examples we see most often. These words emphasize the meaning of the sentence. If the adjective is positive, the adverb will emphasize that feeling, with the same effect on negative sentences as well.

### For Example:

1. *Il est bien meilleur qu'avant.*  
"He's much better than before."
2. *C'est plutôt pas mal.*  
"It's quite good."
3. *Elle a été très stricte avec son copain.*  
"She was very strict with her boyfriend."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Mind Your Manners at the French Table

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There is a particular setting for the fork, knife, and spoon in France, and it is very much paid attention to, even in households at dinnertime. Table manners in general are usually quite valued in common society, although they were originally only observed by aristocracy hundred of years ago during the era of the French kingdom.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #5

## A Bad Case of Sandwich Envy in France

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## CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 7 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

# **5**

## FRENCH

1. (at a sandwich shop.)
2. Jack : Bon, on se prend des sandwiches pour le midi ?
3. Antoine : Ça marche ! On rentre dans ce magasin ? C'est celui que je préfère dans le coin.
4. Jack : En effet, il a l'air bon, et ils ont du poulet curry aussi.
5. Antoine : Tiens, c'est la première fois que j'en vois ici. Mais je vais prendre celui à la salade de thon.
6. Jack : Bon, alors une baguette au poulet curry et une à la salade de thon, s'il vous plaît.
7. Femme au comptoir : Avec crudités ?
8. Antoine : Oui, et de l'oeuf dans celui au thon, s'il vous plaît.
9. (...)
10. Jack : Bon, celui de droite, c'est celui que tu as commandé ?
11. Antoine : Non, le mien, c'est celui de gauche, avec l'oeuf dedans.
12. Jack : Pourquoi tu ne m'as pas pris d'oeuf ?
13. Antoine : Ah, tu en voulais ?
14. Jack : Pas vraiment, mais celui que tu as pris a l'air plus gros...

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at a sandwich shop)
2. Jack: Well, want to get sandwiches for lunch?
3. Antoine: Sounds good! Want to go inside this store? It's the one I like the best around here.
4. Jack: Indeed, it looks good, and it has chicken curry too.
5. Antoine: Hey, it's the first time I've seen that here. But I'll have the one with tuna salad.
6. Jack: Well then, one baguette with chicken curry and one with tuna salad, please.
7. Counter lady: Salad and toppings?
8. Antoine: Yeah, and egg in the one with tuna please.
9. (...)
10. Jack: Okay, is the one on the right the one you ordered?
11. Antoine: No, mine is the one on the left, with the egg showing.
12. Jack: Why didn't you get me egg?
13. Antoine: Oh, you wanted some?
14. Jack: Not really. But the one you got looks bigger...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
midi	noon, lunchtime	noun	
oeuf	egg	noun	masculine
ça marche	alright, deal	Expression	
rentrer	to go in to, to go inside	verb	
coin	neighborhood	noun	
tiens	hey (Surprised expression)	Expression	
crudités	toppings	noun	
commander	to order	verb	
dedans	inside	adverb	
gros	big, large	adjective	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

C'est bientôt l'heure du midi, et j'ai déjà faim. "It's lunch time soon, and I'm hungry."	J'aime bien casser les œufs mais pas les manger. "I like breaking eggs but not eating them."
Pour une quiche, j'ai besoin de trois œufs. "For a quiche, I need three eggs."	Ca marche, on fait chacun la moitié alors. "Deal, we do half each then."
Il est rentré dans le magasin juste pour dire bonjour. "He went in to the store just to say hi."	Zacharie rentre en Espagne. "Zachary returns to Spain."
Il est devenu assez connu dans le coin. "He became pretty famous in the area."	Tiens, cette table n'était pas ici la dernière fois. "Hey, this table wasn't here last time."

<b>Il met plus de crudités que de viande dans son sandwich.</b>  "He puts more toppings than meat in his sandwich."	<b>Le vin que j'ai commandé est arrivé par la poste.</b>  "The wine I ordered got here through the mail."
<b>Elle commande un café noir.</b>  "She is ordering a black coffee."	<b>Les jeunes aiment bien les sacs avec des poches dedans.</b>  "Young people like bags with pockets inside."
<b>Il y a de la crème dedans?</b>  "Is there cream inside?"	<b>Depuis que je travaille avec lui, je me fais un gros salaire.</b>  "Since I've been working with him, I've been making a big salary."

**Qu'est-ce tu vas faire avec une si grosse voiture !?**

"What are you going to do with such a big car!?"

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **coin ("neighborhood," "block")**

This word is an informal translation of "neighborhood" or "block," and thus it often appears in casual conversation.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Il était connu comme le gars le plus fort du coin.*  
"He was known as the strongest guy around the block."

The word's original, literal sense is "corner," which is where it got its sense of "street corner."

#### **For Example:**

1. *Un carré a quatre coins.*  
"A square has four corners."

From this word also comes the word *coincer* ("to get stuck").

### For Example:

1. *Ils sont coincés dans un cul-de-sac.*  
"They're stuck at a dead end."

### ***tiens* ("here...")**

*Tiens* is similar to *ça alors*, an expression of surprise, though to a lesser degree.

### For Example:

1. *Tiens, qu'est ce que tu fais ici?*  
"Hey, what are you doing here?"

It also has a completely different meaning, that of "here..."

### For Example:

1. *Tiens, va t'acheter une glace avec ces sous.*  
"Here, go buy yourself an ice cream with this money."

### ***gros* ("fat")**

This word's principal meaning is "fat."

### For Example:

1. *Est ce qu'il était toujours aussi gros?*  
"Was he always this fat?"

In this lesson, we used *gros* in the sense of "big" for a big sandwich, or in other words, a "fat" sandwich. This meaning of "big" appears fairly often as well.

### For Example:

1. *Elle veut une grosse augmentation cette année.*  
"She wants a big raise this year."

One more different usage is *gros mot*, an expression that means "swear word."

### For Example:

1. *N'utilisez pas de gros mots au travail.*  
"Don't use swear words at work."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Connecting Two Related Sentences With Que**

**Jack: Bon, celui de droite, c'est celui que tu as commandé?**

**"OK, is the one on the right the one you ordered?"**

---

Today, we will look at the usage of *que* as a relative pronoun and as a conjunction. When we use it as a relative pronoun, the function of *que* is to connect two sentences that are related but are not sequential, thus enabling us to describe an object. When we use *que* as a conjunction, however, the two sentences must have different subjects.

Here are the main usages of *que* as a relative pronoun and a conjunction.

As a relative pronoun, *que* acts like a sort of reversed *complément d'objet direct* (COD), answering the question "What?"

**For Example:**

1. *C'est la voiture que j'ai achetée.*  
"It's the car I bought."

As a conjunction, we also use *que* very often after subjective thought verbs like *penser*, *croire*, *imaginer*, etc., which we translate roughly as "I think that..."

**The Grammatical Usage of Que**

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**Relative pronoun**

**For Example:**

1. *La voiture de M. Moulin que j'ai empruntée ne marche plus.*  
"The car I borrowed from Mr. Moulin doesn't work anymore."

**Conjunction**

**For Example:**

1. *Je crois qu'il est encore trop tôt pour décider du prénom de notre enfant.*  
"I think it's still too early to decide the name of our child."
2. *C'est difficile d'imaginer que nous sommes à Hawaii*  
"It's hard to imagine that we're in Hawaii."

## Examples From This Dialogue

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### Relative pronoun

#### For Example:

1. *Bon, celui de droite, c'est celui que tu as commandé?*  
"OK, is the one on the right the one you ordered?"

### Conjunction

#### For Example:

1. *Tiens, c'est la première fois que j'en vois ici.*  
"Hey, it's the first time I've seen that here."

## Sample Sentences

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### Relative pronoun

#### For Example:

1. *La machine à laver que j'ai réparée s'est encore une fois cassée.*  
"The washing machine I repaired broke again."

### Conjunction

#### For Example:

1. *Tu penses que c'est si facile? Essaye pour voir!*  
"You think it's so easy? Try and see!"

## Language Tip

---

Don't confuse the relative pronoun *que* with the comparative pronoun *que*. It's also different from the *que* that means "only" in negative sentences. In the relative pronoun case, we deal with two whole, connected sentences: *que* is followed at least by a subject and a verb.

In English, although sometimes we use "that" in complete sentences, two clauses can connect without a pronoun, as in the example below the title of this lesson. In French, however, we never leave the pronoun out, even in informal speech.

For example, we can technically change "the one you ordered" into "the one that you ordered," with the "that" equalling *que*, but the English version immediately puts special emphasis on who exactly ordered the sandwich ("the one that YOU ordered").

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### How to Eat on the Cheap in France

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Sandwiches are currently by far the cheapest meal available in France. The cost of making them is reduced because they are bread-based and because their toppings, which are strong in flavor, can be reduced in quantity. The ingredients used most often, which for the most part are cheeses and cured meats, are local products and thus inexpensively sourced as well. In comparison, restaurants will charge more for cooked food and will even make you pay for water.

Sandwiches are currently by far the cheapest meal available in France. The cost of making them is reduced because of they are bread-based and their toppings, because they are strong in flavor, can be reduced in quantity. These most often used ingredients—for the most part cheeses and cured meats—are local products and thus inexpensively sourced as well. In comparison, restaurants will charge more for cooked food and will even make you pay for water.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #6

## Waiting Forever for a Train in France

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## CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# **6**

## FRENCH

1. (at the train station.)
2. Annonce : Le train TGV 3756 en provenance de Strasbourg va entrer en gare voie 5.
3. Frank (tout seul) : Ah! Enfin, ça fait si longtemps que j'attends!
4. Corinne : Frank!
5. Frank : Corinne! Je suis si content de te revoir! Mais qu'est-ce qu'il s'est passé?
6. Corinne : Ben, j'ai raté le train partant à 18H03 alors j'ai dû prendre le train qui partait à 19H14! Mais celui qui devait partir à 19H14 est en fait parti à 19H47!
7. Frank : Tu a pris le train qui est parti à 19H47, alors? Il en a mis du temps...
8. Corinne : En fait, quand le train de 19H47 est arrivé, j'étais allée acheter un magazine et un truc à manger... Du coup, je l'ai raté...
9. Frank : Tu as pris quel train finalement?
10. Corinne : Je suis montée dans le train qui partait à 19H53 mais il n'allait pas dans la bonne direction. C'était le train qui allait à Lille...Alors je suis descendue à l'arrêt suivant, je suis revenue, et j'ai enfin pris le bon train.
11. Frank : La prochaine fois, tu peux appeler un taxi...

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at the train station)
  
2. Announce: Train TGV 3756 from Strasbourg Station will be arriving at Platform five.
  
3. Frank (by himself): Ah! Finally, I've been waiting for so long!
  
4. Corinne: Frank!
  
5. Frank: Corinne! I'm so happy to see you! But what happened?
  
6. Corinne: Well, I missed the train leaving at three after six, so I had to take the one leaving at seven-fourteen! But the one that was supposed to leave at seven-fourteen actually left at seven-forty-seven!
  
7. Frank: You took the train that left at seven-forty-seven then? It sure took a while...
  
8. Corinne: Well, actually, when the seven-forty-seven train arrived, I'd gone to buy a magazine and something to eat... So then, I missed it...
  
9. Frank: What train did you take in the end?
  
10. Corinne: I got on the train leaving at seven-fifty-three, but it wasn't going in the right direction. It was the train heading to Lille... So I got off at the next stop, I came back, and I finally took the right train.
  
11. Frank: Next time, you can call a cab...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
arrêt	stop (noun)	noun	
descendre	to get off	verb	

du coup	as a result	Expression
truc	thing	noun
ça fait longtemps	It's been a long time	Expression
content(e)	happy	adjective
se passer	to happen	verb
rater	to miss	Verb
mettre du temps	to take time	verb
en fait	in fact, actually	expression

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Personne ne descend jamais à cet arrêt.</b> "No one ever gets off at this stop."</p>	<p><b>Quand vous descendez, faites attention à la marche.</b> "When you get off, watch your step."</p>
<p><b>Du coup, personne ne l'a soupçonné.</b> "As a result, no one suspected him."</p>	<p><b>Je vais t'apprendre un truc ou deux.</b> "I'm gonna teach you a thing or two."</p>
<p><b>Ça fait longtemps que je ne suis pas venu ici.</b> "It's been a long time since I was last here."</p>	<p><b>Il a toujours une expression contente sur son visage.</b> "He always has a happy expression on his face."</p>
<p><b>Mon ami et moi sommes contents de vous rencontrer.</b> "My friend and I are happy to meet you."</p>	<p><b>Il est content et elle est contente.</b> "He is happy and she is happy."</p>
<p><b>Tu sais ce qui s'est passé hier?</b> "Do you know what happened yesterday?"</p>	<p><b>Quand il tire, il ne rate pas.</b> "When he shoots, he doesn't miss."</p>

J'ai raté la sortie d'autoroute.  
"I missed the freeway exit."

Pour un simple problème, tu en mets du temps.  
"For a simple problem, you sure are taking time."

Tu as quel âge, en fait?  
"How old are you, actually?"

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***truc***

Almost everyone uses this word in informal situations. It basically means "something" or "thing," and it has many uses.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Quel truc de fou.*  
"That's crazy."

We can translate the original French sentence literally as "What a crazy person thing." (*Fou* means "crazy" as an adjective and "crazy person" as a noun).

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je voulais te dire un truc mais j'ai oublié.*  
"I wanted to tell you something, but I forgot."

### ***content***

This word means "happy," and we use it in a way similar to the English version.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je suis contente de te voir.*  
"I'm happy to see you."

It has also the literally translated meaning of "content," which we use most often in the pronominal verb form, when the word becomes *se contenter*.

## For Example:

1. *Il a du se contenter de la troisième place.*  
"He had to content himself with third place."

## **descendre**

In this lesson, this word meant "to get off," as in getting off some kind of elevated object, which in this case was a tramway car. When we use it with this meaning, the word is always followed by *du*, *de ce/ces/cette*, or *d'un/une*.

## For Example:

1. *Descends de ce toit tout de suite!*  
"Get off that roof right now!"

We also use it in the sense of "to go down," as in going down stairs, etc.

## For Example:

1. *En ski, tu peux descendre la montagne en une heure.*  
"Skiing, you can go down the mountain in an hour."

# GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Describing People and Objects Using the Relative Preposition *Celui Qui*.**

***Mais celui qui devait partir à 19H14 est en fait parti à 19H47!***

**"But the one that was supposed to leave at seven-fourteen actually left at seven-forty-seven!"**

---

*Celui, celle, ceux, and celles* are gender- and number-related forms of "the one." We use the pattern *celui qui* + sentence to describe something that we can't explain with one word. For example, using this grammar, we can talk about two items with just one differing characteristic.

We can also use *celui qui* for people. *Qui* comes after the subject, so it's usually followed straight away by a verb.

## **The Grammatical Usage of *Celui Qui***

---

*celui qui, celle qui, ceux qui, celles qui* + verb

*Celui qui*: masculine singular

*Celle qui*: feminine singular

*Ceux qui*: masculine plural

*Celles qui*: feminine plural

Be careful to use the appropriate gender and number, or you may change the meaning of the sentence!

### For Example:

1. *Les français? Ce sont ceux qui ont le plus de vacances dans l'année non?*  
"The French people? They're the ones who have the most holidays in a year, right?"
2. *J'aimerais connaître celui qui a cassé le vase.*  
"I would like to know who broke the vase."
3. *Il y a plusieurs chaises, assieds-toi sur celle qui t'as l'air confortable.*  
"There are several chairs; sit on the one that looks comfortable to you."

### Examples From This Dialogue

---

1. *Mais celui qui devait partir à 19H14 est en fait parti à 19H47!*  
"But the one that was supposed to leave at seven-fourteen p.m. actually left at seven-forty-seven p.m.!"

### Sample Sentences

---

1. *Celui qui répond juste aura un bonbon!*  
"The one who answers correctly gets a candy!"
2. *Je crois que ceux qui sont venus de l'autre bout de la ville sont vraiment fatigués..*  
"I think the ones who came from the other side of the city are really tired."

### Language Tip

---

*Celui qui* is just one of the specific ways to use *qui*, but we'll see that in the next lesson. *Qui* acts like a subject and is different from *que* (which we saw in an earlier lesson), which just connects sentences together and needs to be followed by another subject.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## **Is the High-Speed Train the Fastest Way to Your French Destination?**

---

The TGV is the fastest train in France, connecting not just the largest national cities but reaching neighboring countries as well. The most famous example is the underwater tunnel to London from Paris. Despite their great speed, these trains are known to be delayed astoundingly often, almost as much so as their local track counterparts. In general, public transport in France cannot be relied upon on a tight schedule as time tables tend to be suggested rather than enforced.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #7 Where Did you Leave Your Wallet in France?

---

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- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# 7

## FRENCH

1. (at a police station.)
2. Jack : Ah, c'est la goutte d'eau qui fait déborder le vase!
3. Policier: Qu'y a-t-il, monsieur?
4. Jack : On m'a dérobé mon portefeuille! On me l'a volé! Dans le tramway, sur la ligne qui va à la Tour Eiffel!
5. Policier : D'accord, monsieur, calmez-vous et décrivez-moi la situation.
6. Jack : Je suis arrivé à la station, celle qui est près de la tour Eiffel, j'ai pris la ligne de couleur verte, et je suis monté dans le wagon qui se trouvait à l'arrière. Puis quand je suis descendu ici, je ne trouvais plus mon portefeuille.
7. Policier : Désolé monsieur, ce genre de choses arrive malheureusement souvent. Vous pouvez porter plainte si vous le souhaitez. Je vous conseille également de ne jamais ranger votre portefeuille dans votre poche arrière.
8. Jack : Justement, je l'ai rangé dans la poche avant, celle qui est à l'intérieur de ma veste!
9. Policier : Et cet objet noir qui dépasse de votre veste, qu'est-ce que c'est?
10. Jack : Oh...eh... Merci pour votre aide, je vais m'en aller.

## ENGLISH

1. (at a police station)

CONT'D OVER

2. Jack: Ah, this is the last straw!
3. Policeman: What is it, sir?
4. Jack: Someone stole my wallet! Someone stole it! On the subway, on the line going to the Eiffel Tower!
5. Policeman: All right, sir, calm down and describe the situation to me.
6. Jack: I entered the station, the one close to the Eiffel Tower, I took the green colored line, and I got on the train car at the back. Then when I got off here, I couldn't find my wallet anymore.
7. Policeman: I'm sorry, sir, these kind of things unfortunately often happen. You can file a complaint if you wish to. I also advise you to never put your wallet in your back pocket.
8. Jack: Exactly, I put it in the front pocket, the one inside my jacket!
9. Policeman: And this black object coming out of your jacket, what is it?
10. Jack: Oh...um... Thank you for your help, I'll be on my way.

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
dépasser	to show, to stick out, to border over	verb	
poche	pocket	noun	feminine
goutte	drop (noun)	noun	
porter plainte	to file a complaint	verb	
déborder	to overflow	verb	
dérober	to rob, to steal	verb	

se calmer	to calm down	expression
monter	to get on	verb
malheureusement	unfortunately	adverb
également	also, as well	conjunction

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Il n'y avait que sa tête qui dépassait de la couverture.</b> "Only his head stuck out the covers."	<b>Il met les mains dans les poches quand il a froid.</b> "He puts his hands in his pockets when he's cold."
<b>On pouvait entendre une goutte tomber.</b> "You could hear a drop fall."	<b>Je porterai plainte par téléphone plus tard.</b> "I'll file a complaint by telephone later."
<b>L'eau débordera du bain si trois personnes rentrent dedans.</b> "The water will overflow from the bath if three people get inside"	<b>Attention ne fais pas déborder le vase d'eau.</b> "Be careful don't overflow the vase of water."
<b>L'homme qui a dérobé la maison du président s'est fait attraper.</b> "The man who robbed the house of the president got caught."	<b>Vous devez vous calmer pour mieux réfléchir.</b> "You need to calm down to think better."
<b>Il est monté à bord du bateau et parle aux matelots.</b> "He got on board the ship and is talking to the sailors."	<b>Nous sommes malheureusement trop pressés pour rester longtemps.</b> "We are unfortunately in too much of a hurry to stay long."

**Malheureusement, il n'est pas là.**  
"Unfortunately, he's not here."

**Il a ouvert un restaurant, qui fonctionne également comme salon de coiffure.**

"He opened a restaurant, which functions as a hair salon as well."

**Nous avons également la possibilité de pêcher dans le lac.**  
"We also have the opportunity to fish in the lake."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **dérober**

The main sense of this word is "to rob," a more dramatic expression than the simple *voler*, which also usually translates as "to rob" or "to steal."

#### **For Example:**

1. *Le musée s'est fait dérober un tableau sans que personne ne remarque.*  
"The museum had a painting stolen without anyone noticing."

Coming from its root *robe*, which means "dress," this word can also mean "to undress" in its pronominal form, *se dérober*. This is also a high-color expression.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Le public attend que le boxeur se dérobe.*  
"The crowd is waiting for the boxer to undress."

### **également**

This word means "equally" and is simple to use if you know its English counterpart.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je suis également le propriétaire de deux restaurants.*  
"I am also the owner of two restaurants."

The shorter version of this word, *égal*, means "equal" and has some particular uses in expressions.

## For Example:

1. *Ça lui est égal que tu viennes ou pas.*  
"He doesn't care whether you come."

## dépasser

In this lesson, we used this word in the sense of "to stick out." This meaning can apply in many situations.

## For Example:

1. *Fais attention, ton t-shirt dépasse.*  
"Be careful, your shirt is sticking out."

A more direct translation of this word is to "to get ahead of," "to pass," or "to surpass." We often use this word in races as well as other situations.

## For Example:

1. *L'élève a dépassé le maître.*  
"The student has surpassed the master."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the General Usage of the Subject Pronoun Qui.**

**Jack : Ah, c'est la goutte d'eau qui fait déborder le vase!**

**"Ah, this is the last straw!"**

---

In the previous lesson, we saw how to use the clause *celui qui...*, which means "the one who..." or "the one that..." *Qui* is the isolation of "who" or "that." This pronoun follows a noun and describes it. Adding *qui* just after the noun transforms it into a subject and allows us to use new verbs and sentences to talk about the noun in detail. You can think of it as an adjective used for elaboration.

### The Grammatical Usage of Qui

---

*Qui* is a subject and follows a noun.

## For Example:

1. **Les parents** qui viennent accompagnés de leur enfant sont priés d'attendre dans la zone A.

"Parents who have come with their children are asked to wait in zone A."

[*qui = les parents*]

1. **Les animaux** qui vivent dans ces terres arides ne survivent pas très longtemps.  
"The animals who live in those dry lands don't survive a very long time."

[*qui = les animaux*]

Did you notice the bolded part of these sentences? These are the subjects, an important element to make note of so you can correctly use pronouns. The difference between *qui* and *que*, the other pronoun we studied in Lesson 5, is that *que* must be followed by another subject, unlike *qui*, which we only use to describe the first subject.

### For Example:

1. C'est **la pomme** que je vais manger aujourd'hui.  
"That's **the apple** I'm going to eat today."
2. Il y a un arbre dans le quartier que les chats aiment grimper.  
"There's **a tree** in the neighborhood that **cats** like to climb."

### Examples From This Dialogue

---

1. Je suis monté dans le wagon qui se trouvait à l'arrière.  
"I got on the train car at the back."  
In this case, the literal translation would be "the train car that was at the back" in English.
2. Dans le tramway, sur la ligne qui va à la Tour Eiffel!  
"On the subway, on the line going to the Eiffel Tower!"

### Sample Sentences

---

1. Il n'y a personne qui peut m'aider?  
"Is there anybody who can help me?"

2. *Cette personne a réparé ma maison qui tombait en ruines.*  
"This person repaired my house that was falling into pieces."

### Language Tip

---

*Qui* as a question means "Who?" but as we've seen, when this word introduces a new proposition, we can also use it in connection with unanimated objects. The main difference between *qui* and *que* is that *qui* takes the previous noun as a subject (to describe it in more detail) and *que* is followed by another subject.

We will see in later lessons that using the gerundive verb form (*-ant*) fulfills more or less the same purpose (for example: *qui vient*

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Be Careful When Taking Public Transportation in France

---

Public transportation in metropolitan France is a magnet for theft, with pickpocketing a factor but plain old robbery by force an even more regular event, if your friends' stories are to be believed. It is generally not recommended to ride the subway at night, and take other public transport with caution, depending on the neighborhood you're in.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #8

## Planning Your Next Trip in France

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- 7 Cultural Insight

# 8

## FRENCH

1. (on the street in Paris.)
2. Jack : C'est vraiment calme le mois d'août à Paris!
3. Antoine : Avec tous les bureaux fermés...mais cela dit, les touristes sont nombreux!
4. Jack : Ah, si j'avais de l'argent, je partirais moi aussi!
5. Antoine : Et tu irais où?
6. Jack : Je pense que j'irais au Brésil ou en Australie...loin, quoi! Et toi?
7. Antoine : Si j'avais le temps, je ferais le tour du monde en bateau! Je partirais un an en croisière!
8. Jack : Ah oui, mais là avec tes deux semaines de vacances, ce n'est pas vraiment possible.
9. Antoine : Et si j'avais du temps et de l'argent, je partirais dans l'espace en fusée! Tu savais que l'on peut faire des voyages privés dans l'espace maintenant?
10. Jack : Oui, je sais, mais même si tu me donnais un million d'euros, je n'irais pas.
11. Antoine : Même si tu partais avec ta femme?
12. Jack : Surtout si je partais avec ma femme...

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (on the street in Paris)
  
2. Jack: August in Paris is really quiet!
  
3. Antoine: With all the closed offices... But that said, the tourists are numerous!
  
4. Jack: Ah, if I had money, I'd go somewhere too!
  
5. Antoine: And where would you go?
  
6. Jack: I think I'd go to Brazil or Australia... Far, basically! And you?
  
7. Antoine: If I had time, I'd go around the world in a boat! I'd go on a one year cruise!
  
8. Jack: Oh right, but now with your two weeks of vacation, it's not really possible.
  
9. Antoine: And if I had time and money, I'd go to outer space in a rocket! You know people can go on private trips into space now?
  
10. Jack: Yeah, I know, but even if you gave me a million euros, I wouldn't go.
  
11. Antoine: Even if you went with your wife?
  
12. Jack: Especially if I went with my wife...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
calme	calm, quiet	adjective	
croisière	cruise	noun	
bureau	office, desk	noun	masculine

cela dit	(with) that being said	Adverbial clause	
nombreux(-euses)	many, numerous	adjective	masculine
tour	loop, lap, go-around	noun	
quoi	basically, you know?	Expression	
espace	space	noun	
fusée	rocket	noun	
surtout	especially	adverb	

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Les élèves sont calmes ici, il n'y a aucun bruit.</b>            "The students are quiet here, there's no noise."</p>	<p><b>Il a toujours été d'une nature calme.</b>            "He always has been of a calm nature."</p>
<p><b>Il veut partir en croisière mais il a peur de l'eau.</b>            "He wants to go on a cruise but he's scared of the water."</p>	<p><b>Il n'est pas venu au bureau depuis lundi passé.</b>            "He hasn't been to the office since last Monday."</p>
<p><b>Mon bureau est près de la Poste.</b>            "My office is next to the post office."</p>	<p><b>Cela dit, je reconnais vos efforts pour vous améliorer.</b>            "With that being said, I recognize your efforts to improve."</p>
<p><b>Il connaît de nombreuses chansons païennes.</b>            "He knows many pagan songs."</p>	<p><b>Il s'est fait de nombreux ennemis dans le quartier.</b>            "He made himself many enemies in the neighborhood."</p>
<p><b>J'ai de nombreux amis.</b>            "I have numerous friends."</p>	<p><b>Elle a couru un tour du stade comme punition.</b>            "She ran a lap of the stadium as punishment."</p>

<b>En bref, je te dis qu'il est bizarre, quoi.</b> "In short, I'm telling you he's weird, basically."	<b>Quand tu sautes dans l'espace, tu flottes.</b> When you jump in space, you float.
<b>Il est rapide comme une fusée lui!</b> "This guy's fast like a rocket!"	<b>Ne parle pas de ça à personne, surtout pas à ta soeur, d'accord?</b> "Don't talk about this to anyone, especially your sister, okay?"

**J'adore la cuisine italienne, surtout le spaghetti.**

"I love Italian cuisine, especially spaghetti."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **Tour**

In this lesson, the characters spoke of the *tour du monde* ("going around"). *Tour* means "go around."

### **For Example:**

1. *Faites moi trois tours du stade pour commencer.*  
"Do me three laps of the stadium to start with."

*Tour* is the short form of *tourner*, the verb that means "to turn," and we can use it in that sense as well.

### **For Example:**

1. *Elle a un fait un tour sur elle-même.*  
"She spun around in a circle."

### **[...], quoi**

This expression is intuitive and does not always translate easily. It is basically something to punctuate a declaration with a phrase in the style of "[...], basically" or "[...], you know?"

### **For Example:**

1. *Il est bizarre, enfin, j'aime pas sa tête, quoi.*  
"He's weird, I mean, I don't like his look, basically."

### **surtout**

This word followed by *si*, *surtout si*, means "especially if."

#### **For Example:**

1. *Moi, je ne viens pas, surtout si elle est là.*  
"I'm not going, especially if she's there."

Without the *si*, we usually translate *surtout* as "really," "mostly," or "most of all."

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'avais surtout envie de me reposer aujourd'hui.*  
"I really wanted to rest today, most of all."

We can change this word into the negative, *surtout pas*, which does not have a completely accurate English translation, but we can approximately translate it as to "anything but."

#### **For Example:**

1. *Oh, non, surtout pas lui.*  
"Oh no, anything but him."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Express Suppositions With the Conditional.**

**Ah, si j'avais de l'argent, je partirais moi aussi!**

**"Ah, if I had money, I'd go somewhere too!"**

---

The conditional is the "maybe" form. It expresses wishes or actions that might or might not occur in the future, depending on a condition to fulfill. So, it's the perfect grammar tense to express dreams. The pattern is simple: the first proposition introduced by *si* is the condition to fulfill, and the second proposition is the action that might occur. In this lesson, we'll focus on the use of the present tense of the conditional form. (There is also a past tense.)

#### **The Grammatical Usage**

---

We express the condition with the imperfect tense, and we use the conditional to express the possible action.

*Si + imparfait* (condition), conditional present

### For Example:

1. *Si j'avais de l'argent, je ferais le tour du monde.*  
"If I had money, I'd go on a trip around the world."

### Examples From This Dialogue

---

1. *Ah, si j'avais de l'argent, je partirais moi aussi!*  
"Ah, if I had money, I'd go somewhere too!"
2. *Mais même si tu me donnais un million d'euros, je n'irais pas.*  
"But even if you gave me a million euros, I wouldn't go."

### Sample Sentences

---

1. *Si j'avais des muscles, toutes les femmes m'aimeraient.*  
"If I had muscles, all the women would love me."
2. *Si la terre explosait demain, qu'est-ce que tu ferais aujourd'hui?*  
"If the earth were going to explode tomorrow, what would you do today?"

### Language Tip

---

This grammar point is the source of one of the most often made mistakes in French speech. Many native speakers will erroneously put the first verb in this clause in the conditional tense instead of in the imperfect. The conditional is a mixture of the imperfect and simple future tense but it has its own particular purposes in French speech. The conditional and imperfect are interchangeable at times but not always so.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### This Month You'll Have France All to Yourself

---

August is a month where many stores close in France, and everyone takes off on vacation

somewhere. The result are some very dead cities, save for tourists, whereas the seaside towns are full of one-month residents. The heat is the main reason why this month in particular gets the shaft, and the fact that schools are off for summer vacation at the same time allows families to go on trips in full units.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #9 Doing Whatever it Takes to See a French Masterpiece

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# 9

## FRENCH

1. (at the Louvre, an art museum in Paris.)
2. Corinne : Tu ne pourrais pas m'aider? J'essaie de prendre une photo!
3. Frank : Oui, mais je n'y peux rien, il y a trop de monde!
4. Corinne : Ça m'est égal, il me faut la photo! C'est quand même le tableau le plus célèbre au monde!
5. Frank : S'il était plus grand, ce serait plus simple!
6. Corinne : Tu ne voudrais pas arrêter de te plaindre? Aide moi plutôt!
7. Frank : Qu'est-ce que je peux faire pour t'aider?
8. Corinne : Prends-moi sur tes épaules!
9. Frank (tout seul) : Je pourrais te soulever si tu étais plus légère...
10. Corinne : Quoi? Qu'est-ce que tu marmonnes?
11. Frank : Non rien, je disais que ça me ferait énormément plaisir!
12. Corinne : J'espère bien! Allez, laisse-moi grimper sur tes épaules maintenant...
13. Frank: (tout seul) Mona Lisa avait l'air beaucoup plus gentille, elle...

## ENGLISH

1. (at the Louvre, an art museum in Paris)

CONT'D OVER

2. Corinne: Hey, can't you help me out? I'm trying to take a picture!
3. Frank: Sure, but there's nothing I can do; there's too many people!
4. Corinne: I don't care; I need the picture! It is the most famous painting in the world, after all!
5. Frank: If it were bigger, it would be easier!
6. Corinne: Would you stop complaining? Help me instead!
7. Frank: What can I do to help you?
8. Corinne: Take me up on your shoulders!
9. Frank (to himself): I could lift you up if you were lighter...
10. Corinne: What? What are you mumbling?
11. Frank: Oh, nothing, I was telling myself I'd be incredibly happy to!
12. Corinne: I sure hope so! Come on, let me climb on your shoulders now...
13. Frank (to himself): Mona Lisa looks a lot nicer than you...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
grimper	to climb	verb	
je n'y peux rien	there's nothing I can do	Expression	
énormément	hugely, enormously, incredibly	Adverb	

monde	crowd	noun
ça m'est égal	I don't care	Expression
tableau	painting	noun masculine
soulever	to lift	verb
marmonner	to mumble	verb
Ça me ferait plaisir	I would be happy to	verb
espérer	to hope	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Si tu grimpes cet arbre, tu peux voir notre maison.</b>  "If you climb this tree, you can see our house."	<b>Il veut aider votre cause mais il n'y peut rien et ça l'attriste.</b>  "He wants to help your cause but there's nothing he can do and it saddens him."
<b>C'est pas énormément compliqué, il suffit de réfléchir.</b>  "It's not incredibly complicated, you just have to think."	<b>Il a énormément de biscuits.</b>  "He has a bunch of cookies."
<b>Merci énormément.</b>  "Thanks a lot."	<b>Il y a toujours plein de monde ici les jours de fête.</b>  "There's always lots of people here on holidays."
<b>Ça lui est égal que tu réussisses ou pas.</b>  "She doesn't care if you succeed or not."	<b>J'aimerais savoir le prix de ce tableau.</b>  "I'd like to know the price of this painting."
<b>Il peut soulever une voiture avec une main.</b>  "He can lift a car with one hand."	<b>Soulever avec précaution les charges lourdes.</b>  "Lift cautiously heavy loads."

<b>Quand il marmonne, il est mignon.</b> "When he mumbles, he's cute."	<b>Ne t'en fais pas pour elle, ça lui fait plaisir de t'aider.</b> "Don't be concerned about her, she's happy to help you."
<b>Ils espèrent finir demain.</b> "They hope to finish tomorrow."	<b>J'espère qu'il fait beau!</b> "I hope the weather's nice!"

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***Je n'y peux rien***

We can use this expression in any tense or person.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Ne sois pas triste, tu n'y pouvais rien.*  
"Don't be sad, there was nothing you could do."

We can change it to the positive form as well.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Réfléchis si tu y peux quelque chose.*  
"Think about whether you can do something about it."

### ***monde***

Though the more common translation for this word is "world," in this case, it means "people" or "crowd."

#### **For Example:**

1. *Quel monde aujourd'hui.*  
"What a crowd today."

Some other related particular expressions exist as well.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Il y a du beau monde aujourd'hui.*  
"There're some big fish today."

### **Ça me ferait plaisir**

"I'd be happy to" is the standard translation for this expression, though it comes out a little differently in some situations, translating to "happy about it," as an example.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Ça ne me fait pas plaisir mais je vais le faire quand même.*  
"I'm not happy about it but I'm going to do it anyway."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the General Usage of the Conditional Form.**

**Tu ne pourrais pas m'aider?**

**"Hey, can't you help me out?"**

---

This lesson fleshes out what we already looked at in previous lessons on the conditional form.

The main usage of this mode is to express an action where the result is related to some condition. Another important usage is to soften expressions and make them more polite.

#### **The Grammatical Usage of the Conditional Present**

---

Supposition: *Si* + imparfait (condition), conditional present

#### **For Example:**

1. *Si j'avais de l'argent, je ferais le tour du monde.*  
"If I had money, I'd go on a trip around the world."

Polite request : subject + conditional

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je voudrais trois éclairs au chocolat, s'il vous plaît.*  
"I'd like three chocolate eclairs, please."

## Examples From This Dialogue

---

1. *Si tu étais plus légère, je pourrais te soulever...*  
"If you were lighter, I could pick you up..."
2. *Non rien, je disais que ça me ferait énormément plaisir!*  
"Oh, nothing, I was telling myself I'd be very happy to!"
3. *Tu ne pourrais pas m'aider? J'essaie de prendre une photo!*  
"Hey, can't you help me out? I'm trying to take a picture!"

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Si tu pourrais venir dans l'heure qui suit, ce serait parfait.*  
"If you could come in the next hour, that would be perfect."
2. *Si je pouvais contrôler la Force, je conquerrais la galaxie!*  
"If I could master the Force, I'd conquer the galaxy!"

## Language Tip

---

It's important to notice that we use the conditional to express a result of an action under a condition. If you are sure of the final result, the pattern to use is *si* + present, future tense verb. The conditional is no longer required, as we are sure of what will eventually happen.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### What You'll See at the Louvre

---

The Louvre may be the most famous museum in the world, and its most famous painting, the Mona Lisa, is always crowded with onlookers. The museum is famous for many other pieces of art, though, including its outdoor miniature glass pyramid, which was a main character in the hugely popular novel *The Da Vinci Code*.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #10 Who's Your Favorite French Celebrity?

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- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# **10**

## FRENCH

1. (at the Cannes Film Festival.)
2. Corinne : J'espère qu'on va pouvoir rencontrer mes acteurs préférés !
3. Frank : C'est pas Jean Reno, là ? En tout cas, il lui ressemble !
4. Corinne : Si, c'est lui, je vais lui parler !
5. Frank : Mais attends, il y a des gardes du corps tout autour, c'est pas possible !
6. Corinne : T'as raison, ça risque d'être difficile.
7. Frank : J'espère surtout que je verrai sa femme !
8. Corinne : Pourquoi ? Tu la trouves mieux que moi ? Moi, j'aimerais bien voir le bel homme qui joue toujours l'agent secret ! Ce serait bien...
9. Frank : Moi, j'espère qu'il ne viendra pas. Je ne l'aime pas du tout. Par contre, sa copine...
10. Corinne : Oui, elle est jolie, mais son ex-femme était magnifique ! C'est dommage qu'ils aient divorcé.
11. Frank : J'espère que ça ne nous arrivera pas, hein ?
12. Corinne : Si ça arrive, ce ne sera sûrement pas de ma faute !

## ENGLISH

1. (at the Cannes Film Festival)

CONT'D OVER

2. Corinne: I hope we get to meet my favorite actors!
3. Frank: Wait, isn't that Jean Reno? In any case, it looks like him!
4. Corinne: Yes, it's him; I'm going to talk to him!
5. Frank: But wait, there're bodyguards all around, it's impossible!
6. Corinne: You're right, it might be hard.
7. Frank: I for one hope to see his wife...
8. Corinne: Why? Do you think she's better than me? I hope I get to see the handsome man who always plays the secret agent. That'd be nice...
9. Frank: I hope he doesn't show. I don't like him at all. His girlfriend, on the other hand...
10. Corinne: Yes, she's pretty, but his ex-wife was magnificent! It's too bad they divorced.
11. Frank: I hope that doesn't happen to us, right?
12. Corinne: If it happens, it surely won't be my fault!

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
rencontrer	to meet	verb
dommage	unfortunately, too bad	adjective
ressembler	to look like	verb
garde du corps	bodyguard	noun
ça risque d'être	it might be	Expression

jouer	to play	verb
par contre	on the other hand	Preposition
divorcer	to divorce	verb
arriver	to arrive, to happen	verb
sûrement	probably, surely	adverb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

J'ai rencontré beaucoup de gens hier soir. "I met lots of people last night."	Je rencontre des gens à mon travail. "I meet people at my work."
C'est dommage qu'ils ne se parlent plus. "It's too bad they don't speak anymore."	Il ressemble un peu à son père, mais plus à sa mère. "He looks a little like his father but more like his mother."
Mon garde du corps n'a pas l'air très fort, mais fait attention à ne pas l'énerver. "My bodyguard doesn't look very strong, but be careful not to anger him."	Ça risque d'être difficile d'arriver d'ici ce soir. "It might be hard to get there by tonight."
Je joue le rôle du méchant dans cette pièce. "I play the role of the bad guy in this play."	Je joue à l'harmonica. "I play harmonica."

<b>Tu ne croiras pas ce qui m'est arrivé aujourd'hui.</b> "You won't believe what happened to me today."	<b>J'arrive bientôt!</b> "I'll be there soon!" (Literally, "I arrive soon!")
<b>Il arrive à toute allure.</b> "He arrives at top speed."	<b>Il est sûrement déjà loin.</b> "He's surely far already."
<b>Il est sûrement gentil.</b> "He's probably nice."	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **ça risque d'être**

This expression means "it might be," but just like the latter English expression can sometimes be, it is really a speaker's declaration that he thinks the following statement will be true based on a subjective opinion and/or objective evidence. *Risque* means "risk," as in taking a risk, which is consistent with this explanation.

### **For Example:**

1. *Je voulais aller à la mer cet été mais ça risque d'être impossible.*  
"I wanted to go to the sea this summer, but it might not be possible."

### **arriver**

This word has quite a few more meanings than simply "to arrive." In this lesson, we introduced *arriver* as "to happen," which we also use very commonly.

### **For Example:**

1. *Qu'est ce qui t'es arrivé, t'es tout mouillé!*  
"What happened to you, you're all wet?"

When you place **à** after *arriver*, the indirect verb *arriver à* with the meaning of "to be able to" or "to manage to" takes shape.

### **For Example:**

1. *Tu vas arriver à la porter?*  
"Are you going to manage to carry it?"

### **sûrement**

This word means "surely" or "definitely" and appears often in daily conversation.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Tu ne penses sûrement pas finir aujourd'hui?*  
"Surely you don't think you'll finish today?"

We use the negative form of this word, *surement pas*, at times on its own as a strong rebuttal.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Elle va revenir ce soir, tu penses?*  
*Elle? Sûrement pas!*  
"Do you think she'll come back tonight?"  
"Her? No way!"

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Expression *Espérer*.**  
***J'espère qu'on va pouvoir rencontrer mes acteurs préférés!***  
**"I hope we get to see some stars!"**

---

There are many verbs to express subjective opinions and feelings. Depending on their usage, the sentence following those verbs changes. In the case of *j'espère*, which means "I hope," something is expected in the future. *Espérer* in the present tense is followed by a future tense sentence for future hopes and in the past tense is followed by a conditional verb sentence for past hopes with an already known result.

#### **The Grammatical Usage of *Espérer***

---

*j'espère*

*tu espères*

*il espère*

*nous espérons*

*vous espérez*

*ils espèrent*

*espérer + noun*

**For Example:**

1. *Je n'espère que son bonheur!*  
"I wish only for his happiness."

*espérer (present) que + sentence with the future verb form*

**For Example:**

1. *J'espère qu'il fera beau demain.*  
"I hope there's going to be good weather tomorrow."

*espérer (past)+ que + sentence with conditional verb form*

**For Example:**

1. *J'espérais que l'on serait plus nombreux.*  
"I hoped that there would be more people."

**Examples From This Dialogue**

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1. *J'espère qu'on va pouvoir rencontrer mes acteurs préférés!*  
"I hope we get to meet my favorite actors!"

2. *Moi, j'espère qu'il ne viendra pas. Je ne l'aime pas du tout.*  
"I hope he doesn't show. I don't like him at all."

**Sample Sentences**

---

1. *Toute sa famille espère qu'il se rétablisse rapidement.*  
"His whole family hopes he gets back on his feet quickly."

2. *Il a espéré toute sa vie qu'elle reviendrait mais ce n'est jamais arrivé.*  
"He hoped his entire life that she would come back, but it never happened."

## Language Tip

---

We can use *espérer* in the past tense followed by a conditional sentence, regardless of whether the event wished for at the time eventually did occur.

*Espérer* is one of those first group verbs whose -e vowels we pronounce and write slightly differently in the singular and third person plural form. We write *nous* and *vous* forms like the infinitive form with the second to last -e of the word taking an acute accent, but we change the *je*, *tu*, *il*, and *ils* forms to -è. Other examples of verbs like this are *procéder*, *régler*, *céder*, etc.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Where to See the Best Films in the World

---

The Cannes Film Festival is not only known as an authority on quality cinema but also a convention where celebrities get to show the most glamorous fashion and where behind-the-scenes events sometimes take precedent over the judging of films in the eyes of the press and public. As a weeklong festival, there is plenty of time for all participants to mingle before the final awards ceremony concludes the festival and the usually high-profile judging committee declares which films will be forgotten and which will receive the spotlight.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #11

## Taking a Cruise in France

---

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 9 Cultural Insight

# 11

## FRENCH

1. (on a boat on the coast of Corsica.)
2. Jack: Terre ! Terre ! On arrive enfin ! On va accoster !
3. Antoine : Des fois, j'aimerais que tu ne sois pas aussi surexcité.
4. Jack: Attends, ça fait quelques jours qu'on est là à ne rien faire, je suis très heureux d'arriver enfin !
5. Antoine : Moi, ça m'ennuie. Parce que maintenant il faut qu'on cherche un hôtel et qu'on fasse les courses ensuite pour ce soir.
6. Jack: Tu veux faire les courses ? Tu ne veux pas plutôt qu'on aille au restaurant ?
7. Antoine : Les restaurants sur cette île sont beaucoup trop chers, et tu sais qu'en ce moment, je n'ai pas beaucoup d'argent.
8. Jack: Alors pourquoi as-tu accepté de venir en vacances avec moi ?
9. Antoine : Je voulais qu'on fasse de la randonnée et qu'on dorme à la belle étoile, mais tu as voulu faire autrement.
10. Jack: Bon, d'accord, alors je m'occupe de trouver un hôtel pas trop cher et on ira faire les courses au supermarché à prix réduits !
11. Antoine : Merci, tu es un vrai ami ! Voilà cinq euros pour les courses. Tiens !
12. Jack: Cinq euros pour les courses ? Je crois qu'on va aller à la boulangerie la plus proche finalement...

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (on a boat on the coast of Corsica.)
  
2. Jack: Land! Land! We're finally here! We're going to come ashore!
  
3. Antoine: Sometimes, I'd like you not to be so overexcited.
  
4. Jack: Come on, it's been days we've been here not doing anything, I'm very happy to finally get here!
  
5. Antoine: It bothers me. Because now we have to find a hotel and then go shopping for food for tonight.
  
6. Jack: You want to go shopping? You don't want to go to a restaurant instead?
  
7. Antoine: The restaurants on the island are way too expensive, and you know right now, I don't have much money.
  
8. Jack: So why did you agree to come on a trip with me?
  
9. Antoine: I wanted to go hiking and sleep in the open air, but you wanted to do things differently.
  
10. Jack: All right, then I'll take care of finding a cheap hotel and we'll go shopping at the closest discount supermarket!
  
11. Antoine: Thanks, you're really a pal! Here's five euros for the shopping!
  
12. Jack: Five euros for the shopping? I think we're going to go to the closest bakery then...

## VOCABULARY

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French	English	Class
réduit	reduced	adjective

---

accoster	to come ashore	verb
dormir à la belle étoile	to sleep in the open air	Expression
surexcit�	overexcited	adjective
ennuyer	to annoy	verb
faire les courses	to go grocery shopping	phrase
en ce moment	Right now	noun
randonn�e	hike	noun
autrement	differently	adverb
s'occuper	to take care of	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Il a un nombre r��duit de jours de vacances cette ann��e.</b> "He has a reduced number of days off this year."	<b>Les pirates ont accost� dans le port.</b> "The pirates came ashore into the port."
<b>Les sans-abris dorment beaucoup  la belle toile.</b> "The homeless sleep outside a lot."	<b>Il est surexcit�  l'id�e de te rencontrer enfin.</b> "He's overexcited to meet you at last."
<b>Elle m'a paru ennuy� hier.</b> "She seemed annoyed yesterday."	<b>Je fais les courses tous les jours.</b> "I go grocery shopping every day."
<b>Je fais les courses tous les samedis.</b> "I go grocery shopping every Saturday."	<b>Il est en vacances en ce moment.</b> "He's on vacation right now."
<b>Nous partons en randonn�e en montagne.</b> "We're going on a hike in the mountains."	<b>Il n'y a pas moyen de faire autrement?</b> "Is there no other way to do things differently?"

**Je m'occupe de le distraire.**

"I'll take care of distracting him."

**On est occupés le mardi.**

"We are busy on Tuesday."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***ennuyer***

In this lesson, this word was used in the sense of "to bother."

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je vais l'ennuyer toute la journée.*  
"I'm going to bother him all day."

However, in its reflexive form, *s'ennuyer*, the meaning of the word changes to "to be bored."

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je m'ennuie, raconte moi une histoire.*  
"I'm bored, tell me a story."

### ***autrement***

This adverb can sound unnatural if we do not use it in the right context. When it follows verbs like *faire* or *penser*, it usually fits fairly well. Worth noting is that when it follows *faire*, it references some previous content and so in the English sentence becomes "things differently," as in our lesson dialogue, or "it/things any other way" in the negative form.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Désolé, je ne peux pas faire autrement.*  
"I can't do it any other way."

#### **For Example:**

1. *Tu as pensé autrement?*  
"Were you thinking of something else?" "Something else" refers to a different possible course of action.

### ***s'occuper***

When followed by a description, *s'occuper de* means "to take care of."

## **For Example:**

1. *Je m'occupe du chien pendant qu'elle est partie.*  
"I'm taking care of the dog while she's gone."

When we use the verb independently, the meaning changes to "to keep (oneself) busy."

## **For Example:**

1. *Je m'occuperais pendant que tu es partie.*  
"I'll keep busy while you're gone."

The nonreflexive form, *occuper*, means "to keep [someone] busy."

## **For Example:**

1. *Je l'occuperais pendant que tu es partie.*  
"I'll keep him busy while you're gone."

Finally, the adjective *occupé* simply means "busy."

## **For Example:**

1. *Elle m'a l'air occupée aujourd'hui.*  
"She looks busy today."

## **GRAMMAR**

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Introduction of the Subjunctive Mood.**

**Corinne : J'espère qu'on va pouvoir rencontrer mes acteurs préférés!**

**"I hope we get to see some stars!"**

---

The subjunctive mood is a verb tense that we only use in particular cases. It follows some specific verbs that express personal feelings such as regret, doubt, wish, necessity, possibility, etc. Commonly used ones are *vouloir*, *regretter*, *souhaiter*, *falloir*, etc.

Some are followed by the subjunctive only in the negative form: *penser*, *imaginer*, *croire*, etc.

Here is the subjunctive present conjugation of four of the most used irregular verbs:

**être**

*que je sois*

*que tu sois*

*qu'il soit*

*que nous soyons*

*que vous soyez*

*qu'ils soient*

***avoir***

*que j'aie*

*que tu aies*

*qu'il ait*

*que nous ayons*

*que vous ayez*

*qu'ils aient*

***aller***

*que j'aille*

*que tu ailles*

*qu'il aille*

*que nous allions*

*que vous alliez*

*qu'ils aillent*

***faire***

*que je fasse*

*que tu fasses*

*qu'il fasse*

*que nous fassions*

*que vous fassiez*

*qu'ils fassent*

## The Grammatical Usage of the Subjunctive

---

We use the particle *que* for constructing the subjunctive mood.

Here is the most common usage of the subjunctive: personal desire + subjunctive verb

### For Example:

1. *Je veux que tu ailles te coucher.* (COMMON MISTAKE: *Je veux que tu vas te coucher.*)  
"I want you to go to bed."
2. *Ma mère souhaite que je revienne vite à la maison.* (COMMON MISTAKE: *Ma mère souhaite que je reviens vite à la maison.*)  
"My mother wishes for me to come back home quickly."

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *J'aimerais que tu ne sois pas aussi excité.*  
"I'd like you to not be so excited." (wish)
2. *Tu ne veux pas qu'on aille au restaurant plutôt?*  
"We'd better go to a restaurant, don't you think?" (suggestion)
3. *Moi, ça m'ennuie. Parce qu'il faut qu'on cherche un hôtel maintenant.*  
"It bothers me. Because we have to look for a hotel now." (necessity)

For first group verbs in the singular form and in the first person of the plural form, we conjugate the subjunctive the same way as the indicative present. But this last example is still technically a verb conjugated in the subjunctive form.

### Sample Sentences

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1. *C'est très regrettable que tu ne puisses pas te joindre à nous.*  
"It's very regrettable that you cannot join us." (regret)
2. *Si tu veux maigrir, il faut que tu fasses plus d'exercice*  
"If you want to lose weight, you have to exercise more." (necessity)
3. *Que tu partes ou que tu t'en ailles, ça m'est égal!*  
"Whether you leave or stay, I don't care!" (judgment)

## Language Tip

---

One tricky point is that at times, the indicative present or subjunctive present can be interchanged freely as both are grammatically correct in some instances. Another difficulty is that some verbs are followed with the indicative mode in a positive sentence and the subjunctive with the negative. The most common example of this is the verb *penser*:

### For Example:

1. *Je pense qu'il va bien* => indicative present
2. *Je ne pense pas qu'il aille bien* => subjunctive present

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### These French People Are As Hot as the Temperature

---

Corsica is one of the most popular tourist locations in France, known for the beauty of its landscape and the strong character of its residents. They're knowned as hot-tempered and fiery, which is no wonder considering how hot it is on the island most of the year.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #12

## The Most Eventful Car Race in French History

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- 2 English
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- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# **12**

## FRENCH

1. (at the Le Mans car race.)
2. Corinne : C'est long, vingt-quatre heures, quand même. Je vais dormir un peu.
3. Frank: Tu risques de rater quelque chose. Regarde cette voiture, elle n'arrête pas de déraper!
4. Corinne : Tu crois que la numéro 31 va continuer à concourir? Il lui manque la moitié de ses vitres. Ah, ça y est, elle a recommencé à accélérer...
5. Frank: C'est toujours mieux que celle qui est en feu et qui continue la course.
6. Corinne : Mais mis à part les douze voitures en feu et la quinzaine qui est sur le bas-côté, on peut dire que les pilotes sont assez doués!
7. Frank: Oui, ils n'ont pas trouvé leur permis dans une pochette-surprise, eux.
8. Corinne : Eux? Qu'est-ce que tu veux dire?
9. Frank: Rien, je n'ai rien dit.
10. Corinne : Tu sais, il y a une conductrice féminin aujourd'hui, la voiture 12! Elle est en première place maintenant.
11. Frank: Ah, elle vient de rentrer dans le mur. Dommage...

## ENGLISH

1. (at the Le Mans car race)

CONT'D OVER

2. Corinne: Twenty-four hours is quite long. I'm going to sleep a little.
3. Frank: You might miss something. Look at that car; it won't stop skidding!
4. Corinne: You think number thirty-one will keep competing? It's missing half its windows. Oh, there we go, it started accelerating again...
5. Frank: It's still better than that one on fire there continuing the race.
6. Corinne: But besides the twelve cars on fire and the fifteen of them laid out on the side, you can say the drivers are quite skilled!
7. Frank: Yes, they didn't get their license in a gift bag.
8. Corinne: They didn't? What do you mean?
9. Frank: Nothing, I didn't say anything.
10. Corinne: You know, there's a woman racer today, car twelve! It's in first place right now.
11. Frank: Oh, it just ran into a wall. Too bad...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
rentrer dans	to run into	verb	
permis (de conduire)	driver's license	noun	
quand même	quite, after all, still	Adverbial clause	
bas-côté	side (of the road)	noun	
dérapier	to skid	verb	
vitre	window	noun	

concourir	to compete	verb	
course	race	noun	feminine
mis à part	besides	Preposition	
doué	talented, skilled	Adjective	masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>La deuxième voiture est rentrée dans l'arrière de la première.</b> "The second car ran into the back of the first."	<b>Ça fait trois fois de suite que je rate mon permis.</b> "It's been three times in a row I failed the driver's license test."
<b>Je n'en ai pas envie mais je vais quand même dire bonjour.</b> "I don't want to but I'm still going to say hi."	<b>Je l'ai laissé sortir sur le bas-côté de la route.</b> "I let him get out on the side of the road."
<b>Sa voiture a dérapé dans la neige et s'est coincée.</b> "Her car slid in the snow and got stuck."	<b>Elle ne nettoie jamais ses vitres, alors on ne voit rien à travers.</b> "She never cleans her windows, so you can't see anything through them."
<b>Je vais concourir cette année mais c'est la dernière fois.</b> "I'm going to compete this year but it's the last time."	<b>Chaque matin, il fait la course pour ne pas être en retard à l'école.</b> "Every morning, he races not to be late to school."
<b>Il y a une course à l'hippodrome.</b> "There is a race at the racetrack."	<b>Mis à part la fin, c'est une histoire assez drôle.</b> "Besides the ending, it's a pretty funny story."

**Il est très doué pour se faire aimer des gens.**

"He's very skilled at making himself liked by people."

**Tu es doué en informatique!**

"You are gifted in computer science!"

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***quand même***

"After all" is the way that we use this word most often.

#### **For Example:**

1. *C'est quand même le champion du monde.*  
"He is the world champion after all."

But when someone is annoyed, it also comes out very often in an untranslatable French way.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je t'avais dit de l'éteindre, quand même!*  
"I told you to turn it off, didn't I?"

### ***mis à part***

This preposition almost always comes at the beginning of a sentence or clause. It is a slightly more classy version of the simple *a part* but really has the same meaning.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Mis à part ton ami, tout le monde est là.*  
"Besides your friend, everyone is here."

When these words do not appear at the beginning of a sentence or clause, it is because they are being used individually together with a different meaning.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Il a été mis à part par le professeur.*  
"He was put aside by the teacher."

## ***rentrer dans***

There is a trick with this verb when you want to pronominalize the complement that follows it. Take the sentence *Il est rentré dans le mur trois fois aujourd'hui.* ("He's run into the wall three times.") The shortened version becomes *Il est rentré dedans trois fois.*

## **GRAMMAR**

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Use Start/Continue/Stop to Do Something.**

**Tu crois que la numéro 31 va continuer à concourir?**

**"You think number thirty-one will keep competing?"**

---

To express that you start, continue, or stop doing something, you just add the corresponding verb to the action verb, which just like any second category verb stays in the infinitive. The only trick here is you have to match the right particle with the right verb.

If you start something, you will say *commencer à*.

If you stop an action, you'll use *arrêter de*.

If you continue an action, you'll use *continuer* followed by *à* or *de*; it doesn't matter which one as both are correct.

Of course, you can conjugate all these verbs in any tense of any mode, according to what you are trying to express.

### **The Grammatical Usage**

---

*commencer à + verb*

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'ai commencé à faire un régime végétarien mais j'ai tout le temps faim maintenant...*  
"I started a vegetarian diet, but I'm hungry all the time now..."

*continuer à/de + verb*

#### **For Example:**

1. *On ne peut plus continuer à vivre sous le même toit!*  
"We can't keep living under the same roof!"

*arrêter de + verb*

## For Example:

1. *J'ai arrêté de fumer. Pour la 3e fois.*  
"I quit smoking. For the third time."

## Examples From This Dialogue

---

1. *Regarde cette voiture, elle n'arrête pas de déraper!*  
"Look at that car; it won't stop skidding!"
2. *Ah, ca y est, elle a recommencé à accélérer...*  
"Oh, there we go, it started accelerating again..."

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Il n'arrêtait pas de parler alors j'ai discrètement commencé à m'échapper.*  
"He wouldn't stop talking, so I discreetly began to escape."
2. *Qu'il continue de s'amuser maintenant car quand il aura fini ses études, il devra commencer à chercher du travail.*  
"Better for him to keep having fun now because when he finishes his studies, he'll have to start looking for a job."

## Language Tip

---

The grammatical rules for these verbs can be extended to all verbs that use them as a base: for example, *recommencer*, *s'arrêter* , etc.

Verbs with similar meanings follow the same rules. Verbs to stop actions are followed by the same particle as *arrêter*: *de*. For example *finir de + verb*, *terminer de + verb*...

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Where to Appreciate the Speed and Danger of Car Racing

---

The twenty-four hours of Le Mans is the longest race in the world, and one of the most dangerous as well. France recently lost its one Formula 1 racing tour event, which has led to a spike in popularity and attendance for this marathon competition, which takes place in the titular Le Mans.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #13

## A Busy First Day at your French Job

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- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# **13**

## FRENCH

1. (at a restaurant.)
2. Jack : Alors, c'est parti, c'est mon premier jour. Je suis si nerveux.
3. Boss : Alors bien. Le restaurant ouvre dans 1 heure donc, d'abord, fais la vaisselle et puis, lave le sol, s'il te plaît.
4. Jack : Oui, compris!
5. Boss : Fais ça vite, s'il te plaît, parce qu'il faut préparer tous les légumes ensuite.
6. Jack : Oui, je m'y mets dès maintenant. Où est le balai?
7. Boss : Les balais, brosses, serpillières, produits pour le sol et tout ça, c'est dans le placard derrière la table là-bas. C'est plein à craquer, alors ne fais rien tomber, hein!
8. Jack : Oui, je fais attention....voilà, j'ai terminé. Et maintenant?
9. Boss : Prends les oignons et coupe-les en dés, et fais la même chose pour les tomates. Par contre, coupe les courgettes dans le sens de la longueur.
10. Jack : Euh, excusez-moi de demander mais...couper en dés, c'est comment exactement?
11. Boss : Je ne sais pas, mais dans tous les restaurants, on coupe en dés, alors cherche le mot dans le dictionnaire s'il te plaît! C'est mon premier jour aussi!

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at a restaurant.)
  
2. Jack: All right, here we go, it's my first day. I'm so nervous.
  
3. Boss: All right now. The restaurant opens in one hour, so first, do the dishes, then next, wash the floor, please.
  
4. Jack: Yes, got it!
  
5. Boss: Do it fast, please, because all the vegetables need to be prepared next.
  
6. Jack: Yeah, I'll start right now. Where's the broom?
  
7. Boss: The brooms, brushes, mops, floor cleaning liquid, and all of that stuff is in the cupboard behind the table over there. It's ready to burst, so don't make anything fall, all right!
  
8. Jack: Yeah, I'll be careful... All right, I'm done. And now?
  
9. Boss: Take the onions and dice them, and do the same thing with the tomatoes. On the other hand, cut the zucchini lengthwise.
  
10. Jack: Umm, excuse me for asking but... What is dicing again?
  
11. Boss: I don't know, but in all restaurants, they dice, so look it up, please! It's my first day too!

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
la courgette	zucchini	noun
couper en dés	to dice	verb

plein à craquer	full to breaking point, about to burst	expression
la serpillière	floor cloth	noun
la brosse	brush	noun
le balai	broom	noun
le sol	floor	noun
C'est parti!	Here we go!	phrase
nervous	nervous	adjective
faire la vaisselle	to do the dishes	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Prends cette courgette et pèle-la. Ensuite, tu couperas les tomates en dés.</b>  "Take this zucchini and peel it. Then, you'll dice the tomatoes."	<b>Le frigo est plein à craquer, on ne peut plus rien y mettre!</b>  "The fridge is full to burst, we can't put anything else in."
<b>Il n'y a pas de machine plus efficace qu'une bonne vieille serpillière.</b>  "There's no machine more efficient than a good old floor cloth."	<b>Nous rangons toujours cette brosse dans ce tiroir.</b>  "We always put away this brush in this drawer."
<b>Si tu vois le balai, laisse moi savoir.</b>  "If you see the broom let me know."	<b>Prends un balai et nettoie le sol maintenant!</b>  "Take a broom and clean the floor now!"
<b>Allez je commence...c'est parti!</b>  "Ok, I'm going first...here I go!"	<b>Demain, c'est le jour du bac, je suis si nerveux!</b>  "Tomorrow is the final examination, I'm so nervous!"

**L'homme d'affaires nerveux attend son entretien.**

"The nervous businessman is waiting for the interview."

**N'oublie pas de faire la vaisselle avant de sortir!**

"Don't forget to do the dishes before going out!"

**Je ne fais pas la vaisselle. C'est mon lave-vaisselle qui la fait !**

"I don't do dishes. My dishwasher does it."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **C'est parti!**

This is a set phrase that means "Here we go!" You use it for yourself or for a group of people when you begin an action or when you head off somewhere with a feeling of excitement.

### **For Example:**

1. *Ok, c'est parti, c'est mon premier jour.*  
"OK, here we go. It's my first day."
2. *Le test vient de commencer, allez, c'est parti, on se concentre.*  
"The test has just begun. OK, here we go, let's focus."

### **nerveux**

This word means "nervous," as in being in a high tension state. So depending on the context, it can mean that somebody's personality has a tendency to be aggressive.

S'énerver, the associated verb, means "to get angry."

### **For Example:**

1. *Je suis si nerveux.*  
"I'm so nervous."
2. *Il est très nerveux depuis quelques temps.*  
"He's been really nervous lately."
3. *Il ne s'énerve jamais.*  
"He never gets angry."

## ***balai***

This word means "broom." *Passer le balai* is a set phrase that means to clean the floor with a broom.

### **For Example:**

1. *Passe le balai avant de mouiller le sol!*  
"Please remove the dirt before wetting the floor!"

Another popular expression is *Du balai!* which is an angry expression used to say "Get out of here!"

### **For Example:**

1. *Du balai! Et que je ne te revoie plus jamais.*  
"Get out of here! And I better never see you again."

## GRAMMAR

### **The Focus of This Lesson Is the Imperative Form.**

*Fais la vaisselle puis ensuite, lave le sol, s'il te plaît.*

"Do the dishes and then clean the floor please."

---

We use the imperative form, as in English, to give orders to someone (*tu, vous*) or to a group of people including yourself (*nous*). Its construction is very simple. We create this form using the present of the indicative while removing the subject.

*Présent: tu fais la vaisselle*

*Impératif: fais la vaisselle*

The degree of authority in the order is defined by the context of the sentence. If you add a softener like "please" after the verb, the imperative will sound nicer.

We create the negative form "don't do this" using, as usual, *ne...pas*.

We only use the imperative in the present indicative tense, and we only conjugate it to the *tu*, *nous*, and *vous* forms. The only tricky part is that for the *tu* form, the *-s* at the end of the verb disappears.

### **For Example:**

1. *Range ta chambre!*  
"Tidy up your room!"

2. *Ne laisse pas le chat dehors!*  
"Don't let the cat outside!"

## Examples From This dialogue

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1. *Prends les oignons et coupe-les en dés.*  
"Take the onions and dice them."
2. *Fais ça vite.*  
"Do it quickly, please."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Termine le jus d'orange et ne laisse pas la bouteille dans le frigo.*  
"Finish the orange juice and don't leave the bottle in the fridge."
2. *Allons au parc d'attraction demain!*  
"Let's go to the amusement park tomorrow!"

## Language Tip

---

In English, we use "let's" when suggesting to undertake a certain action, but in French, there is no special word that we use: we just use the imperative *nous* form as it is. We often replace this form in informal conversation with *on va + infinitive*, which has about the same meaning.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Why You Should Study Your Bill in France

---

Restaurant staff is notoriously lackadaisical in France, and it's very common for waiters to forget orders, ignore customers while chatting with fellow staff members, or make mistakes on the bill. For this reason, almost every customer makes sure to check what's written down on his or her bill before paying. The *maitre d'hommes*, a position you now find in high-class restaurants around the world, is someone who is around just to control these mistakes and keep all staff alert.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #14 You Have to Learn the French Imperative!

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# **14**

## FRENCH

1. (at a restaurant.)
2. Boss : Mais qu'est-ce que tu fais..? Réveille-toi!
3. Jack : Mais il n'y a aucun client...
4. Boss : Oui, mais ce n'est pas une raison pour ne rien faire! Vas-y, va nettoyer le four. Et puis...où est ton tablier? Habille-toi! Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire si un client vient?
5. Jack : Excusez-moi, mais à cette heure-ci, personne ne vient plus, non? Il est 3h15 du matin...
6. Boss : La chose importante, c'est l'attitude. Il faut montrer que nous sommes prêts à accueillir n'importe qui! Allez, lève-toi, et va dehors pour ramener des clients!
7. Jack : Oui, compris. Il pleut mais ce n'est pas grave.
8. Boss : Oui, qu'importe la pluie, le vent, la neige ou les tornades, si quelqu'un veut venir manger des coussous de poulets au chocolat, il va nous trouver!
9. Jack : C'est peut-être là, le problème...
10. Boss : Oh, tais-toi!

## ENGLISH

1. (at a restaurant.)
2. Boss: What are you doing? Wake up!

CONT'D OVER

3. Jack: But there are no customers...
4. Boss: Yes, but that's not a reason to not do anything! Go and clean the oven. And... Where is your apron? Get dressed! What are you going to do if a customer comes?
5. Jack: I'm sorry, but at this time, nobody comes anymore right? It's three-fifteen in the morning.
6. Boss: The attitude is what's important. You have to show we're ready to welcome anyone! Get up and go outside to bring in clients!
7. Jack: Yes, all right. It's raining, but that's all right.
8. Boss: Yeah, no matter what the weather, rain, wind, snow, or tornadoes, if someone wants to come eat some chocolate chicken necks, they're going to find us!
9. Jack: That may be where the problem lies...
10. Boss: Oh, be quiet!

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
aucun	none, not a, not even one	adverb
qu'importe	doesn't matter what, whatever...	expression
n'importe qui	anybody	expression
le cou	neck	noun
ramener	to bring in, to bring back	verb
être prêt à	to be ready to	expression
la tornade	tornado	noun

l'attitude	attitude	noun
le tablier	apron	noun
accueillir	to welcome	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Je n'ai aucune chance de gagner !</b> "I don't have a chance to win!"	<b>Qu'importe le prix, je veux l'acheter!</b> "Whatever the price is, I want to buy it!"
<b>N'importe qui peut le faire!</b> "Anybody can do it!"	<b>J'ai le cou fragile.</b> "I have a fragile neck."
<b>Si tu vas au supermarché, tu peux ramener du pain?</b> "If you're going to the supermarket, can you bring back some bread?"	<b>Etes-vous prêts pour le départ ?</b> "Are you ready for departure?"
<b>Une tornade va arriver ce soir par la côte ouest.</b> "A tornado will arrive tonight through the west coast."	<b>Ce n'est pas une attitude à avoir !</b> "It's not a proper way to behave!"
<b>Mets ton tablier avant de faire la cuisine.</b> "Put your apron on before cooking."	<b>Et maintenant, nous accueillons M. Obama!</b> "And now, we welcome Mr. Obama!"

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **aucun**

This word means "none" or "not even one," and we can translate it in various ways in English, depending on the sentence. We use it to insist that nobody or nothing is there, at times contrary to the expectations or wishes of the speaker.

## For Example:

1. *Il n'y a aucun magasin dans ce coin.*  
"There is no shop around here."
2. *On a fait plusieurs tentatives mais aucune n'a abouti.*  
"We made several attempts, but none of them succeeded."

## **accueillir**

This word means "to welcome." We can translate *l'accueil*, the related noun, as "the front desk" in offices, hotels, and such.

## For Example:

1. *Il a été très bien accueilli ici.*  
"He was very well welcomed here."
2. *Pour les informations générales, venez vous rendre à l'accueil.*  
"For general enquiries, please come to the front desk."

## **n'importe qui**

This expression means "anybody" implied in the sense that anyone will do for the purpose of whatever the sentence refers to. We use it at times with a slightly negative connotation.

## For Example:

1. *N'importe qui peut le faire.*  
"Anybody can do it."
2. *Demande à n'importe qui, mais j'ai besoin de quelqu'un pour demain!*  
"Ask anybody, but I need someone for tomorrow!"

The *importe* part of this expression is where the negative impression is focused. For example, *peu importe* means "it doesn't matter" or "whatever."

## For Example:

1. *Peu importe qu'il vienne ou pas.*  
"It doesn't matter whether he comes."
2. *Il ne sont pas contents du bruit de construction? Peu importe.*  
"They're not happy with the noise of the construction? Whatever."

# GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Imperative Form for Reflexive Verbs.**

**Habille-toi!**

**"Dress up!"**

---

The imperative form of reflexive verbs (verbs using *se* in front of their radical) is always put together with the radical in the imperative form and the appropriate pronoun attached: *tu* for the second person singular, *nous* for the first person plural, and *vous* for the second person plural.

### **Formation of the Imperative With Reflexive Verbs**

---

The imperative tense with reflexive verbs is different only in that the personal pronoun will follow the verb conjugated in the imperative. In addition, in the second person, we change the singular *tu* to *toi*, while *nous* and *vous* remain the same.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Lève-toi et habille-toi !*  
"Wake up and dress up!"
2. *Préparez vous vite pour son arrivée!*  
"Prepare yourselves quickly for his arrival!"

#### **Examples From This Dialogue**

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1. *Allez, lève-toi et va dehors pour ramener des clients!*  
"Get up and go outside to bring in clients!"
2. *Habille-toi! Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire si un client vient?*  
"Get dressed! What are you going to do if a customer comes?"

#### **Sample Sentences**

---

1. *Amuse-toi bien à Paris!*  
"Have fun in Paris!"
2. *Taisez-vous!*  
"Shut up!"

## Language Tip

---

When using the negative form of the imperative tense of reflexive verbs, you place *ne* in front of the verb and *pas* after it, just like with other tenses. However, the personal pronoun moves back to its original position in front of the verb, and in the second person singular, *toi* becomes *te* or *t'*.

### For Example:

1. *Ne t'en fais pas!*  
"Don't worry about it!"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Tipping Restaurant Waitstaff in France

---

One reason for poor restaurant service may be the inconsistency of tipping in French culture. A tip of a euro or so is customary in most restaurants, and this is observed by customers of all ages, but this is quite a low sum and is really a kind of formality. Compared to this, the odds of being tipped more by someone wearing an expensive suit being what they are, the service for a table full of young college students can often be ignored while waiters have a go pampering the prized guest of the night. For those who can afford to tip though, there's a reason why tipping is not a fixed number. Service is really something that the French evaluate, part of a great tradition of critique of one's surroundings in French culture.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #15

## Making Some Big Decisions in France

---

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# **15**

## FRENCH

1. (at a coffee shop.)
2. Elodie : Marie! Marie! J'ai une grande nouvelle à t'annoncer! Attention, tu vas être en surprise!
3. Marie : Oh, qu'est-ce que c'est? Vas-y, dis-moi vite
4. Elodie : J'ai décidé de.....tiens-toi bien...t'es prête?
5. Marie : Allez, ne me fais pas attendre!
6. Elodie : Ok. J'ai décidé de me marier à Julien le mois prochain!
7. Marie : Oh, mais c'est génial! Mais attends, Julien? Ton copain ne s'appelle pas Antoine? Ne me dis pas que tu as encore changé...
8. Elodie : Oui, mais cette fois-ci, c'est le bon. J'ai vraiment ressenti quelque chose quand je l'ai vu. Le coup de foudre, quoi. J'ai des sentiments très forts pour lui. Et si tu avais vu sa Porsche et sa villa dans le sud....Tu pourrais te réjouir pour moi, non?
9. Marie : Je suis très contente pour toi. J'imagine que vous allez célébrer ça comme il se doit, alors.
10. Elodie : Oui, tout à fait. On a décidé de faire une énorme fête de mariage dans le Sud sur la plage, et comme Antoine est trop riche...eh, gentil...il a décidé d'offrir une voiture à chacun de ses invités.
11. Marie : Tu m'invites, alors?
12. Elodie : Évidemment, tu es ma meilleure amie!
13. Marie : Je suis tellement heureuse pour ton mariage!

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at a coffee shop.)
2. Elodie: Marie! Marie! I've got big news to announce to you! Get ready, you're going to be surprised!
3. Marie: Oh, what is it? Go on, tell me quickly!
4. Elodie: I decided to...hold on...are you ready?
5. Marie: Come on, don't make me wait!
6. Elodie: OK. I decided to get married to Julien next month!
7. Marie: Oh, that's awesome! But wait, Julien? Your boyfriend's name isn't Antoine? Don't tell me you changed again...
8. Elodie: Yeah, but this time, he's the one. I really felt something when I saw him. Love at first sight, basically. I have really strong feelings for him. And if you saw his Porsche and his villa in the south... You should be happy for me, no?
9. Marie: I'm very happy for you. I imagine you're going to celebrate this in the way it should be done then.
10. Elodie: Yes, absolutely. We decided to have a huge wedding party in the south on the beach, and because Julien is so rich...umm, nice...he decided to give a car away to each of his guests.
11. Marie: You're inviting me then?
12. Elodie: Of course, you're my best friend!
13. Marie: I'm so happy about your wedding!

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
la villa	villa	noun
c'est génial!	that's awesome!	expression
chacun	each person, anyone, everyone	adverb
célébrer	to celebrate	verb
se réjouir	to be happy for someone/ something, to look forward to	verb
les sentiments	feelings	noun
le coup de foudre	love at first sight	noun
annoncer	to announce	verb
vas-y!	do it! go ahead!	expression
ressentir	to feel	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Il a une superbe villa dans le sud.</b> "He has an amazing villa in the South."	<b>Tu t'es fiancé ? C'est génial !</b> "You got engaged? That's awesome!"
<b>Chacun fait ce qu'il veut.</b> "Everyone does whatever they want to do."	<b>On a célébré le bicentenaire de la Tour Eiffel.</b> "We celebrate the bicentenary of the Eiffel Tower."
<b>Je me réjouis de partir en vacances.</b> "I'm looking forward to my holidays."	<b>Je n'ai plus aucun sentiment pour elle.</b> "I don't have any feelings for her anymore."

<b>On s'est vus et c'était tout de suite le coup de foudre.</b> "We met and it was love at first sight."	<b>J'ai annoncé mon mariage à mes parents.</b> "I announced my wedding to my parents."
<b>La maire annonce l'inauguration du marché.</b> "The mayor announces the grand opening of the open-air market."	<b>Vas-y! Ne laisse pas tomber, vas-y!</b> "Do it, don't give up, go ahead!"
<b>Je ressens quelque chose de fort pour lui.</b> "I have strong feelings for him."	<b>Je ressens de l'amour pour toi.</b> "I feel love for you."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **vas-y**

This word literally means "go." Y is a particle that always follows some verbs in the imperative form (you cannot use *vas* alone), but in this case it has no meaning. In spoken language, it can take on the meaning of "you should go" or "you'd better go."

If you use a lot of slang, *vas-y* has a variety of other meanings as well. One of them would be to combine with *laisse tomber*, *c'est pas la peine*, which basically translates to "let it go."

### **For Example:**

1. *Vas-y! Tu ne le regretteras pas!*  
"Go on! You won't regret it!"
2. *Vas-y, arrête tout, ca ne vaut pas la peine.*  
"Whatever, forget about it, it's not worth it."

### **coup de foudre**

This is the equivalent of the English expression "love at first sight." It literally translates as "a strike of lightning."

### **For Example:**

1. *La première fois que je l'ai vu, c'était le coup de foudre.*  
"The first time I saw him, it was love at first sight."

### ***les sentiments***

This word means "feelings" and has fairly straightforward usage in this sense.

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'ai du mal à contrôler mes sentiments.*  
"I have trouble controlling my feelings."

There is also the classic romantic use.

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'ai des sentiments pour lui.*  
"I have feelings for her."

Worth noting is that when we use it as a singular noun, *le sentiment*, just like in English, the usage changes slightly.

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'ai le sentiment qu'on ne le verra plus.*  
"I have a feeling we won't see him again."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Pattern *J'ai Décidé De...***

***Marie: J'ai décidé de me marier le mois prochain avec Julien!***

**"I decided to get married to Julien next month!"**

---

*Décider* is a verb that literally means "to decide" in English. If you decide to do something of your own will, you will use this verb with the particle *de* followed by another verb. We can also replace the verb *décider* with other decision verbs containing various nuances, such as *entreprendre* ("to initiate" or "to undertake").

#### **Usage of *Décider De***

---

Since when we use it we have already decided what it is we want to do, we mainly use

*décider de* in the past tense, as in *j'ai décidé de...*, etc.

### For Example:

1. *Avec ma femme, on a décidé de déménager.*  
"With my wife, we decided to move."
2. *J'ai décidé de ne plus boire d'alcool.*  
"I decided to stop drinking alcohol."
3. *J'ai décidé de me marier le mois prochain avec Julien!*  
"I decided to get married next month to Julien!"
4. *Il a décidé d'offrir une voiture à chacun de ses invités.*  
"He decided to give away a car to each of his guests."

### Sample Sentences

---

1. *Il a décidé de partir à l'étranger pour un an.*  
"He decided to go abroad for a year."
2. *Après le tsunami, ils ont décidé de s'engager dans l'humanitaire.*  
"After the tsunami, they decided to get involved with human welfare."

### Language Tip

---

You can also decide to NOT do something, and the sentence structure won't change other than the addition of the negative form: *j'ai décidé de NE PAS faire [something something]*.

This sentence structure implies you had decided to do something but changed your mind and now won't.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Are You Too Young to Get Married in France?

---

Marriage is an important part of French culture but can often be decided on a whim. People will marry within the year they meet with little reservation, and the high divorce rate that follows this trend is no surprise. However, marrying young is usually noticed and frowned upon by parents. Under twenty-five seems to be the arbitrary limit for when marriage becomes more acceptable.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #16

## Why Won't You Eat Those French Apples?

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# **16**

## FRENCH

1. (in the classroom)
2. Professeur : Alors, aujourd'hui, nous allons ouvrir nos livres page 45 et lire le texte ensemble. Kévin, tu veux bien commencer?
3. Kévin : Euh, j'ai oublié mon livre...
4. Professeur : Kévin, combien de fois je te l'ai rappelé ?! La prochaine fois, tu seras puni ! En attendant, tu vas regarder avec ton voisin.
5. Kévin: Uhh..désolé monsieur "Maman rentre à la maison, portant ses deux gros sacs à la main. Papa se demande encore une fois 'Qu'est-ce qu'elle a acheté, cette fois !' Maman fait tomber l'un de ses sacs en ouvrant la porte et s'exclame 'Oh non ! Mes pommes !! Elles sont toutes tombées...' Papa, voyant la situation, se dépêche d'aider Maman à ramasser ses pommes...."
6. Professeur : Très bien Kévin. Quelle triste histoire, n'est-ce pas? Vous y penserez en mangeant des pommes, la prochaine fois...
7. Kevin : (crying) Ouin, je ne veux plus manger de pommes...
8. Professeur : Eh bien ? Qu'est-ce qu'il y a ?
9. Kévin : les pommes sont tombées par terre et elles sont toutes sales maintenant! C'est dégueulasse !
10. Professeur : Surveille ton language. En te comportant ainsi, tu ne vas pas réussir à l'école.
11. Kévin : (crying louder) Ouin...

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (in the classroom)
  
2. Professor: So, today, please open our books to page forty-five and we will read the text together. Kevin, can you start, please?
  
3. Kévin: Umm, I forgot my book...
  
4. Professor: Kevin, how many times should I remind you? Next time, you'll be punished! In the meantime, you'll follow with your neighbor.
  
5. Kévin: Oh. I'm sorry, sir. "Mom is coming back home, carrying her two big bags by hand. Dad wonders again, 'What did she buy this time?' Mom drops one of her bags while opening the door and cries 'Oh no! My apples! They all fell.' Dad, seeing the situation, hurries to help Mom pick up her apples..."
  
6. Professor: Very good, Kevin. What a sad story, isn't it? You'll think of it while eating apples next time...
  
7. Kévin: (crying) Waah, I don't want to eat apples anymore...
  
8. Professor: Eh? What's the matter?
  
9. Kévin: The apples fell on the ground and they're all dirty now! It's gross!
  
10. Professor: Watch your language. If you behave this way, you're not going to do well in school.
  
11. Kévin: (crying louder) Waah...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
maintenant (dans le sens à partir de...)	now	adverb

dégueulasse	gross, disgusting	adjective
rappeler (à quelqu'un)	to remind	verb
se comporter	to behave	verb
s'exclamer	to exclaim, to cry out	verb
la situation	situation	noun
ramasser	pick up	verb
se dépêcher	to hurry	verb
surveiller	to keep an eye on, to follow	verb
réussir	to succeed, to accomplish	verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>J'habite en Belgique maintenant.</b> "I live in Belgium now."	<b>Ahhh, cet éclair est vraiment dégueulasse!</b> "Ahh, this éclair is disgusting!"
<b>Je ne te le rappelerai pas 2 fois !</b> "I won't remind you twice!"	<b>En classe, il faut bien se comporter !</b> "At school, we have to behave properly!"
<b>Mais qui va là », s'exclama le roi.</b> '"Who goes there,' cried out the king."	<b>Ma situation familiale est très mauvaise.</b> "My family situation is very bad."
<b>Partons en forêt et ramassons des pommes!</b> "Let's go to the forest and pick up apples!"	<b>Depêche-toi, on va être en retard !</b> "Hurry up, we're going to be late!"
<b>Tu dois te dépêcher si tu veux être à l'heure!</b> "You have to hurry if you want to be on time!"	<b>Je surveille de très près cette affaire.</b> "I'm closely following this case."

<b>Je n'ai pas bien réussi le test.</b>	<b>J'ai réussi mon test hier.</b>
"I didn't do well on the test."	"I passed my test yesterday."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***rappeler***

*Rappeler* means "to remember." While *se rappeler* is concerning oneself, the transitive verb *rappeler* is about reminding a target person of something.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Rappelle-moi de ramener mon cahier demain.*  
"Please remind me to bring my notebook tomorrow."
2. *J'ai dû rappeler à ma grand-mère qui j'étais.*  
"I had to remind my grandmother who I was."

### ***situation***

*Situation* means "situation" as in English. It's a general word that we can apply in many fields.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Ma situation familiale n'est pas terrible.*  
"My family situation isn't so great."
2. *La situation était désespérée mais il s'en sont sortis.*  
"The situation was desperate, but they got out of it."

### ***surveiller***

This is basically the verb version of "surveillance" in English and translates as "to watch" or "to keep an eye on."

#### **For Example:**

1. *On va les surveiller toute la nuit.*  
"We're going to watch them all night."

Of course, there are slightly figurative ways to use this word as well.

### For Example:

1. *Surveille ton language.*  
"Watch your language."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Pattern *Le Participe Présent*.**

**Maman rentre à la maison, portant ses deux gros sacs à la main.**  
**"Mom is coming back home, carrying her two big bags by hand."**

---

The present participle is a verbal form that we make by putting together a verb radical with an *-ant* ending. Its main meaning is to indicate an action is taking place at the same time as another action, and we usually use it in written text more than conversation.

If it is followed by a noun, it has about the same meaning as "noun + *qui* + verb," which we use more often in daily conversations.

Main verbs that we use with the *participe présent* :

<i>Infinitive</i>	<i>Participe Présent</i>
<i>être</i>	<i>étant</i>
<i>avoir</i>	<i>ayant</i>
<i>aller</i>	<i>allant</i>
<i>voir</i>	<i>voyant</i>
<i>manger</i>	<i>mangeant</i>
<i>faire</i>	<i>faisant</i>
<i>prendre</i>	<i>en prenant</i>

### Formation of the *Participe Présent*

---

To form the participle present, you have to take the first person of the plural of the indicative present (*nous*), take off the ending *-ons* of the stem, and replace it with *-ant*.

*Prendre* → *nous prenons* → *pren-ons* → *prenant*

*Etre (étant)* and *avoir (ayant)* are exceptions.

### For Example:

1. *Je peux manger en marchant.*  
"I can eat while walking."
2. *En attendant la réponse, travaillons sur un autre dossier.*  
"While waiting for the answer, let's work on another case."
3. *La femme, tenant une pelle à la main, courait vers le criminel.*  
"The woman, holding a shovel, was running toward the criminal."
4. *Même en dormant, je sens que j'ai faim.*  
"Even when sleeping, I feel hungry."

### Examples From This Dialogue

---

1. *En attendant, tu vas regarder avec ton voisin.*  
"In the meantime, you'll follow with your neighbor."
2. *Maman rentre à la maison, portant ses deux gros sacs à la main.*  
"Mom is coming back home, carrying her two big bags by hand."

### Sample Sentences

---

1. *Sortant du bar, il se dirigea vers sa voiture.*  
"Leaving the bar, he headed to his car."
2. *Tu ne grossiras pas en mangeant du pain mais plutôt en ne faisant pas de sport!*  
"You won't get fat eating bread, but rather by not exercising!"

### Language Tip

---

If you use *en* before the present participle, the combined meaning is "while doing this." We call this the *gérondif*.

One very common expression using the gerundive form is *en attendant*. We can translate it as "for now," and we use it when we want to broach a certain topic while waiting for some other uncontrolled element to resume its course.

## For Example:

1. *En attendant, qu'est-ce ce tu as fait aujourd'hui?*  
"Anyway, what did you do today?"

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Do French Students Want to Learn or Chat All Day?

---

French children are such that teachers usually spend more time trying to get some quiet in the classroom than teaching anything of substance. This is especially true of elementary school but will often extend all the way to high schools, where teenagers are feared in a different way for their wicked tongue and the many pranks they pull.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #17

## A French Student Who's Not That Good at Studying

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# **17**

# FRENCH

1. (in the classroom.)
2. Professeur: Oh Kévin, pas mal du tout! Tu a eu de très bon résultats au dernier contrôle.
3. Kévin : Merci beaucoup, Monsieur. J'ai bien travaillé !
4. Professeur : Je pense que tu peux faire encore mieux si tu travailles plus à la maison.
5. Kévin : Mais en ce moment, je ne peux pas trop étudier chez moi, il y a toujours des invités.
6. Professeur : Ah ? Tu as de la famille en visite à la maison en ce moment ?
7. Kévin : Non, mais mon père est musicien et son groupe vient toujours jouer à la maison.
8. Professeur : Je vois. Mais ceci n'a rien à voir avec tes études, non ?
9. Kévin : Oui, mais ils font du bruit...pas très fort, mais j'entends quand même et c'est un peu gênant. J'arrive à me concentrer mais pas toujours.
10. Professeur : Est-ce que tu veux que j'en parles à ton père ? Je suis prête à faire n'importe quoi pour t'aider.
11. Kévin : Non, il ne vaut mieux pas. Il va vous forcer à aller à son concert. Tous les spectateurs doivent se peindre le visage en vert.
12. Professeur : Oh mon Dieu !!!!

# ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (in the classroom)
  
2. Teacher: Hey, Kevin, not bad at all! You got some very good results on the last test.
  
3. Kévin: Thank you very much, sir. I worked hard!
  
4. Teacher: I think you can do even better if you work more at home.
  
5. Kévin: But right now I can't study that much at home; there are always guests.
  
6. Teacher: Ah? You have family visiting at the moment?
  
7. Kévin: No, but my father is a musician, and his band always comes to play at home.
  
8. Teacher: I see. But this has nothing to do with your studies, right?
  
9. Kévin: Yes, but they make noise...not very loudly, but I still hear it and it's a little bothersome. I manage to focus but not always.
  
10. Teacher: Do you want me to talk about this to your father? I'm ready to do anything to help you.
  
11. Kévin: You'd better not. He's going to make you go to his concert. All spectators have to paint their faces green.
  
12. Teacher: Oh my God!

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
peindre	to paint	verb	

forcer (à)	to force (someone to do something)	verb
gênant	embarrassing, bothersome	adjective
se concentrer	to focus	verb
les résultats	results, marks	noun
le contrôle	test	noun
en ce moment	at the moment, lately	expression
le groupe	band	noun
le bruit	noise	noun
prêt	ready	adjective
		masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Il a mis un jour pour peindre un mur entier.</b> "He took one day to paint a whole wall."	<b>Il m'a forcé à commettre ce crime.</b> "He forced me to commit this crime."
<b>Ces révélations sont très gênantes pour lui.</b> "These revelations are very embarrassing to him."	<b>Si tu parles, je ne peux pas me concentrer !</b> "If you're talking, I can't focus!"
<b>Tes résultats sont très mauvais ce semestre.</b> "Your marks are really bad this semester."	<b>Il y a un contrôle de maths samedi prochain</b> "There is a math test next Saturday."
<b>Il n'a pas bonne mine en ce moment.</b> "He doesn't look well lately."	<b>Le groupe a eu du mal à se remettre debout.</b> "The band had a hard time getting back on its feet."

J'entends souvent des bruits bizarres la nuit. "I often hear strange noises at night."	Êtes vous prêts à commencer? "Are you ready to begin?"
---	---

**Jacques est prêt à manger.**

"Jacques is ready to eat."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **résultats**

This word means "results" or "marks," and it is the term we use to speak of the result of some evaluation such as a school test, medical test, or competition. We usually use it in the plural form.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Les résultats de cette année sont excellents.*  
"This year's results are great."
2. *Et maintenant, les résultats du tiercé.*  
"And now, the horse race results."

### **gênant**

Gênant is an adjective meaning "embarrassing." There is also the verb gêner, which means "to embarrass" or "to be in somebody's way."

#### **For Example:**

1. *C'est très gênant de chanter en public!*  
"It's very embarrassing to sing in public!"
2. *Veuillez-nous excuser pour la gêne occasionnée.*  
"We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause."
3. *Cet individu devient trop gênant, il faut l'éliminer.*  
"This individual is getting too bothersome; he must be eliminated."

### **contrôle**

In this lesson, this word meant "test" or "examination." This is the standard word that we use in elementary school classrooms, though it gradually gets phased out for more sophisticated words such as *examen* as students move on to higher education levels.

### For Example:

1. *J'ai deux contrôles demain, et une heure pour les étudier.*  
"I have two tests tomorrow and one hour to study for them."

This word also has the meaning of "check" and can become the verb *contrôler* ("to check"), as in when you are checked by an authority to see whether you are in possession of something.

### For Example:

1. *Ils contrôlent pour voir si quelqu'un a de la drogue.*  
"They're checking to see whether someone has drugs."

Worth noting is that if you are checking something routine like the time, then you would use the word *vérifier*.

Finally, the most literal translation of the word *contrôle* is to "control," as in controlling the world.

### For Example:

1. *Ils ont maintenant le contrôle de la partie ouest du pays.*  
"They now have control of the west part of the country."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Pattern of Nuancing Opinion With Pas.**

***Je ne peux pas trop étudier chez moi,***

**"I can't study that much at home."**

---

This grammar point is on how to make nuances of appreciations, amounts, or frequency.

For example, *bien* means "good," and *pas bien* means "not good." Now, if you combine *pas* with an adverb, you can lower your appreciation level, but you're not going so far as to say "it's not good." Words that we often use with *bien* are *très*, *trop*, *tellement*, *si*, etc.

### For Example:

1. *pas très bien*  
"not so good"
2. *pas si bien*  
"not so good" (This wording implies you expected better.)
3. *pas trop mal*  
"not so bad" (This is actually a pretty positive expression and means something more like "not bad" or "pretty good.")

The level of appreciation that the speaker expresses depends on the context of the conversation, and it's something that is easier to get used to through practicing conversation.

### Usage of *Bien* and Other Adjectives

---

We used *bien* as an example, but you can apply these rules to all adjectives: *pas trop grand*, *pas si vieux*...

### For Example:

1. *Ce film avait l'air ridicule mais finalement, ce n'était pas si mal.*  
"This movie looked quite stupid but in the end, it wasn't so bad."
2. *Les enfants dormant alors on ne peut pas trop parler fort ici.*  
"The children are asleep, so we can't really talk loudly here."

### Examples From This Dialogue

---

1. *Mais en ce moment je ne peux pas trop étudier chez moi*  
"These days, I can't really study at home."
2. *Ils font du bruit...pas très fort, mais j'entends quand même*  
"They make noise...not really loudly, but I still hear it."

### Sample Sentences

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1. *Ce n'est pas trop dur d'avoir arrêté de fumer?*  
"Is it not too hard to have stopped smoking?"

2. *Il n'étaient pas si nombreux et n'avaient pas l'air très forts non plus.*  
"They were not too numerous and did not look very strong either."

### Language Tip

---

One must be careful when reversing the meaning of a word. An example is *trop*, which means "too much," while its negative *pas trop* translates to "not too much." Translating instead to "not at all" is a mistake that second-language French learners often make in oral speech.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Relationships Between French Students and Teachers

---

In general, French teachers and their students tend to keep their relationships very professional, with teachers not saying much about what they do outside of class (not that students show much interest). Likewise, they do not try to meddle too much in students' private affairs or family situations. The French education system is separated into only elementary school (five grades) and secondary school (four grades), so some teachers do get to be pretty familiar with students in smaller schools where they might end up teaching the same subject to the same class for six years straight.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #18

## A Delicious French Proposal

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- 7 Cultural Insight

# 18

## FRENCH

1. (at Julien's house.)
2. Julien : Si on allait manger un kebab?
3. Antoine : Ok, c'est parti, tu veux aller où?
4. Julien : J'aime beaucoup celui au coin de la rue Tomate dans le quartier de la Salade.
5. Antoine : Oui, j'y ai mangé une fois, mais il m'a beaucoup déçu. Il n'y avait pas beaucoup de viande. Le contenu bien maigre. Là, j'ai plutôt faim tu vois... Tu ne veux pas aller à celui de la rue Oignon dans le quartier du Pain?
6. Julien : Ah oui, celui près du centre commercial? Je ne l'ai jamais goûté mais j'ai eu de très bons échos! Ca me dirait carrément. Mais on est un peu éloignés du centre là, on prend la voiture?
7. Antoine : Ok, mais il faut passer faire le plein d'abord. J'ai failli caler sur l'autoroute la dernière fois, j'ai bien paniqué!
8. Julien : Oui c'est sûr, être à l'arrêt au milieu de voitures qui foncent à 130 km/h, ce n'est pas une situation rêvée...enfin bon, si on y allait maintenant?
9. Antoine : Ok! J'ai hâte. Dans moins d'une demi-heure, ca va être un véritable festin...

## ENGLISH

1. (at Julien's house)
2. Julien: How about going to eat a kebab?

CONT'D OVER

3. Antoine: All right, you're on, where do you want to go?
4. Julien: I like the one on the corner of Tomato street in the Salad neighborhood a lot.
5. Antoine: Yeah, I ate there once but it disappointed me a lot. The meat was iffy and the contents were pretty small. I'm pretty hungry you see... How about going to the one on Onion street in the Bread neighborhood?
6. Julien: Ah yeah, the one close to the mall? I never tried it but I heard some very good things! I'm definitely interested. But we're kind of far from the city center right now, should we take the car?
7. Antoine: OK, but we have to fill up the tank first. I almost ran out of gas on the highway last time, I was pretty panicked!
8. Julien: For sure, being at a standstill in the middle of cars zooming at 130 km/h is not an ideal situation...Well anyway, how about we go?
9. Antoine: OK! I can't wait. In less than a half hour, it's going to be a real feast...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
au coin	at the corner	noun
paniquer	to panic	verb
caler	to cut out (engine)	verb
l'écho	echo, feedback	noun
carrément	downright, really, firmly	adverb
le festin	feast	noun
le contenu	content, matter	noun
être limite	to be mediocre	expression

décevoir	to disappoint	verb
avoir hâte de...	to be excited about, to really look forward to	expression

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>C'est au coin de la rue.</b> "It's at the corner of the street."	<b>Si tu paniques, tu n'y arriveras pas.</b> "If you start to panic, you can't make it."
<b>Le moteur a encore calé!</b> "The engine cut out again!"	<b>J'ai eu des mauvais échos sur ce magasin.</b> "I had bad feedbacks about this shop."
<b>Dis-lui carrément ce que tu penses!</b> "Go ahead, say what you think to her downright!"	<b>Quel festin, on reviendra ici!</b> "What a feast, we'll be back again!"
<b>Ce jeu est très beau, mais le contenu est vraiment pauvre.</b> "This game is very beautiful but the contents are almost nothing."	<b>C'est limite.</b> "It's not really good."
<b>Ne me déçois pas cette fois !</b> "Don't disappoint me this time!"	<b>J'ai hâte de partir à la retraire.</b> "I'm really looking forward to retiring."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **décevoir**

This word means "to disappoint." We can translate "to deceive" as *tromper* or *trahir*.

### **For Example:**

1. *Je suis déçu de tes résultats.*  
"I'm disappointed by your results."
2. *Ma vie est une succession de déceptions.*  
"My life is a series of disappointments."

### ***avoir hâte***

*Avoir hâte* is an expression based on the word *hâte*, which means "hurry." *Faire quelque chose dans la hâte* means "to do something in a hurry," but this is a fairly formal expression that we do not use often in daily conversation.

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'ai fini mon rapport dans la hâte.*  
"I finished my report in a hurry."

On the other hand, we use *avoir hâte* quite often, and it means you can't wait for something out of excitement.

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'ai hâte d'avoir des enfants.*  
"I can't wait to have kids."

### ***paniquer***

This word means "to panic," and we use it in quite the same way as its English translation.

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'ai paniqué quand il est apparu devant moi.*  
"I panicked when he appeared in front of me."

It's also useful as a noun: *la panique*.

#### **For Example:**

1. *C'était la panique dans le bureau parce le courrier était en retard.*  
"There was a panic in the office because the mail was late."

This last example may sound slightly strange in English, but this is a very common and natural usage in French.

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Formulation of Suggestions.**

***Tu ne veux pas aller à celui de la rue Oignon dans le quartier du Pain?***

**"How about going to the one on Onion street in the Bread neighborhood?"**

---

There are many ways to express a suggestion with different levels of politeness.. This time, we are going to focus on a few expressions used among friendly speakers. The speaker is suggesting to his partner they do something together and for this kind of sentence, we can use one of these patterns:

- *Tu ne veux pas (...)?*
- *Si on + imperfect tense verb (...)?*
- *Ça ne te dirait pas de (...)?*

All of these expressions more or less translate to "How about (...)?".

### Usage of Suggestion Expressions

---

- *Tu ne veux pas... + infinitive*
- *Si on... + imparfait*
- *Ça ne te dirait pas de... + infinitive*

### For Example:

1. *Si on mangeait indien?*  
"How about having Indian food?"
2. *Ça ne te dirait pas d'aller au match de foot?*  
"How about going to the football game?"

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *Si on y allait maintenant.*  
"How about we get going?"
  
2. *Tu ne veux pas aller à celui de la rue Oignon dans le quartier du Pain?*  
"How about going to the one on Onion street in the Bread neighborhood?"

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Tu ne veux pas aller au restaurant ce soir?*  
"How about going to the restaurant tonight?"
  
2. *Ça ne te dirait pas d'aller au restaurant ce soir?*  
"How about going to the restaurant tonight?"
  
3. *Si on allait au restaurant ce soir?*  
"How about going to the restaurant tonight?"

## Language Tip

---

The difference between these expressions is not huge. The speaker's enthusiasm is the main factor that determines which one you should use. *Tu ne veux pas (...)?* is quite a direct proposal that you use when you really think something should be done. *Si on (...)?* also expresses subjectivity on the speaker's behalf but in a more gentle way, with a similar feeling to "How about we (...)?". *Ça ne te dirait pas* is more like probing the listener's feelings on the subject of doing so and so.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### How Far Are You Willing to Go for French Food?

---

With French people being very serious about food, it's completely natural to bypass your local food offerings if you don't like them for a favorite restaurant in some far away area. When you see on cars on the street, you might as well figure half of them have passengers going to eat somewhere. Many people cook meals for themselves at home the majority of the time, so when they go out, they go all out.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #19 Getting into a Jam in France

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- 3 Sample Sentences
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# 19

## FRENCH

1. (on the highway)
2. Julien : Ah oui, ça, on n'y avait pas pensé...
3. Antoine : Punaise, le bouchon infernal... et à la radio, ils disent qu'il s'étend sur des kilomètres.
4. Julien : Ce serait bien si on arrivait à prendre la prochaine sortie. Mais ça n'avance pas.
5. Antoine : Ce ne serait pas mieux si on se mettait sur la file de gauche ? Elle à l'air d'être plus rapide.
6. Julien : Bah, c'est comme les queues au supermarché, on a toujours l'impression que l'autre est plus rapide mais au final, ça revient au même.
7. Antoine : Et qu'est-ce que j'ai faim... Pourquoi j'ai regardé le prospectus du magasin ? J'ai l'impression de sentir les odeurs de viande grillée.
8. Julien : Et mais, attends, ça sent vraiment brûlé... regarde dehors!
9. Antoine : C'est un vrai incendie! C'est donc ça qui a créé le bouchon ? Eh... mais le feu... se propage !! Euh... ce serait mieux si on sortait de la voiture et s'échappait vite, non ??

## ENGLISH

1. (on the highway)
2. Julien: Ah yeah, we didn't think about this...

CONT'D OVER

3. Antoine: Man, a nightmare traffic jam...and on the radio, they're saying it stretches on for kilometers.
4. Julien: It'd be nice if we managed to take the next exit. But it's not moving.
5. Antoine: Wouldn't it be better if we got in the left lane? It looks faster.
6. Julien: Meh, it's like lines at the supermarket; you always feel like one is faster, but in the end, they're all the same.
7. Antoine: And I'm so hungry... Why did I look at the store flyer? I feel like I can smell the grilled meat.
8. Julien: Hey wait, it really smells like something's burning...look outside!
9. Antoine: It's a real fire! So this is what created the jam? Hey...the fire...is spreading! Uhh, it'd be better if we got out of the car and escaped in a hurry, no?

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
punaise	drat!	expression
s'échapper	to escape	verb
se propager	to spread, to propagate	verb
brûler	to burn	verb
le prospectus	leaflet, flyer, prospectus	noun
avoir l'impression	to have the feeling (that)	verb
la queue	line	noun
la file	line, row	noun
s'étendre	to stretch	verb
l'incendie	fire, blaze	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Punaise, je n'ai pas de chance!</b> "Man, I'm so unlucky!"	<b>Tu ne t'échapperas pas!</b> "You won't escape!"
<b>L'incendie s'est propagé sur des kilomètres.</b> "The fire spread out for kilometers."	<b>Il a brûlé ses vieux journaux.</b> "He burned up his old newspapers."
<b>Je reçois des dizaines de prospectus chaque jour.</b> "I receive dozens of leaflets every day."	<b>J'ai l'impression que ça va mieux.</b> "I feel like it's going better."
<b>Il y a la queue devant ce magasin.</b> "There is a line in front of this shop."	<b>La file d'attente est interminable.</b> "The waiting queue is endless."
<b>Les conséquences vont s'étendre sur des années.</b> "The effects will spread over many years."	<b>L'incendie s'est propagé sur des kilomètres.</b> "The fire spread out for kilometers."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***avoir l'impression***

This expression means "to have the feeling" in the sense of using your gut to give your opinion on a situation.

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'ai l'impression d'être suivi.*  
"I feel like I'm being followed."

We can use it with a tad of irony as well.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Tu n'as pas l'impression d'exagérer un peu?*  
"You don't feel like you're overreacting a little?"

We can also translate this expression as "to get an impression" in a more literal sense.

### For Example:

1. *Du peu que je l'ai vu, j'ai une bonne impression de lui.*  
"From the little I've seen him, I have a good impression of him."

### ***brûler***

*Brûler*, which literally means "to burn," has a reflexive friend *se brûler*, which means to burn oneself.

### For Example:

1. *J'ai brûlé la photo de mon ex.*  
"I burned up my ex-girlfriend's picture."
2. *Je me suis brûlé avec le briquet.*  
"I burned myself with the lighter."

*Le brûlé*, turned into a name, means "the burned (area)." We often see this usage with bread.

### For Example:

1. *Ne mange pas le brûlé!*  
"Don't eat the burned part!"

### ***Incendie***

This word means "fire" as in an accidental fire in an indoor area. Though it ends with an -e, it is actually a masculine word.

### For Example:

1. *J'ai vu de la fumée qui sortait de la fenêtre, c'est peut-être un incendie!*  
"I saw smoke coming out of the window; it might be a fire!"

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Pattern for Formulating Hypothetical Scenarios.**

**Ce serait bien si on arrivait à prendre la prochaine sortie.**

**"It'd be nice if we managed to take the next exit."**

---

When an event takes place or is going to occur, we are confident when speaking of it and use the present or future tense. But in a hypothetical world, under conditions that make a situation less likely, we once again use the conditional tense to express other eventualities and alternative propositions. The construction *Ce serait bien si (...)+imparfait* is using the conditional mode of the verb *être* to express that if we could do something, it would be good or better.

Here is a reminder of common verbs and their imperfect forms:

Pronoun	Ending	Parler	Finir	Étudier	Manger	Être
je	-ais	parlais	finissais	étudiais	mangeais	étais
tu	-ais	parlais	finissais	étudiais	mangeais	étais
il	-ait	parlait	finissait	étudiait	mangeait	était
nous	-ions	parlions	finissions	étudiions	mangions	étions
vous	-iez	parliez	finissiez	étudiiez	mangiez	étiez
ils	-aient	parlaient	finissaient	étudiaient	mangeaient	étaient

## Usage of Hypothetical Scenarios

---

As we saw in the previous lesson, if you are making suggestions on a course of action, we express the possible result by the conditional mode, and we create the condition with the imperfect verb tense.

*si + imparfait, ce serait + adjective*

**For Example:**

1. *Ce serait bien si tu arrêtais de parler.*  
"It would be nice if you stopped talking."
  
2. *Ce ne serait pas mieux si on reculait?*  
"Wouldn't it be better if we moved back?"

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *Ce serait bien si on arrivait à prendre la prochaine sortie.*  
"It'd be nice if we managed to take the next exit."
2. *Ce serait mieux si on sortait de la voiture.*  
"It'd be better if we got out of the car."

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Ce serait pire si on continuait.*  
"It would be worse if we kept doing it."
2. *Ce serait mieux si on n'y pensait pas.*  
"It would be better if we didn't think about it."
3. *Ce serait bien s'ils ne revenaient jamais!*  
"It would be nice if they never came back!"

## Language Tip

---

It's a very common mistake to mix up the tenses when formulating conditional sentences. In reality, many native speakers don't use the imperfect tense properly for the conditional second part of the sentence. Instead, they often mistakenly use the future tense or the conditional tense appears twice in the sentence, which is also incorrect.

We often use the pattern presented today and we can say it with sarcasm when telling someone "it would be better to (...)" in a situation where it's obvious that the thing should be done.

## For Example:

1. *Ce serait bien que tu fermes la porte des toilettes, des fois.*  
"It'd be nice if you closed the toilet door sometimes."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### How to Avoid Traffic in France

---

Traffic jams in France are just a normal part of daily life. Ironically, the highway is where you're most likely to run into one, which makes it particularly valuable to be able to avoid them and get to your destination using smaller streets.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #20

## The Wrong Kind of French Barbecue

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# **20**

## FRENCH

1. (on the highway.)
2. Julien : Et bien... Un vrai désastre!
3. Antoine : En plus, elle n'était pas si vieille, ta voiture.
4. Julien : J'aurais voulu l'utiliser encore quelques années... Il ne reste plus que ce tas de cendres maintenant.
5. Antoine : On se serait bien passé d'aller chercher ce kebab.
6. Julien : La seule chose grillée ici, c'est ma voiture!
7. Antoine : Si on avait écouté les infos de Bison Fûté, on aurait peut-être évité le bouchon.
8. Julien : C'est encore plus triste d'apprendre ça ! On n'a pas mangé et pourtant, je n'ai pas faim ! Si j'avais su, je ne me serais pas levé ce matin ! Maintenant, on est coincés sur l'autoroute au milieu de carcasses de voitures brûlées à attendre les secours. Ah ! si j'avais su...
9. Antoine : Oui, et de plus il faut attendre. J'ai si faim...
10. Julien : Ahem! Merci pour ton soutien!
11. Antoine : Désolé, mais c'est cette odeur de grillé...

## ENGLISH

1. (on the highway)

CONT'D OVER

2. Julien: Well, well...a real disaster!
3. Antoine: What's more, it wasn't that old, your car.
4. Julien: I wanted to use it another couple of years...I only have this pile of ashes left now.
5. Antoine: We could've passed on looking for kebabs.
6. Julien: The only thing grilled here is my car!
7. Antoine: If we'd listened to the news, we could've avoided this jam.
8. Julien: It's even more sad knowing that! We haven't eaten and I still don't feel hungry! If I'd known, I wouldn't have gotten up this morning! Now, we're stuck on the highway in the middle of burned car carcasses waiting for the rescue teams. If I'd known...
9. Antoine: Yeah, and we have to wait. I'm so hungry...
10. Julien: Ahem! Thanks for your support!
11. Antoine: Sorry, but this grilled smell...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
le désastre	disaster	noun
la carcasse	carcass	noun
coincer	to get stuck	verb
le bouchon	traffic jam	noun
le traffic routier	movement or vehicles on the roads	noun

griller	to grill	verb
se passer	to avoid (something not needed)	verb
la cendre	ash	noun
le tas	pile, stack	noun
les secours	help, rescue	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Ce film est un désastre!</b> "This movie is a disaster!"	<b>Il ne reste plus que la carcasse de ce sanglier.</b> "Only the carcass of this boar is left."
<b>J'ai coincé mes doigts dans la porte.</b> "I got my fingers stuck in the door."	<b>Matin et soir, c'est deux heures de bouchons pour rentrer chez moi.</b> "Morning and evening, it's two hours of traffic jams to get back home."
<b>Le traffic routier est stable.</b> "Car traffic is stable."	<b>La viande qui grille sent bon!</b> "The roasting meat smells good!"
<b>Je me passe de tes commentaires.</b> "I'll do without your comments."	<b>Il aime l'odeur des cendres.</b> "He likes the smell of ashes."
<b>Ma voiture tombe en panne tout le temps.</b> "My car is always breaking down."	<b>Si ça ne va pas, appelle les secours.</b> "If you're not well, call the rescue staff."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

**se passer**

*Se passer* is a tricky verb. Usually, it means "to occur" or "to happen," but in a figurative way, it means to avoid something on purpose because that thing brings negative results (or the opposite for the negative form, which means you definitely have to do something).

### **For Example:**

1. *Je me passe de tes commentaires.*  
"I'll do without your comments."
2. *Tu ne peux pas te passer de sel pour ta soupe!*  
"You can't do without salt for your soup!"

### ***secours***

This word means "rescue." We often use it in the plural form *les secours* to describe rescue teams such as ambulances, firemen, etc...

*Au secours!* is a very useful set phrase if you get in trouble in France, and it means "Help! Help!" Don't hesitate to yell this if you get in trouble.

"To rescue" as a verb becomes *secourir*.

### **For Example:**

1. *Les secours ont secouru l'homme qui criait au secours.*  
"A rescue team rescued the man who was screaming for help."

### ***bouchon***

This word means "lid" or "cap" in its basic sense, but in this lesson, we used it in the figurative sense of "traffic jam." This is a casual expression that basically compares a traffic jam to something stuck inside a container with a lid on.

### **For Example:**

1. *On est coincés dans un bouchon, ça va prendre des heures.*  
"We're stuck in a traffic jam; it's going to take hours."

Here's an example sentence of *bouchon* in its literal meaning.

### **For Example:**

1. *N'oublie pas de remettre le bouchon sur la bouteille.*  
"Don't forget to put the lid back on the bottle."

## **GRAMMAR**

## The Focus of This Lesson Is the Pattern of the Past Conditional.

*Si j'avais su, je ne me serais pas levé ce matin.*

"If I'd known, I wouldn't have gotten up this morning!"

---

We've already covered hypothetical situations and how to use the conditional form in such cases.

But there, it was in the case that if a condition is met, a consequence might happen.

In this case, we express regrets or gratitude for past events. The conditional mode has a present and a past mode (actually two pasts, but we're going to see only one now). If you want to express regrets toward a situation that already happened and that you would have done something else if possible, the pattern is:

*Si + plus-que-parfait, conditionnel passé.*

The construction of the past conditional is quite easy: you take the *passé composé* and replace the auxiliary verb *être* or *avoir* at the present tense with the conditional form.

**For Example:**

Passé Composé	"English"	Conditionnel Passé	"English"
<i>j'ai mangé</i>	"I ate"	<i>j'aurais mangé</i>	"I would have eaten"
<i>je suis parti</i>	"I left"	<i>je serais parti</i>	"I would have left"
<i>j'ai fini</i>	"I finished"	<i>j'aurais fini</i>	"I would have finished"
<i>j'ai parlé</i>	"I spoke"	<i>j'aurais parlé</i>	"I would have spoken"
<i>j'ai été</i>	"I was"	<i>j'aurais été</i>	"I would have been"

As a reminder, the *plus-que-parfait* is a past tense that we form like the *passé composé*, but we conjugate the auxiliary verb *avoir* or *être* to the *imparfait* form. We use it to talk about past events while telling a past story.

**For Example:**

1. *Si j'avais pu venir, j'aurais été heureux.*  
"If I could have come, I would have been happy."

2. *Si tu ne m'avais pas aidé, je n'en aurais pas été là aujourd'hui.*  
"If you wouldn't have helped me, I wouldn't have been where I am now."

## Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *Si j'avais su, je ne me serais pas levé ce matin.*  
"If I'd known, I wouldn't have gotten up this morning!"
2. *Si on avait écouté les infos de Bison Fûté on aurait peut-être évité le bouchon.*  
"If we'd listened to the news, we could've avoided this jam."

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Si tu avais passé tes examens cette année, tu les aurais réussi.*  
"If you would have taken this year's exam, you would have passed it."
2. *Si tu n'avais jamais mangé d'anguille, tu n'aurais jamais su que c'était bon.*  
"If you wouldn't have tried eel, you wouldn't have known that it was so good."

## Language Tip

---

Sometimes we skip one of the two parts of the sentence. In the dialogue, we have *Ah! si j'avais su*, which means "Ah, if I'd known that." The consequence "I wouldn't have done it" is implied with the context.

We also have *j'aurais voulu la garder*, which means "I'd have liked to keep it," and the condition "if I could have done it" is implied.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### A Bit More on Cars in France

---

If you live anywhere other than in Paris, where public transport is more accessible and convenient than in other areas, almost everyone you know will own a car. Bicycles are extremely unused; however, cycling tends to come back in fashion occasionally, and though motorbikes enjoy some popularity, they have a fairly poor reputation. The number of cars results in a lot of traffic, which has one positive side to it: not many police cars are on the streets. However, when your traffic ticket is sent to your home by mail because you were

caught by a speed radar, you'll soon begin to miss the old days.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #21 The Fact Is, This French Lesson Is Useful!

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- 2 French
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# **21**

## FRENCH

1. (at Frank and Corinne's house.)
2. Corinne : Fraaaaank!! Pourquoi tu n'as toujours pas fait la lessive!
3. Frank : Écoute, ne t'énerve pas mais je n'ai vraiment pas eu le temps aujourd'hui!
4. Corinne : Comment ça? Tu es rentré à 14h et depuis, tu n'a pas décroché de ta console! Ne me dis pas que tu n'avais pas le temps!
5. Frank : Ben en fait, si, je vais t'expliquer. En fait, je joue avec des amis américains et il se trouve que nos horaires sont différents. Le décalage horaire, tu vois. Et comme on doit jouer ensemble, il faut que nous fassions des compromis avec nos rythmes de vie.
6. Corinne: Aaah! Je rêve! Le fait est qu'un couple, c'est aussi des compromis! Et tu m'as promis de faire la lessive avant ce soir afin qu'on puisse la faire sécher! Et tout ce que je vois, c'est toi, complètement accro à ton jeu pourri!!
7. Frank : Ehhh, mes amis risquent de t'entendre! Tu vas leur faire de la peine!
8. Corinne : Ça m'est égal. Et puis, ils ne comprennent pas le français, si ?
9. Frank : Si justement, il se trouve qu'elles sont toutes étudiantes en français!
10. Corinne : ELLES???

## ENGLISH

1. (at Frank and Corinne's house)

CONT'D OVER

2. Corinne: Fraaaaank! Why haven't you done the laundry yet?
3. Frank: Listen, don't get mad, but I haven't really had the time today!
4. Corinne: What do you mean? You came back home at two and since then, you haven't gotten off your video game machine! Don't tell me you didn't have time!
5. Frank: Well, actually, yes, I'm going to explain. The truth is, I'm playing with American friends and it just so happens our schedules are different. The time lag, you know. And since we have to play together, we need to make compromises on our life routines.
6. Corinne: Ahh! I must be dreaming! The fact is that a couple is also a compromise! And you promised me to do the laundry before tonight so we could dry it! And all I see is you, completely hooked on your rotten game!
7. Frank: Hey, my friends might hear you! You're going to hurt their feelings!
8. Corinne: I don't care. And anyway, they don't understand French, right?
9. Frank: Well, actually, it just so happens these girls all study French!
10. Corinne: GIRLS?

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
la peine	(emotional) pain, hurt	noun
pourri	rotten, foul	adjective
etre accro	to be addicted	verb
risquer	to risk	verb
le compromis	compromise	noun

décrocher	to get off, to stop	verb
promettre	to promise	verb
le décalage horaire	time lag	noun
le rythme	rhythm	noun
toujours pas	still not	noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Ne me fais pas de peine!</b> "Don't hurt my feelings!"	<b>Ce film est pourri.</b> "This movie is rotten."
<b>Tu ne peux pas décrocher de ce jeu!</b> <b>Tu es vraiment accro!</b> "You can't get off that game! You are really addicted!"	<b>Je risque de ne pas pouvoir le faire.</b> "I may not be able to do it."
<b>C'est un bon compromis.</b> "It's a good compromise."	<b>Tu ne peux pas décrocher de ce jeu!</b> <b>Tu es vraiment accro!</b> "You can't get off that game! You are really addicted!"
<b>Je ne te promets rien.</b> "I'm not promising you anything."	<b>Tu es gonflé, tu avais promis d'être à l'heure et tu as 2 heures de retard!</b> "You got some nerve: you'd promised you would be here on time and you are two hours late!"
<b>Il y a 8 heures de décalage horaire entre la France et le Japon.</b> "There is eight hours of time lag between France and Japan."	<b>Je n'ai pas le sens du rythme.</b> "I don't have any sense of rhythm."
<b>Je n'ai toujours pas réparé les toilettes.</b> "I still haven't repaired the toilet."	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***risquer***

This is a particular French verb that expresses the possibility of some negative event occurring.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je risque de te faire du mal.*  
"I might hurt you."
2. *Il risque de réussir à conquérir la ville.*  
"He may succeed in conquering the city."

The more straightforward translation of this word is to "to risk" or "to put on the line."

#### **For Example:**

1. *Il risque sa réputation.*  
"He's putting his reputation on the line."

### ***la peine***

This word means "(emotional) pain" or "hurt," and we use it most often in the expression *faire de la peine*, which means "to hurt someone's feelings."

#### **For Example:**

1. *Tes paroles me font de la peine.*  
"Your words pain me."

Another common usage is *valoir la peine* or *être la peine*, which means "to be worth (...)" . We use *être la peine* with the subject *ce*.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Ce n'est pas la peine d'essayer, tu n'y arriveras pas.*  
"It's not worth trying; you won't succeed."
2. *Ça vaut la peine d'y aller.*  
"It's worth going."

### ***promettre***

This word means "to promise" in French, and we use it in a similar way.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je lui ai promis que je viendrai demain.*  
"I promised him I'd come tomorrow."

A very common figure of speech in French is *je ne te promets rien*, which you basically use to say "I can't guarantee I'll be able to do (whatever is being discussed)." This can depend on your ability or your willingness to accomplish the action.

### For Example:

1. *Je vais essayer mais je ne te promets rien.*  
"I'll try but I won't promise you anything."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of the Expressions *En Fait* and *Le Fait Est Que*.**

***Ben en fait, si, je vais t'expliquer.***  
**"Well, actually, yes. I'm going to explain."**

---

*En fait* and *le fait est que...* are expressions created with the noun *fait*, which means "fact" in English. We use them to explain misunderstandings or something not well understood by a listener.

*En fait* means "in fact" or "actually," whereas *le fait est que* is equivalent to "The fact is, (...)."

### Usage of *En Fait* and *Le Fait Est Que*

---

*En fait* and *le fait est que* can be followed by any type of explanatory sentence. *Le fait est* is followed by *que*, which expresses the relation between *le fait* and the following sentence.

### For Example:

1. *En fait, ce n'est pas très compliqué!*  
"Actually, it's not so complicated!"
2. *Le fait est que je travaille tous les jours et que je n'ai pas le temps!*  
"The fact is I work every day and I don't have the time!"

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *En fait, je joue avec des amis américains.*  
"The truth is, I'm playing with American friends."
2. *Le fait est qu'un couple, c'est aussi des compromis!*  
"The fact is that a couple is also a compromise!"

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *En fait, il n'y a aucune solution à ce problème!*  
"Actually, there is no solution to this problem!"
2. *Le fait est qu'on s'ennuie à la campagne.*  
"The fact is that we get bored in the countryside."

## Language Tip

---

*Fait* may originally come from the verb *faire*, but be careful. In the case of the noun, we pronounce the final *-t*, but when one says *il fait* in the third person present singular, the *-t* is this time muted. Try to pronounce *en fait* and *on fait* to see the difference.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### An Online French Refuge

---

Video gaming has made inroads in France, particularly its online version. French online gamers are now one of the largest groups in the world. French people having notoriously bad tempers, they may find it hard to develop social lives and find it easier to develop friendships online with people who share the same goal as they do. Or maybe it's just the bad weather in half the country...

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #22

## Making Amends in French

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- 7 Cultural Insight

# **22**

## FRENCH

1. (at Frank and Corinne's house.)
2. Corinne : Je veux que tu arrêtes immédiatement de jouer et que tu fasses cette lessive.
3. Frank : Ok ok, j'ai bien compris. Je sauvegarde ma partie et je m'y mets.
4. Corinne : Puis comme tu m'as fait attendre, je veux aussi que tu me prépares à manger et fasse la vaisselle.
5. Frank : Eh bien, tu es dure! Mais c'est d'accord. Je t'ai fait attendre et je veux te faire plaisir.
6. Corinne : Ok, je préfère cette attitude. Je veux bien que tu joues avec tes amis en ligne, mais je voudrais juste que tu me consacres un peu plus de temps parfois. En fait, j'aimerais que tu sois toujours gentil, attentionné, romantique, entreprenant, que tu prennes soin de moi, que tu m'offres des cadeaux, m'emmènes en voyage...Mais j'imagine que ce n'est pas de ta faute... je crois qu'aucun homme ne peut être aussi parfait...
7. Frank : Déjà, grâce à notre dispute, tu pourras profiter de mes talents de cuisinier ce soir!
8. Corinne : Ahem! Je suis encore énervée après toi, alors j'aimerais que tu ne fasses pas trop de blagues sur ça ce soir!
9. Frank : Oulà, oui, je vais éviter.

## ENGLISH

1. (at Frank and Corinne's house)

CONT'D OVER

2. Corinne: I want you to stop playing immediately and do this laundry.
3. Frank: Okay okay, I understand. I'll save my game and get started.
4. Corinne: And since you made me wait, I also want you to make me food and wash the dishes.
5. Frank: You sure are tough! But all right. I made you wait and I want to do something nice for you.
6. Corinne: Okay, I like this attitude better. I'm OK with you playing with your friends online, but I'd just like for you to devote more time to me sometimes. In fact, I'd like you to always be nice, attentive, romantic, ambitious, caring for me, buying me presents, taking me on trips... But I guess it's not your fault...I think no man can be that perfect...
7. Frank: Well, for starters, thanks to our argument, you'll be able to take advantage of my cooking talents tonight!
8. Corinne: Ahem! I'm still angry at you, so I'd like you to not make too many jokes about this tonight!
9. Frank: Whoa, yeah, I'll avoid those.

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
éviter	to avoid	verb
talent	talent	noun
entrepreneur	entreprising, pushing	adjective
attentionné	thoughtful, considerate	adjective
consacrer	to dedicate	verb
faire plaisir	to please	verb

immédiatement	right now, immediately	adverb
la lessive	laundry	noun
sauvegarder	to save	verb
en ligne	online	adjective

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>J'évite les ruelles sombres la nuit.</b> "I avoid dark streets at night."	<b>Ce jeune homme a vraiment du talent.</b> "This young guy really has talent."
<b>Mon frère est très entreprenant avec les filles.</b> "My brother is very ambitious with the girls."	<b>Il est beau, grand et attentionné.</b> "He's handsome, tall and considerate."
<b>Tu te consacres sérieusement à ta carrière.</b> "You are seriously dedicating yourself to your career."	<b>Il aime faire plaisir aux gens.</b> "He likes to please people."
<b>Range ta chambre immédiatement!</b> "Clean up your room immediately!"	<b>Je fais ma lessive une fois par semaine.</b> "I do my laundry once a week."
<b>J'ai oublié de sauvegarder ma partie!</b> "I forgot to save my game!"	<b>Je suis en ligne sur le chat!</b> "I'm online on chat."
<b>J'ai acheté cette jupe en ligne. Elle te plaît ?</b> "I bought this skirt online. Do you like it?"	

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

***immédiatement***

This word means "right now." *Tout de suite* is a word with a similar meaning. *Tout de suite* is more casual, and *immédiatement* has a more polite feeling. Because of this polite aspect, when you use *immédiatement* with the imperative form, it becomes quite an authoritative order.

### For Example:

1. *Envoyez-moi ce dossier immédiatement, Alain.*  
"Send me this file immediately, Alain."
2. *Nous fûmes immédiatement soulagés.*  
"We were immediately relieved."

### ***faire plaisir***

*Faire plaisir* literally translates to "to make pleased," and we can more accurately translate it as "to please." But despite what may appear to be a moderate tone, it has a very positive connotation and can take on the meaning "to make somebody happy," not in the broader sense but in the sense of someone doing something nice for you.

### For Example:

1. *Ton cadeau m'a vraiment fait plaisir.*  
"Your gift really made me happy."
2. *Une bière après le travail, ça fait toujours plaisir!*  
"A beer after work: it's always a pleasure!"

### ***attentionné***

This word means "attentive," "caring," or "thoughtful," and we use it pretty much the way you think we might.

### For Example:

1. *C'est le genre attentionné, qui n'oubliera jamais ton anniversaire.*  
"He's the thoughtful type who will never forget your birthday."

One thing to be careful with is that the verb *faire attention* has a slightly different meaning, something more along the lines of "to pay attention" or "to watch out."

### For Example:

1. *Il fait attention a ne pas ennuyer son entourage.*  
"He pays attention so as to not bother his entourage."

2. *Fais attention à la marche.*  
"Watch out for the steps."

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is Using the Subjunctive Mood to Express Requests.**

*Je veux que tu arrêtes immédiatement de jouer.*

"I want you to stop playing immediately."

---

To review proper formation of the subjunctive and the situations in which we use it, you can refer to our previous lesson on its basics. Now, as this mood is an important element of French grammar, we are going to focus on specific usages of it in different lessons.

In this lesson, we take a deeper look at the verb *vouloir*. If you want somebody to do something, you have to use the subjunctive mood after this verb. In other words, *je veux que* + subjunctive (or *je ne veux pas* + subjunctive). You never use the present of the indicative after *je veux que*.

We also used *j'aimerais* in the dialogue, which is a way to form a more polite request. It's less direct than *je veux que*, but the grammar point is the same, so *j'aimerais que* is also followed by the subjunctive.

### Usage of *Vouloir* Followed by the Subjunctive

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*Je veux que* + subjunctive

For the construction of the subjunctive, refer to the introductory lesson on the subjunctive mood.

#### For Example:

1. *Je veux que tu fasses tes devoirs.*  
"I want you to do your homework."
2. *Il ne veut pas que j'aille chez lui.*  
"He doesn't want me to come to his place."

#### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *Je veux que tu arrêtes immédiatement de jouer.*  
"I want you to stop playing immediately."

2. *Je veux bien que tu joues avec tes amis en ligne.*  
"I'm ok with you playing with your friends online."
3. *J'aimerais que tu sois toujours gentil, attentionné, romantique, entreprenant, que tu prennes soin de moi, que tu m'offres des cadeaux, m'emmène en voyage...*  
"I'd like you to be always nice, attentive, romantic, ambitious, caring for me, buying me presents, taking me on trips..."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Je veux que tu saches que je t'aime.*  
"I want you to know that I love you."
2. *Il aimerait que tu fasses des efforts.*  
"He'd like you to try harder."
3. *Nous voulons que tu sois plus attentif.*  
"We want you to pay more attention."

## Language Tip

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To express that you want somebody to do something, we used *vouloir* and *aimer* in the conditional form. Of course, we can use all other verbs that have a similar meaning to these in this setting, such as *souhaiter*: *Je souhaiterais que...* means "I'd like you to..."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Who Is in Charge of the French Household?

---

French women may possibly be at an all-time high in power and authority these days, or maybe it was always this way. In any case, when you visit a French household, the odds are you won't see the man of the household barking orders but rather his wife telling him what she wants him to do right this second. Women in couples will voice their complaints clearly and pick a fight at a moment's notice. You don't hear of domestic violence, but if there ever is any, it's probably the opposite of what you'd expect.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #23

## A French Chef Whose Food You Don't Want to Eat!

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# **23**

## FRENCH

1. (at Frank and Corinne's house.)
2. Frank : Je crois que je peux être fier de moi. Quel repas, hein! Confit marin sur croustillant de légumes du jardin.
3. Corinne : Hum... je ne crois pas que tu puisses être si fier. Je t'accorde un point pour le joli nom, mais ton repas se révèle être un sandwich au thon. Je suis un peu déçue... pour un repas de réconciliation, je pense que tu peux faire un peu plus d'effort.
4. Frank : Je n'arrive pas à croire que tu puisses encore râler, j'ai passé une heure à préparer ce repas.
5. Corinne : Oui, c'est vrai. Dont 45 minutes à aller faire l'aller-retour au supermarché. D'ailleurs, pourquoi tu as mis si longtemps, c'est à 5 minutes.
6. Frank : Leur machine était cassée donc il ne pouvaient pas prendre la carte aujourd'hui. J'ai dû aller retirer et ça m'a pris du temps.
7. Corinne : Je n'imaginais pas que tu puisses rater tes excuses culinaires, en fait. Bon, ben, il ne te reste plus qu'à recommencer... allez, surprends-moi cette fois, chef!
8. Frank: Je retourne au supermarché alors.
9. Corinne: Tu peux m'acheter du lait en passant?
10. Frank: Bien sûr, autre chose?
11. Corinne: Oui, de l'alcool, en grande quantité...

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at Frank and Corinne's house)
2. Frank: I think I can be proud of myself. What a meal huh! Confit of the sea on garden vegetable pie.
3. Corinne: Hmm... I don't think you can be so proud. I'll give you a point for the pretty name, but your meal actually turns out to be a tuna sandwich. I'm a little disappointed... For an argument make-up meal, I think you could try a little harder.
4. Frank: I can't believe you can still complain... I spent an hour making this meal.
5. Corinne: Yeah, that's true. Of which forty-five minutes were spent going and coming back from the supermarket. By the way, why did you spend so much time? It's five minutes away.
6. Frank: Their machine was broken, so they couldn't take credit cards today. I had to go take out money and it took me some time.
7. Corinne: I didn't imagine that you could mess up your culinary excuses actually. Well, all you have left to do is start over... Come on, surprise me this time, chef!
8. Frank: I'll be going back to the supermarket then.
9. Corinne: Can you buy me some milk while you're at it?
10. Frank: Sure, anything else?
11. Corinne: Yes, Alcohol, lots of it...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
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culinaire	concerning the kitchen	adjective
retirer	to take off, to withdraw	adjective
râler	to complain, to grumble	verb
mettre (du temps)	to take (time)	verb
un aller-retour	round trip	noun
avoir le droit	to have the right to	verb
la réconciliation	reconciliation	noun
marin	seaside, marine	adjective
croustillant	crispy	adjective
fier	proud	adjective
		masculine

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>Tes talents culinaires sont indiscutables.</b> "Your culinary talents are unquestionable."	<b>J'ai du retirer de l'argent en urgence.</b> "I had to withdraw money in a hurry."
<b>Tu râles beaucoup ces temps-ci.</b> "You complain a lot these days."	<b>Il en a mis du temps pour arriver.</b> "He sure took time getting here."
<b>L'aller-retour en France coûte cher.</b> "The round trip to France costs a lot."	<b>Il a le droit de ne pas aimer.</b> "He has the right to not like it."
<b>Je ne l'ai plus revue malgré notre réconciliation.</b> "I haven't seen her anymore in spite of our reconciliation."	<b>J'aime beaucoup l'air marin.</b> "I like the seaside air a lot."

<b>Je préfère les chips croustillantes.</b>	<b>Je suis fier de toi.</b>
"I prefer crispy chips."	"I'm proud of you."

**Il est fier d'être français.**

"He is proud to be French."

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### **fier**

This word means "proud" and refers to someone's personality. *Être fier de quelque chose* means "to be proud of something or somebody."

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je suis fier de toi.*  
"I'm proud of you."
  
2. *C'est quelqu'un de très fier.*  
"He's a really proud person."

From *fier* we derive the noun *fierté*.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Sa réussite a toujours été une fierté pour nous.*  
"His success has always been a source of pride for us."

### **avoir le droit**

This expression means "to have the right." *Avoir le droit* is followed by the particle *de* and a verb.

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'ai le droit de ne pas vous écouter.*  
"I have the right to not listen to you."

It also takes on the sense of "to not be allowed to" when we use it in the negative form.

## For Example:

1. *Tu n'a pas le droit de regarder ton téléphone en cours.*  
"You're not allowed to look at your phone in class."

## râler

This word means "to complain" or "to grumble."

## For Example:

1. *Il me râle dessus tout le temps que ma cuisine n'est pas bonne.*  
"He's always complaining to me that my cooking isn't good."

When we use the verb without a COD as *râler sur*, we translate it as "to be mad at."

## For Example:

1. *Ca ne vaut pas la peine de râler sur elle pour ça.*  
"It's not worth getting mad at her for that."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is the Pattern of the Subjunctive Mood Following Subjective Opinion Verbs.

*Je crois que je peux être fier de moi.*  
"I think I can be proud of myself."

---

For some sentences, we can use the subjunctive and indicative mood interchangeably. But some verbs are strange: in a positive sentence, we will use the main verb in the indicative mood but in the same sentence made negative, we will conjugate that verb in the subjunctive mood. The types of verbs that follow these rules: *penser, croire, imaginer...* In other words, verbs that indicate a subjective opinion.

### Usage of Subjective Opinion Verbs in Positive and Negative Sentences

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Formation:

*Je pense que + subject + indicative form*

*Je ne pense pas que + subject + subjunctive form*

## For Example:

1. *Je pense que tu peux finir maintenant.* (indicative)  
"I think you can finish now."
  
2. *Je ne pense pas que tu puisses finir maintenant.* (subjunctive)  
"I don't think you can finish now."

## Examples From This Dialogue

---

1. *Je ne crois pas que tu puisses être si fier.*  
"I don't think you can be so proud."
  
2. *Je pense que tu peux faire un peu plus d'effort.*  
"I think you can try a little harder."

## Sample Sentences

---

1. *Je veux que tu saches que je t'aime.*  
"I want you to know that I love you."
  
2. *Il aimerait que tu fasses des efforts.*  
"He'd like you to try harder."
  
3. *Nous voulons que tu sois plus attentif.*  
"We want you to pay more attention."

## Language Tip

---

Subjective opinion verbs change moods depending on whether the sentence they are used in is positive or negative. However, the second verb in these sentences can be made negative without the overall sentence grammar changing and the mood used will depend on whether the overall sentence is positive or not (In other words, the focus is on the first verb of the sentence).

## For Example:

1. *je pense que c'est bien => je pense que ce n'est pas bien*
  
2. *je ne pense pas que ce soit bien => je ne pense pas que ce ne soit pas bien*

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

## **Who Wears the Apron in France?**

---

Men cooking is a great tradition in France, as you can tell by the number of famous male chefs with reputations around the world. Women are not particularly seen as ideal marriage partners if they have cooking skills either, and so not so many actually try their hand in the kitchen seriously until they have hungry toddlers crying at their feet. As a result, French restaurants are still more numerous than any other kind, despite France being bordered on all sides by different cultures.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #24

## The Key to a Successful Dinner in France

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## CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# **24**

## FRENCH

1. (at Frank and Corinne's house.)
2. Frank : ...alors?
3. Corinne : Ah oui là, j'avoue. Je suis surprise. C'est vraiment très très bon! Délicieux!
4. Frank : Tu en veux encore? Je crois qu'il en reste.
5. Corinne : Ah vraiment? Moi je ne crois pas qu'il y en ait encore, j'ai raclé le fond de la casserole avant. Mais je pense qu'avec encore une assiette, je serai rassasié! Ça a un goût très particulier, mais c'est excellent. Tu a un ingrédient secret, ou quoi?
6. Frank : Oui, en quelque sorte, mais je ne pense pas que je puisse te le révéler.
7. Corinne : Pourquoi? Si tu me le dis, la prochaine fois, je penserai à en acheter quand je ferai les courses.
8. Frank : Je ne suis pas sûr que tu sois prête à l'entendre, en fait.
9. Corinne : Eeh, tu m'inquiètes là. Ce soir, tu as déjà fait beaucoup d'erreurs, essaye de ne pas tout faire rater maintenant.
10. Frank : Alors il ne vaut mieux pas que je te le dise. Puis tu te sens bien là, non?
11. Corinne : Oui! Ça va de mieux en mieux!
12. Frank (tout seul) : Merci, le litre de vin que j'ai mélangé avec le plat....

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at Frank and Corinne's house)
2. Frank: ...well?
3. Corinne: Oh yeah, I have to say. I'm surprised. It's really very, very good! Delicious!
4. Frank: Do you want some more? I think there's some more.
5. Corinne: Oh, really? I don't think there's anymore. I was scraping the pan before. But I think with another plateful I'll be full! This has a very particular flavor, but it's excellent. Do you have a secret ingredient or something?
6. Frank: Yeah, kind of, but I don't think I can tell you.
7. Corinne: Why? If you tell me, next time, I'll think of buying some when I go shopping.
8. Frank: I'm not sure you're ready to hear it, actually.
9. Corinne: Eh? You're worrying me. Tonight you've made a lot of mistakes already; try not to mess everything up now.
10. Frank: Well, I'd better not tell you then. And you're feeling good now anyway, no?
11. Corinne: Yeah! I'm getting better and better!
12. Frank (tout seul): Thanks to the liter of wine I mixed into the dish...

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
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racler	to scrape	verb
rassasié	full, satisfied	adjective
ingrédient	ingredient	noun
secret	secret	noun
en quelque sorte	basically, more or less	
révéler	to reveal	verb
être prêt	to be ready	expression
rater	to miss, to fail	verb
se sentir (bien)	to feel (good)	verb
de mieux en mieux	better and better	expression

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>J'ai raclé le fond de la casserole.</b> "I scrape the bottom of the pot."	<b>Je suis rassasié.</b> "I'm full."
<b>Un bon repas, c'est d'abord de bons ingrédients.</b> "A good meal is first good ingredients."	<b>Ils ont des rendez-vous secrets depuis des mois.</b> "They've been having secret appointments for months."
<b>Quel est le secret de la vie?</b> "What is the secret of life?"	<b>Elle a en quelque sorte échouée.</b> "She basically failed."
<b>Avant de mourir, il a révélé le secret de sa recette.</b> "Before dying, he revealed the secret of his recipe."	<b>Je ne serai jamais prêt à temps.</b> "I'll never be ready on time."
<b>Tu as raté ton tir!</b> "You missed your shot!"	<b>Je me sens si bien aujourd'hui.</b> "I feel so good today."

---

**Tu fais ça de mieux en mieux.**

"You're doing this better and better."

---

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***en quelque sorte***

*En quelque sorte* is a locution that we can roughly translate as "basically, more or less" in English. The expression implies you don't particularly want to get into the details of what you are saying.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Avec ma copine, c'est en quelque sorte fini.*  
"It's more or less over with my girlfriend."
  
2. *Je fais un métier d'ingénieur, en quelque sorte.*  
"I work as an engineer, basically."

### ***se sentir***

*Se sentir* is a reflexive form of the verb *sentir*, which means "to sense" or "to feel." You can use *se sentir* to express your own condition.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Je ne me sens pas très bien aujourd'hui.*  
"I don't feel very well today."
  
2. *Tu te sens comment après avoir appris cette nouvelle?*  
"How do you feel after learning this news?"

### ***rassasié***

This word means "full" or "satiated," and we pretty much use it exclusively to speak of how full our stomach is.

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'avais très faim mais je suis rassasié maintenant.*  
"I was really hungry, but I'm full now."

People will say something like this once in a while but more popular expressions these days to say you're full seem to be *je suis rempli* ("I'm full") or *je n'ai plus faim* ("I'm not hungry anymore").

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of This Lesson Is a Review of the Usages of the Subjunctive Mood in the Present Tense.**

***Mais je ne pense pas que je puisse te le révéler.***

**"But I don't think I can tell you."**

---

This grammar point is an overall review of what we learned in previous lessons on the subjunctive mood. Let us remember the subjunctive mood expresses an action or state as something that is not yet fact and is still contingent and dependent on conditions.

The subjunctive mood is made up of four tenses, and up to now, we've only looked at the subjunctive present, the present tense of this mood.

As a reminder, here are some verbs that can be followed by verbs in the subjunctive mood: *croire, penser, souhaiter, falloir, vouloir, être sûr*,....

We can use some verbs to introduce a request, and in this case, they are followed by a subjunctive mood verb. For instance, when we use *aimer* ("to like") in the conditional form, *j'aimerais*, it becomes a request. So, we have to conjugate the verb that follows and expresses the request in the subjunctive.

When we use *valoir* ("to be worth") in the form *Il vaut mieux que* ("it would be better if" or "you'd better..."), it follows the same pattern.

### For Example:

1. *J'aimerais que tu me dises tout.*  
"I would like you to tell me everything."
2. *Il vaut mieux que nous n'y allions pas.*  
"We'd better not go there."

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *Je ne crois pas qu'il y en ait encore.*  
"I don't think there are anymore."
2. *Je ne suis pas sûr que tu sois prête à l'entendre.*  
"I'm not sure you're ready to hear it."

## Sample Sentences

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1. *Tu es sûr que tu m'aimes?*  
"Are you sure you love me?"
2. *C'est mieux que tu partes maintenant.*  
"It's better for you to leave now."
3. *Je ne pense pas que ça vaille le coup.*  
"I don't think it's worth it."

## Language Tip

---

The subjunctive, though we use it quite often, remains a rather polite verb form, and when speaking with friends, we do not use it quite as often as some more simple sentence patterns. Here are some examples of common replacements for the subjunctive (including taking the verb out of the sentence altogether).

### For Example:

1. *J'ai besoin que tu ailles m'acheter du lait au magasin, s'il te plaît.*

2. *Il vaut mieux que tu y ailles demain.*

3. *Il faut que tu travailles plus.*

Of course, there are situations where even in informal conversations, we prefer the subjunctive. It can be quite convincing, especially when you are trying to make a point.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Do Ladies Drink in France?

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On a comparative scale, French women would probably rank as fairly weak in alcohol tolerance. Most girls avoid drinking many types of liquor, such as beer or stronger beverages, altogether. Wine as a national product is obviously a favorite though, and people use it extensively in French cooking as well.

## LESSON NOTES

# Upper Intermediate S1 #25 Doing Some Complicated Calculations in France

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- 2 French
- 2 English
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- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 8 Cultural Insight

# **25**

## FRENCH

1. (at Nicolas' house.)
2. Nicolas : Dis, Papa! C'est quoi l'animal le plus grand du monde?
3. Papa : Euh... c'est sûrement l'hippopotame.
4. Nicolas : L'hippopotame? Mais Papa, l'éléphant est plus grand que l'hippopotame! Ça ne peut pas être l'hippopotame.
5. Papa : Ah ben, tu l'as dis alors! C'est l'éléphant. Oui, tu as raison, l'éléphant est au moins aussi grand que l'hippopotame. Ah, et dans la mer, c'est la baleine, le plus gros des animaux.
6. Nicolas : Et le plus rapide? Le guépard? La panthère? Le chien?
7. Papa : Ahah, non ce n'est pas le chien. C'est le guépard! Là, j'en suis sûr!
8. Nicolas : Aah, merci Papa. Et aussi, je veux savoir... Est-ce qu'il y a plus de mammifères que de reptiles sur Terre ? Je compte sur toi, Papa. Tu es mon modèle, mon héros, tu te trompes jamais, hein ?
9. Papa : Ahaha, mais bien sûr. Alors laisse-moi réfléchir. Il y a autant de mammifères que d'insectes, et plus d'insectes que d'oiseaux. Mais d'un autre côté, il y a moins d'animaux marins que de plantes. Les plantes sont aussi bien aquatiques que terrestres, 6 fois 9, je retiens 12...
10. Nicolas : Papa ??? ça va?
11. Papa : Si l'on applique le théorème de Pythagore et que l'on retranche les singes...
12. Nicolas : Maman!!! J'ai cassé Papa!

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at Nicolas' house)
2. Nicolas: Hey, Dad! What's the biggest animal in the world?
3. Papa: Uh... It must be the hippopotamus.
4. Nicolas: The hippopotamus? But Dad, the elephant is bigger than the hippopotamus! It can't be the hippopotamus.
5. Papa: Well, you said it! It's the elephant. Yeah, you're right, the elephant is at least as big as the hippopotamus. Ah, and in the sea, the whale is the biggest animal.
6. Nicolas: And the fastest? The cheetah? The panther? The dog?
7. Papa: Ah, ah, no, it's not the dog. It's the cheetah! This time I'm sure!
8. Nicolas: Ah, thanks, Dad. And also, I wanted to know...are there more mammals on Earth or reptiles? I'm counting on you, Dad. You're my role model and my hero, and you're never wrong, right?
9. Papa: Ha ha, but of course. So let me think. There are as many mammals as insects and more insects than birds. But on the other hand, there are fewer aquatic animals than plants. Plants are aquatic and land-based, six times nine minus twelve...
10. Nicolas: Dad, are you ok?
11. Papa: If you apply the Pythagorean theorem and retract the monkeys...
12. Nicolas: Mom! I broke Dad!

## VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
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retrancher	to subtract	verb
un théorème	theorem	noun
retenir	to retain, to hold back	verb
aquatique	aquatic	adjective
un mammifère	mammal	noun
un modèle	model, role model	noun
une panthère	panther	noun
l'hippopotame	hippopotamus	noun
l'éléphant	elephant	noun
avoir raison	to be right	phrasal verb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<b>J'ai retranché tous tes bonus mensuels pour faire le calcul.</b>  "I subtracted all your monthly bonuses to make the calculation."	<b>Le théorème de Pythagore est le plus célèbre.</b>  "Pythagoras theorem is the most famous one."
<b>Pour réussir cette opération, tu dois retenir 1 ici.</b>  "To complete this operation, you have to retain 1 here."	<b>L'été, c'est le moment des activités aquatiques.</b>  "Summer is the time for water activities."
<b>Les mammifères produisent du lait.</b>  "Mammals produce milk."	<b>C'était un modèle pour nous tous.</b>  "He was a role model for us all."
<b>Whao ! Regarde ce combat ! La panthère attaque l'hippopotame mais l'éléphant le protège !</b>  "Whao ! Look at the fight ! The panther is attacking the hippopotamus but the elephant is protecting it!"	<b>L'hippopotame a l'air gros mais sa masse est en fait surtout faite de muscles.</b>  "The hippopotamus looks fat but its mass is actually mostly made of muscle."

<p><b>L'éléphant m'a l'air d'un paisible animal.</b></p> <p>"The elephant looks like a peaceful animal to me."</p>	<p><b>Tu as toujours raison.</b></p> <p>"You're always right."</p>
--	--

**Tu as raison, il fait vraiment froid aujourd'hui!**

"You are right, it's really cold today!"

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

### ***avoir raison***

This verb means "to be right" or "to be correct."

#### **For Example:**

1. *J'ai raison de dire que tu ne travailles pas, non?*  
"I'm correct in saying you're not working, right?"

We often use it to acknowledge the other party's reasoning.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Oui, je comprends, tu as tout à fait raison.*  
"Yes, I understand, you are totally right."

### ***modèle***

In its usage in this dialogue, this word is not "model" in the sense of "fashion model" but somebody or something that is seen as an ideal or a source of inspiration.

#### **For Example:**

1. *Michael Jordan est un modèle pour tous les basketteurs.*  
"Michael Jordan is a model for all basketball players."
2. *Mon modèle, c'est mon père.*  
"My father is my role model."

We can also use it as an adjective.

## For Example:

1. *Cette fille est une élève modèle.*  
"This girl is a model student."

## retenir

In this dialogue, this word meant to "to hold back" and was used as a term that we use in mathematics when you keep a certain number to use it later. But a more common meaning of this word is "to keep," "to retain," or "to hold back."

## For Example:

1. *Il voulait se battre contre eux mais elle l'a retenu.*  
"He wanted to fight against them, but she held him back."

We also commonly use it as "to memorize."

## For Example:

1. *Je dois retenir trente pages pour demain.*  
"I have to memorize thirty pages for tomorrow."

## GRAMMAR

### The Focus of This Lesson Is the Usage of Comparisons.

*Mais papa, l'éléphant est plus grand que l'hippopotame!*

"But Dad, the elephant is bigger than the hippopotamus!"

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In today's grammar point, we look at some nuances of the basic comparative pattern [A - verb] - *plus* - adjective - *que* [B], which means "A is more adjective than B." *Plus que* means "more than," and we can also use *moins que* ("less than"). In the case of amounts, *autant de* [A] *que de* [B] expresses that the quantity of A and B is the same.

If the subject is the same and the speakers want to state something with two adjectives, we can use [Subject] *est aussi bien* [Adjective 1] *que* [Adjective 2]. This *aussi bien* means the same thing as "and" but emphasizes that having both mentioned qualities is notable.

### Usage of Comparisons

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Summary:

[A verb] *PLUS* [adjective] *QUE* [B] ("more than")

[A verb] MOINS [adjective] QUE [B] ("less than")

[A verb] AUSSI [adjective] QUE [B] ("as...as")

Il y a AUTANT DE A QUE DE [B] ("as much as," "as many as")

[A verb] AUSSI BIEN [adjective 1] QUE [adjective 2] ("...and...")

### For Example:

1. *Je suis plus grand que toi et donc, tu es moins grand que moi.*  
"I'm taller than you and therefore you're less tall than I am."
2. *Il y a autant de pastèques que de melons.*  
"There are as many watermelons as melons."
3. *Cette femme est aussi belle qu'intelligente.*  
"This woman is as beautiful as she is smart."

### Examples From This Dialogue

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1. *L'éléphant est au moins aussi grand que l'hippopotame.*  
"The elephant is at least as big as the hippopotamus."
2. *Il y a autant de mammifères que d'insectes, et plus d'insectes que d'oiseaux.*  
"There are as many mammals as insects and more insects than birds."
3. *Les plantes sont aussi bien aquatiques que terrestres.*  
"Plants are aquatic as well as terrestrial."

### Sample Sentences

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1. *C'est aussi bien long que dur.*  
"It's as long as it is hard."
2. *Il y a autant d'amour que de haine dans son regard.*  
"His look bears both hate and love."
3. *Ces livres sont moins intéressants que ceux de la dernière fois.*  
"These books are less interesting than the ones from last time."

### Language

## Tip

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When you hear a French conversation, you will have to be attentive to properly understand when someone is making a comparison because the French speak very quickly. The *que* particle is in particular made very short and will sound more like *qu*.

### For Example:

1. *Il y a plus de fleurs ici que dans le champ.*  
In rapid conversation: *Il y a plus de fleurs ici qu'dans le champ.*
  
2. *Il y a plus de chiens que de chats dans le quartier.*  
In rapid conversation: *Il y a plus de chiens qu'eud' chats dans le quartier.*

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Are French Dads Homebodies?

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In another hypothetical global comparison scale, French fathers would most often be described as quite homely, with fairly lenient work schedules allowing them to spend a decent amount of time with their children every day, which they consider a priority. Rather than playing cards for money on a Saturday night with his pals, there are better odds that Dad is playing cards for candy stakes with his kids.



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LEVEL  
8



# French

## Upper Intermediate



*Unabridged Edition*

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