

Learning French

Learn French
in 15 Min a Day

and Enjoy Your Vacation to Paris



The CityGuideMethod®
for Learning FRENCH Easy, Fast & Fun
PATRICK DRAKE

PRAISE FOR
“Learning French:
Learn French in 15 Min a Day and Enjoy Your Vacation to Paris”

"We are planning a trip to France and I always look for little primers on the language and country before taking a trip. This little book was perfect for what I was looking for. Not only is it a mini-tour guide but it's also a language primer all in one. Normally I have to purchase one book on the language and another on the country or city I am visiting.

Not only does the author tell you what you are going to learn but also HOW you will learn. This is different and made the book very appealing to me. Then when I read you can learn enough of the language in just 15 minutes a day I knew this was a book I wanted.

No spending hours a day memorizing a language. I usually quit after a week or two of that.

When the author gives you a word to learn it's spelled the way you would pronounce it. How many times have you looked at a word in another language with no clue how to pronounce it. This can save you hours by itself. I see now how you can learn in only 15 minutes a day. You start with words and phrases and then formulate them into sentences. Pretty standard.

Just to hit on a few things you will learn about the language...How to say greetings and when to use them, How to introduce yourself, Manners and numbers and How to make small talk. These are all very helpful when trying to make friends. Of course no language primer would be worth its salt without chapters on using pronouns, verbs and adjectives. That part is a little boring to me but if you want to really learn the language and use it, you need to know these.

Now the part I really like about the book... Places to visit and explore in Paris. The books has indoor attractions as well as outdoor attractions. Also places to eat. Oh yes my favorite. You will want to get a copy of The Michelin Guide. A great tip from the author.

Here is what I think sets this little book apart. I am no expert on places to eat and visit in Paris but the author gives places that seem to be "out of the way places." I love this. Get away from the main tourist places. There is also a chapter on how to get around in Paris. If you are like me you know you will get lost. On purpose

maybe!

All in all this is a very fast read but that's not what it's for. Remember use it 15 minutes each day before your trip. Your trip will be much easier when you are able to communicate with the locals in their language. Then you will truly find the best little restaurants and places to visit." - **M Norris**

"I am traveling to Paris for New Years. Learn French has always been a dream, and now that I am visiting the city I committed myself to learn the language once and for all.

I was looking for a reliable tool to help me in this journey. I have purchased many other books in the past and already spent a lot of money on those languages software. NO other book has helped me as much as "Enjoy Your Vacation to Paris"

I was really impressed its content. Besides teaching you basic French (for real) this book works as a cultural and touristic guide.

It's my book of choice to accompany me on my trip to Paris!" - **Anna V**

"This book is perfect for learning conversational French, and the basics of the language itself. Unlike most language learning books, Enjoy your Vacation to Paris: French Easy, Fast, & Fun provides helpful and interesting insight about France and French culture.

Whereas most language learning books provide dry grammar lessons, this book provides practical information every Francophile should know. Another area in which this book excels is in the area of pronunciation.

Instead of leaving the reader without any pronunciation help after the first few chapters this book provides phonetic translations of all French terms through the book. Highly recommended!" - **Zeke Silva**

"Bought this for my daughter's Kobo, as she's heading to Paris for a school trip, and knows even less French than me. Read it to see if it was worth the price, and was pleasantly surprised to find that not only does it teach you some basics of

the French language and how to speak it, it also contains a bunch of helpful links to things to see and do and places to eat in the city.

Its way is more helpful than a regular old French-English dictionary or phrase book, and for this price, I doubt you can get much better than what it's offering. You're probably going to have to have a basic understanding of how to read phonetics, but other than that, it seems like a great old school way to pick up some French." - **Cole Fournier**

"I'm planning a trip to Paris in a couple of months and was looking for a travel guide and a French language book, when I came upon this title.

With just 15 minutes a day you can learn French. It starts off with the basics - French vowels and consonants and how they should be pronounced. Then you move on to basic greetings, introducing yourself, and then onto numbers and an understanding of French grammar so you can properly speak to someone.

This book also gives you the phonetic pronunciations of words and an understanding of the French accent. While you're learning the language, points of interest are mentioned so it also serves as a travel guide.

If you need a book that does it all this is the one to pick." - **Alex (Florida)**

"Really awesome book that explains in a focused way how to learn the French language fast, as well as how to navigate and find the best locations to visit while there. I will be visiting Paris in a few months and this book came in quite handy. Very good methods and well researched information.

I am glad I found it. Highly recommended." - **Ashley C.**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Patrick Drake was always attracted to learn a foreign language. "I love traveling and knowing more people and expand my social skills, so for me, studying a foreign language such as French, Spanish, *etc.* improved my communicating skills." he said.

Since 2005, Patrick has become a fluent speaker of nine languages. His experience and his skills were translated to a new method for learning foreign languages: The **CityGuideMethod®** for learning foreign languages easy, fast & fun”.

Patrick's books were designed for any traveler to learn the foreign language while enjoying the life and culture. With his learning guides, you would only spend 15 minutes a day to learn basic grammar and vocabulary, while learning how to navigate through the City and be informed about the best destinations in the most romantic places in the world.

Thousands of students all around the world have been successful with the **CityGuideMethod®** for learning foreign languages easy, fast & fun.

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Learning French:

**Learn French in 15 Min a Day
and Enjoy Your Vacation to Paris**

**The CityGuideMethod®
for Learning French Easy, Fast & Fun**

By

Patrick Drake

Part 1

Introduction

How Are You Going to Learn French?

Bonjour!

Introduction

I want to thank you and congratulate you for downloading the book, “*Learn French in 15 Min a Day and Enjoy Your Vacation to Paris: The CityGuideMethod® for Learning French Easy, Fast & Fun*”.

This book is designed for any traveler to learn the French language while enjoying the Parisian life and culture. With this book, you would only spend 15 minutes a day to learn basic grammar and French vocabulary, while learning how to navigate through Paris and be informed about the best destinations in the most romantic city in the world.

Learn how to pronounce French words and get a better grasp at French grammar while you explore great city attractions. At the same time, this book will teach you how you can immediately start conversations, ask for directions, order in a restaurant, and ask for assistance in French. You will also learn different customs and traditions of the French in this book, which would allow you to save yourself from unnecessary embarrassment while travelling to a French-speaking country. That means that this book serves as your ultimate survival guide in Paris!

If you are already in Paris or planning to head to this city without any knowledge of the French language, then this is the right book for you. This book is guaranteed to make your trip to Paris hassle-free and memorable.

Enjoy your French, enjoy your vacation,
Patrick Drake

Is The French Language Hard to Learn?

Hello there, tourist. You have probably picked up this book because you are bound to go to Paris or you are already right in the middle of the city. Congratulations! You did pick up the book that can help you survive your entire trip.

To answer the question, the French language can be daunting for some, especially for those who has little to no knowledge of this language.

However, if you are bound to stay in Paris for a considerable amount of time, say 90 days, you can definitely be fluent in spoken and written French as long as you practice and learn something new every day.



What makes a language difficult?

economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2013/08/economist-explains-19

Am I too old to learn a new language?

theguardian.com/education/2014/sep/13/am-i-too-old-to-learn-a-language

What Is The Hardest Language To Learn?

zidbits.com/2011/04/what-is-the-hardest-language-to-learn

Fact: You Probably Already Know Some French

Contrary to popular belief, most Americans do know a good number of French words and phrases. For example, the term *a la mode*, and *bon appétit* sure sounds very familiar. More examples:

accident
avenue
attention
arrivée - arrive
boutique
danger
déjà vu
direct
direction
hotel
musée – museum
police
parc - park
Train

taxi

voyeur

So in learning French, and actually surviving the initial conversations in this foreign language, you can make use of a lot of context clues. The reason being is that there are a lot of English and French terms that are alike or same in meaning and spelling.

Why 15 Minutes?

If you think that you can cram when learning a language, you are wrong. You cannot possibly retain all the information in this book and have practical use for them if you are aiming to learn and use them in one go.

What would happen instead is that you would revert back to the old French phrases that you know, and like what they say, you would be lost in translation.

No, you do not have to enroll in a school and earn a degree again to learn it. All you need is to study for 15 minutes every day.

Actually, if you want to master any foreign language, all you need to do is to learn something new every day and spend some practice time, which you can both do within 15 minutes.



[How to Learn Any Language:](http://www.wikihow.com/Learn-Any-Language)
www.wikihow.com/Learn-Any-Language

How Are You Going to Learn?

This book is divided in different chapters that will guide you to usage of different French words and phrases in different situations.

At the same time, this book shall also serve as a city guide for you in Paris. In short, you are hitting two birds with one stone with this book: you are not only going to learn where you should go in this romantic city, you are also going to know how you can enjoy your vacation by learning the French culture and language.

For that reason, make sure that you bookmark this book according to your itinerary and the lessons that you want to master per day.

However, in order for you to be a legitimate Francophile and Francophone in no time at all, pay special attention to the first chapter, which will teach you the rudiments of the language. You will learn why English and French are similar yet so different in so many ways.

Make sure that you go back to the first chapter whenever you are having difficulty remembering special pronunciation and spelling rules. Most of your learning time would depend on that.

All the French words in this book would be in italics so you can spot them immediately. To help you out in your conversations, there is also a mini French – English dictionary towards the end of this book.

What Else Are You Going To Need?

In order for you to master the French language quickly, you would need 3 things to bring with you on your travels: 1. A good French phrasebook and dictionary
2. Any mobile recorder

3. A notebook

These three things would ensure that you add more words and phrases to your vocabulary and also allow you to practice on your own.

European languages do place special emphasis on pronunciation so you would definitely want to take note of how you speak the language as you progress.

You would also want to take notes of how other people use different phrases based on occasion and have a recording of how French native speakers go with conversations.

Are you now ready to be a Francophone?

Let's start by learning the French Language basics.

Bonne chance!

Part 2

How the French language works?

Introducing the French Sounds and Alphabet

à é î ã

Introducing the French Sounds and Alphabet

Even before you speak and write the French language, it is important that you familiarize yourself with how this language works. For example, you might be very curious why people read the word Paris without the “s” sound. As you expect, the French language has some distinct rules. For starters, their alphabet sounds slightly different from the English alphabet.

The French Vowels Vowels in the French language have different variations in spelling and pronunciation. To serve as a guide, here is how you write and speak them: a, â, à - pronounced as ah – sounds like card example: *tasse* (cup), *là-bas* (over there) e, eu – pronounced as uh – sounds like dull example: *la fleur* (flower)

é, ez, er – pronounced as ey – sounds like clay example: *le nez* (nose), *café* (coffee house)

è, ê, ai, ei, et – pronounced as eh – sounds like bet example: *fenêtre* (window), *neige* (snow)

i, î, y – pronounced as ee – sounds like feet example: *vite* (quickly), *pays* (country) o, ô, au, eau – pronounced as oh – sounds like boat example: *l'eau* (water), *aujourd'hui* (today)

o – pronounced as ohh – sounds like love example: *pomme* (apple)

ou, où – pronounced as ooh – sounds like you example: *où* (where) *rouge* (red)

oi, oy – pronounced as wa – sounds like watch example: *bonsoir* (good evening)

u – pronounced as ew – no equivalent in English example: *salut* (hello)

Special rule: In the French language, there is such a thing as the mute e, which happens when the letter e occurs between two consonants or at the end of the word. When you say *grande*, you do not pronounce the letter e at the end. That means that if you are ordering a large drink, just say GRAHN.

The Nasal Sounds

You are probably quite familiar with the French accent thanks to their very characterizing nasal sound. Just imagine that you have a cold and then trying to say the sounds of ah, un, and oh.

Here is a list of French nasal sounds and their closest approximation in English:
an, am, en, em – pronounced as ahN, sounds like fond example: l'enfant (child)
grand (large)

un – pronounced as uhN – sounds like uncle example: brun (brown)

ain, in, aim, im – pronounced as aN – sounds like slang example: matin (morning), impossible (impossible)

oin – pronounced as waN – sounds like wang example: loin (far)

ien – pronounced as yaN – sounds like Yankee example: bien (good)

on, om – pronounced as ohN – sounds like wrong example: bonne nuit (goodnight)

The Consonants

French consonants are not that troublesome – they commonly sound as their counterparts in the English language, except that they sound softer. You also avoid lingering on them. For that reason, you say them quickly, but make sure that you enunciate.

The only tough consonant is the letter R, which is pronounced from the back of your throat, as if you are gurgling and you are trying to make a soft sound. Practice would also make perfect.

Another special characteristic of the French language is that you do not normally pronounce the consonants at the end of most words. Look at the previous example: grande is pronounced as GRAHN.

Of course, there are some exceptions to this rule. If the consonants c, f, l, or r are at the end of the word, then you would need to pronounce it. So in Paris (Pareeh), you are required to say chic (sheek) for stylish, cher (shehr) for expensive, and avril (ah-vreel) for April.

Learning the French Accent

You may have noticed that French uses special accents and special characters. Grammarians normally call these diacritical marks, however, it does not mean that these accented vowels mean that those syllables are stressed.

To understand how French words are pronounced, you would need to observe these rules on accents: 1.

l'accent grave

(lah-ksahN grahv)

- the grave accent This accent appears on top of the letters a, e, and u, but it only affects the sound of the letter e. That makes the the é sound like an eh, as in the English word set.

2. *l'accent aigu*

(lah-ksahN-tey-gew)

- the sharp accent.

This accent appears on top of the e, and makes the é sound like the a in the English word take.

3. *l'accent circonflexe*

(lah-ksahN seehr-kohN-flehks)

- circumflex accent When you see this accent (^) appear above any vowel, it represents a letter removed from the French word, but remains in the English word. For example: *l'arrêt* (lah-reh), which is “arrest” in English.

4. **la cédille**

(lah sey-deey)

- the cedilla This accent is the mark that appears under the letter c, which means that you need to pronounce the letter like an s.

5. **le tréma**

(luh trey-mah)

- dieresis This accent (¨) tells that you need to pronounce the vowels in the word separately.



How to fake a convincing French accent?

[wikihow.com/Fake-a-Convincing-French-Accent](https://www.wikihow.com/Fake-a-Convincing-French-Accent)



a. Learn how to do a French accent from voice and speech coach Andrea Caban

[howcast.com/videos/500502-How-to-Do-a-French-Accent-Accent-Training](https://www.howcast.com/videos/500502-How-to-Do-a-French-Accent-Accent-Training)

b. How to speak with a French accent [youtube.com/watch?v=4YtMC4yUDhc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YtMC4yUDhc)



Choose the FRENCH language, type your text in your selected language then click on "say it". [frenchspanishonline.com/voice.html](https://www.frenchspanishonline.com/voice.html)



Type French accents without a French keyboard [french.typeit.org](https://www.french.typeit.org)

Liaisons and Elisions

When you listen to entire French conversations, you might notice that everything sounds like they are in a single, long word. This is because of the liaison, which means that the last consonant of a word is connected to the vowel that starts the following word.

Elisions, on the other hand, means that when a word ends with an e, that e is going to be dropped from the word and is replaced by an apostrophe. That also means that the first word is going to be pronounced as if it is connected to the second word.

With these two rules of the French language, everything sounds fluid. That may be the reason why they call the French accent a romantic one.

This might all be too much for one sitting, so you'll learn more about pronunciation rules as you travel around Paris.

For now, it's time to enter your first language classroom in this romantic city – the lovely Parisian streets.

Part 3

Greetings and Some Small Talk

How to Greet Someone
and Make Small Talk Naturally in French?



Greetings in French

Now that you are in Paris, one of the first things that you would probably want to do is take a walk around this lovely city.

For starters, you would want to meet up with your tour guide or your French friend and go for a walk in the Boulevard Saint-Michel and grab some bagels for breakfast. Well, wait, you do not know how to greet someone in French yet.



Boulevard Saint-Michel

[youtube.com/watch?v=Hi--sEoOEv4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hi--sEoOEv4)

Ways to Say Hello

In French, you say your greetings in three ways:

1. **Bonjour!**

(bohN-zhoohr)

This word literally means good day, and is a standard greeting to use during mornings to afternoon. As long as the sun still shines, this is the greeting that you are supposed to use.

2. **Bonsoir!**

(bohN-swahr) This means good evening, and is appropriate to use during late afternoons to evenings. Just like in English, you can use this to say hello and goodbye during the evening.

3. **Salut!**

(sah-lew) This is an informal hi or hello, and also a very casual way of saying goodbye. You would want to only use it to greet the people you are very familiar with, or when you are talking to children.

Ways to Say Goodbye

Like in English, the French has many ways of saying farewell. Here are the most commonly used terms:

1. ***Bonne journée!***

(bohhn zhoohr-ney!)

(Have a nice day!)

2. ***Bonne nuit!***

(bohhn nwee!)

(Good night!)

3. ***Au revoir!***

(ohr-vwahr!)

(Good-bye!)

4. ***Salut!***

(sah-lew)

– Hi!

5. ***A bientôt!***

(ah byaN-toh!)

(See you soon!)

6. ***A demain!***

(ah duh-maN!)

(See you tomorrow!)

7. ***A tout à l'heure!***

(ah tooh-tah luhr!)

(See you later!)

Some Small Talk If your French friend asked, “*Comment Ça va?*” that means “how are you” in formal French. He can also ask “*Comment allez-vous?*” which has the same meaning. If you hear “*Ça va?*” that is the rather informal version of the question, which literally means “is it going?” It sure does sound weird in English, but you get the point.

Of course, you would not want to go into details and talk about your personal life or your work using the French language, at least not at this point.

When you want to simply just go on with your silent sightseeing near the gates of Louvre, then you would want to say the following:

Formal French:

Je vais bien, merci.

(zhuh veh byaN, mehr-see.)

(I am well, thank you.)

Casual French:

Ça va!

(sah vah!)

– Fine!

Bien, merci!

(byaN, mehr-see)

– Fine, thank you!

Très bien, merci!

(treh byaN, mehr-see)

- I'm very fine, thank you!

Pas mal!

(pah mahl)

- Not bad!

Ça va bien!

(sah vah byaN)

– I'm great!

Ça va très bien!

(sah vah treh byaN)

– I'm doing very well!

Add “*Et vous*” (formal)

or “*Et toi*” (informal)

and you are essentially saying: “I’m fine, thank you. And you?”

If you want to answer negatively, or say that you are not feeling that well today, you can say the following: ***Je ne vais pas très bien aujourd’hui***

(zhuhn veh pah treh byaN oh-zhoohr-dwee)

– I do not feel very well today

Making Introductions If you are done eating street food right outside Louvre gates, which is bustling with numerous patisseries and bakeshops, you would want to enter right inside one of finest art galleries in this planet, and also, the former residence for kings. Louvre Museum cannot be missed.

If you want to check out events, check out www.louvre.fr . If you are touring, you would definitely want to make this area your landmark for meet-ups.



louvre.fr

Now that you know how to say hello and goodbye in French, it's time for you to learn how to introduce yourself and others.

If you are travelling in a group, or would need to meet up with someone, this is one of the first skills that you have to know.

Introducing Yourself You do not really say something like “My name is” in French. They instead use the reflexive form of the verb **appeler** (ahp-ley), which means “to call.”

To introduce yourself, you may use **je m’appelle** (zhuh mah-pehl), which literally means “I call myself”.

You may also say **Je suis** (zhuh swee), which means “I am.”

Introducing Others

If you need to introduce someone to a French monsieur or madame, you can use the following.

Formal: Je vous présente

(zhuh vooch prey-zahNt)

(Let me introduce . . .to you.) (formal) **Informal Voici . . . /Voilà . . .**

(vwah-see. . . /vwah-lah. . .)

(Here is . . . /There is . . .)

Je te présente . . .

(zhuh tuh prey-zahNt. . .)

(Let me introduce . . . to you.)

After you make introductions, the French normally says **Enchanté!** (if male) or **Enchantée** (if female), which means “delighted.”

If you want to know the name of the person you are talking to, you say “**Comment vous appelez-vous?**” or if you want to ask informally, you can say “**Comment tu t’appelles?**” or “**Comment t’appelles-tu?**” They all mean “What’s your name?”

However, if you want to ask someone’s name, you can say

“**Qui est-ce?**”

(who is that?),

Lui, qui est-ce?

(Who is he?),

or

Elle, qui est-ce?

(Who is she?) Now that you got all these covered, you can be sure that you can enjoy your trip and ensure that you know everybody’s names!

A Bit about French Greeting Culture

The French are known for being a bit touchy, which you may find a bit odd. However, do not feel offended or awkward when someone offers you too many handshakes.

The French are very expressive when it comes to appreciation, and they even do handshakes with the people they see every day once in the morning and once in the evening.

When you are casual acquaintances with the French, expect to also get a peck in the cheek from both men and women, and they may expect a kiss back.

When you go out with a French family for dinner and it's time to say goodbye, the parents may tell their kids to –

Dites bonsoir à tout le monde

(deet bohN-swahr ah tooh luh mohNd)

(Say good evening to everyone).

That means that the kids are required to give a kiss to everyone, and they would be expecting a kiss back.



How to Air Kiss
[wikihow.com/Air-Kiss](http://www.wikihow.com/Air-Kiss)



Kissing in French
pretemoiparis.com/2011/12/kissing-in-french



French social kissing
youtube.com/watch?v=dwm2xNCorXE

Talking About Yourself

When you want to make new friends here in Paris, one of the things that you would need to do is to ask your acquaintances something about themselves, and also tell stories about you that they might find interesting. They might also ask you what you do for a living, or what your family is like.

Introducing the Family

The French, like most Europeans, put family in the center of their life. For that reason, you would most likely be asked some questions about your family life. To answer them, first you need to know how to call the members of your immediate family in French:

les parents
(ley pah-rahN)
parents

la mère
(lah mehr)
mother

le père
(luh pehr)
father

le frère
(luh frehr)
brother

la soeur
(lah suhr)
sister

le mari
(luh mah-ree)
husband

les grands-parents
(ley grahN-pah-rahN)
grandparents

la grand-mère
(lah grahN-mehr)
grandmother

le grand-père
(luh grahN-pehr)
grandfather

la femme
(lah fahm)
wife

le fils
(luh fees)
son

la fille
(lah feey)
daughter

les enfants
(ley-zahN-fahN)
children

les petits-enfants
(ley puh-tee-zahN-fahN)
grandchildren

le neveu
(luh nuh-vuh)
nephew

la nièce
(lah nyehs)
niece

le cousin/la cousine
(luh kooh-zaN/lah kooh-zeen)
cousin

l'oncle (m)
(lohN-kluh)
uncle

la tante
(lah tahNt)
aunt

Now, how would you refer to relationships in a conversation?

If you need to talk about your parents and ask the other person about his wife, you would need to know what possessive adjectives are in French.

This list would come handy for this purpose:

my: Masculine singular: *mon* (mohN) Feminine singular: *ma* (mah) Plural: *mes* (mey)

your (singular) Masculine singular: *ton* (tohN) Feminine singular: *ta* (tah) Plural: *tes* (tey)

his/her Masculine singular: *son* (sohN) Feminine singular: *sa* (sah) Plural: *ses* (sey)

our Masculine singular:

notre (nohh-truh) Feminine singular:

notre (nohh-truh) Plural: *nos* (noh)

your (formal singular/ plural) Masculine singular:

votre (vohh-truh) Feminine singular:

votre (vohh-truh) Plural: *vos* (voh)

their Masculine singular:

leur (luhr) Feminine singular:

leur (luhr) Plural: *leurs* (luhr)

To indicate possession, simply add the noun after the possessive adjective.

Exception: When a feminine singular noun begins with a vowel or a silent h, remember to use the masculine possessive singular word to indicate possession.

Asking Questions

When you need to get information about someone or something, it would be good to remember these French phrases to indicate questions:

qui

(kee)

- who

qu'est-ce que

(kehs-kuh)

- what

quel(s)/quelle(s)

(kehl)

- which, what

quand

(kahN)

- when

pourquoi

(poohr-kwah)

- why

comment

(koh-mahN)

- how

combien

(kohN-byaN)

- how much

combien de

(kohN-byaN duh)

- how many

à quelle heure

(ah kehl uhr)

- at what time

You use these words or phrases on their own, just like how you do in English, or you can use them in sentences to indicate a complete inquiry.

Here are some questions that would come handy when you are trying to get to know basic information about someone:

Comment vous appelez-vous?

(koh-mahN vooh-zah-pley-vooh?)

- What's your name?

Quel est son prénom?

(kehl-eh sohN prey-nohN?)

- What's his/her first name?

Qui est-ce?

(kee ehs?)

- Who is it?

Comment s'appelle . . . ?

(koh-mahN sah-pehl. . . ?)

- What's . . . name?

Quel âge avez-vous?

(kehl-ahzh ah-vey-vooh?)

How old are you? (formal or plural)

Où habitez-vous?

(ooh ah-bee-tey-vooh?)

- Where do you live? (formal or plural)

Observing Your Manners

When you are talking to your French acquaintances and friends, always remember to mind your manners and aim to be always polite. Not only would that guarantee you a more warm welcome in their country, you also become a desirable person that is worthy of being a friend. While you are in this city, make sure that you use these expressions as often as you can.

S'il vous plaît.

(seel vooh pleh.)

- Please.

Pardon/Excusez-moi.

(pahr-dohN/eks-kew-zey-mwah.)

- Excuse me.

Ce n'est pas grave!

(suh neh pah grahv!)

- That's okay!

De rien.

(duh ryahN.)

- You're welcome. (Literally: It's nothing.)

Je vous en prie.

(zhuh vooh-zahN pree.)

- You are welcome.

Since you are learning their language, you would often think that the person that you are talking to is speaking too fast, or that you are having a hard time trying to decipher some of the words. Instead of blanking out and having a weird expression, use the following expressions instead to help yourself out.

Un moment, s'il vous plaît.

(uhN moh-mahN, seel vooh pleh.)

- One moment, please.

Pouvez-vous parler plus lentement, s'il vous plaît?

(pooh-vey-vooh pahrley plew lahNt-mahN, seel vooh pleh?)

- Can you speak more slowly, please?

Pouvez-vous répéter, s'il vous plaît?

(pooh-vey-vooh rey-pey-tey seel vooh pleh?)

- Can you repeat, please?

If you feel that you really are lost in translation, you can use the following expressions:

Je ne comprends pas.

(zhuhn kohN-prahN pah.)

- I don't understand.

Je ne sais pas.

(zhuhn seh pah.)

I don't know.

Talking About Likes and Dislikes

As a city where art is alive, someone would ask what your favorite film or your favorite painter is. If you want to say that you like European art films, or that you hate having to be stuck in traffic, you would surely need to learn how to use verbs that indicate preferences.

Here are some of them: *préférer*

(prey-fey-rey)

- to prefer *aimer*

(eh-mey)

- to like, to love *aimer mieux*

(eh-mey myuh)

- to like better / to prefer

adorer

(ah-doh-rey)

- to adore **détester**

(dey-teh-stey)

- to hate

When telling your likes or dislikes, you can use the article **le, la,** and **les** to indicate what they are.

Here are some examples: ***Nous préférons les films étrangers.***

(nooh prey-fey-rohN ley feelm ey-trahN-zhey.)

- We prefer foreign films.

J'aime le café au lait.

(zhehm luh kah-fey oh leh.)

- I like coffee with milk.

What Do You Do?

Are you in Paris for business? If you are, then you would most probably need to introduce yourself and our profession to your new French friends. You would most likely hear these questions from them.

Qu'est-ce que vous faites dans la vie?

(kehs-kuh vooH feht dahN lah vee?)

(What do you do for a living?)

Quel est votre métier?

(kehl eh vohh-truh mey-tyey?)

(What is your profession?)

Voyagez-vous souvent pour votre travail?

(voh-yah-zhey-vooH sooh-vahN poohr vohh-truh trah-vahy?)

(Do you travel often for your job/work?)

Here is a list of some common professions that might help you answer. You may also want to familiarize yourself with them, especially if you are going to ask your French friends what their jobs are.

ingénieur

(aN-zhey-nyuhr)

- engineer

homme d'affaires/femme d'affaires

(ohhm dah-fehr/fahm dah-fehr)

- business man/business woman

architecte

(ahr-shee-tehkt) -

architect

avocat/avocate

(ah-voh-kah/ah-voh-kaht)

– lawyer ***médecin***

(meyd-saN)

– physician / doctor

serveur/serveuse

(sehr-vuhr/sehr-vuhz)

- waiter/waitress ***informaticien/informaticienne***

(aN-fohr-mah-tee-syaN/aN-fohr-mahtee-syehn)

- computer scientist

professeur

(proh-feh-suhr)

- high school teacher, college professor

retraité/retraitée

(ruh-treh-tey)

– retired

Should you want to express that you find their jobs interesting, you can say:

Votre métier est intéressant. (vohh-truh mey-tyey eh-taN-tey-reh-sahN.), which means “Your profession is interesting.”

Keep in Touch

If you want to see your new acquaintances again or if you want to know how you can reach them, you can start trading information by using the following sentences:

Où habitez-vous?

(ooh ah-bee-tey-vooh?)

- Where do you live?

Quelle est votre adresse?

(kehl eh vohh-trah-drehs?)

(What is your address?)

Donnez-moi votre numéro de téléphone.

(dohh-ney-mwah vohh-truh new-mey-roh duh tey-ley-fohhn.)

- Give me your phone number.

Donnez-moi votre l'adresse électronique / le mél

(dohh-ney-mwah vohh-truh ah-dreh- ey-lehk-troh-neek / luh meyl)

– Give me your email (address).

When you are asking for someone's e-mail address, better familiarize yourself with these terms as well:

@ sign: arobas

(ah-roh-bah), or simply à (ah)

Dot : point (pwaN)

Part 4

Telling Numbers

How to tell and write French numbers correctly?

UN * DUE * TRE *

Telling Numbers

As a tourist and a language student, it is very important that you tell and write your numbers correctly. Not only would it make life easier here in Paris, it would also save your skin when you need to wait for public transportation or ask prices in the restaurant.

A Proper Classroom for Numbers Speaking of public transport, you would definitely want to visit the **Musée d'Orsay**, or the **Orsay Museum**. This grand museum is housed in the scenic railway station, which houses some of the world's greatest sculptures and impressionist paintings. The railway, unfortunately, has already been abandoned since 1961, but thanks to government efforts, it has been converted into a museum with houses about 1500 sculptures and 2300 paintings that cover mid 19th century art collections from renowned artists like Monet, van Gogh, Renoir, and Cezanne.

If you are in the area or planning to stop by this part of Louvre soon, check out <http://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/home.html> for schedules and guided tours.



Musée d'Orsay, or the Orsay Museum
[musee-orsay.fr/en/home.html](http://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/home.html)

Counting in French

French numbers, just like the English ones, follow a particular pattern, which means that it would be just a breeze to memorize the numbers and be able to count your money in your new Parisian wallet. When learning any European language numerical system, you have to memorize how to count from *un* (uhN) to *vingt* (vaN) or one to twenty.

1 - *un* (uhN)

2 - *deux* (duh)

3 - *trois* (trwah)

4 - *quatre* (kah-truh)

5 - *cinq* (saNk)

6 - *six* (sees)

7 - *sept* (seht)

8 - *huit* (weet)

9 - *neuf* (nuhf)

10 - *dix* (dees)

11 - *onze* (ohNz)

12 - *douze* (doohz)

13 - *treize* (trehz)

14 - *quatorze* (kah-tohrz)

15 - *quinze* (kaNz)

16 - *seize* (sehz)

17 - *dix-sept* (dee-seht)

18 - *dix-huit* (deez-weet)

19 - *dix-neuf* (deez-nuhf)

20 - vingt (vaN)



Counting from 1 to 100 in French

[youtube.com/watch?v=ywIWYKamyCY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywIWYKamyCY)

Now, here is where it gets slightly complicated. Pronunciations of French numbers may differ when the number is followed by a mute h, a consonant, or a vowel.

Here are some rules that you need to remember.

1. For numbers ending in s or x, and then followed by a vowel – the last letters will make a z sound.

Examples: *trois enfants*, *deux enfants* 2. When you see that the numbers *neuf* (nuhf) and *dix-neuf* (dees-nuhf) comes before a vowel, pronounce the f at the end of the word as a v.

Example: *neuf artistes*, which means nine artists, would sound like this: nuhv arh-teest 3. When you see that the numbers *six*, *huit* and *dix* comes before a consonant, you should not pronounce the consonants that comes at the end of these numbers.

Example: *Six livres* would be pronounced as see lee-vruh and *dix films* would be dee feelm.

Now that you got that, you can start counting higher!

Numbers Larger than *Vingt* **From numbers 20** until 69, you can form them in French just like you do in English. That means that you can count up from the tens number and start over. So that means: 21 is *vingt et un* (vaN-tey-uhN) 22 is *vingt-deux* (wahNt-duh) 23 is *vingt-trois* (vahNt-trwah) Do you get the pattern? Try counting through 69 using the next units of tens: 30 – *trente* (trahNt) 40 – *quarente* (kah-rahNt) 50 – *cinquante* (saN-kahn-tey-uhN) 60 – *soixante* (swah-sahn-tey-uhN)

Counting From 70 through 99

Now, here is where the French language starts being tricky. When counting from 70 through 99, observe the following rules: 1. 70 for the French is written and spoken as 60 + 10, and 71 is 60 + 11. This rule, where the base of the number is 60, applies until you get to 80.

Example: 70 is *soixante dix* (swah-sahNt-dees) 73 is *soixante-trois* (swah-sahnt—trehz) 2. 80 in French (and to basic mathematics) is 4 x 20, although the word “times” is not used. Similar to the earlier rule, to say and write 81 you would need to think of 4 x 20 +1 and for 82, that should be 4 x 20 + 2. If you are going to count from 90 through 99, you would have to think 4 x 20 +10, 4 x 20 +11, and so on.

Example: 80 is *quatre-vingts* (kah-truh-vaN) 81 is *quatre-vingt-un* (kah-truh-vaN-uhN) 82 is *quatre-vingt-deux* (kah-truh-vaN-duh) 90 is *quatre-vingt-dix* (kah-truh-vaN-dees) 91 is *quatre-vingt-onze* (kah-truh-vaNt-ohNz) 92 is *quatre-vingt-douze* (kah-truh-vaN-doohz)

From 100 and Higher

Once you reach counting to 100, the same rules would apply even if you go to 1 million. All you need to do is to indicate the largest unit, and then count as usual, applying the rules mentioned a while ago, of course. The other units that you need to take note of are:

100 – *cent* (sahN) 1000 – *mille* (meel) 1,000,000 – *un million* (uhN mee-lyohN)

1,000,000,000 – *un milliard* (uhN mee-lyar)

So what if you are going to write 200, 2000, 2 million, or 2 billion? That should look like this:

200 – *deux cents* (duh sahN) 2,000, – *deux mille* (duh meel) 2,000,000, – *deux million* (duh mee-lyohN) 2,000,000,000 – *deux milliard* (duh mee-lyar)

Rules to Remember: 1. You do not say or write the s at the end of *cents* when it is followed by another number.

Example: 201 is *deux cent un*
(duh sahN uhN)

2. *Mille* doesn't come with an -s on its end, even if you are using it to mean several thousands.

3. When you want to say one hundred or one thousand, you do not have to precede the *cent* and the *mille* with *un*.

About Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal numbers are very important to learn because you need to memorize them in order for you to follow directions.

What are you going to do when you ask for directions and you cannot even recognize the proper sequence?

Here are some rules that you need to remember when writing and saying French ordinal numbers.

1. Except for the first ordinal number, *premiere* (first), all the others ends in –*ième* after the number, just like –th in English ordinal numbers.
2. If the number ends in -e, then that –e is going to be dropped.
3. For the number *cinq*, add a u before the –*ième*.
4. For the number *neuf*, the f at the end of the word changes to v.

For your reference, here is the list of the French ordinal numbers from 1^{er} through 20^e.

1^e – *première* –
(pruh-myey)

2^e – *deuxième* –
(duh-zee-ehm)

3^e – *troisième* –
(trwah-zeeehm)

4^e – *quatrième* –
(kah-treeehm)

5^e – *cinquième* –
(sahN-keeehm)

6^e – *sixième* –
(see-zee-ehm)

7^e – *septième* –
(seh-tee-ehm)

8^e – *huitième* –
(wee-teeehm)

9^e – *neuvième* –
(nuh-veeehm)

10^e – *dixième* –
(dee-zee-ehm)

11e – *onzième* –
(ohN-zee-ehm)

12e – *douzième* –
(dooH-zee-ehm)

13e – *treizième* –
(treh-zee-ehm)

14e – *quatorzième* –
(kah-tohr-zeeehm)

15e – *quinzième* –
(kahN-zee-ehm)

16e – *seizième* –
(seh-zee-ehm)

17e – *dix-septième* –
(dee-seh-teeehm)

18e – *dix-huitième* –
(dee-zwee-teeehm)

19e – *dix-neuvième* –
(deez-nuh-veeehm)

20e – *vingtième* –
(vaN-tee-ehm)

Making Approximations

Just like in any language, you cannot possibly say the exact order, number, or amount all the time. If you need to make age approximations or speculate how much beans there is in a jar, all you need to do is add the suffix *-aine* (ehn) at the end of a number.

Example: *une trente* (ewn trahNt) – about 30

une vingtaine (ewn vaN-tehn) – about 20



Tip: If you want to say that are approximating something, you may use *environ* (ahN-vee-rohN) or *à peu près* (ah puh preh). They both mean “approximately”.
Example: *J’ai environ quatre-vingts livres dans mon bureau* (zhey ahN-veeroH kah-truh-vaN lee-vruh dahN mohN bew-roh) (*I have approximately 80 books in my office*).

Rule: If a noun comes after the approximation, add preposition *de* (duh) or *d’* if the noun starts with a vowel or a silent h.

Example: *Je voudrais une dizaine de croissants.* (zhuh vooh-dreh ewn deez-ehn duh krwah-sahN.) - I would like about 10 croissants.

All these may sound confusing at first, but as long as you practice, you would soon get the hang of it. You may also want to start using your recorder and pronounce the words so you can familiarize yourself with the way that these numbers sound.

Part 5

Nouns, Adjectives, Adverbs

Getting to Know Nouns and Articles, Adjectives, Adverbs and more...



Nouns and Articles

Before you get started with today's lesson, you may want to choose a great location for you to start practicing the French words that you have learned so far and start expanding your vocabulary.

For today, you may want to sit and learn in a park.

Paris is one of the best cities in the world that showcase green spaces and other sightseeing pleasures.

The parks are also homes to great restaurants and different leisure activities such as boating and concerts.

Some parks also offer some curiosities, such as the *Bois de Boulogne* that features an orangery that performs with accord to a Chopin melody during summer, and the *Parc André Citroën* that offers postmodern fun, thanks to its computerized water fountains and glasshouses.



Bois de Boulogne

parisdigest.com/takingarest/boisdeboulogne.htm



Parc André Citroën

aviewoncities.com/paris/parcandrecitroen.htm

If you want to check out a list of great parks, you can go to this link:

timeout.com/paris/feature/selection/the-ten-best-parks-gardens



Parisian parks

[youtube.com/watch?v=EUHBM1argUg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUHBM1argUg)

Au parc Monceau by Yves Duteil (a song)

[youtube.com/watch?v=Q1h9cpsr-dI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1h9cpsr-dI)

The Gender in French Grammar

One of the things that make French different from English is that its nouns have genders, which makes it a little complicated to learn vocabulary.

However, it is just a matter of memorizing some of the words and then categorizing them according to gender.

The trick is a bit simple: all you need to do is to look at the word's ending. There are a few exceptions to this rule, but you would get familiar with these exceptions as you expand your vocabulary.

To make things easier, here is a list of the common suffixes and their corresponding gender assignment.

Masculine Suffixes **-eur** (uhr) Example: *l'auteur* (loh-tuhr) – author **-isme** (eez-muh) Example: *le féminisme* (luh fey-mee-nee-z-muh) – feminism **-eau** (oh) Example: *le manteau* (luh maHn-toh) – coat

-ail (ahy)

Example: *le détail* (luh dey-tahy) – detail

-ment (mahN)

Example: *l'appartement* (lah-pahr-tuh-mahN) – apartment

-al (ahl)

Example: *le journal* (luh zhoohr-nahl) – newspaper

Ending vowels other than –e

Example: *le genou* (luh zhuh-nooh) – knee

Feminine Suffixes –**sion/tion** (syohN) Example: *l'impression* (laN-prey-syohN)
– impression –**ie** (ee) Example: *l'épicerie* (ley-pees-ree) – grocery store –**té, –ée**
(tey, ey) Example: *l'égalité* (ley-gahlee-tey) – equality –**son** (zohN) Example: *la*
maison (lah mehzohN) – house –**oire** (wahr) Example: *la mémoire* (lah mey-
mwahr) – memory –**ance/–ence** (ahNs) Example: *la différence* (lah dee-fey—
rahNs) – difference –**ade** (ahd) Example: *la limonade* (lah lee-moh-nahd) –
lemonade

Take note that there are occupations that might apply to both men and women in real life, but takes the masculine gender in this language.

Here are a few examples: ***un auteur***

(uhN-noh-tuhr)

– author ***un ingénieur***

(uhN-nahN-zhey-nyuhr)

– engineer ***un architecte***

(uhN-nahr-shee-tehkt)

– architect ***un médecin***

(uhN meyd-saN)

– doctor However, there are also some nouns that would always be feminine, even they are actually referring to someone male. Here are some examples.

une victime

(ewn veek-teem)

– victim ***une vedette***

(ewn veh-deht)

– movie star

How to Make Plural Nouns

Like in English, you only need to add –s to most of the French nouns. For example, if you want to make *la maison* plural, all you need to do is to turn it into *les maisons*.

However, there are a few exceptions to the rule: 1. If the noun ends in an –z, x, or –s, you do not need to add anything to it. Just change the article or the context to make it clear that you are referring to a plural noun.

Example: If you want to make *un époux* (uhN-ney-pooH), which means spouse, into plural form, it should become *des époux* (dey-zey-pooH).

2. If the noun ends in –eu, -eau, or –ou, add an x instead of an s to make change it into its plural form.

Example: If you want to make *le bureau* (luh bew-roh), which means office or desk, into plural form, it should become *les bureaux* (ley bew-roh).

What about Those Articles?

You probably noticed that there are some words before the nouns. The case in French language is that, unlike in English, nouns are mostly preceded with articles, which mark the gender and the number of the nouns.

In order for you to memorize the gender of the nouns to expand your vocabulary, you would also need to memorize the article that comes before them.

Like in English, they also have definite (the), indefinite (some, a, an), and partitive (some, any) articles. Let's discuss them one by one.

Definite Articles

Articles are said to be definite if you are referring to a particular noun. Since nouns have genders in French, the definite article also has to be in the gender of the noun that it precedes.

Here are the definite articles and how they are going to be used.

le (luh) — for singular masculine nouns

la (lah)— for singular feminine nouns

l' (ehl ah-pohs-troh) — used for both masculine and feminine nouns that start with a vowel or mute h.

les (ley)— plural, for both masculine and feminine nouns

Indefinite Articles These articles functions similarly to a and an in the English language.

Here are the French indefinite articles and how they are used.

un (uhN) – for masculine nouns, works like a or an **une** (ewn) – for feminine nouns, works like a or an **des** (dey) – for masculine and feminine nouns in plural form, works like some or any

The Partitive In French, there are specific articles that refer to a part of something, instead of referring to a whole. You may think of them as the articles some or any in English.

Here are the partitive articles and how they are used.

du (dew) – for masculine nouns **de la** (duh lah) – for feminine nouns **des** (dey) – for plural masculine and feminine nouns There seems to be a lot to know about nouns and articles, but the key is to improve your vocabulary.

Since you are in a park, you may want to observe labels that are around you and see how nouns are being used in descriptions.

Pronouns

Pronouns, as you already know, are words that take the place of nouns in order to avoid redundancy or to make groups of statements coherent. In the French language, these pronouns may change depending on how they take place in the sentence. That means that they may change if they play the role of a subject, direct or indirect object, or possessive pronouns.

However, at this point, let's just focus on how you are going to use French pronouns as subjects in a sentence.

Here are the subject pronouns that you need to memorize. Note that after the arrow sign is the plural form of the pronoun.

je (zhuh) – I **nous** (nooh) – we **tu** (tew) – you **vous** (vooh) – you **il, on, elle** (eehl/ohN/ehl) – he, one, it/she **elles, ils** (ehl/eel) – they Important notes: Remember that the pronoun *je* is not capitalized, unless it is at the beginning of the sentence. Also, if the verb that comes after *je* starts with a mute h or a vowel, the –e is going to be omitted.

Example: *J'aime la limonade* (zhehm lah lee-moh-nahd) – I like lemonade.

Take note that the indefinite pronoun *il* does not only refer to a single masculine person (he), but also to a single masculine object, so make sure that you use it right according to context. The same applies to *elle*, which is a feminine pronoun that applies to a person and an object. However, *ils* and *ells* would both mean “they”, regardless of referral to a group of persons or objects.

Tu versus Vous While both of these pronouns means “you”, you would need to remind yourself that *tu* would always refer to a singular person you are speaking to, while *vous* can both mean singular and plural.

However, even when you are referring to a single person and you are using *vous*, you would need to conjugate the verb to take its plural form. You’ll learn more about verbs in a later chapter.

It is also very important that using *tu* in a conversation means that you are speaking to them informally. That means that you would want to use the pronoun *vous* when you are in the following situations: 1. You are talking to someone that you have just met.

2. You are talking to someone that is older than you.
3. You are talking to someone with authority, like a professor or a police officer.
4. You are referring to two or more persons in the conversation.

Also remember that in France, using *tu* to address someone that you do not know well can be downright rude, and even if you are talking to someone liberal-minded, it would sound weird. To be safe, it would be better to stick to using *vous* for the time being.

On, the Versatile Pronoun The pronoun *on* can refer to the following English words: one, they, we, and people. So that means that this handy pronoun can be used if you want to say something but you do not want to refer to the source.

For example, you can say *On m'a dit que vous avez une petite amie* if you want to say to the other person that somebody told you that he has a girlfriend. Pretty handy, right?

For Your Side Trip If you want a great place to practice pronoun usage and also meet people, then there is no better location but to explore the beautiful Parisian suburbs. While the area, as the name suggests, is bustling with residences, there are a lot of sight-seeing and people-meeting to do there.

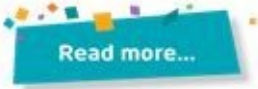
You can start by visiting Stade de France (take a look at www.stadefrance.com, too) to check out the football and rugby scene in this ultra-gorgeous sports stadium and museum. Check out the website for concerts and events online and buy your tickets over the Internet as well, since they are easily sold out.



Stade de France – link a
stadiumguide.com/stadedefrance

Stade de France – link b
accueil.stadefrance.com

If you are into architecture and art, there are three locations that you might be interested in. To have a taste of Gothic architecture and revisit French history, go to Basilique St-Denis.



Basilique St-Denis
sacred-destinations.com/france/paris-st-denis

If you are more about transportation history and you want to see the pioneering aircrafts of French aviation, you would have a blast at the Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace, which is located at the former terminal passenger of Le Bourget airport.



Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace
en.parismuseumpass.com/musee-musee-de-l-air-et-de-l-espace-47.htm

However, **if you are looking for more trips down the French memory lane**, you would surely love Musée National de la Renaissance, which features a grand collection of 16th century artworks.

Make sure that you check out www.musee-france.fr to see gallery schedules and museum pass details.



Musée National de la Renaissance
musee-renaissance.fr

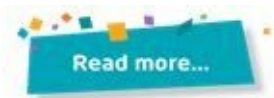
Adjectives and Adverbs

Paris is a city that is full of sights and wonders. As a traveler, you would want to offer the best description of every destination that you have experienced, and the best way to do that is to make sure that you have the words to describe them.

Before That, a Little Side Trip What else is a better classroom to learn adjectives but the different attractions that Paris is famous for? If you are a little lost on your next itineraries, make sure that you visit these world-renowned attractions.

1. **Centre Pompidou** If you are a lover of modern art, then there is no reason to miss out on Centre Pompidou. Named after Georges Pompidou, the French president who commissioned the establishment of this building, the Centre is the home of the Musée National d'Art Moderne, the largest museum of European modern art. The bookshop, panoramic terrace, expositions, and the movie theatre are welcome additions to this grand attraction.

If you want to look at what's going on there, check out www.centrepompidou.fr.



[Prices and times](#)

2. **Notre Dame Cathedral** This cathedral, made famous to kids by Disney and to adults by Alexandre Dumas, is one of the churches that you need to visit before you leave Paris. Characterized by its lofty towers, this 400-footer church features top-notch sculptures, a huge collection of relics, and notable Gothic carvings. The church's lawn is also great for picnics, too.

If you want to hear mass, check the schedule at www.notredamedeparis.fr.



CATHÉDRALE
NOTRE
DAME
DE PARIS

www.notredamedeparis.fr



Notre Dame de Paris Time Out

timeout.com/paris/en/popular-venues/cathedrale-notre-dame-de-paris

Short facts

aviewoncities.com/paris/notredame.htm

more history and facts

elore.com/el04ho01.html

3. **The Eiffel Tower** A picture by the Eiffel Tower is a must if you want to prove to your friends that your experience is worth a postcard to them. The best part is you can climb the tower (via an elevator, of course) and experience world class fine dining at the two restaurants.

For updates regarding tours, shops, and other schedules, visit www.toureiffel.paris.



www.toureiffel.paris

[Eiffel Tower – interesting facts](#)



[Eiffel Tower Elevator Ride - video](#)

Getting to Know Adjectives Adjectives, as you already know, are words that describe nouns. Because nouns have gender in the French language, you also have to match the adjective to fit the gender of the noun that it aims to describe.

Example: Masculine: *bon*(bohN) note that this ends in *-on* Feminine: *bonne* (bohnh) note that this ends in *-onne* Masculine Plural: *bohns* (bohN) Feminine Plural: *bonnes* (bohnh)

Looks simple, right? However, there are a few adjectives that take an irregular form when used for different genders.

Example: *Beau* (boh) is for masculine nouns, *belle* (behl) is for feminine nouns.

Adjectives are also commonly placed after the noun that they describe. So if you want to say that you have an interesting trip, you would say *un voyage intéressant* (uhN voh-yahzh aNteyreh-sahN).

However, take note that this rule changes when you want adjectives to be used in the following situations: 1. Describe goodness or the lack of it Example: *bon/bonne* (adjective for good) and *mauvais/mauvaise* ((moh-veh/moh-vehz) (adjective for bad) comes before the noun. The adjective *gentile/gentile* (zhahN-tee/zhahN-teey) (French for nice) also belongs to this group.

2. Description of age Example: *vieux/vieille* (vyuh/vyehy), meaning old, and *jeune* (zhuhn), meaning young goes before the noun. *Nouveau/nouvelle* (nooh-voh/nooh-vehl), which means new, also belongs with this group.

3. Description of size Example: If you say that something is small or *petit/petite* (puh-tee/puh-teet), large or *grand/grande* (grahN/grahNd), or fat or thick or *gros/grosse* (groh/grohs), the adjective should come before the noun.

4. Number descriptions Any number, cardinal or ordinal, should come before the noun.

To help you remember these rules, just think of B.A.N.G.S. or Beauty, Age, Number, Goodness, and Size.

Trick Adjectives Some adjectives are quite interesting because they change meaning if you place them before and after the noun. Here are some examples:
1. *pauvre* (poh-vruh) Before the noun: unfortunate After the noun: penniless
2. *ancien/ancienne* (ahN-syaN/ahN-syehn) Before the noun: former After the noun: old or ancient
3. *cher/chère* (shehr/shehr) Before the noun: dear or beloved After the noun: expensive



Tip!

Here's a tip to not get confused: when you see an adjective before a noun, that means that the meaning could be figurative. If it is after the noun, the meaning could be literal. For example, *un ancien collègue* (uhN-nahN-syaN koh-lehg) means "a former colleague". But change that to *un collègue ancien*, the meaning of the phrase becomes "an old colleague".

Adverbs Adverbs are those words that describes a verb (would be discussed later), an adjective, or another adverb. In English, it is rather easy to spot an adverb because of the suffix –ly. In French, most of the commonly used adverbs end with the suffix – ment, and the usually come after the verb. These are the rules that you need to keep in mind.

1. If the adjective is in the feminine form, simply add –ment.

Example: *active* (ahk-teev), meaning active *activement* (ack-teev-mahN), meaning actively.

2. If the adjective is in the masculine form and ends with a vowel, simply add –ment.

Example: *absolu* (ahb-soh-lew), meaning absolute *absolument* (ahb-soh-lewmahN), meaning absolutely 3. If the adjective is in the masculine form and ends in –ant or –ent, remove the nt and add –nment.

Example: *évident* (ey-vee-dahN), meaning evident *évidemment* (ey-vee-dah-mahN), meaning evidently or obviously 4. If you want to change *bon* or good and *mauvais* or bad into an adverb, they would become *bien* (byaN), meaning well, and *mal* (mahl), meaning badly.

Part 6

Verbs

How Verbs Can Be Used?



Exploring Parisian Recreation

Paris is a place of action – the typical Parisian life does not only involve having access to world-famous parks, cathedrals, and museums, but also the action-packed stadiums.

If you want to see live sports and concerts, then you surely must visit these attractions.

1. **Parc de Princes** If you are a fan of soccer, then you really must see a soccer match in Princes. This stadium that fits 50,000 is the home of the Paris Saint-Germain, one of the most recognized clubs in Europe.



www.stadiumguide.com

2. **Stade de France** This stadium is the national stadium of France and the host of the national soccer team, Equipe de France. With an eighty thousand seating capacity, this stadium is often the venue of major international concerts and hosts rugby matches as well.



Stade de France
en.parisinfo.com/paris-museum-monument/71439/Stade-de-France

3. **Palais des Sports** If you are looking not only for sports events but also concerts, you are most likely going to catch them at this stadium. This stadium is among the most preferred venues for musical acts because of great acoustics and visibility. Check out their events at www.palaisdessports.com



Palais des Sports
palaisdessports.com

4. Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy (Bercy or POPB)

This indoor sports complex often hosts a variety of sporting events such as basketball, boxing and track cycling. This sports complex also hosts the Paris Masters ATP Tour, and a variety of concerts as well. Check out their schedules at www.bercyarena.paris



Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy
bercyarena.paris/home

As they say, all work and no play will *make Jacques un garçon ennuyeux* (zhahk uhN gahr-sohN ahN-nwee-yuh) or “Jack a dull boy”.

While you are in Paris, make sure that you do not only visit the mentioned stadiums, but also engage in popular French pastimes as well.

What the French Do You may be very knowledgeable about *le football américain* (luh fooht-bohl ah-mey-ree-kaN) or American football, and *le basket (ball)* (luh bahs-keht [bohl]) or basketball, but they are not as popular in Europe.

For most French, they indulge in the following sports: *Le foot(ball)* (luh fooht[bohl]) – soccer *Le cyclisme* (luh see-kleez-muh) – cycling *Le ski* (luh skee) – skiing *Le rugby* (luh rewg-bee) – rugby Among the most popular *sports-spectacles* (spohr-spehk-tah-kluh) or “spectator sports” in Paris are races, and you would most likely hear any Parisian talk about the *Le Tour de France* (luh toohr duh frahNs), which is the largest cycling race in the world. It is also very popular to watch the *le Grand Prix de Longchamp* (luh grahN pree duh lohNg-shahN), which is among the well-attended horse races in Paris.



www.letour.com

When indulging in these pastimes, your French acquaintances may ask you what sports you normally play. You would need to use the verb *faire*, which translates to “to do” or “to play”. However, take note that the sport that you want to indicate may already serve as the verb.

To illustrate how this verb can be used, look at the following examples: ***Je fais du tennis.***

(zhuh feh dew tey-nees)

- I play tennis.

Tu fais du vélo.

(tew feh dew vey-loh.)

- You bike / You go biking.

Il/Elle/On fait du ski.

(eel/ehl/ohN feh dew skee.)

- He/She/One skis, He/She/One goes skiing.

Nous faisons de la natation.

(nooh fuh-zohN duh lah nahtah-syohN.)

-We swim /We go swimming.

Vous faites une randonnée.

(vooh feh-tewn rahN-doh-ney)

- You hike / You go hiking.

Ils/Elles font du cheval.

(eel/ehl fohN dew shvahl.)

- They go horseback riding.

What about Team Sports?

When you want to talk about team sports, you would usually make use of the French verb *jouer* instead of *fait*. This verb would require you to use the preposition *à* (ah), which means to, in, or at, plus the articles *le*, *les*, or *la*, depending on the number and the gender of the sport that you play.

Look at these examples: ***Tu joues au golf.***

(tew zhoooh oh gohlf)

- You play golf.

Vous jouez au hockey.

(voooh zhoooh-ey oh oh-keh)

- You play hockey.

Je joue au basket.

(zhuh zhoooh oh bahs-keht)

- I play basketball.

Enjoying the Indoors If you are not the type who enjoys sweating it inside the gym or the outdoors, then you might prefer to entertain yourself with at home with a book or *jeux de société/jeux de plateau* (zhuh duh soh-see-ey-tey/zhuh duh plah-toh), which means “board games”.

You may also refer to board and card games as *jeux de patience* (zhuh duh pah-syahNs), which literally means “games of patience”.

Examples of these games are the following: ***le jeu de dames***

(luh zhuh duh dahm)

- checkers ***les jeux de cartes***

(ley zhuh duh kahrt)

- card games ***le jeu d'échecs***

(luh zhuh dey-shehk)

- chess Like in team sports, you also use the verb *jouer* when referring to card games or board games.

Expressing Action

The previous chapter has introduced you with verb usage in French. As a review, a verb is a word that tells action or state of being.

Like in English, French verbs that does not tell about the subject or when the action is happening are called infinitives. While you normally recognize infinitive verbs with the word “to” (e.g. to go, to speak), these verbs end in *-er*, *-re*, or *-ir* in French.

Example:

parler

(pahr-ley)

– to speak *être*

(eh-truh)

– to be Like in English, French verbs can be regular or irregular, and they need to match the subject, (e.g. “The people sing.” or “the child sings.”)

However, verbs in French have special endings depending on the subject. Here’s how you form them.

1. **Regular verbs** These verbs are those that follow a specific pattern. In French, they are grouped according to the ending of the infinitive form.

a. Ending in *-er* – these are the most common verbs. To conjugate them, simply omit the *-er* from the infinitive form and add *-es*, *-e*, *-ons*, *-ez*, or *-ent* depending on the subject. Here is an illustration using the verb *parler*.

je parle

(zhuh pahrl) *tu parles*

(tew pahrl) *il/elle/on parle*

(eel/ehl/ohN pahrl) *nous parlons*

(nooh parh-lohN) *vous parlez*

(vooh parh-ley) *ils/elles parlent*

(eel/ehl parhl)

b. Ending in *-ir* – to conjugate these verbs according to subject, simply drop *-r* from the infinitive and add *-s*, *-t*, *-ssez*, *-ssent* or *-t*.

Here is an illustration using the verb *finir* (fee-neer), meaning to finish.

je finis

(zhuh fee-nee) *tu finis*

(tew fee-nee) *il/elle/on finit*

(eel/ehl/ohN fee-nee) *nous finissons*

(nooh fee-nee-sohN) *vous finissez*

(vooh fee-nee-sey) *ils/elles finissent*

(eel/ehl fee-nees)

c. Ending in *-re-* to conjugate these verbs, drop *-re* from the ending of the verb and add *-s*, *-ons*, *-ez*, and *-ent*, or add nothing.

Here is an illustration using the verb *vendre*, which means to sell.

je vends

(zhuh vahN) *tu vends*

(tew vahN) *il/elle/on vend*

(eel/ehl/ohN vahN) *nous vendons*

(nooh vahN-dohN) *vous vendez*

(vooh vahN-dey) *ils/elles vendent*

(eel/ehl vahNd)

2. Irregular Verbs These are verbs that change their form when conjugated depending on the subject. It would require you to memorize them to be familiarized with them, but of course, practice would make it easier for you to keep them in mind.

Here are the most important irregular verbs to memorize, and their conjugations according to the subject.

a. avoir

(ah-vwahr)

– to have *j'ai*

(zhey) *tu as*

(tew ah) *il/elle/on a*

(eel/ehl/ohN ah) *nous avons*

(nooh-zah-vohN) *vous avez*

(vooh-zah-vey) *ils/elles ont*

(eel-/ehl-zohN)

b. faire
(fehr)
(to do, to make)

je fais
(zhuh feh)

tu fais
(tew feh)

il/elle/on fait
(eel/ehl/ohN feh)

nous faisons
(nooh fuh-zohN)

vous faites
(vooh feht)

ils/elles font
(eel/ehl fohN)

c. aller
(ah-ley)
(to go)

je vais
(zhuh veh)

tu vas
(tew vah)

il/elle/on va
(eel/ehl/ohN vah)

nous allons
(nooh-zah-lohN)

vous allez
(vooh-zah-ley)

ils/elles vont
(eel/ehl vohN)

d. *être*
(eh-truh)
(to be)

je suis
(zhuh swee)

tu es
(tew eh)

il/elle/on est
(eel/ehl/ohN eh)

nous sommes
(nooh sohm)

vous êtes
(vooh-zeht)

ils/elles sont
(eel/ehl sohN)

Learning Tenses

Verb tenses indicate the time when the action happened. Here are ways to conjugate French verbs according to tense.

1. Present tense Verbs in this tense simply indicate that the action is happening now. To conjugate verbs in the present tense, simply add the verb in front of the subject. You can refer to the previous sections for a review of how to conjugate them.

2. Past Tense The most common way to express that an action happened in the past is to use *le passé composé* (luh pah-sey kohN-poh-zey), or the compound past. That means that the tense uses two components: an auxiliary verb, which is usually *avoir* or *être* conjugated as present tense, and the past participle of the chosen verb.

Here are some rules that you need to keep in mind when making **past participles** for verbs.

1. **For verbs ending in –er** Remove the last letter, which is r, from the infinitive, and change the e into é.

Example: *laisser* (leh-sey) - to leave *Nous avons laissé un message.*

(nooh-zah-vohN leh-sey uhN meh-sahzh.) - We left a message.

2. **For verbs ending in –ir** Remove the last letter, which is r.

Example: *choisir* (shwah-zeer) - to choose *Il a choisi un mot de passe.* (eel ah shwah-zee uhN moh duh pahs.) - He chose a password.

3. **For verbs ending in –re** Remove –re, and add a u Example: *répondre* (rey-pohN-druh) - to answer *Vous avez répondu à la question.* (vooh-zah-vey rey-pohN-dew ah lah kehs-tyohN.) – You answered the question.

If you want to conjugate using *être*, then here are some rules that you need to keep in mind: 1. The past participle only changes when the following happens: a. If the subject is feminine plural, add and –es to the past participle.

b. If the subject is feminine singular, add an –e to the past participle.

c. If the subject is masculine plural, add an -s to the past participle.

2. If the subject is masculine singular, nothing changes to the past participle.

Here is a list of the common conjugations for the auxiliary verb *être*. Note that most of them are verbs that indicate motion.

aller

(ah-ley)

- to go ***arriver***

(ah-ree-vey)

- to arrive ***descendre***

(dey-sahN-druh)

- to go down, to get off ***devenir***

(duh-vuh-neer)

- to become

entrer

(ahN-trey)

- to enter

monter

(mohN-tey)

- to go up, to climb, to get on

mourir

(mooh-reer)

- to die

naître

(neh-truh)

- to be born

partir

(pahr-teer)

- to leave

passer

(pah-sey)

- to pass (by)

rentrer

(rahN-trey)

- to return, to go home

Part 7

Start Conversations

Where are You Staying?



Where Are You Staying?

Now that you know the basics of the French language, you can now start formulating sentences and start conversations. Of course, when talking to new friends and making more acquaintances in Paris, one of the topics of conversations you would engage in is your accommodation.

Where Do You Live or *Où habitez-vous?*

Now, here are two of the verbs that you would often use:

vivre

(vee-vruh)

and

habiter

(ah-bee-tey).

Both of these verbs mean “live”, but *habiter* refers to space, while *vivre* can mean time and space. For example, if you want to say that you live in New York in French, you would say *J’habite à New York*.

That means that when you want to talk about your residence, you need to use the verb *habiter*.

Other Examples:

J'habite dans un appartement.

(zhah-beet dahN-zuhN-nah-pahr-tuhmahN.)

– I live in an apartment.

Nous habitons en banlieue.

(nooh-zah-bee-tohN ahN bahN-lyuh.)

– We live in the suburbs.

If you want to talk about which floor you are in an apartment building, you need to know that the French count the building floors differently.

The first floor and the ground floor are the same to them, and they call this level

le rez-de-chaussée

(luh rey-d-shoh-sey),

which means street level.

The second floor to you is their first floor or

le premier étage

(luh pruh-myey-rey-tahzh)

and the third floor is the second floor or the

le deuxième étage

((luh duh-zee-ehm ey-tahzh),

and so on.

Parts of a House Now, when you visit someone in their apartment or house, you would want to know where different facilities are, such as the telephone or the bathroom. For that reason, you would need to familiarize yourself with *les pièces de la maison* (ley pyehs duh lah meh-zohN) or the rooms in a house, which are commonly, the following: 1. **la cuisine (lah kwee-zeen) – kitchen** In France, one does not really count the kitchen as one of the rooms of the house. That means that if you hear someone saying that un appartement à trois pièces (uhN-nah-pahr-tuh-mahN ah trwah pyehs), that means that the apartment that they are talking about has 2 bedrooms and a living room.

Here are some of the furniture commonly found in *la cuisine* that are quite useful

to learn: *une table de cuisine*

(ewn tah-bluh duh kwee-zeen)

(kitchen table) *un évier*

(uhN-ney-vyey)

(kitchen sink)

une cuisinière
(ewn kwee-zee-nyehr)
(stove)

un comptoir
(uhN kohN-twahr)
(counter)

des chaises
(dey shehz)
(chairs)

2. ***le salon*** (luh sah-lohN) – **living room** While you are taking your vacation in Paris, you may hear one of your friends referring to their living room as *le living* (luh lee-veeng), which is close to how you refer to this area of the house in English. You may also hear them say *la salle de séjour* (lah sahl duh sey-zhoohr) or *le séjour* (luh sey-zhoohr), which means family room.

Here are some items that you will find in *le salon*.

un tapis

(uhN tah-pee)

– rug un sofa/un canapé

(uhN soh-fah/uhN kah-nah-pey)

– couch or sofa une télévision/une télé

(ewn tey-ley-vee-zyohN/ewn tey-ley)

– TV

une table de salon
(ewn tah-bluh duh sah-lohN)
– coffee table

des rideaux
(dey ree-doh)
– curtains, drapes

une lampe
(ewn lahmp)
– lamp

une moquette
(ewn moh-keht)
– wall-to-wall carpet

3. ***la salle de bains*** (lah sahl duh baN) – **bathroom** *La salle de bains* is different from *les toilettes* (ley twah-leht), which means toilet. You ask for *la salle de bains* if you are looking for a place to take a bath, but it would not necessarily have a toilet.

So when looking for a restroom, make sure that you ask for a *les W.C.* (ley vey sey), which means a water closet, or *les toilettes*.

Here are some nouns to learn that are related to *la salle de bains*: *une brosse à dents*

(ewn brohs ah dahN)

– toothbrush *un peigne*

(uhN peh-nyuh)

– comb *une baignoire*

(ewn beh-nywahr)

– bathtub

une douche
(ewn doohsh)
– shower

une brosse
(ewn brohs)
– hairbrush

du savon
(dew sah-vohN)
– soap

un miroir
(uhN mee-rwahr)
– mirror

une serviette
(ewn sehr-vyeht)
– towel

4. **la chambre (lah shahN-bruh) – bedroom** Here are some nouns that are typically associated to *la chambre*: *un lit*

(uhN lee)

– bed *une commode*

(ewn koh-mohhd)

– dresser *une table de nuit*

(ewn tah-bluh duh nwee)

– nightstand *un réveil*

(uhN rey-vehy)

– alarm clock *des draps*

(dey drah)

– sheets *une couverture*

(ewn kooh-vehr-tewr)

– blanket *une armoire*

(ewn ahr-mwahr)

– armoire *un oreiller*

(uhN-noh-rey-yey)

– pillow

Are You Staying in a Hotel?

Now, if you are staying in a hotel and you need to ask about amenities or you want to ask for an extra towel, you would need to learn about these nouns and know how to ask questions about what the hotel has. Of course, it would never hurt to ask, just in any case you want to avoid any inconveniences.

Here are some words that you need to familiarize yourself with in order for you to make sure that you are asking the hotel staff about the right facilities. If you get lost, just make sure that you have a separate copy of this hotel cheat list.

If you want to say to the hotel staff that you need something: Je voudrais (zhuh voo-dreh) I would like Il me faut un (une)(des) (eel muh foh tuhN (tewn) (day)) I need a (some) J'ai besoin d'un (une) zhay buh-zwaN duhN (ewn) I need a (for plural use de + noun) cashier la *caisse* (lah kehs) elevator *l'ascenseur* (lah-sahN-suhr) doorman *le portier* (luh pohr-tyay) business center *le centre d'affaires* (luh sahNtr dah-fehr)

fitness center *le club santé* (luh klewb sahN-tay) maid service *la gouvernante* (lah goo-vehr-nahNt) bar *le bar* (luh bahr) gift shop *la boutique* (lah boo-teek) concierge or caretaker *le/la concierge* (luh (lah) kohN-syehrzh) valet parking *l'attente du garage* (lah-tahN-dahNs dew gah-ra) laundry and dry cleaning service *la blanchisserie* (lah blahN-shees-ree) restaurant *le restaurant* (luh rehs-toh-rahN) swimming pool *la piscine* (lah pee-seen)

Asking for Personal Services

If you have travelled to Paris and you need to know if the hotel boutique is open or closed, or you need something done right away, you would need to know the right questions.

Now, remember these questions to make sure that you are getting the right services when you need it.

Question: At what time do you open?

Vous fermez à quelle heure?
(voo zeh too-vehr ah kehl uhr)

Question: What days are you open or closed?

Vous êtes ouvert
(vous fermez) quels jours?
(voo zeht oo-vehr
(voo fehr-may) kehl zhoor)

Now, if you want to call the front desk and tell them that there are something wrong, you would hear this question:

Quel est le problème?
(kehl eh luh proh-blehm).

That means, “What’s the problem?” If there is one (or several), then you would want to say that: *Il y a...* (eel yah) there is (are)

a hole *un trou* (uhN troo) a missing button *un bouton qui manque* (uhN boo-tohN kee mahNk) a spot *une tache* (ewn tahsh) a tear *une déchirure* (ewn day-shee-rewr) Can you repair ... for me? *Pouvez-vous me réparer ...?* (poo-vay voo muh ray-pah-ray) Can you fix it (them) today? *Pouvez-vous le (la, l', les) réparer aujourd'hui?* (poo-vay voo luh (lah, lay) ray-pah-ray o-zhoordwee) Can you fix it (them) temporarily / while I wait? *Pouvez-vous le (la, l', les) réparer provisoirement / pendant que j'attends?* (poo-vay voo luh (lah, lay) ray-pah-ray proh-vee-zwahr-mahN / pahN-dahN kuh zhah-than)

Part 8

Eat in Paris

Eat & Drink like an Insider



Dining Out

One of the best things that you can do in Paris is, of course, enjoy the numerous restaurants in both the metro and the suburbs. It is somehow hard to tell where the “best” really is in France when it comes to international and local cuisine, but here are some restaurants that you would not want to miss while you are staying in this city.

1. **Septime** If you want something that would make you say that you have seen the French become inventive with your dinner, then make sure that you head towards Eastern Paris and dine in Septime. This restaurant is one of those that has set the trend of food creativity. Check out septime-charonne.fr for their hours.



The trend of food creativity
parisbymouth.com/our-guide-to-paris-septime

2. **Relais d'Entrecôte** If you are the type of person who despises reservations and you want to enjoy dinner without frills, then this is the place where you can truly enjoy your French fries without having to go all through the work.

The best part is that this restaurant offers items with second helping. Check out www.relaisentrecote.fr for their hours.



www.relaisentrecote.fr

3. Chateaubrian

If you are feeling artsy and modern and you want something innovative to match your attitude, then this is the restaurant for you. Just a warning – this restaurant is so popular that you would definitely want to make a reservation. To make one, go to www.lechateaubriand.net.



www.theworlds50best.com/list/1-50-winners/le-chateaubriand

4. **Les Papilles** If you want something casual and with wine, then this charming wine shop which also serves as one of the most charming restaurants in the City of Light is a must go-to.

They are also popular with Parisian chefs who are looking to dine out during their off days.

Make sure to book your table early to get a seat at www.lespapillesparis.fr.



www.lespapillesparis.fr

How to Order in French Here's what you need to remember: big cities often require you to make a reservation. If you want to dine out in the most popular restaurants, you may even be required to make a reservation two months in advance.

Of course, you would want to know how you can do so in the proper way. If you want to sound polite when you pick up the phone and make a reservation, make sure that you use the conditional conjugation of French verbs.

One of the most commonly used conditional is the *vouloir* (vooh-lwahr), which means "to want". When used in the conditional conjugation, it would literally mean "would like" which is apt for making requests.

Here are the conjugations of this verb that you would want to keep in mind:

je voudrais

(zhuh vooh-dreh) *tu voudrais*

(tew vooh-dreh) *il/elle/on voudrait*

(eel/ehl/ohN vooh-dreh) *nous voudrions*

(nooh vooh-dree-ohN) *vous voudriez*

(vooh vooh-dree-ey) *ils/elles voudraient*

(eel/ehl vooh-dreh)

Here are ways to make a reservation:

Je voudrais faire une réservation

(zhuh vooh-dreh fehr ewn rey-zehr-vah-syohN)

– I would like to make a reservation.

Je voudrais réserver une table

(zhuh vooh-dreh rey-zehr-vey ewn tahbluh)

- I would like to reserve a table.

Another verb that is used to make polite requests is *pouvoir* (pooh-vwahr), which means “to be able to”.

In its conditional conjugation, it means “may” or “could”. So if you want to ask for restaurants that your French friends recommend, you can say: *Pourriez-vous (me/nous) recommander un bon restaurant, s’il vous plaît?* (pooh-ree-ey vooh [muh/nooh] ruh-kohh-mahN-dey uhN bohN reh-stohrahN, seel vooh pleh?) – Could you recommend a good restaurant to me / to us?

Here are the conjugations of the verb that you need to remember:

je pourrais
(zhuh pooh-reh)

tu pourrais
(tew pooh-reh)

il/elle/on pourrait
(eel/ehl/ohN pooh-reh)

nous pourrions
(nooh pooh-ree-ohN)

vous pourriez
(vooh pooh-ree-ey)

ils/elles pourraient
(eel/ehl pooh-reh)

But Where Would You Go?

Alas, dining in Paris can be more sophisticated than to what you are used to, thanks to the variety of restaurants that they have.

Before you make a reservation, check if you are going out for: breakfast *le petit déjeuner*

(luh puh-tee day-zhuh-nay) lunch *le déjeuner*

(luh day-zhuh-nay) dinner *le dîner*

(luh dee-nay) early afternoon snack *le goûter*

(luh goo-tay)

**If you're not in the mood for a formal restaurant,
here are your options: *une auberge***

(ewn o-behrzh)

- inn

un bistro

(uhN bees-tro)

- informal tavern or a pub *une brasserie*

(ew brahs-ree)

- café serving quick meals *une cabaret*

(ewn kah-bah-reh)

- nightclub *un café*

(uhN kah-fay)

– a coffee shop or a neighborhood place that serves snacks and conducive for people to socialize

un caf  teria
(uhN kah-fay-tay-ryah)
- self-service restaurant

une casse-cro  te
(ewn kahs-kroot)
– a sandwich place

une cr  perie
(ewn krehp-ree)
– a place that serves cr  pes or filled pancakes

un fast-food
(uhN fahst-food)
- fast food chain

un self
(uhN sehlf)
- self-service restaurant

The Menu

When choosing a restaurant in Paris, it would be good to familiarize yourself with the different kind of menus.

Most restaurants in Paris has a *menu à prix fixe* (muhnew ah pree feeks) or a set-price menu.

This menu typically costs less and comes in different sets, which often offers an appetizer, a main course, and a dessert or cheese.



What are À la Carte and Prix Fixe Menus?

ow.ly/ErwwO

If you want to order on a per-dish basis, you can order *à la carte* (ah lah kahrt) or a la carte instead.



Here's a tip: if you want a great restaurant guide to help you dine according to your budget and preferred food, you can check out *Guide Michelin* (geed meesh-laN) or The Michelin Guide which serves as the restaurant bible of Paris. This little red book will also show you the level of formality, which can help you prepare for what to wear when you dine out.



Michelin Guide restaurants – Paris:

ow.ly/ErwnP

To get started, you would want to try the *les entrées* (ley-zahN-trey) or appetizers. A bit of a warning though, the *entrée* to the French is not the entrée that you know, which is the main course.

In French, this means the “first course” and the *le plat principal* (luh plah praN-see-pahl) the main course.

To avoid confusion, you may opt to use the term *les hors-d'oeuvre* (lay zohr-duhvr) Also take note that the French may eat their salads after the main course.

crudités variées

(krew-dee-tay vah-ryay)

- sliced raw vegetable usually in a vinaigrette sauce *escargots à la*

bourguignonne

(ehs-kahr-go ah lah boor-geenyohn)

- snails in garlic sauce *foie gras*

(fwah grah)

- fresh, sometimes uncooked goose liver, served with toasted French bread

pâté

(pah-tay)

- pureed liver or other meat served in a loaf *quiche lorraine*

(keesh loh-rehn)

- egg custard tart served with meat (bacon or ham) *quenelles*

(kuh-nehl)

- dumplings *rillettes*

(ree-yeht)

pork mixture served as a spread *la bisque*

(lah beesk)

- creamy soup made with crayfish *la bouillabaise*

(lah boo-yah-behs)

- seafood stew

le consommé

(luh kohN-soh-may)

- clear broth *a petite marmite*

(lah puh-teet mahr-meet)

rich consommé served with vegetables and meat *le potage*

(luh poh-tahzh)

thick soup made of pureed vegetables *la soupe à l'oignon*

(lah soop ah loh-nyohN)

onion soup served with bread and cheese *velouté*

(vuh-loo-tay)

- creamy soup

Ordering Meat

Here are some of the most popular meats or *les viands* (lay vyahnd) that you can order in most restaurants in Paris: *le bifteck*

(luh beef-tehk)

- steak

l'entrecôte (f.)

(lahNtr-koht)

- sirloin steak *l'escalope (f.)*

(leh-skah-lohp)

- scallopine, cutlet *la côte de boeuf*

(lah koht duh buhf)

- prime rib *la poitrine de...*

(lah pwah-treen duh)

- breast of...

le carré d'agneau

(luh kah-ray dah-nyo)

- rack of lamb

le chateaubriand
(luh shah-to-bree-yahN)
- a porterhouse steak

le foie
(luh foie)
- liver

le gigot d'agneau
(luh zhee-go dah-nyo)
- leg of lamb

le pot-au-feu
(luh poh-to-fuh)
- boiled beef

le rosbif
(luh rohs-beef)
- roastbeef

le tournedos
(luh toor-nuh-do)
- small fillets of beef

les côtes de porc
(lay koht duh pohr)
- pork chops

les côtes de veau
(lay koht duh vo)
- veal chops

les médaillons de...
(lay may-dah-yohN duh)
- small rounds of

les saucisses
(lay so-sees)
- sausages

le hamburger
(luh ahm-bewr-gehr)
- hamburger



Here's a tip for those who like steaks and meats:

The French custom for rare, medium, and well-done is different, which means that they tend to serve everything a degree rarer than you expect.

That means that their well-done steak is a little just more than your idea of medium, and your idea of well-done may mean burnt to a typical French chef.

If you are a picky eater and you want your meat to be prepared in a certain way, then you would be happy to eat in a Parisian restaurant. It is always good to enjoy food the way you want it to be served.

When you are ordering meat for your main course, you would be asked

Vous le
(la, les)

voulez comment?

(voo luh (lah, lay) voo-lay koh-mahN),
which means "How do you want it (them)?"

Here are the ways meats and vegetables can be served:

baked -
cuit au four
(kwee to foor)

broiled -
rôti
(ro-tee)

boiled -
bouilli
(boo-yee)

browned -
gratiné
(grah-tee-nay)

breaded -
au gratin
(o grah-taN)

chopped -
hâché
(ah-shay)

fried -
frit
(free)

sauteed -
sauté
(so-tay)

grilled -
grillé
(gree-yay)

steamed -
à la vapeur
(ah lah vah-puhr)

in its natural juices -
au jus
(o zhew)

stewed -
en cocotte
(ahN koh-koht)

mashed -
en purée
(ahN pew-ray)

very rare -
bleu
(bluh)

poached -
poché
(poh-shay)

rare -
saignant
(seh-nyahN)

pureed -
en purée
(ahN pew-ray)

medium -
à point
(ah pwaN)

roasted -
rôti
(ro-tee)

well-done -
bien cuit
(byaN kwee)

with sauce -
en sauce
(ahN sos)

For Eggs or *des oeufs* (day zuh)

fried -
au plat
(o plah)

poached -
pochés
(poh-shay)

medium-boiled -
mollets
(moh-leh)

hard-boiled -
durs
(dewr)

scrambled -
brouillés
(broo-yay)

soft-boiled -
à la coque
(ah lah kohk)

omelette -
une omelette
(ewn nohm-leht)

plain omelette -
une omelette nature
(ewn nohm-leht nah-tewr)

Are You on a Special Diet?

If you have any particular diet restriction, or if you do not want something on your meal, these phrases can prove to be handy: I am on a diet.

Je suis au régime.

zhuh swee zo ray-zheem I'm a vegetarian.

Je suis végétarien(ne.)

zhuh swee vay-zhay-tahryaN (ryen) I can't eat anything made with...

Je ne peux rien manger de cuisiné au (à la)...

zhuh nuh puh ryaN mahNzhay duh kwee-zee-nay o (ah lah)...

I can't have...

Je ne tolère...

zhuh nuh toh-lehr

any dairy products

aucun produit laitier

o-kuhN proh-dwee leh-tyay

any alcohol
aucun produit alcoolique
o-kuhN proh-dwee ahl-kohleek

any saturated fats
aucune matière grasse animale
o-kewn mah-tyehr grahs ahnee-mahl any shellfish
aucun fruit de mer
o-kuhN frweed mehr I'm looking for a dish...
Je cherche un plat...
zhuh shehrsh uhN plah low in cholesterol
léger en cholestérol
lay-zhay ahN koh-lehs-tayrohl high in fiber
riche en fibre
reesh ahN feebr

low in fat
léger en matières grasses
lay-zhay ahN mah-tyehr grahs

low in sodium
léger en sodium
lay-zhay ahN sohd-yuhm

non-dairy
non-laitier
nohN-leh-tyay

sugar-free
sans sucre
sahN sewkr

salt-free
sans sel
sahN sehl

without preservatives
sans conservateurs
sahN kohN-sehr-vah-tuhr

without artificial coloring
sans colorant
sahN koh-loh-rahN

Any Complaint?

There are times that you may want to send back food because you want it changed. Here are some complaints that you may run into.

...is cold
...est froid(e)
eh frwahd

...is too rare
...n'est pas assez cuit(e)
neh pah zah-say kwee(t) ...is over-cooked
...est trop cuit(e)
tro kwee(t) ...is tough
...est dur(e)
eh dewr

...is burned
...est brûlé(e)
eh brew-lay

...is too salty
...est trop salé(e)
eh tro sah-lay

...is too sweet
...est trop sucré(e)
eh tro sew-kray ...is too spicy
...est trop épicé(e)
eh tro ay-pee-say ...is spoiled
...est tourné(e)
eh toor-nay ...is bitter
...est aigre
eh tehgr

...tastes like...
...a le goût de...
ah luh goo duh ...is dirty
...est sale
eh sahl

So, What Do You Think?

Did you enjoy your food? If you think that the French dining experience was exceptionally delightful, you would want to express it with *quel*, an adjective that means “what a!” Of course, you have to conjugate it to go along with the gender of the noun that you want to describe.

Masculine:

quel for singular, *quells* for plural Example: Quel repas formidable!
(kehl ruh-pah fohr-mee-dahbl) What a great meal!

Quels desserts délicieux!

(kehl deh-sehr day-lee-syuh) What delicious desserts!

Feminine:

quelle for singular, *quelles* for plural Example: *Quelle mousse excellente!*
(kehl moos ehk-seh-lahNt) What an excellent mousse *Quelles bonnes omelettes!*
(kehl bohn zohm-leht) What good omelettes!

Now, if you want to ask for the check, simply say: *L'addition, s'il vous plaît.*
(lah-dee-syohN seel voo pleh) The check please.

Parisian restaurants and French restaurants elsewhere typically have a policy called *le service est compris*, which means that the service charge (which usually goes 15%) is included already.

If you want to leave a tip, or *un pourboire* (uhN poor-bwahr), that would be highly appreciated.



Tipping In Paris

davidlebovitz.com/2007/04/tipping-in-fran-1

The Best Crepes in Paris

davidlebovitz.com/2006/03/the-best-crpes

Great Dining Deals in Paris

davidlebovitz.com/2010/04/great-dining-deals-in-paris-france

Fabulous French Desserts

www.bhg.com/recipes/ethnic-food/french/french-desserts/#page=1

Going Vegan in Paris

www.mindbodygreen.com/0-16407/going-vegan-in-paris.html

Things You Didn't Know about Paris

www.cntraveler.com/galleries/2014-11-26/10-things-you-didn-t-know-about-paris

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Part 9

Telling Time

How to Tell the Time or the Date?



Telling Time

When you want to tell the time or the date of your reservations, it would be great to use the correct French phrases to indicate the concierge what day and time would you be arriving in a restaurant.

Apart from that, it would be useful when you want to book any activity months in advance, or during a particular season.

Days of the Week You know that there are seven days in a week, but for the French, they refer to the week as *huit jours* (wee zhoohr) or “eight days”. Curiously, the French also refers to two weeks as *quinze jours* (kaNz zhoohr) or “15 days”. The reason is that they count from Monday to Monday, which results to 8 days, and doing that twice would yield 15 days.

The other thing different is that they do not capitalize the first letter of the days of the week: *lundi*

(luhN-dee)

- Monday *mardi*

(mahr-dee)

- Tuesday *mercredi*

(mehr-kruh-dee)

- Wednesday

jeudi
(zhuh-dee)
- Thursday

vendredi
(vahN-druh-dee)
- Friday

samedi
(sahm-dee)
- Saturday

dimanche
(dee-mahNnsh)
– Sunday

When you want to ask your French friend if he is free to accompany you this Saturday and he said that he is not available, he may say:

“Je travaille samedi.”

(zhuh trah-vahy sahm-dee)

or “I work on Saturday”.

But if he wants to say that he is working on all Saturdays, he would say

“Je travaille le samedi.”

(zhuh trah-vahy luh sahm-dee).

Placing the article *le* before the day of the week would then mean that you are adding an –s to the day of the week, like you would in English.

Months in the Calendar

Like how they would write the days of the week, the French also does not write the first letter of the month in uppercase.

janvier

(zhahN-vyey)

- January

février

(fey-vryey)

- February

mars

(mahrs)

- March

avril

(ah-vreel)

- April

mai

(meh)

- May

juin
(zhwaN)
- June

juillet
(zhwee-yeh)
- July

août
(ooht)
- August

septembre
(sehp-tahN-bruh)
- September

octobre
(ohk-toh-bruh)
- October

novembre
(noh-vahN-bruh)
- November

décembre
(dey-sahN-bruh)
- December

If you want to say that your birthday is on September, you say:

“Mon anniversaire est en septembre.

(mohN-nah-nee-vehr-sehr eht-ahN seh-p-tahN-bruh.)”.

You use the preposition *en* before the month in order to indicate that something is happening in a particular month.

Setting the Date If you want to tell a specific date, remember this rule: **The article “le” + number + month + year = date in French** This formula applies when expressing all dates, except that of the first day of the month. Look at these examples: Today is April 6, 2000 *C’est le 6 avril 2000.*

(seh luh see-zah-vreel duh meel.)

– literally means “It’s the sixth of April 2000.”

May 1 *C’est le premier mai.*

(seh luh pruh-myey meh.)

– literally means “It’s the first of May.”

Talking About Seasons

In French, all seasons are masculine and they all use a definitive article: *le printemps*

(luh praN-tahN)

- spring *l'été*

(ley-tey)

- summer *l'automne*

(loh-tohn)

- fall *l'hiver*

(lee-vehr)

- winter

However, when you want to say that something is happening during spring, you use the word *au* before the season, which is *printemps*.

However, if you say that something is happening in autumn, you use the word *en* instead. That means that if the name of the season starts with a consonant, you use *au*, and if it is a vowel, you use *en*.

Look at these examples:

au printemps
(oh praN-tahN)
(in the spring)

en automne
(ahN-noh-tohn)
(in the fall)

But since the letter H is not pronounced in *hiver*, that would be considered starting with a vowel:

en hiver
(ahN-nee-vehr)
(in the winter)

What Time Is It?

In French, you can use the 12-hour and the military clock (24-hour) schemes to tell time.

To tell time, you simply say *il est* (eel eh), which means “it is”, and then add the number that tells the hour, and then the word *heure(s)* (uhr), which would denote “o’clock”.

Example:

Il est une heure.
(eel eh ewn-uhr.)
It’s 1 o’clock.

Il est huit heures.
(eel eh weet-uhr.)
It’s 8 o’clock.

In the 12-hour scheme, you use the following phrases to say if it is a.m. or p.m.:

morning
du matin
(dew mah-taN) evening
du soir
(dew swahr)

afternoon
de l'après-midi
(duh lah-preh-mee-dee)

midnight
minuit
(mee-nwee)

noon
midi
(mee-dee)

Examples:

Il est 10 heures du soir.
(eel eh deez-uhr dew swahr.)
It is 10:00 in the Evening.

Il est 10 heures du matin.
(eel eh deez-uhr dew mah-taN.)
It is 10:00 in the morning.

If you want to express minutes after or before a particular hour, simply follow the formula mentioned with the number of minutes past that specific hour.

If you want to tell that it is 10 minutes before the next hour, for example, just add the word *moins* (mwaN), which means “minus”.

Look at the following examples: *Il est dix heures moins vingt-cinq.*

(eel eh deez-uhr mwaN vahN-saNk.)

- It's 9:35 or It's 25 to 10:00. - literally means “ It's 10:00 minus 25 minutes.”

Il est huit heures dix.

(eel eh weet-uhr dees.)

- It's 8:10/It's 10 past 8.

Talking About the Weather

One of the most popular ways to make a small talk and connect with someone is to make a comment about the weather. In fact, the French has a term for doing so, which is *parler de la pluie et du beau temps* (pah-r-ley duh lah plwee ey dew boh tahN).

This term literally means “to talk about the rain and the nice weather”. You would also notice that in Paris, people love to talk about the weather, and since the weather there is rather temperate, you would notice that people love to complain about it.

You already know the names of the seasons, which would tell you what kind of weather you can expect.

However, if you are stepping outside your hotel or inn, you would want to know what it is like outside. You can use this question:

Quel temps fait-il?
(kehl tahN feh-teel)

- What is the weather like?

When asked that question, you can answer using *Il fait* (eel feh), which means “It’s” + any of the following:

chaud

(shoh)

- warm, hot

froid

(frwah)

- cold

frais

(freh)

- cool

doux

(dooh)

- mild

beau

(boh)

- nice

mauvais

(moh-veh)

- bad

du vent

(dew vahN)

- windy *du soleil*

(dew soh-lehy)

- sunny *pleut*

(pluh)

- raining *neige*

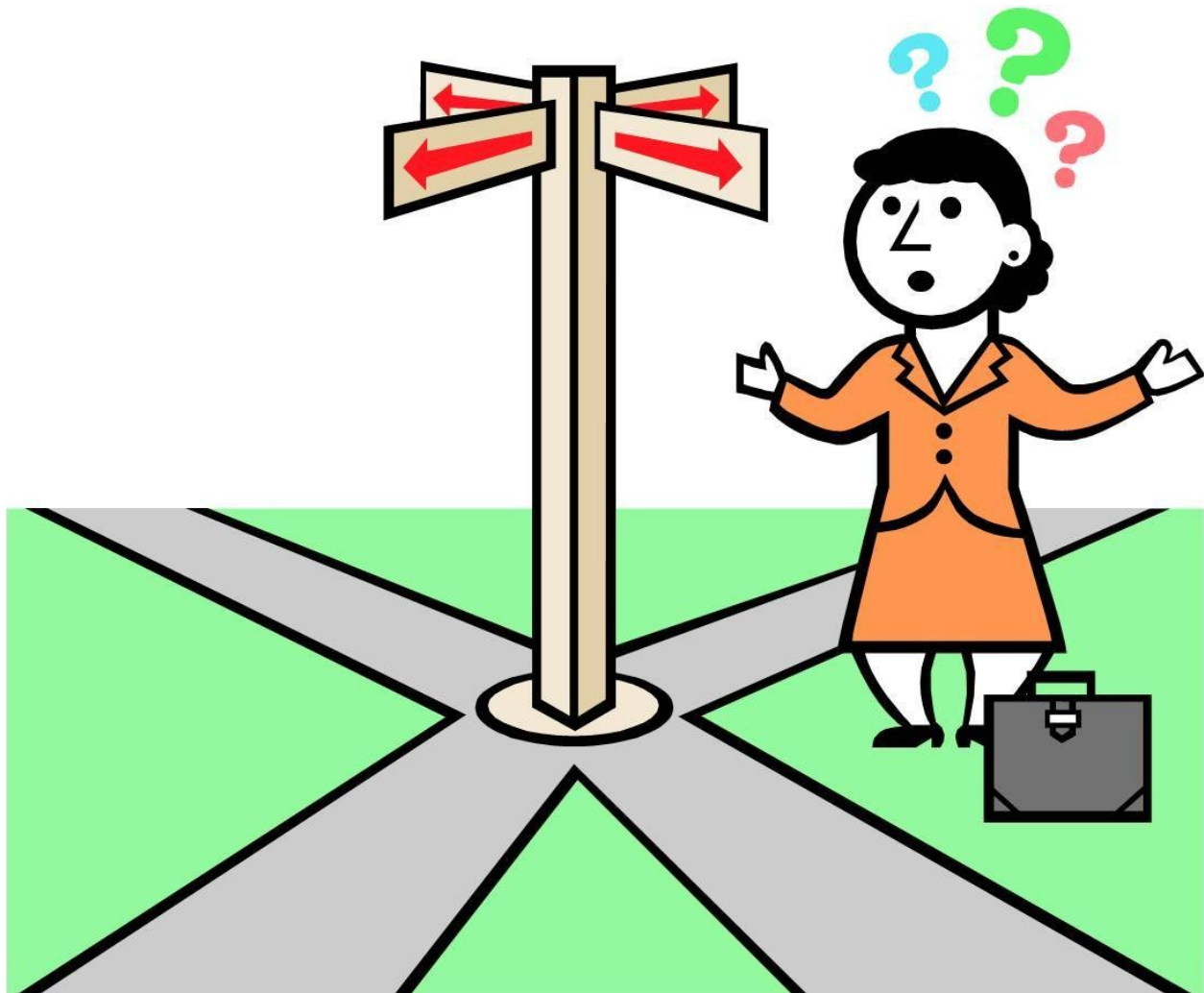
(nehzh)

- snowing You may also notice that all terms for weather is denoted with *il*. At this context, it does not mean that terms for weather are deemed masculine, but rather, *il* is used as "it."

Part 10

Telling Directions

Finding Your Way around Paris



Finding Your Way around Paris

Paris is a big city and it is understandable that sometimes you would feel a little lost. You may need to ask for directions and know which type of transportation you need to get to arrive at a certain destination.

You may also need to ask where the nearest restaurant and where the restroom is.

The Right Question

Among the first questions that you need to learn in French is “where”? When asking “where” questions in French, follow this formula:

où (ooh), which means “where” + verb + subject

Remember to conjugate the verb according to the gender of the subject.

où + être Questions

The verb *être* (eh-truh), which means “to be” is more commonly attached with the *où*.

Here are some sample questions that can help you master the conjugations of this verb: *Où sont les toilettes?*

(ooh sohN ley twah-leht?)

- Where is the bathroom?

Où est le Louvre?

(ooh eh luh looh-vruh?)

– Where is Louvre?

Où est le musée?

(ooh eh luh mew-zey?)

- Where is the museum?

où + se trouver Questions

Se trouver

(suh trooh-vey),

which means “to be located”, is also one of the most common verbs used when asking locations.

Look at the following examples: *Où se trouvent les toilettes?*

(ooh suh troohv ley twah-leht?)

- Where is the bathroom?

Où se trouve le Louvre?

(ooh suh troohv luh looh-vruh?)

- Where is the Louvre [located]?

The Preposition à (ah)

If you need directions in French, you would of course want to know if there are any equivalents of prepositions in, to, or at. Fortunately, it is not that complex in this language: the preposition à (ah) already means all three, depending on the context of the answer.

Here are rules about this preposition that you need to know: 1. If you are going to or you are in a city or town, you simply use à + name of the city/town.

Example:

Je vais à Montréal.

(zhuh veh-zah mohN-rey-ahl.)

– I am going to Montréal.

2. If you are going to or in places that are within a city or town, then you would need to add a corresponding definite article that goes with the subject.

Also take note that when you are adding a masculine definite article with à, then you would need to use a contraction. Look at the examples to see how it changes.

à + la = à la

Example:

Guy veut aller à la cathédrale.
(gee vuh-tah-ley ah lah kah-tey-drahl.)
- Guy wants to go to the cathedral.

à + les = aux

Example:

Allez aux feux!
(ah-ley oh fuh!)
- Go to the traffic lights!

à + le = au

Example:

Sylvie va au musée.
(seel-vee vah oh mew-zey.)
- Sylvie is going to the museum.

à + l' = à l'

Example:

Les Martin vont à l'église St. Paul.
(ley mahr-taN vohN-tah ley-gleez saN pohl.)
- The Martins go to St. Paul's church.

It's Right There!

Sometimes you do not notice that the place that you are looking for is already in front of you, or it is nearby. When something is really close and you can point at it, you can say *voici* (vwah-see), which means “here”, or *voilà* (vwah-lah), which means there.

Voici le musée!

(vwah-see luh mew-zey)

– Here is the museum!

Voilà les bureaux!

(vwah-lah ley bew-roh!)

– There are the offices!

However, you may notice that some people are answering you in shorter sentences, without even saying the noun. Doing so actually makes more sense, as if you are saying “Here it is!” or “There it is!” To do that, simply drop the noun and replace it with the pronoun that corresponds to its gender after you say *voilà* or *voici*.

Example: *Où est le musée?*

(ooh eh luh mew-zey?)

– Where is the museum?

Le voici!

(luh vwah-see!)

– Here it is!

Getting More Specific

If you want to be more specific and use another preposition to convey location other than *à*, here is a list that would be handy in recognizing exact locations: *à*

droite de

(ah drwaht duh)

- to the right of *à côté de*

(ah koh-tey duh)

- next to *loin (de)*

(lwaN [duh])

- far (from) *derrière*

(deh-ryehr)

- behind

à gauche de

(ah gohsh duh)

- to the left of *devant*

(duh-vahN)

- in front of

entre
(ahN-truh)
- between

sous
(sooh)
– under or underneath

en face de
(ahN fahs-duh)
- across from or in front of

dans
(dahN)
- in, inside

près (de)
(preh [duh])
- near (to) or close (to)

derrière
(deh-ryehr)
- behind

sur
(sewr)
– on or on top of

Telling Directions

When you need to get back to your hotel or you have invited a friend to come over, you would need to tell directions.

You can choose to tell someone where to go in two different ways, which are using *tu* if you are familiar with the person that you are talking to, *nous*, if you are referring to “we”, or *vouz*, if you want to sound more polite.

When you form a command, you do not need to add the subject *tu* or *vouz* since the person that you are talking to already knows that the command is directed to him.

Here are some verbs that would come handy when giving directions: *aller*
(ah-lay)

- to go *continuer*

(kohN-tee-new-ay)

- to continue *descendre*

(day-sahNdr)

- to go down *marcher*

(mahr-shay)

- to walk

monter

(mohN-tay)

- to go up *passer*

(pah-say)

- to pass *prendre*

(prahNdr)

- to take *tourner*

(toor-nay)

- to turn *traverser*

(trah-vehr-say)

- to cross Now, if you want to sound a little more polite, you can soften the command by adding the phrase *il faut* (eel foh), which means “one has to”.

Example: *Il faut prendre un taxi.*

(eel foh prahN-druhN tah-ksee.)

- I/you/we have to take a cab.

Specifically, How Far Is It?

When you want to know how far a place exactly is, you can use *à* to denote how far something is exactly.

Look at the following examples.

À deux minutes.

(ah duh mee-newt.)

- It takes only two minutes / It's two minutes away.

C'est à cent mètres (d'ici).

(seh-tah sahN meh-truh [dee-see].)

- It's 100 meters (from here).



Tourist tip:

In Paris, you would typically hear people talking about locations and assigning an ordinal number to them. The reason is because Paris is divided into 20 districts, which are called *arrondissements* (ah-rohN-dees-mahN).

When they say that something is in the first district, that means that it is in the heart of the city. The higher the number is, the farther it is from the district.

For example, if you want to ask: *Dans quel arrondissement est le restaurant?*

(dahN kehl ah-rohN-dees-mahN eh luh reh-stoh-rahN?)

– In which district is the restaurant?

And the response is

Il est dans le deuxième

(eel eh dahN luh duh-zee-ehm)

– It is in the second (district).

That means that the restaurant is close to the city center.

Where Should You Turn?

If you are unfamiliar with landmarks or the person that is giving you directions does not know where you are exactly, then you may rely on the cardinal points instead, which are north, east, west, and south. Knowing these words can help you understand your city map better, or to take little side trips easier.

nord

(nohr)

- north *nord-est*

(nohr-ehst)

- northeast *nord-ouest*

(nohr-wehst)

northwest *sud*

(sewd)

- south *sud-est*

(sew-dehst)

- southeast

sud-ouest

(sew-dwehst)

- southwest *est*

(ehst)

- east *ouest*

(wehst)

– west When you want to give directions using these cardinal points, see to it that you place *au* before the point that begins with a consonant. If it begins with a vowel, place an *à l'* instead.

Example: *La Suisse est à l'est de la France.*

(lah sweets eh-tah lehst duh lah frahNs.)

- Switzerland is east of France.

Paris est au nord de Nice.

(pah-ree eh-toh nohr duh nees.)

- Paris is north of Nice.

Making Sure

If you are not sure if you are going the right way, it always pays to double-check. Here are some sentences that can help you do that.

Comment s'appelle cette ville?

(koh-mahN sah-pehl seht veel?)

- What's the name of this town?

Où va cette rue?

(ooh vah seht rew?)

- Where does this street go?

Est-ce que c'est la bonne route pour. . . ?

(ehs-kuh seh lah bohnh rooht poohr. . .)

- Is this the right way to. . . ?

Pourriez-vous m'indiquer comment aller. . . ?

(pooh-ree-ey-vooh maNdee-keyoh-mahN-tah-ley. . . ?)

- Could you indicate /point out (to me) how to get to. . . ?

What would you do if you cannot understand the person that you are asking directions from? You simply need to ask them to speak more clearly or slowly. Here are some sentences that may come handy when you get into situations like that.

Excusez-moi! Est-ce que vous pouvez répéter, s'il vous plaît?
(ehkskew-zey-mwah! ehs-kuh vooh pooh-vey rey-pey-tey, seel vooh pleh?)
- Excuse me. Can you repeat that, please?

(Parlez) plus lentement.
([pah-r-ley] plew lahNt-mahN.)
- (Speak) more slowly.

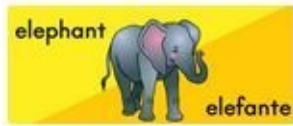
Pardon. Je ne comprends pas.
(pah-r-dohN. zhuh nuh kohN-prahN pah.)
- Pardon. I don't understand.

Of course, always remember to say “thank you” or “thank you very much”. When you say *merci* (mehr-see) or *merci beaucoup* (mehr-see boh-kooh), you might hear the other person say *Je vous en prie* (zhuh vooh-zahN pree) or *De rien* (duh ryaN), which means “You are welcome” and “It’s nothing”, respectively.

Part 11

French Cognates

French words that are similar to English language



French words that are similar to English language

There are English and French terms that are alike or same in meaning and spelling.

Shopping

bouquet

bikini

collection

costume

genre

exact

estimation

magazine

original

petite

Prix – price

t-shirt

Dialogue

accent

Au contraire - On the contrary

correct

Communication

Critique – Critical, criticizing

compliment

complication

conclusion

confession

couple

date

dialogue

divorce

ok

street / outdoors

accident

air

avenue

attention

arrivée - arrive

boutique

bus

campus

central

destination danger

déjà vu

direct

direction

en route

hotel

musée – museum

nature

police

parc - park

parking

public

Train

taxi

voyeur

Restaurant

Aperitif la bier – beer

Bouilli - Boiled

Braisé – Braised

buffet

café

Frit - Deep fried

hot dog

le café crème - coffee with cream

la champagne - champagne

chef

caramel

cigarette

entrée

fresh - pressé

fast food

fruit Grillé – Grilled

hamburger

le jus d'orange - orange juice

le café espresso - espresso

menu

Omelette

pastry - la pâtisserie

restaurant

Réserver - reserve

sandwich

tea - le thé

Toilette

Fun

ballet

action

camping

culture

cinéma

film

jpgging

télévision

week-end

Conclusion

You have learned some of the essential French grammar and pronunciation, and you probably have an idea on how to pronounce certain words in French, start a conversation or ask questions in French. However, the learning doesn't stop here. In order to make sure that you will continue improving your French and eventually make it your second language, see to it that you use the words that you have learned here in conversations.

You may also want to subscribe to a French magazine or watch French TV shows in order to expand your vocabulary. Of course, always make sure that you have a way to practice speaking in French. The best way to do that is to dine in authentic French restaurants, which are fortunately available in most parts of the world.

If you have enjoyed this book and if it has served as a great guide around Paris and in making you learn a new language, please take the time to rate it at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and leave a comment. I will be looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Thank you and enjoy your vacation to Paris!

Patrick Drake