

— LEARN —

INTERMEDIATE

FRENCH

FOR ADULTS WORKBOOK

**Go from French Beginner to
Intermediate in 30 Days!**

Explore  **Win**

Learn Intermediate French for Adults Workbook

*Go from French Beginner to Intermediate in 30
Days!*

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Introduction



You need to step out of your comfort zone, and you need to do it now. Time is of the essence in language learning. If you are reading this, we take it you've acquired a beginner's level in French (perhaps through our *Learn French for Adult Beginners Workbook*). You are now capable of talking about basic topics related to you and your immediate surroundings. You can now order at a restaurant, talk about the future, and even handle holidays in a francophone country. But if you wish to achieve native fluency, you have to keep yourself from getting too comfortable at this level. You need to move to your growth zone while the momentum lasts.

Intermediate language learners often confront similar problems. The first is what specialists call a “plateau”, or in layman's terms: a slump. As you finish a level, you find yourself hitting a dead-end. You're improving, yes, but not as fast as you had hoped. And then, to add to this, is your staggering motivation. You feel like you will never be able to master French vocabulary or grammar. Everything is just too frustrating: the interminable list of rules and exceptions, the number of tenses to memorize, the exasperating phonetics of the language. You will find yourself wanting to just stop at elementary fluency, telling yourself it's good enough to just know the basics. But giving up now would be a pity, *quel dommage !* as the French would say. If you look at the big picture, you are halfway there. Just a little push and you can speak like a French native, do you really want to just call it a day?

How do you then proceed from here? The key is moving from your comfort zone to the growth zone. First, remember why you decided to learn French. Commit your goal to memory. Next, build a learning habit that works for you. Devote yourself to it. Finally, find the right material — a book that builds on what you already know while providing you with new challenges... But wait, you just did!

About this book

Learn Intermediate French for Adults Workbook: Go from French Beginner to Intermediate in 30 Days! is designed to help you achieve an intermediate level of French. This means that by the end of this 30-day course, you will be able to:

- understand and discuss a wide range of topics, concrete or abstract.
- communicate in more specific commercial situations and work-related scenarios.
- express point of view on subjects related to current issues in the society.
- express hesitation, doubt, regret, certainty, agreement and disagreement.
- summarize events and structure speech through logical connectors.

The goal of this book is to have you speak intermediate French within 30 days. We will help you move to the growth zone and sustain that momentum! You'll find that the lessons in this book have just the right amount of new, essential words and grammar topics. You will learn more advanced and more nuanced subjects, but you won't drown or be overwhelmed in the process (this is the magic of spiral learning, as we will talk about in a bit). With this book, you will go beyond the comfort of basic fluency and reach the next level of your learning within just a month.

Each chapter features the **Lesson proper** which revolves around a specific communicative function and discusses related grammatical concepts and vocabulary. We've also added short texts and dialogues to some lessons so you can see the language at-work.

At the end of each chapter, you will find a **Key Takeaways** section that summarizes the main points learned, as well as **Exercises with Answer Keys** so you can confirm your understanding of the lesson. You'll also find **Culture Tips** that provide useful facts about French etiquette, customs, and language.

As always, we also included in the final pages of the book **Vocabulary Lists by Theme, Verb Conjugations** and a **Grammar Topic Index**, for your reviewing purposes.

Our approach to learning

This book was prepared by French linguists who have made it their life's mission to make language learning fun, accessible and efficient. They've helped many learners achieve an intermediate level of fluency in the language. They know about their tribulations, their frustrations, their hopes, and they've discovered the best strategies in helping them.

Just like our first book in this series, ***Learn Intermediate French for Adults Workbook*** is founded on a communicative approach and a spiral lesson structure. The communicative approach prioritizes getting the learner to speak and actually use the language. This is why everything is taught in context. A spiral lesson structure means you expand your knowledge by building on what you already know. Revisiting vocabulary or grammar elements is important here, for it allows you to retain them in your long-term memory bank.

How to use this book

This book can be used as a **stand-alone resource for self-study**. It is no secret that studying a language on your own can be tough. We recommend keeping it simple and using a single resource. You would be tempted to know everything you can, the fastest way you can. And you might think this entails hoarding many materials. In this book, we pooled everything you need to know to become an intermediate French speaker. More importantly, we paced it in a way that promotes and improves learning. Let us lead, we will get you there.

While this book stays true to a specific structure, remember that you have control over your learning. You can take the time to revisit a chapter if you need to. You can use learning strategies that are effective for you. Write down new vocabularies, or draw them! Chat with a native speaker. Start a journal in French. Listen to the audio supplement of this book in repeat. Studying this book, as you will soon realize, opens up many possibilities and occasions of learning.

You can also use this book as a **complement to a French beginners' course** you are taking. If you need more explanations about a grammar concept or if you wish to expand your French vocabulary, look no further. The index of this book is particularly helpful for searching for a specific topic you want to focus on.

Some final tips

- **Engage with the lessons.** Don't just read the lessons, engage with them. Repeat aloud the phrases and words you will encounter. If presented with a dialogue, enact it. Take notes while reading the book. The goal is for you to get used to these sounds and structures. And the only way to do that is by using the language.
- **Speak up.** Now is the time to speak up. Find a language learning partner, or a native speaker to practice with. Don't let fear or lack of confidence get in the way of your learning. As you go through this book, you will gain most of the tools needed for any intermediate-level conversation. Make the most out of these tools.

- **Immerse yourself in everything French.** If you haven't done it before, start your language immersion. Even at home! Watch a very long French series, listen to French songs, learn more about French history. Surround yourself with the language.
- **Enjoy the ride.** We've said it before, and we'll say it again: language learning is a road trip. The destination is important of course. But so is the journey. Celebrate your achievements. There is no such thing as "small wins". Each step matters, because however small you think it may be, it still brings you closer to your goal of native fluency.

Are you ready to level up? Let's get this road on the show! For your first lesson, we head to the stars...

Abbreviations

lit.	literal translation
for.	formal
inf.	informal
m.	masculine
f.	feminine
sing.	singular
plur.	plural
n.	noun
v.	verb
adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb
prep.	preposition

Pronunciation Guide

Consonants

Letters	Examples	Pronunciation Guide
b	blanc	Pronounced the same as in English.
d	deux	
f	film	
k	kilo	
l	lit	
m	main	
n	non	
p	père	
s	sol	
t	terre	
v	voix	
z	zut	
c	carte /kart/ côte /koht/	C is pronounced as /k/ before A, O, and U.
	cette /seht/ ici /ee-see/	C is pronounced as /s/ Before E, I and Y.
ç	leçon /leu-sohñ/	Ç with cedilla is pronounced like an /s/ as well.
ch	chapeau /shah-po/	CH is pronounced like /sh/ as though you are producing a shushing sound.
q	quiz /kweez/ cinq /sank/	QU and Q as final letters are both pronounced as /k/.
g	golf /golf/	Before the vowels A, O, and U, the letter G is pronounced like the English G in <i>great</i> .
	guitare /gee-tar/	GU before the vowels E, I and Y are pronounced the same way.
	manger /mahn-zeh/	G is pronounced as /zh/ before the letters E, I and Y. This sound is the same as the s in the word <i>leisure</i> .
gn	magnifique /mah-nyee-feek/	GN is pronounced as /ny/, like the <i>ni</i> in the word <i>opinion</i> .
h	hôpital /oh-pee-tahl/	H is generally mute in French.
j	jouer /zhoo-weh/	J is pronounced like /zh/, again like the s in the English word <i>leisure</i> .
r	rue /rew/	To pronounce the French R, place the tip of your tongue at the bottom of your mouth, against your front teeth.
s	sol /sohl/	S is pronounced the same as in

	maison /meh-zohñ/	English unless it is sandwiched by two vowels. In this case, it is pronounced like a /z/.
th	thon /ton/	TH is pronounced like an English /t/.
x	excellent /ekseh-lahñ/ exemples /egzohm-pleuh/ six /sees/	X is pronounced as /ks/ when followed by a consonant. When followed by a vowel, it is pronounced as /gs/. Pronounce X as /s/ when it is the final letter.

Vowels

Letters	Examples	Pronunciation Guide
a	mal /mahl/	Pronounced as /ah/
à	voilà /vwa-lah/	
â	pâte /paht/	
ai	mai /meh/	Pronounced as /eh/
au	faux /fo/	Pronounced as /o/
eau	peau /po/	
e	le /leu/ premier /preu- myeh/	E is pronounced as /eu/ in one syllable words, or when followed by a consonant in long words.
é	thé / tay/	Pronounced as /ay/
ez	nez /nay/	
è	mère /mehr/	Pronounced as /eh/
ê	tête /teht/	
et	mets /meh/	
ei	seize /sehz/	
i	livre /leev-reu/	Pronounced as /ee/
î	île /eel/	
o	océan /o- seh-yahñ/	Pronounced as /o/
ô	hôte /ot/	
ou	pour /poohr/	Pronounced as /ooh/
u	tu /tchew/	Pronounced as /ew/

Semi-vowels

Letters	Examples	Pronunciation Guide
y	yaourt /yah-oort/	Pronounced as /yuh/
yer	payer /peh-yeh/	
ille	fille /fiy/	
ouill	mouillé /mou-yeh/	
eil	bouteille /boo-tey/	
ail	ail /ahy/	
euille	feuille /feuy/	Pronounced as /wuh/
ui	lui /loo-wee/	
ué(e)	ruée /rew-weh/	
uin	juin /zhoo-wañ/	
ueu	sueur /sew-weur/	Pronounced as /wah/
oi	moi /mwah/	
oy	employé/ ahñ-plwah-yeh /	
oui	Louis /loo-weeh/	Pronounced as /weeh/
oue	ouest /ou-west/	

Nasal vowels

Nasal sounds are produced by letting air pass through the nose. In this book, we use the tilde symbol (~) to indicate a nasal sound.

Letters	Examples	Pronunciation Guide
an	enfant /ahñ-fahñt/	Pronounced as /ahñ/ or /ahmñ/, like the preposition <i>on</i> in English, but without stressing the letter <i>n</i> .
am	chambre /shahmñb-reu/	
en	en /ahñ/	
em	embarras /ahmñ-bah-rah/	
in	matin /mah-tañ/	Pronounced as /añ/ or /amñ/, like the article <i>an</i> in English, but without stressing the letter <i>n</i> .
im	impoli /amñ-po-lee/	
ain	pain /pañ/	
aim	faim /famñ/	
ien	bien /byañ/	Pronounced as /yañ/
on	son /sohñ/	Pronounced as /ohñ/ or /ohmñ/
om	nom /nohñ/	
un	un /uhñ/	Pronounced as /uhñ/

Pronunciation and spelling tips

- The French language has five letter accents: the acute (é); the grave (à, è, ù); the circumflex which resembles a roof (â, ê, î, ô, û); the cedilla (ç) and the dieresis (ë, ÿ).
- The final consonant of a word is generally not pronounced, except for the letters C, R, F and L. For example, in the word *bas* /bah/ (below), the -s is mute. But in the word *truc* /trewk/ (thing), the final -c is pronounced. The exception is for verbs, where the final R is not pronounced. For example, *manger* (to eat) is pronounced as /mahñ-zeh/.
- If you wish to sound native, one of the most important things to learn is the *liaison*. Liaison means pronouncing the final consonant of a word with the first vowel of the next word. For example, in the sentence:

Vous êtes français.

We link the final -s of the word *vous*, with the ê- of *êtes*. We thus pronounce it as such: /Voo zehfrahN-seh/.

Chapter 1: Lights, Camera, Action!



La gloire est un effort constant.

Fame is a constant effort.

- Jules Renard

The difference between learning at the beginner's level and at the intermediate level has to do with the range of topics you can communicate about. At the start of your language journey, you spent your time learning how to talk about you and things related to you. As we move onto the next level, we redirect our focus, enlarge it to include the people around you, subjects not of immediate relevance to you, more abstract concepts, and so on. Succinctly put, the intermediate level is all about expanding the world of your language knowledge.

In this lesson, we will take you to the stars, the industry of fame. You will learn how to describe someone's physical attributes, including vocabularies related to cinema. In terms of grammar, relative pronouns *qui* and *que* take the center stage. "Camera, lights, action" or as they say in French, *Moteur, ça tourne, action !*

Describing someone's physical appearance

Georges describes a famous actress to her friend Chloe. Look closely at the highlighted phrases:

Georges : *Tu as vu le dernier film d'action« Indéniable » ? C'est excellent !*

Chloé : *Euh... je ne connais pas. C'est quel genre ?*

Georges : *C'est un film d'action avec l'actrice Natasha Bertrand.*

Chloé : *Je ne connais pas non plus l'actrice. Tu peux la décrire ?*

Georges : *Mais elle est très célèbre ! Elle a les yeux bleus, les cheveux courts, bouclés et blonds...*

Chloé : *Ça ne me dit rien.*

Georges : *Elle est mince et très grande. Elle a la peau bronzée. Elle était mannequin avant de devenir actrice. C'est l'actrice qui a joué Sophie dans la série « Rappelle-moi ».*

Chloé : *Ah oui ! Je la connais. C'est l'actrice que ma mère adore !*

Georges: Did you see the latest action film “Indéniable”? It's superb!

Chloé: Um... I don't know it. What genre of film is it?

Georges: It's an action film with the actress Natasha Bertrand.

Chloé: I don't know the actress either.

Georges: But she's so famous! She has blue eyes, short, curly blond hair...

Chloé: Doesn't ring a bell.

Georges: She's very tall. She has a tan. She was a model before she became an actress. It's the actress who played Sophie in the series “Remind me”.

Chloé: Ah yes! I know her. It's the actress my mother likes!

To ask how someone looks like, we can follow Chloé and ask:

Tu peux le/la décrire ? or Vous pouvez le/la décrire ?
Can you describe him/her?

You can also use these expressions:

De quoi il/elle a l'air ? or Il/Elle a l'air de quoi ?
À quoi il/elle ressemble ? or Il/Elle ressemble à quoi ?

These both mean, “What does he/she look like?”

General descriptions

To describe *l'apparence physique* (m.) or the physical appearance of someone, one can simply say:

Il est beau. / Elle est belle.

He is handsome. / She is beautiful.

Or alternatively (but we discourage being rude!):

Il est laid. / Elle est laide.
Il est moche. / Elle est moche. (inf.)
He is ugly. / She is ugly.

You can also refer to the age of the person you are describing:

Il/Elle est jeune.
He/She is young.
Il est âgé. Elle est âgée.
Il est vieux. Elle est vieille.
He is old. She is old.

Now's a good time to review the adverb *assez* (rather, quite) and *très* (very):

- ***La femme est très belle.*** The woman is very beautiful.
- ***Mathis est assez jeune.*** Mathis is quite young.
- ***Il n'est pas très vieux.*** He is not that old.

Hair and face

Now, if you want to get into the specifics of describing one's appearance, you would need to know how to say the different parts of *le visage* (m.) or a face.

	Translation
<i>le visage</i>	face
<i>la tête</i>	head
<i>les cheveux</i> (m. plur.)	hair
<i>l'oeil</i> (m.)	eye
<i>les yeux</i> (m. plur.)	eyes
<i>le sourcil</i>	eyebrow

<i>le nez</i>	nose
<i>les lèvres</i> (f. plur.)	lips
<i>les joues</i> (f. plur.)	cheeks
<i>le menton</i>	chin
<i>une moustache</i>	mustache
<i>une barbe</i>	beard

Let us begin with describing someone's hair. Notice that we use the structure *avoir* + definite article. For example:

Elle a les cheveux longs.

She has long hair.

Il a les cheveux blonds.

He has blond hair.

In French, *les cheveux* is always plural. A quick grammar refresher: the adjective agrees in gender and number with the noun. Since *les cheveux* is masculine and plural, we use the corresponding adjective forms *longs* and *blonds*. In general, adjectives are placed after the noun they are describing. You can refer to the color or the style by saying *les cheveux...*

- ***frisés/bouclés*** curly
- ***raides*** straight
- ***courts*** short
- ***mi-longs*** mid-length
- ***longs*** long
- ***blonds*** blond
- ***bruns*** brown
- ***châtains*** light-brown
- ***gris*** gray
- ***blancs*** white
- ***roux*** red

Certain words indicate hairstyles or color without specifying the noun *les cheveux*. For example:

- ***Il/Elle est chauve.*** He/She is bald.
- ***Il est brun. / Elle est brune.*** He is brunette. / She is brunette.
- ***Il est blond. / Elle est blonde.*** He is blond. / She is blond.
- ***Il est roux / Elle est rousse.*** He is red-headed. / She is red-headed.

Moving on to the window to the soul, the eyes or *les yeux*. You might have noticed above that the words for “eye” and “eyes” are different. If referring to a single eye alone, we say *l’œil* (m.) and for both eyes, we say *les yeux*.

To describe someone’s eyes, we use *avoir* with the definite article as well:

Noé a les yeux verts.
Noé has green eyes.

Monique a les yeux marrons.
Monique has brown eyes.

You can refer to the color of the eyes by using these words, *les yeux*...

- ***bleus*** blue
- ***verts*** green
- ***marrons*** brown

You can also describe someone’s features using the vocabulary of the parts of the face above. Let’s look at some examples:

- ***Il a une barbe courte/longue.*** He has a short/long beard.
- ***Il a une moustache.*** He has a mustache.
- ***Elle a un petit nez.*** She has a small nose.
- ***Elle a le visage rond.*** She has a round face.

Look at yourself in the mirror. Can you try describing yourself aloud using what we learned? Imagine a family member’s face. Try describing his or her physical appearance.

Physique

Let’s now focus on the physique, starting with essential words:

	Translation
<i>le corps</i>	the body
<i>grand(e)</i>	tall
<i>petit(e)</i>	short
<i>mince</i>	thin, slender
<i>gros(se)</i>	fat
<i>rond(e)</i>	plump
<i>la peau</i>	skin
<i>la peau bronzée</i>	tanned skin
<i>la peau pâle</i>	pale skin

Study the following examples:

Mon frère, Lucas, est très grand.
My brother, Lucas, is very tall.

Le mannequin est mince.
The model is slender.

Louise a la peau bronzée.
Louise has tanned skin.

L'acteur a la peau pâle.
The actor has pale skin.

Height and weight

When describing someone, it probably won't get as specific as indicating one's height or weight. Still, it is essential to know how to do so!

If you wish to specify the height or *la taille* of someone, you can use the verb *mesurer*, as in:

Nathalie mesure 2 mètres.
Nathalie is 2 meters tall.

Jacques mesure 1 mètre 80.
Jacques is 1 meter and 80 centimeters tall.

Note that the French measure height in meters, and not in feet.

As for weight or *le poids*, we use either the verb *faire* or *peser*.

Je fais 60 kg.

I weigh 60 kg.

Mon mari pèse 75 kg.

My husband weighs 75 kg.

GRAMMAR TIP

Relative pronouns qui and que

What are relative pronouns? Like any pronoun, relative pronouns replace nouns that are previously mentioned in order to avoid repetitions in a conversation. They are called “relative” because they introduce relative clauses. A relative clause introduces new information in a sentence about a noun. To simplify, let’s study these two examples from the dialogue above:

C’est l’actrice qui a joué Sophie dans la série « Rappelle-moi ».

It’s the actress who played Sophie in the series “Remind me”.

C’est l’actrice que ma mère adore !

It’s the actress that my mother loves!

The relative pronouns here are *qui* and *que*. Focus on the first sentence. The relative pronoun *qui* here introduces the clause “played Sophie in the series...”. Instead of having to repeat the word “actress” like this:

C’est l’actrice. L’actrice a joué Sophie dans la série « Rappelle-moi ».

It’s the actress. The actress played Sophie in the series “Remind me”.

We use *qui* to replace the noun and avoid repetition.

In English, we have the relative pronouns “who” and “that” and their use depends on the kind of noun, whether it is a person or a thing. In French,

qui and *que* have nothing to do with the kind of noun but the grammatical identity of it.

We use *qui* for the subject of the sentence. As such, it is always followed by a verb. We use *que* for the object of the sentence. As such, it is always followed by a noun or pronoun. Let's look at other examples:

C'est **l'acteur qui** a remporté l'Oscar.
It's the actor who won the Oscar.

Qui here refers to the "actor" (*l'acteur*), the subject of the sentence and the doer of the action. Next example:

C'est **l'acteur que** tout le monde aime.
It's the actor that everyone loves.

Que here refers to the "actor" too, but this time it's the object of the sentence, the receiver of the action. The subject in this sentence is *tout le monde* (everyone).

Remember that *qui* and *que* are not equivalent to "who" and "that". For instance, *qui* can be used to refer to a thing:

C'est ***le livre qui*** a changé ma vie !
This is the book that changed my life!

While in English, it is grammatically correct to sometimes omit the relative pronoun, this is not the case in French. For instance, one might say "It's the film I love", without the pronoun "that". But in French, the relative pronoun *que* cannot be omitted: *C'est le film que j'aime*.

Cinema vocabulary

	Translation
<i>le cinéma</i>	cinema, movie theater

<i>un film</i>	movie
<i>une scène</i>	a scene
<i>un documentaire</i>	a documentary
<i>une série</i>	a (TV) series
<i>un film d'action</i>	action movie
<i>un film d'aventures</i>	adventure movie
<i>un film d'animation</i>	animated movie
<i>un film d'horreur</i>	horror movie
<i>un film policier</i>	detective movie
<i>un film de science-fiction</i>	science-fiction movie
<i>une comédie</i>	comedy
<i>le premier rôle</i>	leading actor
<i>le premier rôle féminin</i>	leading actress
tourner	<i>to shoot (a movie or scene)</i>
<i>un réalisateur</i>	a director
<i>une réalisatrice (f.)</i>	a director

CULTURE TIP

Movie night!

Sharing one's thoughts about a movie is all part of the fun. To describe a movie in French, there is an abundance of adjectives we can use. One can talk about the story itself, *l'histoire*, which could be *originale* (original), *médiocre* (second-rate) or *géniale* (brilliant). You can also talk about the acting: perhaps it is *surjoué* (exaggerated)? Most beginners will overuse the adjective *intéressant* to describe everything: *C'est un film intéressant!* But how about trying these other adjectives instead?

C'est un film...

- ***amusant*** entertaining
- ***drôle*** funny
- ***émouvant*** moving, touching
- ***effrayant*** scary
- ***ennuyeux*** boring
- ***exceptionnel*** exceptional, remarkable

- *impressionnant* impressive
- *sublime* sublime, magnificent
- *triste* sad

Key Takeaways

- To ask how someone looks like, we use the following expressions:

Ask how someone looks like

Tu peux le/la décrire ? or Vous pouvez le/la décrire ?

De quoi il/elle a l'air ? or Il/Elle a l'air de quoi ?

À quoi il/elle ressemble or Il/Elle ressemble à quoi ?

- To describe someone, we can say:

General descriptions

<i>être beau/belle</i>	<i>être laid(e)</i> <i>être moche (inf.)</i>
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<i>être jeune</i>	<i>être âgé(e)</i> <i>être vieux/vieille</i>
-------------------	---

Hair and face

avoir les cheveux frisés/bouclés/raides/courts/mi-longs/longs/blonds/bruns/châtains/gris/blancs/roux

être chauve

être brun(e)

être blond(e)

être roux/rousse

avoir les yeux bleus/verts/marrons

Physique

être grand(e)/petit(e)/mince/gros(se)/rond(e)

avoir la peau bronzée/pâle

Height and weight

mesurer.... mètres.

faire... kg / peser... kg

- The relative pronouns are used to avoid repetition and to introduce a relative clause.
- We use the relative pronoun *qui* to refer to the subject of the sentence. As such, it is always followed by a verb.
- We use *que* to refer to the object of the sentence. As such, it is always followed by a noun or pronoun.

In the next chapter, we will continue studying how to describe someone. This time, we will focus on one's qualities and weaknesses. We will also review adjective placement and learn how to compare.

Exercises

1-3. Complete the following sentences with the missing word:

1. - Vous _____ la décrire ?
- Oui. Elle est grande. Elle a les cheveux roux et les yeux marrons.
2. - À _____ il ressemble ?
- Il est chauve et assez jeune.
3. Ton amie a l'air de quoi ?
- Elle a les _____ bouclés. Elle a les yeux verts.

4-6. In each list, find the word that does not belong.

4. blond – roux – châtain – mi-long
5. jeune – laid – âgé – vieux
6. brun – mince – rond – petit

7-10. *Qui* or *que* ? Complete the sentences with the correct relative pronoun.

7. C'est la chanson _____ Nathalie aime beaucoup.

8. Brad Pitt est un acteur américain _____ est très célèbre.
9. Tu as vu le voleur _____ a pris mon sac ?
10. C'est un film _____ nous avons regardé il y a longtemps.

Answer Key

1. pouvez
2. quoi
3. cheveux
4. mi-long (it's the only one referring to length)
5. laid (it's the only one that has nothing to do with age)
6. brun (it's the only one referring to hair color)
7. que
8. qui
9. qui
10. que

Chapter 2: All manner of people



On voit les qualités de loin et les défauts de près.

One sees the qualities from afar and the flaws up close.

- Victor Hugo

They say beauty is only skin deep, and that what's inside is more important than what can be seen by the naked eye. When we think of someone we know, we might conjure up a visual image of that person in our mind. But we will also most likely think about what this person is like. Shy? Outgoing? Talkative? Perhaps a bit eccentric?

In this lesson, you will learn how to describe someone's traits, be it positive or negative. You will also study how to compare. Finally, we will look more closely at the feminine and plural forms of adjectives.

Describing someone's personality

A person has both *des qualités* (f.), the positive things about him or her, and *des défauts* (m.), the negative stuff we often don't talk about! To ask about someone's personality, we can say:

Comment il/elle est ?

Il/Elle est comment ?

What is he/she like?

Qualities and flaws

Let's look at this short text describing two sisters:

Léa et sa sœur Sophie sont très différentes. Léa est plutôt timide. Elle n'aime pas sortir. Elle est introvertie. Elle est aussi gentille, honnête et sérieuse. Par contre, elle est un peu pessimiste. Sophie est extravertie. Elle est très bavarde ! Elle a beaucoup d'amis, c'est une fille vraiment sociable. Mais contrairement à Léa, elle est parfois menteuse et méchante.

Can you find within this text, pairs of adjectives that are antonyms of each other?

Here are the antonym pairs in this text: *timide-sociable* ; *introverti-extraverti* ; *gentil-méchant* ; *honnête-menteur*. Did you get them all right?

To describe someone's quality or flaws, we use the verb *être* like in the text above. Adverbs like *parfois* (sometimes), *un peu* (a little), *très* (very), *plutôt* (rather), and *vraiment* (really) may be used to nuance these descriptions.

Below is a list of words related to qualities and flaws. Pro tip: memorizing the following as antonym pairs will help you retain them easier.

	Translation		Translation
<i>calme</i>	calm	<i>inquiet(-ète)</i>	anxious
<i>confiant(e)</i>	confident		
<i>courageux(-euse)</i>	courageous	<i>peureux(-euse)</i>	fearful
<i>dynamique</i>	energetic		
<i>fort(e)</i>	strong	<i>faible</i>	weak
<i>généreux(-euse)</i>	generous	<i>égoïste</i>	selfish
<i>gentil(le)</i>	kind	<i>méchant(e)</i>	mean
<i>honnête</i>	honest	<i>menteur(-euse)</i>	liar
<i>humble</i>	humble	<i>arrogant(e)</i>	arrogant
<i>introverti(e)</i>	introverted	<i>extraverti(e)</i>	extrovert
		<i>sociable</i>	sociable
<i>optimiste</i>	optimistic	<i>pessimiste</i>	pessimistic
<i>patient(e)</i>	patient	<i>impatient(e)</i>	impatient
<i>poli(e)</i>	polite	<i>impoli(e)</i>	impolite
<i>réservé(e)</i>	reserved, quiet	<i>bavard(e)</i>	talkative

<i>responsable</i>	responsible	<i>irresponsable</i>	irresponsible
<i>sensible</i>	sensitive	<i>insensible</i>	insensitive
<i>sérieux(-euse)</i>	hardworking	<i>paresseux(-euse)</i>	lazy

When describing someone, we can also use the expressions *quelqu'un de* + adjective or *avoir l'air* + adjective:

C'est quelqu'un de gentil.

He's a kind person.

Il a l'air gentil.

He seems kind.

GRAMMAR TIP

Adjectives: feminine and plural forms

At the beginner's level, you were taught the general rule to form the feminine of adjectives: by adding an -e at the end of the word. While there are exceptions to this rule, the good news is that they can also be grouped into categories:

Endings	Feminine form	Examples
-el	→ -elle	<i>naturel</i> → <i>naturelle</i>
-en	→ -enne	<i>ancien</i> → <i>ancienne</i>
-on	→ -onne	<i>bon</i> → <i>bonne</i>
-er	→ -ère	<i>léger</i> → <i>légère</i>
-eux	→ -euse	<i>heureux</i> → <i>heureuse</i>
-et	→ -ète	<i>inquiet</i> → <i>inquiète</i>
-f	→ -ve	<i>neuf</i> → <i>neuve</i>

To form the plural, the general rule is to add -s. Here are a few exceptions:

Endings	Plural form	Examples
-eau	→ -eaux	<i>nouveau</i> → <i>nouveaux</i>
-al	→ -aux	<i>national</i> → <i>nationaux</i>

Comparing

Let's look at another text. This time, Michel is describing himself while comparing his personality to his wife Anne.

Je suis quelqu'un de très calme. Ma femme, Anne, est plutôt dynamique. Elle est plus sociable que moi. Elle aime bien sortir avec ses amis, visiter des musées... Elle n'est pas timide du tout et elle est très confiante. Je l'admire vraiment. C'est la personne la plus souriante que je connais ! Moi, je suis moins optimiste qu'elle. Je suis d'un naturel inquiet.

I am a very calm person. My wife, Anne, is quite dynamic. She's more social than me. She likes going out with her friends, going to museums... She's not shy at all and she's very confident. I really admire her. She is always smiling. I am less optimistic than her. I'm a natural worrier!

In English, we use “more” or add -er to form the comparative. To compare in French, we simply use the expressions *plus*, *moins* and *aussi* with *que*. The structure is as follows:

PLUS / AUSSI / MOINS + ADJECTIVE + QUE or QU'

Plus is the equivalent of “more”, *aussi* of “as”, and *moins* of “less”. Let's look at some examples.

*Il est **plus grand que** moi.*
He is taller than me.

*Léo est **aussi courageux que** son frère.*
Léo is as brave as his brother.

*La voiture est **moins rapide que** le train.*
The car is slower than the train.

Note that before a vowel, *que* contracts to *qu'*:

*Mathis est plus pessimiste **qu'**elle.*
Mathis is more pessimistic than her.

*Sophie est aussi heureuse **qu'**Anne.*
Sophie is as happy as Anne.

To form the superlative in English, we use “most” or add -est. In French, we follow this structure:

NOUN + DEFINITE ARTICLE (*LA, LE, LES*) + *PLUS / MOINS* +
ADJECTIVE

Study these examples:

*Cette montagne est **la plus haute** du monde.*
This mountain is the highest in the world.

*C'est l'étudiant **le moins sérieux** dans cette classe.*
He's the least hardworking student in this class.

*Maria et Lucile sont les actrices **les plus célèbres** dans ce pays.*
Maria and Lucile are the most famous actresses in this country.

Note that the definite article changes according to the gender and number of the noun referred to. The same goes for the adjective.

If you look at the first example above, the adjective *haute* is in feminine form because it refers to the noun *la montagne*, which is feminine. In the third example, we use *célèbres* in plural form, for it refers to the plural noun *les actrices*.

CULTURE TIP

Who has long teeth?

There are many idiomatic expressions you can also use to describe someone's traits. We list here some of them:

- ***être mal dans sa peau*** to feel bad about oneself

- ***avoir les dents longues*** to be ambitious (lit. to have long teeth)
- ***avoir les pieds sur terre*** to be down-to-earth
- ***avoir la main verte*** to have a green thumb (lit. to have a green hand)
- ***avoir les chevilles qui enflent*** to be full of oneself (lit. to have ankles that swell)

Key Takeaways

- To ask or describe how someone is like, we say:

Ask about someone's personality

Comment il/elle est ?

Il/Elle est comment ?

Describe someone's personality

être + adjective

être quelqu'un de + adjective

avoir l'air de + adjective

- To form the comparative, we use the expressions *plus*, *aussi* and *moins* + adjective + *que* or *qu'*.
- To form the superlative, we use the following structure: noun + *le/la/les* + *plus/moins* + adjective.
- In general, we add an -e to form the feminine of adjectives. There are exceptions, in which case we replace the endings as such: *-el* → *-elle* ; *-en* → *-enne* ; *-on* → *-onne* ; *-er* → *-ère* ; *-eux* → *-euse* ; *-et* → *-ète* ; *-f* → *-ve*.
- To form the plural, we add an -s. However, for nouns ending in *-eau* and *-al*, we add an -x.

In the next chapter, we will learn how to shop for clothes. We will learn vocabulary related to clothing and accessories. As for the grammar, we will focus on direct object pronouns and adverbs of intensity.

Exercices

1-5. Translate the following sentences. Remember that the adjectives must agree with the gender and number of the noun being described.

1. David is very generous.
2. Monique and Fabienne are polite.
3. She is more energetic than her friend.
4. Are you an introvert or an extrovert?
5. My wife is the kindest person in the world!

6-8. Transform the adjective in parentheses into the superlative form, following the examples. The symbol + represents the most, and – represents the least. Don't forget to change the adjectives in feminine or plural form if needed. Let the example below guide you.

ex. *Le SCMaglev est le train (+ rapide) _____ du monde.*
[Answer: *Le SCMaglev est le train le plus rapide du monde.*]

6. Le Burj Khalifa à Dubai est le bâtiment (+ haut) _____ du monde.
7. Sophie est la personne (+ intelligent) _____ que je connaisse !
8. Cette ville est (- peuplé) _____ du monde.

9-10. Complete the idiomatic expressions with the missing word.

9. Mon collègue a les _____ longues, il va tout faire pour devenir chef !
10. Vivienne est très douée pour le jardinage, elle a la main _____.

Answer Key

1. David est très généreux.
2. Monique et Fabienne sont polies.
3. Elle est plus dynamique que son ami(e).
4. Es-tu introverti(e) ou extraverti(e) ? OR Êtes-vous introverti(e) ou extraverti(e) ?
5. Ma femme est la personne la plus gentille du monde !
6. le plus haut
7. la plus intelligente
8. la moins peuplée
9. dents
10. verte

Chapter 3: Fits like a glove



S'habiller est un mode de vie.

Dressing is a way of life.

- Yves Saint Laurent

Shopping! Who doesn't love shopping? Well, probably a lot of people. Still, it's one of those things we do quite a lot. On a regular basis, we go to the stores to buy necessities. Sometimes, we treat ourselves to a well-deserved reward, a new pair of shoes, a new bag, or perhaps a new tie. On special occasions, we also take our time to buy gifts for our loved ones. But while shopping can seem like a solo experience, much of it is spent communicating with salesclerks. Knowing how to ask more about a product or specify a size is thus primordial!

In this lesson, you will learn how to shop for clothes. We will study words related to clothing. We will also look at direct object pronouns and adverbs of intensity.

Shopping for clothes

At the clothes' shop, you might get asked:

Je peux vous aider ?

May I help you?

Vous cherchez quelque chose en particulier ?

Are you looking for something in particular?

For those who love to do the shopping on their own, a quick reply would be:

Non, merci, je regarde.
No thank you, I'm just looking around.

Trying clothes on

Let's look at this quick dialogue. Sophie is at the mall hoping to buy a new blouse.

Vendeur : Bonjour Madame, je peux vous aider ?

Sophie : Oui, j'aime bien ce chemisier. Est-ce que je peux l'essayer ?

Vendeur : Bien sûr.

Sophie : Où sont les cabines, s'il vous plaît ?

Vendeur : Juste au fond, Madame.

[Un peu plus tard...]

Sophie : Je pense que c'est trop grand... Normalement, je fais du 36.

Vendeur : Je peux vous apporter un 38.

Sophie : D'accord, merci.

Salesclerk: Good day Madam, may I help you?

Sophie: Yes, I like this blouse. Can I try it?

Salesclerk: Of course.

Sophie: Where are the changing rooms, please?

Salesclerk: Just at the back, Madam.

[A little bit later...]

Sophie: I think it's too big. I'm normally a size 36.

Salesclerk: I can bring you a size 38.

Sophie: Okay, thank you.

To ask if you can try on clothing, you can use the following expressions. At the beginner's level, we learned that we use *est-ce que* to formulate slightly formal questions:

Est-ce que je peux essayer ce chemisier ?

Je peux essayer ce chemisier ?

Can I try this blouse?

Où sont les cabines (d'essayage) ?

Where are the changing rooms?

Indicating size

To ask someone's size, you'll usually hear:

Quelle taille portez-vous ?

Vous portez quelle taille ?

What size do you wear?

To indicate one's size, we use the verb *faire* with the article *du*:

Sophie fait du 36.

Sophie is a size 36.

Je fais du 40.

I'm a size 40.

It is also useful to remember the terms for clothing sizes: *petite taille* (small), *taille moyenne* (medium) and *grande taille* (large). If you wish to ask for a different size, you might say:

Avez-vous une plus grande taille ? / Vous avez une plus grande taille ?

Do you have a larger size?

Avez-vous une plus petite taille ? / Vous avez une plus petite taille ?

Do you have a smaller size?

To indicate how a clothing fits (or does not fit) you, you can also use these phrases:

- ***Ça me va.*** It fits me.
- ***La couleur ne me va pas.*** The color doesn't fit me.
- ***C'est trop court.*** It's too short.
- ***C'est trop petit/grand.*** It's too small/big.
- ***C'est trop serré.*** It's too tight.

Notice that we use the verb *aller* figuratively, to mean "to fit". As for the last three examples, you can see the use of the adverb *trop* (too). *Trop* is placed before the adjective unlike most adverbs.

Clothing vocabulary

	Translation
<i>des chaussettes (f.)</i>	socks
<i>des sous-vêtements (m.)</i>	underwear
<i>un caleçon</i>	boxer shorts
<i>un chemisier</i>	a blouse
<i>un costume</i>	a suit
<i>un imperméable</i>	a raincoat
<i>un jean</i>	jeans
<i>un manteau</i>	a coat
<i>un pantalon</i>	pants
<i>un polo</i>	a polo shirt
<i>un pull</i>	a sweater
<i>un short</i>	shorts
<i>un slip</i>	briefs
<i>un soutien-gorge</i>	a bra
<i>un t-shirt</i>	a t-shirt
<i>une chemise</i>	a long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt (usually men's)
<i>une culotte</i>	panties
<i>une jupe</i>	a skirt
<i>une robe</i>	a dress
<i>une veste</i>	a jacket

GRAMMAR TIP

Adverbs of intensity: trop and assez

Adverbs are words or phrases used to qualify a verb, an adjective or another adverb. There are adverbs that express intensity that you are most likely familiar with by now: *très* (very), *beaucoup* (a lot) and *un peu* (a little). Let us review these adverbs by studying some examples:

- ***J'aime beaucoup le café.*** I like coffee a lot.

- **Michel a travaillé un peu ce matin.** Michel worked a little this morning.
- **Il fait très chaud aujourd’hui.** It’s very hot today.

Now, let’s learn some new adverbs of intensity: *trop* and *assez*.

The adverb *trop* translates to “too” or “too much”. Because it is an adverb, it can be used to qualify an adjective, another adverb or a verb:

- **C’est trop cher.** It’s too expensive.
- **Il marche trop lentement.** He walks too slowly.
- **Tu parles trop !** You talk too much.

Note that *trop* is placed before an adjective or an adverb, but after a verb.

Trop can also be used with a noun, but it should be combined with the preposition *de*. In this case, it means “too many of” or “too much of”. For example:

- **J’ai trop de travail !** I have too much work!
- **Ma fille a trop de vêtements.** My daughter has too many clothes.

The preposition *de* is invariable, meaning it does not change according to gender or number. However, it contracts to *d’* before a vowel.

The adverb *assez*, on the other hand, may mean “quite” or “enough”. For example:

- **L’appartement est assez grand pour un couple.** The apartment is big enough for a couple.
- **Mon enseignant est assez jeune.** My teacher is quite young.
- **Je bois assez d’eau.** I drink enough water.

Bargaining

As a beginner, you know that we can use the expression **Combien ça coûte ?** to ask for a price. If you are hoping to find something within your budget range at a store, there are other phrases you need to know. Imagine that you are buying jewelry, the salesclerk might ask your budget by saying:

Vous voulez mettre combien ?

What is your budget? (lit. How much do you want to put in?)

Quel est votre budget ?

What is your budget?

To this you can say, for example: *300 euros au maximum*. To ask for products within the same price range, you can say:

Est-ce que vous avez quelque chose d'autre dans ces prix-là ?

Est-ce que vous avez quelque chose d'autre dans le même ordre de prix ?

Do you have something else in the same price range?

In certain places, like in *un marché aux puces* (a flea market), you might have the chance to bargain. Here are some other useful phrases you need to know:

Je vous le vends/fais à 20 euros.

I can sell it to you for 20 euros.

Je vous le prends à 30 euros.

I will take it for 30 euros.

Notice that the verb *faire* is used in the first example, to mean “to sell”.

GRAMMAR TIP

Direct object pronouns

In the earlier dialogue we saw this sentence: *Est-ce que je peux l'essayer ?*. Likewise, in the example above: *Je vous le vends*. *L'* and *le* here are what we call direct object pronouns.

As the name suggests, object pronouns are pronouns that replace the direct object of the sentence. A direct object is the receiver of the action. It follows a verb which answers the question “what” or “whom”. For example, let's look at this sentence in English:

I eat an apple.

“I” is the subject, “eat” is the verb. Now the receiver of the action is the apple, so it is the object. If we ask, “I eat what?” The answer is apple. In its

French equivalence, we find the same structure:

Je mange une pomme.

Mange quoi ? (Eat what?) Une pomme. Une pomme is thus the direct object of the sentence.

Now in English, we would replace the direct object with “it”, as in: “I eat it”. In French, it would be *Je la mange*. Here are the direct object pronouns in French:

Direct object pronouns	Translation
<i>me/m'</i>	me
<i>te/t'</i>	you (inf.)
<i>le/l'</i>	him it (masc.)
<i>la/l'</i>	her it (fem.)
<i>nous</i>	us
<i>vous</i>	you (for.)
<i>les</i>	them

Notice that before a vowel, most of these pronouns contract. Let's look at some examples for clarity. Study how the nouns are replaced by the direct object pronouns below:

- ***Je vends l'ordinateur. Je le vends.*** I sell the computer. I sell it.
- ***J'adore le livre. Je l'adore.*** I love the book. I love it.
- ***Il achète les vêtements. Il les achète.*** He buys the clothes. He buys them.
- ***Je vois ta sœur. Je la vois.*** I see your sister. I see her.

Look at these other examples:

- ***Tu me vois ?*** Do you see me?
- ***Je t'aime.*** I love you.
- ***Elle nous regarde.*** She's watching us.

Accessories vocabulary

	Translation
<i>(en) argent</i>	silver
<i>(en) or</i>	gold
<i>des bijoux (m.)</i>	jewelry
<i>des boucles d'oreille (f.)</i>	earrings
<i>des gants (m.)</i>	gloves
<i>un bonnet</i>	a winter hat
<i>un bracelet</i>	a bracelet
<i>un chapeau</i>	a hat
<i>un collier</i>	a necklace
<i>un foulard</i>	a light scarf, a head scarf
<i>un sac à main</i>	a handbag
<i>une bague</i>	a ring
<i>une casquette</i>	a cap
<i>une ceinture</i>	a belt
<i>une cravate</i>	a tie
<i>une écharpe</i>	a scarf

CULTURE TIP

Les soldes

A sale is called *les soldes* (m. plur.) in French. During this period, products are *en promotion* (in promotion) or *à prix réduit* (in reduced price). In France, the sale seasons are regulated and set by the government:

- ***les soldes d'hiver*** (winter sales) from January onwards.
- ***les soldes d'été*** (summer sales) from June onwards.

Each sale season lasts 5 weeks. The goal is to clear their inventory, so shops would sell even at a loss. You can only imagine how much discount you can get!

Key Takeaways

- To communicate while shopping, we use the following expressions:

<i>Je peux vous aider ? Vous cherchez quelque chose en particulier ?</i>	<i>Non, merci, je regarde.</i>
Trying clothes on	
<i>Est-ce que je peux essayer ce chemisier ? Je peux essayer ce chemisier ? Où sont les cabines (d'essayage) ?</i>	
Indicating size	
<i>Quelle taille portez-vous ? Vous portez quelle taille ? faire du + size</i>	
<i>Avez-vous une plus grande taille ? / Vous avez une plus grande taille ? Avez-vous une plus petite taille ? / Vous avez une plus petite taille ?</i>	
Bargaining	
<i>Vous voulez mettre combien ? Quel est votre budget ?</i>	
<i>Est-ce que vous avez quelque chose d'autre dans ces prix-là ? Est-ce que vous avez quelque chose d'autre dans le même ordre de prix ? Je vous le vends/fais à 20 euros. Je vous le prends à 30 euros.</i>	

- The adverb *trop* (too, too much) is placed before an adjective and an adverb, and after a verb.
- The expression *trop de* is invariable and followed by a noun.
- The adverb *assez* (quite, enough) is placed before an adjective and an adverb, and after a verb.

- The direct object pronouns are *me/m'*, *te/t'*, *le/l'*, *la/l'*, *nous*, *vous* and *les*.

In the next chapter, you will learn how to talk about your health and consult a doctor. We will also study temporal markers, logical connectors and the pluperfect tense. To expand your vocabulary, we will also look at the parts of the body and words related to health and illness.

Exercises

1-3. Complete the following sentences with the missing word:

1. - Vous portez quelle taille ?

- Je _____ du 38.

2. - Est-ce que vous avez quelque chose d'autre dans le _____ ordre de prix ?

- Nous avons cette bague à 120 euros.

3. - Cette chemise est trop grande. Avez-vous une plus petite _____ ?

- Oui, je vous l'apporte tout de suite.

4-6. Replace the underlined noun with the correct object pronoun. Rewrite the entire sentence to place the pronoun correctly.

4. Vous voulez essayer cette jupe ?

5. Je vais donner les livres à ma sœur.

6. Mathis achète une cravate et un sac.

7-10. *Trop* or *trop de*? Add the correct phrase to the following sentences.

7. Sophie a fait _____ erreurs dans son essai.
8. Tu conduis _____ rapidement !
9. Mes enfants mangent _____.
10. Les chaussettes sont _____ grandes pour moi.

Answer Key

1. fais
2. même
3. taille
4. Vous voulez l'essayer ?
5. Je vais les donner à ma sœur.
6. Mathis les achète.
7. trop d'
8. trop
9. trop
10. trop

Chapter 4: Feeling under the weather



J'ai décidé d'être heureux parce que c'est bon pour la santé.

I decided to be happy because it's good for the health.

- Voltaire

Being fit and healthy is one of the most important things in our daily life. It is however inevitable that on some days, we don't feel at our best. If in a foreign country, going to the doctor and asking for help can be both challenging and daunting.

In this lesson, you will learn how to communicate at the doctor's office, how to explain your symptoms or relate your medical history. We will also study the temporal markers and logical connectors to structure your speech. Finally, we will have a look at the pluperfect tense.

Explaining symptoms

The expression *avoir mal à* is useful when explaining symptoms. It roughly translates to "to have pain in". Note that the preposition *à* changes according to the gender and number of the noun that follows:

- ***J'ai mal à la tête.*** I have a headache. (lit. I have pain in the head.)
- ***J'ai mal à la gorge.*** I have a sore throat.
- ***J'ai mal au ventre.*** I have a stomach ache.
- ***J'ai vraiment mal au dos.*** I have a bad backache.

You can also say *ça fait (vraiment) mal* to say "it hurts" or "I'm in pain". To explain your symptoms, you can also use the following expressions:

- ***J'ai la grippe.*** I have the flu.
- ***J'ai un rhume.*** I have a cold.

- ***J'ai de la fièvre.*** I have fever.
- ***J'ai vomi.*** I vomited.
- ***Je tousse.*** I cough.
- ***J'éternue.*** I sneeze.
- ***J'ai tout le temps des problèmes de dos.*** I always have back problems.
- ***Je souffre de douleurs articulaires.*** I suffer from joint pain.

Now the doctor will most likely *examiner le/la patient(e)* (examine the patient), *prescrire des médicaments* (prescribe medication) or order for some other tests like *une IRM* (MRI), *un scanner* (scan), *une radio* (x-ray), or *une analyse de sang* (blood test).

CULTURE TIP

Is the doctor in?

To see the doctor in France, you'd have to call their office and ask for an appointment. If it's your first time seeing that doctor, getting an appointment won't be easy. In fact, you might have to wait for a few days! Patients usually seek out *des médecins généralistes* (general practitioners), who would then redirect them to the *spécialistes* (specialized practitioners) if necessary. If living in France, it is a good idea to register with *un médecin traitant* (primary care doctor), who will act as your main doctor. While it is not required by the government, it makes setting up appointments much easier, and it also means you get a higher reimbursement for the medical costs.

Anatomy vocabulary

	Translation
<i>la tête</i>	head
<i>le cou</i>	neck
<i>la gorge</i>	throat
<i>les épaules (f.)</i>	shoulders
<i>le bras</i>	arm

la poitrine	chest
le ventre	stomach
la main	hand
les doigts (m.)	fingers
les ongles (m.)	nails
le pouce	thumb
la jambe	leg
le genou	knee
les pieds	feet
les fesses	butt
le coeur	heart
les os (m.)	bones
le cerveau	brain
les poumons	lungs
l'estomac (m.)	stomach
le sang	blood

Relating medical history

Let's study this dialogue. Georges is at the doctor's because he hasn't been feeling well for months.

Le médecin : *Bonjour Monsieur. Qu'est-ce qui vous amène ?*

Georges : *Bonjour docteur. Je suis venu vous voir parce que je souffre de problèmes de dos depuis maintenant un mois. Il y a trois mois, je suis tombé dans les escaliers. J'avais déjà fait des séances de kiné mais la douleur ne s'en va pas...*

Le médecin : *Vous avez déjà eu des maux de dos avant l'accident ?*

Georges : *Oui, j'avais des problèmes de sciatiques il y a deux ans. Je passe beaucoup de temps assis devant l'ordinateur.*

Le médecin : *Bon, vous allez d'abord faire un scanner puis on va se revoir après.*

The doctor: Hello Sir. What brings you here?

Georges: Hello Doctor. I came to see you because I've been suffering from back problems for a month now. Three months ago, I fell down the stairs. I have already done some physio sessions but the pain is not going away.

The doctor: Did you already have backaches before the accident?

Georges: Yes, I had sciatica problems two years ago. I spend a lot of time sitting down in front of the computer.

The doctor: Alright, you are going to take a scan first then we'll see each other again after.

When relating medical history, you can use temporal markers to refer to a period of time. *Il y a* means "ago". Notice how in French this expression comes before the noun referring to the time, and not after. And so, Georges says *il y a trois mois* (three months ago) and *il y a deux ans* (two years ago).

Other temporal markers include *dans* (in), *pendant* (during, for) and *depuis* (since). Look at how they are used below:

- ***Les résultats seront prêts dans deux heures.*** The results will be ready in two hours.
- ***J'avais mal à la tête pendant quatre heures !*** I had a headache for four hours!
- ***Je fais des séances de kinésithérapie depuis un mois.*** I've been taking physical therapy sessions for one month.

Remember that *dans* is used when referring to a future period of time. The preposition *depuis* is used to refer to an action that has started in the past, and is still ongoing. So, in the last example, it is implied that the subject is still taking these physical therapy sessions.

In the dialogue above, we also saw some basic logical connectors. Remember these:

- ***mais*** but
- ***car*** because
- ***parce que*** because

They are used the same way as in English. Note that *car* and *parce que* are synonymous, but *car* is most often used in written French.

GRAMMAR TIP

Pluperfect tense

The pluperfect tense is used to refer to something that had happened in the past. For example, the simple past tense of the verb “watch” in English would be “watched”, and the pluperfect would be “have/had watched”.

Like in English, the pluperfect in French also has two parts: the imperfect tense of the verb *avoir* or *être* and the past participle. To make things simpler, it's as if you're taking the composed past tense and changing the auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to imperfect tense. We have studied the composed past and the imperfect tenses at the beginner's level. If you need to review them, check out our first book or the verb conjugations list in the annex of this one.

Let's look at some examples, the verb *manger* and the verb *partir*. We know that to form the composed past of *manger*, we use *avoir mangé*, and for *partir*, *être parti(e)*. Instead of conjugating *avoir* and *être* in the present, we change them to the imperfect tense to form the pluperfect:

<i>manger</i>		<i>partir</i>
J'avais mangé		J'étais parti(e)
Tu avais mangé		Tu étais parti(e)
Il/Elle/On avait mangé		Il/Elle/On était parti(e)
Nous avions mangé		Nous étions parti(e)s
Vous aviez mangé		Vous étiez parti(e)s
Ils/Elles avaient mangé		Ils/Elles étaient parti(e)s

Like with the composed past, the past participle changes according to the gender and number of the subject when the auxiliary is *être*. Now, let's look at this verb tense at-work:

- ***Nous avions déjà mangé quand il est arrivé.*** We had already eaten when he arrived.

- *J'étais déjà allé à la pharmacie avant de voir le médecin.* I had already gone to the pharmacy before seeing the doctor.

Key Takeaways

- To explain one's symptoms, we can use the following expressions:

Explain symptoms

avoir mal à...

souffrir de...

avoir des problèmes de...

avoir la grippe

avoir un rhume

avoir de la fièvre

vomir

tousser

éternuer

- The basic logical connectors include *mais*, *car* and *parce que*. *Car* is mostly used in written French.
- To relate medical history, we use temporal markers such as *il y a*, *dans*, *pendant*, and *depuis*.
- The pluperfect tense is formed by combining *avoir* or *être* in the imperfect tense with the past participle of the verb. It is used to refer to events or actions that had happened in the past.

In the next chapter, we will learn how to relate news using the recent past tense and the present progressive tense. This time, we will have a look at vocabulary related to life milestones.

Exercices

1-5. Conjugate the verbs in parentheses in the pluperfect tense.

1. Je (regarder) _____ ce film.
2. Mathis (répondre) _____ au message de son père.
3. Annie (aller) _____ au cinéma.
4. Ils (jouer) _____ au foot avant de rentrer.
5. Léo (acheter) _____ une voiture.

6-8. *Dans, depuis, or il y a?* Complete the sentences with the correct preposition.

6. Je vais partir pour le Japon _____ deux semaines.
7. Ma mère est allée à l'hôpital _____ trois jours.
8. Éric a des douleurs _____ une semaine.

9-10. Complete the following sentences with the missing word.

9. J'ai _____ à la gorge et j'ai toussé toute la nuit.
10. Suite à un accident, j'ai mal _____ épaules.

Answer Key

1. J'avais regardé
2. avait répondu
3. était allée
4. avaient joué
5. avait acheté
6. dans
7. il y a
8. depuis
9. mal
10. aux

Chapter 5: Bearer of news



L'amitié ne connaît ni feinte ni déguisement, tout y est sincère, tout part du cœur.

Friendship knows neither pretense nor disguise, everything is sincere, everything comes from the heart.

- French proverb

Thanks to social media, we are now constantly updated with our family and friends' lives. Friend one got a new cat, friend two finally got his dream job, and friend three is now in a complicated relationship (sometimes we even know too much about other peoples' lives!). Still, much of our in-person conversations revolve around knowing what they are up to or how they've been doing.

In this lesson, you will learn how to ask for and share news related to one's life. We will be tackling two verb tenses, namely the recent past tense and the present progressive tense.

Asking for news

Chloé bumps into an old friend from college, Marine. She asks how their other classmates are doing. Let's look at their conversation:

Chloé : *Marine ! Ça fait un bail ! Comment ça va ?*

Marine : *Oui, ça fait vraiment longtemps ! Je vais bien. Je viens de déménager ici il y a un mois. Et toi ?*

Chloé : *Ça va, je travaille dans une boîte de cosmétiques depuis deux ans. Tu as des nouvelles de Gabriel ?*

Marine : *Je ne suis pas vraiment au courant... mais la dernière fois que je l'ai vu, il faisait son master en informatique.*

Chloé : *Et Jade ? Qu'est-elle devenue ?*

Marine : *Jade s'est mariée avec Léo. Elle vient de donner naissance à un garçon.*

Chloé: Marine! It's been ages! How are you?

Marine: Yes, it's been a long time! I'm doing well. I just moved here a month ago. And you?

Chloé: I'm doing well, I've been working for a cosmetics company for two years now. Do you have any news about Gabriel?

Marine: I'm not really up-to-date... but the last time I saw him, he was taking his Masters in IT.

Chloé: And Jade? What has become of her?

Marine: Jade married Leo. She just gave birth to a boy.

To ask updates about a friend, we might use the following expressions:

- ***Tu as des nouvelles de Gabriel ?*** Do you have news about Gabriel?
- ***Que devient Gabriel ?*** What becomes of Gabriel?
- ***Qu'est-il devenu ?*** What has become of him?
- ***Qu'est-elle devenue ?*** What has become of her?

Now, to these questions, one might reply:

- ***Je n'ai pas de nouvelles.*** I don't have news.
- ***Je ne suis pas au courant.*** I'm not up-to-date. / I'm not informed.

GRAMMAR TIP

Recent past tense

The recent past tense is used to denote an action or event that had just happened. In English, it is the equivalent of the structure "just" + past participle.

In French, the recent past is composed of three elements. It's quite simple though:

VENIR in present tense + *DE/D'* + unconjugated verb.

The preposition *de* is contracted before a vowel. Let's look at the verb *regarder* and *sortir* in recent past tense:

<i>regarder</i>		<i>sortir</i>
Je viens de regarder		Je viens de sortir
Tu viens de regarder		Tu viens de sortir
Il/Elle/On vient de regarder		Il/Elle/On vient de sortir
Nous venons de regarder		Nous venons de sortir
Vous venez de regarder		Vous venez de sortir
Ils/Elles viennent de regarder		Ils/Elles viennent de sortir

Now, let's look at this verb tense at-work:

- ***Je viens de rentrer.*** I just came home.
- ***Mathis et Chloé viennent de dîner dans un restaurant.*** Mathis and Chloé just dined at a restaurant.
- ***Tu viens de sortir de l'école à l'instant ?*** You just got out of school right now?

Sharing news

To share rumored news about someone, we can use the expression *Il paraît que* (It seems that) or *J'ai entendu dire que* (lit. I heard one say that):

- ***Il paraît qu'il a quitté son travail.*** It seems he left his job.
- ***J'ai entendu dire qu'elle a déménagé en Chine.*** I heard she moved to China.

You can also use verb tenses like the recent past to share news about someone:

- ***Elle vient de donner naissance à une fille.*** She just gave birth to a girl.
- ***Adrien vient de créer sa propre entreprise.*** Adrien just started his own company.

CULTURE TIP

12C4

Like in other cultures, the French use texting abbreviations to be able to type and send out SMS much quicker. One of these is *12c4* (un-deux-c-quatre), which when read out loud sounds like the expression *un de ces quatre* (one of these days). And so, you might text for instance:

On se revoit 12c4 ?

Let's meet up one of these days?

Here are other useful texting abbreviations. Remember that these are very informal and are only used in SMS:

- **A+** (*à plus*) see you later
- **a2m1** (*à demain*) see you tomorrow
- **b1sur** (*bien sûr*) of course
- **biz** (*bisous*) kisses
- **mr6** (*merci*) thanks
- **tjs** (*toujours*) always

Life milestones vocabulary

	Translation
<i>la naissance</i>	birth
<i>le mariage</i>	marriage
<i>la séparation</i>	separation
<i>déménager</i>	to move (to a new place, home, etc.)
<i>se marier (avec quelqu'un)</i>	to get married (with somebody)
<i>épouser (quelqu'un)</i>	to marry (somebody)
<i>avoir des enfants</i>	to have kids
<i>donner naissance</i>	to give birth
<i>divorcer</i>	to divorce
<i>démissionner</i>	to resign (from a job)
<i>être licencié(e)</i>	to get fired
<i>se reconvertir</i>	to change careers
<i>créer une entreprise</i>	to start a business

GRAMMAR TIP

Present progressive tense

In French, the present tense is commonly used as both present and present progressive tense. For instance, *Je mange* can both be translated to “I eat” or “I am eating.”

However, if you want to emphasize that an action is currently being done, you can use the following structure:

ÊTRE + EN TRAIN DE / D’ + unconjugated verb

And so, you might say:

Je suis en train de manger.

I am in the process of eating.

The preposition *de* is contracted before a vowel:

Noémie est en train d’étudier.

Noémie is in the process of studying.

When sharing news about someone, it would be common to use the present tense to indicate an ongoing action or event. For example, you might hear:

Elle fait le tour du monde.

She is traveling around the world.

The verb *faire* here is in present tense, although it is technically an ongoing action.

Key Takeaways

- To ask or share news, we can use the following expressions:

Ask news

Tu as des nouvelles de...

Que devient...
Qu'est-il/elle devenu(e) ?

Share news

Je n'ai pas de nouvelles.
Je ne suis pas au courant.
Il paraît que...
J'ai entendu dire que...
Il/Elle vient de...

- The recent past tense is formed by combining the verb *venir* in present tense with the preposition *de* or *d'* and the unconjugated form of the main verb.
- The present progressive tense is formed by combining the verb *être* in the present tense with the phrase *en train de* or *d'* and the unconjugated form of the main verb.

In the next chapter, we will move to the topic of career. You will learn how to understand a job advertisement and communicate during a job interview. We will also discuss chronological connectors and indirect object pronouns.

Exercises

1-3. Complete the sentences with the missing words.

1. J'ai entendu _____ que Mathis a déménagé au Japon.
2. Il _____ que Léo s'est marié avec une amie d'enfance.
3. Qu' _____ -elle devenue ?

4-7. Conjugate the verbs in parentheses in the recent past tense.

4. Marine et Éric (démissionner) _____.
5. Mon frère (divorcer) _____.
6. Vous (déménager) _____ à Paris ?
7. Nous (lancer) _____ une entreprise de nettoyage.

8-10. Conjugate the verbs in parentheses in the present progressive tense.

8. Les enfants (jouer) _____ dans le parc.
9. Je (réparer) _____ ma voiture.
10. Ma mère (cuisiner) _____ mon plat préféré.

Answer Key

1. dire
2. paraît
3. est
4. viennent de démissionner
5. vient de divorcer
6. venez de déménager
7. venons de lancer
8. sont en train de jouer
9. suis en train de réparer
10. est en train de cuisiner

Chapter 6: You're hired



Le travail a des racines amères mais des fruits sucrés.

Work has bitter roots but sweet fruits.

- French proverb

If you've decided to settle in a francophone country, having a source of income is primordial. This means finding a stable job, which then entails responding to a job advertisement or acing an interview. Job hunting can be a tough task. Interviews, no matter the language of communication, also pose quite a challenge. Knowing key words and phrases will be helpful to best present yourself and your talents.

In this lesson, you will learn how to understand a job ad and communicate during a job interview. We will learn ways to structure your speech using expressions of time and chronological connectors. We will also tackle indirect object pronouns and vocabularies related to school and career.

Understanding a job advertisement

Let's begin by studying this excerpt of a job ad:

CONSEILLER DE VENTE H/F

Nous recrutons un conseiller de vente H/F pour notre magasin LA MODE BIO à Paris (12^e arrondissement)

Qui sommes-nous ?

Créée en 2004, LA MODE BIO propose une large gamme de produits prêt-à-porter et compte actuellement 100 magasins en France. Nous privilégions des matières éco-responsables ainsi que des processus de fabrication éthiques. Rejoignez-nous pour faire partie d'une entreprise qui s'engage pour changer le monde et protéger l'environnement !

At the heading of an ad, you'll usually find *le poste* or the job position being advertised. *Le poste* in masculine is not to be confused with *la poste* which is the post office! In the ad above, *le poste* is *conseiller de vente* (sales advisor) open to both men and women, *homme/femme* or *H/F*.

The first part of the ad will usually include a simple introduction to the company, with its date of creation, main products, and so on. Study the translation of the excerpt above here:

SALES ADVISOR M/F

We are recruiting a M/F sales consultant for our LA MODE BIO store in Paris (12th arrondissement).

Who are we?

Founded in 2004, LA MODE BIO offers a wide range of ready-to-wear products and currently has 100 stores in France. We favor eco-responsible materials as well as ethical manufacturing processes. Join us to be part of a company that is committed to changing the world and protecting the environment!

Let us keep reading the rest of this job ad:

Vos missions :

- *accueillir et conseiller les clients.*
- *proposer des produits.*
- *réaliser des ventes pour atteindre les objectifs mensuels.*

Votre profil :

Vous avez une formation commerciale et une première expérience réussie dans les ventes. Vous êtes assidu(e) et ponctuel(le). Vous aimez le travail en équipe. Vous êtes passionné(e) par la mode.

Vous souhaitez postuler pour cette offre d'emploi ? Envoyez-nous votre CV et une lettre de motivation !

Type d'emploi : Temps plein, CDI

Nombre d'heures : 35 heures par semaine

Salaire : 1 400€ à 1 700€ par mois

Your duties:

- receive and advise customers.
- offer products.
- make sales to reach the monthly turnover.

Your profile:

You have commercial training and a first successful experience in sales. You are diligent and punctual. You like teamwork. You are passionate about fashion.

Do you want to apply for this job offer? Send us your CV and a cover letter!

Type of employment: Full time, permanent contract

Number of hours: 35 hours per week

Salary: €1,400 to €1,700 per month

One of the most important parts of the job ad is your duties, called *les missions* (f.). And then, *le profil*, which lists the requirements for the job. For instance, you might be required to have a degree related to fashion, *une formation en mode* (schooling in fashion), or *une première expérience*, a first experience, in the field.

Finally, you'd want to look at the details of the job. Is it a *CDD - Contrat à Durée Déterminée* (temporary contract) or a *CDI - Contrat à Durée Indéterminée* (permanent contract). Of course, most would want *un CDI*! You'll also see in the ad *le salaire* (salary) proposed. Note that in France, full-time work usually means 35 hours per week.

Job search vocabulary

	Translation
<i>une candidature</i>	an application
<i>poser sa candidature</i>	to send an application
<i>une offre d'emploi</i>	a job offer
<i>un contrat de travail</i>	a work contract
<i>un salaire</i>	a salary
<i>un/une salarié(e)</i>	an employee
<i>un/une employé(e)</i>	
<i>un employeur</i>	an employer
<i>un CDD</i>	temporary contract (<i>Contrat à Durée Déterminée</i>)
<i>un CDI</i>	permanent contract (<i>Contrat à Durée Indéterminée</i>)
<i>à plein temps</i>	full-time
<i>à mi-temps</i>	part-time (50%)
<i>à temps partiel</i>	part-time (around 70 – 80%)
<i>le SMIC</i>	minimum wage (<i>Salaire Minimum Interprofessionnel de Croissance</i>)
<i>le salaire brut</i>	gross salary
<i>le salaire net</i>	net salary
<i>les études</i>	studies or schooling
<i>la formation</i>	
<i>un stage</i>	an internship
<i>un demandeur d'emploi</i>	a job seeker
<i>un/une chômeur(-euse)</i>	an unemployed person

<i>un CV</i>	CV or curriculum vitae
<i>une lettre de motivation</i>	cover letter
<i>un entretien</i>	an interview

GRAMMAR TIP

Indirect object pronouns

As the name suggests, indirect object pronouns replace the indirect object of the sentence.

In Chapter 3, we studied direct object pronouns, which in sum replace the direct object or the receiver of the action. Now, an indirect object is different, for it is the person who receives the action indirectly. Let's look at this sentence:

Je donne la lettre à Marie.

I give the letter to Marie.

Can you tell which is the direct object and indirect object in the sentence? The direct object is *la lettre*, while the indirect object is Marie. If the direct object answers the question “what” or “whom”, the indirect object answers “to whom” or “for whom”. And so: I give what? the letter (direct object). I give to whom? Marie (indirect object).

Here are the indirect object pronouns in French:

Indirect object pronouns	Translation
<i>me/m'</i>	me
<i>te/t'</i>	you (inf.)
<i>lui</i>	him/her
<i>nous</i>	us
<i>vous</i>	you (for.)
<i>leur</i>	them

If we were to replace Marie in the sentence above, it would thus be: *Je lui donne la lettre*. Notice that it is placed before the verb, like the direct object pronouns.

Let's look at more examples:

- ***Mathis offre un cadeau à sa mère. Mathis lui offre un cadeau.***
Mathis offers a gift to his mother. Mathis offers her a gift.
- ***J'envoie le colis à Chloé et Lucas. Je leur envoie le colis.*** I send a package to Chloé and Lucas. I send them a package.
- ***Elle achète des livres pour Anne et moi. Elle nous achète des livres.***
She buys books for Anne and me. She buys us books.

Communicating in a job interview

Introductions

At the beginning of the interview, it is common to be asked about your *parcours* (m.) (studies or career) or your *formation* (f.). If an interviewer asks you: *Quel est votre parcours scolaire ?* or *Pouvez-vous me parler de votre parcours ?*, you are expected to talk about your degree or training in the relevant field. Let's look at some sample answers:

- ***J'ai passé un bac pro de vente et j'ai suivi un stage de 3 mois dans une boutique de mode.*** I received my highschool diploma in sales and I did a 3-month internship in a fashion store.
- ***J'ai fait un Master en sociologie.*** I got my Master's degree in Sociology.
- ***Après mes études en marketing, j'ai obtenu mon diplôme en 2020.***
After studying Marketing, I received my diploma in 2020.

Keep in mind the frequent verb-noun combinations when talking about your studies:

- ***passer/avoir/obtenir son bac***
- ***faire/obtenir un master***
- ***faire/obtenir une licence***
- ***obtenir son diplôme***

If you are currently studying, you can use the verb *préparer*, as in:

- ***préparer le bac*** working on one's highschool diploma
- ***préparer un master / une licence*** working on a Master's degree / on a bachelor's degree

CULTURE TIP

A for effort!

The French education system might seem a bit complicated at first glance, but we'll help clear things up!

The education system is composed of 3 parts: the primary, secondary and higher levels. Primary education consists of the *école maternelle* (ages 3 up) and the *école élémentaire* (ages 6 to 11). Once completed, students then move to secondary education which is *collège* for 4 years, then *lycée* for 3 years. And then they'd have to take a national exam called *le bac* or *le baccalauréat*. This is the equivalent of a high school diploma.

After *lycée*, students have many different paths they can take. For example, they can go to a university and get *une licence* (a bachelor's degree), then *un master* (a master's degree) and *un doctorat* (a PhD). Otherwise, they can obtain vocational diplomas such as *DUT* or *Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie* or *BTS* or *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur*.

Qualifications and experiences

An interviewer might then ask you to talk about your professional experiences, as in *Parlez-moi de votre expérience professionnelle*.

You are expected to talk about your previous work, while highlighting your skills.

Let's look at an example:

Après mes études, j'ai travaillé comme commercial au sein d'une agence de voyages pendant 4 ans. Ça a été une expérience très

enrichissante. Ensuite, j'ai eu l'occasion de voyager à Londres et de travailler comme chargé de communication dans un centre touristique. Grâce à ce séjour, je maîtrise parfaitement l'anglais.

After my studies, I worked as a sales representative in a travel agency for 4 years. It was a very enriching experience. Then I had the opportunity to travel to London and work as a communications officer in a tourist center. Thanks to my stay there, I have a perfect command of English.

To talk about a previous position, you can use the expressions *J'ai travaillé comme* or *J'ai été* in composed past.

When relating more than one experience, it'd be a wise idea to structure your speech using chronological connectors such as:

- ***d'abord/premièrement*** first
- ***ensuite/puis*** then
- ***après*** after
- ***avant*** before
- ***enfin/ finalement*** finally, lastly

GRAMMAR TIP

Expressions of time

Here are other expressions of time that you can use to structure your speech:

Use	Expressions	Examples
Anteriority	<i>dès que</i> as soon as	<i>Dès que j'ai vu l'annonce, j'ai postulé pour l'offre.</i> As soon as I saw the advertisement, I applied for the offer.
	<i>après que</i> after	<i>Après que j'ai obtenu une licence, j'ai déménagé en ville.</i>

		After I got a bachelor's degree, I moved to town.
	<i>maintenant que</i> now that	<i>Maintenant que je suis à Paris, je cherche un travail à plein temps.</i> Now that I'm in Paris, I'm looking for a full-time job.
Simultaneity	<i>quand</i> when	<i>Quand je suis arrivée, il était déjà parti.</i> When I arrived, he had already left.
	<i>lorsque</i> when	<i>Lorsqu'il m'a vu, il m'a salué.</i> When he saw me, he greeted me.
	<i>pendant que</i> while	<i>Pendant que je faisais mon Master, j'ai eu quelques offres d'emploi en freelance.</i> While I was doing my Masters, I had a few freelance job offers.

Note that *quand* and *lorsque* both mean “when”, but *lorsque* is more formal.

Key Takeaways

- A job advertisement generally includes the following parts: *qui sommes-nous, vos missions, votre profil, le type d'emploi, le nombre d'heures* and *le salaire*.
- The indirect object pronouns are *me/m', te/t', lui, nous, vous* and *leur*.
- To communicate in an interview, we can use the following expressions:

Talk about one's studies

passer/avoir/obtenir son bac
faire/obtenir un master / une licence
obtenir son diplôme
préparer le bac / un master / une licence

Talk about one's experiences

J'ai travaillé comme...
J'ai été...

- The main chronological connectors are: *d'abord/premièrement, ensuite/puis, après, avant, and enfin/ finalement*.
- To express anteriority, we can use the expressions *dès que, après que* and *maintenant que*.
- To express simultaneity, we can use the expressions *quand, lorsque* and *pendant que*.

In the next chapter, we will stay in the world of careers! This time, we will focus on talking about obligations and giving advice. We will also have a look at the subjunctive mood.

Exercices

1-3. Complete the sentences with the missing words.

1. J'ai _____ mon bac en 2006.
2. À Montréal, j'ai travaillé _____ comptable pendant 2 ans.
3. Actuellement, je _____ un Master en informatique.

4-7. Rewrite the sentences by replacing the underlined nouns with the correct indirect object pronoun.

4. Les enfants envoient une carte postale à leurs parents.
5. Je demande à Michel de me rappeler.
6. Tu téléphones à Cécile ?
7. Nous parlons à toi.

8-10. Connect the two sentences using the expressions of time in parentheses.

8. (dès que) J'ai obtenu mon diplôme. J'ai trouvé un travail.
9. (pendant que) Il dort. Je travaille.
10. (quand) Tu es prêt. Tu peux m'appeler ?

Answer Key

1. passé OR eu OR obtenu
2. comme
3. fais OR prépare
4. Les enfants leur envoient une carte.
5. Je lui demande de me rappeler.
6. Tu lui téléphones ?
7. Nous te parlons.
8. Dès que j'ai obtenu mon diplôme, j'ai trouvé un travail.
9. Pendant qu'il dort, je travaille.
10. Quand tu es prêt, tu peux m'appeler ?

Chapter 7: Go above and beyond



La responsabilité est le prix de la liberté.

Responsibility is the price of freedom.

- Cyrille Guimard

Obligation, such a heavy word. Most of our days are replete with them — do the groceries, send an email, walk the dog... At work, the stakes are even higher. We have to complete a list of tasks, take instructions or give them. Still, at the end of the day, being able to do even one or two of our most important responsibilities gives us a sense of fulfillment.

In this lesson, you will learn how to talk about obligations and give advice and commands. We will study the subjunctive mood as well as irregular imperative conjugations.

Talking about obligations

At the beginner's level, we learned how to indicate obligations using the verb *devoir* (to have to). Here, we will study how to do the same with the verb *falloir*.

Expressions with falloir

The verb *falloir* is an impersonal verb used to express an obligation or a need. It is impersonal, meaning it only has one conjugation, the third person *il*. This way, it is similar to the impersonal expression *Il fait*, used when talking about the weather.

To conjugate *falloir*: in the present, *il faut*, in the imperfect tense, *il faudrait*, and in the future, *il va falloir* or *il faudra*.

Il faut can be roughly translated to “need to” or “it’s necessary”. There are a few ways we can use this expression. For example, followed by a verb:

STRUCTURE 1 : *IL FAUT* + INFINITIVE OF THE VERB

STRUCTURE 2 : *IL FAUT QUE* + VERB IN SUBJUNCTIVE MODE

- ***Il faut travailler.*** It’s necessary to work.
- ***Il faut savoir parler anglais.*** It’s necessary to know how to speak English.
- ***Il faut que tu organises une réunion.*** You have to set up a meeting.
- ***Il faut que je parte.*** I have to go.

Note that in structure 1, the obligation is general and does not pertain to a specific person. For example, if one says *Il faut travailler*, it could mean the person speaking, or spoken to, or someone else entirely, has to work. In structure 2 however, the person who needs to do the action is specified. In a while, we will learn how to conjugate verbs in the subjunctive mode.

STRUCTURE 3 : *IL FAUT* + NOUN

STRUCTURE 4 : *IL* + INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUN + *FAUT* + NOUN

Examples:

- ***Il faut une clé.*** A key is needed. / It’s necessary to have a key.
- ***Il faut un manteau.*** It’s necessary to have a coat
- ***Il me faut une clé.*** I need a key.
- ***Il vous faut un manteau.*** You need a coat.

GRAMMAR TIP

Subjunctive mood

The subjunctive mood has quite a bad rep in the French language learning world. Learners specifically have trouble figuring out when it should or should not be used. In this book, we will learn the subjunctive mood progressively.

For now, keep in mind that after the expression *il faut que*, the verb is conjugated in the subjunctive.

To conjugate in this mood, take the present tense conjugation of the verb in *ils*, and replace *-ent* with the following endings: *-e, -es, -e, -ions, -iez, -ent*.

adorer → (ils) adore nt → ador-		
Je	+e	adore
Tu	+es	adores
Il/Elle/On	+e	adore
Nous	+ions	adorions
Vous	+iez	adoriez
Ils/Elles	+ent	adorent

This is the conjugation we follow for all regular verbs, no matter the ending. Let's look at two other verbs in the subjunctive mood:

partir → (ils) part ent → part-		vendre → (ils) vend ent → vend-	
Je	parte	Je	vende
Tu	partes	Tu	vendes
Il/Elle/On	parte	Il/Elle/On	vende
Nous	partions	Nous	vendions
Vous	partiez	Vous	vendiez
Ils/Elles	partent	Ils/Elles	vendent

Work tasks vocabulary

	Translation
<i>organiser (une réunion)</i>	set up a meeting
<i>assister (à une réunion)</i>	to attend (a meeting)
<i>imprimer (un document)</i>	to print (a document)

<i>signer (un document)</i>	to sign a document
<i>photocopier</i>	to photocopy
<i>une imprimante</i>	a printer
<i>une photocopieuse</i>	a copy machine
<i>faire du réseau</i>	to do networking
<i>réserver une salle</i>	to reserve a room
<i>recruter (quelqu'un)</i>	to recruit (somebody)
<i>embaucher (quelqu'un)</i>	to hire (somebody)
<i>déléguer (les responsabilités)</i>	to delegate (tasks/responsibilities)
<i>rédiger une lettre</i>	to write a letter
<i>échanger (sur un projet)</i>	to talk about a project

Giving advice

In our previous book, you learned about the imperative mood, used mainly to give commands, advice or warnings. Recall that to form the imperative, we use the present tense conjugation of the verbs *tu*, *vous* and *nous*. For -ER verbs, however, we remove the -s when forming the imperative mood in the second person *tu*.

We will now learn about irregular conjugations in the imperative mood, in particular for the verbs *avoir*, *être* and pronominal verbs. Imagine that you are about to have a job interview in French, you look up some tips online and come across a list of advice:

- ***Soyez à l'heure.*** Be on time.
- ***Renseignez-vous sur l'entreprise.*** Look into / Do some research on the company.
- ***Ayez une tenue propre et correcte.*** Wear clean and appropriate clothing (lit. Have a clean and appropriate outfit).
- ***Entraînez-vous à répondre aux questions.*** Practice answering questions.

Imperative mood: avoir and être

The verbs *avoir* and *être* follow an irregular conjugation in the imperative mood.

<i>avoir</i>		<i>être</i>
(tu) aie		(tu) sois
(nous) ayons		(nous) soyons
(vous) ayez		(vous) soyez

Imperative mood: pronominal verbs

For pronominal verbs, we follow the general rule to conjugate them, but we invert the position of the pronoun and the verb and add a hyphen, like in *renseignez-vous* or *entraînez-vous*. Let's look at some more examples.

- ***Lève-toi.*** Get up.
- ***Préparons-nous pour le départ.*** Let's get ready to leave.
- ***Asseyez-vous.*** Sit down.

This is the rule for affirmative commands. When negated, we do not invert the pronoun and verb:

- ***Ne te lève pas.*** Don't get up.
- ***Ne vous asseyez pas.*** Don't sit down.

CULTURE TIP

From 9 to 5

The French have a 35-hour work week. The start of the work day in France is usually at 8:30 a.m., but this varies according to one's job. Employees would often take a break to have coffee, what is known as *une pause-café* (a coffee break), in the morning and in the afternoon. Lunch, *la pause-déjeuner*, is around 12 noon to 2 p.m. Before 2021, employees in France were not allowed, according to the French labor law, to eat lunch at their

desks! But this has now been legalized by the government. Incidentally, the labor law is also quite strict when it comes to working on Sundays. This is why most shops are closed during this day.

Key Takeaways

- To talk about obligations and necessities, we can use the verb *falloir*. There are four structures to follow:

Expressions with *falloir*

Il faut + infinitive of the verb

Il faut que + verb in subjunctive mood

Il faut + noun

Il + indirect object pronoun + *faut* + noun

- To conjugate *falloir*: in the present, *il faut*, in the imperfect tense, *il faudrait*, and in the future, *il va falloir* or *il faudra*.
- To form the subjunctive mood, we take the present tense conjugation of the verb in *ils*, and replace *-ent* with the following endings: *-e*, *-es*, *-e*, *-ions*, *-iez*, *-ent*.
- To conjugate the verb *avoir* in the imperative: (tu) *aies*, (nous) *ayons* and (vous) *ayez*.
- To conjugate the verb *être* in the imperative: (tu) *sois*, (nous) *soyons* and (vous) *soyez*.
- To form the imperative with pronominal verbs, we conjugate the verb in the imperative mood, and then invert the pronoun and verb, combined with a hyphen.
- Negated pronominal verbs in the imperative mood do not undergo the same inversion.

In the next chapter, we will take some calls! You will learn how to communicate by phone using the most commonly used expressions. We will also study double pronouns.

Exercices

1-5. Subjunctive or infinitive? Conjugate the following verbs in the subjunctive or retain the infinitive (unconjugated) form if necessary.

1. (porter) Il faut que vous _____ une tenue correcte.
2. (boire) Il faut _____ au moins 1,5 litres d'eau par jour.
3. (partir) Il faut que Hugo _____ une heure en avance.
4. (signer) Il faut que nous _____ ce contrat aujourd'hui.
5. (choisir) Il faut _____ le meilleur candidat.

6-10. Transform the following sentences into commands with the imperative mood.

6. Tu ne dois pas être en retard.
7. Il faut que vous ayez une bonne posture.
8. Vous devez vous préparer pour l'entretien.
9. Il ne faut pas se lever.
10. Vous devez vous entraîner.

Answer Key

1. portiez
2. boire
3. parte
4. signions
5. choisir
6. Ne sois pas en retard.
7. Ayez une bonne posture.
8. Préparez-vous pour l'entretien.
9. Ne te lève pas. OR Ne vous levez pas.
10. Entraînez-vous.

Chapter 8: Call me back



La communication est une science difficile.

Communication is a difficult science.

- Jean-Luc Lagardère

Texting, chatting or emailing might be a preferred way of communication for some. But when we want to get a message across urgently, or when things have reached a point when there are just too many texts or emails, we pick up the phone. Most language learners have difficulty understanding French in the context of a phone call. It's not surprising, given that the audio quality can be poor. To top it all off, there are no visual cues to help contextualize what is being said. The key to getting past this particular challenge is knowing what phrases and words to expect. When you know them, even if you just hear the last two syllables of what the caller says, you'd have a better chance figuring out the appropriate response.

In this lesson, you will learn how to make formal and informal calls, including in dreaded situations of technical difficulties. We will also study here what we call double pronouns.

Formal calls

Making and taking a call

Let's begin with a dialogue. Lucas is hoping to talk to an employee of the PLM company.

Le réceptionniste : *Société PLM, je vous écoute.*

Lucas : *Bonjour, je voudrais parler à Madame Houdard, s'il vous plaît.*

Le réceptionniste : *C'est de la part de qui ?*

Lucas : *Lucas Dupont.*

Le réceptionniste : *Ne quittez pas.*

(un peu plus tard...)

Le réceptionniste : *Je suis désolé mais elle est actuellement indisponible. Vous voulez laissez un message ?*

Lucas : *Oui, pourriez-vous lui dire de me rappeler s'il vous plaît ?*

Le réceptionniste : *Bien sûr. Quel est votre numéro de téléphone ?*

Lucas : *C'est le 06 40 89 22 19.*

Le réceptionniste : *C'est noté.*

Receptionist: PLM Company, I'm listening.

Lucas: Hello, I would like to speak to Madame Houdard, please.

Receptionist: Who's on the line?

Lucas: Lucas Dupont.

Receptionist: Please stay on the line.

(a bit later...)

Receptionist: I'm sorry but she is currently unavailable. Do you want to leave a message?

Lucas: Yes, could you tell her to call me back please?

Receptionist: Of course. What is your phone number?

Lucas: It's 06 40 89 22 19.

Receptionist: Noted.

Companies usually introduce the name of their business first, and ask how they might help using the expressions *Comment puis-je vous aider ?* (How may I help you?) or *Je vous écoute* (lit. I'm listening).

Here are other common phone expressions you will hear in a formal call:

- ***C'est de la part de qui ?*** Who's calling?
- ***Un instant.*** Just one moment.
- ***Ne quittez pas.*** Stay on the line (lit. Don't leave.)
- ***Il/Elle est actuellement indisponible.*** He/She is currently unavailable.
- ***Il/Elle est actuellement occupé(e).*** He/She is currently busy.
- ***Il/Elle est en ligne.*** He/She is on the phone.
- ***La ligne est occupée.*** The line is busy.
- ***Vous voulez laisser un message ?*** Would you like to leave a message?

Transferring a call

When calling a big company, it is common to be transferred to the correct phone line. To ask to be transferred to a department, you can say:

Est-ce que vous pouvez me passer le/la [name of department] ?
Can you transfer me to the [name of department]?

To indicate you are transferring a call, you can use the expression:

Je vous le/la passe.
I am transferring the call to him/her.

Je vous passe mon collègue.
I am transferring the call to my colleague.

GRAMMAR TIP

Double pronouns

In the example above, *Je vous le passe*, there are two pronouns: *vous* and *le*. These are what you call double pronouns. In English, we can also have double pronouns in sentences. For example:

I will give the gift to Sophie. I will give **it** to **her**.

Here, we have two pronouns: *it* and *her*. In French, this sentence would be:

*Je vais donner le cadeau à Sophie. Je vais **le lui** donner.*

You will observe however that the position of these pronouns in French differ from English. From our previous lessons (Chapters 3 and 6), you know that the pronoun *le* here is the direct object pronoun and that *lui* is the indirect object pronoun. In this grammar tip, we will learn how to combine

pronouns and where to place them. Here is the structure you need to commit to memory:

Subject	+	<i>me</i>		<i>le/l'</i>		<i>lui</i>	+	verb
		<i>tes</i>	+	<i>la/l'</i>	+	<i>leur</i>		
		<i>nous</i>		<i>les</i>				
		<i>vous</i>						

There can only be a maximum of two pronouns per sentence. The structure above will help you know how to place the two specific pronouns you intend to use. Let's look at some examples:

- *Lucas montre le tableau à nous. Lucas **nous le** montre.*
Lucas shows the painting to us. Lucas shows it to us.
- *J'ai envoyé une lettre à papa. Je **la lui** ai envoyée.*
I sent a letter to dad. I sent it to him.
- *Je partage les nouvelles à mes amis. Je **les leur** partage.*
I share the news to my friends. I share it to them.

Informal calls

When answering an informal phone call, you can use the expression *Allô ?*, like the "Hello?" phone greeting in English. Let's look at another dialogue. This time, Lucas is calling the home of his friends.

Chloé : *Allô ?*

Lucas : *Chloé ? C'est Lucas. Est-ce que Mathis est là ? Tu peux me le passer ?*

Chloé : *Salut Lucas. Mathis est au travail. Il rentre vers 19h.*

Lucas : *Ah, d'accord. Tu pourras lui dire de me rappeler s'il te plaît ? Je n'arrive pas à le joindre sur son portable.*

Chloé : *Bien sûr. Pas de souci.*

Chloé: Hello?

Lucas: Chloé? It's Lucas. Is Mathis there? Can you put him on?

Chloé: Hey Lucas. Mathis is at work. He comes home at around 7 pm.

Lucas: Oh, okay. Can you tell him to call me back please? I can't reach him on his mobile.

Chloé: Sure. No worries.

We also use the expression *passer à quelqu'un* (transfer the call to somebody, put on somebody) in informal calls. Take note of the various verbs related to calling:

- ***appeler quelqu'un*** to call somebody
- ***téléphoner à quelqu'un*** to call somebody
- ***rappeler quelqu'un*** to call back somebody
- ***joindre quelqu'un*** to reach somebody

Both *appeler* and *téléphoner* mean “to call somebody”. *Appeler*, however, can also signify calling out to somebody in person. *Téléphoner*, as the name suggests, makes use of a phone. One common mistake of French learners is confusing the use of the preposition *à* with these two verbs. Remember that *appeler* is always followed by the direct object, while *téléphoner* is always followed by the preposition *à* and then the indirect object.

- J'**appelle** mon ami.
- Je **téléphone à** mon ami.

This is very important especially when using object pronouns. Say, we replace the nouns in the sentences above, this is what it would look like:

- J'appelle mon ami. Je **l'**appelle.
- Je téléphone à mon ami. Je **lui** téléphone.

Since the verb *téléphoner* is always followed by the preposition *à*, the object is replaced with an indirect object pronoun, in this case *lui*. Saying *je le téléphone* is thus incorrect.

Technical problems

Here are some expressions you can use in informal phone calls, in case of technical difficulties:

- ***Je ne t'entends pas***. I don't hear you.

- **Ça coupe.** You're breaking up.
- **Je ne capte pas très bien.** I don't hear you well. (lit. I don't receive you well.)

In formal calls, you can say:

- **Nous avons été coupés.** It was disconnected.
- **Je ne vous entends pas très bien.** I don't hear you very well.

CULTURE TIP

***Dring, dring!* Leave a message.**

Dring, dring is the word for the sound a phone makes in French. It is the equivalent of “kring, kring” in English. In this tip, we'll teach you how to make your own voicemail message in French. A typical formula that won't go wrong sounds like this:

Bonjour, vous êtes bien sur le portable de Lucas Dupont. Je ne suis pas disponible pour l'instant. Laissez-moi un message et je vous rappellerai dès que possible.

Hello, you have reached Lucas Dupont's mobile phone. I'm not available at the moment. Leave me a message and I will call you back as soon as possible.

Here's another example:

Bonjour, vous êtes bien sur le répondeur de Lucas Dupont. Laissez-moi un message et je vous rappellerai.

Hello, you have reached Lucas Dupont's answering machine. Leave me a message and I'll call you back.

How about recording yours right now?

Key Takeaways

- To communicate during phone calls, use the following expressions:

Formal calls

<i>Je voudrais parler à...</i>	<i>Comment puis-je vous aider ?</i> <i>Je vous écoute.</i> <i>C'est de la part de qui ?</i> <i>Un instant.</i> <i>Ne quittez pas.</i> <i>Il/Elle est actuellement indisponible.</i> <i>Il/Elle est actuellement occupé(e).</i> <i>Il/Elle est en ligne.</i> <i>La ligne est occupée.</i> <i>Vous voulez laisser un message ?</i>
<i>Est-ce que vous pouvez me passer le/la [name of department] ?</i>	<i>Je vous le/la passe.</i> <i>Je vous passe mon collègue.</i>
Informal calls	
<i>Allô ?</i> <i>Est-ce que... est là ?</i> <i>Tu peux me le/la passer ?</i>	
Technical problems	
<i>Je ne t'entends pas.</i> <i>Ça coupe.</i> <i>Je ne capte pas très bien.</i> <i>Nous avons été coupés.</i> <i>Je ne vous entends pas très bien.</i>	

- In using double pronouns in a sentence, we follow this order: subject + *me/tes/nous/vous* + *le/la/l'/les* + *lui/leur* + verb.
- Verbs related to communication include *appeler*, *téléphoner à*, *rappeler* and *joindre*.

In the next chapter, we will delve into a different method of communication: emails. You will learn how to write informal and formal emails. We will also look at the relative pronoun *dont*.

Exercices

1-5. Complete the dialogue with the correct missing words.

- Société Quick, comment puis-je vous 1. _____ ?
- Bonjour, je voudrais 2. _____ à Monsieur Bernard s'il vous plaît.
- C'est de la part de 3. _____ ?
- Amélie Martin.
- Ne quittez pas. [...] La ligne est actuellement 4. _____. Vous voulez laisser un 5. _____ ?
- Non merci, je rappellerai plus tard.

6-10. Replace the two underlined nouns with double pronouns. Rewrite the entire sentences and remember to follow the correct order.

6. Je donne le cadeau à Sophie.
7. Les enfants montrent leurs dessins aux enseignants.
8. Tu envoies la lettre au client au plus vite ?
9. Mathis dit la vérité à nous.
10. Elle explique la situation aux policiers.

Answer Key

1. aider
2. parler
3. qui
4. occupée
5. message
6. Je le lui donne.
7. Les enfants les leur montrent.
8. Tu la lui envoies.
9. Mathis nous la dit.
10. Elle la leur explique.

Chapter 9: To whom it may concern



J'ai écrit parce que c'était la seule façon de parler en se taisant.

I wrote because it was the only way to speak silently.

- Pascal Quignard

Many businesses rely on emailing, as it is one of the most efficient and convenient ways of contacting colleagues and clients. That said, it is also a much-needed means of communication outside the workplace. When dealing with administrative tasks, inquiring about products or services, or even filing a complaint, we sometimes need to take recourse to emailing as it is a proof of documentation that cannot be erased or altered.

In this lesson, you will learn how to write both formal and informal emails. We will not go into the specifics of different types of letters, but discuss instead how to form its basic structure. Much like in face-to-face conversations, polite expressions are important in writing emails in French. We will also take the time to look at vocabulary related to emails, as well as the relative pronoun *dont*.

Formal emails

Greetings

A good formal email begins with the appropriate greeting. The standard greeting involves addressing the person directly as in:

Monsieur Lucas Dupont,

or:

Madame Marie Dupont,

If you do not know who will read the message, you can simply say *Bonjour* or address it anonymously:

Monsieur, Madame,

This greeting is similar to the English “Dear Sir/Madam”. Of course, the best practice is to find out the full name of the person you are writing to, and address them accordingly.

Introductions

After greeting the receiver of the message, one would normally state the reason for writing. You may use the following expressions to do so:

Je vous écris concernant...

I am writing to you about...

Je vous écris pour demander si / pour savoir si...

I am writing to you to ask if / to know if...

Je m’adresse à vous pour demander si / pour savoir si...

I am addressing you to ask if / to know if...

Je voudrais des renseignements concernant...

I would like some information regarding...

Attachments

If you wish to indicate attached documents, you can write:

- ***Veillez trouver ci-joint le/la/les...*** Please see attached the...
- ***Je joins le/la/les...*** I am attaching the...
- ***Je vous mets ci-joint le/la/les...*** I am attaching the...

The first expression is the most formal one out of the three. While the *veillez* is a conjugated form of the verb *vouloir* (to want), its most accurate translation when used is “Please” or “Kindly” in English.

Conclusions

To end a formal letter, you can write:

Je vous remercie et vous souhaite une bonne journée.

I thank you and wish you a good day.

En vous remerciant et en vous souhaitant une bonne journée.

Thanking you and wishing you a good day.

Or you can leave your contact details if needed:

Je reste à votre disposition au [phone number].

I remain at your disposition at [phone number].

Vous pouvez me joindre au [phone number].

You can reach me at [phone number].

Remember to end your message with the expression *Cordialement*, which is similar to the English “Sincerely”. A less formal concluding expression is *Bien à vous* (Best regards).

GRAMMAR TIP

Relative pronoun dont

In the previous chapters, we learned about the relative pronouns *qui* and *que*. The relative pronoun *dont* replace relative clauses preceded by the preposition *de*. Let's look at an example:

La ville est splendide. Je parle de cette ville.

The city is splendid. I speak of this city.

To avoid repetition, we will replace *de cette ville* with the preposition *dont*, and combine the two sentences. And so, it becomes:

La ville dont je parle est splendide.

The city which I speak of is splendid.

It is important to remember that *dont* only replaces a person or a thing preceded by the preposition *de*. It can also be used to indicate possession:

Je connais un homme. La femme de cet homme est enseignante.

I know a man. This man's wife is a teacher.

Je connais un homme dont la femme est enseignante.

I know a man whose wife is a teacher.

Just like in our previous example, the noun being replaced here is preceded by the preposition *de*. It acts however as a possessive in this case. Study these other examples:

- *C'est un bon achat. Je suis très satisfait de l'achat. → C'est un bon achat dont je suis très satisfait.*
- *C'est un livre intéressant. Le titre du livre est Le Petit Prince. → C'est un livre intéressant dont le titre est Le Petit Prince.*

Email vocabulary

	Translation
<i>un email</i>	an email
<i>une adresse email</i>	an email address
<i>l'objet</i>	the subject
<i>envoyer</i>	to send
<i>enregistrer</i>	to save
<i>répondre</i>	to reply
<i>transférer</i>	to forward
<i>supprimer</i>	to delete
<i>la boîte de réception</i>	the inbox
<i>la boîte d'envoi</i>	the outbox
<i>un destinataire</i>	a recipient
<i>un expéditeur(-trice)</i>	a sender

Informal emails

Greetings & introductions

To greet a recipient in informal emails, you use the expression *Cher* (m.) or *Chère* (f.), which translates to “Dear” in English. For instance, you can

write *Cher Lucas* or *Chère Marie*. Alternatively, you can also use the expression *Salut*, or directly address him or her by name.

Depending on the content of your message, a great way to start an informal one is by asking how the recipient is, with *Comment ça va ?* or *Tu vas bien ?*

Conclusions

You can end your email with *Bisous* (kisses) if you are close to the recipient. Otherwise, you can simply write *Bonne journée*.

CULTURE TIP

@...com

In many instances, as in dealing with paperwork, you will be asked to dictate your contact details and thus, your email address. Let's look at an example:

lucasdupont@mail.com.fr

To read this address, one would say: *lucas, dupont, arrobase, mail, point, com, point, /ef/, /er/*.

The @ symbol is read as *arrobase* /ah-roh-baz/. The dot is read as point /pwahñ/ and "com" as /kohm/. Letters are pronounced the way you would when reading the alphabet.

If you haven't yet, study how to pronounce the French letters! You'll find that every once in a while, you will be asked to spell out your email address or even your name when traveling to francophone countries.

Key Takeaways

- To write emails, we use the following expressions:

Formal emails
<i>Monsieur..., / Madame..., Monsieur, Madame,</i>
<i>Je vous écris concernant... Je vous écris pour demander si / pour savoir si... Je m'adresse à vous pour demander si / pour savoir si... Je voudrais des renseignements concernant...</i>
<i>Veuillez trouver ci-joint le/la/les... Je joins le/la/les... Je vous mets ci-joint le/la/les...</i>
<i>Je vous remercie et vous souhaite une bonne journée. En vous remerciant et en vous souhaitant une bonne journée. Je reste à votre disposition au... Vous pouvez me joindre au...</i>
<i>Cordialement, Bien à vous,</i>
Informal emails
<i>Cher..., / Chère..., Salut...,</i>
<i>Comment ça va ? / Tu vas bien ?</i>
<i>Bisous Bonne journée</i>

- The relative pronoun *dont* is used to replace relative clauses preceded by the preposition *de*. It can also indicate possession.

In the next chapter, you will learn how to rent an apartment or buy a property in French. As for the grammar, we will tackle the passive voice and

the expression of restriction *ne...que*. We will also study vocabulary related to housing and real estate.

Exercices

1-5. Complete the following formal email with the appropriate words.

Madame, Monsieur,

Je vous écris pour savoir 1. _____ l'entrée à la bibliothèque est gratuite pour les étudiants. Je fais actuellement mon Master à l'Université de Paris. Veuillez trouver 2. _____ mon certificat de scolarité. Je voudrais également des renseignements 3. _____ l'inscription. Dois-je apporter avec moi d'autres justificatifs ?

En vous remerciant et en vous 4. _____ une bonne journée.

5. _____

Lucas Dupont

6-10. Replace the underlined noun with the relative pronoun *dont* and combine the two sentences into one.

6. Mathis adore le film. Je parle de ce film.

7. Je connais une femme. Le prénom de cette femme est Jeanne.

8. Sophie a une amie. Le mari de cette amie est un acteur célèbre.

9. C'est un produit très efficace. Les clients sont satisfaits de ce produit.

10. La famille vit dans une petite maison. La porte de la maison est verte.

Answer Key

1. si
2. ci-joint
3. concernant
4. souhaitant
5. Cordialement, OR Bien à vous,
6. Mathis adore le film dont je parle.
7. Je connais une femme dont le prénom est Jeanne.
8. Sophie a une amie dont le mari est un acteur célèbre.
9. C'est un produit très efficace dont les clients sont satisfaits.
10. La famille vit dans une petite maison dont la porte est verte.

Chapter 10: Welcome home



Un bûcheron est maître dans sa maison.

A woodcutter is master in his house.

- Quebecois proverb

You have decided to make a francophone country your new home, except you still have to *find* a home. Renting an apartment or buying a property can be tricky for many reasons. The search for a lodging that fits your needs, requirements, and budget can be tough. And if on top of all this, you struggle to communicate with your real estate agent, you might end up with an apartment or house that does not feel like your dream home.

Not to fret, for in this lesson we will study precisely how to rent an apartment and how to buy a property. We will look at vocabulary related to real estate, so you have all the tools you need to find the right home. Finally, we will look at two grammar topics: the passive voice and the expression of restriction *ne...que*.

Renting an apartment

Calling the real estate agency

At the beginner's level, you learned how to understand a rental ad, as well as vocabulary for the parts of the home. Let us now study how to communicate with a real estate agent when searching for an apartment.

Oscar had just moved to Paris. He saw a rental ad online for an apartment that looks exactly like what he is searching for. He has decided to call the real estate agency in charge to ask for more information and to schedule a visit:

Oscar : *Bonjour. Je vous appelle concernant un appartement à louer, un T2 dans le 5^e. Est-il toujours disponible ?*

L'agent immobilier : *Bonjour Monsieur. Malheureusement, cet appartement n'est plus disponible.*

Oscar : *Ah, d'accord. Est-ce que vous avez d'autres appartements dans le coin ?*

L'agent immobilier : *Vous êtes à la recherche d'un appartement vide ou meublé ?*

Oscar : *Meublé si possible.*

L'agent immobilier : *Avec deux pièces, c'est ça ?*

Oscar : *Tout à fait.*

L'agent immobilier : *Alors... je regarde... On n'a qu'un trois pièces, vide, avec un petit balcon. Il fait 40m².*

Oscar : *Et le loyer est de combien ?*

L'agent immobilier : *1300 euros, toutes charges comprises. Vous voudriez le visiter ? Il y a une visite prévue demain à 13h.*

Oscar : *Parfait, je serai là. Quelle est l'adresse s'il vous plaît ?*

Oscar: Hello. I am calling you regarding the apartment for rent, a 2-room flat in the 5th (arrondissement). Is it still available?

Real estate agent: Hello Sir. Unfortunately, this apartment is no longer available.

Oscar: Oh okay. Do you have any other apartments in the area?

Real estate agent: Are you looking for an unfurnished or a furnished apartment?

Oscar: Furnished if possible.

Real estate agent: With two rooms, right?

Oscar: That's right.

Real estate agent: So... Let me see... We only have a three-room apartment, unfurnished, with a small balcony. It is 40m².

Oscar: And how much is the rent?

Real estate agent: 1300 euros, charges included. Would you like to visit it? There's a visit scheduled tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.

Oscar: Perfect, I'll be there. What is the address please?

To indicate you are searching for an apartment, you can say, like in the dialogue, *Je vous appelle concernant un appartement à louer*. Alternatively,

you can also say *Je suis à la recherche d'un appartement à louer* (I am looking for an apartment to rent.) Note that a real estate agency is called *une agence immobilière* and a real estate agent, *un agent immobilier*.

There are some specific questions you can ask about the apartment:

- ***Est-il vide ou meublé ?*** Is it unfurnished or furnished?
- ***Le loyer est de combien ?*** How much is the rent?
- ***Il fait quelle surface ?*** What is the surface area?
- ***Les charges sont-elles comprises ?*** Are the utility fees included (in the rent)?
- ***Le chauffage est-il individuel ou collectif ?*** Is the heating individual or collective?

In France, there are different types of apartments. There is *un studio* (a studio), also called *un T1*, the number 1 referring to the number of rooms. *T* refers to the *pièces* (f.) or the rooms. A studio has only 1 room which serves as the bedroom, kitchen and living room. *Un T2* has two rooms or *deux pièces*. This means it has 1 bedroom and 1 other room (for example a kitchen or a living room). *Un T3* has 2 bedrooms and 1 other room, *un T4* has 3 bedrooms and 1 other room, and so on.

When searching for an apartment, you might also want to ask the agent to specify if it is *en bon état* (in good condition), perhaps it was *refait à neuf* (renovated). You can also ask for an apartment with a view for example, of the courtyard: *un appartement avec vue sur la cour* or *un appartement qui donne sur la cour* (an apartment that overlooks the courtyard).

GRAMMAR TIP

Restriction with ne...que

The expression *ne...que* roughly translates to the adverb “only” in English. In the dialogue above, the agent said:

On n'a qu'un trois pièces.

We only have a three-bedroom (apartment).

Notice how the *ne* and *que* “sandwiches” the verb *avoir*, much like the expression *ne...pas*. We can also observe in this example that *ne* contracts to *n'* before a vowel. *Que* also contracts to *qu'* before a vowel. Study these other examples:

- ***Nous ne proposons qu'un studio.*** We are only offering a studio.
- ***Cet hôtel n'a que deux étoiles.*** This hotel only has two stars.
- ***Il n'y a que deux personnes dans la chambre.*** There are only two people in the room.
- ***L'appartement ne fait que 17m2.*** The apartment is only 17m2.

Real estate vocabulary

	Translation
<i>un immeuble</i>	a building
<i>un logement social</i>	a social lodging
<i>un loyer</i>	rent (price)
<i>la location</i>	renting, rental
<i>une colocation</i>	house-share, apartment-share
<i>un propriétaire</i>	owner
<i>un locataire</i>	tenant
<i>emménager</i>	to move in
<i>déménager</i>	to move out
<i>une superficie</i>	surface area
<i>le chauffage</i>	heating, heater
<i>un bien</i>	a property
<i>les honoraires (f. pl.)</i>	agency fees
<i>la vente</i>	sales
<i>la caution</i>	guarantee

CULTURE TIP

An apartment for rent

Many ads for apartments or houses for rent in France can be found online. Rental prices vary according to the city of choice. In Paris, for instance, the most expensive city in the country, prices can go up to 1,000 euros for a small studio.

To rent an apartment, you would need to prepare *un dossier* (a file) which compiles all the documents required by the landlord. Most of these documents serve as proof that you are financially capable of renting the apartment. Generally, a *dossier* would have:

- ***une pièce d'identité*** identification card
- ***un justificatif de domicile*** proof of address
- ***un contrat de travail*** employment contract (for employees)
- ***un certificat de scolarité*** certificate of attendance (for students)
- ***des bulletins de salaire*** (m.) payslips

Buying a home

This time, let's examine an ad for a house for sale:

Maison d'architecte à vendre, 4 pièces, 83m2

L'agence immobilière CHEZ MOI vous propose une maison d'architecte à Bordeaux avec un vaste terrain clos et sans vis à vis. Idéalement située dans le centre-ville, la maison est proche de l'école, des commerces et des transports publics. Cette maison originale et créative a été conçue par l'architecte Hugo Lavigne, propriétaire actuel du bien. Elle comprend une entrée, un grand salon avec une cheminée, une salle à manger, une cuisine entièrement rénovée, une chambre et une suite parentale qui se partagent une salle de bain.

Votre nouvelle maison vous attend. Contactez-nous pour une visite.

Prix du bien : 450 000 euros

Honoraires TTC : 5% soit 22 500

Date de réalisation du diagnostic énergétique : 03/09/22

Référence annonce : 1248798744BBn

Architect house for sale, 4 rooms, 83m2

The real estate agency CHEZ MOI proposes an architect's house in Bordeaux with a large enclosed land and without vis-à-vis. Ideally

located in the city center, the house is close to the school, shops and public transport. This original and creative house was designed by the architect Hugo Lavigne, current owner of the property. It includes an entrance, a large living room with a fireplace, a dining room, a completely renovated kitchen, a bedroom and a master suite which share a bathroom.

Your new home is waiting for you. Contact us for a visit.

Price of the property: 450,000 euros

Fees including VAT: 5% or 22,500

Date of fulfillment of energy diagnosis: 03/09/22

Ad reference: 1248798744BBn

When searching for a house, you will encounter familiar vocabulary like names of the rooms and descriptions of amenities. Agencies will usually be paid what is called *les honoraires* (fees), and they usually indicate if these include VAT using the expression *TTC* or *Toutes Charges Comprises* (all fees included).

The paperwork when buying a property is of course a tad more complicated than when renting an apartment. The sale usually begins with *une offre d'achat* (offer to buy) which makes your intent to buy official. This is not, however, the equivalent of a purchase contract. There are two types of a sales agreement contract in France, for example, *une promesse de vente* and *un compromis de vente*. This latter is more common. After signing a purchase contract, you are of course required to complete your acquisition of the property.

GRAMMAR TIP

Passive voice

In the world of grammar, the term “voice” indicates the relationship between subject and verb. There are two types of voice: active and passive. Let’s look at this sentence from the ad above:

Cette maison a été conçue par l’architecte Hugo Lavigne.

This house was designed by the architect Hugo Lavigne.

This sentence is in the passive voice. Now, compare it to this one:

L'architecte Hugo Lavigne a conçu cette maison.

The architecte Hugo Lavigne designed this home.

This second sentence is in the active voice. Can you tell the difference between the two?

In the passive voice, we emphasize that an action is being done to the subject (*cette maison*). Notice how in sentence 1, our attention is on the house, but in sentence 2, it is on the architect.

To form the passive voice, we use this structure:

ÊTRE conjugated + past participle of the verb

The past participle of the verb should agree with the subject in gender and number. You can use the passive voice in any tense or mood, by conjugating the verb *être* accordingly. Let's look at some more examples:

Active voice	Passive voice
<i>Les maçons construisent les fondations d'une maison.</i>	<i>Les fondations d'une maison sont construites par les maçons.</i>
<i>Émile Zola a écrit le roman L'Assommoir.</i>	<i>Le roman L'Assommoir a été écrit par Émile Zola.</i>
<i>Elle préparera les valises.</i>	<i>Les valises seront préparées par elle.</i>

The agent of the action can be anonymous in the passive voice. For example, one can say *La maison a été rénovée*. (The house was renovated.), without indicating who renovated it.

Key Takeaways

- To ask about an apartment, we use the following expressions:



Rent an apartment

Est-il vide ou meublé ?

Le loyer est de combien ?

Il fait quelle surface ?

Les charges sont-elles comprises ?

Le chauffage est-il individuel ou collectif ?

- An apartment can be *un studio*, *un T1*, *un T2*, *un T3*, and so on, depending on the number of rooms it has.
- When buying a home, the following contracts may be signed: *une offre d'achat*, *une promesse de vente* or *un compromis de vente*.
- The expression *ne...que* is used to indicate restriction. *Ne* is placed before the verb and *que*, after. Both *ne* and *que* contract to *n'* and *qu'* respectively before a vowel.
- The passive voice is used to put emphasis on the subject upon which an action is enacted. It is formed by conjugating the verb *être* and adding the past participle of the verb. The past participle agrees with the subject in gender and number.
- The agent of the action in the passive voice is introduced by the preposition *par*.

In the next chapter, you will learn how to compare products using the adjectives *bon* and *mauvais*. After buying a home, household items come next in the list! To that end, we will look at vocabulary related to appliances.

Exercices

1-5. Translate the following to French.

1. a furnished apartment
2. What is the surface area?
3. a tenant
4. an offer to buy
5. a property

6-7. Rewrite the sentences to include the expression of restriction *ne...que*.

6. Lola et Jules mangent des légumes.
7. Nous avons une maison de 8 pièces.

8-10. Transform the following sentences into the passive voice.

8. Ma famille loue cet appartement.
9. Mes frères ont rénové cette salle.
10. Marine fera le gâteau.

Answer Key

1. un appartement meublé
2. Il fait quelle surface ? OR Quelle surface fait-il ?
3. un locataire
4. une offre d'achat
5. un bien
6. Lola et Jules ne mangent que des légumes.
7. Nous n'avons qu'une maison de 8 pièces.
8. Cet appartement est loué par ma famille.
9. Cette salle a été rénovée par mes frères.
10. Le gâteau sera fait par Marine.

Chapter 11: It's a bargain!



En commerce, l'occasion est tout.

In commerce, opportunity is everything.

- Honoré de Balzac

After finding a new home, furnishing it with new shiny things is often next in the list. At the beginner's level, it is common to be introduced to key phrases used during simple commercial transactions, as in at the bakery or at the post office. As you move onto the next level, it is necessary to look at more specific scenarios like comparing or asking for a reimbursement or an exchange.

In this lesson, you will learn how to compare using the adjectives *bon* and *mauvais*. We will also study key phrases used to ask for an exchange or a reimbursement. As for the vocabulary, we will look at words related to household appliances as well as terms for different kinds of stores.

Asking for comparisons

Let's begin with a dialogue. Jeanne has rented a new, unfurnished apartment and is now on the lookout for a good hotplate:

Le vendeur : *Bonjour Madame, je peux vous aider ?*

Jeanne : *Oui, quelle est la différence entre ces deux plaques de cuisson ?*

Le vendeur : *Alors, celle-ci est une plaque à induction, puis celle-là est une plaque vitrocéramique. Elles ont deux systèmes de cuisson nettement différents. La cuisson par induction se fait par un champ magnétique alors que pour la cuisson vitrocéramique, les sources d'énergie sont ce qu'on appelle les halogènes.*

Jeanne : Laquelle est plus efficace ?

Le vendeur : La cuisson par induction est plus rapide. On peut régler la température d'une façon très précise, et ce n'est pas très compliqué à utiliser.

Jeanne : Et laquelle consomme moins d'électricité ?

Le vendeur : La plaque à induction a une consommation d'énergie plus faible.

Jeanne : D'accord... euh, je ne sais pas trop laquelle prendre.

Le vendeur : Personnellement, je trouve que la plaque à induction est meilleure que la vitrocéramique... C'est un peu plus cher mais ça vaut le coup.

The salesperson: Hello Madam, can I help you?

Jeanne: Yes, what is the difference between these two hotplates?

The salesperson: So this one is an induction plate, then that one is a ceramic hob. They have two distinctly different cooking systems. Induction cooking is done by a magnetic field whereas for ceramic cooking, the energy sources are the so-called halogens.

Jeanne: Which one is more effective?

The salesperson: Induction cooking is faster. You can adjust the temperature in a very precise way, and it's not very complicated to use.

Jeanne: And which one consumes less electricity?

The salesperson: The induction plate has a lower energy consumption.

Jeanne: Alright... uh, I'm not sure which one to take.

The salesperson: Personally, I find that the induction plate is better than the ceramic hob... It's a little bit more expensive but it's worth it.

Asking for comparisons

To ask for two things to be compared, we can say the keyphrase, just like in the dialogue:

Quelle est la différence entre [noun] et [noun] ?
What is the difference between [noun] and [noun]?

Alternatively, we can use the interrogative pronoun *lequel*:

Lequel est plus/moins + adjective ?
Laquelle est plus/moins + adjective ?
Which one is more/less + adjective?

Lequel/laquelle + verb ?
Which one + verb?

As you might have guessed, *lequel* is used for masculine nouns and *laquelle* for feminine nouns. Note that there are also plural variations to this interrogative pronoun. Let's look at more examples:

- ***Lequel consomme le moins d'énergie ?*** Which one (m. sing.) consumes the least energy?
- ***Lesquels sont les plus chers ?*** Which ones (m. plur.) are the most expensive?
- ***Laquelle est plus abordable ?*** Which one (f. sing.) is more affordable?
- ***Lesquelles sont les plus populaires ?*** Which ones (f. plur.) are the most popular?

GRAMMAR TIP

Comparisons with bon and mauvais

In Chapter 2, we learned how to compare using *plus* and *moins*. The French adjective *bon* (good) has, however, irregular comparative and superlative forms. Study the table below.

	Comparative	Superlative
masculine singular	<i>meilleur</i>	<i>le meilleur</i>
feminine singular	<i>meilleure</i>	<i>la meilleure</i>
masculine plural	<i>meilleurs</i>	<i>les meilleurs</i>
feminine plural	<i>meilleures</i>	<i>les meilleures</i>

The equivalent of *meilleur* in English is “better”, and *le meilleur*, “best”. Let's look at some examples:

- ***Ce four est meilleur que celui-là.*** This oven is better than that one.
- ***Ce sont actuellement les meilleurs ordinateurs portables sur le marché.*** These are currently the best laptops in the market.

- ***La télévision que j'ai achetée est meilleure que la tienne.*** The television that I bought is better than yours.

The adjective *mauvais* uses both regular and irregular forms. It is thus possible to say, *plus mauvais* or *le plus mauvais*. Otherwise, the term *pire* is used.

	Comparative	Superlative
masculine singular	<i>pire</i>	<i>le pire</i>
feminine singular		<i>la pire</i>
masculine plural	<i>pires</i>	<i>les pires</i>
feminine plural		

To summarize, both *plus mauvais* and *pire* refer to the English “worse”. *Le plus mauvais* and *le pire* may be translated to “the worst”. Let’s look at some more examples:

- ***Cet aspirateur est le pire !*** This vacuum cleaner is the worst!
- ***Cette bouilloire est pire que celle-là.*** This kettle is worse than that one.

Household appliances vocabulary

	Translation
<i>un aspirateur</i>	a vacuum cleaner
<i>une cafetière</i>	a coffee maker
<i>un climatiseur</i>	an air conditioner
<i>une cuisinière</i>	a stove
<i>un fer à repasser</i>	an iron
<i>un four</i>	an oven
<i>un lave-vaisselle</i>	a dishwasher
<i>une machine à laver</i>	a washing machine
<i>un micro-onde</i>	a microwave
<i>un radiateur</i>	a heater
<i>un sèche-cheveux</i>	a hair dryer

<i>un sèche-linge</i>	a clothes dryer
<i>une télévision</i>	a TV

Other services at the store

Asking for an exchange

When asking for an exchange, you would need to present *un justificatif d'achat* (a justification of sale), more specifically *un ticket de caisse* (a receipt). You can then use the following expressions to indicate your intent:

Est-ce que je peux échanger ce produit ?

Can I exchange this product?

Est-ce que je peux l'échanger ?

Can I exchange it?

Je souhaite faire un échange.

Je voudrais faire un échange.

I would like to make an exchange.

Note that while some products bought in the store are *échangeable* (exchangeable) some are *non échangeable*.

Asking for a reimbursement

To receive *un remboursement* (a reimbursement), you can say:

Est-ce que je peux être remboursé(e) de...

Can I be reimbursed of...

Je souhaite être remboursé(e).

Je voudrais être remboursé(e).

I would like to be reimbursed.

CULTURE TIP

Hello shopaholic!

An alternative way of saying to go shopping, instead of *faire du shopping*, is *faire les magasins*. In France, you can refer to shops using the term *chez*. For example, *chez le fleuriste* (the florist's) or *chez le cordonnier* (the shoemaker's). Other terms for shops include:

- ***un kiosque*** a newsstand
- ***un magasin de jouets*** a toy store
- ***un marchand de vins*** a wine shop
- ***une bijouterie*** a jewelry store
- ***une laverie automatique*** a laundromat
- ***une librairie*** a bookstore
- ***une papeterie*** a stationery shop
- ***une parfumerie*** a perfume shop
- ***une quincaillerie*** a hardware store
- ***une teinturerie*** a dry cleaner's

Key Takeaways

- For specific commercial transactions, we use the following expressions:

Comparisons
<i>Quelle est la différence entre [noun] et [noun] ?</i> <i>Lequel est plus/moins + adjective ?</i> <i>Laquelle est plus/moins + adjective ?</i>
Ask for an exchange
<i>Est-ce que je peux échanger ce produit ?</i> <i>Est-ce que je peux l'échanger ?</i> <i>Je souhaite faire un échange.</i> <i>Je voudrais faire un échange.</i>
Ask for a reimbursement
<i>Est-ce que je peux être remboursé(e) de...</i> <i>Je souhaite être remboursé(e).</i> <i>Je voudrais être remboursé(e).</i>

- The interrogative pronoun *lequel* refers to “which one”. It changes according to the gender and number of the noun referred to: *lequel, lesquels, laquelle, lesquelles*.
- The comparative forms of the adjective *bon* are *meilleur(s)* and *meilleure(s)*. The superlative forms are *le meilleur, la meilleure* and *les meilleur(e)s*.
- The comparative form of the adjective *mauvais* can be *plus mauvais(es)* or *pire*. The superlative forms are *le plus mauvais, la plus mauvaise, les plus mauvais(es)* or *le/la/les pire(s)*.

In the next chapter, you will learn how to relate an event and explain an accident. We will study reported speech and adverbs with *-ment*. We will also have a look at vocabulary related to automobiles and accidents.

Exercices

1-3. Translate the following to French.

1. What is the difference between this washing machine and that one?
2. I would like to make an exchange.
3. Which one (m.) is more expensive?

4-5. Complete the sentences with the correct comparative form of the adjective *bon*.

4. Ce parfum est _____ que celui-là.
5. Sa première chanson est _____ que celles plus récentes.

6-7. Complete the sentences with the correct comparative form of the adjective *mauvais*.

6. Ce magazine est _____ que celui-là.
7. Tes photos sont _____ que celles que j'ai prises.

8-10. Complete the sentences with the correct superlative form of the adjectives *bon* and *mauvais*.

8. (mauvais) – Son livre sur les dauphins est _____ !
9. (bon) – C'est _____ cafetière.
10. (mauvais) – Ses films sont _____ que je n'ai jamais vus.

Answer Key

1. Quelle est la différence entre cette machine à laver et celle-là ?
2. Je souhaite faire un échange. OR Je voudrais faire un échange.
3. Lequel est plus cher ?
4. meilleur
5. meilleure
6. plus mauvais OR pire
7. plus mauvaises OR pires
8. le plus mauvais OR le pire
9. la meilleure
10. les plus mauvais OR les pires

Chapter 12: Accident prone



*Il n'y a point d'accidents si malheureux
dont les habiles gens ne tirent aucun avantage.*

There are no accidents so unfortunate
from which skilful people do not draw any advantage.

- Honoré de Balzac

Accidents happen, and when they do, we find ourselves in incredibly stressful situations. In these instances, relating what happened can be difficult even in our mother tongue. In a foreign language, this difficulty is somewhat multiplied. While such mishaps cannot be prevented, it is important to know how to react or what to say, so as to prevent sinking into a deeper state of confusion.

In this lesson, you will learn how to talk about an accident, such as when reporting to the police or declaring a car accident. We will tackle reported speech as well as adverbs. Finally, we will have a look at automobile vocabulary, as well as terms related to accidents.

Reporting a crime

It is not uncommon to become a victim of theft, especially when one is traveling to an unfamiliar area. At the police station, you can report a robbery by using the expressions *porter plainte* or *faire une déclaration*.

Je voudrais porter plainte pour vol.

I would like to file a complaint for theft.

Je voudrais faire une déclaration de vol.

I would like to report a theft.

Describing the incident

You can describe what has happened, using the passive voice that we learned earlier. Alternatively, you can also use the pronoun *on*:

- ***Mon portefeuille a été volé.*** My wallet was stolen.
- ***On m'a volé mon portable.*** Someone stole my phone.
- ***Je me suis fait voler mon sac.*** My bag was stolen from me.

The last example makes use of the pronominal verb *se faire*, in the composed past form. It roughly translates to “to have something done to”, and is always followed by the infinitive verb. This verbal expression transforms a sentence into the passive voice. So, for instance you can say:

Elle s'est fait voler son portefeuille.

Her bag was stolen from her.

Je me suis fait cambrioler hier.

[My place] got burglarized yesterday.

Giving details

When declaring a theft, you have to describe exactly what happened, when and where. The police officer might ask the following questions:

- ***Le vol s'est passé quand et où ?*** The theft happened when and where?
- ***Pouvez-vous me raconter ce qui s'est passé ?*** Can you tell me what happened?
- ***Comment ça s'est passé ?*** How did it happen?

All these questions make use of the pronominal verb *se passer*, which means “to happen”.

Now, let's look at an example of a description of a theft:

Ça s'est passé dans la rue des Moulins, ce soir, à 10h. Un monsieur m'a bousculé, il a arraché mon portable et il s'est enfui. Tout s'est passé très rapidement. J'ai essayé de l'attraper, mais c'était trop tard.

To describe events, you can use the action verbs above: *bousculer* (to shove), *voler* (to steal), *agresser* (to mug, to assault), *s'enfuir* (to run away) and *attraper* (to catch).

Review tip: study the verb conjugations in the excerpt above. Can you tell why most verbs use the composed past, and only one is in the imperfect tense?

After describing an incident, the police officer will then most likely ask you to describe the offender:

Pouvez-vous décrire la personne / le voleur ?

Can you describe the person / the thief?

Il/elle était comment ?

What does he/she look like?

GRAMMAR TIP

Adverbs in -ment

In the excerpt above, we saw the sentence:

Tout s'est passé rapidement.

Everything happened quickly.

The word *rapidement* (quickly) is an adverb. Recall that adverbs are words used to describe an adjective, a verb or another adverb. In this sentence *rapidement* is describing the verb *se passer*. Many adverbs of manner are in fact formed by adding *-ment* to a corresponding adjective. *Rapidement*, for example, is a combination of the adjective *rapide* (quick, fast) and *-ment*.

The formation of adverbs in *-ment* is based on the following rules:

Rule	Example
feminine adjective ● ending in e + ment ●	générale + ment = généralement (generally) rapide + ment = rapidement (quickly)
masculine adjective ●	poli + ment = poliment (politely)

ending in i, u or é ment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● absolu + ment = absolument (absolutely) ● forcé + ment = forcément (surely)
adjectives ending in ent and -ant ement / amment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● violent → violemment (violently) ● suffisant → suffisamment (sufficiently)

Remember that generally, adverbs of manner are placed after the verb.

Crimes vocabulary

	Translation
<i>arrêter (quelqu'un)</i>	to arrest (somebody)
<i>l'extorsion (f.)</i>	extortion
<i>l'incarcération</i>	imprisonment
<i>la fraude</i>	fraud
<i>les urgences</i>	the emergency room
<i>un agresseur</i>	an assailant
<i>un cambriolage</i>	a burglary
<i>un cambrioleur(-euse)</i>	a burglar
<i>un délit</i>	a crime
<i>un pickpocket</i>	a pickpocket
<i>un plaignant(e)</i>	a plaintiff
<i>un témoin</i>	a witness
<i>une victime</i>	a victim
<i>un vol</i>	a theft
<i>un voleur(-euse)</i>	a thief
<i>une agression</i>	an attack, a mugging
<i>une contravention</i>	a fine, a parking ticket
<i>une enquête</i>	an investigation
<i>une infraction</i>	an offense

Reporting an accident

At the site of an accident

After a car accident, the involved parties would fill in what is called *un constat amiable* (accident report) at the scene for insurance purposes. You will state in this report, the names of *les conducteurs* (drivers) and *les témoins* (witnesses), details regarding *les permis de conduire* (driver's licenses), the location of the accident and *les dégâts matériels* (material damages) if there are any. Both drivers will sign the report, which should then be sent to their respective insurance companies.

At the insurance company

To report a car accident, you can say:

Je souhaite déclarer un accident de voiture.

Je voudrais déclarer un accident de voiture.

I would like to report a car accident.

You will usually be asked to describe what happened. Study the expressions below:

- ***Un minivan a percuté ma voiture.*** A van crashed into my car.
- ***Un camion a heurté ma voiture.*** A truck hit my car.
- ***Ma voiture est endommagée.*** My car is damaged.
- ***Les phares sont cassés.*** The headlights are broken.

GRAMMAR TIP

Reported speech

When reporting a crime or an accident, knowing how to report speech indirectly will be most useful. Let us look at these two different types of speech:

(Direct speech) ***Mathieu dit : « Je pars ».*** Mathieu says, "I'm leaving."

(Reported speech) ***Mathieu dit qu'il part.*** Mathieu says that he is leaving.

To form the reported speech, we use this structure: reporting verb + *que* or *qu'*. Verbs like *dire* (to say), *demander* (to ask), *informer* (to inform) or *annoncer* (to announce) are commonly used in reported speech.

If the reported speech is in the present tense, the verb does not change, just like our example above. However, if it is in the past, it changes accordingly:

- present tense → imperfect tense
- composed past tense → pluperfect tense
- simple future → present conditional
- near future → imperfect + infinitive

Study the following examples:

- *Il a dit* : « Un voleur prend son sac ». → *Il a dit qu'un voleur prenait son sac.*
- *Il a dit* : « Un voleur a pris mon sac ». → *Il a dit qu'un voleur avait pris son sac.*
- *Il a dit* : « Je porterai plainte ». → *Il a dit qu'il porterait plainte.*
- *Il a dit* : « Je vais porter plainte ». → *Il a dit qu'il allait porter plainte.*

Note that the other conjugations — imperfect, pluperfect and conditional present — do not change, even in past reported speech.

Automobile vocabulary

	Translation
<i>avancer</i>	to move forward
<i>couper (le moteur)</i>	to turn off the engine
<i>démarrer (le moteur)</i>	to start the engine
<i>doubler</i>	to overtake
<i>l'accélérateur</i>	the accelerator
<i>l'embrayage</i>	the clutch
<i>l'essuie-glace (m.)</i>	the windshield wiper
<i>le capot</i>	the hood
<i>le clignotant</i>	the blinker

<i>le coffre</i>	the trunk (of a car)
<i>le frein</i>	the brake
<i>le frein à main</i>	the handbrake
<i>le klaxon</i>	the horn
<i>le moteur</i>	the engine
<i>le pare-brise</i>	the windshield
<i>le pare-chocs</i>	the bumper
<i>le phare</i>	the headlight
<i>le pot d'échappement</i>	the exhaust pipe
<i>le réservoir</i>	the gas tank
<i>le rétroviseur</i>	the rear-view mirror
<i>le volant</i>	the steering wheel
<i>les feux</i>	lights
<i>reculer</i>	to reverse
<i>rouler</i>	(car) to run, to drive
<i>un véhicule</i>	a vehicle
<i>une bagnole</i>	a car (slang)
<i>une voiture</i>	a car

CULTURE TIP

The infamous code de la route

Getting a *permis de conduire* or a driver's license in France is infamously difficult. You will have to pass a theory test and a hands-on driving test. To succeed in the theory test, you would have to study the French highway code, known as *le code de la route*.

In France, penalties are based on a specific point system. A driver generally has an initial 12 points, from which one deducts according to the gravity of an offense. If you have just received your license, you have only 6 points during the first three years of driving.

Key Takeaways

- To report a crime, we use the following expressions:

Report a crime

*Je voudrais porter plainte pour vol.
Je voudrais faire une déclaration de vol.*

Describe an incident

*[noun] a été volé.
On m'a volé [noun].
Je me suis fait voler mon [noun].*

Be asked for details

*Le vol s'est passé quand et où ?
Pouvez-vous me raconter ce qui s'est passé ?
Comment ça s'est passé ?
Pouvez-vous décrire la personne / le voleur ?
Il/elle était comment ?*

- Adverbs in *-ment* are formed based on the following rules: feminine adjectives ending in *e* + *ment* ; masculine adjectives ending in *i*, *u* or *é* + *ment* and finally, adjectives ending in *-ent* and *-ent* → *emment* / *amment*.
- To report an accident, we use the following expressions:

Report an accident

*Je souhaite déclarer un accident de voiture.
Je voudrais déclarer un accident de voiture.*

Describe an accident

*Un minivan a percuté ma voiture.
Un camion a heurté ma voiture.
Ma voiture est endommagée.
Les phares sont cassés.*

- To form the reported speech, we use this structure: reporting verb + *que* or *qu'*. In present reported speech, the conjugation of the verb does not change. In past reported speech, verb tenses are transformed as such: present tense → imperfect tense, composed past tense → pluperfect tense, simple future → present conditional and near future → imperfect + infinitive.

In the next chapter, you will learn expressions of complaint, of cause and of consequence. We will study complex negations and vocabulary related to computer technology.

Exercises

1-3. Which word does not belong?

1. un vol – une victime – un embrayage
2. une bagnole – une voiture – un réservoir
3. le frein – le rétroviseur – un agresseur

4-6. Complete the sentences with the correct missing verb.

4. Je souhaite _____ un accident de voiture.
5. Je voudrais _____ une déclaration de vol.
6. Je voudrais _____ plainte pour vol.

7-9. What are the equivalent adverbs of the following adjectives?

7. méchant
8. sûr
9. joli

10. Transform the following to past reported speech:

10. François a dit : « Un camion a heurté ma voiture. »

Answer Key

1. un embrayage (it's the only word pertaining to parts of a car)
2. un réservoir (it's the only word that does not mean "car")
3. un agresseur (it's the only word not related to automobile)
4. déclarer
5. faire
6. porter
7. méchamment
8. sûrement
9. joliment
10. François a dit qu'un camion avait heurté sa voiture.

Chapter 13: Blow a fuse?



La douleur est toujours moins forte que la plainte.

Pain is always less strong than complaint.

- Jean de la Fontaine

You bought something new from a store, say a gadget. You go home excited and immediately put it to use, but it refuses to turn on! You are pissed, as you should be. So you go back to the store to complain and perhaps get a brand new one. For some, complaining might come easy. But for others, especially those who avoid confrontation, speaking out against someone or something may prove to be unmanageable.

In this lesson, you will learn how to complain about something, indicate the cause and consequence of a problem. We will also tackle vocabulary related to computer technology and types of complex negations. Now, we can't promise this will make confrontations much easier, but at the very least you'll be able to get your message across without difficulty.

Complaining about a product

Let's begin with a dialogue. Lucile has just brought a brand-new phone. But when she gets home and tries it out, it doesn't seem to work! She returns to the store to complain:

***L'employé :** Bonjour Madame, je peux vous aider ?*

***Lucile :** Oui, j'ai acheté cet ordinateur portable chez vous il y a 2 heures et c'est déjà en panne !*

***L'employé :** En panne ? Madame, il s'agit d'un ordinateur portable tout neuf, la boîte n'a jamais été ouverte.*

Lucile : *Comme je vous dis, il est en panne. Il ne s'allume pas !*
L'employé : *Malheureusement, notre technicien n'est actuellement pas ici. Pourriez-vous revenir dans une semaine ?*
Lucile : *Dans une semaine ? Mais ce n'est pas possible !*
L'employé : *Je ne peux pas vous proposer d'autres solutions.*
Lucile : *C'est inacceptable Monsieur ! Je demande un remboursement intégral.*
Employee: Hello Madam, can I help you?
Lucile: Yes, I bought this laptop from you 2 hours ago and it's already broken!
Employee: Broken? Madam, this is a brand-new laptop, the box has never been opened.
Lucile: As I'm telling you, it broke down. It does not turn on!
Employee: Unfortunately, our technician is currently not here. Could you come back in a week?
Lucile: In a week? But that is not possible!
Employee: I can't offer you any other solutions.
Lucile: This is unacceptable sir! I request a full refund.

Like in the dialogue above, there are many expressions one can use to indicate frustration when filing a complaint:

- ***Ce n'est pas possible.*** This is not possible.
- ***C'est inacceptable.*** This is unacceptable.
- ***C'est inadmissible.*** This is inadmissible.
- ***C'est scandaleux !*** This is scandalous!
- ***Cela ne va pas du tout.*** It's not good/working at all.

Note that these phrases indicate exasperation and can thus be offensive in certain cases.

When explaining that a product is defective, you can use the expression *en panne*, which means “out of order” or “not working”. Alternatively, you can say:

- ***Il ne fonctionne pas du tout.*** It's not working at all.

- *Il ne marche pas du tout.* It's not working at all (slang).
- *Il ne s'allume pas.* It's not turning on.

CULTURE TIP

Computer terms in French

Many French learners change the language of their gadgets, such as phones and computers, to their target language for a worthwhile immersion. This is a great idea, though it definitely takes some time to get used to. Here are some basic computer terms in French to help you decode some unfamiliar terms:

- *un fichier* a file
- *un logiciel* a software
- *un navigateur* a browser
- *un mot de passe* a password
- *copier* to copy
- *coller* to paste

Trivia: did you know that the French keyboard is different from English ones? Unlike the QWERTY first row lineup, French ones have AZERTY!

Computer technology vocabulary

	Translation
<i>allumer</i>	to turn on
<i>bugger</i>	to be buggy
<i>éteindre</i>	to turn off
<i>le Wifi</i>	wifi
<i>télécharger</i>	to download
<i>tomber en panne</i>	to break down
<i>un cable</i>	a cable
<i>un disque dur</i>	a hard drive
<i>une montre connectée</i>	a smart watch

<i>un smartphone</i>	a smartphone
<i>une appli(cation)</i>	an app
<i>une clé USB</i>	a thumb drive
<i>une tablette</i>	a tablet

GRAMMAR TIP

Complex negation

By now, you already know how to use *ne...pas* for simple negations, as well as *ne...que* for expressions of restriction. Let us look at some other French negative adverbs:

Adverb		Example
<i>ne... pas du tout</i>	not at all	<i>Il ne fonctionne pas du tout.</i> It's not working at all.
<i>ne... pas encore</i>	not yet	<i>Je n'ai pas encore acheté de portable.</i> I haven't bought a phone yet.
<i>ne... jamais</i>	never	<i>Je n'ai jamais eu un problème pareil.</i> I never had a problem like this.
<i>ne... plus</i>	not anymore, no more	<i>Je ne veux plus utiliser cet ordinateur.</i> I don't want to use this computer anymore.

These negative adverbs are positioned the same way as the simple negation *ne...pas*, i.e. before and after the verb.

Expressing cause and consequence

Expressions of cause

Some of the common terms used to express cause are *parce que* (because), *puisque* (since) and *car* (because) — all of which you have learned previously. Let's look at other expressions of cause and how they are used.

The following expressions are used in this structure:

CONJUNCTION + CAUSE IN THE INDICATIVE MODE

- *étant donné que* given that, since
- *vu que* given that, since
- *sous prétexte que* on the pretext that

Let's look at some examples:

- *Étant donné qu'il fait mauvais, il n'y a personne dans le parc.* Since the weather is bad, there's no one in the park.
- *Vu que son ordinateur ne fonctionnait pas, il n'a pas pu travailler.* Since his computer was not working, he was not able to work.
- *Il n'est pas allé en cours, sous prétexte qu'il était malade.* He did not go to class, on the pretext that he was sick.

The following expressions of cause are used in this structure:

CONJUNCTION + NOUN

- *en raison de* because of
- *faute de* for lack of
- *suite à* following
- *à cause de* due to
- *grâce à* thanks to

Study how these expressions are used:

- *En raison d'une maladie, il a arrêté son projet.* Due to an illness, he stopped his project.
- *Faute d'argent, nous ne pouvons pas voyager.* For lack of money, we cannot travel.
- *Suite à un accident, il a annulé son rendez-vous.* Following an accident, he canceled his appointment.
- *L'ordinateur portable est tombé en panne à cause d'un problème technique.* The laptop broke down due to a technical problem.
- *Grâce à sa prouesse, elle a réussi à traverser la rivière.* Thanks to her prowess, she managed to cross the river.

It is important to note that the term *en raison de* is neutral, while *à cause de* often has negative connotations. *Grâce à*, like its English equivalent, has positive connotations.

Expressions of consequence

Other than *donc* and *alors*, which are both equivalent of the English “so”, there are other terms one can use to indicate consequence in French.

The following expressions are used in the structure:

CONJUNCTION + CONSEQUENCE IN THE INDICATIVE MODE

- ***en conséquence*** consequently
- ***par conséquent*** consequently
- ***c'est pourquoi*** this is why
- ***au point que*** so much so that, to such an extent that

Look at the following examples:

- ***On a joué toute la nuit. En conséquence, on est tous fatigués.*** We played all night. Consequently, we are all tired.
- ***Elle a perdu son sac. C'est pourquoi elle est frustrée.*** She lost her bag. That's why she is frustrated.
- ***Il est parti tard, au point qu'il a raté le bus.*** He left late, so much so that he missed the bus.

The expressions *si... que* and *tellement... que* (so / so much... that) are used however in the following structure:

CONJUNCTION + ADJECTIVE / ADVERB + QUE + CONSEQUENCE IN THE INDICATIVE MODE

- ***Il est arrivé au travail tellement tôt que le bureau était toujours fermé.*** He arrived so early at work that the office was still closed.
- ***Je suis si triste que j'ai pleuré toute la nuit.*** I was so sad that I cried all night.

GRAMMAR TIP

The adverb tout

The adverb *tout* may be roughly translated to “very” or “entirely”. It can be variable or invariable depending on its use.

When referring to an adverb or when used as part of an expression, *tout* does not change according to gender and number. Look at these examples:

- ***La voiture roule tout doucement.*** The car drives very slowly.
- ***Tout à coup, l'ordinateur s'est éteint.*** Suddenly, the computer shut down.

In the first example, *tout* is invariable because it refers to the adverb *doucement*. In the second, it is invariable because it is part of the fixed expression *tout à coup* (suddenly).

If acting as an adjective, *tout* changes according to gender and number:

masculine singular	<i>tout</i>
masculine plural	<i>tout</i>
feminine, singular, starting with a consonant	<i>toute</i>
feminine, singular, starting with a vowel or <i>h</i>	<i>tout</i>
feminine, plural	<i>toutes</i>

Study the following examples:

- ***Il est tout content.*** He is very happy.
- ***Ils sont tout contents.*** They (m.) are very happy.
- ***Elle est toute contente.*** She is very happy.
- ***Elles sont toutes contentes.*** They (f.) are very happy.
- ***Elle est toute élégante.*** She is very elegant.

Key Takeaways

- To complain about a product or service, we use the following expressions:

<p><i>Ce n'est pas possible.</i> <i>C'est inacceptable.</i> <i>C'est inadmissible.</i> <i>C'est scandaleux !</i> <i>Cela ne va pas du tout.</i></p>
<p><i>Il ne fonctionne pas du tout.</i> <i>Il ne marche pas du tout.</i> <i>Il ne s'allume pas.</i></p>

- Complex negative adverbs include *ne...pas du tout* (not at all), *ne...pas encore* (not yet), *ne... jamais* (never) and *ne...plus* (not anymore).
- Expressions of cause used with the indicative mode include: *étant donné que* (given that, since), *vu que* (given that, since) and *sous prétexte que* (on the pretext that).
- Expressions of cause used with nouns include: *en raison de* (because of), *faute de* (for lack of), *suite à* (following), *à cause de* (due to), *grâce à* (thanks to).
- Expressions of cause used with the indicative mode include: *en conséquence* (consequently), *par conséquent* (consequently), *c'est pourquoi* (this is why), *au point que* (so much so that, to such an extent that).
- The expression *si/tellement...que* (so much...that) is placed with an adjective/adverb + *que* + consequence in the indicative mode.
- The adverb *tout* is invariable when it refers to an adverb or when part of a fixed expression. It is variable however, before an adjective: *tout*

(m. sing./pl.), *toute* (f. sing.), *tout* (f. sing. before a vowel) and *toutes* (f. pl.).

In the next chapter, you will learn how to explain a social issue and describe a goal. We will also have a look at expressions used to give opinions. For vocabulary, we will study terms related to the environment.

Exercices

1-3. Rewrite the sentences by adding the indicated complex negative adverb.

1. (ne... pas du tout) Je suis content de ce produit.
2. (ne... jamais) Le technicien est arrivé.
3. (ne... pas encore) Éric semble prêt.

4-8. Connect the two phrases with the indicated expression of cause or consequence.

4. (grâce à) l'aide de Mathis — elle a réussi l'examen.
5. (sous prétexte que) il a annulé le rendez-vous — il a eu un accident.
6. (vu que) il fait froid — Sophie veut rester chez elle.
7. (si...que) il fait chaud — nous transpirons tous.
8. (c'est pourquoi) il s'est couché tard — il est tout fatigué.

9-10. Complete the sentence with the correct form of *tout*.

9. Margaux habite _____ près de nous.
10. Cette soupe est _____ froide !

Answer Key

1. Je ne suis pas du tout content de ce produit.
2. Le technicien n'est jamais arrivé.
3. Éric ne semble pas encore prêt.
4. Grâce à l'aide de Mathis, elle a réussi l'examen.
5. Il a annulé le rendez-vous sous prétexte qu'il a eu un accident.
6. Vu qu'il fait froid, Sophie veut rester chez elle.
7. Il fait si chaud que nous transpirons tous.
8. Il s'est couché tard, c'est pourquoi il est tout fatigué.
9. tout
10. toute

Chapter 14: Time for a change



Notre maison brûle et nous regardons ailleurs.

Our house burns and we look elsewhere.

- Jacques Chirac

As you move on to the upper intermediate level of your language learning, you will discover topics more abstract, and not always related to your immediate, daily environment. Being able to talk about social issues and share your opinion are important skills to acquire at this stage.

In this lesson, you will learn how to explain a subject related to current affairs. You will also study how to indicate an objective and share your opinion. We will be focusing on problems and solutions related to the environment.

Explaining a social issue

Let's look at an excerpt of an interview. Here, an expert explains the dangers facing our planet, specifically global warming.

Le journaliste : *Pourquoi, selon vous, notre planète est-elle en danger ?*

Le spécialiste : *Nous sommes actuellement confrontés à un nombre important de problèmes liés à notre environnement. Prenons, par exemple, le changement climatique qui présente des risques pour l'humanité. Il y a aussi la pollution, la perte de biodiversité, ou bien, la déforestation.*

Le journaliste : *Pourriez-vous élaborer un peu plus sur cette question de changement climatique ?*

Le spécialiste : Oui, le changement climatique se réfère aux modifications du climat, caractérisées par une augmentation des températures moyennes. Il s'agit d'un phénomène écologique, entraîné par ce que l'on appelle « le réchauffement climatique » — autrement dit, le réchauffement de la Terre en raison de l'accumulation de gaz à effet de serre. Il faut savoir que les humains sont en grande partie responsables de ce réchauffement.

The journalist: Why do you think our planet is in danger?

The expert: We are currently facing a large number of problems related to our environment. Take, for example, climate change which poses risks to humanity. There is also pollution, loss of biodiversity, or deforestation.

The journalist: Could you elaborate a bit more on this issue of climate change?

The expert: Yes, climate change refers to changes in the climate, characterized by an increase in average temperatures. It is an ecological phenomenon, driven by what is called “global warming” — in other words, the warming of the Earth due to the accumulation of greenhouse gases. It should be noted that humans are largely responsible for this warming.

Giving a definition

To give a definition, we can use the verbs *désigner* (to indicate, refer to) or *se référer* (refer to). Like in the dialogue, we can also use the impersonal expression *Il s'agit de*, which roughly translates to “to be about, to be a question of” or “concerning”. This expression can be followed by a noun or a verb. Study the examples below:

- ***Il s'agit d'un phénomène écologique.*** It is an ecological phenomenon.
- ***Il s'agit d'un problème grave.*** It is a serious problem.
- ***Il s'agit de prendre conscience de son rôle dans la protection de l'environnement.*** It is a matter of becoming aware of one's role in protecting the environment.

Providing examples

What better way to elaborate on a complicated topic than to give concrete examples? In French, we can use the following expressions to do so:

- ***Prenons, par exemple***, Take, for example,
- ***Citons, par exemple***, Let us cite, for example,
- ***On peut citer, à titre d'exemple*** One can cite, by way of example,

Let's look at these sentences:

- ***Prenons, par exemple, le cas de la France***. Take, for example, the case of France.
- ***Citons, par exemple, la fonte des glaces***. Let us cite, for example, glacial melting.
- ***On peut citer, à titre d'exemple, la pollution atmosphérique***. One can cite, by way of example, air pollution.

Pointing to references

When explaining a concept, it can also be useful to refer to authorities, institutions or other texts by quoting them directly or indirectly:

- ***selon*** according to
- ***d'après*** according to
- ***comme le dit [quelqu'un]*** like [someone] says
- ***si l'on en croit*** according to (lit. if one were to believe)

Let's look at some examples:

- ***Selon les climatologues, notre planète est en danger***. According to climatologists, our planet is in danger.
- ***D'après le journaliste, la personne interviewée est spécialiste en géologie***. According to the journalist, the interviewee is a geology expert.
- ***Si l'on en croit Louis Pasteur, la science ne connaît pas de patrie***. According to Louis Pasteur, science knows no country.
- ***Comme le dit Sénèque, c'est l'âme qu'il faut changer, et non le climat***. Like Seneca says, it is the soul that must be changed, not the

climate.

Rephrasing

In the dialogue above, the interviewee rephrased his own words using the expression *autrement dit* (in other words, put in another way).

[...] « le réchauffement climatique » — autrement dit, le réchauffement de la terre en raison de l'accumulation de gaz à effet de serre.

[...] “global warming” — in other words, the warming of the earth due to the accumulation of greenhouse gases.

Here are two other key terms to remember:

- ***en quelque sorte*** sort of, kind of
- ***pour ainsi dire*** so to speak

Let's look at these expressions at-work:

- ***C'est en quelque sorte un cercle vicieux.*** It is sort of a vicious circle.
- ***Il a forgé ce terme, pour ainsi dire.*** He coined this term, so to speak.

Environment vocabulary

	Translation
<i>éviter</i>	to avoid
<i>l'écologie (f.)</i>	ecology
<i>l'environnement (m.)</i>	the environment
<i>la biodiversité</i>	biodiversity
<i>la déforestation</i>	deforestation
<i>la pollution</i>	pollution
<i>la Terre</i>	Earth
<i>le gaspillage</i>	waste
<i>le réchauffement climatique (m.)</i>	global warming

<i>le recyclage</i>	recycling
<i>les gaz à effet de serre (m.)</i>	greenhouse gases
<i>lutter contre</i>	to fight against
<i>promouvoir</i>	to promote
<i>protéger</i>	to protect
<i>un écosystème</i>	an ecosystem
<i>une espèce</i>	species

Indicating an objective

This time, let's look at an excerpt of a brochure from an organization called *Un monde d'arbres* (A world of trees):

Créée en 2022, l'association Un monde d'arbres a pour objectif de lutter contre le réchauffement climatique à travers la reforestation. Nous rassemblons des volontaires pour planter des arbres dans la partie nord du pays. L'association se donne pour mission de planter 100 000 arbres chaque année. En même temps, nous cherchons à sensibiliser les gens aux enjeux liés à notre environnement.

Created in 2022, the association *A world of trees* aims to fight against global warming through reforestation. We gather volunteers to plant trees in the northern part of the country. The association has made it a mission to plant 100,000 trees each year. At the same time, we seek to raise people's awareness of issues related to our environment.

To indicate an objective, we can use verbal phrases with the infinitive just like in the excerpt above:

- ***avoir pour objectif de*** to aim to (lit. to have as objective to)
- ***se donner pour mission de*** to make it a mission to
- ***chercher à*** to seek to
- ***viser à*** to aim to

Alternatively, we can use conjunctions and prepositions.

Expressions with conjunctions

Recall, as we learned in Chapter 7: to form the subjunctive mood, we take the present tense conjugation of the verb in *ils*, and replace *-ent* with the following endings: *-e, -es, -e, -ions, -iez, -ent*.

The following conjunctions, used to indicate an objective, are always followed by the subjunctive mood.

- *pour que* so that
- *afin que* so that
- *de manière / façon / sorte que* in such a way that, so that

Let's look at some examples:

- *Nous avons créé cette association pour qu'on puisse lutter contre le changement climatique.* We created this association so that we can fight against climate change.
- *Nous travaillons en collaboration avec d'autres organismes de manière que nous soutenions les initiatives des uns et des autres.* We work in collaboration with other organizations in such a way that we support each other's initiatives.

GRAMMAR TIP

Irregular verbs in the subjunctive mode

By now you know how to conjugate most verbs in the subjunctive mode. Certain verbs, however, do not follow this regular conjugation:

avoir			être	
J'	aie		Je	sois
Tu	aies		Tu	sois
Il/Elle/On	ait		Il/Elle/On	soit
Nous	ayons		Nous	soyons
Vous	ayez		Vous	soyez

Ils/Elles	aient		Ils/Elles	soient
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faire			pouvoir	
Je	fasse		Je	puisse
Tu	fasses		Tu	puisses
Il/Elle/On	fasse		Il/Elle/On	puisse
Nous	fassions		Nous	puissions
Vous	fassiez		Vous	puissiez
Ils/Elles	fassent		Ils/Elles	puissent

savoir			aller	
Je	sache		Je	aille
Tu	saches		Tu	ailles
Il/Elle/On	sache		Il/Elle/On	aille
Nous	sachions		Nous	allions
Vous	sachiez		Vous	alliez
Ils/Elles	sachent		Ils/Elles	aient

Expressions with prepositions

We can also use prepositions to indicate an objective. The following are always followed by infinitive verbs:

- ***pour*** for, in order to
- ***afin de*** in order to
- ***de façon à*** so as to
- ***dans le but de*** in the objective of
- ***en vue de*** in order to, with the aim of
- ***dans l'intention de*** with the aim of

Study the following examples:

- ***Nous avons créé cette fondation pour protéger l'environnement.*** We created this foundation to protect the environment.
- ***Nous plantons des arbres de façon à diminuer la pollution.*** We plant trees so as to reduce pollution.

- ***Nous protégeons les arbres en vue de purifier l'air.*** We protect trees with the aim of purifying air.

CULTURE TIP

Rain or shine

A great way to flex your French language skills is showing off your repertoire of idiomatic expressions. Here are three to keep in mind, related to nature:

- ***couper l'herbe sous le pied*** to beat someone to it
- ***faire la pluie et le beau temps*** to call the shots, to run the show
- ***se faire une montagne de quelque chose*** to exaggerate the importance or difficulty of something.

How about some examples ?

- ***Il a créé un site web innovatif et a ainsi coupé l'herbe sous les pieds de ses concurrents.*** He created an innovative website and beat all of his competitors to it.
- ***Dans ma famille, c'est mon frère qui fait la pluie et le beau temps.*** In my family, it's my brother who calls the shots.
- ***Elle s'est fait une montagne d'un prix qu'elle a reçu, qui n'était finalement pas aussi prestigieux.*** She made a mountain out of an award she received, which turned out to be not so prestigious.

Key Takeaways

- To explain a social issue, we can use the following expressions:

Give a definition	
<i>désigner</i> <i>se référer</i> <i>Il s'agit de...</i>	
Provide examples	
<i>Prenons, par exemple...</i> <i>Citons, par exemple...</i> <i>On peut citer, à titre d'exemple...</i>	
Point to references	
<i>Selon</i> <i>D'après</i> <i>Comme le dit</i> <i>Si l'on en croit</i>	
Rephrase	
<i>Autrement dit</i> <i>En quelque sorte</i> <i>Pour ainsi dire</i>	

- To indicate an objective, we can use the following expressions:

With verbal phrases	
<i>avoir pour objectif de</i> <i>se donner pour mission de</i> <i>chercher à</i> <i>viser à</i>	
With conjunctions	
<i>pour que</i> <i>afin que</i> <i>de manière que</i> <i>de façon que</i> <i>de sorte que</i>	+ subjunctive mood
With prepositions	

<i>pour</i> <i>afin de</i> <i>de façon à</i> <i>dans le but de</i> <i>en vue de</i> <i>dans l'intention de</i>	+ infinitive
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In the next chapter, we will talk about food and nutrition. You will study how to express agreement and disagreement, and how to indicate concession. We will also be reviewing the subjunctive mood.

Exercices

1-5. Complete the sentences by choosing the correct missing word or phrase from the list below.

promouvoir — pour — de manière que — se donne — le gaspillage

« Paris sans déchet » est une association fondée en 2010 à Paris, en France. Elle a 1. _____ objectif de 2. _____ le recyclage dans la capitale. Elle 3. _____ aussi pour mission d'aider les gens à éviter 4. _____ et à favoriser des pratiques écologiques. Nous préparons actuellement un projet que l'on appelle « Fait-maison ». Nous allons rendre visite à des familles parisiennes et leur partager des pratiques écologiques 5. _____ nous leur apprenions comment réutiliser des produits non-recyclables.

6-10. Infinitive or subjunctive? Complete the sentences with the appropriate conjugation of the indicated verb.

6. On ne prend pas sa voiture pour (éviter) _____ la pollution.

7. L'association vise à (promouvoir) _____ le recyclage.

8. Elle a déménagé dans la campagne pour qu'elle (pouvoir) _____ vivre près de la nature.

9. On peut faire des gestes écologiques au quotidien de façon à (participer) _____ à la protection de l'environnement.

10. Il a écrit ce livre afin que les gens (pouvoir) _____ apprendre comment trier des déchets.

Answer Key

1. pour
2. promouvoir
3. se donne
4. le gaspillage
5. de manière que
6. éviter
7. promouvoir
8. puisse
9. participer
10. puissent

Chapter 15: Food for thought



Dis-moi ce que tu manges, je te dirai qui tu es.

Tell me what you eat, I will tell you who you are.

- Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin

If one were to believe Brillat-Savarin's philosophy, then we might say we can know someone by knowing what he eats. Food is not just material sustenance — though it certainly is important to ponder about the question of eating healthily — it is also a big part of our society, our culture, our lifestyle. If food says something about who we are, it can very well be said that it also makes us up, both literally and figuratively.

In this lesson, you will learn the key phrases necessary in debating about an issue, specifically those related to nutrition. We will study how to express agreement and disagreement. We will also be reviewing the subjunctive mode.

Debating about an issue

Let's look at an excerpt of an interview where a nutritionist talks about food supplements.

Le journaliste : *On dit que les compléments alimentaires présentent des risques pour la santé, qu'est-ce que vous en pensez ?*

Le spécialiste : *Je suis tout à fait d'accord. Les compléments alimentaires doivent être pris selon les conseils des professionnels de santé. On doit éviter, par exemple, le risque de surdosage. Il y a aussi certains compléments que certains groupes de personnes — les enfants, les femmes enceintes, etc. — ne doivent pas consommer. Mais il faut aussi savoir que ces compléments peuvent avoir un effet*

bénéfique. À mon avis, il y a des avantages et des inconvénients. L'essentiel, c'est d'en parler avec des spécialistes.

The journalist: Food supplements are said to pose health risks, what do you think?

The Expert: I completely agree. Food supplements should be taken as advised by healthcare professionals. One must avoid, for example, the risk of overdose. There are also certain supplements that certain groups of people — children, pregnant women, etc. — must not consume. But you should also know that these supplements can have a beneficial effect. In my opinion, there are pros and cons. What's essential is to talk about it with specialists.

Asking for one's opinion

To ask one's thoughts on a matter, we use the following expressions:

Qu'est-ce que vous en pensez ?

Qu'en pensez-vous ?

What do you think?

Y croyez-vous ?

Do you believe it?

Quelle est votre opinion ?

Quel est votre avis ?

What is your opinion?

In French, the word “opinion” can be translated to *une opinion* or *un avis*. Note that the word *avis* can also mean “a public/legal notice.”

Expressing agreement

To express your agreement about something, you can use these phrases:

Je partage votre/ton idée.

Je partage votre/ton point de vue.

I share your point of view.

Je suis entièrement d'accord avec vous/toi.

I entirely agree with you.

In the last example, adverbs like *totalelement* (totally), *tout à fait* (entirely), *parfaitement* (perfectly) or *absolument* (absolutely) can also be used. If you are only in partial agreement with the other person, you can say: *Je suis partiellement d'accord avec vous.*

In more formal contexts, as in meetings, you might also hear the following expressions:

- ***Je suis pour...***
- ***Je suis en faveur de...***
- ***Je me prononce pour...***

All of the above translate to “I am in favor of...”. To use in a sentence, we can take as example:

Je suis pour l'augmentation des salaires des employés.

I am in favor of increasing the employees' salaries.

Expressing disagreement

To express disagreement, we can simply negate the expressions above:

- ***Je ne partage pas votre/ton idée / point de vue.***
- ***Je ne suis pas d'accord avec vous/toi.***

Otherwise, we can use these phrases:

- ***Je m'oppose à...*** I am not in favor of...
 - ***Je suis défavorable à...*** I am not in favor of...
 - ***Je n'adhère pas à vos idées.*** I do not agree with your ideas.
-

CULTURE TIP

Le goûter

Le goûter can be roughly translated to “snacks”. Traditionally, kids enjoy a snack every day at around 4 pm. These afternoon snacks commonly include sweet treats like biscuits or bread. While kids are mostly the ones having a *goûter*, adults are welcome to do so as well!

Incidentally, the word *goûter* can also refer to the verb “to taste” or “to try”. Its root word is in fact *le goût*, which refers to the sense of taste.

Expressing opinion and concession

Expressing one’s opinion

Like in the dialogue at the beginning of the chapter, one can use the expression *à mon avis* (in my opinion) to indicate that one is about to share his point of view. Alternatively, we can also use phrases like *pour moi* (for me) or *selon moi* (lit. according to me.) These expressions are usually placed at the beginning of a sentence:

***Pour moi, le véganisme est plus qu’un régime alimentaire,
c’est un mode de vie.***

For me, veganism is more than an alimentary diet,
it’s a lifestyle.

One might also use the expression *Il me semble que* (it seems to me that):

***Il me semble que c’est une bonne solution pour réduire le gaspillage
alimentaire.***

It seems to me that this is a good solution to reduce food waste.

Finally, verbal phrases can also be used to share one’s perspective:

- *croire que* to believe that
- *penser que* to think that
- *trouver que* to find that
- *imaginer que* to imagine that
- *être persuadé(e) que* to be convinced that

These verbal phrases are followed by the indicative mode, but only if they are in the affirmative. If negated, they require the subjunctive mode. Study the two sentences below:

Je crois qu'on peut trouver une solution.

I think we can find a solution.

Je ne crois pas qu'on puisse trouver une solution.

I don't think we can find a solution.

Notice how in the affirmative *Je crois que*, we use the indicative mode of the verb *pouvoir*, which is *peut*. However, when negated to *Je ne crois pas que*, we use the subjunctive mode of *pouvoir*, which is *puisse*. Let's look at one more example:

***Je suis persuadé que l'activité physique
a un effet positif sur la santé.***

I am convinced that physical activity
has a positive effect on one's health.

***Je ne suis pas persuadé que l'activité physique
ait un effet positif sur la santé.***

I am not convinced that physical activity
has a positive effect on one's health.

To summarize, here are the verbal phrases that require the subjunctive:

- *ne pas croire que* not to believe that
- *ne pas penser que* not to think that

- ***ne pas trouver que*** not to find that
- ***ne pas imaginer que*** not to imagine that
- ***ne pas être persuadé(e) que*** not to be convinced that
- ***douter que*** to doubt, to be uncertain about

Remember that *douter que*, though not negated, is always followed by the subjunctive mood.

Expressing concession

By concession, we refer to the intent to concede. Expressions of concessions include conjunctions, prepositions and linking words.

The most common conjunctions of concession are *même si* and *bien que*, which both translate to “although” or “even though”. These two differ, however, in that *même si* is always followed by the indicative mode and *bien que*, by the subjunctive mode. Look at these examples:

***Même si la nourriture industrielle est mauvaise pour la santé,
il continue à la consommer.***

Even though processed food is bad for the health,
he continues to consume it.

***Bien que la nourriture industrielle soit mauvaise pour la santé,
il continue à la consommer.***

Even though processed food is bad for the health,
he continues to consume it.

The expression *même si* is thus followed here by the indicative mode of the verb *être*, which is *est*, while *bien que* is followed by the subjunctive form *soit*.

Expressions of concession can also take the form of prepositions, as in:

- ***malgré*** despite
- ***en dépit de*** despite of

These prepositions are interchangeable, and are always followed by a noun:

Les produits bio sont populaires malgré leurs prix élevés.

Organic products are popular despite their high price.

En dépit des conseils du médecin, il refuse de manger sainement.

Despite the advice of the doctor, he refuses to eat healthily.

Finally, linking words can also be used to express concession:

These include:

- ***pourtant*** yet
- ***cependant*** however
- ***quand même*** still, even so
- ***toutefois*** however, nevertheless

Study the examples below to see how these linking words are used:

- ***Elle est en forme. Pourtant, elle ne fait pas d'exercices du tout !*** She is in great shape. And yet, she doesn't exercise at all!
- ***Manger des légumes est important. Cependant, on ne doit pas oublier qu'il faut adopter une alimentation variée.*** Eating vegetables is important. However, we must not forget that we must adopt a varied diet.
- ***Je ne mange pas beaucoup, mais je suis quand même en bonne santé. I don't eat a lot, but even so, I am healthy.***
- ***Il déteste faire de l'exercice. Toutefois, il fait du jogging tous les matins pour brûler des calories !*** He hates exercising. Nevertheless, he jogs every morning to burn some calories.

Nutrition vocabulary

	Translation
<i>consommer</i>	to consume
<i>des nutriments (m.)</i>	nutrients

<i>l'alimentation (f.)</i>	food, diet, nutrition
<i>l'alimentation équilibrée</i>	balanced diet
<i>l'alimentation saine</i>	healthy diet
<i>l'alimentation variée</i>	varied diet
<i>l'équilibre alimentaire</i>	food balance
<i>la nourriture industrielle</i>	processed food
<i>le véganisme</i>	veganism
<i>le végétarisme</i>	vegetarianism
<i>les habitudes alimentaires (f.)</i>	eating habits
<i>manger équilibré</i>	to eat a balanced diet
<i>manger sainement</i>	to eat healthily
<i>produits bio (m.)</i>	organic products
<i>une calorie</i>	calorie
<i>une vitamine</i>	vitamin

Key Takeaways

- To debate about an issue, we can use the following expressions:

Ask for opinion	
<p><i>Qu'est-ce que vous en pensez ?</i> <i>Qu'en pensez-vous ?</i> <i>Y croyez-vous ?</i> <i>Quelle est votre opinion ?</i> <i>Quel est votre avis ?</i></p>	
Express agreement	
<p><i>Je partage votre/ton idée.</i> <i>Je partage votre/ton point de vue.</i> <i>Je suis entièrement / tout à fait / parfaitement / absolument d'accord avec vous/toi.</i> <i>Je suis partiellement d'accord avec vous/toi.</i> <i>Je suis pour...</i> <i>Je suis en faveur de...</i> <i>Je me prononce pour...</i></p>	
Express disagreement	
<p><i>Je ne partage pas votre/ton idée / point de vue.</i> <i>Je ne suis pas d'accord avec vous/toi.</i> <i>Je m'oppose à...</i> <i>Je suis défavorable à...</i> <i>Je n'adhère pas à vos idées.</i></p>	

- To express opinion or concession, we can say:

Express opinion	
<p><i>Pour moi</i> <i>Selon moi</i> <i>À mon avis</i></p>	
<p><i>croire que</i> <i>penser que</i> <i>trouver que</i> <i>imaginer que</i> <i>être persuadé(e) que</i></p>	<p>+ indicative mood</p>

<i>ne pas croire que</i> <i>ne pas penser que</i> <i>ne pas trouver que</i> <i>ne pas imaginer que</i> <i>ne pas être persuadé(e)</i> <i>que</i> <i>douter que</i>	+ subjunctive mood
Express concession	
<i>même si</i> + indicative mode <i>bien que</i> + subjunctive mode	
<i>malgré</i> <i>en dépit de</i>	+ noun
<i>pourtant</i> <i>cependant</i> <i>quand même</i> <i>toutefois</i>	

In the next and final chapter of this book, we will focus our attention on media and the internet. You will learn how to explain a function and how nominalization in French grammar works. We will also study how to express fear, regret and wants using the subjunctive mode.

Exercises

1-5. Complete the sentences with the correct preposition:

1. Qu' _____ pensez-vous ?
2. _____ croyez-vous ?
3. Je partage votre point _____ vue.
4. Qu'est-ce que vous _____ pensez ?
5. Je n'adhère pas _____ vos idées.

6-10. Indicative or subjunctive? Complete the sentences with the appropriate conjugation of the indicated verb.

6. Même si elle (manger) _____ beaucoup, elle ne gagne pas de poids.
7. Je ne pense pas qu'il (faire) _____ du sport régulièrement.
8. Elle est persuadée qu'un régime végétarien (être) _____ bon pour la santé.
9. Bien que Mathis (suivre) _____ un régime restrictif, il mange équilibré.
10. Je doute qu'ils (pouvoir) _____ réduire leur consommation d'alcool.

Answer Key

1. en
2. Y
3. de
4. en
5. à
6. mange
7. fasse
8. est
9. suive
10. puissent

Chapter 16: Making headlines



Rumeur : le plus vieux média du monde.

Rumor: the oldest media in the world.

- Jean-François Revel

A few decades ago, were we to talk about media, we'd be talking about newspapers or perhaps the radio. These days, media has come to mean many different things and has taken on various forms: social media, online newspapers, podcasts, tweets, the list goes on. Everyone is informed about everything at all times. And while the accuracy of these tidbits of information we receive cannot always be verified, we can say that we now live in one where they have gained much currency.

In this lesson, we will talk about the media and the internet. We will study how to explain a process and a function. We will also have a look at expressions of doubt, certainty and fear.

Functions and nominalization

Let's begin with an excerpt of a text, in which a blogger explains the functions of social media:

Les réseaux sociaux se réfèrent à l'ensemble des services disponibles en ligne qui permettent aux gens d'interagir. Ils servent donc à promouvoir les interactions sociales en temps réel et la communication malgré la distance. Ils permettent aussi aux utilisateurs de partager des photos, des vidéos, voire de vendre leurs biens !

Social media refers to all the services available online that allow people to interact with each other. They therefore serve to promote

real-time social interactions and communication despite distance. They also allow users to share photos, videos, and even sell their goods!

Explaining a function

When explaining the function of something, as in the example above, we can use the verbs *permettre* or *servir*. These two verbs make use of specific prepositions that we will discuss here.

The verb *permettre* means “to allow to”, “to enable to” or “to make [something] possible to do”. It is used with the prepositions *à* and *de*: *permettre à quelqu’un de faire quelque chose* (to allow someone to do something). Look at the example below, while examining the prepositions used:

Le moteur de recherche permet aux internautes de trouver des informations rapidement.

Search engines allow users to find information quickly.

The verb *permettre* can also be used with a noun:

Internet permet la diffusion rapide des informations.

The Internet makes possible the quick dissemination of information.

The verb *servir*, on the other hand, is used to mean “to be used to” or “to serve to/as”. Its meaning changes according to the preposition used:

- ***servir à*** + **verb** to be used to, to serve to
- ***servir de*** + **noun** to serve as
- ***se servir de*** + **noun** to use

Study the following examples below:

- ***Les réseaux sociaux servent à faciliter la communication.*** Social media are used to facilitate communication.

- ***Les réseaux sociaux servent de plateformes de communication.***
Social media serve as communication platforms.
- ***On se sert des réseaux sociaux pour rester connectés à ses proches.***
People use social media to stay connected to their loved ones.

Nominalization

Nominalization refers to the process of transforming verbs or adjectives into nouns. Many nouns in French undergo this transformation.

Let's look at some examples. The following verbs or adjectives are transformed into nouns through the addition of suffixes. The most common suffixes include: *-age*, *-ment*, *-tion*, *-ation* and *-ure*:

- ***stocker*** (to store) → ***le stockage*** (storage)
- ***fonctionner*** (to function) → ***le fonctionnement*** (operation, functioning)
- ***communiquer*** (to communicate) → ***la communication*** (communication)
- ***modifier*** (to modify) → ***la modification*** (modification)
- ***briser*** (to break) → ***une brisure*** (a crack)

Internet vocabulary

	Translation
<i>chatter</i>	to chat
<i>en direct</i>	live
<i>en streaming</i>	streaming
<i>interagir</i>	to interact
<i>Internet (m.)</i>	the Internet
<i>les réseaux sociaux (m.)</i>	social media
<i>liker</i>	to like
<i>poster</i>	to post
<i>surfer sur Internet</i>	to surf the Internet (slang)
<i>taguer</i>	to tag
<i>tweeter</i>	to tweet
<i>un blog</i>	a blog
<i>un hashtag</i>	a hashtag
<i>un internaute</i>	internet user, netizen

<i>un lien</i>	a link
<i>un moteur de recherche</i>	a search engine
<i>un selfie</i>	a selfie
<i>un site web</i>	a website
<i>un tag</i>	a tag
<i>un tweet</i>	a tweet
<i>un(e) émoticôn(e)</i>	an emoticon

Fear, regret and wants

Let's examine some example sentences where internet users share their opinion, wants and apprehensions regarding social media and computer technology:

- *Avoir un site web pour son entreprise peut être utile, à condition qu'il soit informatif et clair.*
- *Mes parents ne nous achètent pas de portables, de crainte que nous soyons moins actifs.*
- *Je crains que les relations virtuelles remplacent les interactions en personne.*
- *Je veux que les internautes aient un comportement plus respectueux et amical.*
- *J'ai peur que mes enfants soient accros à Internet. Ils passent trop de temps sur leur portable !*
- *Il est certain que l'on ne peut plus vivre sans Internet.*
- *Je regrette que les jeunes passent moins de temps à jouer à l'extérieur, et plus de temps sur les jeux vidéo.*
- Having a website for your business can be useful, provided it is informative and clear.
- My parents don't buy us cell phones for fear that we'll be less active.
- I fear that virtual relationships will replace face-to-face interactions.
- I want Internet users to behave more respectfully and friendly.
- I am afraid that my children are addicted to the Internet. They spend too much time on their phones!

- It is certain that we can no longer live without the Internet.
- I'm sorry that young people spend less time playing outside, and more time on video games.

As you can see in the examples above, many of the phrases used to express fear, regret or wants are followed by the subjunctive mood.

Expressions of fear and regret

To express fear, we can use the following expressions:

- ***de crainte que*** (for fear of)
 - ***de peur que*** (for fear of)
 - ***craindre que*** (to fear that)
 - ***avoir peur que*** (to fear that)
- + subjunctive mood

All of these expressions are, as noted above, followed by the subjunctive.

To express regret, we can use the expression:

- ***regretter que*** (to be sorry that, to regret that)
- + subjunctive mood

Expressions of want

The following expressions of want are also always followed by the subjunctive mood:

- ***désirer que*** (to desire that)
 - ***aimer que*** (would like)
 - ***souhaiter que*** (to wish that)
 - ***vouloir que*** (to want that)
- + subjunctive mood

Expressions of condition

To express condition, we can use the phrase:

- **à condition de** (provided that) + infinitive
- **à condition que** (provided that) + subjunctive

Look at these two sentences:

- ***Ils peuvent jouer aux jeux vidéo à condition de ne pas dormir trop tard.*** They can play video games as long as they don't sleep too late.
- ***Ils peuvent jouer aux jeux vidéo à condition qu'ils ne dorment pas trop tard.*** They can play video games as long as they don't sleep too late.

Impersonal expressions

Impersonal expressions, specifically those that are followed by *que*, require the subjunctive in certain cases:

- ***Il est important que*** (It is important that)
- ***Il est dommage que*** (It is a pity that) + subjunctive mood
- ***Il est possible que*** (It is possible that)

Others are followed by the indicative mode:

- ***Il est évident que*** (It is evident that)
- ***Il est clair que*** (It is clear that)
- ***Il est certain que*** (It is certain that) + indicative mood
- ***Il est probable que*** (It is likely that)

Remember that *Il est possible que* is followed by the subjunctive, while *Il est probable que* is followed by the indicative. The reason is simple: the subjunctive mood is in fact used to indicate doubt. The word *possible* indicates that there is less than 50% chance that something happens, but *probable* indicates there is more than 50% chance it would! Thus, we use the indicative for *probable* but not for *possible* which indicates doubt.

- ***Il est possible qu'il fasse froid.*** It is possible it would be cold (-50% chance).
- ***Il est probable qu'il fera froid.*** It is likely it will be cold (+50% chance).

CULTURE TIP

Anglicisme, c'est quoi ?

Many contemporary terms related to the Internet and to computer technology have a French equivalent. Quite often, however, the English words are retained. This is especially true in informal conversations. Be careful though, for while they are *anglicismes* (English loan words), they are pronounced following the French phonetics!

- ***un hacker*** /a-keur/ a hacker
- ***un bug*** /beug/ a bug
- ***un hashtag*** /ash-tag/ a hashtag
- ***le wifi*** /wee-fee/ wi-fi

Key Takeaways

- To explain a function, we can use the following verbal phrases: *permettre à (quelqu'un) de (faire quelque chose)*, *permettre de (faire quelque chose)*, *servir à (faire quelque chose)*, *servir de (quelque chose)*, *se servir de (quelque chose)*.
- Many nouns in French are formed by adding the suffixes *-age*, *-ment*, *-tion*, *-ation* and *-ure* to certain verbs.
- Expressions of fear, regret, wants and conditions often require the subjunctive mode:

Express fear	
<i>de crainte que</i> <i>de peur que</i> <i>craindre que</i> <i>avoir peur que</i>	+ subjunctive mood
Express regret	
<i>regretter que</i>	+ subjunctive mood
Express want	
<i>désirer que</i> <i>aimer que</i> <i>souhaiter que</i> <i>vouloir que</i>	+ subjunctive mood
Express condition	
<i>à condition de + infinitive</i> <i>à condition que + subjunctive</i>	

- Impersonal expressions require either the indicative or subjunctive mode:

Impersonal expressions	
<i>Il est important que</i> <i>Il est dommage que</i> <i>Il est possible que</i>	+ subjunctive mood
<i>Il est évident que</i>	+ indicative mood

<i>Il est clair que</i> <i>Il est certain que</i> <i>Il est probable que</i>	
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Félicitations ! Congratulations! You have reached the final chapter of this book. Pat yourself on the back, give yourself a reward — you can now proudly say you have reached a new milestone in your French language learning journey. If you're hankering for more, don't forget to check out the vocabulary lists and verb conjugations in the annex.

What's next

You've already made it to this stage, what's there to stop you? If you wish to make it to the finish line and achieve full native fluency, you would want to check out the next book in our series: ***Learn Advanced French for Adult Students***. With this book, you will be able to build on what you learned here and achieve an advanced level of fluency in French. This book will serve as your map to becoming bilingual and to being able to talk about anything and everything, just like a true native. *À bientôt l'aventurier*, see you soon adventurer!

Exercices

1-4. Complete the sentences with the correct preposition:

1. Les souris servent ____ déplacer le curseur de l'écran.
- 2-3. Les réseaux sociaux permettent ____ membres des familles ____ rester connectés.
4. Je me sers ____ mon ordinateur pour travailler.

5-10. Indicative or subjunctive? Complete the sentences with the appropriate conjugation of the indicated verb.

5. Il est dommage que beaucoup de jeunes (être) _____ accros aux jeux vidéo.
6. J'ai peur que les gens (être) _____ remplacés par des robots.
7. Les enfants peuvent utiliser des gadgets, à condition que les parents les (accompagner) _____.
8. Il est probable que de nouvelles formes de technologie informatique (être) _____ populaires dans les prochaines décennies.
9. Les internautes souhaitent que leurs données personnelles (être) _____ protégées.
10. Il est possible qu'elle (poster) _____ des photos de sa nouvelle maison sur les réseaux sociaux demain.

Answer Key

1. à
2. aux
3. de
4. de
5. soient
6. soient
7. accompagnent
8. seront
9. soient
10. poste

Vocabulary Lists by Theme

Cinema

a (TV) series	<i>une série</i>
a director	<i>un réalisateur, une réalisatrice (f.)</i>
a documentary	<i>un documentaire</i>
a scene	<i>une scène</i>
action movie	<i>un film d'action</i>
adventure movie	<i>un film d'aventures</i>
animated movie	<i>un film d'animation</i>
cinema, movie theater	<i>le cinéma</i>
comedy	<i>une comédie</i>
detective movie	<i>un film policier</i>
horror movie	<i>un film d'horreur</i>
leading actor	<i>le premier rôle</i>
leading actress	<i>le premier rôle féminin</i>
movie	<i>un film</i>
science-fiction movie	<i>un film de science-fiction</i>
<i>to shoot (a movie or scene)</i>	<i>tourner</i>

Characteristics

anxious	<i>inquiet(-ète)</i>
arrogant	<i>arrogant(e)</i>
calm	<i>calme</i>
confident	<i>confiant(e)</i>
courageous	<i>courageux(-euse)</i>
energetic	<i>dynamique</i>
extrovert	<i>extraverti(e)</i>
fearful	<i>peureux(-euse)</i>
generous	<i>généreux(-euse)</i>
hardworking	<i>sérieux(-euse)</i>
honest	<i>honnête</i>

humble	<i>humble</i>
impatient	<i>impatient(e)</i>
impolite	<i>impoli(e)</i>
insensitive	<i>insensible</i>
introverted	<i>introverti(e)</i>
irresponsible	<i>irresponsable</i>
kind	<i>gentil(le)</i>
lazy	<i>paresseux(-euse)</i>
liar	<i>menteur(-euse)</i>
mean	<i>méchant(e)</i>
optimistic	<i>optimiste</i>
patient	<i>patient(e)</i>
pessimistic	<i>pessimiste</i>
polite	<i>poli(e)</i>
reserved, quiet	<i>réservé(e)</i>
responsible	<i>responsable</i>
selfish	<i>égoïste</i>
sensitive	<i>sensible</i>
sociable	<i>sociable</i>
strong	<i>fort(e)</i>
talkative	<i>bavard(e)</i>
weak	<i>faible</i>

Clothing

a blouse	<i>un chemisier</i>
a coat	<i>un manteau</i>
a dress	<i>une robe</i>
a long/short-sleeved shirt	<i>une chemise</i>
a polo shirt	<i>un polo</i>
a raincoat	<i>un imperméable</i>
a skirt	<i>une jupe</i>
a suit	<i>un costume</i>
a sweater	<i>un pull</i>
a t-shirt	<i>un t-shirt</i>
boxer shorts	<i>un caleçon</i>

a bra	<i>un soutien-gorge</i>
briefs	<i>un slip</i>
a jacket	<i>une veste</i>
jeans	<i>un jean</i>
panties	<i>une culotte</i>
pants	<i>un pantalon</i>
shorts	<i>un short</i>
socks	<i>des chaussettes (f.)</i>
underwear	<i>des sous-vêtements (m.)</i>

Accessories

a belt	<i>une ceinture</i>
a winter hat	<i>un bonnet</i>
a bracelet	<i>un bracelet</i>
a cap	<i>une casquette</i>
a handbag	<i>un sac à main</i>
a hat	<i>un chapeau</i>
a light scarf, a head scarf	<i>un foulard</i>
a necklace	<i>un collier</i>
a ring	<i>une bague</i>
a scarf	<i>une écharpe</i>
a tie	<i>une cravate</i>
earrings	<i>des boucles d'oreille (f.)</i>
gloves	<i>des gants (m.)</i>
gold	<i>(en) or</i>
jewelry	<i>des bijoux (m.)</i>
silver	<i>(en) argent</i>

Anatomy

arms	<i>le bras</i>
blood	<i>le sang</i>
bones	<i>les os (m.)</i>
brain	<i>le cerveau</i>
butt	<i>les fesses</i>

chest	<i>la poitrine</i>
feet	<i>les pieds</i>
fingers	<i>les doigts (m.)</i>
hand	<i>la main</i>
head	<i>la tête</i>
heart	<i>le coeur</i>
knee	<i>le genou</i>
leg	<i>la jambe</i>
lungs	<i>les poumons</i>
nails	<i>les ongles (m.)</i>
neck	<i>le cou</i>
shoulders	<i>les épaules (f.)</i>
belly	<i>le ventre</i>
stomach	<i>l'estomac (m.)</i>
throat	<i>la gorge</i>
thumb	<i>le pouce</i>

Life milestones

birth	<i>la naissance</i>
marriage	<i>le mariage</i>
separation	<i>la séparation</i>
to change careers	<i>se reconvertir</i>
to divorce	<i>divorcer</i>
to get fired	<i>être licencié(e)</i>
to get married (with somebody)	<i>se marier (avec quelqu'un)</i>
to give birth	<i>donner naissance</i>
to have kids	<i>avoir des enfants</i>
to marry (somebody)	<i>épouser (quelqu'un)</i>
to move (to a new place, home, etc.)	<i>déménager</i>
to resign (from a job)	<i>démissionner</i>
to start a business	<i>créer/lancer une entreprise</i>

Job search

a job offer	<i>une offre d'emploi</i>
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a job seeker	<i>un demandeur d'emploi</i>
a salary	<i>un salaire</i>
a work contract	<i>un contrat de travail</i>
an application	<i>une candidature</i>
an employee	<i>un/une salarié(e), un/une employé(e)</i>
an employer	<i>un employeur</i>
an internship	<i>un stage</i>
an interview	<i>un entretien</i>
an unemployed person	<i>un/une chômeur(euse)</i>
cover letter	<i>une lettre de motivation</i>
CV or curriculum vitae	<i>un CV</i>
full-time	<i>à plein temps</i>
gross salary	<i>le salaire brut</i>
minimum wage	<i>le SMIC (Salaire Minimum Interprofessionnel de Croissance)</i>
net salary	<i>le salaire net</i>
part-time (50%)	<i>à mi-temps</i>
part-time (70 – 80%)	<i>à temps partiel</i>
permanent contract	<i>un CDI (Contrat à Durée Indéterminée)</i>
studies or schooling	<i>les études, la formation</i>
temporary contract	<i>un CDD (Contrat à Durée Déterminée)</i>
to send an application	<i>poser sa candidature</i>

Work tasks

a copy machine	<i>une photocopieuse</i>
a printer	<i>une imprimante</i>
to print (a document)	<i>imprimer (un document)</i>
to set up a meeting	<i>organiser (une réunion)</i>
to attend (a meeting)	<i>assister (à une réunion)</i>
to delegate (tasks/responsibilities)	<i>déléguer (les responsabilités)</i>
to do networking	<i>faire du réseau</i>
to hire (somebody)	<i>embaucher (quelqu'un)</i>
to photocopy	<i>photocopier</i>

to recrute (somebody)	<i>recruter (quelqu'un)</i>
to reserve a room	<i>réserver une salle</i>
to sign a document	<i>signer (un document)</i>
to talk about a project	<i>échanger (sur un projet)</i>
to write a letter	<i>rédigier une lettre</i>

Email vocabulary

a recipient	<i>un destinataire</i>
a sender	<i>un expéditeur(-trice)</i>
an email	<i>un email</i>
an email address	<i>une adresse email</i>
the inbox	<i>la boîte de réception</i>
the outbox	<i>la boîte d'envoi</i>
the subject	<i>l'objet</i>
to delete	<i>supprimer</i>
to forward	<i>transférer</i>
to reply	<i>répondre</i>
to save	<i>enregistrer</i>
to send	<i>envoyer</i>

Real estate

a building	<i>un immeuble</i>
a property	<i>un bien</i>
a social lodging	<i>un logement social</i>
agency fees	<i>les honoraires (f. pl.)</i>
guarantee	<i>la caution</i>
heating, heater	<i>le chauffage</i>
house-share, apartment-share	<i>une colocation</i>
an owner	<i>un propriétaire</i>
a rent (price)	<i>un loyer</i>
renting, rental	<i>la location</i>
sales	<i>la vente</i>
a surface area	<i>une superficie</i>
tenant	<i>un locataire</i>
to move in	<i>emménager</i>
to move out	<i>déménager</i>

Household appliances

a clothes dryer	<i>un sèche-linge</i>
a coffee maker	<i>une cafetière</i>
a dishwasher	<i>un lave-vaisselle</i>
a hair dryer	<i>un sèche-cheveux</i>
a heater	<i>un radiateur</i>
a microwave	<i>un micro-onde</i>
a stove	<i>une cuisinière</i>
a TV	<i>une télévision</i>
a vacuum cleaner	<i>un aspirateur</i>
a washing machine	<i>une machine à laver</i>
an air conditioner	<i>un climatiseur</i>
an iron	<i>un fer à repasser</i>
an oven	<i>un four</i>

Crimes

a burglar	<i>un cambrioleur(-euse)</i>
a burglary	<i>un cambriolage</i>
a crime	<i>un délit</i>
a fine, a parking ticket	<i>une contravention</i>
a pickpocket	<i>un pickpocket</i>
a plaintiff	<i>un plaignant(e)</i>
a thief	<i>un voleur(-euse)</i>
a victim	<i>une victime</i>
a witness	<i>un témoin</i>
an assailant	<i>un agresseur</i>
an attack, a mugging	<i>une agression</i>
an investigation	<i>une enquête</i>
an offense	<i>une infraction</i>
arrest (somebody)	<i>arrêter (quelqu'un)</i>
extortion	<i>l'extorsion (f.)</i>
fraud	<i>la fraude</i>
imprisonment	<i>l'incarcération</i>
the emergency room	<i>les urgences</i>
a theft	<i>un vol</i>

Automobile vocabulary

(car) to run, to drive	<i>rouler</i>
a car	<i>une voiture</i>
a car (slang)	<i>une bagnole</i>
a vehicle	<i>un véhicule</i>
the accelerator	<i>l'accélérateur</i>
the blinker	<i>le clignotant</i>
the brake	<i>le frein</i>
the bumper	<i>le pare-chocs</i>
the clutch	<i>l'embrayage</i>
the engine	<i>le moteur</i>
the exhaust pipe	<i>le pot d'échappement</i>
the gas tank	<i>le réservoir</i>
the handbrake	<i>le frein à main</i>
the headlight	<i>le phare</i>
the hood	<i>le capot</i>
the horn	<i>le klaxon</i>
lights	<i>les feux</i>
the rear-view mirror	<i>le rétroviseur</i>
to start the engine	<i>démarrer (le moteur)</i>
the steering wheel	<i>le volant</i>
the trunk (of a car)	<i>le coffre</i>
to move forward	<i>avancer</i>
to overtake	<i>doubler</i>
to reverse	<i>reculer</i>
to turn off the engine	<i>couper (le moteur)</i>
the windshield	<i>le pare-brise</i>
the windshield wiper	<i>l'essuie-glace (m.)</i>

Computer technology

a cable	<i>un cable</i>
a hard drive	<i>un disque dur</i>
a smart watch	<i>une montre connectée</i>
a smartphone	<i>un smartphone</i>
a tablet	<i>une tablette</i>
a thumb drive	<i>une clé USB</i>

an app	<i>une appli(cation)</i>
to be buggy	<i>bugger</i>
to break down	<i>tomber en panne</i>
to download	<i>télécharger</i>
to turn off	<i>éteindre</i>
to turn on	<i>allumer</i>
wifi	<i>le Wifi</i>

Environment

an ecosystem	<i>un écosystème</i>
biodiversity	<i>la biodiversité</i>
deforestation	<i>la déforestation</i>
Earth	<i>la Terre</i>
ecology	<i>l'écologie (f.)</i>
global warming	<i>le réchauffement climatique (m.)</i>
greenhouse gases	<i>les gaz à effet de serre (m.)</i>
pollution	<i>la pollution</i>
recycling	<i>le recyclage</i>
species	<i>une espèce</i>
the environment	<i>l'environnement (m.)</i>
to avoid	<i>éviter</i>
to fight against	<i>lutter contre</i>
to promote	<i>promouvoir</i>
to protect	<i>protéger</i>
waste	<i>le gaspillage</i>

Nutrition

balanced diet	<i>l'alimentation équilibrée</i>
calorie	<i>une calorie</i>
eating habits	<i>les habitudes alimentaires (f.)</i>
food balance	<i>l'équilibre alimentaire</i>
food, diet, nutrition	<i>l'alimentation (f.)</i>
healthy diet	<i>l'alimentation saine</i>
nutrients	<i>des nutriments (m.)</i>
organic products	<i>produits bio (m.)</i>
processed food	<i>la nourriture industrielle</i>

to consume	<i>consommer</i>
to eat a balanced diet	<i>manger équilibré</i>
to eat healthily	<i>manger sainement</i>
varied diet	<i>l'alimentation variée</i>
veganism	<i>le véganisme</i>
vegetarianism	<i>le végétarisme</i>
vitamin	<i>une vitamine</i>

Internet

a blog	<i>un blog</i>
a hashtag	<i>un hashtag</i>
a link	<i>un lien</i>
a search engine	<i>un moteur de recherche</i>
a selfie	<i>un selfie</i>
a tag	<i>un tag</i>
a tweet	<i>un tweet</i>
a website	<i>un site web</i>
an emoticon	<i>un(e) émoticôn(e)</i>
interact	<i>interagir</i>
internet user, netizen	<i>un internaute</i>
live	<i>en direct</i>
social media	<i>les réseaux sociaux (m.)</i>
streaming	<i>en streaming</i>
the Internet	<i>Internet (m.)</i>
to chat	<i>chatter</i>
to like	<i>liker</i>
to post	<i>poster</i>
to surf the Internet	<i>surfer sur Internet (slang)</i>
to tag	<i>taguer</i>
to tweet	<i>tweeter</i>

Verb Conjugations

	Present	Composed past	Imperfect	Simple future	Subjunctive
Être (to be)	je suis	j'ai été	j'étais	je serai	que je sois
	tu es	tu as été	tu étais	tu seras	que tu sois
	il/elle est	il/elle a été	il/elle était	il/elle sera	qu'il/elle soit
	nous sommes	nous avons été	nous étions	nous serons	que nous soyons
	vous êtes	vous avez été	vous étiez	vous serez	que vous soyez
	ils/elles sont	ils/elles ont été	ils/elles étaient	ils/elles seront	qu'ils/elles soient
Avoir (to have)	j'ai	j'ai eu	j'avais	j'aurai	que j'aie
	tu as	tu as eu	tu avais	tu auras	que tu aies
	il/elle a	il/elle a eu	il/elle avait	il/elle aura	qu'il/elle ait
	nous avons	nous avons eu	nous avions	nous aurons	que nous ayons
	vous avez	vous avez eu	vous aviez	vous aurez	que vous ayez
	ils/elles ont	ils/elles ont eu	ils/elles avaient	ils/elles auront	qu'ils/elles aient
Aller (to go)	je vais	je suis allé(e)	j'allais	j'irai	que j'aille
	tu vas	tu es allé(e)	tu allais	tu iras	que tu ailles
	il/elle va	il/elle est allé(e)	il/elle allait	il/elle ira	qu'il/elle aille
	nous allons	nous sommes allé(e)s	nous allions	nous irons	que nous allions
	vous allez	vous êtes allé(e)s	vous alliez	vous irez	que vous alliez
	ils/elles vont	Ils/elles sont allé(e)s	ils/elles allaient	ils/elles iront	qu'ils/elles aillent
Chanter (to sing)	je chante	j'ai chanté	je chantais	je chanterai	que je chante
	tu chantes	tu as chanté	tu chantais	tu chanteras	que tu chantes
	il/elle chante	il/elle a chanté	il/elle chantait	il/elle chantera	qu'il/elle chante
	nous chantons	nous avons chanté	nous chantions	nous chanterons	que nous chantions
	vous chantez	vous avez chanté	vous chantiez	vous chanterez	que vous chantiez
	ils/elles chantent	ils/elles ont chanté	ils/elles chantaient	ils/elles chanteront	qu'ils/elles chantent

Choisir (to choose)	je choisis	j'ai choisi	je choisissais	je choisirai	que je choisisse
	tu choisis	tu as choisi	tu choisissais	tu choisiras	que tu choisisses
	il/elle choisit	il/elle a choisi	il/elle choisissait	il/elle choisira	qu'il/elle choisisse
	nous choisissons	nous avons choisi	nous choisissions	nous choisirons	que nous choisissions
	vous choisissez	vous avez choisi	vous choisissiez	vous choisirez	que vous choisissiez
	ils/elles choisissent	ils/elles ont choisi	ils/elles choisissaient	ils/elles choisiront	qu'ils/elles choisissent
Connaître (to know)	je connais	j'ai connu	je connaissais	je connaîtrai	que je connaisse
	tu connais	tu as connu	tu connaissais	tu connaîtras	que tu connaisse
	il/elle connaît	il/elle a connu	il/elle connaissait	il/elle connaîtra	qu'il/elle connaisse
	nous connaissons	nous avons connu	nous connaissions	nous connaîtrons	que nous connaissons
	vous connaissez	vous avez connu	vous connaissiez	vous connaîtrez	que vous connaissez
	ils/elles connaissent	ils/elles ont connu	ils/elles connaissaient	ils/elles connaîtront	qu'ils/elles connaissent
Descendre (to go down)	je descends	je suis descendu(e)	je descendais	je descendrai	que je descende
	tu descends	tu es descendu(e)	tu descendais	tu descendras	que tu descendes
	il/elle descend	il/elle descendu(e)	il/elle descendait	il/elle descendra	qu'il/elle descende
	nous descendons	nous sommes descendu(e)s	nous descendions	nous descendrons	que nous descendions
	vous descendez	vous êtes descendu(e)s	vous descendiez	vous descendrez	que vous descendiez
	ils/elles descendent	ils/elles sont descendu(e)s	ils/elles descendaient	ils/elles descendront	qu'ils/elles descendent
Devoir (to have to)	je dois	j'ai dû	je devais	je devrai	que je doive
	tu dois	tu as dû	tu devais	tu devras	que tu doives
	il/elle doit	il/elle a dû	il/elle devait	il/elle devra	qu'il/elle doive
	nous devons	nous avons dû	nous devions	nous devrons	que nous devions
	vous devez	vous avez dû	vous deviez	vous devrez	que vous deviez
	ils/elles doivent	ils/elles ont dû	ils/elles devaient	ils/elles devront	qu'ils/elles doivent

Écrire (to write)	j'écris	j'ai écrit	j'écrivais	j'écrirai	que j'écrive
	tu écris	tu as écrit	tu écrivais	tu écriras	que tu écrives
	il/elle écrit	il/elle a écrit	il/elle écrivait	il/elle écrira	qu'il/elle écrive
	nous écrivons	nous avons écrit	nous écrivions	nous écrirons	que nous écrivions
	vous écrivez	vous avez écrit	vous écriviez	vous écrirez	que vous écriviez
	ils/elles écrivent	ils/elles ont écrit	ils/elles écrivaient	ils/elles écriront	qu'ils/elles écrivent
Faire (to do)	je fais	j'ai fait	je faisais	je ferai	que je fasse
	tu fais	tu as fait	tu faisais	tu feras	que tu fasses
	il/elle fait	il/elle a fait	il/elle faisait	il/elle fera	qu'il/elle fasse
	nous faisons	nous avons fait	nous faisions	nous ferons	que nous fassions
	vous faites	vous avez fait	vous faisiez	vous ferez	que vous fassiez
	ils/elles font	ils/elles ont fait	ils/elles faisaient	ils/elles feront	qu'ils/elles fassent
Partir (to leave)	je pars	je suis parti(e)	je partais	je partirai	que je parte
	tu pars	tu es parti(e)	tu partais	tu partiras	que tu partes
	il/elle part	il/elle est parti (e)	il/elle partait	il/elle partira	qu'il/elle parte
	nous partons	nous sommes parti(e)s	nous partions	nous partirons	que nous partions
	vous partez	vous êtes parti(e)s	vous partiez	vous partirez	que vous partiez
	ils/elles partent	ils/elles sont parti(e)s	ils/elles partaient	ils/elles partiront	qu'ils/elles partent
Pouvoir (to be able to)	je peux	j'ai pu	je pouvais	je pourrai	que je puisse
	tu peux	tu as pu	tu pouvais	tu pourras	que tu puisses
	il/elle peut	il/elle a pu	il/elle pouvait	il/elle pourra	qu'il/elle puisse
	nous pouvons	nous avons pu	nous pouvions	nous pourrons	que nous puissions
	vous pouvez	vous avez pu	vous pouviez	vous pourrez	que vous puissiez
	ils/elles peuvent	ils/elles ont pu	ils/elles pouvaient	ils/elles pourront	qu'ils/elles puissent
Prendre (to take)	je prends	j'ai pris	je prenais	je prendrai	que je prenne
	tu prends	tu as pris	tu prenais	tu prendras	que tu prennes
	il/elle prend	il/elle a pris	il/elle prenait	il/elle prendra	qu'il/elle prenne
	nous prenons	nous avons pris	nous prenions	nous prendrons	que nous prenions

	vous prenez	vous avez pris	vous preniez	vous prendrez	prenions que vous preniez
	ils/elles prennent	ils/elles ont pris	ils/elles prenaient	ils/elles prendront	qu'ils/elles prennent
Savoir (to know)	je sais	j'ai su	je savais	je saurai	que je sache
	tu sais	tu as su	tu savais	tu sauras	que tu saches
	il/elle sait	il/elle a su	il/elle savait	il/elle saura	qu'il/elle sache
	nous savons	nous avons su	nous savions	nous saurons	que nous sachions
	vous savez	vous avez su	vous saviez	vous saurez	que vous sachiez
	ils/elles savent	ils/elles ont su	ils/elles savaient	ils/elles sauront	qu'ils/elles sachent
Venir (to come)	je viens	je suis venu(e)	je venais	je viendrai	que je vienne
	tu viens	tu es venu(e)	tu venais	tu viendras	que tu viennes
	il/elle vient	il/elle est venu(e)	il/elle venait	il/elle viendra	qu'il/elle vienne
	nous venons	nous sommes venu(e)s	nous venions	nous viendrons	que nous venions
	vous venez	vous êtes venu(e)s	vous veniez	vous viendrez	que vous veniez
	ils/elles viennent	ils/elles sont venu(e)s	ils/elles venaient	ils/elles viendront	qu'ils/elles viennent
Voir (to see)	je vois	j'ai vu	je voyais	je verrai	que je voie
	tu vois	tu as vu	tu voyais	tu verras	que tu voies
	il/elle voit	il/elle a vu	il/elle voyait	il/elle verra	qu'il/elle voie
	nous voyons	nous avons vu	nous voyions	nous verrons	que nous voyions
	vous voyez	vous avez vu	vous voyiez	vous verrez	que vous voyiez
	ils/elles voient	ils/elles ont vu	ils/elles voyaient	ils/elles verront	qu'ils/elles voient
Vouloir (to want)	je veux	j'ai voulu	je voulais	je voudrai	que je veuille
	tu veux	tu as voulu	tu voulais	tu voudras	que tu veuilles
	il/elle veut	il/elle a voulu	il/elle voulait	il/elle voudra	qu'il/elle veuille
	nous voulons	nous avons voulu	nous voulions	nous voudrions	que nous voulions
	vous voulez	vous avez voulu	vous vouliez	vous voudrez	que vous vouliez
	ils/elles veulent	ils/elles ont voulu	ils/elles voulaient	ils/elles voudront	qu'ils/elles veuillent

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