

FRENCH SHORT STORIES

**LEARN FRENCH WITH
STORIES FOR BEGINNERS**



French Short Stories

*Learn French with Stories for
Beginners*

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Introduction

I want to thank you and congratulate you for purchasing this book...

“French Short Stories”

French is popularly known as the language of love, which is perfect as it is one of the romance languages and one of the foundations of modern English.

French is spoken in all five continents by over 220 million people and is widely used in business and academic settings as well as the Arts. In fact, most international organizations such as the UN, NATO and WHO consider it as an official language.

Many popular novels and plays such as *Les Miserables* and *The Little Prince* were originally written in French. There are also classic movie remakes that were based on French films like “*La Mirroire a Deux Face*” or “*The Mirror has Two Faces.*”

Whether it’s for career advancement or personal growth, speaking French will offer a lot of opportunities as you will be able to communicate with more people.

Unfortunately, a lot of folks are still discouraged from learning it because of popular myths. One of which is, that in order to be successful, they would need to have an aptitude for languages. Some people also believe that it is a hard language to learn and is almost impossible for an adult to do.

However, becoming fluent is no different from learning how to cook. It is easy to accomplish with the right ingredients, easy to follow instructions and some practice.

There are various methods that can be used to learn French and finding the one that works for you will make the process more fun and fulfilling.

This book offers a unique way to learn and practice French. It features stories from a popular fable to a literary work of art to build your knowledge and sustain your interest at the same time. It starts you off with a simple story you are familiar with and then offers a more challenging prose as you learn more.

Although you are encouraged to use it regularly, you have the freedom to learn at your own pace without the added pressure of time constraints which makes the book ideal for adult learners.

You will learn the following by using this book:

- Les Noms (Nouns)
- Les Articles (Articles)
- Les Pronoms (Pronouns)
- L'adjectif (Adjectives)
- Les Verbes (Verbs)
- L'Adverbes (Adverbs)
- Les Prepositions (Prepositions)
- Les Conjonctions (Conjunctions)
- Les Chiffres: Cardinaux et Ordinaux (Numbers: Cardinal and Ordinal)
- Le Calendrier (Calendar)
 - Les Mois (Months)
 - Les jours de la Semaine (Days of the Week)
 - Les Saisons (Seasons)
- Les Nourriture et les Boissions (Food and Drinks)
- Les Animaux
- La Famille
- Les Proverbs

Thanks again for purchasing this book, I hope you enjoy it!

Chapter 1 – Classic Fable “Les Trois Petits Cochons”

Section 1

Il était une fois une maman cochon qui avait trois petits cochons. Elle les aimait beaucoup, mais comme il n'y avait pas assez de nourriture pour qu'ils puissent tous manger à leur faim, elle les a envoyés tenter leur chance dans le vaste monde.

Once upon a time there was a mama pig who had three little pigs. She loved them very much, but there was not enough food for all of them to eat, so she sent them out into the big world to seek their fortunes.



Section 2

Le premier petit cochon a décidé d'aller vers le Sud. Alors qu'il marchait le long de la route, il a rencontré un fermier qui portait une botte de paille. Il lui a alors demandé poliment : "*Pourriez-vous s'il vous plaît me donner cette paille, que je puisse construire une maison?*"

The first little pig decided to go south. As he walked along the road he met a farmer carrying a bundle of straw, so he asked the man politely: "*Could you please give me that straw, so that I can build a house?*"

Comme le petit cochon avait dit "*s'il vous plaît*", le fermier lui a donné la paille, et le petit cochon l'a utilisée pour construire une belle maison. La maison avait des murs en paille, un plancher en paille, et à l'intérieur... un confortable lit en paille.

Because the little pig had said "*please*", the farmer gave him the straw, and the little pig used it to build a beautiful house. The house had straw walls, a straw floor, and inside... a comfortable straw bed.

Section 3

Alors que le petit cochon venait juste de finir de construire sa maison et qu'il s'était allongé pour faire une sieste dans son lit en paille, le grand méchant loup est arrivé près de la maison. Il a senti l'odeur du cochon à l'intérieur de la maison, et cela lui a mis l'eau à la bouche. "*Mmm... Des sandwichs au bacon!*"

When the little pig had just finished building his house and had laid down for a nap in his straw bed, the big bad wolf arrived at the house. He smelt the scent of the pig inside the house, and his mouth started to water. "*Mmmm ... bacon sandwiches!*"

le loup a frappé à la porte de la maison en paille et a dit: "*Petit cochon! Petit cochon! Laisse-moi entrer! Laisse-moi entrer!*"

So the wolf knocked at the door of the straw house and said: "*Little pig! Little pig! Let me in! Let me in!*"

Mais comme le petit cochon avait vu les grandes griffes du loup à travers la serrure, il a répondu: "Non, non, non! Par les poils de mon menton!"

But as the little pig had seen the wolf's big paws through the keyhole, he replied: "No! No! No! By the hair of my chin!"

Alors le loup a montré ses dents et a dit: "Alors je vais souffler et souffler et ta maison va s'effondrer!"

Then the wolf showed his teeth and said: "Then I'll blow and I'll blow and your house will fall down!"

Alors il a soufflé et soufflé et la maison s'est effondrée. Le petit cochon est revenu en courant chez lui auprès de sa mère.

So he blew and he blew and the house fell down. The little pig ran back home to his mother.



Section 4

Le deuxième petit cochon a décidé d'aller vers le Nord. Alors qu'il marchait le long de la route, il a rencontré un fermier qui portait un fagot de bois. Il lui a alors demandé poliment: "Excusez-moi, puis-je avoir ce bois pour construire une maison?"

The second little pig decided to go North. As he walked along the road he met a farmer carrying a bundle of wood, so he asked the man politely: "Excuse me, may I have that wood to build a house?"

Comme le petit cochon avait dit "excusez-moi", le fermier lui a donné le bois, et le petit cochon l'a utilisé pour construire une belle maison. La maison avait des murs en bois, un plancher en bois, et à l'intérieur... une solide table en bois.

Because the little pig had said "excuse me", the farmer gave him the wood, and the little pig used it to build a beautiful house. The house had wood walls, a wood floor, and inside... a strong wood table.

Section 5

Alors que le petit cochon venait juste de finir de construire sa maison et qu'il faisait un bouquet pour sa solide table en bois, le grand méchant loup est arrivé près de la maison. Il a senti l'odeur du cochon à l'intérieur de la maison, et son estomac s'est mis à gronder. "Mmm... Du rôti de porc!"

When the little pig had just finished building his house and was arranging flowers on his strong wood table, the big bad wolf came arrived at the house. He smelt the scent of the pig inside the house, and his stomach started to rumble. "Mmmmm ... roast pork!"

Alors le loup a frappé à la porte de la maison en bois et a dit: "Petit cochon! Petit cochon! Laisse-moi entrer! Laisse-moi entrer!"

So the wolf knocked at the door of the wood house and said: *"Little pig! Little pig! Let me in! Let me in!"*

Mais comme le petit cochon avait vu le long nez du loup à travers la serrure, il a répondu: "Non, non, non! Par les poils de mon menton!"

But as the little pig had seen the wolf's long nose through the keyhole, he replied: *"No! No! No! By the hair of my chin!"*

Alors le loup a montré ses dents et a dit: "Alors je vais souffler et souffler et ta maison va s'effondrer!"

Then the wolf showed his teeth and said: *"Then I'll blow and I'll blow and your house will fall down!"*

Alors il a soufflé et soufflé et la maison s'est effondrée. Le petit cochon est revenu en courant chez lui auprès de sa mère, qui n'était pas contente!

So he blew and he blew and the house fell down. The little pig ran back home to his mother — who was not happy!



Section 6

Le troisième petit cochon a décidé d'aller vers l'Ouest. Alors qu'il marchait le long de la route, il a rencontré un fermier qui portait un chargement de briques. Il lui a alors demandé poliment : *"Bonjour monsieur, puis-je avoir quelques-unes de ces briques pour construire une maison?"*

The third little pig decided to go West. As he walked along the road he met a farmer carrying a load of bricks. So he asked the man politely: *"Hello sir, may I have some of those bricks to build a house?"*

Comme le fermier appréciait qu'on l'appelle *"monsieur"*, il a donné au petit cochon quelques briques, et le petit cochon les a utilisées pour construire une belle maison. La maison avait des murs en brique, un plancher en brique, et à l'intérieur... une grande cheminée en brique.

The farmer liked being called "sir" so he gave the little pig some bricks, and the little pig used them to build a beautiful house. The house had brick walls, a brick floor, and inside... a large brick fireplace.

Section 7

Alors que le petit cochon venait juste de finir de construire sa maison et qu'il préparait une grande marmite de soupe dans sa cheminée en brique, le grand méchant loup est arrivé près de la maison. Il a senti l'odeur du cochon à l'intérieur de la maison, et s'est léché les babines. "Mmm... Des côtelettes de porc avec de la sauce barbecue et des haricots verts!"

When the little pig had just finished building his house and was cooking a big pot of soup in his brick fireplace, the big bad wolf arrived at the house. He smelt the scent of the pig inside the house, and he licked his lips. "Mmmmm ... pork chops with barbeque sauce and green beans!"

Alors le loup a frappé à la porte de la maison en brique et a dit: "Petit cochon! Petit cochon! Laisse-moi entrer! Laisse-moi entrer!"

So the wolf knocked at the door of the wood house and said: "Little pig! Little pig! Let me in! Let me in!"

Mais le petit cochon a vu les grandes oreilles du loup à travers la serrure, il a donc répondu: "Non, non, non! Par les poils de mon menton!"

But as the little pig had seen the wolf's big ears through the keyhole, he replied: "No! No! No! By the hair of my chin!"

Alors le loup a montré ses dents et a dit: "Alors je vais souffler et souffler et ta maison va s'effondrer!"

Then the wolf showed his teeth and said: "Then I'll blow and I'll blow and your house will fall down!"

Alors il a soufflé et soufflé, encore et encore. Mais il n'a pas réussi à faire s'effondrer la maison. À la fin il était tellement essoufflé qu'il ne pouvait plus du tout souffler.

So he blew and he blew, again and again. But he could not make the house fall down. At last he was so out of breath that he couldn't blow any more.

Le petit cochon se contentait de remuer sa grande marmite de soupe, et de rire.

The little pig just stirred his big pot of soup, and laughed.

Section 8

Mais le loup avait tellement envie de manger des côtelettes de porc... il ne voulait pas abandonner! Il s'est faufilé derrière la maison et a grimpé sur le toit. "À présent, j'aurai ce cochon, c'est certain!"

But the wolf had such a craving to eat pork chops... he didn't want to give up! He snuck around the back of the house and climbed onto the roof. "Now I'll get that pig, for certain!"

Le loup s'est laissé glisser dans la grande cheminée en brique et a atterri... PLOUF! Les fesses les premières dans la grande marmite de soupe du petit cochon... qui était alors très chaude! Le loup a hurlé et a bondi hors de la marmite, puis est sorti en courant de la maison et a dévalé la route, serrant très fort ses fesses brûlées.

The wolf let himself slide down the great brick chimney and landed ... PLOP! Bottom-first into the little pig's big pot of soup... which was now very hot! The wolf howled and jumped out of the pot, then ran out of the house and hurtled down the road, clutching his burnt bottom.



Le petit cochon a appelé sa mère et ses deux frères sur son téléphone portable en brique, et les a invité à partager un délicieux dîner de soupe aux fesses de loup.

The little pig called his mother and his two brothers on his brick mobile phone, and invited them to share a delicious dinner of wolf-bottom soup.

La soupe aux fesses de loup était si savoureuse que bientôt tous les gens à cent kilomètres à la ronde ont voulu attraper le loup et le faire s'asseoir dans leur soupe. Le pauvre loup a dû s'enfuir très loin jusqu'à la sombre forêt profonde où il a pu vivre en paix et dans le calme.

The wolf-bottom soup was so tasty that soon everybody within one hundred kilometers wanted to catch the wolf and make him sit in their soup. The poor wolf had to run far away to the deep dark forest where he could live in peace and quiet.

Chapter 2 – Les Noms (Nouns)

A noun represents a person, place, event or thing. It can be something concrete (e.g., ball, kite) or something abstract (e.g., happiness, faith). Nouns can also be either singular or plural.

In French, there are various rules that apply in making a noun plural.

- Most nouns, simply add an –s at the end of the word.
 - fleur (flower) –fleurs (flowers)
 - vache (cow) – vaches (cows)
 - porte (door) – portes (doors)
- Nouns that end in –s, -z, and –x do not change in their plural form.
 - fils (son)–fils (sons)
 - voix (voice) –voix (voices)
 - nez (nose) –nez (noses)
- Nouns that end with –eau, -eu, -ou, -au, and –œu become plural by adding –x
 - château (castle) – chateaux (castles)
 - neveu (nephew) –neveux (nephews)
 - chou (cabbage) –choux (cabbages)
 - tuyau (pipe) – tutaux (pipes)
 - vœu (wish) – vœu (wishes)
- Nouns that end in –al and –ail become plural by adding –aux.
 - journal (newspaper) –journaux (newspapers)
 - corail (coral) – coraux (corals)
- Family names are not pluralized in French.

In French nouns are either masculine or feminine even if they are inanimate objects. It is important to determine the correct gender in order to use the appropriate articles, adjectives and sometimes verbs.

There is no set rule on determining a noun's gender. Memorizing or becoming familiar with common nouns is usually the best way to go. It is also advisable that you use articles when memorizing nouns you encounter to remember their gender.

Some nouns are quite obvious such as l'homme (man) is masculine and la femme (woman) is feminine. The same rule applies to le fils (son) and la fille (daughter).

There are also nouns like job titles that are different for a male and female, hence the nouns gender is easier to determine. A male actor is an *acteur* and a female actor is an *actrice*.

In addition, jobs that were traditionally done by men are always in the masculine form.

Example:

Le pompier (fireman) □ le pompier (female firefighter)

Le charpentier (carpenter) □ le charpentier (female carpenter)

However, there are certain nouns like la victime (victim) which is feminine even if the person being referred to is a man.

There are general guides you can use to help you determine the noun's gender.

One can use the following descriptions to determine if the noun is masculine or feminine.

Masculine

- Most nouns that end with a consonant

Examples:

Le pied (foot)

Le conseil (advice)

- Nouns that end with –ment

Examples:

le gouvernement (government)

le commencement (beginning)

- Nouns ending with –au except for l’eau (water) and la peau (skin)

Examples:

le bandeau (flag)

le chateau (castle)

- Some nouns with a mute –e such as the ones in the table below.

Masculine	Examples
-age -ege	le garage (garage) le village (village) le college (college) le piège (trap)
-me	le crime (crime) le diplôme (diploma)
-isme	le capitalism (capitalism) l'hindouisme (hinduism)
-le (except for –ale, -ile, -ole, and –ule)	le câble (cable) le people (people)

The following categories are almost always masculine as well.

Masculine	Example
Days of the week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le Lundi - Monday • Le Mardi - Tuesday • Le Mercredi - Wednesday
Months of the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janvier -January • Décembre – December
Seasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le printemps – Spring • L’hiver - winter
Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le Français - French • L’Espagnol - Spanish
Colors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le jaune – yellow • Le bleu - blue
Most Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le chien (dog) • Le chat (cat)

Feminine

- Most nouns ending in mute –e are feminine.

Examples:

la matinée (morning)

la joie (joy)

la rue (street)

la jambe (leg)

la face (front)

la confiance (trust)

- Some nouns ending in –on are feminine.

Examples:

la boisson (drink)

la chanson (song)

- Nouns ending in –aison are 100% feminine.

Examples:

la raison (reason)

la saison (season)

- All nouns ending in –tion and –sion are feminine.

Examples:

la télévision (television)

la traduction (translation)

- Most nouns ending in –eur are feminine.

Examples:

la fleur (flower)

la peur (fear)

- The categories in the following table are almost always feminine.

Feminine	Example
Fruits and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La pomme -apple • La carotte - carrot • La tomate - tomato • La poire - pear
Names of cars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La limousine – limousine • La berline - sedan
Academic subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La psychologie -psychology • La science - science

Examples from “Les Trois Petits Cochons”

Singular and Plural Forms

Review the line below from section 1 of the story.

“Il était une fois une maman **cochon** qui avait trois petits **cochons**”

In the excerpt above, we see the noun “cochon” (pig) is used in both its singular and plural forms. Its structure follows the basic rule of adding –s to the word to make it plural.

*une maman **cochon*** – singular and refers to one mother pig.

*trois petit **cochons*** – plural and refers to the three little pigs.

Read the excerpt below from section 4.

“Comme le petit cochon avait dit *"excusez-moi"*, **le fermier** lui a donné **le bois**, et le petit cochon l'a utilisé pour construire une belle maison. **La maison** avait des murs en bois, **un plancher** en bois, et à l'intérieur... une solide table en bois”

In the text, we see the following nouns in their singular form.

- Le fermier
- La maison
- Un plancher
- Le bois

To create the plural form of the first three nouns, we simply have to add –s. However, a different rule is followed by the noun “le bois”. Since the word already ends in –s, it will remain the same when it’s made plural.

Noun Gender

Check the excerpt below from **section 6**.

“Comme **le fermier** appréciait qu'on l'appelle *"monsieur"*, il a donné au petit cochon quelques briques, et le petit cochon les a utilisées pour construire une belle maison. La maison avait des murs en brique, **un plancher en brique**, et à l'intérieur... une grande cheminée en brique”

In the text, we see the noun “le fermier” (farmer). It is masculine as indicated by the article “le” that precedes it. This noun has a different form for a female farmer.

Le fermier (farmer) □ la fermiere (female farmer)

Here are some more examples of professions or job titles that follow this rule.

Le caissier (m) □ la caissiere (f) (cashier)

L’avocat (m) □ l’avocate (f) (public servant)

Le pharmacien (m) □ la pharmacienne (f) (pharmacist)

In **section 8**, we see the following text.

“Le loup s'est laissé glisser dans la grande cheminée en brique et a atterri... PLOUF! Les fesses les premières dans **la grande marmite de soupe du petit cochon...** qui était alors très chaude! Le loup a hurlé et a bondi hors de la marmite, puis est sorti en courant de **la maison** et a dévalé **la route**, serrant très fort ses fesses brûlées.”

One of the general guidelines in determining gender states that most animal names are masculine. In the reading above, we see two examples of this:

“le loup” (wolf)

“du petit cochon” (of the little pig)

A small percentage of animal names, however, are feminine.

La vache (cow)

La poule (chicken)

As in the guideline for job titles, there are nouns that are specific to the male of the species. An example of this is “le coq” (rooster) which is always masculine despite still being a chicken.

Another guideline discussed previously states that the ending of the word can help determine the gender. In the excerpt above, we see “la maison” which ends in –son and is always feminine. We also see nouns that end with a mute –e which are “la route” and “la soupe”, so these follow the guide that nouns ending with this sound are almost always feminine.

Chapter 3 - Les Articles (Articles)

French articles present a noun and indicate its gender and number. This can be quite confusing for beginners as English equivalents are not always used in the same way.

Generally, if there is a noun, an article will always accompany it, unless another determiner is used such as possessive or demonstrative adjectives.

There are three types of articles used in French:

- L'article Défini (Definite Articles)
- L'article Indéfini (Indefinite Articles)
- L'article Partitif (Partitive Articles)

L'article Défini

- Le (masculine)
- La (feminine)
- L' (masculine or feminine before a vowel or mute h)
- Les (plural)

Below are the common situations where you would use a definite article:

- When expressing preference, this article is used with verbs such as *aimer* (to love) and *detester* (to detest).
 - Je déteste l'école. (I hate school.)
 - J'aime le cinéma. (I love movies.)
- When referring to something known by the listener because it is unique or the only one of its kind.
 - Le Président arrive demain. (The President arrives tomorrow.)
 - Le Pape voyagea en Amérique. (The Pope traveled to America.)
- When naming a category in general or a concept.
 - C'est la vie! (That's life!)
 - L'habit ne fait pas le moine. (Clothes don't make the person.)
- When referring to something made specific by the statement that follows it.
 - Le cadeau que tu m'as donné est formidable. (The gift you gave me is great.)
 - Le chien des voisins est un caniche. (The neighbor's dog is a poodle.)
- When naming a geographical place.
 - L'Allemagne (Germany)
 - La Grande-Bretagne (Great Britain)

L'article Indéfini

- Un (masculine)
- Une (feminine)
- D' (Before a noun beginning with a vowel or mute h sound)
- De (negative construction)
- Des (plural)

Here are the situations where you would use an indefinite article:

- When referring to an unspecified person or object.
 - J'ai acheté un cadeau. (I bought a gift.)
 - Il veut une banana. (He wants a banana.)
 - J'ai acheté des pommes. (I bought some apples.)
- When referring to just one of something
 - Il ya un homme dans la sale. (There is one man in the room.)
 - J'ai une niece. (I have one niece.)

When an indefinite pronoun is used in a negative construction, it is changed to "de".

Example:

- Je n'ai pas de pommes. (I don't have any apples.)

Unlike in English, indefinite articles are not used when referring to a person's religion or profession.

Example:

- Je suis dentiste. (I am a dentist.)

L'article Partitif

- du (masculine)
- de la (feminine)
- De l' (Before a noun beginning with a vowel or mute h sound)
- De (negative construction)
- Des (plural)

The partitive article is used to refer to an unknown quantity. It is often used with food, drinks, and other uncountable things such as air. The closest equivalent of a partitive article in English is the word "some" which is often omitted. In French, the partitive article is necessary to create the correct idea.

Example:

- Avez-vous bu du café? (Did you drink some coffee?)
- Elle a mangé de la salade hier. (She ate salad yesterday.)

When used in a negative construction, the article becomes "de".

Example:

- Il n'a pas mangé de soupe. (He didn't eat any soup.)

Examples from "Les Trois Petits Cochons"

Review the story's title and phrases from **section 2** below:

"Les Trois Petits Cochons"

"Comme le petit cochon avait dit"

"des murs en paille"

"un plancher en paille"

In these examples, we see that the definite articles used agree with the gender and number of the nouns they present. “Les” is used for the plural form “cochons” while “le” is used to present the singular masculine noun “cochon.”

We also see indefinite articles used for the different parts of the house. “Des”, which is plural, is used for “murs” (walls). “Un”, which is singular, is used with “plancher” (floor). Notice the difference in the number of these two nouns. A house would generally have more than one wall, while the floor refers to the entire ground area of the place.

Check the excerpt below from **section 6**:

“Le troisième petit cochon a décidé d'aller vers **l'Ouest**. Alors qu'il marchait le long de la route, il a rencontré **un fermier** qui portait **un chargement** de briques.”

In the text above, the article “l'” is used with “Ouest” (west). As covered earlier, definite articles are used to refer to something that is known as unique. There is only one “L'Ouest” hence the article that accompanies it.

Below are the other direction nouns that follow the same rule.

Le Nord ☐ North

Le Sud ☐ South

L'Est ☐ East

We also see an article with the noun “fermier”. An indefinite article is used as the noun is not specific. It could be a farmer from the same town or a farmer traveling through. The same case applies to “chargement” (load). Both are singular nouns which are represented by the articles that were used. Below are the plural forms of these nouns.

des fermiers (farmers)

des chargements (loads)

Check the phrases below from various sections of the story.

“*Des sandwiches au bacon*”

“*Du rôti de porc*”

“Des côtelettes de porc avec de la sauce barbecue et des haricots verts”

The examples above use partitive articles to indicate unquantifiable nouns. The articles also follow the gender and the number of the nouns they accompany. The phrases do not specify how many sandwiches, roast pork or porkchops the wolf is hungry for. And as covered earlier, this kind of article is commonly used with food and drinks.

Chapter 4 – Vocabulaire (Vocabulary)

Les Animaux (Animals)

The story “Les Trois Petits Cochon” is a fable which featured animals in the lead characters. The protagonists were the “cochons” (pig) and the “loup” (wolf).

Below are some common animal names along with their plural forms to help you enjoy other fables in the future. Take note that some of the nouns below remain unchanged even in their plural form.

La chat (cat) □ les chats (cats)

La souris (mouse) □ les souris (mice)

La chien (dog) □ les chiens (dogs)

Le poisson (fish) □ les poisson (fish)

L’ours (bear) □ les ours (bears)

Le cheval (horse) □ les chevaux (horses)

La vache (cow) □ Les vaches (cows)

L’oiseau (bird) □ Les oiseaux (birds)

Le canard (duck) □ les canards (ducks)

Le serpent (snake) □ Les serpents (snakes)

Le mouton (sheep) □ Les moutons (sheeps)

Le chévre (goat) □ les chèvres (goats)

Le singe (monkey) □ les singes (monkeys)

Le tigre (tiger) □ les tigres (tigers)

l’âne(donkey) □ les ânes (donkeys)

La grenouille (frog) □ les grenouilles (frogs)

La poule (chicken) □ les poules (chickens)

Here are some other fables that have these animal names that you can use for practice.

- L'âne et le petit chien ☐ The Donkey and the small dog
- Le soleil et les grenouilles ☐ The sun and the frogs
- Le Villageois et le Serpent ☐ The Villagers and the snake
- Le loup et le chien ☐ The wolf and the dog
- Les Poissons ☐ The Fish

Les Membres de la Famille

In the story we saw the word for mama which is “maman”. To help build your vocabulary, take note of the nouns below that can be used in a conversation about the family.

La famille (family)

Les parents (parents)

Les grand- parents (grandparents)

L'enfant (child)

Le père (father) /papa (dad)

La mère (mother) / maman (mom)

Le frère (brother)

La sœur (sister)

Le fils (son)

La fille (daughter)

Le grand-père (grandfather)

La grand-mère (grandmother)

L'oncle (uncle)

La tante (aunt)

Le/la cousin (cousin)

Le neveu (nephew)

La niece (niece)

Le beaux père (father in law)

La belle mère (mother in law)

Les Directions

The story “Les Trois Petits Cochons” mentioned the different directions the pigs went to. It is important to learn the different words that you can use when giving or asking for directions.

French	English
Nord	North
Sud	South
Est	East
ouest	West
tout droit	Straight
à droite	Right
à gauche	left
Devant/en face de	In front
Derrière	Behind
À côté de	Next to

Chapter 5 – Les Pronoms (Pronouns)

Pronouns take the place of a noun to avoid multiple repetitions. The replacement retains the thought or idea of the sentence.

In French, there are two main categories of pronouns:

- Le Pronoms Personnel (Personal Pronouns)
- Le Pronoms Impersonnel (Impersonal Pronouns)

Le Pronoms Personnel

Personal pronouns change in form according to the person they represent. There are five different kinds of personal pronouns:

- Les Pronoms Sujet (Subject)
- Les Pronoms Objet Direct (Direct Object)
- Le Pronoms Objet Indirect (Indirect Object)
- Le Pronoms Reflechi (Reflexive)
- Les Pronom Disjoints (Stressed)

See below for a guide on the different personal pronouns.

	Sujet	OD	OI	Refl	Disj
1 st Person(s)	Je	Me			

2 nd Person(s)	tu	Te			
3 rd Person (s)	Il(m) Elle(f) on	Le(ma) La(f)	Lui	se	Lui (m) Elle (f) soi
1 st Person (pl)	Nous				
2 nd Person (pl)	Vous				
3 rd Person (pl)	Ils (m) Elles (f)	Les	Leur	Se	Eux (m) Ells (f)

Les Pronoms Sujet

A subject is the person or thing doing the action of the verb. Subject pronouns take the place of nouns to fulfill this function. It is imperative to learn this kind as it is necessary when conjugating verbs.

Examples:

- La voiture ne veut pas demarrer. □ Elle ne veut pas démarrer.
- The car won't start. □ It won't start.
- Marie travail □ Elle travail
- Marie is working. □ She is working.

Le Pronoms Objet Direct

A direct object receives the action of the verb. It is easy to determine as it answers the question who or what. Direct object pronouns replace the nouns so that the latter doesn't need to be repeated. See the example conversation below:

- Example:
- Marie: Tu vois le jardin? (Did you see the garden?)
- Ben: Oui, je **le** vois. (Yes, I saw it.)

In the dialogue above, we see that “le jardin” (garden) was replaced by “le” in the response.

Le Pronom Objet Indirect

Direct objects are for whom or what the action occurs. Indirect Object pronouns function in the same way.

Example:

Elle achète les stylos pour les étudiants. (She buys pens for the students.)

Elle **leur** achète les stylos. (She buys pens for them.)

Le Pronom Reflexi

Reflexive pronouns are used with pronominal verbs to express an action which is done to oneself. In these sentences, the subject is the same as the direct object. Pronominal verbs will be discussed at a later chapter. However, it is easy to identify them as they are always preceded by “se”.

Examples:

Elle **se** marie avec Henri. (She is marrying Henri.)

In the example, the woman will be marrying herself to Henri so it uses a reflexive pronoun.

Le Pronom Disjoint

Also known as Pronoms Toniques, these are commonly used for the following:

- When the sentence has two subjects
- To make an emphasis or contrasting statement
- To make a comparison
- After c'est and ce sont
- After a reposition

Example:

Elle est plus grande que vous. (She is taller than you.)

C'est á moi! (It's me!)

Il et moi irons au cinoche. (He and I will go to the movies.)

Les Pronoms Impersonnel

Impersonal pronouns are simpler in form as they do not always change according to what they represent. Below are the different types of these pronouns.

- Adverbial -Replaces a + noun and de + noun (y, en)
- Demonstrative - refers to a noun previously mentioned (celui, celle, ceux, celles)
- Indefinite Demonstratives – without specific antecedent (ce, ceci, cela, ça)
- Indefinites - unspecific quantity or description (certain, plusieurs)
- Interrogatives – asks who, when or what (qui, que, lequel)
- Negatives – negates the noun replaced (ne+verb+rien, ne+verb+personne)
- Possesives – replaces possessive adjectives + noun (mien, tien)
- Relatives – links clauses (qui, don't)
- Indefinite Relatives – links clauses without antecedents (ce qui, ce don't)
- Subject – represents the way things are at the moment. Used with weather and time (ce, il)

Examples:

Il pleut. (It's raining.)

Tout ce que Jean crée est tellement original! (Everything that John creates is original!)

On s'occupe des siens. (You look after your own.)

Examples from Les Trois Petits Cochon

Check the excerpt below from **section 1**:

“Il était une fois une maman cochon **qui** avait trois petits cochons. **Elle les aimait beaucoup**, mais comme **il n'y avait pas** assez de nourriture pour qu'ils puissent tous manger à leur faim, **elle les a envoyé** tenter leur chance dans le vaste monde.”

In the text above we see “qui” which is a relative impersonal pronoun that links two clauses. It describes the “maman cochon” to be the one who has “trois petit cochons.”

In the phrase “Elle les aimait beaucoup”, we see two pronouns being used. “Elle” is a personal pronoun used as a subject to replace “maman cochon”. We also see “les” before the verb “aimait”. As previously discussed, pronouns can be used as direct objects which receives the verb’s action. The pronouns “les” in this phrase refers to the “trois petits cochons” who are the receivers of the love.

It is the same for the phrase “ells les a envoyé” (she sent them).

Review the excerpt below from **section 2**.

“Le premier petit cochon a décidé d'aller vers le Sud. Alors qu'**il** marchait le long de la route, il a rencontré un fermier **qui** portait une botte de paille. **Il lui a alors** demandé poliment”

In the example, we read that the petit cochon met a farmer while he was walking down the road. A direct objective pronoun is used to avoid having to repeat the noun. “Lui” was used to replace “un fermier.”

We see the same rule followed for the sample below from **section 2** as well. Instead of using the noun “le cochon”, the pronoun “lui” was used instead.

“Comme le petit cochon avait dit "s'il vous plaît", le fermier **lui a donné** la paille”

Chapter 6 – Les Adjectifs (Adjectives)

Adjectives modify nouns by providing descriptions like size, color, shape, etc.

French adjectives can be quite confusing at first as there are difference in both form and placement. In English, adjectives always precede the noun they modify. In addition, since nouns do not have gender in English, the adjective only has one form.

French adjectives are more specific with gender, number and word placement.

- A French adjective follows the gender and number of the noun it is describing. It can have up to 4 forms to cover masculine singular, masculine plural, feminine singular and feminine plural.

Example:

amusant (funny)

Masculine singular - amusant

Feminine singular - amusante

Masculine plural - amusants

Feminine plural - amusantes

- Most adjectives are found after the noun they describe. This type of adjective includes color, shape, nationality and others that describe mood or personality. They classify the noun into a specific category.

Example:

Une table rond (round table)

- Some adjectives are placed before the noun they describe. There are a few of these and are quite easy to remember by using the acronym below:

B-eauty

A-ge

G-ood and **B**ad

S-size (except for grand when used with people)

- The placement of adjectives depends on the meaning.
 - If the meaning is figurative, the adjective is placed before the noun.
 - If the meaning is literal then the adjective is placed after the noun.

Examples:

Figurative: un **grand** homme (a great man)

Literal: un homme **grand** (a tall man)

Examples from Les Trois Petits Cochons

Check the phrase below from **section 2**.

“le **petit** cochon l'a utilisée pour construire une **belle** maison.”

The adjectives used to describe “le cochon” and “une maison” both agree with the gender and the number of the nouns. “Petit” is masculine and singular, while “belle” is feminine and singular.

Note as well that the adjectives were placed before the noun. In the rules discussed above, adjectives describing size and beauty should be before the noun.

Review the phrase below from **section 3**.

“le **grand méchant** loup”

In this example, there are two adjectives used to describe the wolf, “grand” (big) and “méchant” (dangerous). If we follow the rules, both adjectives should appear before the noun as they fall under B.A.G.S. Now, in determining the order of the adjectives, we need to select the most fundamental quality of the noun. In this case it would be “méchant.”

Chapter 7 – Vocabulaire (Vocabulary)

Les Nourritures et Les Boissons (Food and Drinks)

In the story “Les Trois Petits Cochons”, different types of food were mentioned, most of which were made from pork of course. It is useful to develop an extensive vocabulary of food and their units when learning French.

Below are some vocabulary words that include vegetables, fruits, drinks, and dishes.



Les Legume

French	English
Le chou	Cabbage
le radis	Radish
la pomme de terre	Potato
l'oignon	Onion
le poivron	Pepper
la patate douce	Sweet potato
le piment	chili
le chou-fleur	cauliflower
le fenouil	funnel
le haricot vert	Green beans
les épinards	spinach
le gingembre	Ginger
l'ail	Garlic

le concombre	Cucumber
le champignon	Mushrooms
la tomate	tomato
l'aubergine	eggplant
la citrouille	pumpkin
la carotte	Carrot
la laitue	Lettuce
l'igname	yam

Examples of French Vegetable Dishes

- Chips de Citrouille (Fried Pumpkin Slices)
- Tomates à la Provençale (Braised Tomatoes)
- Soupe à L'oignon (Onion Soup)
- Ratatouille (Vegetable soup)
- Gratin Dauphinois (Baked Potato)
- Champignons Grilles (Grilled Mushrooms)
- Choufleur Momay (Cauliflower with Cheese Sauce)
- Haricots verts au beurre (Buttered Green Beans)

Les Fruits

French	English
la banana	Banana
la pomme	Apple
l'orange (f)	Orange
la poire	Pear
le melon	Melon
la date	Raisin
Grapefruit	watermelon
le raisin	Grapes
la cerise	Cherry
le citron	Lemon
le citron vert	Lime

la fraise	Strawberry
la framboise	Raspberry
la mûre	Blackberry
la myrtille	Blueberry
la pastèque	Watermelon
la pêche	Peach
la prune	plum

Most of the names of the fruits are similar to its English translation. However, take note that the French “le raisin” refers to the fruit off the vines, as opposed to the dried fruit.



Les Viandes (Meat)

French Cuisine is known all over the world for its sophistication and close attention to the smallest details. There are various meats and cuts used for French cooking. Below is a list for your reference.

French	English
Le porc	Pork
Le bœuf	Beef

Le poulet préparé	Dressed chicken
Le canard	Duck
La dinde	Turkey
L'agneau	Lamb
Le lapin	Rabbit
L'escargot	Snail
Le poisson	fish
Le venaison	Venison (deer meat)
Le veau	Veal (calf meat)
L'oie	Goose
La caille	quail
le faisan	pheasant

There are collective nouns used to categorize these ingredients. Meat is referred to as “les viands” which can be any of the listed above. Poultry is also collectively called “la volaille” which can mean chicken or any of the other examples such as quail and pheasant.

There are also various cuts of meat or parts used in French cooking.

French	English
la côtelette (les côtelettes de porc)	Chop (pork chops)
la viande hachée	Ground meat
la couenne	rind
le foie (foie gras)	Liver (duck liver)
la côte de bœuf	Beef rib
l'os	bone
la peau	skin
le filet	fillet
le cœur	heart
les morceaux de viande	Meat cuts
la langue de bœuf	Cow tongue
le bacon	bacon
les saucisses	sausage

le blanc	White meat(poultry)
la viande blanche	White meat
la cuisse	Dark meat (poultry)
la viande rouge	Red meat
la viande maigre	Lean meat



Les Produits Laitiers et Les Pains (Dairy Products and Bread)

Dairy and bread are quite common in French cooking and dining. Please see below for a list of common dairy and bread products.

French	English
Le lait	Milk
Le fromage	Cheese
E beurre	butter
La glace	Ice cream
le yaourt	yogurt
la crème	cream
la crème fouettée	Whipped cream
la margarine	margarine
le pain	bread
le pain grillé	toast
le petit pain	Bread roll
le pain de maïs	Corn bread

Chapter 8 – Adieu



Section 1

Les deux amis achevaient de dîner. De la fenêtre du café ils voyaient le boulevard couvert de monde. Ils sentaient passer ces souffles tièdes qui courent dans Paris par les douces nuits d'été, et font lever la tête aux passants et donnent envie de partir, d'aller là-bas, on ne sait où, sous des feuilles, et font rêver de rivières éclairées par la lune, de vers luisants et de rossignols.

The two friends were getting near the end of their dinner. Through the cafe windows they could see the Boulevard, crowded with people. They could feel the gentle breezes which are wafted over Paris on warm summer evenings and make you feel like going out somewhere, you care not where, under the trees, and make you dream of moonlit rivers, of fireflies and of larks.

L'un d'eux, Henri Simon, prononça, en soupirant profondément:

“Ah! je vieillis. C'est triste. Autrefois, par des soirs pareils, je me sentais le diable au corps. Aujourd'hui je ne me sens plus que des regrets. Ça va vite, la vie!”

Il était un peu gros déjà, vieux de quarante-cinq ans peut-être et très chauve.

One of the two, Henri Simon, heaved a deep sigh and said:

"Ah! I am growing old. It's sad. Formerly, on evenings like this, I felt full of life. Now, I only feel regrets. Life is short!"

He was perhaps forty-five years old, very bald and already growing stout.

Section 2

“Moi, mon cher, j'ai vieilli sans m'en apercevoir le moins du monde. J'étais toujours gai, gaillard, vigoureux et le reste. Or, comme on se regarde chaque jour dans son miroir, on ne voit pas le travail de l'âge s'accomplir, car il est lent, régulier, et il modifie le visage si doucement que les transitions sont insensibles. C'est uniquement pour cela que nous ne mourons pas de chagrin après deux ou trois ans seulement de ravages. Car nous ne les pouvons apprécier. Il faudrait, pour s'en rendre compte, rester six mois sans regarder sa figure - oh! alors quel coup!”

The other, Pierre Carnier, a trifle older, but thin and lively, answered:

"Well, my boy, I have grown old without noticing it in the least. I have always been merry, healthy, vigorous and all the rest. As one sees oneself in the mirror every day, one does not realize the work of age, for it is slow, regular, and it modifies the countenance so gently that the changes are unnoticeable. It is for this reason alone that we do not die of sorrow after two or three years of excitement. For we cannot understand the alterations which time produces. In order to appreciate them one would have to remain six months without seeing one's own face-- then, oh, what a shock!"

“Et les femmes, mon cher, comme je les plains, les pauvres êtres! Tout leur bonheur, toute leur puissance, toute leur vie sont dans leur beauté qui dure dix ans.”

“Donc, moi, j'ai vieilli sans m'en douter, je me croyais presque un adolescent alors que j'avais près de cinquante ans. Ne me sentant aucune infirmité d'aucune sorte, j'allais, heureux et tranquille.”

“La révélation de ma décadence m'est venue d'une façon simple et terrible qui m'a atterré pendant près de six mois... puis j'en ai pris mon parti.”

"And the women, my friend, how I pity the poor beings! All their joy, all their power, all their life, lies in their beauty, which lasts ten years."

"As I said, I aged without noticing it; I thought myself practically a youth, when I was almost fifty years old. Not feeling the slightest infirmity, I went about, happy and peaceful."

"The revelation of my decline came to me in a simple and terrible manner, which overwhelmed me for almost six months--then I became resigned."



Section 3

“J'ai été souvent amoureux, comme tous les hommes, mais principalement une fois.”

“ Je l'avais rencontrée au bord de la mer, à Étretat, voici douze ans environ, un peu après la guerre. Rien de gentil comme cette plage, le matin, à l'heure des bains. Elle est petite, arrondie en fer à cheval,

encadrée par ces hautes falaises blanches percées de ces trous singuliers qu'on nomme les Portes, l'une énorme, allongeant dans la mer sa jambe de géante, l'autre en face, accroupie et ronde; la foule des femmes se rassemble, se masse sur l'étroite langue de galets qu'elle couvre d'un éclatant jardin de toilettes claires dans ce cadre de hauts rochers. Le soleil tombe en plein sur les côtes: sur les ombrelles de toutes nuances, sur la mer d'un bleu verdâtre; et tout cela est gai et charmant, sourit aux yeux. On va s'asseoir tout contre l'eau, et on regarde les baigneuses. Elles descendent, drapées dans un peignoir de flanelle qu'elles rejettent d'un joli mouvement en atteignant la frange d'écume des courtes vagues; et elles entrent dans la mer, d'un petit pas rapide qu'arrête parfois un frisson de froid délicieux, une courte suffocation.”

"Like all men, I have often been in love, but most especially once."

"I met her at the seashore, at Etretat, about twelve years ago, shortly after the war. There is nothing prettier than this beach during the morning bathing hour. It is small, shaped like a horseshoe, framed by high white cliffs, which are pierced by strange holes called the 'Portes,' one stretching out into the ocean like the leg of a giant, the other short and dumpy. The women gather on the narrow strip of sand in this frame of high rocks, which they make into a gorgeous garden of beautiful gowns. The sun beats down on the shores, on the multicolored parasols, on the blue-green sea; and all is gay, delightful, smiling. You sit down at the edge of the water and you watch the bathers. The women come down, wrapped in long bath robes, which they throw off daintily when they reach the foamy edge of the rippling waves; and they run into the water with a rapid little step, stopping from time to time for a delightful little thrill from the cold water, a short gasp."

“Bien peu résistent à cette épreuve du bain. C'est là qu'on les juge, depuis le mollet jusqu'à la gorge. La sortie surtout révèle les faibles, bien que l'eau de mer soit d'un puissant secours aux chairs amollies.”

“La première fois que je vis ainsi cette jeune femme, je fus ravi et séduit. Elle tenait bon, elle tenait ferme. Puis il y a des figures dont le charme entre en nous brusquement, nous envahit tout d'un coup. Il semble qu'on trouve la femme qu'on était né pour aimer. J'ai eu cette sensation et cette secousse.”

"Very few stand the test of the bath. It is there that they can be judged, from the ankle to the throat. Especially on leaving the water are the defects revealed, although water is a powerful aid to flabby skin."

"The first time that I saw this young woman in the water, I was delighted, entranced. She stood the test well. There are faces whose charms appeal to you at first glance and delight you instantly. You seem to have found the woman whom you were born to love. I had that feeling and that shock."

Section 4

"Je me fis présenter et je fus bientôt pincé comme je ne l'avais jamais été. Elle me ravageait le coeur. C'est une chose effroyable et délicieuse que de subir ainsi la domination d'une femme. C'est presque un supplice et, en même temps, un incroyable bonheur. Son regard, son sourire, les cheveux de sa nuque quand la brise les soulevait, toutes les plus petites lignes de son visage, les moindres mouvements de ses traits, me ravissaient, me bouleversaient, m'affolaient. Elle me possédait par toute sa personne, par ses gestes, par ses attitudes, même par les choses qu'elle portait qui devenaient ensorcelantes. Je m'attendrissais à voir sa voilette sur un meuble, ses gants jetés sur un fauteuil. Ses toilettes me semblaient inimitables. Personne n'avait des chapeaux pareils aux siens."

"I was introduced, and was soon smitten worse than I had ever been before. My heart longed for her. It is a terrible yet delightful thing thus to be dominated by a young woman. It is almost torture, and yet infinite delight. Her look, her smile, her hair fluttering in the wind, the little lines of her face, the slightest movement of her features, delighted me, upset me, entranced me. She had captured me, body and soul, by her "soon as she wore them. I grew tender at the sight of her veil on some piece of furniture, her gloves thrown on a chair. Her gowns seemed to me inimitable. Nobody had hats like hers."

"Elle était mariée, mais l'époux venait tous les samedis pour repartir les lundis. Il me laissait d'ailleurs indifférent. Je n'en étais point jaloux, je ne sais pourquoi, jamais un être ne me parut avoir aussi peu d'importance dans la vie, n'attira moins mon attention que cet homme."

"Comme je l'aimais, elle! Et comme elle était belle, gracieuse et jeune! C'était la jeunesse, l'élégance et la fraîcheur mêmes. Jamais je n'avais

senti de cette façon comme la femme est un être joli, fin, distingué, délicat, fait de charme et de grâce. Jamais je n'avais compris ce qu'il y a de beauté séduisante dans la courbe d'une joue, dans le mouvement d'une lèvre, dans les plis ronds d'une petite oreille, dans la forme de ce sot organe qu'on nomme le nez.

"She was married, but her husband came only on Saturday, and left on Monday. I didn't concern myself about him, anyhow. I wasn't jealous of him, I don't know why; never did a creature seem to me to be of less importance in life, to attract my attention less than this man."

"But she! How I loved her! How beautiful, graceful and young she was! She was youth, elegance, freshness itself! Never before had I felt so strongly what a pretty, distinguished, delicate, charming, graceful being woman is. Never before had I appreciated the seductive beauty to be found in the curve of a cheek, the movement of a lip, the pinkness of an ear, the shape of that foolish organ called the nose."

Section 5

“Cela dura trois mois, puis je partis pour l'Amérique, le coeur broyé de désespoir. Mais sa pensée demeura en moi, persistante, triomphante. Elle me possédait de loin comme elle m'avait possédé de près. Des années passèrent. Je ne l'oubliais point. Son image, charmante restait devant mes yeux et dans mon coeur. Et ma tendresse lui demeurait fidèle, une tendresse tranquille, maintenant, quelque chose comme le souvenir aimé de ce que j'avais rencontré de, plus beau et de plus séduisant dans la vie.”

"This lasted three months; then I left for America, overwhelmed with sadness. But her memory remained in me, persistent, triumphant. From far away I was as much hers as I had been when she was near me. Years passed by, and I did not forget her. The charming image of her person was ever before my eyes and in my heart. And my love remained true to her, a quiet tenderness now, something like the beloved memory of the most beautiful and the most enchanting thing I had ever met in my life."

“Douze ans sont si peu de chose dans l'existence d'un homme! On ne les sent point passer! Elles vont l'une après l'autre, les années, doucement et vite, lentes et pressées, chacune est longue et si tôt finie! Et elles

s'additionnent si promptement, elles laissent si peu de trace derrière elles, elles s'évanouissent si complètement qu'en se retournant pour voir le temps parcouru on n'aperçoit plus rien, et on ne comprend pas comment il se fait qu'on soit vieux.”

“ Il me semblait vraiment que quelques mois à peine me séparaient de cette saison charmante sur le galet d'Étretat.”

"Twelve years are not much in a lifetime! One does not feel them slip by. The years follow each other gently and quickly, slowly yet rapidly, each one is long and yet so soon over! They add up so rapidly, they leave so few traces behind them, they disappear so completely, that, when one turns round to look back over bygone years, one sees nothing and yet one does not understand how one happens to be so old. It seemed to me, really, that hardly a few months separated me from that charming season on the sands of Etretat.”



Section 6

“J'allais au printemps dernier dîner à Maisons-Laffitte, chez des amis. Au moment où le train partait, une grosse dame monta dans mon wagon, escortée de quatre petites filles. Je jetai à peine un coup d'oeil sur cette mère poule très large, très ronde, avec une face de pleine lune qu'encadrait un chapeau enrubané.”

“Elle respirait fortement, essoufflée d'avoir marché vite. Et les enfants se mirent à babiller. J'ouvris mon journal et je commençai à lire”.

"Last spring I went to dine with some friends at Maisons-Laffitte."

"Just as the train was leaving, a big, fat lady, escorted by four little girls, got into my car. I hardly looked at this mother hen, very big, very round, with a face as full as the moon framed in an enormous, beribboned hat."

"She was puffing, out of breath from having been forced to walk quickly. The children began to chatter. I unfolded my paper and began to read."

“ Nous venions de passer Asnières, quand ma voisine me dit tout à coup:”

- Pardon, Monsieur, n'êtes-vous pas Monsieur Carnier?

- Oui, Madame.

“Alors elle se mit à rire, d'un rire content de brave femme, et un peu triste pourtant.”

- Vous ne me reconnaissez pas?

“J'hésitais. Je croyais bien en effet avoir vu quelque part ce visage; mais où? mais quand? Je répondis:”

- Oui... et non... Je vous connais certainement, sans retrouver votre nom.

“Elle rougit un peu.”

- Madame Julie Lefèvre.

"We had just passed Asnieres, when my neighbor suddenly turned to me and said:

- 'Excuse me, sir, but are you not Monsieur Garnier?'

- 'Yes, madame.'

"Then she began to laugh, the pleased laugh of a good woman; and yet it was sad.

- 'You do not seem to recognize me.'

"I hesitated. It seemed to me that I had seen that face somewhere; but where? When? I answered:"

- 'Yes--and no. I certainly know you, and yet I cannot recall your name.'

"She blushed a little:

- 'Madame Julie Lefevre.'

Section 7

“Jamais je ne reçus un pareil coup. Il me sembla en une seconde que tout était fini pour moi! Je sentais seulement qu'un voile s'était déchiré devant mes yeux et que j'allais découvrir des choses affreuses et navrantes.”

"Never had I received such a shock. In a second it seemed to me as though it were all over with me! I felt that a veil had been torn from my eyes and that I was going to make a horrible and heartrending discovery."

“C'était elle! cette grosse femme commune, elle? Et elle avait pondu ces quatre filles depuis que je ne l'avais vue. Et ces petits êtres m'étonnaient autant que leur mère elle-même. Ils sortaient d'elle; ils étaient grands déjà, ils avaient pris place dans la vie. Tandis qu'elle ne comptait plus, elle, cette merveille de grâce coquette et fine. Je l'avais vue hier, me semblait-il, et je la retrouvais ainsi! Était-ce possible? Une douleur violente m'étreignait le coeur, et aussi une révolte contre la nature même, une indignation irraisonnée, contre cette oeuvre brutale, infâme de destruction.”

"So that was she! That big, fat, common woman, she! She had become the mother of these four girls since I had last her. And these little beings surprised me as much as their mother. They were part of her; they were big girls, and already had a place in life. Whereas she no longer counted, she, that marvel of dainty and charming gracefulness. It seemed to me that I had seen her but yesterday, and this is how I found her again! Was it possible? A poignant grief seized my heart; and also a revolt against nature herself, an unreasoning indignation against this brutal, infamous act of destruction.

“Je la regardais effaré. Puis je lui pris la main; et des larmes me montèrent aux yeux. Je pleurais sa jeunesse, je pleurais sa mort. Car je ne connaissais point cette grosse dame.”

“Elle, émue aussi, balbutia:”

- Je suis bien changée, n'est-ce pas? Que voulez-vous, tout passe. Vous voyez, je suis devenue une mère, rien qu'une mère, une bonne mère. Adieu le reste, c'est fini. Oh! je pensais bien que vous ne me reconnaîtriez pas, si nous nous rencontrions jamais. Vous aussi, d'ailleurs, vous êtes changé; il m'a fallu quelque temps pour être sûre de ne me point tromper. Vous êtes devenu tout blanc. Songez. Voici douze ans! Douze ans! Ma fille aînée a dix ans déjà...

"I looked at her, bewildered. Then I took her hand in mine, and tears came to my eyes. I wept for her lost youth. For I did not know this fat lady.

"She was also excited, and stammered:

- 'I am greatly changed, am I not? What can you expect--everything has its time! You see, I have become a mother, nothing but a good mother. Farewell to the rest, that is over. Oh! I never expected you to recognize me if we met. You, too, have changed. It took me quite a while to be sure that I was not mistaken. Your hair is all white. Just think! Twelve years ago! Twelve years! My oldest girl is already ten.'

“Je regardai l'enfant. Et je retrouvai en elle quelque chose du charme ancien de sa mère, mais quelque chose d'indécis encore, de peu formé, de prochain. Et la vie m'apparut rapide comme un train qui passe”

"I looked at the child. And I recognized in her something of her mother's old charm, but something as yet unformed, something which promised for the future. And life seemed to me as swift as a passing train.”

Section 8

“Nous arrivions à Maisons-Laffitte. Je baisai la main de ma vieille amie. Je n'avais rien trouvé à lui dire que d'affreuses banalités. J'étais trop

bouleversé pour parler.”

“Le soir, tout seul, chez moi, je me regardai longtemps dans ma glace, très longtemps. Et je finis par me rappeler ce que j'avais été, par revoir en pensée ma moustache brune et mes cheveux noirs, et la physionomie jeune de mon visage. Maintenant j'étais vieux. Adieu.”

"We had reached. Maisons-Laffitte. I kissed my old friend's hand. I had found nothing to utter but the most commonplace remarks. I was too much upset to talk.

"At night, alone, at home, I stood in front of the mirror for a long time, a very long time. And I finally remembered what I had been, finally saw in my mind's eye my brown mustache, my black hair and the youthful expression of my face. Now I was old. Farewell!"



Chapter 9 – Les Verbes – (Verbs)

A verb is a word that expresses an action (go, eat) or a state of being (think, be).

A verb has tenses which describes whether the action or state of being is currently happening, happened in the past or will happen in the future. To make it easier to study and understand, verb tenses are divided into three main categories:

- Past
- Present
- Future

A verb also has moods which describes the way the person regards the action or state of being. These moods are:

- Indicative – Makes a statement or asks a question
- Condition – describes what could or should happen if something else was possible
- Subjunctive – Indicates a wish, a fear, a regret, or something else of that sort.
- Imperative- expresses a command or something that needs to be done.

Verbs have to agree with the noun or pronoun that does the action or is in the state of being. When conjugating verbs, it is important to take note of the Subject noun or pronoun.

A French verb that is not conjugated appears in the infinitive form which is accompanied by “to”.

Examples:

Manger (to eat)

Finir (to finish)

Ecrire (to write)

There are two types of verbs in French, like in English. These are the regular and irregular verbs. Most verbs are regular and easy to conjugate. However, you will encounter some that are irregular.

Examples:

Dormir (to sleep)

Être (to be)

Avoir (to have)

Regular verbs follow a pattern when conjugated into the tenses, while irregular verbs may have unique forms.

There are also three verb endings that you will encounter as you learn verbs. These are –er, -ir, -re. For regular verbs, the conjugation pattern is unique to the verb ending. This will be further discussed as you learn how to form the different tenses.

Unlike English which only has 6 verb tenses, French has 14. There are the 7 simple and 7 compound tenses.

Simple Tenses	Compound Tenses
Le Présent Indicatif (Present Indicative)	Le Passé Composé (Compound Past)
L'Imparfait de l'Indicatif (Imperfect Indicative)	Le Plus-que-parfait d l'Indicatif (Past Perfect Indicative)
Le Passé Simple (Simple Past)	Le Passé Antérieur (Past Anterior)
Le Futur (Future)	Le Futur Antérieur (Future Anterior)
Le Conditionnel Présent (Conditional)	Le Conditionnel Passé (Conditional Past)
Le Présent du Subjonctif (Present Subjunctive)	Le Passé du Subjonctif (Past or Perfect Subjunctive)
L'Imparfair du Subjonctif (Imperfect Subjunctive)	Le Plus-que-parfait du Subjonctif l'Indicatif (Past Perfect Subjunctive)

A simple tense means that the verb conjugation consists of only one word, while a compound tense has 2. To form a compound tense, an auxiliary or helping verb will be added to the past participle.

Formation of the Seven Simple Tenses for Regular Verbs

Le Présent Indicatif (Present Indicative) – Used to indicate the following:

- An action or state of being done at the present time

- A habitual action
- Something known as a general truth
- Something that will happen in the near future

When conjugating regular verbs, the last two letters are dropped and replaced.

Les Pronoms Sujet (Subject Pronouns)	-er	-ir	-re
Je	-e	-is	-s
Tu	-es	-is	-s
Il/elle/on	-e	-it	-
Nous	-ons	-issons	-ons
Vous	-ez	-issez	-ez
Ils/elles	-ent	-issent	

L’Imparfait de l’Indicatif (Imperfect Indicative) – used to indicate the following:

- An action that was going on in the past at the same time as another action.
- An action that was going on in the past when another action happened.
- A habitual action in the past.
- When describing a past mental or physical condition.
- An action that happened in the past and lasted for a certain amount of time before another action happened.

When conjugating in this tense, the verb’s present indicative form with the pronoun “nous” is used as the basis. The –ons is dropped and replaced.

Les Pronoms Sujet (Subject Pronouns)	-er	-ir	-re
Je		-ais	
Tu		-ais	
Il/elle/on		-ait	
Nous		-ions	
Vous		-iez	
Ils/elles		-aient	

Example:

Conjugate “Il modifie” to Imprefect Indicative

modifier □ *Nous **modifions*** □ modifi (-ons is dropped) □
modifiait

Le Passé Simple (Simple Past) – Used to describe the following:

- To describe an action that happened at some definite time.
- Used more in literary and history writing than in conversations.

When conjugating regular verbs, the last two letters are dropped and replaced.

Les Pronoms Sujet (Subject Pronouns)	-er	-ir	-re
Je	-ai	-is	
Tu	-as	-is	
Il/elle/on	-a	-it	
Nous	-âmes	-îmes	
Vous	-âtes	-îtes	
Ils/elles	-èrent	-irent	

Le Futur (Future) – used to describe the following:

- An action or state of being that will happen sometime in the future
- An action that is implied to take place

When conjugating verbs that end in –er and –ir, the ending is dropped and replaced. However, for verbs with –re, only the –e is dropped.

Les Pronoms Sujet (Subject Pronouns)	-er	-ir	-re
Je	-ai		
Tu	-as		
Il/elle/on	-a		
Nous	-ons		
Vous	-ez		
Ils/elles	-ont		

Example:

Il **partira** dès qu'elle **arrivera**. (He will leave as soon as she arrives.)

The verbs “partir” (to go) and “arriver” (to arrive) are in the Future tense as both are implied to happen at sometime.

Le Conditionnel Present (Conditional) – Used to describe the following:

- An action that would be done if something else was possible.
- A conditional desire
- A duty or obligation

When conjugating verbs that have –er and –ir, the infinitives are dropped and replaced. However, with verbs that end with –re only -e is dropped.

Les Pronoms Sujet (Subject Pronouns)	-er	-ir	-re
Je		-ais	
Tu		-ais	
Il/elle/on		-ait	
Nous		-ions	
Vous		-iez	
Ils/elles		-aient	

Example:

J'aimerais du thé. (I would love some tea.)

The example has the verb “aimer” (to love) to express the speaker’s desire to have some tea.

Le Présent du Subjonctif (Present Subjunctive) – used to express or describe the following:

- A command
- A condition contrary to fact
- A suggestion or preference
- To express doubt , fear, sorrow, or some other emotion

When conjugating in the Present Subjunctive, the verb’s present participle form is used as the base. Present Participle forms end with –ant for both regular and irregular verbs.

To get the Perfect Subjunctive tense, the –ant is dropped and replaced.

Les Pronoms Sujet (Subject Pronouns)	-er	-ir	-re
Je		-e	
Tu		-es	
Il/elle/on		-e	
Nous		-ion	
Vous		-iez	
Ils/elles		-ent	

Example:

Je l’explique pour qu’il **comprenne**. (I’m explaining so that he may understand.)

In the example, the verb “comprendre” (to understand) is used in the Present Subjunctive tense.

Comprendre □ comprenant (Present Participle) □ comprennent (-ant is dropped)

Compren □ comprenne

For your reference, the present participle form of the verbs already discussed in this chapter is provided in the next table:

Verb	Meaning	Present Participle
aimer	to love	aimant
arriver	to arrive	arrivant
avoir	to have	ayant
comprendre	to understand	comprenant
connaître	to know	connaissant
descender	to go down	descendant
dormir	to sleep	dormant
écrire	to write	écrivant
entrer	to enter	entrant
être	to be	étant
finir	to finish	finissant
jeter	to throw	jetant
manger	to eat	mangeant
modifier	to modify	modifiant
monter	to show	montant
partir	to leave	partant
prendre	to take	prenant
rougir	to blush	rougissant

L’Imparfait du Subjonctif (Imperfect Subjunctive) – used in similar reasons as the present subjunctive with the following difference:

- For formal writing and literature
- To describe an action that was started in the past but not completed

To conjugate verbs in the Imperfect Subjunctive, the simple past tense is used.

In order to create the Imperfect Subjunctive, drop the simple past ending and replace with the following:

Les Pronoms Sujet (Subject Pronouns)	-er	-ir	-re
Je	-asse	-isse	-usse
Tu	-asses	-isses	-usses
Il/elle/on	-ât	-ît	-ût
Nous	-assions	-issions	-ussions
Vous	-assiez	-issiez	-ussiez
Ils/elles	-assent	-issent	-ussent

Examples:

“aimer” □ aimé (drop the –é) □ aim □ J’aimasse/nous aimassions
“finir” □ fini (drop the –i) □ fin □ Je finisse/nous finissions
“connaître” □ connu (drop the –u) □ conn □ je connusse/nous
connussions

Examples from “Adieu”

Check the phrase below from **section 2**:

*et il **modifie** le visage*

The verb used in the example is “modifier” (to modify) and it has an –er ending. We also see that the pronoun that does the action is “il” which is

masculine. When conjugating this verb, we refer to the rule discussed earlier, the –er is dropped and replaced with an –e.

Modifier □ modifie

Below is a “modifier” conjugated in the present indicative tense with all the subject pronouns:

Je modifie	Nous modifions
Tu modifies	Vous modifiez
Il/elle/on modifie	Ils/ells modifient

Check the excerpt below from **section 3**:

Elles **descendent**, drapées dans un peignoir de flanelle qu'elles rejettent d'un joli mouvement en atteignant la frange d'écume des courtes vagues; et elles **entrent** dans la mer, d'un petit pas rapide qu'arrête parfois un frisson de froid délicieux, une courte suffocation.”

In this text, we see two more verbs in the Present Indicatif, “descender” (to go down) and “entrer” (to enter).

Review the table below for the complete Present Indicative form of the two verbs used above:

je descends	nous descendons
tu descends	Vous descendez
il descend	Ils/ells descendent

j'entre	nous entrons
tu entres	Vous entrez
il entre	Ils/ells entrent

Read the phrase below from **section 6**:

Je vous **connais** certainement

The verb used in this sample is “connaître” (to know/to be acquainted with). It is used with subject pronoun “Je” and direct object pronoun “vous”.

See below for the complete conjugation of the verb in the present indicative tense:

Review the excerpt from **Section 6**:

Au moment où le train **partait**, une grosse dame monta dans mon wagon, escortée de quatre petites filles. Je **jetai** à peine un coup d'oeil sur cette mère poule très large, très ronde, avec une face de pleine lune qu'encadrait un chapeau enrubanné.

In the sample above, there are two verbs in the Imperfect Indicative form. “Partir” (to leave) is used to describe that the train had left the station when the woman went inside the compartment.

Partir □ Nous partons □ part (-ons is dropped) □ **partait**

The other verb used is “jeter” (to throw). This verb described the speaker’s reaction to the woman.

Jeter □ Nous jetons □ jet (-ons is dropped) □ **jetais**

Check the sentence below from section 6:

“Elle rougit un peu.”

The verb “rougir” (to blush) is used in the simple past tense form to describe the woman’s reaction to the speaker’s statement.

Read the excerpt below from **section 7**:

Je la regardais effaré. Puis je lui **pris** la main; et des larmes me **montèrent** aux yeux.

We see two more examples of verbs in the simple past tense form, “prendre” (to take) and “montrer” (to show or display) to describe the speaker’s action.

Formation of the Seven Compound Tenses

The seven compound tenses are made up of two words: the conjugated auxiliary verb + the past participle of the verb being used.

There are two auxiliary or helping verbs in French, être (to be) and avoir (to have). Most verbs use the latter while the former is used by some. In order to create the Compound tenses, we need to be familiar with the conjugation of the 2 auxiliary verbs.

Before we look at how the 7 Compound tenses are formed, let’s view the conjugations of “être” and “avoir”.

Generally, verbs use “avoir” to form the compound tense, however, for your reference, below are some verbs that use “être”.

- Aller (to go)
- Arriver (to arrive)
- Descender (to go down)
- Devenir (to become)
- Entrer (to enter)
- Monter (to go up)
- Mourir (to die)
- Partir (to leave)
- Rester (to remain/to stay)
- Venir (to come)

“Être” is an irregular verb and from the table below, we see that it does not follow the conjugation pattern discussed earlier.

être			

	Present Indicative	Imperfect Indicative	Simple Past	Future
Je	suis	étais	fus	serai
Tu	es	était	fus	seras
Il/elle/on	est	était	fut	sera
Nous	sommes	étions	fûmes	serons
Vous	êtes	étiez	fûtes	serez
Ils/elles	sont	étaient	furent	seront

être			
	Conditionnel	Present subjunctive	Imperfect Subjunctive
Je	serais	sois	fusse
Tu	serais	sois	fusses
Il/elle/on	serait	soit	fût
Nous	serions	soyons	fussions
Vous	seriez	soyez	fussiez
Ils/elles	seraient	soient	fussen

avoir				
	Present Indicative	Imperfect Indicative	Simple Past	Future
Je	ai	avais	eus	aurai
Tu	as	avais	eus	auras
Il/elle/on	a	avait	eut	aura
Nous	avons	avions	eûmes	aurons
Vous	avez	aviez	eûtes	aurez
Ils/elles	ont	avaient	eurent	auront

avoir			
	Conditionnel	Present subjunctive	Imperfect Subjunctive
Je	aurais	aie	eusse

Tu	aurais	aies	eusses
Il/elle/on	aurait	ait	eût
Nous	aurions	ayons	eussions
Vous	auriez	ayez	eussiez
Ils/elles	auraient	aient	eussent

It is also essential to know the past participle of the verb to be used. To help you in conjugating, the past participles of the verbs used in this chapter are provided below:

Verb	Meaning	Past Participle
aimer	to love	Aimé
arriver	to arrive	Arrivé (e) (s)
avoir	to have	Eu
comprendre	to understand	Compris
connaitre	to know	Connu
descender	to go down	Descendu (e) (s)
dormir	to sleep	Dormi
ecrire	to write	Écrit
entrer	to enter	Entré (e) (s)
être	to be	été
finir	to finish	Fini
jeter	to throw	jeté
manger	to eat	mangé
modifier	to modify	modifié
monter	to show	monté
partir	to leave	Parti (e) (s)
prendre	to take	Pris
rougir	to blush	rougi

Le Passé Composé (Compound Past) – Used to express an action that happened at no definite time. This is now often used in writing, taking the place of the Simple Past tense more and more.

This tense is created by adding the present indicative form of “être” or “avoir” is added to the past participle of the verb.

Examples:

- with “avoir”

aimer □ aimé □ + “ai” (“je”) □ ***J’ai aimé*** vos commentaires (I loved your comments)

- with “être”

arriver □ arrivé+ “suis” (“je”) □ Je ***suis arrivé*** hier (I arrived yesterday)

Le Plus-que-parfait d l’Indicatif (Past Perfect Indicative) - Used to describe an action that happened before another past action. This is used both in written and conversational French.

To conjugate a verb in this tense, add the Imperfect Indicative of “être” and “avoir” to the past participle of the verb to be used.

Examples:

- with “avoir”

aimer □ aimé □ +“avais” (“je”) □ J’avais aimé

- with “être”

arriver □ arrive □ + “étais”(“je”) □ J’étais arrivé

Le Passé Antérieur (Past Anterior) – Used in a similar fashion as *Le Plus-que-parfait d l’Indicatif (Past Perfect Indicative)*. It is used to describe an action in the past which took place before another action. It is used more in formal writing than conversations.

This tense is created by adding the past simple tense of “être” or “avoir” to the past participle form of the verb.

Examples:

- with “avoir”

aimer □ aimé □ + “eus” (“je”) □ J’eus aimé

- with “être”

arriver □ arrivé + “fus” (“je”) □ Je fus arrivé

Le Futur Antérieur (Future Anterior) – used to describe an action that will take place in the future before another action happens.

To conjugate the verb in the Future Anterior, the future tense of “être” and “avoir” are added to the past participle of the verb.

Examples:

- with “avoir”

aimer □ aimé □ + “aurai” (“je”) □ J’aurai aimé

- with “être”

arriver □ arrivé + “serai” (“je”) □ Je serai arrivé

Le Conditionnel Passé (Conditional Perfect) – used to express an action that would have been done in the past if something else had been possible.

This tense is created by adding the Conditional Present tense of “être” and “avoir” to the past participle of the verb.

Examples:

- with “avoir”

aimer □ aimé □ + “aurais” (“je”) □ J’aurais aimé

- with “être”

arriver □ arrivé + “serais” (“je”) □ Je serais arrive

Le Passé du Subjonctif (Past or Perfect Subjunctive) - used to describe a past action in relation to the present time.

The verb is conjugated to this tense by adding the Present Subjunctive tense of “être” or “avoir” to the past participle form of the verb.

Examples:

- with “avoir”

aimer □ aimé □ + “aie” (“je”) □ J’aie aimé

- with “être”

arriver □ arrivé + “sois” (“je”) □ Je sois arrive

Le Plus-que-parfait du Subjonctif l’Indicatif (Past Perfect Subjunctive)
– used to describe an action that happened and was not completed in the past before another action took place.

To create this tense, the Imperfect Subjunctive of “être” or “avoir” is added to the verb’s past participle form.

Examples:

- with “avoir”

aimer □ aimé □ + “eusse” (“je”) □ J’eusse aimé

- with “être”

arriver □ arrivé + “fusse” (“je”) □ Je fusse arrive

L’Impératif (Imperative)

In the tenses discussed, we saw three of the four moods used:

- Indicative
- Conditional
- Subjunctive

The Imperative Mood expresses a command or a request. It is also used for an indirect request made in the third person. It is formed by dropping the pronoun and using the Present Tense.

Examples:

- Sortez! (Get out!)
- Levez-vous! (Get up!)
- Soyez à l’heure! (Be on time!)

Les Verbes Proninaux (Pronimal Verbs)

Some of the verbs you will encounter will have show “se” or “s” before the infinitive. These are called Pronimal Verbs. These show an action that is done to or by oneself and are conjugated with reflexive pronouns.

Examples:

- S’habiller (to get dressed/ to dress oneself)
- Se lever (to get up)
- Se laver (to wash oneself)

The same patterns discussed previously in this chapter are followed when conjugating regular Pronominal verbs. The only difference is that the reflexive pronouns take the place of “se” and “s”.

Examples:

- Je me lave. (I wash myself.)
- Je m’habille. (I dress myself.)

Examples from “Adieu”

Review the phrase from **section 2**.

Donc, moi, j'ai vieilli sans m'en douter

The verb “vieillir” (to grow old) is in the Compound Past tense. In this phrase, the speaker is talking about growing old but did not mention or imply a specific time of when it happened.

Check the sentence below from **section 3**.

Je l'avais rencontrée au bord de la mer, à Étretat, voici douze ans environ, un peu après la guerre.

In the excerpt, the speaker is describing an action that happened in the past. He met a woman on the seashore twelve years after the war. The verb “rencontrer” (to meet/to encounter) is in the Plus-que-parfait Indicative tense.

Read the phrases below from **section 7**:

je suis devenue une mère, rien qu'une mère, une bonne mère. Adieu le reste, c'est fini.

Vous êtes devenu tout blanc

The verb “devenir” (to become) is used in the phrases above to describe the changes that happened in the two characters. The woman had become a mother and the man had gone white, which is a reference to his hair.

Chapter 10 – Vocabulaire (Vocabulary)

Verbs in Idiomatic Expressions

It is useful to know French idiomatic expressions to avoid any confusion. A direct or literal translation may not always be the correct idea of the expression.

Aimer (to love)

- Aimer mieux (to prefer)

Arriver (to arrive)

- Quoi qu'il arrive (Come what may)

Avoir (to have)

- Avoir bonne mine (to look well)
- Avoir des nouvelles (to hear news from someone)
- Avoir le cœur gros (to be heartbroken)

Briller (to shine/to glitter)

- Tout ce qui brille n'est pas or. (All that glitters is not gold.)

Changer (to change)

- Plus ça change plus c'est la même chose. (The more it changes, the more it stays the same.)

Combler (to fill up)

- Pour comble de Malheur (to make matters worse)

dire (to say/to tell)

- à vrai dire (to tell the truth)
- Dis-moi ce que tu mange et je dire ce que tu es. (Tell me what you eat and I will tell you who you are.)
- Qui l'aurait dit? (Who would have thought so?)

entendre (to hear)

- C'est entendu! (It's agreed! / It's understood!)
- laisser entendre (to hint)
- ne pas entendre malice (not to mean any harm)

être (to be)

- Ainsi soit-il! (So be it!)
- C'est ça! (That's right!)
- J'y suis! (I get it!)

Jeter (to throw)

- Jeter l'argent par le fenêtre. (To waste money.)

Regarder (to look)

- Cela ne vous regarde pas. (That's none of your business.)
-

Faire (to do/ to make)

- Faire bon accueil (to welcome)
- Faire d'une pierre deux coups (to kill two birds with one stone)
- Faire des châteaux en Espagne (to build castles in the air)
- Faire à sa tête (to have one's way)

Risquer (to risk)

- Qui ne risque rien, n'a rien. (Nothing ventured, nothing gained.)

Servir (to serve)

- Cela ne sert à rien. (That serves no purpose.)

Suivre (to follow)

- À suivre (to be continued)

Voir (to see)

- Voir tout en rose (to be optimistic)

Vouloir (to wish/to want)

- Que voulez-vous! (What do you expect!)

Verbs used in Proverbs and Sayings

- Le chat parti, le souris dansent (When the cat is way, the mouse will play.)
- Chat échaudé craint l'eau froide. (A burnt child dreads the fire.)
- Il n'ya pa fumée, sans feu. (When there's smoke, there's fire.)
- Mieux vaut tard que jamais. (Better late than never.)
- Sauv qui peut! (Ru for your life!)
- Qui se marie à la hate se repent à loisir. (Marry in haste, repent in leisure.)
- L'appétit vient en mangeant. (The more you have, the more you want.)

Chapter 11 – Les Adverbes (Adverbs)

Adverbs are words that modify verbs, adjectives and another verb. These describe in what way or what extent something is.

Example:

Jean court rapidement. (John runs swiftly.)

Word placement for adverbs is quite strict in French as opposed to English. The following rules apply when using it in French:

- When the adverb modifies a verb, it is placed after the conjugated verb.

Example:

Elle regarde **souvent** la télé le soir. (She watches TV in the evening.)

- When the adverb modifies a noun or another adverb, it is placed before.

Example:

Elle a **très** bien mangé. (She ate very well.)

Types of Adverbs

There are different types of adverbs used in French.

Type	Definition	Example
adverb of manner	describes how something happens	bien (well) mauvais (bad)

adverb of quantity (intensity)	describes how many or how much	beaucoup (a lot)
adverb of time	describes the time something happened	hier (yesterday) actuellement (presently)
adverbs of place	describes where	derrière (behind) dedan (in it)
adverb of frequency	describes how often	toujours (always) parfois (sometimes)
adverb of affirmation	confirms something	aussi (also, too) vraiment (really)
adverb of doubt	expresses doubt	probablement (probably) apparemment (apparently)

Examples from “Adieu”

Review the sentence from **section 1**:

Autrefois, par des soirs pareils, je me sentais le diable au corps.

The adverb in the excerpt modifies the noun clause “par des soir pareils” (on nights like this). If we refer to the word placement rule in this chapter, we see that “autrefois” (in the past) should be put before the noun.

“Autrefois” is an adverb of time as it describes when the speaker felt as he did.

Read the excerpt from section 2:

C'est **uniquement** pour cela que nous ne mourons pas de chagrin après deux ou trois ans seulement de ravages.

“Uniquement” (uniquely) is an adverb of frequency that modifies the conjugated “être”. Since it describes a verb, we see it placed after “est.”

Check the phrase from **section 7**:

Je sentais **seulement**

The excerpt shows the adverb “seulement” which means only. It is an adverb of quantity that modifies the verb “sentir” (to feel / to perceive). Its placement stresses that whatever comes next was the only thing or emotion the speaker felt.

Chapter 12 – Les Prépositions (Prepositions)

Prepositions are words placed before a nouns or pronouns to show their relationship to a verb, adjective, pronoun, or another noun. These are quite common in both English and French.

Examples:

Je parle **à** Marie. (I am talking to Marie.)

Les fleurs sont **pour** toi. (The flowers are for you.)

Below are the most common prepositions used in French.

French	English	Examples
à	to, at, in	Elle habite à Paris (She lives in Paris) Elle arivent à 6h00 (They arrive at 6:00) Je vais à Paris (I'm going to Paris)
après	after	Après le dejenuner (after lunch)
avant	before	Avant la maison (before the house)
avec	with	Avec mes amis (with my friends)
chez	at/to ___'s house or place; on/from the area of, from/at ___'s	Chez moi (at my house/place) Il est chez Marie (He's at Marie's place)
dans	inside, into	Elle est dans sa chamber (She's in her room)
de	of from	Un tasse de café (a cup of coffee) Le livre de marie (Marie's book) Je suis de Paris (I'm from Paris)
depuis	since, from, for	J'étudie le français depuis 1996. (I've been studying French since 1996.)
en	in, on, to	Elle est en prison (She's in jail) Nous habitons en Espagne (We live in Spain)
pendant	during	Pendant ce temps, elle m'attendait. (During this time, she waited for me.)

pour	for	J'ai acheté un gâteau pour toi. (I bought a cake for you.)
sans	without	Sans sucré (without sugar/sugar free) Elle est parti sans me parler. (She left without saying anything to me.)
sur	on	Un gateau sur la table (A cake on the table)
vers	towards	Nous allons vers Paris (We're going towards Paris)

Examples from “Adieu”

Check the phrases below from **section 2**:

nous ne mourons pas de chagrin **après** deux ou trois ans seulement de ravages

rester six mois **sans** regarder sa figure

The preposition “après” is used when the speaker states that something does not happen after 2 or 3 years of excitement. It helps the listener and reader understand the span of time involved in the narration.

In the second phrase, “sans” is used to describe what the speaker explains was not done within the six month period.

Review the excerpt from **section 3** below:

Je l'avais rencontrée **au** bord de la mer

The preposition used in this example is “à”. It appears in a different form as it is contracted with the definite article “le”.

À + le □ au

À + les □ aux

The sentence describes where the speaker and the woman met which was at the seaside (au bord de la mer).

Check the sentence below from **section 4**:

C'est presque un supplice et, **en même temps**, un incroyable bonheur.

In this example we see a prepositional phrase introduced by the preposition “en”. The phrase “en même temps” means at the same time. So in this sentence, the speaker talks about two contrasting emotions he was feeling.

Verbs and Prepositions

French verbs are used with prepositions and at times the meaning varies with each combination. The verb “demander” (to demand) when used with the preposition “à” means to ask or inquire. While using “de” with the same verb means to make a request.

Example:

Demandez à la dame où s'arrête le train. (Ask the lady where the train stops.)

Je vous demande de parler. (I am asking you to speak.)

Verbs may or may not need a preposition to describe a situation. However, when prepositions are used it may either be with a conjugated or infinitive form of the verb.

Chapter 13 – Les Conjonctions (Conjunctions)

Conjunctions are words that do the following:

- Link two nouns of the same value
- Link dependent clauses to the main clause

Examples:

J'aime les pommes **et** les raisins. (I love apples and grapes.)

J'ai dit **que** j'aime les raisins. (I said that I like grapes.)

Below is a list of common conjunctions used in French.

French	English
car	for, because
donc	so
ensuite	next
et	and
mais	but
or	now, yet
ou	where
ou bien	or else
puis	then
comme	as, since
lorsque	when
puisque	since, as
quand	when
que	that
quoique	even though

si

if

Examples from “Adieu”

Check the excerpt below from **section 4**:

“Elle était mariée, **mais** l'époux venait tous les samedis pour repartir les lundis.

In the sentence from the short story, we see “mais” used to connect two clauses. The conjunction links “Elle était mariée” and “l'époux venait tous les samedis pour repartir les lundis” to fully describe the situation.

Review the phrase below taken from **section 5**:

Cela dura trois mois, **puis** je partis pour l'Amérique

The conjunction “puis” is used to express the sequence of events. We understand from the phrase that the affair lasted for three months then the speaker left for the state. The conjunction links the dependent clause to the main clause to create the complete thought.

Read the excerpts below from section 7:

que j'allais découvrir des choses affreuses **et** navrantes.”

In this example, the conjunction “et” links two words that equally describe what the speaker discovered at that time, something horrifying and heartbreaking.

Tandis qu'elle ne comptait plus, elle, cette merveille de grâce coquette et fine.

The conjunction used in the sentence above links two clauses without being placed in the middle of both. “Tandis que” (whereas) described the relation between the woman’s past and her present state.

Chapter 14 – Vocabulaire (Vocabulary)

The parts of speech discussed in the previous chapters will make reading and understanding short French stories easier. Below are some vocabulary categories that will help you further.

Le Calendrier (Calendar)

Les Mois (Months)

French	English
L'année	year
Janvier	January
Fevrier	February
Mars	March
Avril	April
Mai	May
Juin	June
Juillé	July
Août	August
Septembre	September
Octobre	October
Novembre	November
Decembre	December

La Semaine (week)

French	English
Lundi	Monday
Mardis	Tuesday
Mecredi	Wednesday
Jeudi	Thursday
Vendredi	Friday
Samedi	Saturday
Dimanche	Sunday

La Saisons (seasons)

French	English
Le printemps	Spring
L'ete	Summer
L'automne	Autumn
L'hiver	winter

French Numbers (Les Chiffres/Les Nombres)

One of the most important things that you need to know when learning French are the numbers. In fact, as children, some of the first words we learned were one, two and three. Knowing the French numbers will help you practice your pronunciation. And since numbers are used in various situations, it will be beneficial for you to learn them.

1. Cardinal Numbers (Les Nombres Cardinaux)

The table below represents the cardinal number forms.

French	English
Un	One
Deux	two
Trois	Three
quatre	Four
cinq	Five
six	Six
sept	Seven
Huit	Eight
neuf	Nine
dix	ten
French	English
Onze	Eleven
Douze	Twelve
Treize	Thirteen
Quatorze	Fourteen
Quinze	Fifteen
Seize	Sixteen

Note that the numbers seventeen to nineteen used ten plus the basic number. This is also used when we get to the twenty's. One to nine is added to twenty to create the needed number.

The number twenty one format is however unique. One (un) is attached with "et" so the literal translation would be twenty and one. This is used in all succeeding numbers from thirty one to seventy one.

Dix-sept	Seventeen
Dix-huit	Eighteen
Dix-neuf	Nineteen
vingt	twenty
French	English
Vingt et un	Twenty one
Vingt deux	Twenty two
Vingt trois	Twenty Three
Vingt quatre	Twenty Four
Vingt cinq	Twenty Five
Vingt six	Twenty Six
Vingt sept	Twenty Seven
Vingt Huit	Twenty Eight
Vingt neuf	Twenty Nine
Trente	thirty

The next table shows some more French cardinal number forms.

French	English
Trente	Thirty
Quarante	Forty
Cinquante	Fifty
Soixante	Sixty
Soixante-dix	Seventy
Quatre-vingt	Eighty
Quatre-vingt-dix	ninety
Cent	One hundred
Deux cent	Two hundred
Mille	One thousand
French	English
premier	1 st
Deuxième	2 nd
Troisième	3 rd
quatrième	4 th
cinquième	5 th
Sixième	6 th

2. Ordinal Numbers (Les Nombres Ordinaux)

Ordinal numbers are used to define a rank or position in a series or list. In English we use first, second and so on. When using ordinal numbers, the cardinal number form is still important. From the table below, you can see that “ième” is added to the base number to create the ordinal form. However, this pattern is not used for “premiere”.

Septième	7 th
Huitième	8 th
Neuvième	9 th
Dixième	10 th

Conclusion

Learning French can be very fulfilling as it comes with a lot of personal and professional benefits. There are numerous methods you can use to become fluent and all these are as effective as you wish them to be.

Memorizing useful phrases for specific situations is a popular way to learn but it does restrict you to just common phrases.

Using a reading and comprehension method allows you to see the structure of the language beyond just everyday words and phrases. It also gives you a chance to experience the culture with the insights of the writer. Reading stories is a great way to broaden your vocabulary and practice the grammar structures.

This book introduced you to two stories you can use to become better at French as it goes beyond the traditional way of learning.

Finally, if you enjoyed this book, please take the time to share your thoughts and post a positive review on Amazon. It'd be greatly appreciated!

Thank you and good luck!