<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Guide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>French</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Français**

Language Learning Success™
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Introduction

Learning to read, write, and speak a foreign language is a cumulative process. The student begins at a relatively simple starting point, and, with each progressive step, collects additional knowledge of that language. These pieces of knowledge are like the bricks used to build a house; each new brick is placed atop another brick until the desired structure is achieved.

The student, like an apprentice bricklayer, needs an understanding of the tools and materials that will be used before construction begins as well as explanations of the blueprints as the task proceeds. This Student Study Guide is designed to accompany The Rosetta Stone program and will add those explanations and the “whys” and “hows” a student often needs. To begin this study a few general notes are helpful to assist the foreign language student to learn successfully and begin to lay a foundation for all the knowledge that will come. This Introduction covers the following topics:

- The Alphabet
- Pronunciation
- Accents
- Punctuation
- Cognates
- Greetings and Farewells
- Titles
- Polite Phrases
- Days of the Week
- Months

The main body of this Student Study Guide is a written companion to The Rosetta Stone French Level I computer program. It contains lesson by lesson notes to assist students by giving additional information on French grammar, vocabulary, and usage. It can be used in conjunction with the French I Workbook, which gives students practice writing and reinforces the material they have learned in the computer program.
The Alphabet

Although French is written with the same alphabet as English, the letters often have different sounds. This table gives the letters of the French alphabet, each letter's name in French with a guide to the pronunciation of the letter's name, and the approximate sound it makes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>French name</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>a (ah)</td>
<td>father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>bé (bay)</td>
<td>bat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>cé (say)</td>
<td>before a, o, u: cat; before e, i, y: cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>dé (day)</td>
<td>dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>e (uh)</td>
<td>sofa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>ef (ef)</td>
<td>fog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>gé (zhay)</td>
<td>before a, o, or u: go; before e, i, y: pleasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>ach (ash)</td>
<td>not pronounced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>i (ee)</td>
<td>machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>ji (zhee)</td>
<td>pleasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>ka (ka)</td>
<td>kangaroo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>el (el)</td>
<td>like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>emme (em)</td>
<td>much; frequently not pronounced after a vowel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>enne (en)</td>
<td>no; frequently not pronounced after a vowel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>o (oh)</td>
<td>over; mud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>pé (pay)</td>
<td>penny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>q(u)</td>
<td>ku (kew)</td>
<td>racquet (K sound)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>erre (ayr)</td>
<td>a dry gargle; pronounce “ah” while clearing your throat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>ess (es)</td>
<td>at the beginning of a word: see between vowels (including between words): zoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>té (tay)</td>
<td>top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>u (ew)</td>
<td>pronounce E with tightly rounded lips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>vé (vay)</td>
<td>yat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w</td>
<td>doublevé</td>
<td>woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(doo´-bluh-vay)</td>
<td>yat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>iks (eeks)</td>
<td>ax; frequently not pronounced after vowels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>igrec (ee-grek´)</td>
<td>happy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>zed (zed)</td>
<td>zoo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pronunciation

The preceding guide gives approximations of the French sounds that correspond to the letters of the alphabet. You will notice that the biggest differences between French and English are vowel sounds and the number of silent letters in French. Because many sounds in French do not exist in English the best way to approach pronunciation is to imitate what you hear.

Vowel Sounds

In general, the muscles in the mouth and face are more tense when pronouncing French than English. Therefore, French vowel sounds are quicker and cleaner than English vowel sounds, which are in reality diphthongs. Diphthongs are a combination of a long sound followed by a short sound where the voice drops in pitch and volume. For example, try saying “oh” several times. Notice that you put a W sound at the end. For French, try saying “oh” several times but stop before saying the W sound. Be careful to avoid diphthongs when pronouncing French vowels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Spelling</th>
<th>English Word (approximate)</th>
<th>French Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>father</td>
<td>avion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>é</td>
<td>make</td>
<td>éléphant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>sofa</td>
<td>le</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>è</td>
<td>fed</td>
<td>après</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ê</td>
<td>fed</td>
<td>tête</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>machine</td>
<td>dix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>over</td>
<td>chose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>mud</td>
<td>vole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ô</td>
<td>over</td>
<td>hôtel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>E with tightly rounded lips</td>
<td>du</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ou</td>
<td>hoot</td>
<td>sous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oi</td>
<td>water</td>
<td>voiture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ai</td>
<td>fed</td>
<td>maison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>er</td>
<td>make (R is silent)</td>
<td>sauter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>er</td>
<td>fed</td>
<td>personne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>et</td>
<td>make (T is silent)</td>
<td>et</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>et</td>
<td>fed</td>
<td>gobelet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ez</td>
<td>make (Z is silent)</td>
<td>nez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>au</td>
<td>over</td>
<td>taureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aux</td>
<td>over (X is silent)</td>
<td>aux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aut</td>
<td>over (T is silent)</td>
<td>haut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eau</td>
<td>over</td>
<td>bateau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eaux</td>
<td>over (X is silent)</td>
<td>chapeaux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eu</td>
<td>sir; stop before the R</td>
<td>cheveux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eu</td>
<td>sir; stop before the R;</td>
<td>heure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>less tension than above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nasal Vowel Sounds

In French, there is a tendency for the letters n and m to be absorbed by a preceding vowel and to be no longer pronounced as independent consonants. Instead, the vowel is pronounced by allowing air to flow into the nasal cavity as well as into the mouth. This is nasalization. It does not happen if the n or m is immediately followed by a vowel, as in une, or if the n or m is doubled, as in chienne (a female dog).

French has four nasal vowels which correspond to the vowel sounds in the words dans, garçon, chien, and un.

dans To approximate this sound, try saying the English word “on” but do not pronounce the n. Now say the same sound with your mouth open wider. This sound is used for an (dans), en (en), am (champion), and em (printemps) when they come at the end of a word or are followed by a written consonant.

garçon To approximate this sound, keep your lips rounded and tense. Do not pronounce the n. This sound is also used for om (tombe).

chien The vowel sound for ien, ain, in, ein, aim, and im is similar to the A sound in the English word “panic.” However, the French sound is shorter, the lips are spread when pronouncing it, and the letter n is not pronounced. This sound is used for the letters ien (chien), ain (bain), in (cinq), ein (plein), aim (laim), and im (important) when they occur at the end of a word or are followed by a consonant.

un To pronounce un or um, round your lips and pronounce the nasal vowel found in chien. Frequently, speakers of French do not distinguish this sound from the nasal vowel in chien. This sound is used for un (un) and um (humble) when they come at the end of a word or are followed by a written consonant.

Special Letter Combinations

The following combinations of letters produce consonant sounds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letters</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>French Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cc</td>
<td>accord</td>
<td>occupe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>before e, i: accident</td>
<td>accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ch</td>
<td>show</td>
<td>chien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>th</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>bibliothèque</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gn</td>
<td>canyon</td>
<td>cygne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ill/il</td>
<td>ee-yuh</td>
<td>fille, chandail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sc</td>
<td>before e, i: scissors (S sound)</td>
<td>descend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>before a, o, u: disc (SK sound)</td>
<td>escalier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tion/sion</td>
<td>after a consonant: syo</td>
<td>action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>after a vowel: zyo</td>
<td>télévision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ie</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>panier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letters | Pronunciation | French Word
--- | --- | ---
ou | wet | oui
oi | wa | voit
ui | hw | huit

**Accents**

In French, accent marks and spelling marks indicate pronunciation. They also distinguish between different words. For example, *sauté* (pronounced “so-tay”) means “jumped,” while *saute* (pronounced “sote”) means “he or she is jumping.” Accents are an important part of French spelling. They cannot be left out because they affect the meaning and pronunciation of words.

There are a total of five accents and spelling marks in French.

- ´ l’accent aigu acute accent é éléphant
- ` l’accent grave grave accent à après
  è où
  ô ou

Note that à and ou are pronounced the same as without the accent.

^ l’accent circonflexe circumflex accent â pâte
  ê forêt
  ï dîner
  ô hôpital
  û dû

Note that â, ï, and û are pronounced the same as without the accent.

¨ le tréma dieresis Noël (noh-ehl)
  naïve (nah-eeve)

The trema appears on the second of two consecutive vowels. It indicates that the vowels are pronounced separately.

ç la cédille cedilla ç garçon

The cedilla indicates that the letter c is pronounced like an s.

**Punctuation**

Most punctuation is the same in French and English. The main exception is with numbers, where the use of the comma and period is the exact opposite. For example, $2,000.50 is how a French person would write “two thousand dollars and fifty cents.”

The French usually precede a colon (:) with a space.
Cognates

Words in different languages that come from the same source and resemble each other are called cognates or loanwords.

French has many loanwords from English:
- names of sports or activities: tennis, football, jogging
- names for things typically American: blue-jean, cow-boy

Words for certain things like musical instruments are frequently similar across languages: violon, guitare, piano.

Many words in French and English are derived from the same Latin source:
- words ending in ion: imagination, vision, profession
- words ending in eur: docteur, acteur, professeur
- words ending in ie: sociologie, technologie, démocratie

Some French and English words are derived from the same Greek source, such as words dealing with science or art: drame, trauma, diplôme.

English has some words and expressions borrowed from French, such as tête-à-tête, rendez-vous, laissez faire, and carte blanche.

Greetings and Farewells

Unlike English, French distinguishes between polite and familiar speech. There is a formal you, vous, and an informal you, tu. To avoid offense, it is best to use the formal way of speaking.

A formal greeting is used when most of the people involved do not know each other or are not on a first name basis. Use a formal greeting when you are introduced to someone for the first time.

Bonjour. Good morning. or Good day.
Bonsoir. Good evening. or Good afternoon.
Comment allez-vous? How are you?
Bien, merci. Et vous? Fine, thank you. And you?
Je vous présente Elise. Let me introduce Elise.
Enchanté. Pleased to meet you.
Au revoir. Goodbye.

An informal greeting is used in situations where most of the people know each other well. Among French teenagers and young adults in social situations, the tendency is to address each other informally even if you are not acquainted.
Salut. Hi. or Hello.
Comment ça va? or Ça va? How's it going? or Things going okay?
Ça va. Okay.
Bien. Fine.
Comme ci, comme ça. So-so.
Salut. Goodbye.
À demain. See you tomorrow.

**Titles**
- Monsieur Mister
- Madame Mrs.
- Mademoiselle Miss

**Polite Phrases**
- s’il vous plaît please
- merci thank you
- merci beaucoup thank you very much
- de rien you’re welcome
- excusez-moi excuse me

**Days of the Week**

Note that the days of the week are not capitalized in French.
- dimanche Sunday
- lundi Monday
- mardi Tuesday
- mercredi Wednesday
- jeudi Thursday
- vendredi Friday
- samedi Saturday
Months

Note that the months are also not capitalized in French.

janvier  January
février  February
mars     March
avril    April
mai      May
juin     June
juillet  July
août     August
septembre September
octobre  October
novembre November
décembre December
Nouns are words that name people, places, things, and ideas. In many languages, nouns have gender. In English, nouns that name people or animals are usually considered masculine or feminine, but almost all other nouns, like table and character, are considered neuter. Our pronouns indicate the gender of the noun they replace: we use he for masculine, she for feminine, and it for neuter.

In French, every noun is considered to be either masculine or feminine. Nouns that name males, such as un homme (a man) or un garçon (a boy), are usually masculine. Likewise, nouns that name females, such as une fille (a girl) or une femme (a woman), are usually feminine. Nouns that are considered neuter in English are also assigned a gender in French: for instance, une table is feminine, while le caractère is masculine. You need to learn the gender when you learn the noun. The easiest way to do this is to learn the article along with the noun.

Grammar: The Indefinite Articles

English has two indefinite articles, “a” and “an.” The indefinite articles in French are un and une.

Un is used to introduce a masculine singular noun.

- un ballon
- un avion

Une is used to introduce a feminine singular noun.

- une voiture

Note that in une, the feminine indefinite article, the u is pronounced like “ee” with the lips tensely rounded, while un is pronounced with a nasal vowel. This is because there is a vowel after the n in une.

Continued on the next page →
Grammar: Conjunctions and Prepositions

A *conjunction* is a word that connects other words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. Some common conjunctions in English are *and*, *but*, *as*, and *because*. A *preposition* expresses time, manner, or place. It comes before the noun it modifies, which is why it is called a *pre*-position.

Conjunctions and prepositions work the same in French as in English. The conjunction or preposition is used to link two nouns. It is preceded by an article and a noun and it is followed by an article and a noun.

- un garçon *et* un cheval  
  a boy *and* a horse
- un garçon *sur* un cheval  
  a boy *on* a horse
- un garçon *sous* un avion  
  a boy *under* an airplane
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>après</td>
<td>after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>court</td>
<td>court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>courent</td>
<td>course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>danse</td>
<td>dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dansent</td>
<td>dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le</td>
<td>the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la</td>
<td>the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l'</td>
<td>the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>les</td>
<td>the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l'oiseau (m) -x</td>
<td>the bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le poisson</td>
<td>swim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>saute</td>
<td>swim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sautent</td>
<td>swim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le taureau (-x)</td>
<td>does swim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar: The Definite Articles

*Definite articles* are used to introduce a noun. English has one definite article, “the.” French has four definite articles.

- **le** masculine singular
- **la** feminine singular
- **l’** masculine or feminine singular before a noun that begins with a vowel or the letter h
- **les** masculine and feminine plural

- *Le* cheval saute. The horse is jumping
- *La* femme court. The woman is running
- *L’homme* saute dans *l’*avion. The man jumps into the airplane
- *Les* filles marchent. The girls are walking
- *Les* garçons nagent. The boys are swimming

Grammar: The Present Indicative Tense

The present indicative tense in French corresponds to three different tenses in English: the simple present, the present progressive, and the present emphatic.

- *L’oiseau* nage. The bird swims.
- *L’oiseau* is nageing. The bird is swimming.
- *L’oiseau* does nage. The bird does swim.
Pronunciation

Consonants at the end of individual words

In general, consonants at the end of individual words are not pronounced. Notice that the t in chat is silent. The consonants c, r, f, and l are exceptions to this rule. They are usually pronounced at the end of individual words. Notice that the l at the end of cheval is pronounced. Use the memory aid careful to help remember that c, r, f, and l are usually pronounced at the end of words.

Liaison

There is a phenomenon peculiar to French known as liaison. In liaison, final consonants that are not pronounced when the word stands alone become pronounced when the following word begins with a vowel sound. Note that the final s of dans in the phrase “un garçon dans un avion” is pronounced as a Z sound. T, d, and x also make liaisons. T and d make a T sound in liaison. X makes a Z sound.

les oiseaux
un avion
C’est un chien.
deux oiseaux

Note that after et (and), the liaison is never made.

une fille et un chien

But after est (is), the liaison is made.

Un chien est un animal.

Unaccented e and ent at the end of a word

An unaccented e at the end of a word is not pronounced: homme. Also, the letters ent at the end of a verb are rarely pronounced: dansent.
Adjectifs descriptifs
Descriptive Adjectives

New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a (avoir)</th>
<th>blanc, blanche</th>
<th>bleu</th>
<th>le cheveu (-x)</th>
<th>court</th>
<th>est (être)</th>
<th>jaune</th>
<th>long, longue</th>
<th>la maison</th>
<th>neuf, neuve</th>
<th>noir</th>
<th>rose</th>
<th>rouge</th>
<th>très</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Vocabulary: rose

Note that rose is both the color pink and a kind of flower (une rose).

Vocabulary: vieux, vieil, vieille

The adjective vieux (old) has a special masculine form that is used before words that begin with a vowel or h.

un vieil homme an old man

Usage: est and a

Est means “is.” It is the third person singular form of the verb être (to be).

La voiture est bleue. The car is blue.

A means “has.” It is the third person singular form of the verb avoir (to have).

La fille a les cheveux noirs. The girl has black hair.

Grammar: Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe people and things. Descriptive adjectives can be colors, sizes, amounts, physical or mental conditions, or any word that gives more information about a noun. In French, adjectives usually change their endings to match the nouns that they describe. The gender of a noun determines whether the accompanying adjective has a masculine or feminine form.

Formation of Feminine Adjectives

In French, the feminine form of a regular adjective is formed by adding e to the masculine form.

Le poisson est noir. (masc.) La voiture est noire. (fem.)
L’oiseau est bleu. (masc.) La maison est bleue. (fem.)

In some adjectives, the addition of e causes the preceding consonant to change. The most common changes are c changing to che and f changing to ve.

un avion blanc une voiture blanche
un avion neuf une voiture neuve

If the masculine form of the adjective already ends in e, the masculine and feminine forms are identical: jaune.
New Vocabulary

- zéro
- un
- deux
- trois
- quatre
- cinq
- six
- sept
- huit
- neuf
- dix

Usage: Numbers

When used in a series of numbers, the number one, un, is always masculine. However, when it is used to describe a feminine noun, it takes on the feminine form: une voiture (one car). Never use une as the number one in a series.

Pronunciation: Numbers

Note that the final x in deux and the final s in trois are silent. The p in sept is silent. With the exception of zéro, un, deux, and trois, all the numbers end in a consonant sound. The final x of six and dix is pronounced as an S. To be correct, pronounce quatre with a final R sound; however, in everyday speech, the R sound is usually dropped and the word ends with a T sound. The final q of cinq is pronounced like a K.

When deux and trois are followed by a noun that begins with a vowel sound, liaison occurs. Remember that the consonants x and s are pronounced as a Z sound in liaison.

When the numbers cinq, six, huit, and dix are followed by a noun that begins with a consonant sound, they drop their final S, T, and K sounds.

- six chats
- huit tables
- cinq chiens
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
<th>Plural</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>assis</td>
<td>chantent</td>
<td>la fleur</td>
<td>sont (être)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le bébé</td>
<td>des</td>
<td>l’œil (m) (les yeux)</td>
<td>le vélo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chante</td>
<td>l’enfant (m or f)</td>
<td>l’œuf (m)</td>
<td>volent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar: Forming Plurals

Nouns

*Singular* means one. *Plural* means more than one. Whether a noun is singular or plural is called *number*.

In general, to make a singular noun plural in French, add *s* to the noun. This *s* is not pronounced.

- une voiture → des voitures
- le chat → les chats

Adjectives

When a noun is plural, the adjective that describes it must also be plural. Form a plural adjective by adding an *s* to the masculine or feminine singular form.

- une voiture noire → des voitures noires
- le chat blanc → les chats blancs

Exception: when the singular form of a noun or adjective ends in an *s, x, or z*, you do not add *s*.

- un mauvais repas → a bad meal
- des mauvais repas → some bad meals

Note that the plural of the indefinite articles *un* and *une* is *des*, and the plural of the definite articles *le, la, and l’* is *les*.  

Continued on the next page →
Verbs

When the subject of a sentence is plural, the verb of the sentence must also be plural. When the subject of a sentence is singular, the verb must be singular.

Note the difference between the following:

La fille court. The girl runs.
Les filles courent. The girls run.

Un garçon saute. A boy jumps.
Des garçons sautent. Some boys jump.

In general, the third person singular form (he, she, or it) of a verb in the present indicative ends with t, e, d, or it.

In general, the third person plural form (they) of a verb in the present indicative ends with ent.

Grammar: Infinitives

An infinitive is the unconjugated form of a verb. In English, it is the form introduced by “to”: “to run,” “to jump,” “to fly.” In French, there are three basic classifications of verbs.

- verbs whose infinitives end in er: sauter (to jump)
- verbs whose infinitives end in ir: finir (to finish)
- verbs whose infinitives end in re: descendre (to descend; to go down)

Within the ir category, there are two subcategories.

- verbs conjugated like finir (to finish)
- verbs conjugated like courir (to run)

Verbs conjugated like finir add iss in the plural, while verbs conjugated like courir do not.

il finit he finishes
ils finissent they finish

il court he runs
ils courent they run

Pronunciation

Remember that c, r, f, and l (careful) are usually pronounced at the end of words. Note that the r in infinitives that end in er does not follow this rule. The er is pronounced like é: sauter.
Les chiffres et l'heure du jour
Numbers and Clock Time

New Vocabulary

l'assiette (f) de font (faire) quinze
autre le doigt l'heure (f) trente
la balle du il vingt
ce (m), cet (m), cette (f), (ces) fait (faire) la moto y
le chiffre la fenêtre orange

Vocabulary: ce

The demonstrative adjective ce has a special masculine form that is used to introduce nouns that begin with a vowel or an h.

cet homme this man

Usage: il y a

Il y a means “there is” or “there are.” It is both singular and plural in French.

Il y a une assiette. There is one plate.
Il y a trois assiettes. There are three plates.

Usage: Telling Time

To tell time, use il est followed by a number and heures.

Il est deux heures. It is two o’clock. (literally, “It is two hours.”)
Il est dix heures. It is ten o’clock.

Use heure with une for “one o’clock.”

Il est une heure. It is one o’clock.

Do not forget to make the liaison (T sound) linking est and une.

Usage: c’est

C’est means “it is.” It is used to replace il est when it is followed by an article and a noun. Compare the use of il est and c’est in these examples:

Il est deux heures. It is two o’clock.
Ce chiffre, c’est un deux. This number is a two.

Pronunciation: The Sound eu

In French, the letters eu produce a sound you can approximate by rounding your lips while saying “sir” without pronouncing the r.

When eu is not followed by a consonant sound, round your lips more tensely, as in deux. When a consonant sound does follow the vowel, use less tension, as in heure.
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>elle</th>
<th>ils</th>
<th>non</th>
<th>vert</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>en</td>
<td>mange</td>
<td>oui</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>est-ce que</td>
<td>ne</td>
<td>pas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar: Yes/No Questions

A question that can be answered with yes or no is called a yes/no question. A statement can be made into a yes/no question by adding **est-ce que** in front of the statement.

Le poisson est blanc. The fish is white.

Est-ce que le poisson est blanc? Is the fish white?

Note that if the word following **est-ce que** begins with a vowel, the final e is dropped and an apostrophe is placed between the u and the following word.

est-ce que le poisson
est-ce qu’il

Grammar: Personal Pronouns

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun. The following table lists the French personal pronouns when used as the subject of a sentence. First person refers to the person(s) speaking, second person to the person(s) spoken to, and third person to the person(s) spoken of. The French system is similar to the English one, except that French has three separate pronouns for the second person while English has only **you**. The formal **vous** form is used with people you do not know well, while the familiar **tu** is used with family and close friends.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>je (I)</td>
<td>nous (we)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>familiar: tu (you)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>formal:  vous (you)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>il (he, it)/elle (she, it)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ils (they masc. &amp; neut.)/elles (they fem. &amp; neut.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When **je** occurs before a word beginning with a vowel, it forms the contraction **j’**.

Je suis malade.
Jeai faim.

In contrast to English, the pronoun **je** is not capitalized except at the beginning of a sentence.
Grammar: Conjugation of Verbs

To conjugate a verb means to change its form according to person, number, tense, mood and voice. There are three singular persons and three plural persons in most verb conjugations that correspond to the personal pronouns je, tu, il/elle, nous, vous, and ils/elles.

To conjugate a verb in any tense you must first find the stem. In regular verbs, the present indicative stem is found by dropping the er, ir, or re of the infinitive.

- sauter → saut
- courir → cour
- descendre → descend

Endings are then added to the stem to indicate the tense: past, present, or future.

The Present Indicative Tense

To talk about things that are occurring right now, French uses the present indicative tense.

- Est-ce qu’il mange? Is he eating?
- Oui, il mange. Yes, he is eating.

The endings for the basic verb classifications in the present indicative tense are determined by the category to which the verb belongs. So far, we have been using mostly er verbs and ir verbs like courir.

Endings for Verbs that End in er

- sauter (to jump)
  - je saute
  - tu sautes
  - il/elle saute
  - nous sautons
  - vous sautez
  - ils/elles sautent

Endings for Verbs Like Courir that End in ir

- courir (to run)
  - je cours
  - tu cours
  - il/elle court
  - nous courons
  - vous courez
  - ils/elles courent

Note that the plural endings ons, ez, and ent are the same for both the er verbs and the ir verbs like courir.

Continued on the next page →
Usage: *en*

The pronoun *en* means “of it” or “of them.” In English, “of it” or “of them” is frequently omitted, but in French it must be used. One of its uses is to replace a noun that is introduced by an indefinite article. It is placed in front of the verb.

Est-ce qu’il y a *un homme* sur la maison?  Is there a man on the house?

Oui, il y *en* a un.  Yes, there is.

Pronunciation

In French, *qu* is pronounced simply as a K sound. Do not pronounce a W after the K as in the English word “quick.”

*quatre*

*Oui*, the word for yes, is pronounced “wee.”

Note that *ss* is pronounced like an S, while an *s* between vowels is pronounced like a Z: *assise*.
New Vocabulary

Grammar: Adjectives

In French, adjectives usually come after the noun they describe.

Des bananes jaunes
Some yellow bananas

Some adjectives come before the noun they describe. These adjectives refer to beauty, age, number, goodness, or size (BANGS).

Une vieille maison
An old house
Deux assiettes
Two plates

Grammar: Direct Objects

A direct object is a person or thing that receives the action of a verb. The direct object tells who or what is being acted upon. A direct object can be either a noun or a pronoun.

Le cheval mange une carotte.
The horse is eating a carrot.

The answer to the question “What is the horse eating?” is “a carrot,” so “a carrot” is the direct object.

Grammar: Partitive Articles

We classify nouns either as countable nouns or as nouns that can’t be counted, that is, non-count nouns. Water, for example, cannot be counted; it is a non-count noun.

In addition to definite and indefinite articles, French has partitive articles which are frequently used in conjunction with verbs for eating and drinking. Partitive articles express the idea of “some” and are used with non-count nouns like water.

Les aliments, manger, boire; objets directs
Food, Eating, Drinking; Direct Objects

Continued on the next page →
There are four partitive articles.

- **du** introduces a masculine singular noun
- **de la** introduces a feminine singular noun
- **de l'** introduces a masc. or fem. singular noun that starts with a vowel sound
- **de or d'** introduces any of the above after a negative verb

In English, “some” is frequently understood even though it does not actually appear in the sentence. In French, however, a partitive article must be used.

- La fille boit **du** lait. The girl is drinking (some) milk.

**Des** is also used with food, but it is an indefinite article and can only be used with nouns that can be counted.

- Il mange **des** carottes. He eats (some) carrots. (2 or 3 out the bag)

**Pronunciation: Elision**

When a word that ends in **e** or **a** is followed by a word that begins with a vowel sound, the **e** or **a** is frequently dropped and the two words are joined by an apostrophe. This is known as elision. Words that elide with the next word when it begins with a vowel sound include **le, la, de, ce, and que**.

- L'oiseau vole. The bird flies.
- Est-ce **qu'il** court? Is he running?
- Elle ne mange pas **d'**orange. She isn’t eating an orange.
- C'est une fille. It's a girl.
Vêtements; affirmation et négation des verbes; objets directs
Clothing; Affirmation and Negation of Verbs; Direct Objects

New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le bain</td>
<td>foncé</td>
<td>le maillot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le blue-jean</td>
<td>gris</td>
<td>le manteau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la chaussette</td>
<td>l'imperméable</td>
<td>marron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la chaussure</td>
<td>la jupe</td>
<td>le pantalon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la chemise</td>
<td>les lunettes</td>
<td>porte</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Usage: *marron and orange*

*Marron* means “a chestnut” and is also used to describe the color chestnut. *Orange* means “an orange” and is also used to describe the color orange. When used as adjectives of color, both words are *invariable*, which means that they do not change form to agree in number and gender with the noun they describe. In general, the names of colors that come from things that are that color are invariable because they are actually nouns used as adjectives.

Usage: *porter*

The verb *porter* means “to wear” when it is used with clothing. It also has the general meaning “to carry.”

La femme *porte* une chemise bleue. The woman *is wearing* a blue shirt.
L’homme *porte* un panier. The man *is carrying* a basket.

Grammar: Negation

In French, to answer “no” to a yes/no question, put *non* at the beginning of the sentence, then put *ne* in front of the verb and *pas* after it.

Est-ce que le garçon saute? Does the boy jump?
Non, il *ne* saute *pas*. No, he does not jump.

If the verb after *ne* begins with a vowel sound, they elide. The *e* of *ne* is dropped and an apostrophe takes its place. As with the pronoun “je,” no space is left between the apostrophe and the verb.

Non, il *n’est pas* jaune. No, it is not yellow.

Continued on the next page →
Grammar: Indefinite and Partitive Articles After a Negative

When a verb is negative, it is followed by de or d’ instead of an indefinite article or partitive article.

La femme porte des lunettes. La femme ne porte pas de lunettes.
L’homme porte un chapeau. L’homme ne porte pas de chapeau.
La fille boit du lait. La fille ne boit pas de lait.

Note that de and d’ are not used to replace a definite article (le or la) in a negative sentence.

La femme ne porte pas le chapeau. The woman is not wearing the hat.

Pronunciation

The letter combination on when it is not followed by a written vowel produces a nasal vowel sound. To pronounce this vowel sound, keep your lips tightly rounded and be careful not to pronounce an n: marron, pantalon, foncées.
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>la couleur</th>
<th>le poney</th>
<th>qui</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>où</td>
<td>quel, -le</td>
<td>voici</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar: Plurals

A number of words that end in *eau* form the plural by adding *x*.

- un *chapeau*  →  a hat
- des *chapeaux*  →  hats

Grammar: Interrogative Pronouns

**Subjects**

*Qui* and *que* are interrogative pronouns.

An interrogative pronoun may act as a subject or a direct object in a question. There are three different interrogative pronouns that act as subjects, depending on whether you are saying “who” or “what.” Note which forms mean “who” and which mean “what” as well as the word order in the following examples.

- **Qui** *lit*?  →  Who is reading?
- **Qui est-ce qui** *lit*?  →  Who is reading?
- **Qu’est-ce qui** *vole*?  →  What is flying?

Note that *qui* and *qui est-ce qui* are interchangeable.

**Direct Objects**

When interrogative pronouns are used as direct objects they can refer to people or to things.

To identify people, use the following formula.

- *qui* est-ce que + subject + verb
- **Qui est-ce que** le cheval porte?  →  Whom is the horse carrying?
  (literally, “Whom the horse is carrying?”)
When interrogative pronouns are used to identify things, use one of the following two formulas.

que + verb + subject

Que fait le garçon?  What is the boy doing?
(literally, “What is doing the boy?”)

qu’est-ce que + subject + verb

Qu’est-ce que le garçon fait?  What is the boy doing?
(literally, “What the boy is doing?”)

Note that if you use que, the verb must come before the subject.

Grammar: Interrogative Adjectives

The French interrogative adjectives are quel, quelle, quels, and quelles. Use quel plus a noun to ask the question “which?” Because quel is an adjective, it must agree in number and gender with the noun it describes.

Quel cheval saute?  Which horse jumps?
Quelle femme court?  Which woman is running?
Quels garçons mangent du pain?  Which boys are eating bread?
Quelles filles volent?  Which girls are flying?

Note that in the feminine form you must double the l before adding e.

The preceding examples used quel + a noun as the subject of the sentence. Quel + a noun may also function as a direct object. When this happens, the order of the subject and the verb must be inverted.

Quel pain mange le garçon?  Which bread is the boy eating?

Grammar: Interrogative Adverbs

There are two forms of the interrogative adverb for “where.”

Où est le garçon?  Where is the boy?
Où est-ce que le garçon est?  Where is the boy?

Note that if you use où, the verb must come before the subject.

Pronunciation

Some words adopted from English have taken on French pronunciation, such as poney (poh-nay). Words that have been adopted recently sound more like English, such as blue-jeans, which is pronounced like the English but with more tension.
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>attrape</th>
<th>donne</th>
<th>nagent</th>
<th>rit (rire)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>au</td>
<td>écrit (écrire)</td>
<td>parle</td>
<td>le sabot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>couché</td>
<td>jette (jeter)</td>
<td>quelque chose</td>
<td>sourit (sourire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le coup de pied</td>
<td>montre</td>
<td>le râteau (-x)</td>
<td>le téléphone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Usage: *est assis*

In different cultures, the same thing or action is sometimes perceived differently, and this is reflected in the language. In English, we say “The boy *is sitting.*” We use the present progressive tense. However, the French view this act as an accomplished state and use *est* (is) and a past participle to express this.

Le garçon *est assis.* The boy is sitting. (literally, “The boy is seated.”)

In this case, *assis* is an adjective derived from the past participle of a verb. As an adjective, it must agree in number and gender with the noun.

La femme *est assise par terre.* The woman is sitting on the ground.

When the French verb *s’asseoir* (to sit) is used in the present tense, it has yet a different meaning.

La fille *s’assied.* The girl *sits down.*

Grammar: More About the Present Indicative

Remember that the final *e*, *d*, or *t* of a third person singular verb is not pronounced and that the final *ent* of a third person plural verb is not pronounced. The result is that these verb forms sound identical in some verbs – *il marche* is pronounced the same as *ils marchent*.

To distinguish between verb forms, pay close attention to context (that is, the other words in the sentence). Because the *s* in plural nouns is also not pronounced, the definite or indefinite article is a good indicator of number.

La fille court. Les filles courent.
Un homme danse. Des hommes dansent.
New Vocabulary

l'adulte (m or f)  l'animal (m) (-aux)  la personne

Vocabulary

*Fille* means “girl” in general. A girl who is not yet an adolescent is called a *petite fille* (little girl), while *jeune fille* (young lady) refers to a teenage girl. *Fille* also means “daughter.”

*Garçon* means “boy” in general. A boy who is not yet an adolescent is called a *petit garçon* (little boy), while a teenage boy is a *jeune homme* (young man). *Garçon* also means “waiter.”

Grammar: The Relative Pronoun *qui*

A *relative pronoun* connects a noun with a phrase that gives more information about the noun. We have seen the word *qui* used as an interrogative pronoun. As with the English word “who,” *qui* is also a relative pronoun.

- une *personne qui n'est* pas un homme  a person who is not a man
- un *animal qui n'est* pas un chat  an animal that is not a cat

Note that *qui* means both “who” and “that.”
Grand et petit; noms, adjectifs descriptifs
Big and Little; Nouns, Descriptive Adjectives

New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>la boîte</th>
<th>gros</th>
<th>la roue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le camion</td>
<td>l’outil (m)</td>
<td>la tente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le canapé</td>
<td>le parapluie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grand</td>
<td>le poste de télévision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar: Placement of Adjectives

Remember that most adjectives follow the noun they describe, but that adjectives describing beauty, age, number, goodness, or size (the BANGS adjectives) normally come before the noun. It is possible to have a BANGS adjective precede the noun and another adjective follow it.

une grande roue noire       a big black wheel

Pronunciation: Enchaînement

In French, there is a tendency to link words together. We have already seen this with liaison, in which a final silent consonant is pronounced if the next word begins with a vowel, as in “un petit animal.”

In addition to liaison, there is enchaînement. This is the tendency to pronounce the final consonant sound of a word as the first letter of the next word if that next word begins with a vowel. Notice how, in this lesson, the K sound at the end of avec is pronounced at the beginning of un.

un homme avec un grand poisson

Pronunciation: télévision

The letter s in télévision is pronounced as a Z. It does not have the zh sound found in the English “television.”
New Vocabulary

- **aux**
- **le carré**
- **plus**
- **le rectangle**
- **le triangle**

Grammar: Comparison

In English, we add the suffixes *er* or *est* to an adjective to indicate that an object, a person, or an animal is more or most: *bigger*, *biggest*. In contrast, French uses a separate word, *plus*, before the adjective.

- *Le cercle rouge est plus grand que le cercle bleu.*
  - The red circle is bigger than the blue circle.
  - (literally, “The red circle is more big than the blue circle.”)

- *Le plus grand cercle est rouge.*
  - The biggest circle is red.
  - (literally, “The most big circle is red.”)

Note that *moins* means “less” and is used for comparisons in the same way as the word *plus*.

- *Le carré rouge est moins grand que le cercle rouge.*
  - The red square is smaller than the red circle.
  - (literally, “The red square is less big than the red circle.”)

- *Le carré rouge est le moins grand.*
  - The red square is the smallest.
  - (literally, “The red square is the least big.”)

Pronunciation

The letter combination *an* when it is not followed by a written vowel produces a nasal vowel sound similar to the English word “on” if the *n* is not pronounced. To pronounce the French sound keep your mouth wider open: *dans, rectangle, triangle.*
New Vocabulary

attention  gauche  la main  rond

carré  le gobelet  le micro  son (m), sa (f), (ses)

le cerf  la guitare  montrent  le stationnement

le chanteur  l'horloge (f)  ni  le stylo

la chanteuse  l'interdiction (f)  ou  tient (tenir)

le demi-tour  interdit  le panneau  tourner

droit, droite  joue  le papier  la vache

faire  le kangourou  rectangulaire

Vocabulary: attention, carré

Attention means “caution.”

Carré is both a noun and an adjective; it can refer either to a square – un carré – or to a square object – une table carrée. However, the adjective that corresponds to cercle is a different word: rond.

Usage: Expressions

Interdiction de means literally “ban against.” Thus, “interdiction de tourner à droite” is the equivalent of “no right turn” in English.

Montrer quelque chose du doigt (to point) means literally “to show something with your finger.”

Grammar: Contractions

When the preposition de (of) is followed by the definite article le (the), they contract to make one word: du (of the). De + les become des.

Le micro est dans la main droite du chanteur.
The microphone is in the singer’s right hand. (literally, “in the right hand of the singer”)

La balle des enfants est rouge.
The children’s ball is red. (literally, “the ball of the children”)

Similarly, when à (to/at) is followed by le or les, they contract to make one word, au or aux (to the/at the).
Grammar: Possession with *de*

In English, we show possession by adding 's to the end of a noun and put the noun possessed after it. This construction does not exist in French. Instead, put the noun possessed first and link it to the possessor with the preposition *de*.

la main droite de la femme  the woman's right hand
(literally, “the right hand of the woman”)

Notice that you must introduce each noun – the thing possessed and the possessor – with a definite article.

Pronunciation

When it is followed by i and another vowel, t produces an S sound: *interdiction*. Avoid saying “shun” as in English.

Note that *cerf* is an exception to the careful rule; the final f is not pronounced.
New Vocabulary
le casque      la tête

Grammar: More about Negation of Verbs

We have seen that the indefinite articles un, une, and des usually become de when the preceding verb of the sentence is in the negative. There are two exceptions to this rule: when you are trying to say that something is not one thing or one way but is instead another thing or way; and when the verb of the sentence is a form of être (to be).

General rule:
Cette femme ne porte pas de chapeau noir.
This woman is not wearing a black hat.

But:
Cette femme ne porte pas un chapeau noir. Elle porte un chapeau rouge.
This woman is not wearing a black hat. Instead, she is wearing a red hat.

Un cheval n’est pas une personne.
A horse is not a person.

Pronunciation
The French letter u does not have an exact equivalent in English. To make this sound, say “ee” with tensely rounded lips. Your tongue should remain against your lower front teeth: mur, clôture, une.
New Vocabulary

| la chaise | debout | mais | ont (avoir) | le tracteur |
| la clôture | devant | le mur | par terre |

Usage: faire du, par terre

Faire du (or faire de la) means to do or play a sport.

Le garçon fait du vélo. The boy is riding a bike.

faire du cheval
to ride a horse
faire du patin à roulettes
to roller-skate
faire du ski
to ski

Par terre is an expression which means “on the ground” or “on the floor.”

Le garçon est assis par terre. The boy is sitting on the ground.

Grammar: Compound Subjects

In French, as in English, a verb can have more than one subject. The verb must be plural because the subject is plural.

La femme marche. The woman is walking.

L’homme et la femme marchent. The man and woman are walking.

If the compound subject is composed of both masculine and feminine elements, any adjectives used to describe it must be in the masculine plural form.

La fille est assise par terre. The girl is sitting on the ground.

Le garçon et la fille sont assis par terre. The boy and girl are sitting on the ground.
New Vocabulary

à côté de  
a l’âne (m)  
l’arbre (m)  
au-dessus
autour
le bâton 
le bol
le bonbon

derrière
entre
l’étagère (f)
le fauteuil
moyen
le plongeur
le sol
la tasse

Grammar: Prepositions

De means “of” or “from.”

Le pain est un type d’aliment. Bread is a type of food.
La lettre est de la fille. The letter is from the girl.

De is also found in a number of compound prepositions.

Le garçon est à côté de la voiture. The boy is next to the car.
Les fauteuils sont autour de la table. The chairs are around the table.
L’avion est au-dessus du sol. The airplane is above ground.

Remember that when de is followed by le or les they contract to form du or des.

Devant means “in front of,” derrière means “behind” and entre means “between.”

Cet homme est devant une voiture. This man is in front of a car.
Ce garçon est derrière l’arbre. This boy is behind the tree.
Le chien est entre deux personnes. The dog is between two people.
Tête, visage, mains et pieds; adjectifs possessifs
Head, Face, Hands, and Feet; Possessive Adjectives

New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>la bouche</td>
<td>the mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le bras</td>
<td>the arm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le genou</td>
<td>the elbow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le pied</td>
<td>the foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le menton</td>
<td>the chin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le nez</td>
<td>the nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le oreille</td>
<td>the ear (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>touche</td>
<td>the elbow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le visage</td>
<td>the face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le main gauche</td>
<td>his left hand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary

Pieds (feet) means a person’s feet; le pied is “the foot.” Pattes (legs or paws) means an animal’s feet. Bras, which is masculine, means both “arm” and “arms.”

Grammar: Possessive Adjectives

Sa is a possessive adjective. It means “his” or “her.”

L’homme a une guitare dans sa main gauche. The man has a guitar in his left hand.

Notice that we say “his” left hand in English, but in French sa is feminine. This is because adjectives must agree in number and gender with the noun they describe. Sa describes main, which is feminine, not homme, which is masculine. Possessive adjectives agree in number and gender with the thing possessed. Son is the masculine singular form of sa. Ses is the plural form for both.

La fille porte son parapluie. The girl is carrying her umbrella.
Le garçon mange sa pomme. The boy eats his apple.
Grammar: Irregular Verbs

Remember that most verbs in the present tense are conjugated according to regular patterns that depend on the infinitive group to which the verb belongs.

There are also many irregular verbs. Three of the most common irregular verbs are avoir, être, and aller.

**avoir** (to have)

- j'ai nous avons
- tu as vous avez
- il/elle a ils/elles ont

**être** (to be)

- je suis nous sommes
- tu es vous êtes
- il/elle est ils/elles sont

**aller** (to go)

- je vais nous allons
- tu vas vous allez
- il/elle va ils/elles vont

You will need to learn these verbs well. They are used often as helping verbs. Study each verb carefully.

Grammar: Verb Tenses

As in English, French has different tenses that indicate whether something occurred in the present, past, or future.

**Present Indicative Tense**

We have seen that the French present indicative tense can be used like the present progressive tense in English to talk about an action in progress.

La femme court. The woman is running.

The present indicative tense also refers to actions that happen habitually.

Elle court tous les jours. She runs every day.
**Passé Composé**

The passé composé (compound past) is used to talk about events that took place at an earlier point in time. Like the present tense in French, the passé composé corresponds to two English tenses: the present perfect and the simple past tense.

Le cheval a sauté. (p. c.)  
The horse has jumped. (present perfect)  
The horse jumped. (simple past)

The passé composé consists of two parts: a helping verb, followed by a past participle. For the helping verb, use a form of avoir or a form of être.

To form the past participle, drop the ending of the infinitive and add é, u, or i, depending on the verb.

La femme a mangé du pain. (p. c.)  
The woman has eaten bread. (present perfect)  
The woman ate bread. (simple past)

Note: a and ont are not interchangeable with est and sont. Only a handful of verbs use est and sont as helping verbs. You should learn whether a verb takes être as a helping verb when you learn the verb.

**Futur Proche**

We can also talk about things that have not yet occurred by using the futur proche (near future). The futur proche is expressed by using a form of the irregular verb aller (to go) followed by an infinitive.

La fille va couper le papier.  
The girl is going to cut the paper.

Les garçons ne vont pas sauter.  
The boys are not going to jump.

**Grammar: Negation of the Passé Composé and Futur Proche**

Place ne pas around the helping verb to negate it in the passé composé and the futur proche tenses.

Le garçon n'est pas tombé.  
The boy has not fallen.

or The boy did not fall.

L'homme ne va pas manger.  
The man is not going to eat.
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>âgé</td>
<td>le clown</td>
<td>frisé</td>
<td>mince</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blond</td>
<td>le/la coureur, -euse</td>
<td>le groupe</td>
<td>plat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chauve</td>
<td>le/la danseur, -euse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary: cheveux

Cheveux (hair) is a plural noun; adjectives that modify it must also be plural and masculine.

Elle a les cheveux longs. She has long hair.

Usage: grand, petit, gros, mince

In general, grand means “big,” but when it is used to describe a person it means “tall.” Likewise, petit means “small,” but when describing a person it means “short.”

Le clown à gauche est grand. The clown on the left is tall.
Le clown à droite est petit. The clown on the right is short.

In general, gros means “big,” but when it is used to describe a person it means “fat.” Note that when you form the feminine of gros, you double the s before adding e: grosse. Mince means “thin” or “slender.”

Cette femme est grosse. That woman is fat.
Ce jeune homme est mince. That young man is thin.

Grammar: Definite Articles

Definite articles are used to designate a specific object, idea or person.

Le fromage est sur la table. The cheese is on the table.

In contrast to English, French usually uses the definite article with parts of the body after the verb avoir.

Cette fille a les cheveux blonds. This girl has blond hair.
(literally, “This girl has the hair blond.”)
Grammar: Demonstrative Adjectives

Adjectives that point out or single out a noun are called *demonstrative adjectives*. In English, we have four demonstrative adjectives: *this*, *these*, *that*, and *those*. In French, there is *ce*, which means both “this” and “that,” and *ces*, which means both “these” and “those.” *Ce* has a feminine form, *cette*, that is used to describe a feminine noun. It also has a special masculine form, *cet*, for masculine nouns that begin with a vowel sound.

- **Ce** jeune homme a les cheveux courts.  
  Paradise young man has short hair. 
- **Cette** jeune fille a les cheveux frisés.  
  This young lady has curly hair. 
- **Ces** clowns sont grands.  
  These clowns are tall. 
- **Cet** homme est petit.  
  This man is short.

Pronunciation

*Clown* is pronounced “cloon” with the same vowel sound as the word *ou*. 
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a-t-il (avoir)</th>
<th>beaucoup</th>
<th>même</th>
<th>la pièce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>autant</td>
<td>la bille</td>
<td>moins</td>
<td>plusieurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’autocar (m)</td>
<td>combien</td>
<td>le nombre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Usage: Inversion

When you use *est-ce que* to form a question, you do not invert the order of the verb and subject.

   *Est-ce qu’il y a beaucoup de billes?*    Are there a lot of marbles?

When you are asking a yes/no question without using *est-ce que*, you do need to invert the order of the subject and verb.

When an inverted verb ends in a written vowel, add a *t* to separate the vowel sounds.

   Ill mange la pomme.            He is eating an apple.
   Mange-t-il la pomme?           Is he eating an apple?

When you invert the expression *il y a*, you must add the letter *t* between *a* and *il* to prevent three vowel sounds from occurring together.

   Il y a beaucoup de billes.      There are a lot of marbles.
   Y a-t-il beaucoup de billes?    Are there a lot of marbles?

When the verb ends in a written consonant, you do not need to add anything.

   Ils mangent les pommes.        They are eating the apples.
   Mangent-ils les pommes?        Are they eating the apples?

Grammar: Expressions of Quantity

In French, many expressions of quantity end in *de*, such as *beaucoup de* (a lot of) and *pas de* (no).

   Il y a beaucoup de bananes mais pas de pommes.
   There are a lot of bananas but no apples.

A few expressions of quantity do not end in *de*, such as *plusieurs* (several) and *quelques* (some).

   Il y a plusieurs tomates.        There are several tomatoes.
   Il y a quelques bananes.        There are some bananas.
To ask “how many” or “how much,” use **combien de** followed by a noun.

- *Combien d’hommes y a-t-il?* How many men are there?
- *Combien de viande y a-t-il?* How much meat is there?

Note that definite articles are not used after expressions of quantity.

**Usage: Comparisons with Quantities**

In French, it is possible to compare quantities using the expressions **plus de + a noun + que** (more ... than); **autant de + a noun + que** (as much ... as); and **moins de + a noun + que** (less ... than).

- *Il y a plus de personnes que de chevaux.* There are more people than horses.
- *Il y a autant de parapluies que de personnes.* There are as many umbrellas as people.
- *Il y a moins de chevaux que de personnes.* There are fewer horses than people.

Note that the *s* in **plus de** is pronounced.

With nouns that are countable it is also possible to use the expression **le même nombre de + noun + que** to mean “the same number as.”

- *Il y a le même nombre d’hommes que de femmes.* There are the same number of men as women.

In the preceding examples, note that **que** is equivalent to “than” or “as,” and that the noun which follows **que** is also introduced by **de**. If a noun or pronoun designating a person follows, **de** is not used.

- *Paul a autant de pommes que de bananes.* Paul has as many apples as bananas.
- *Paul a autant de bananes que Maurice.* Paul has as many bananas as Maurice.

**Pronunciation**

The letters **ill** are usually pronounced “ee-yuh” in French: **bille**. The most notable exception to this rule is the word **ville** (city), which is pronounced “veel.” Similarly, the combination **il** when it comes after a vowel is pronounced “yuh”: **fauteuil**. This Y sound is called the **yod**.
Autres vêtements
More Clothing

New Vocabulary

le chandail  rien  la veste
met (mettre)  le short

Vocabulary: Clothing

In contrast to the English words “pants” and “shorts,” un pantalon and un short are singular. Therefore, any adjectives describing pantalon and short are also masculine singular.

Il met un short vert.  He is putting on green shorts.
Elle met un pantalon noir.  He is putting on black pants.

Met comes from the verb mettre, which means “to put.” When mettre is used with clothing it means “to put on.”

Grammar: Contractions

When à is followed by le or les, they form the contraction au or aux. Frequently, au, aux, à la, and à l’ are used where we would use “with” in English.

l’homme aux lunettes  the man with glasses
la femme au chapeau  the woman with the hat

Grammar: Placement of Adjectives

Adjectives usually follow the noun they describe unless they are BANGS adjectives. When there are two adjectives that follow the noun, they are joined by et (and). If you have a combination of BANGS adjectives and regular adjectives, the BANGS adjective precedes the noun and the regular adjective follows it.

Elle porte un chandail rouge et blanc  She is wearing a red and white sweater.
Elle porte une vieille chemise blanche  She is wearing an old white shirt.

Pronunciation

Remember that the letters ill are usually pronounced “ee-yuh.” When the letter combination il follows the vowel a, it is pronounced “I-yuh”: chandail.

The final t of met is often pronounced when it is followed by the vowel sound in the indefinite articles un or une: elle met une robe. In this case, however, the liaison is optional, and native speakers of French will often leave it out.

Note that the o in robe is very short and resembles the vowel in the English word “rub.”
Dedans, dehors; prépositions
Inside, Outside; Prepositions

New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>au-dessous</th>
<th>la corde</th>
<th>dehors</th>
<th>jouent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le bâtiment</td>
<td>dedans</td>
<td>l’église</td>
<td>(f)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Usage: dedans, dehors, être debout, au-dessous de

**Dedans** means “inside” and **dehors** means “outside.” When used with the definite article **le**, they mean “the interior” and “the exterior.”

- Les enfants jouent **dehors**. The children play **outside**.
- Le **dedans** de la maison est petit. The **interior** of the house is small.

**Être debout** literally means “to be on end.” It is the equivalent of the English expression “to be standing (up).”

- Ces enfants sont **debout** sur la table. These children are **standing** on the table.

**Au-dessous de** means “underneath.”

- Les garçons sont **au-dessous de** la table. The boys are **underneath** the table.
New Vocabulary

la casquette  l’herbe (f)
le fond  lequel

Usage: Asking the Color of Something

To ask the question “What color is...?” say **de quelle couleur est**, which means literally “of what color is?”

- De quelle couleur est l’œuf?  **What color is the egg?**
- De quelle couleur sont les fleurs?  **What color are the flowers?**

Note that if you are asking the color of a plural noun, you must use the third person plural: **sont**.

Grammar: The Interrogative Pronoun **lequel**

The interrogative pronoun **lequel** means “which one?” It is used when a thing or person has already been referred to. It must agree in number and gender with the noun it replaces. **Lequel** has four forms.

- masculine singular  Le cheval blanc mange. **Lequel** mange?
The white horse is eating. **Which one** is eating?
- feminine singular  La maison blanche est vieille. **Laquelle** est vieille?
The white house is old. **Which one** is old?
- masculine plural  Les chats noirs courent. **Lesquels** courent?
The black cats are running. **Which ones** are running?
- feminine plural  Les fleurs roses sont sur la table. **Lesquelles** sont sur la table?
The pink flowers are on the table. **Which ones** are on the table?

Pronunciation

The letters œu make the same two sounds as eu. **Œuf** (egg) is pronounced like **heure**. **Œufs** (eggs) is pronounced like **deux**.
Animaux; vrai, pas vrai
Animals; Real, Not Real

New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>à bascule</th>
<th>le dragon</th>
<th>l’ours (m)</th>
<th>le troupeau (-x)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le chameau (-x)</td>
<td>la girafe</td>
<td>la patte</td>
<td>vrai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la chèvre</td>
<td>grimpe</td>
<td>se</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le cochon</td>
<td>le lion</td>
<td>le tigre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le cygne</td>
<td>le mouton</td>
<td>la tortue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Usage: vrai

The adjective *vrai* in general means “true,” It is also used to mean “real.”

Un cheval à bascule n’est pas un *vrai* cheval. A rocking horse is not a real horse.

Usage: des

The indefinite article *des* is shortened to *de* when an adjective precedes the noun.

Ce sont des vaches. Those are cows.

Ce sont *de* vraies vaches. Those are real cows.

Pronunciation

*Gn* is pronounced like an N + Y sound, as in canyon: *cygne*.

The final *s* in *ours* is pronounced.

*In, im, yn, ym, ain, aim, and en* when it is part of *ien* all produce the same nasal vowel sound. To make this sound, try pronouncing the English word “panic” with your lips spread: *mince, grimpe, pain, faim, combien.*
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>assez</td>
<td>faim</td>
<td>joli</td>
<td>riche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chaud</td>
<td>fatigué</td>
<td>laid</td>
<td>sain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>content</td>
<td>fort</td>
<td>lui</td>
<td>soif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eux</td>
<td>froid</td>
<td>malade</td>
<td>triste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faible</td>
<td>les gens (m or f)</td>
<td></td>
<td>quelqu’un</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Usage: *être* + a Descriptive Adjective

To discuss human conditions, use *être* followed by an adjective such as *fatigué*, *malade*, *sain*, *joli*, *laid*, *fort*, *faible*, *content*, *triste*, or *riche*.

Elle n’est pas *jolie*. Elle est *laide*.  
She is not *pretty*. She is *ugly*.

Ces filles ne sont pas *saines*. Elles sont *malades*.  
These girls are not *healthy*. They are *sick*.

L’homme est *fort*. Il n’est pas *faible*.  
The man is *strong*. He is not *weak*.

Remember that an adjective that ends in unaccented *e* in the masculine singular does not add *e* to make the feminine. However, if the adjective ends in an accented *é*, an *e* is added to form the feminine.

Elle n’est pas *faible*; elle est *fatiguée*.  
She is not *weak*; she is *tired*.

Usage: *avoir* + a Noun

In French, you can also talk about a state of being by using the verb *avoir* (to have) followed by certain nouns and adverbs, such as *chaud*, *froid*, *faim*, and *soif*. They do not change to agree in number and gender with the subject.

Elle a *chaud*. Elle n’a pas *froid*.  
She is *hot*. She is not *cold*.  
(literally, “She has hot. She does not have cold.”)

Elle a *soif*. Elle n’a pas *faim*.  
She is *thirsty*. She is not *hungry*.  
(literally, “She has thirst. She does not have hunger.”)

Continued on the next page →
Usage: Stressed Pronouns

The personal pronouns il, elle, ils, and elles have corresponding stressed forms, lui, elle, eux, and elles, that are used in special circumstances.

For emphasis:

Lui, il n’est pas riche. Him, he is not rich.

When there is no verb:


After c’est:

C’est lui qui saute à la corde. It is he who jumps rope.

Pronunciation

Note that when you add e to sain, laid, fort, and content, the preceding consonant is no longer silent: saine, laide, forte, and contente. The pronunciation of the final consonant sometimes changes the preceding vowel sound. For example, the nasal sound in sain changes to a short E sound (fed) in saine. In general, when the letter combination ai is followed by a consonant sound in the same syllable, it is pronounced like the e in “fed.”
New Vocabulary

l’argent (m)  le fils (les fils)  le médecin
la banque  le garçon de café  le/garde-maman
le/la boulanger, -ère  le/la boulangerie
le/la cuisinier, -ère  le/la cuisinier
l’écroûte (f)  le/la cuisinier
le/la dentiste  le/la dentiste
la dent  l’ingénieur
l’école (f)  l’enseignement
l’élève (m or f)  l’élève
enseigne  l’enseignement
fier  être fier

Usage: Professions

Many professions or métiers (trades) have a feminine counterpart. Sometimes this simply involves using a feminine article.

un secrétaire  a male secretary
une secrétaire  a female secretary

In other cases, there is a feminine form.

un infirmier  a male nurse
une infirmière  a female nurse

A few professions do not have a feminine form, such as médecin, which is always un médecin whether it refers to a man or woman doctor. Gendarme (policeman) and menuisier (carpenter) are also always masculine in form.

Usage: More Expressions Using avoir + a Noun

There are other expressions that are similar to avoir chaud.

avoir honte  to be ashamed
avoir mal  to hurt (literally, “to have pain”)
avoir peur  to be afraid

Note that “to hurt someone” is faire mal à quelqu’un.
Grammar: Irregular Feminine Forms

Nouns and adjectives that end in *ier* add an accent grave (') to the second to last *e* when they add *e* to make the feminine form.

- infirmier → infirmière
- fier → fière

To make *mécanicien* feminine, you must double the *n* before adding *e*.

- mécanicien → mécanicienne

Grammar: Reflexive Verbs

A reflexive verb is a verb whose action is reflected back onto the verb’s subject. You can identify a reflexive verb by the presence of a reflexive pronoun such as *se* (see below).

English has a few reflexive verbs, such as “to hurt oneself” or “to cut oneself.” French uses a reflexive verb in many cases where English does not.

- Le dentiste *s’occupe* des dents. The dentist *takes care* of teeth.
  (literally, “The dentist occupies himself with teeth.”)

- Le cheval *se tient* sur trois pattes. The horse *is standing* on three feet.
  (literally, “The horse holds himself on three feet.”)

Many English expressions that use “to get” use reflexive verbs in French.

- se lever to get up
- se marier to get married

Grammar: Reflexive Pronouns

There are six reflexive pronouns that correspond in person and number to the personal subject pronouns.

- je me nous nous
- tu te vous vous
- il/elle se ils/elles se

Note that the third person singular and plural reflexive pronouns are the same, and that the first and second person plural pronouns are the same as the subject pronouns.
New Vocabulary

couvrant (couvrir)  l’image (f)  le lapin  la statue
la gueule  la jambe  souriant

Vocabulary

The singular of les genoux (the knees) is le genou (the knee).

Remember that different words are used in French for a person’s foot and mouth than for an animal’s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>la patte (an animal’s foot or leg)</td>
<td>le pied (a person’s foot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la gueule (an animal’s mouth)</td>
<td>la bouche (a person’s mouth)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The preposition à, which usually means “to” or “at,” can sometimes mean “on.”

l’homme à cheval — the man on horseback

Pronunciation

Note that the gt in doigt (finger) is silent.
New Vocabulary

- l’après-midi (m or f)  le matin  peu
- demi  la nuit  presque
- juste  onze  le quart

Usage: Telling Time

Remember that French uses **il est** to tell time.

**Il est cinq heures.** It is five o’clock.

To say half past the hour, use **et demie**.

**Il est cinq heures et demie.** It is five-thirty.
(literally, “It is five hours and a half.”)

To say quarter past, use **et quart**.

**Il est six heures et quart.** It is quarter past six.
(literally, “It is six hours and a quarter.”)

To say quarter to, use **moins le quart**.

**Il est sept heures moins le quart.** It is quarter to seven.
(literally, “It is seven less the quarter.”)

Use **du matin** (in the morning) for morning hours, **de l’après-midi** (in the afternoon) for the afternoon, or **du soir** (in the evening) for evening hours.

**Il est une heure du matin.** It is one o’clock in the morning.  1:00 A.M.
**Il est dix heures du soir.** It is ten o’clock at night.  10:00 P.M.
**Il est deux heures de l’après-midi.** It is two o’clock in the afternoon.  2:00 P.M.

**Presque** means “almost.” **Un peu plus que** means “a little after.”

**Il est presque trois heures.** It is almost three o’clock.
**Il est un peu plus que deux heures.** It is a little after two.

To ask what time it is, use **Quelle heure est-il?**
New Vocabulary

l’endroit (m)  le père  peuvent (pouvoir)  tombent
l’envers (m)  peut-être  sourire  le violon

Grammar: Questions and Answers

We have seen that one way of answering a yes/no question is to begin the answer with oui or non and then repeat the question, either in the affirmative or negative form.

Est-ce qu’il sourit? Oui, il sourit. Is he smiling? Yes, he’s smiling.
Est-ce qu’il sourit? Non, il ne sourit pas. Is he smiling? No, he is not smiling.

You may also answer the question simply with oui or non.

Est-ce qu’il joue du violon? Oui. Is he playing the violin? Yes.
Est-ce qu’il joue du violon? Non. Is he playing the violin? No.

You may also answer non and give the correct information.

Est-ce que les enfants sautent? Non, ils sont assis. Are the children jumping? No, they are sitting.

If you wish to say yes to a question that is asked in the negative, use si instead of oui.

Est-ce qu’il ne joue pas? Si, il joue. Is he not playing? Yes (on the contrary), he is playing.

Pronunciation

Note that the l in fils (son) is not pronounced but, contrary to the general rule, the final s is pronounced: “feess.”

The double consonant ss is pronounced like an S sound: poisson.

Grammar: faire

The verb faire is irregular in the present indicative.

faire (to do or to make)

je fais  nous faisons
tu fais  vous faites
il/elle fait  ils/elles font

Faire is used in a number of idiomatic expressions.

faire du vélo  to bike
faire du cheval  to ride horseback
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ouvert</td>
<td>ouvrir</td>
<td>fermé</td>
<td>fermer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ensemble</td>
<td>l’orteil</td>
<td>mêlé</td>
<td>plié</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>écarté</td>
<td>écarter</td>
<td>tendu</td>
<td>tendre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plié</td>
<td>plier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Usage: Past Participles as Adjectives

We have seen past participles used in the passé composé. (See Unit 2, Lesson 10 for the formation of past participles.) They correspond to the *ed* form of regular verbs in English: “closed,” “folded,” etc.

In addition, past participles can be used as adjectives. Here is a list of some past participles in this lesson and the verbs they come from.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Participle Used as an Adjective</th>
<th>Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ouvert (open)</td>
<td>ouvrir (to open)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fermé (closed)</td>
<td>fermer (to close)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>écarté (apart)</td>
<td>écarter (to separate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tendu (straight)</td>
<td>tendre (to stretch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plié (bent or folded)</td>
<td>plier (to bend or to fold)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ensemble** (together) is not the past participle of a verb. It is an adverb, and therefore is invariable.

Grammar: *ouvrir*

*Ouvrir* is an irregular verb. Its past participle, *ouvert*, is also irregular.

*Ouvrir* (to open)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>j’ouvre</td>
<td>nous <em>ouvrons</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu ouvres</td>
<td>vous <em>ouvrez</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il/elle ouvre</td>
<td>ils/elles <em>ouvrent</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Les nombres cardinaux de 1 à 100
Cardinal Numbers from 1 to 100

New Vocabulary

douze  treize  quatorze  seize
dix-sept  dix-huit  dix-neuf  vingt-deux
trente-deux  quarante-deux  cinquante-deux  quarante
quarante-six  cinquante  soixante  soixante-six
soixante-dix  soixante-quinze  quatre-vingts  quatre-vingt-cinq
quatre-vingt-six  quatre-vingt-dix  quatre-vingt-quinze  cent

Vocabulary: Numbers

French numbers over 10 are based on the numbers 1–10. Pay special attention to the correspondence between 1–9 and 11–19.

1  un  11  onze
2  deux  12  douze
3  trois  13  treize
4  quatre  14  quatorze
5  cinq  15  quinze
6  six  16  seize
7  sept  17  dix-sept
8  huit  18  dix-huit
9  neuf  19  dix-neuf
10  dix

Note that the numbers 11–16 resemble the numbers 1–6. Pay careful attention to the difference in vowels. The numbers 17–19 are actually compounds of the number 10 and the numbers 7–9. Note their pronunciation: dix-sept (dee-set), dix-huit (dee-zhweet), dix-neuf (deez-neeuf).

The numbers for 30, 40, 50, and 60 are also closely related to the numbers 3, 4, 5, and 6.

20  vingt
30  trente
40  quarante
50  cinquante
60  soixante

To say 21, 31, 41, 51, and 61, use et un.

21  vingt et un
31  trente et un
41  quarante et un
51  cinquante et un
61  soixante et un

Continued on the next page →
For numbers over 20 that end in 2-9, use a hyphen, and do not use *et*.

- 22 vingt-deux
- 23 vingt-trois
- 24 vingt-quatre
- etc.

Note that there is liaison between the *t* and *et* in *vingt et un*, but never make a liaison between the *t* of the conjunction *et* and the following word that starts with a vowel sound: *trente et un*.

The numbers 70–99 are formed differently than the smaller numbers. The word for seventy is literally “sixty-ten,” *soixante-dix*. To form 71–79, place the numbers 11–19 after sixty. For 71, use *et*; for the other numbers, use hyphens.

- 60 + 11 = 71 soixante et onze
- 60 + 12 = 72 soixante-douze
- 60 + 13 = 73 soixante-treize
- 60 + 14 = 74 soixante-quatorze
- 60 + 19 = 79 soixante-dix-neuf

The number 80 is literally “four twenties”: *quatre-vingts*. For the numbers 81–89, drop the final *s* and add 1-9 on the end with a hyphen. Note that there is no *et* in 81.

- \((4 \times 20) + 1 = 81\) quatre-vingt-un
- \((4 \times 20) + 2 = 82\) quatre-vingt-deux
- \((4 \times 20) + 4 = 84\) quatre-vingt-quatre
- \((4 \times 20) + 7 = 87\) quatre-vingt-sept
- \((4 \times 20) + 9 = 89\) quatre-vingt-neuf

The number 90 is literally “four twenties ten”: *quatre-vingt-dix*. For the numbers 91–99, add 11–19 on the end with a hyphen. Note that there is no *et* in 91.

- \((4 \times 20) + 11 = 91\) quatre-vingt-onze
- \((4 \times 20) + 13 = 93\) quatre-vingt-treize
- \((4 \times 20) + 15 = 95\) quatre-vingt-quinze
- \((4 \times 20) + 16 = 96\) quatre-vingt-seize
- \((4 \times 20) + 18 = 98\) quatre-vingt-dix-huit

*Cent* means “one hundred” (100). Do not use *un* before it.

Note that in Belgium and Switzerland the words for 70, 80, and 90 have been regularized to *septante, huitante* (mostly Switzerland), and *nonante*. 
New Vocabulary

| French       | English       | French       | English       
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>les échecs</td>
<td>chess</td>
<td>le mannequin</td>
<td>mannequin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le fil</td>
<td>thread</td>
<td>parce que</td>
<td>because</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le livre</td>
<td>book</td>
<td>parlent</td>
<td>talk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maintenant</td>
<td>now</td>
<td>parler</td>
<td>speak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary: pouvoir

Peut and peuvent come from the irregular verb pouvoir, which means “can” or “to be able to.”

Ces femmes ne peuvent pas parler. Ce sont des mannequins.

Ce garçon peut courir 10 kilomètres.

Usage: Talking

Au téléphone means “on the telephone.” Do not use sur for “on” in this expression.

Il parle au téléphone. He is talking on the telephone.

Parler means “to talk” or “to speak.” It is used in a number of expressions.

parler à to talk to, to speak to
parler de to talk about, to speak about
parler dans to talk into, to speak into

Les garçons parlent beaucoup. Boys talk a lot.
La femme parle à son fils. The woman is talking to her son.

Il parle de la révolte. He is talking about the revolt.
L’homme parle dans le walkie-talkie. The man is talking into the walkie-talkie.

Pronunciation

Ch is pronounced “sh”: échecs (chess), échelle (ladder), chaise (chair).
Monte et descend, va et vient, entre et sort
Going Up and Going Down, Going and Coming, Entering and Leaving

New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le couple</td>
<td>dort (dormir)</td>
<td>éveillé</td>
<td>vient (venir)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>descend</td>
<td>l’échelle (f)</td>
<td>la marche</td>
<td>viennent (venir)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>descendent</td>
<td>embrasse</td>
<td>monte</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>descendre</td>
<td>entre</td>
<td>montent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>descendu</td>
<td>l’escalier roulant (m)</td>
<td>sort (sortir)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Usage: s’en va, monter dans, descendre de, vient, viennent

S’en va and s’en vont come from the expression s’en aller (to go away). The s’ is the reflexive pronoun se.

- Le couple s’en va. The couple goes away.

Monter dans means “to get into” or “to get onto” a car, a train, a bus, etc. Descendre de means “to get out of” or “to get off of” a car, a train, a bus, etc.

- Elle monte dans la voiture à cheval. She gets into the carriage.
- Il descend du train. He gets off the train.

Vient and viennent come from the irregular verb venir (to come).

- Ils viennent à ma maison. They are coming to my house.

Grammar: Verbs of Motion

Monter, descendre, aller, venir, entrer, and sortir belong to a class of verbs known as verbs of motion. Verbs of motion are usually intransitive, which means that they do not take a direct object.

- Il monte dans le camion. He gets into the truck.
- Il descend de l’avion. He gets off the plane.

In French, it is important to be able to distinguish intransitive verbs – verbs that do not take a direct object – from transitive verbs, which do take direct objects. Intransitive verbs are conjugated with the helping verb être in the passé composé, while transitive verbs use avoir.

- intransitive  La fille est tombée. The girl fell.
- transitive  La fille a attrapé la balle. The girl caught the ball.

Note in the second example that “la balle” is the direct object of the verb a attrapé, while in the first example there is no direct object.
Monter and descendre can be both transitive and intransitive, depending on whether they have a direct object or not.

intransitive Elle est descendue du camion. She got off the truck. (literally, “She came down from the truck.”)

transitive Elle a descendu les marches. She came down the steps.

Note that past participles agree with the gender and number of the subject when the verb is conjugated with être, but not with avoir.

Grammar: Verbs that End in re

Remember that in French, there are three basic classifications of verbs:

verbs whose infinitives end in er sauter (to jump)
verbs whose infinitives end in ir finir (to finish)
courir (to run)
verbs whose infinitives end in re descendre (to descend; to go down)

To conjugate an re verb like descendre, drop the re to find the stem and add the following endings.

descendre (to descend; to go down)

je descends nous descendons
tu descends vous descendez
il/elle descend ils/elles descendent

Note that there is no ending for the il/elle form and that the nous, vous, and ils/elles forms have the same endings as the er verbs and ir verbs like courir in the present tense.
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>conduit (conduire)</td>
<td>essaye</td>
<td>marchant</td>
<td>regardant</td>
<td>tenant (tenir)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le défilé</td>
<td>le fusil</td>
<td>la pelle</td>
<td>regarde</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>écoute</td>
<td>le gant</td>
<td>pendant</td>
<td>regardent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>électrique</td>
<td>jouant</td>
<td>le piano</td>
<td>sent (sentir)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar: Complex Sentences

French uses complex sentence patterns, just as English does. Two short sentences can be joined to form one long sentence by using **pendant que** (while).

Les enfants regardent. L'homme écrit.
The children watch. The man writes.

Les enfants regardent **pendant que** l'homme écrit.
The children watch **while** the man writes.

Note that the two clauses have different subjects and different verbs.

Grammar: Present Participles

To form the present participle, drop the **ons** ending from the **nous** form of the verb and add **ant**. This **ant** ending corresponds to the **ing** ending on a verb in English.

Note that the subject pronoun is not used with the present participle.

- nous parlons → parlant
- nous courons → courant
- nous descendons → descendant

When the present participle is used with the preposition **en** it forms a gerund and expresses the idea of “while.”

Ces hommes portent des fusils **en marchant** dans un défilé.
Those men carry rifles **while marching** in a parade.

Note that the subject of **en marchant** is the same subject as the main clause of the sentence, **hommes**. If you wish to express the idea of simultaneous action by two different subjects, you must use **pendant que**.

Ces hommes marchent **pendant que** des enfants regardent.
Those men are marching **while** some children are watching.

Pronunciation

Note that the **l** at the end of **fusil** is not pronounced, although the general rule is that the consonants **c, r, f, and l** at the end of words are pronounced.
La famille
The Family

New Vocabulary
la famille  leur  la mère  la sœur
le frère  le mari  les parents (m)

Vocabulary: The Family

La famille is a singular noun. Even though it implies a group of people, it is still considered to be one group and takes a singular adjective and verb.

La famille est assise sur le canapé. The family is sitting on the sofa.

Femme is the general word for “woman.” Femme also means “wife.”

Enfant is a false cognate. It is not the equivalent of the English word “infant.” Instead, it means “child.” To say baby or infant, use bébé.

Maman and papa are the equivalent of “mom” and “dad.” Mère and père are the more formal “mother” and “father.”
New Vocabulary

aucun    tout le monde    la photo    vide

Usage: Expressions

Quelqu’un means “someone.” Quelque chose means “something.” They are both formed from the adjective quelque (some), and they both take singular verbs when they are used as the subject of a sentence.

Quelqu’un est dans la maison. Someone is in the house.
Quelque chose est tombé. Something fell.

or Something has fallen.

Note that even though chose is feminine, quelque chose is considered masculine, so tombé remains masculine.

Tout le monde means “everyone” or “everybody.” Like famille, it is used with a singular verb.

Tout le monde danse. Everybody dances.

In negative sentences, personne is used instead of quelqu’un or tout le monde and rien is used instead of quelque chose. They take a singular verb also.

Quelqu’un fait du cheval. Someone is riding a horse.
Personne ne fait de cheval. No one is riding a horse.
Tout le monde court. Everyone runs.
Personne ne court. Nobody runs.

Quelque chose est sur l’assiette. Something is on the plate.
Rien n’est sur l’assiette. Nothing is on the plate.

Note that ne is used in front of the verb, but pas is omitted following the verb.

All of the preceding pronouns can also be used as direct objects. When this occurs with the negative expressions, pas is once again omitted.

L’homme ne regarde personne. The man is looking at no one.
La femme ne boit rien. The woman is drinking nothing.

Pronunciation

Un and um produce a nasal vowel sound that is very similar to that made by the letter combinations in, ain, im, and aim. Try saying the French sound made by in with your lips rounded. Now try saying the same sound in the words un, aucun, and humble. Many native speakers of French do not distinguish between the two sounds and use the sound made by in for un and um as well.
New Vocabulary

As in English, different verbs that indicate motion are typically used with different types of vehicles. Vehicles that have wheels use the verbs rouler (to roll) and dépasser (to pass). Garé, from the verb garer, means "parked."

Ce camion roule trop vite. Il dé passe les voitures.

This truck is going too fast. It is passing the cars.

Boats and floating vehicles use se déplacer (to move).

Le grand navire se déplace sur l'eau.

The big ship moves through the water.

Airplanes use voler (to fly).

L'avion vole au-dessus des montagnes.

The airplane flies over the mountains.

Usage

Pronunciation

The word eu is the past participle of the verb avoir. It is pronounced like the French letter u, rather than like eu as in heure.

The word tram (tram) is a loan word from English. The am does not produce a nasal vowel and the m is pronounced.
New Vocabulary

l'ami (m)  la perche  le sable
le parachute  roule  servant (servir)

Grammar: Prepositions and Objects of Prepositions

Prepositions often introduce a phrase, called a prepositional phrase.

L'homme grimpe avec une corde. The man climbs with a rope.
L'homme grimpe sans corde. The man climbs without a rope.

Note that an article is not used after sans.

There may be more than one prepositional phrase in a sentence.

Le garçon sans chandail joue dans le sable.
The boy without a sweater plays in the sand.
New Vocabulary

divisé  égale  fois

Usage: Arithmetic Terms

The French word **plus** (plus) is used for addition. To say “equals” for addition and subtraction, use **égalent**.

- *Un plus un égalent deux.*
- One **plus** one **equals** two.

The French word for “minus” is **moins** (less).

- *Douze moins cinq égalent sept.*
- Twelve **minus** five **equals** seven.

For multiplication, use **fois** (times). To say “equals” for multiplication and division, use **égale**.

- *Deux fois six égale douze.*
- Two **times** six **equals** twelve.

To say “divided by,” use **divisé par**.

- *Quinze divisé par trois égale cinq.*
- Fifteen **divided by** three **equals** five.

**Font** (make) and **fait** (makes) are frequently used in place of **égalent** and **égale**.

- *Deux plus deux font quatre.*
- Two **plus** two **makes** four.
- *Cinq fois six fait trente.*
- Five **times** six **makes** thirty.
Adjectifs possessifs; la préposition “de”

Possessive Adjectives; The Preposition *de*

New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cabre</th>
<th>promènent</th>
<th>trop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>promène</td>
<td>propre</td>
<td>le vêtement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary: *propre*

*Propre* is used like “own” to reinforce the notion of possession. It follows the possessive adjective and precedes the noun it describes. As an adjective, it agrees in number and gender with the noun it describes.

L’homme porte sa *propre* chemise. The man is wearing his own shirt.

Grammar: Possessive Adjectives

French has two possessive adjectives for “their.” *Leur* is used to describe masculine and feminine singular nouns. *Leurs* is used for masculine and feminine plural nouns.

L’homme et sa femme promènent *leur* chien. The man and his wife walk their dog.

Remember that *leur* in this sentence is singular because it refers to *chien*, one dog, while in the English we use *their* because the dog belongs to the *man and his wife*, a plural possessor.

Les garçons promènent *leurs* chiens. The boys are walking their dogs.

Note that *leur* and *leurs* are only used when there is more than one owner. If there is only one owner, use *sa*, *son*, or *ses*.

Grammar: More About the Preposition *de*

*De* can be used to show possession when it joins two specific nouns.

La chemise *de* l’homme est sur la table. The man’s shirt is on the table.

(literally, “The shirt of the man is on the table.”)

When the owner is not specified, that is, introduced by an article, the preposition *de* does not indicate possession. Instead, the *de* + noun is a descriptive adjective. “Un chapeau *de* soleil” means a “sun hat.” Similarly, “un chapeau *de* femme” means literally “a woman hat” although in English we say “a woman’s hat.”
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>French</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>l’aile (f)</td>
<td>le frisbee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attrapé</td>
<td>grimper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bat (battre)</td>
<td>jeté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le canard</td>
<td>marcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>désarçonné</td>
<td>monté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>endormi (s’endormir)</td>
<td>nager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>l’œuvre (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ouvrir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>le canard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>s’embrasser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sert (se servir)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>le tiroir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>voler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar: être en train de

English uses the present progressive tense to indicate an action that is currently in progress. Although French does not have a tense that corresponds to the present progressive in English, it does have a way of emphasizing the progressive nature of an action. The expression être en train de means “to be in the process of.” It is the equivalent of the present progressive tense in English.

La fille est en train de sourire.
The girl is smiling.

L’homme et la femme sont en train de s’embrasser.
The man and woman are kissing.

Grammar: More about Passé Composé

Most verbs use avoir as a helping verb in the passé composé. However, intransitive verbs of motion and reflexive verbs use être.

Intransitive Verbs of Motion

Note that the past participle agrees in number and gender with the subject.

La femme est descendue de l’autobus. The woman got off the bus.

Les enfants sont montés dans l’autobus. The children got on the bus.

Continued on the next page →
Reflexive Verbs

The past participle must agree in number and gender with the reflexive pronoun when it is a direct object.

La femme s’est *endormie*. The woman fell asleep.  
(literally, “The woman puts herself to sleep.”)

La femme s’est *lavée*. The woman washed herself.

When the reflexive pronoun stands for an indirect object, no agreement is made.

Ils se sont *parlé*. They spoke to each other.

Elle s’est *lavé* les mains. She washed her hands.  
(literally, “She washed her hands to herself.”)

Pronunciation

The letter *c* with a cedilla under it, *ç*, produces an *s* sound: *désarçonné*, *français*. It is not used before *e* and *i* because in that position, *c* is already pronounced as an *s*. 
New Vocabulary

| vingt-cinq | trente-sept | cinquante-quatre | soixante-neuf |
| vingt-six  | trente-huit | cinquante-sept  | soixante-dix-huit |
| vingt-sept | quarante-trois | cinquante-neuf | quatre-vingt-sept |
| trente-quatre | quarante-cinq | soixante-deux | quatre-vingt-seize |
| trente-six | quarante-neuf | soixante-trois | mille |

Usage: Numbers

To say 101, 102, or 103, add un, deux, or trois after cent.

101  cent un
102  cent deux
103  cent trois
etc.

To say 200, 300, 400, etc., put the number of hundreds in front of cent.

200  deux cents
300  trois cents
400  quatre cents

To say 201, 202, etc., drop the s from deux cents and put the number after it: deux cent un, deux cent deux.

333  trois cent trente-trois
445  quatre cent quarante-cinq
919  neuf cent dix-neuf

Mille is the word for one thousand. To say 1001, 1002, etc., add the number after mille: mille un (one thousand one), mille deux (one thousand two). Unlike cent, mille is invariable. It never adds an s to make the plural.

cinqu cents  five hundred
cinqu mille  five thousand
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le chariot</td>
<td>the cart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le matelas</td>
<td>the mattress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le médicament</td>
<td>the medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plein</td>
<td>full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pousse</td>
<td>push</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poussent</td>
<td>push</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reçoit (recevoir)</td>
<td>receive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le verre</td>
<td>the glass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar: Direct and Indirect Objects

A direct object is a person or thing that receives the action of a verb. The following sentences have direct objects. A direct object is the answer to the question “what?” or “who?”

Qu’est-ce qu’il pousse?  
What does he push?  
Il pousse le vélo.  
He pushes the bike.

Qui est-ce que l’homme porte?  
Whom does the man carry?  
L’homme porte l’enfant.  
He carries the child.

Indirect objects indicate to whom something is shown, given, said, etc. They answer the question “to whom?” or “for whom?” In French, indirect object nouns are often introduced by the preposition à.

À qui est-ce que l’homme donne la guitare?  
To whom does he give the guitar?  
L’homme donne la guitare à la fille.  
He gives the guitar to the girl.

Note that it is possible to leave to out in English sentences, but in French à cannot be left out.

La femme donne de l’argent au garçon.  
The woman gives the boy some money.  
or The woman gives some money to the boy.

Grammar: tenir, venir

The verbs tenir (to hold) and venir (to come) are irregular. They are usually grouped together because they have similar conjugations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tenir</td>
<td>to hold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>venir</td>
<td>to come</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>je</th>
<th>nous</th>
<th>je</th>
<th>nous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tiens</td>
<td>tenons</td>
<td>viens</td>
<td>venons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu</td>
<td>vous</td>
<td>tu</td>
<td>vous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tiens</td>
<td>tenez</td>
<td>viens</td>
<td>venez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il/elle</td>
<td>tient</td>
<td>ils/elles</td>
<td>viennent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past participle: tenu  
Past participle: venu

Note that the stem vowels are the same for the je, tu, il, and ils forms of the verb, but they are different for the nous and vous forms. Note also that the n of the stem is doubled in the ils form.
Tenir means “to hold,” but in the expression se tenir debout it means “to stand” (literally, “to hold oneself on end”).

La fille *tient* le verre d’eau. The girl is holding the glass of water.
L’homme *se tient* debout. The man is standing.
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>l’allumette</td>
<td>match</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la boisson</td>
<td>drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le bonnet</td>
<td>hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la bougie</td>
<td>candle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brûle</td>
<td>cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>couvre</td>
<td>cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’écharpe</td>
<td>cape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>éclaire</td>
<td>storm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’été (m)</td>
<td>summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le feu</td>
<td>fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la flamme</td>
<td>flame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la fumée</td>
<td>smoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le glace</td>
<td>ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’hiver (m)</td>
<td>winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le jour</td>
<td>day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le nuage</td>
<td>cloud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le réchaud</td>
<td>heater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le soleil</td>
<td>sun</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Usage: Hot and Cold Weather

To talk about the weather, use il fait followed by a weather expression such as chaud or froid.

Il fait chaud en été. It is hot in summer.
Il fait froid en hiver. It is cold in winter.

To say that someone is hot or cold, remember to use the verb avoir.

Il a froid. He is cold.

Note that froid and chaud do not make any agreements in either of these constructions.

When froid and chaud are used as adjectives, they do agree in number and gender with the noun they describe.

La flamme est chaude. The flame is hot.
Le pain est froid. The bread is cold.
New Vocabulary

le bétail  le buisson  le type

Usage: Types of Things

Learning things according to type can be a useful memory aid.

plantes   la fleur   the flower
(plants)   l’herbe   the grass
l’arbre   the tree
le buisson the bush

fruits   les raisins the grapes
(fruit)   la pomme   the apple
la banane the banana
la poire   the pear

animaux   le chien   the dog
(animals)   le canard the duck
le chat   the cat
le mouton the sheep
le cheval the horse

aliments   le pain   the bread
(food)   la viande   the meat
les légumes the vegetables
les fruits the fruits

Note that raisin means “grape” in French. Raisin sec (literally “dry grape”) means “raisin.”

Pronunciation

The letter combination ui makes the sound “wee.” It is similar to the sound made by the French letter u but it is pronounced more rapidly and with greater tension. Your lips should stay rounded and your tongue should remain against your lower front teeth when making this sound: buissons, fruit, huit.
Meubles, vêtements et instruments
Furniture, Clothing, and Instruments

New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le banc</td>
<td>the bench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le bureau (x)</td>
<td>the desk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la commode</td>
<td>the chest of drawers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contient</td>
<td>contains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la cravate</td>
<td>the tie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary: tenant

Tenant is the present participle of the irregular verb tenir (to hold).

L'homme joue du piano en tenant un saxophone.
The man is playing the piano while holding a saxophone.

Vocabulary: Furniture

There are several false cognates in the words for French furniture. In French, un bureau is a desk, not a chest of drawers. The French word for chest of drawers is une commode. Un banc is a bench, not a bank. Une banque is a bank. Canapé means “sofa” as well as an appetizer.

Use jouer à for playing sports and jouer de for playing a musical instrument.

Les garçons jouent au football. The boys are playing soccer.
Une femme joue du piano. A woman is playing piano.

Usage: Clothing

Habillé (dressed) is the past participle of the verb habiller (to dress) used as an adjective. To say “to get dressed,” use the reflexive form s’habiller. Habillé en means “dressed like” or “dressed in.”

L'homme s'habille. The man is getting dressed.
L'homme est habillé. The man is dressed.
La femme est habillée en tenue de soirée. The woman is dressed in evening wear.

Beware of the false cognates une robe (a dress), une veste (a jacket) and une chemise (a shirt).
Peu, beaucoup, plus que, moins que, trop
Few, Many, More Than, Less Than, Too Many

New Vocabulary
compter le plat seul seulement

Vocabulary: Amounts
Peu de, beaucoup de, and trop de are expressions of quantity that are used to introduce nouns.

Il y a beaucoup de pommes vertes mais peu de pommes rouges.
There are a lot of green apples but few red apples.

Il mange trop de chocolat.
He eats too much chocolate.

Note that these expressions are not followed by an article.

In contrast, peu à, beaucoup à, and trop à introduce a verb in the infinitive form.

Il y a trop à manger mais peu à boire.
There is a lot to eat but little to drink.

Elle a beaucoup à faire.
She has a lot to do.

Pronunciation
Note that the p in compter is silent.
Autres verbes; gestes humains
More Verbs; Human Gestures

New Vocabulary

| s’assouplit | croisé | la langue | ramasse |
| bâille      | l’enterrement (m) | la médaille | rattrache |
| celui (m), celle (f) | éternue | mouche | salue |
| (ceux [m], celles [f]) | finissent (finir) | participé | saluent |
| le cerf-volant | le front | participer | tousse |
| chanter     | gagné | pense | |
| le cou      | gagner | pleure | |
| la course   | gratte | pouvoir | |

Usage: saluer

In general, *saluer* means “to greet.” *Saluer de la main* means “to wave.”

Usage: Expressions with the Human Body

Certain verbs that deal with the body are reflexive, while others are not.

Reflexive: L’homme *se mouche.* The man blows his nose.

Not reflexive: L’homme *éternue.* The man sneezes.

In French, after reflexive verbs and the verb *avoir,* parts of the body are introduced by the definite article instead of the possessive adjective.

Le clown *se gratte la tête.* The clown scratches his head.

Le garçon a *les bras croisés.* The boy has his arms crossed.
New Vocabulary

Vocabulary: roux

The word roux is only used for red hair. For the color red in general, use rouge.

Grammar: First Person Singular and Plural of the Present Indicative

In the present indicative, verbs in the first person singular, the je form, end in e, is, or s. Verbs in the er category end in e; ir verbs like finir end in is; ir verbs like sortir end in s; and re verbs end in s. In addition, many irregular verbs end in s.

- e  er verbs
  je parle (I talk)

- is  ir verbs like finir
  je finis (I finish)

- s  ir verbs like sortir
  je comprends (I understand)
  je sors (I go out)
  je fais (I make or I do)
  je vais (I go)

The first person singular form of être is je suis (I am). The first person singular form of avoir is j'ai (I have). Note that j'ai does not end in s.

The first person plural of all verbs, the nous form, ends in ons, except for the verb être, which is nous sommes, and the ir verbs like finir, which end in issons.

Nous marchons au parc où nous faisons du jogging. Nous courons tous les jours. We walk to the park where we jog. We run everyday.

Nous ne finissons pas. Nous sommes fatigués. We are not finishing. We are tired.

Grammar: Second Person Plural of the Present Indicative

In the present indicative, all but one verb in the second person plural, the vous form, end in ez. The exception is the verb être: vous êtes. Remember that the vous form is also used as the formal “you” in polite speech.

Vous buvez du lait. You (all) drink milk.
You drink milk. (to one person that you do not know well)
**Grammar: More about Stress Pronouns**

In Unit 3, Lesson 7, we learned that the subject pronouns have corresponding stress forms. The following is a complete chart of the subject pronouns and stress pronouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Pronouns</th>
<th>Stress Pronouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je</td>
<td>moi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu</td>
<td>toi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il</td>
<td>lui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elle</td>
<td>elle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous</td>
<td>nous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous</td>
<td>vous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils</td>
<td>eux</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elles</td>
<td>elles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that *je*, *tu*, *il*, and *ils* have completely different forms as stress pronouns, while *elle*, *nous*, *vous*, and *elles* remain the same.
New Vocabulary

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>avai</td>
<td>étaient</td>
<td>le parc</td>
<td>particip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>avait</td>
<td>était</td>
<td>participaient</td>
<td>participent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le cahier</td>
<td>la mesure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar: The Imperfect Tense

French has two past tenses that correspond to the English simple past: the passé composé and the imparfait (imperfect tense). We learned how to form the passé composé in Unit 2, Lesson 10 and in Unit 5, Lesson 3.

To find the stem of all verbs except être for the imparfait, take the ons ending off of the nous form of the verb in the present indicative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Indicative</th>
<th>Imperfect Stem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nous marchons</td>
<td>march</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous jouons</td>
<td>jou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous sortons</td>
<td>sort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous finissons</td>
<td>finiss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous faisons</td>
<td>fais</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous avons</td>
<td>av</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The imperfect stem for être is ét-.

For all verbs, including être, the imperfect endings are the same.

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je marchais</td>
<td>être</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tu marchais</td>
<td>être</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il/elle marchait</td>
<td>être</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous marchions</td>
<td>être</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous marchiez</td>
<td>être</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils/elles marchaient</td>
<td>être</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The imperfect tense has three equivalents in English.

Cet homme participait à la course de vélo. (imparfait)
This man participated in the bike race. (simple past)
This man used to participate in the bike race. (past with “used to”)
This man was participating in the bike race. (past progressive)
As we discussed in Unit 1, Lesson 2, there is no tense in French that corresponds to the present progressive tense in English. One of the meanings of the French present tense is the equivalent of the present progressive in English.

Je chante. I sing. (simple present)
I am singing. (present progressive)
I do sing. (present emphatic)

To reinforce the progressive nature of an action, French uses the expression être en train de (to be in the process of).

Je suis en train de chanter. I am singing.
(literally, “I am in the process of singing.”)

The passé composé is the equivalent of the simple past tense and the present perfect tense in English. It has three English equivalents.

J’ai marché. I walked. (simple past)
I have walked. (present perfect)
I did walk. (past emphatic)

French frequently expresses the futur proche by using aller + an infinitive.

Le garçon va jeter le ballon. The boy is going to throw the ball.

See Unit 2, Lesson 10, for a review of the formation of the passé composé and futur proche.
New Vocabulary

la barbe la moustache la peau l’uniforme (m)
la boucle le nœud papillon le tapis la ville

Grammar: Negation with ni... ni

Ni... ni means “neither ... nor.” When it is used in a sentence, the verb must be preceded by ne.

Elle ne parle ni anglais ni français.

Il n’a ni barbe ni moustache.

She speaks neither French nor English.

He has neither beard nor moustache.

Grammar: More about Demonstrative Adjectives

The demonstrative adjectives ce, cet, cette, and ces are frequently used to answer questions that ask “which?”

Quelle jeune fille a la peau blanche?

Cette jeune fille a la peau blanche.

Which young lady has white skin?

That young lady has white skin.

For emphasis, the suffixes ci (here) and là (there) are sometimes added to the noun that is introduced by a demonstrative adjective.

Cet homme-là a les cheveux blonds.

Ce garçon-ci joue au tennis.

That man has blond hair.

(literally, “That man there has blond hair.”)

This boy plays tennis.

(literally, “This boy here plays tennis.”)
New Vocabulary

Usage: Units of Things

In French, just as in English, we tend to associate things or objects with the container, package or unit they come in such as **un sac** (a sack) or **une paire** (a pair).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>un sac</strong> (a bag)</td>
<td>of fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de poissons</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de bonbons</strong></td>
<td>of candy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de raisins</strong></td>
<td>of grapes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de chips</strong></td>
<td>of chips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>un rouleau</strong> (a roll)</td>
<td>of paper towels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de papier ménager</strong></td>
<td>of toilet paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>une caisse</strong> (a case/crate)</td>
<td>of apples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de pommes</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de poires</strong></td>
<td>of pears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de tomates</strong></td>
<td>of tomatoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>une bouteille</strong> (a bottle)</td>
<td>of mineral water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>d’eau minérale</strong></td>
<td>of Coca-Cola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de coca</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de jus</strong></td>
<td>of juice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>une tranche</strong> (a slice)</td>
<td>of watermelon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de pastèque</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de viande</strong></td>
<td>of meat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>une paire</strong> (a pair)</td>
<td>of glasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de lunettes</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de chaussures</strong></td>
<td>of shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de gants</strong></td>
<td>of gloves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de bottes</strong></td>
<td>of boots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>de dés</strong></td>
<td>of dice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>à moitié pleine</strong></td>
<td>a half-full bottle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A container may be **vide** (empty), **plein(e)** (full), **à moitié pleine** (half full), or **à moitié vide** (half empty). Note that **plein** and **vide** must agree with the number and gender of the container.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>un sac plein</strong></td>
<td>a full bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>deux sacs à moitié pleins</strong></td>
<td>two half-full bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>une bouteille pleine</strong></td>
<td>a full bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>une bouteille à moitié pleine</strong></td>
<td>a half-full bottle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ni l’un, ni l’autre; aucun, tous deux
Neither; None, Both

New Vocabulary
embrassent sourient tous toutes le trottoir

Usage: jeunes gens
Jeunes gens can mean either “young men” or “young people” (a mixed group). Gens means “people.”

Usage: More Negative Expressions
Ne plus means “no longer.” It is used like ne pas; ne precedes the conjugated verb and plus follows it.

L’homme en blanc n’est plus sur le trottoir.
The man in white is no longer on the sidewalk.

Ni l’un, ni l’autre means “neither” (literally, “neither one nor the other”). When it is used in a sentence, ne must also be placed in front of the verb.

Ni l’un ni l’autre de ces hommes ne joue du violon.
Neither of these men plays the violin.

Ni l’une ni l’autre de ces filles ne chante.
Neither of these girls sings.

Note that when this expression describes a feminine noun, une is used instead of un.

Aucun means “none” when it is used in a negative sentence. It agrees in gender with the noun it describes.

Aucun de ces jeunes gens ne parle.
None of these young men are speaking.

Aucune de ces quatre personnes ne marche.
None of these four people are walking.

Note that ne is placed in front of the verb with aucun.

Note also that in English, none can be either singular or plural, while in French, aucun is always singular.
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bâillait</td>
<td>grimpé</td>
<td>pêche</td>
<td>retourné</td>
<td>la clé</td>
<td>joué</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar: Imperfect vs. Passé Composé

The two French past tenses, the imperfect and the passé composé, are not interchangeable. The imperfect tense is the equivalent of the past progressive tense in English.

La fille sautait à la corde. The girl was jumping rope.

In contrast, the passé composé is equivalent to the simple past tense in English: “I ran,” “We talked,” “We played tennis,” “We sang.”

The emphasis of the imperfect tense is on the progressive nature or the repetition of an action, while the emphasis in the passé composé is on the completed action. The imperfect is used to describe, while the passé composé is used to recount events.

La fille regardait le livre. The girl was looking at the book.

Le garçon buvait du lait. The boy was drinking some milk.

The emphasis of the imperfect tense is on the progressive nature or the repetition of an action, while the emphasis in the passé composé is on the completed action. The imperfect is used to describe, while the passé composé is used to recount events.

Note that the imperfect is not conjugated with the verb être (to be) although its English equivalent uses was or were plus a present participle (the “ing” form of the verb). Remember that there is no present progressive tense in French; instead, the English present progressive is one of the possible meanings of the present tense in French.

Il joue. He is playing, or He plays.

Grammar: The Relative Pronoun qui (Review)

The relative pronoun qui is used to relate a noun in one part of the sentence to a verb in another part of the sentence. It acts as the subject or the object of the verb. Which noun does qui stand for in the following examples?

Voici l’homme qui mangeait.
Here is the man who was eating.

L’homme portait une chemise qui était trop petite.
The man was wearing a shirt that was too small.

In the first sentence, the antecedent (the word qui stands for) is homme, while in the second sentence it is chemise. Note that qui means “who” or “that” and can stand for a person, an animal, or a thing.
**New Vocabulary**

| l'an (m) | grimpent | regardez |
| appel | mon (m), ma (f) (mes) | serre |
| dit (dire) | le prénom | touché |
| encore | le prince | vingt-trois |

**Usage: avoir with Age**

In English, we say “I am fifteen years old.” In contrast, French uses the verb “to have,” avoir, followed by the number and the word ans (years).

- *J'ai quinze ans.*  
  I am fifteen years old.  
  (literally, “I have fifteen years.”)

- *Il a trois ans.*  
  He is three years old.

Note that in the French, there is no word for “old.” The word ans means “years.”

**Usage: s'appeler**

To say “my name is,” use the reflexive verb s'appeler (to call oneself).

- *Je m'appelle Caroline.*  
  My name is Caroline.  
  (literally, “I call myself Caroline.”)

- *Il s'appelle Philippe.*  
  His name is Philippe.

- *Nous nous appelons Anne et Louis.*  
  Our names are Anne and Louis.

Note in the preceding examples that the l of the infinitive s'appeler is doubled in the je, tu, il/elle, and ils/elles forms of the verb, but not in the nous and vous forms. For a review of reflexive pronouns, see Unit 3, Lesson 8.

To ask someone what their name is, use *Comment vous appelez-vous?*, which is literally, “How do you call yourself?”

**Usage: Names**

Many French first names are cognates for English names. Notice the spelling differences.

- Stéphanie, Caroline, Charles, Philippe, Anne, Sylvie, Paul, Robert
- Other first names are less familiar.

  - Mireille, Thierry, Chantal, Annick, Pascal, Didier
- Double first names are also common.

  - Jean-Paul, Anne-Marie, Marie-Claude

Continued on the next page →
Usage: Vocabulary

Voici means “here is” or “here are.” It is used to point out something.

Voici Anne. Elle a vingt ans.  Here is Anne. She is twenty years old.

Grammar: The Imperative Mood

In addition to tenses, French has different moods. The indicative mood is used to talk about the way things are. The imperative mood is used for commanding or ordering. Unlike the indicative mood, it has only one tense and is used in only three persons: tu, nous, and vous. Like English, you do not use the subject pronoun with the imperative, but you do use reflexive pronouns with reflexive verbs.

Regardez, je suis dans l’arbre!  Look, I am in a tree!
Endormez-vous maintenant!  Go to sleep now!

Note in the second example that the reflexive pronoun, vous, is used because s’endormir is a reflexive verb. This is not the subject pronoun vous.
Les aspects du verbe : passé, présent, futur
Verb Tenses: Past, Present, Future

New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>courir</th>
<th>le journal (-aux)</th>
<th>prépare</th>
<th>verser</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>couru</td>
<td>lire</td>
<td>verse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Usage: Prepositions

The preposition à means “to” or “at.” Remember that it can also mean “with” when joining two nouns.

la femme aux cheveux blonds the woman with blond hair

Thus, “un fauteuil à bascule” is literally “a chair with rocker” or “a rocking chair.”

The preposition de is used to join a noun used as an adjective to a preceding noun. Thus “un coup de pied,” which means a kick, is literally “a foot blow.”

Grammar: Forming Past Participles

The passé composé consists of a helping verb (avoir or être) and a past participle.

In French, past participles for the basic verb classifications are formed in the following manner.

- **er verbs**: Drop the er of the infinitive and add é.  
  parlé

- **ir verbs like finir**: Drop the ir of the infinitive and add i.  
  fini

Other verbs are irregular.

- **some ir verbs**: Drop the ir of the infinitive and add i or u.  
  sorti
  couru

- **some re verbs**: Drop the re of the infinitive and add u.  
  descendu

Some re verbs are very irregular.

- mettre → mis
- écrire → écrit

Grammar: Futur Proche (Review)

To form the futur proche, use a form of the verb aller in the present tense followed by an infinitive.

- Elle *va lire*. She **is going** to read.
- Ils *vont courir*. They **are going** to run.
**New Vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Things</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>un seul, une seule (a single)</td>
<td>banane (banana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une grappe (a bunch or a cluster)</td>
<td>de raisins (of grapes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un groupe (a group)</td>
<td>de coureurs (of runners)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un assortiment (an assortment)</td>
<td>de meubles (of furniture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>une série (a series)</td>
<td>de poupées russes (of Russian dolls)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Usage: Units of Things**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Things</th>
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<td>un seul, une seule (a single)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>une série (a series)</td>
<td>de poupées russes (of Russian dolls)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pronunciation**

Note that the **l** in **outil** also does not follow the general rule and is not pronounced.
**New Vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tout</td>
<td>toute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tous</td>
<td>toutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Usage: tout**

**Tout** can be used as both an adjective and an adverb. Used as an adjective, it has four forms.

- **Masculine**: tout
- **Feminine**: toute

As an adjective, **tout** can have two meanings. When it is used to mean “all” or “every,” it is followed by a definite article, by a demonstrative adjective (ce, cette, or ces) or by a possessive adjective (son, sa, or ses). It must agree in number and gender with the noun it modifies.

- **Toutes les** filles sont assises. *All the* girls are seated.
- **Toutes ces** filles sont assises. *All these* girls are seated.
- **Toutes ses** filles sont assises. *All her* girls are seated.

When it is followed by an indefinite article it means “a whole.”

- **Toute une** foule est sur les marches. *A whole* crowd is on the steps.

When **tout** is used in front of a singular noun without an article it means “every,” “all,” or “any.”

- Le château se trouve sur la colline, loin de **tout** bâtiment.
- The castle is found on the hill, far from **any** building.

When used as an adverb, **tous** means “all” or “quite.” It is invariable except when it appears before a feminine adjective beginning with a consonant or aspirate h (see notes under Pronunciation, below).

- La fille est **toute** seule. The girl is **all** alone.
- Le garçon est **tous** seul. The boy is **all** alone.
- Les garçons sont **tous** seuls. The boys are **all** alone.

Note in the last example that **tout** is not plural because **seuls** is a masculine adjective.

*Continued on the next page →*
Grammar: Active and Passive Voices

A verb is in the active or passive voice depending on whether its subject performs or receives the action. If the verb is in the active voice, its subject performs the action. If the verb is in the passive voice, its subject receives the action.

To form the passive voice of a verb, use the appropriate tense of être and the past participle.

Des fleurs entourent la femme. Flowers surround the woman.

La femme est entourée de fleurs. The woman is surrounded by flowers.

Note that the past participle must agree in number and gender with the subject.

Sometimes the nearest equivalent to a French sentence with a reflexive verb is an English sentence in the passive voice.

Le château se trouve sur la colline. The castle is found on the hill.

Pronunciation

The ch in chœur (chorus) is pronounced as a K because it comes from a Greek word.

Historically, French distinguishes between the letter h found in words of Latin origin and the letter h found in words of Germanic origin. Both are silent in French. Words of Latin origin beginning with h, the so-called mute h, are treated as if they begin with a vowel sound. In contrast, words of Germanic origin that begin with h are in certain cases treated as if they begin with a consonant even though they begin with a vowel sound. With this aspirate h, as it is called, there is never elision or liaison.

mute h l’homme (the man)

aspirate h la honte (the shame)

There are no rules to help differentiate mute h from aspirate h. Therefore, you must listen carefully to whether the definite article is elided or whether liaison occurs.
New Vocabulary

aïe cuis (cuire) lisons (lire)
ça êtes (être)

Usage: cuis

Cuis comes from the irregular verb cuire (to cook). Its past participle is cuit.

Grammar: Professions

In contrast to English, when a French noun that names a profession follows the verb être, the indefinite article is generally not used.

Je suis médecin. I am a doctor.
(literally, “I am doctor.”)

Vous êtes infirmière. You are a nurse.
(literally, “You are nurse.”)

If the noun of profession is modified by an adjective, the indefinite article is used.

Je suis un bon médecin. I am a good doctor.

Vous êtes une bonne infirmière. You are a good nurse.

Note that il est cannot be followed by an indefinite article. Instead, c’est or ce sont must be used.

Il est dentiste. He is a dentist.

C’est un bon dentiste. He is a good dentist.

Pronunciation

The interjection aïe is pronounced “eye-uh.” The dieresis over the i indicates that it should be pronounced separately from the a.
New Vocabulary

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bas, -se</td>
<td>le foin</td>
<td>retourne</td>
<td>travaillent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>donné</td>
<td>frappé</td>
<td>sorti</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>donner</td>
<td>haut</td>
<td>la terre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>être</td>
<td>la motte</td>
<td>travaille</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary: *bas*

*Bas* can be used as a noun in the expression *en bas* (below or down), where it is invariable. It can also be used as an adjective meaning low and in that case it has a feminine form, *basse*.

Grammar: The Causative

The causative construction is used to express the idea of “having or making someone do something,” “having something done,” or “making something happen.”

To form the causative construction, take any tense of the verb *faire* and put an infinitive after it.

*Le garçon fait voler* un cerf-volant. *The boy flies* a kite.

(literally, “The boy *makes* a kite *fly.*”)

Frequently, the causative is used in French where English uses a simple verb.

Grammar: More about Passive Voice

In Unit 6, Lesson 10, we learned that when the subject of the verb receives the action of the verb, the verb is in the passive voice. Just as with the active voice, verbs can be conjugated in different tenses in the passive voice. To form the past tense of the passive voice, put the verb *être* in the passé composé.

*La femme a été* entourée de fleurs. *The woman was surrounded by flowers.*

*Le garçon a été* frappé par la motte de terre. *The boy was hit by the clod of dirt.*

Remember that, in the passive voice, the past participle must agree in number and gender with the subject. Note that in the first example, *entourée* has an additional *e* because the subject is *femme*. 
New Vocabulary

l’aiguille (f)  
d’hui  
l’air (m)  
ite  
l’arme (f)  
le marin  
l’astronaute (m, f)  
le moment  
celui-ci  
l’ouvrier (m)  
parfois  
le costume  
porter

Usage: d’hui

D’hui means “usually.” It is frequently placed at the beginning of a sentence.

D’hui  l’ouvrier porte un casque. Usually, the workman wears a helmet.

Grammar: The Irregular Verbs vivre and battre

vivre (to live)

je vis  
tu vis  
il/elle vit  
je nous vivons  
tu vous vivez  
il/elle ils/elles vivent

battre (to beat)

je bats  
tu bats  
il/elle bat  
je nous battons  
tu vous battez  
il/elle ils/elles battent

Grammar: Interrogatives (Review)

Qui is an interrogative pronoun that asks “who?” It can be used as a subject or as a direct object.

Qui vit sur un bateau?  
Qui regarde-t-il?

Who lives on a boat?  
Whom is he looking at?

Continued on the next page →
**Quel** is an interrogative adjective that asks “which?” It must agree in number and gender with the noun it describes.

- *Quel animal a quatre pattes par terre?*  
  Which animal has four feet on the ground?
- *Quelle personne est debout?*  
  Which person is standing?

See Unit 1, Lesson 10, for more discussion of interrogatives.

**Grammar: More about the Pronoun en**

*En* is used to replace a direct object noun introduced by an indefinite article (*un, une, des*), a partitive article (*du, de la, de l’*) or *de* (after a negative verb). It is also used to replace a direct object introduced by a number or an expression of quantity such as *beaucoup de* (a lot of). *En* is placed before the conjugated verb.

When *en* is used to replace a noun introduced by a partitive article or by the indefinite article *des*, its English equivalent is “some,” “any,” or “none” (after a negative verb).

- D’habitude, les chiens ne portent pas *de vêtements* et ce chien *n’en* porte pas en ce moment.  
  Normally, dogs do not wear clothing, and this dog is not wearing any at this moment.
- Les soldats portent *des armes* et ces soldats *en* portent en ce moment.  
  Soldiers carry arms and these soldiers are carrying some at this moment.
- Qui a *de l’eau*? Il n’y *en* a pas.  
  Who has some water? There is none.

When *en* is used to replace a noun introduced by the indefinite article *un* or *une*, a number or an expression of quantity, then *un* or *une*, the number or the expression of quantity must be repeated after the verb. In this usage, it is the equivalent of “of it” or “of them.”

- *Est-ce qu’il y a un homme* sur l’avion? Oui, il *y a un* sur l’avion.  
  Is there a man on the plane? Yes, there is one of them on the plane.
- Cette personne vend *beaucoup de pain*. Elle *en* vend *beaucoup*.  
  This person is selling a lot of bread. She is selling a lot of it.
- *Est-ce que l’homme a trois fils*? Oui, il *en a trois*.  
  Does the man have three sons? Yes, he has three of them.

Although in English the expressions “some,” “any,” “of it,” and “of them” can be omitted, in French *en* must be used.

- *Est-ce qu’il a du fromage?* Non, il *n’en* a pas.  
  Does he have cheese? No, he doesn’t.
- Y a-t-il *des pommes*? Oui, il y *en* a trois.  
  Are there apples? Yes, there are three.
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nageur</td>
<td>nageuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patineur</td>
<td>patineuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coureur</td>
<td>coureuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skieur</td>
<td>skieuse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grammar: Formation of Feminine Nouns

Some masculine nouns that end in *eur* make the feminine form by dropping the *r* and adding *se*.

Grammar: Adverbs

*Adverbs* are words that tell in what manner an action is performed; they describe the verb. Most French adverbs are derived from the feminine form of a descriptive adjective by adding *ment*. Thus, *lente* (slow) becomes *lentement* (slowly) and *rapide* (quick) becomes *rapidement* (quickly or fast).

Feminine adjectives that end in a vowel and *e* drop the *e* and add *ment*.

- *vraie* → *vraiment*

A few adverbs are not based on adjectives, such as *vite* (quickly or fast), and must be learned separately.

*Vite!* is also used alone in the sense of “Quick!” or “Hurry!”

Grammar: Indefinite Demonstrative Pronouns

The indefinite pronouns *ceci* and *cela* refer to things without number or gender, such as ideas and concepts. *Ceci* means “this.” *Cela* is frequently shortened to *ça*. It can be used to mean “this” or “that” except when it is used for contrast with *ceci*.

- *Ceci* n’est pas un animal et *cela* n’est pas une personne.
- *This* is not an animal and *that* is not a person.
- *Ça*, c’est une bonne idée.
- *That* is a good idea.
Les saisons
Seasons

New Vocabulary

l’automne (m)  bordé  couche  le coucher  lève  le lever

Usage: Seasons

In French, the seasons are:

l’été the summer
l’automne the fall
l’hiver the winter
le printemps the spring

To say “in” a season, use the following expressions.

en été in summer
en automne in fall
en hiver in winter
au printemps in spring

All of the names of seasons are masculine. Note that the seasons that begin with vowel sounds are introduced by the preposition en. In contrast, printemps, which begins with a consonant sound, is introduced by au.

Usage: Times of Day

Times of the day can be discussed using the following expressions.

C’est le jour. It’s daytime.
C’est la nuit. It’s nighttime.
C’est le lever du soleil. It’s sunrise.
C’est le coucher du soleil. It’s sunset.
Le soleil se lève. The sun is rising.
Le soleil se couche. The sun is setting.

Grammar: The Irregular Verb couvrir

couvrir (to cover)

je couvre  nous couvrons
tu couvres  vous couvrez
il/elle couvre  ils/elles couvrent

past participle: couvert

The verbs ouvrir (to open) and découvrir (to discover) are conjugated in the same way.

Pronunciation

Note that the ps of printemps, the m of automne, and the h of hiver are silent.
New Vocabulary

la partie  
la plupart  
quelques-uns, -unes

Grammar: Indefinite Adjectives and Pronouns

Quelque  
is an indefinite adjective that means “some.” It has the same form in the masculine and feminine.

Elle a vu quelque film.  
She saw some film.
Il y a quelques bananes sur la table.  
There are some bananas on the table.

Quelques-uns  
is an indefinite pronoun that means “some” (literally, “some ones”). It is frequently followed by des and a plural noun. It agrees in gender with the noun it stands for.

Quelques-uns des fleurs sont rouges.  
Some of the flowers are red.
Quelques-uns des arbres sont jaunes.  
Some of the trees are yellow.

La plupart  
and la plus grande partie (literally, “the biggest part”) mean “most” or “most of.” They are frequently followed by de plus an article and a noun.

La plupart des personnes portent des chapeaux.  
Most people are wearing hats.
La plus grande partie de la fleur est rouge.  
Most of the flower is red.

L’autre  
means “the other.” It can also be plural: les autres.

Une de ces personnes montre quelque chose du doigt, mais pas l’autre.  
One of these people is pointing at something, but not the other.
 Ils mangent ces pommes, mais pas les autres.  
They are eating these apples, but not the others.

Autre  
can also mean “more” or “additional,” as in autres verbes (more verbs).

Grammar: Understood Verbs

Sometimes a verb is understood to be in a phrase or clause where it does not actually appear, just as in English.

Un de ces animaux est un oiseau, mais pas l’autre.  
One of these animals is a bird, but not the other.
New Vocabulary

There is no new vocabulary in this lesson.

Grammar: More about *tout*

Remember that *tout* can be used both as an adjective and an adverb. It can also be a pronoun. As a pronoun, *tout* has three forms: *tous*, *tous*, and *toutes*. The masculine and feminine forms *tous* and *toutes* mean “all.” The invariable pronoun *tout* means “everything.”

*Ces hommes courent. Tous courent vite.* Those men are running. **All** are running fast.
*Elle lit *tout*.* She reads **everything**.

Note that when *tous* is used as a pronoun the *s* is pronounced, but when it is an adjective the *s* is silent.

The expressions *tous deux* and *toutes deux* mean “both.”

*Ces hommes *tous deux* font du cheval.* **Both** men are riding.
*La femme et la fille boivent *toutes deux* du lait.* **Both** the woman and the girl are drinking some milk.
New Vocabulary

There is no new vocabulary in this lesson.

Usage: Shapes

We have seen that the adjectives that correspond to cercle (circle) and carré (square) are rond (round) and carré (square). The adjectives that correspond to triangle and rectangle are triangulaire and rectangulaire.

Pronunciation: The Circumflex Accent

A circumflex accent (ˆ) does not change the sound of the vowels a, i, and u. The circumflex accent on an e makes the sound “fed,” as in fenêtre. A circumflex accent over an o makes the sound “oh” (without the W sound of the English diphthong). Historically, a circumflex accent occurs where a written s once followed the vowel. In some English cognates, the s is still written: hôpital vs. hospital.
New Vocabulary

Le milieu
le numéro

Usage: Left and Right

To say “on the right” or “on the left,” use de droite and de gauche.

Le verre de droite est plein mais le verre de gauche est vide.
The glass on the right is full but the glass on the left is empty.

When indicating direction, use à droite and à gauche.

Vous prenez à droite puis à gauche.
You turn right then left.
(literally, “You turn to the right then to the left.”)

With parts of the body, use droite and gauche without a preposition, immediately following the noun.

L'homme montre quelque chose de sa main droite.
The man is showing something with his right hand.

As in English, gauche can also mean “inappropriate” or “awkward.”
New Vocabulary

appuyé  le ciel  couchant

Grammar: au-dessus de, au-dessous de

Au-dessus de and au-dessous de are prepositions.

Au-dessus de la porte est écrit trois cent trois.
Above the door is written three hundred three.

La route est au-dessous de nous.
The road is below us.

Au-dessus and au-dessous are adverbial phrases.

L’avion vole au-dessus.
The airplane flies above.

La voiture est au-dessous.
The car is below.

Usage: ne… que

Ne… que means “only.” It is placed around the verb like ne… pas.

Il n’y a que quelques ballons dans le ciel. There are only some balloons in the sky.
Elle ne voit que trois ballons. She only sees three balloons.
New Vocabulary

Usage: Verbs with Prepositions

Certain French verbs are used with prepositions. These prepositions do not always appear in the English equivalent, but they are a necessary part of the French verb. A verb may have several different meanings depending on the preposition it is used with.

Se servir de means “to use,” while servir means “to serve.”

Il se sert du couteau.
He uses the knife.

Le garçon sert le dessert.
The waiter serves the dessert.

Certain French verbs add prepositions to introduce a following infinitive where a different preposition or none is used in English.

Le chien essaye d’attraper le frisbee.
The dog tries to catch the frisbee.

Le garçon arrive à sauter par-dessus la barrière.
The boy succeeds in jumping the fence.

Pour means “in order to.” In English, it is frequently omitted before an infinitive but in French it must be used.

Il se sert d’un appareil photo pour prendre une photo.
He uses a camera to take a picture.
(literally, “He uses a camera in order to take a picture.”)

Grammar: The Reflexive Verb se servir

se servir (to use)

je me sers

- nous nous servons

tu te sers

- vous vous servez

il/elle se sert

- ils/elles se servent

Note: se servir keeps the v of the infinitive in the plural forms. Other verbs that keep their final stem consonant include sentir and dormir.

il dort

ils dorment
Conjugaison des verbes
Conjugation of Verbs

New Vocabulary

| allons (aller) | sautons | vais (aller) |

Grammar: Regular *ir* Verbs like *finir*

We have already learned verb conjugations for *ir* verbs like *courir* and for *er* verbs in Unit 1, Lesson 7, and for *re* verbs in Unit 4, Lesson 5. There is yet another basic classification for us to address: *ir* verbs like *finir*.

*finir* (to finish or to end)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>je finis</th>
<th>nous finissons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu finis</td>
<td>vous finissez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il/elle finit</td>
<td>ils/elles finissent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that *iss* is added to the stem in *ir* verbs like *finir* before the regular *ons*, *ez*, and *ent* endings for the *nous*, *vous*, and *ils/elles* forms.

Grammar: The Irregular Verb *boire*

*boire* (to drink)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>je bois</th>
<th>nous buvons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu bois</td>
<td>vous buvez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il/elle boit</td>
<td>ils/elles boivent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

past participle: *bu*

Note that frequently in irregular verbs there is a different stem for the *nous* and *vous* forms of the verb.
New Vocabulary

dernier, -ière
premier, -ière
troisième
deuxième
quatrième

dernière

dernier

Dernier is an adjective that means “last.” Its feminine form is dernière. It is the opposite of premier (feminine première).

Usage: Ordinal Numbers

First, second, and third are called ordinal numbers. In French, ordinal numbers are formed from the cardinal numbers, or the counting numbers, by adding ième to the end of the number. If the ordinal number ends in e, the e is dropped.

deuw → deuxième
quatre → quatrième

However, the ordinal equivalent of un (one) is either premier or première, according to the gender of the noun it modifies. It is the only ordinal number that changes its form to show gender.

Note that twenty-one, thirty-one, etc., form the ordinal number according to the regular pattern, rather than using premier.

vingt et un → vingt et unième
trente et un → trente et unième

Cinq and neuf change their spelling.

cinq → cinquième
neuf → neuvième

Ordinal numbers precede the noun they describe. There is no elision or liaison with huitième and onzième.

Le huitième chiffre est un deux. The eighth number is a two.
New Vocabulary

chantons  fais (faire)  jouons  portons
embrassons  faisons (faire)  marchons  sourions (sourire)

Grammar: Present Tense (Review)

The full conjugation of the present tense of the basic verb classifications is given below. Pay close attention to the tu (“you” familiar), vous (“you” polite singular and “you” plural), and nous (we) forms that we have just begun to use.

**er verbs**

- je parle
- tu parles
- il/elle parle
- nous parlons
- vous parlez
- ils/elles parlent

**ir verbs like finir**

- je finis
- tu finis
- il/elle finit
- nous finissons
- vous finissez
- ils/elles finissent

**ir verbs like courir**

- je cours
- tu cours
- il/elle court
- nous courons
- vous courez
- ils/elles courent

**re verbs**

- je descends
- tu descends
- il/elle descend
- nous descendons
- vous descendez
- ils/elles descendent

Note that, in all of these conjugations, the **tu** form ends in **s**, the **nous** form ends in **ons** and the **vous** form ends in **ez**. Note also that, with the exception of the **er** verbs, the **je** and **tu** forms of the verb often have exactly the same form.
New Vocabulary

la forme  l’objet

Usage: en haut, en bas, avoir l’air de, presque

*En haut* means “above” (literally, “on high”) and *en bas* means “below” (literally, “on low”).

Le cercle est en haut et à droite. The circle is above and to the right.
Le numéro est en bas et à gauche. The number is below and to the left.

The expression *avoir l’air de* means “to seem” (literally, “to have the air of”). It is followed by a verb in the infinitive form.

Cette forme a l’air d’être un triangle. That shape seems to be a triangle.

*Presque* is an adverb that means “almost.”
New Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>l’Afrique (f)</td>
<td>le Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ainsi</td>
<td>la carte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’Algérie (f)</td>
<td>le Chili</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’Allemagne (f)</td>
<td>la Chine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’Amérique du Nord (f)</td>
<td>colorié</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’Amérique du Sud (f)</td>
<td>le continent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’Argentine (f)</td>
<td>la Corée</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>asiatique</td>
<td>l’Égypte (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l’Asie (f)</td>
<td>l’Espagne (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le Brésil</td>
<td>les États-Unis (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Usage: Countries and Continents**

The word for country is **pays**. It is a masculine noun that has the same form in the singular and plural. The word for continent is the masculine noun **continent**. In French, the names of the countries and continents have genders. There are also a few plural names such as **Les États-Unis** (The United States). In general, if the country’s or continent’s name ends in an unaccented e, it is feminine: **la Chine**, **la Suisse**, **l’Égypte**, **l’Algérie**, **l’Afrique**, **l’Asie**. **Le Mexique** is an exception. Country or continent names that end in a, i, or a consonant are usually masculine: **le Nigeria**, **le Japon**.

To distinguish between North and South America, put **du Nord** (of the north) or **du Sud** (of the south) after **Amérique**: **Amérique du Nord**, **Amérique du Sud**.

In French, the names of countries and continents are introduced by a definite article when they are used as a subject or an object.

- L’Espagne est le pays colorié de rouge sur la carte.
  - Spain is the country colored in red on the map.

- Nous regardons la France sur la carte.
  - We are looking at France on the map.

With feminine names of countries or continents, or masculine ones that start with a vowel, use **en** for “in” and don’t use an article.

- La Russie est en Europe ainsi qu’en Asie.
  - Russia is in Europe as well as in Asia.

With masculine names of countries that start with a consonant, use **au** for “in.”

- Elle est au Japon mais il est au Mexique.
  - She is in Japan but he is in Mexico.

Adjectives that refer to the continents and countries are not capitalized in French.

- La Corée est un pays asiatique.
  - Korea is an Asian country.

- La France est un pays européen.
  - France is a European country.
Rues et trottoirs
Streets and Sidewalks

New Vocabulary

| l’allée (f) | l’oie (f) | le trou |
| le balai | passe | vers |
| balaie (balayer) | passent | la voie ferrée |
| courant (courir) | traverse | |
| creuse | traversent | |

Vocabulary: Street, Road, Alley, Railroad

The difference in meaning between street and road is more or less the same in French and in English. The French word for street is la rue and the word for road is la route. Une autoroute is a major highway. The word for sidewalk is le trottoir. The word for alley is a cognate: l’allée. The word for railroad is la voie ferrée (literally, “iron way”).

Pronunciation: The Sound oi

Remember that oi creates the sound “wa” in French. The word for goose, oie, is pronounced “wa,” and voie is pronounced “vwa.”
New Vocabulary

appartenir (appartenir)  caressé  le/la fermier, -ière
appartiennent (appartenir)  familier, -ière  vivant (vivre)

Vocabulary: animal familier, appartenir

Animal familier means “pet.” To say that an animal belongs to someone, use the irregular verb appartenir à.

Le chien appartient à la fille. The dog belongs to the girl.

Grammar: Verbs Like tenir

Tenir (to hold) is an irregular verb. It has two different stem vowels: tien for the je, tu, il, and ils forms; and ten for the nous and vous forms. Note that the n is doubled in the ils form.

tenir (to hold)

je tiens  nous tenons
tu tiens  vous tenez
il/elle tient  ils/elles tiennent

past participle: tenu

Other verbs conjugated like tenir include appartenir (to belong), venir (to come), and devenir (to become).
Comparatif et superlatif
Comparative and Superlative

New Vocabulary
clair     le léopard     plutôt     rayé     tacheté
dangerous, -se  mouille     près     refroidit
la guerre     le museau (-x)  la raie     la tache

Usage: avoir l'air de

The expression avoir l'air de (to seem to) may be followed by an adjective. When this happens, the de is dropped.

Cet enfant a l'air content. This child seems happy.
Cette fille a l'air triste. This girl seems sad.

Grammar: The Superlative

In French, you can make three types of comparisons: plus que (more than); autant que (as much as); and moins que (less than). There are also two superlative constructions: le plus (the most); and le moins (the least). Like the comparative, superlative constructions can be made with adjectives, adverbs, and nouns.

The Superlative with Adjectives

When the adjective follows the noun, le plus or le moins is placed after the noun and before the adjective. The definite article must agree in number and gender with its noun.

Ce chien a le museau le plus court. This dog has the shortest nose.
Ce chat est de la couleur la plus foncée. This cat is the darkest color.

When the adjective precedes the noun, the definite article that introduces the noun is dropped and le (la) plus or le (la) moins precedes the adjective.

C’est la plus jolie maison de toutes. It’s the prettiest house of all.

The Superlative with Adverbs

With adverbs, the superlative is formed by putting the definite article and plus or moins before the adverb.

Cet avion vole le plus haut. That airplane is flying the highest.

Frequently, the superlative is followed by a phrase such as “in the world” or “in the class.” To express this, use the preposition de instead of dans.

Cette fille court le plus vite de la classe. This girl runs the fastest in the class.

Voici le plus tacheté de tous les animaux. Here is the most spotted of all the animals.
The Superlative with Nouns

To form the superlative with nouns, place the definite article le before plus de or moins de.

- Cet animal a le moins de taches. This animal has the fewest spots.
- Cette femme a le plus de voitures. This woman has the most cars.

Note that the article is invariable in both the superlative with adverbs and superlative with nouns constructions.
New Vocabulary

There is no new vocabulary in this lesson.

Usage: près and loin

Près (near) and loin (far) can be used as prepositions or as adverbs. As adverbs, they are not followed by de and a noun.

Le château est près mais la forteresse est loin.
The castle is near but the fortress is far.

Près de and loin de are prepositions. They are followed by an article and a noun.

L’avion est près du sol.
The airplane is near to the ground.

Le château est loin de l’eau.
The castle is far from the water.

L’un l’autre means “each other.” It has a feminine form and plural forms: l’une l’autre, les uns les autres, les unes les autres. Note in the following examples that de is inserted between l’un and l’autre.

Le garçon et son chien sont assis près l’un de l’autre.
The boy and his dog are sitting close to each other.

Les vaches sont loin les unes des autres.
The cows are far from each other.
New Vocabulary

Usage: Prepositions Indicating Place

Prepositions that indicate place such as en face de (across from, opposite) are crucial in giving directions. We have already learned several prepositions that indicate place. Here is a more complete list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>à côté de</td>
<td>next to, beside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en face de</td>
<td>facing, opposite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>au-dessus de</td>
<td>above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>au-dessous de</td>
<td>below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autour de</td>
<td>around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>par-dessus</td>
<td>over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>derrière</td>
<td>behind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>devant</td>
<td>in front of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sous</td>
<td>under</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Still other prepositional phrases that we find useful in English do not have an exact equivalent in French, such as “around the corner.” Instead, in French, you would say it’s “on the street that intersects” (literally, “on the street that makes a corner”): dans la rue qui fait coin.

L’église est dans la rue qui fait coin, après le terrain de jeu.
The church is around the corner, after the playground.
New Vocabulary

- allez
- la bifurcation
- bloqué
- le bout
- le carrefour
- le chemin
- continuez
- jusqu'à
- là
- passez
- prenez (prendre)
- prochain
- rebroussez
- trouvez
- votre (vos)

Usage: Directions

Asking directions

To ask something’s location, use Où est followed by an article and a noun. When the noun is plural, use Où sont...?

- Où est la gare? Where is the train station?
- Où sont les toilettes? Where is the bathroom?

Here is a list of some useful locations when visiting a foreign country:

- l’aéroport: the airport
- la gare: the train station
- la station de métro: the subway stop
- l’arrêt d’autobus: the bus stop
- l’hôtel: the hotel
- la banque: the bank
- le bureau de poste: the post office
- l’hôpital: the hospital
- la gendarmerie: the police station
- le grand magasin: the department store
- le supermarché: the grocery store
- la pharmacie: the drug store
- la station-service: the gas station
- le restaurant: the restaurant
- l’église: the church
- la synagogue: the synagogue
Giving Directions

To tell where something is, use the imperative or command form of the verb (see Unit 6, Lesson 7). Remember that the subject pronoun vous is not used with the imperative.

Allez jusqu’à la banque et prenez à gauche.
Go to the bank and turn left.

Passez devant l’hôpital et continuez tout droit.
Pass the hospital and continue straight.

Rebroussez chemin et prenez à droite.
Go back up the street and turn right.

Some other useful expressions for giving directions include the following:

- jusqu’à until, to
- tout droit straight, straight ahead
- au bout de la rue at the end of the street
- la bifurcation the fork
- le carrefour the intersection
- prochain next

Grammar: Future Tense

We have been using aller + an infinitive to express an action that is going to happen. There is also a true future tense in French that corresponds to will + an infinitive in English. Vous trouverez (you will find) is an example of the future tense.

Au quatrième carrefour, vous trouverez le terrain de jeu à droite.
At the fourth intersection, you will find the playground on the right.

Cultural Note

In France, many everyday items such as food are sold in shops that specialize in that type of product. For example, bread is sold at a boulangerie (bakery specializing in bread) and pastries are sold at a pâtisserie (pastry shop). Some other common food stores include la boucherie (the butcher), la charcuterie (the butcher for pork products) and la fromagerie (the cheese store). Many French people still buy their food daily in these specialized shops, although with the widespread use of refrigerators and the convenience of supermarchés (supermarkets), more people are choosing to buy for more than one day at a time.
New Vocabulary

avais (avoir)       me        portais       tenais (tenir)
lis (lire)          mets (mettre) retourons       tiens (tenir)
lisais (lire)       participons       sautons

Grammar: Direct Object Pronouns

As in English, a French noun that is a direct object can be replaced by a pronoun. French has three direct object pronouns that correspond to “it”: le, la, and les. Unlike the English pronoun “it,” le, la, and les precede the conjugated verb.

J’ai ramassé le chat et je le tiens dans mes bras.
I picked up the cat and I am holding it in my arms.

Je tenais la guitare, mais maintenant c’est le garçon qui l’a.
I was holding the guitar, but now it’s the boy who has it.

In the first sentence, le stands for le chat, and in the second, l’ stands for la guitare. Note that when la or le precedes a verb that begins with a vowel sound, it makes the elision: “C’est le garçon qui l’a.”

Grammar: The Irregular Verb lire

lire (to read)

je lis           nous lisons
tu lis           vous lisez
il/elle lit  ils/elles lisent

past participle: lu