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**HOLIDAYS
IN FRANCE**

LEARN FRENCH

A COMPLETE PHRASE COMPILATION FOR

***TRAVELING TO
FRANCE***

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TRAVEL TO FRANCE

Conversation Cheat Sheet

Create Your
FREE Account

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MONEY & SHOPPING

Is there an ATM nearby?

Y a-t-il un distributeur automatique dans les environs?

How much is ~?

Combien coûte ~?



five hundred euros
cinq cents euros



two hundred euros
deux cents euros



hundred euros
cent euros



fifty euros
cinquante euros



twenty euros
vingt euros



ten euros
dix euros



five euros
cinq euros



two euros
deux euros



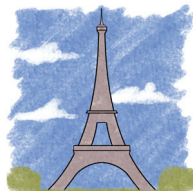
one euro
un euro

AROUND TOWN

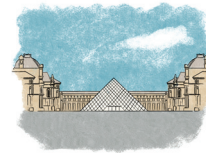
Where is ~?

Où est ~?

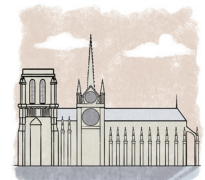
I'd like to go to ~.
J'aimerais aller à/à
la/à l'/au/aux ~.



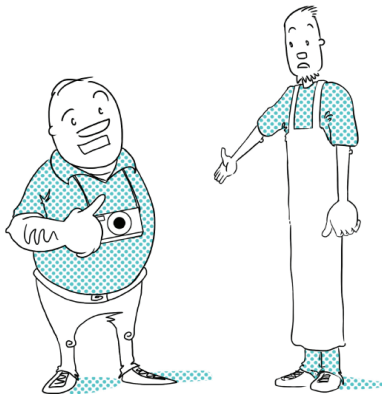
Eiffel Tower
Tour Eiffel



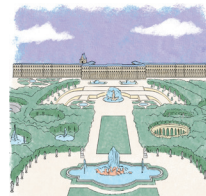
Louvre Museum
Musée du Louvre



Notre Dame
Notre Dame



Arc de Triomphe
Arc de Triomphe



Palace of Versailles
Château de Versailles



Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Paris
Sacré-Cœur

SURVIVAL PHRASES

Please take me to ~.

Accompagnez-moi à ~ s'il vous plaît.

Where is the station?

Où est la gare?

Where is the restroom?

Où sont les toilettes?

COMMUNICATION

Hello.

Bonjour.

Excuse me.

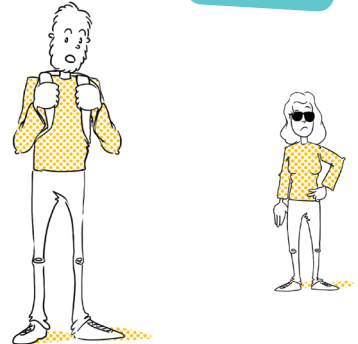
Excusez-moi.

I'm sorry.

Je suis désolé(e).

Excuse me.
Excusez-moi.

Hello.
Bonjour.



Nice to meet you.

Enchanté(e).

Please.

S'il vous plaît.

Yes.

Oui.

I am ~.

Je suis ~.

Thank you.

Merci.

No.

Non.

ASKING QUESTIONS

Do you understand?

Est-ce que vous comprenez?

I understand.

Je comprends.

I don't understand.

Je ne comprends pas.

I don't understand.
Je ne comprends pas.

Do you speak English?

Est-ce que vous parlez anglais?

Yes, I do.

Oui.

No I don't.

Non.



Can you eat this?

Pouvez-vous en manger?

Of course.

Bien sûr.

No, I can't eat it.

Non, je ne peux pas en manger.

ORDERING FOOD



tapenade
tapenade



aligot
aligot



chestnut purée
crème de marrons



clafoutis
clafoutis

~ please.
~ s'il vous plaît.

What do you recommend?
Que recommandez-vous?



bouillabaisse
bouillabaisse



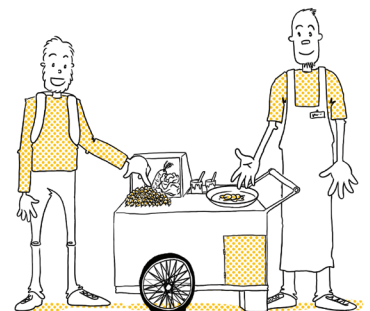
fougasse
fougasse



ratatouille
ratatouille



camembert
camembert



COUNTERS

1
un(e)

2
deux

3
trois

4
quatre

5
cinq

6
six

7
sept

8
huit

9
neuf

10
dix

~ please.
~ s'il vous plaît.

COUNTERS

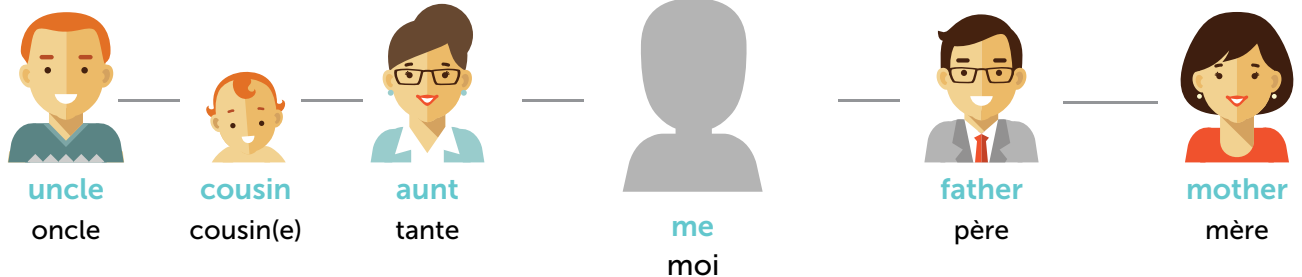
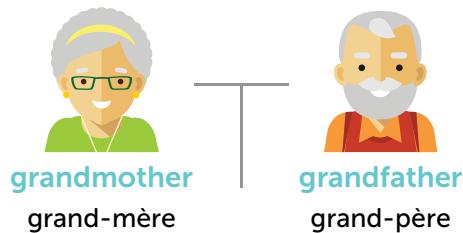
FAMILY & RELATIVES

Conversation Cheat Sheet



FAMILY RELATIONS

What kind of person is your ~?
 Quel genre de personne est votre ~ ?



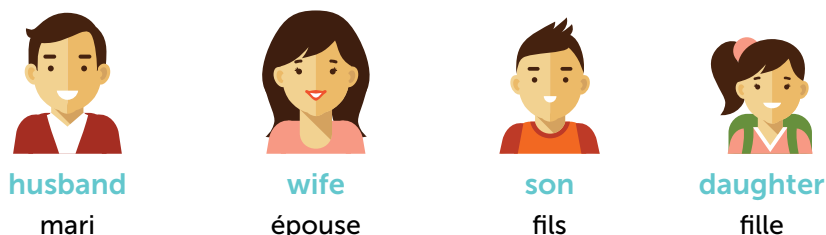
How's your mother?

Comment va votre mère ?

My mother is well.

Ma mère va bien.

FAMILY RELATIONS



Forward my greetings to your ~.

Passez le bonjour de ma part à votre ~.

PETS

I have a ~.
 Je possède un(e) ~.

dog
chien

cat
chat

bird
oiseau

fish
poisson

bunny
lapin

snake
serpent

FIRST MEETING

Nice to meet you.

Enchanté(e) de vous rencontrer.

Where are you from?

D'où venez-vous ?

Can I sit here?

Puis-je m'asseoir ici ?

What's your name?

Comment vous appelez-vous ?

I'm from Paris.

Je viens de Paris.

What is this?

Qu'est-ce que c'est ?

How are you?

Comment allez-vous ?

This is for you.

Ceci est pour vous.

How long will you stay?

Combien de temps allez-vous rester ?

I've heard a lot about you.

J'ai beaucoup entendu parler de vous.

How many people are there in your family?

Combien de personnes y a-t-il dans votre famille ?

It was nice to meet you.

C'était un plaisir de vous rencontrer.

HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

What do you do on ~?
Que faites-vous pour ~ ?



Bastille Day
Fête nationale



Day of the Dead
Jour des Morts



Beaujolais Nouveau
Beaujolais Nouveau



All Saints' Day
Toussaint

When is ~?

🕒 Quand est ~ ?

Please tell me more about ~.

🗣️ Racontez m'en plus sur ~ s'il vous plaît.



Christmas
Noël



Jeanne d'Arc's Day
Fête de Jeanne d'Arc



Easter
Pâques



New Year's Day
Jour de l'An

CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday!

Joyeux anniversaire!

April Fools!

Poisson d'Avril !

Merry Christmas!

Joyeux Noël !

Congratulations!

Félicitations!

Happy Halloween!

Joyeuse Halloween !

Happy New Year!

Bonne année !

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DINING LIKE A CHAMP

Conversation Cheat Sheet

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Phrases You Need to Know at the Dining Table >>>

I have a reservation at nine.

J'ai une réservation pour neuf heures.

Do you have a table for two?

Avez-vous une table pour deux?

May I have a menu?

Puis-je avoir un menu?

May I order?

Puis-je commander?

What do you recommend?

Que recommandez-vous?

I'll have this, please.

Je vais prendre ceci, s'il vous plaît.

Excuse me.

Excusez-moi.

My order hasn't come yet.

Ma commande n'est pas encore arrivée.

Check, please.

L'addition, s'il vous plaît.

Top Words You'll Need at the Restaurant >>>

POINT & SPEAK

INDIQUER &
PARLER

~ please.
~ s'il vous plaît.



appetizer
entrée



main dish
plat principal



dessert
dessert



chicken
poulet



beef
boeuf



pork
porc



salad
salade



seafood
fruits de mer

What are today's specials?

Quels sont les plats du jour?

Can I have a drink menu?

Puis-je avoir la carte des boissons?

Can I have some more ~?

Puis-je avoir un peu plus de ~ ?

Counters

1

un

2

deux

3

trois

4

quatre

5

cinq

6

six

7

sept

8

huit

9

neuf

10

dix

How to Choose The Best Foods to Fit Your Preferences

With ~, please.

Avec de la/du/des
~ s'il vous plaît.

meat
viande

fish
poisson

vegetables
légumes

butter
beurre

sugar
sucre

olive oil
huile d'olive

Without ~, please.

Sans ~ s'il vous plaît.

bell pepper
poivron

onions
oignons

wine
vin

cheese
fromage

tomato
tomate

alcohol
alcool

Does this dish contain any ~?

Est-ce que ce plat contient
du/de la/des ~ ?

I can't eat/drink ~.

Je ne peux pas manger/boire d'/
de ~.

Please remove ~ from this dish.

Veillez retirer ~ de ce plat.

Table Request In The Restaurant

Can you bring me (a) ~?

Pourriez-vous m'apporter (un/
une/du/de la/des/d') ~ ?

spoon
cuillère

fork
fourchette

knife
couteau

napkin
serviette

salt
sel

black pepper
poivre noir

I need (a) ~.
J'ai besoin d'
(un/une) ~.

water
eau

bread
pain

drink
boisson

menu
menu

coffee
café

dessert
dessert

Complimenting and Criticizing the Food

It's delicious!

C'est délicieux!

It looks tasty.

Ça a l'air savoureux.

It's very good.

C'est très bon.

It's overcooked.

C'est trop cuit.

It lacks salt.

Ça manque de sel.

It's raw!

C'est cru!

It smells so nice.

Ça sent si bon.

This is not fresh.

Ce n'est pas frais.

It's too spicy.

C'est trop épicé.

Food Allergies & Restrictions!

I am allergic to ~.

Je suis allergique à l'/
la/au/aux~.

meat
viande

eggs
oeuf

milk
lait

peanuts
cacahuètes

shellfish
fruits de mer

wheat
blé

soy
soja

fish
poisson

I am a vegetarian.

Je suis végétarien(ne).

I am a vegan.

Je suis végétalien(ne).

I can't eat pork.

Je ne peux pas manger de porc.



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LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #1

Thank You!

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

1

FRENCH

1. Merci.
2. Merci beaucoup.

ENGLISH

1. Thank you. / Thanks.
2. Thank you very much.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
merci	thank you, thanks	expression	
beaucoup	a lot, very much	adverb	
monsieur	sir	noun	
madame	Mrs	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Merci pour la leçon. "Thank you for the lesson."	Je n'aime pas beaucoup le vin. "I don't like wine very much."
Je révise beaucoup le soir. "I study a lot in the evening."	Bonjour Monsieur. "Hello, sir."
Bonjour Madame. "Hello, ma'am."	

GRAMMAR

In French, you only need one word for expressing gratitude: *merci*. And for emphasis, you can say *merci beaucoup*. In either case, in no situation is *merci* or *merci beaucoup* considered inappropriate. You can use them as often as you like without regard for age difference, gender difference, formality, or casualness. However, since there is no other way to express gratitude in speech, we often say *merci* in a mechanical way. In the Cultural Insight section of this lesson, we will look at two ways in which to make *merci* more personal.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Little Something Extra Politeness-Wise

underline

As we just mentioned, you can never say *merci* too much in France. Showing gratitude, especially for newcomers, can be a very successful way to have the French warm up to you. So one way to make *merci* more personal is to use it generously. For instance, if you ask a question in a shop or restaurant, it is a good idea to make eye contact and say *merci* or *merci beaucoup* at the end of the exchange. This is the same when getting off a bus or out of a taxi, after an exchange with a waiter, or really after speaking with anyone. If you make the extra effort to look the person in the eye and say *merci*, the person will feel acknowledged. It can be refreshing, especially in a culture that can be quite formal and make gratitude somewhat automatic. However, on the flip side, don't be surprised if you don't have as many *mercis* coming back to you-at first.

You can show gratitude with people you don't know personally by adding the word *monsieur* or *madame* at the end. For instance, if someone-say a shopkeeper-helps you and you want to show your appreciation while keeping a distance, say *Merci, monsieur* ("Thank you, sir") for a man and *Merci, madame* ("Thank you, madam.") for a woman. In fact, you can add *monsieur* or *madame* at the end of any address to a stranger to make it ring with more politeness and respect.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #2

You're Welcome!

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

#2

FRENCH

1. Je vous en prie.
2. Je t'en prie.
3. De rien.
4. C'est moi.

ENGLISH

1. "You are welcome" or "by all means" (formal)
2. "You are welcome." (informal "you," but somewhat formal expression)
3. "You're welcome." (informal)
4. "The pleasure's mine." (informal, personal)

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
de	of, from, by, some	preposition, determiner
te/t'	you (informal)	pronoun
rien	nothing	adverb
je / j'	I	personal pronoun
vous	you (formal)	pronoun
moi	me	stressed pronoun (pronom tonique)

SAMPLE SENTENCES

J'ai de l'eau. "I have some water."	Un poème de Victor Hugo. "A poem by Victor Hugo."
Il part de San Francisco. "He leaves from San Francisco."	Le père de Cathie est strict. "Cathie's father is strict."
Le tour de France "Tour of France"	Je te parle! "I'm talking to you!"
Je t'aime à ma façon. "I love you in my own way."	Comme tu vois, ce n'est rien. "As you see, it's nothing."
Je vais bien. "I am well."	Et vous, vous êtes en vacances ? "And you, you are on vacation?"
Allons à la plage toi et moi ! "Let's go to the beach, you and me!"	Jacques et moi, nous sommes amis. "Jacques and me, we are friends."

GRAMMAR

In French, there are several ways to say "you're welcome," each depending on a particular context. Essentially, for our purposes, there are two categories of context: formal and informal. Each has its own form of the word "you": *tu* (informal) and *vous* (formal). First, we'll take a look at the informal contexts and then the formal. The difference is quite subtle at times, so if ever in doubt, use the formal. In French, "you're welcome" is *de rien*. The first word, *de*, means "of." It is followed by *rien*, which in English means "nothing." So all together, we have *de rien*. Literally, this means "of nothing." Another way of responding to a phrase of gratitude is *Je vous en prie*, which is more formal. The first word, *je*, means "I." It is followed by *vous*, which in French is the formal "you." So to recap here, we have *Je vous*. Literally, this means "I you." The next word, *en*, means "of it." It is followed by *prie*, which in English means "pray."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Formal or Informal French: How to Decide

We use *tu* in contexts where we know the person personally and the environment is casual. People of one's own age, classmates, family, and friends are the people you should use *tu* with, and the proper contexts include home, school, and friendly social settings. *Tu* is the most common form of "you" that you will hear, so don't feel nervous about using it. In fact, overuse of *vous* can come off as old-fashioned or stuffy. If there is a doubt, start with *vous* and let the other person invite you to use the *tu* form.

To say "you're welcome" in an informal setting, say *de rien*. If you feel you want to express this more emphatically, you can use the formal phrase we learned, *je vous en prie*, and replace the formal *vous* with the informal *tu*, which in this case is *te* (the reflexive form of *tu*). This makes *je t'en prie*. This is a more gracious expression than the more common and perfunctory *de rien*.

Finally, to express "you're welcome" in a sincere and personal way, we can say *c'est moi*, which literally means "it's me (who gives thanks)" and is similar to "the pleasure is mine." *C'est moi* is considered very touching and authentic, so to use this phrase as a traveler will surely impress.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #3 Please (This, Please)

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- 2 French
- 2 English
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- 4 Cultural Insight

3

FRENCH

1. S'il vous plaît.
2. Veuillez patienter.
3. Veuillez excuser la gêne occasionnée.
4. S.V.P., respectez le silence.

ENGLISH

1. Please (formal "vous" form).
2. Please wait.
3. Please excuse the momentary disturbance.
4. Please keep quiet.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
occasionnée	caused	adjective	feminine
ça	it	demonstrative adjective	
le	the (singular)	definite article	masculine
s'il vous plaît	please (formal)	expression	
gêne	disturbance	noun	feminine
veuillez	please (+ verb)	conjugated verb	
patienter	to wait	verb	

excuser	to excuse	verb	
la	the (singular)	definite article	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>La grève est occasionnée par les travailleurs.</p> <p>"The strike is caused by the workers."</p>	<p>C'est quoi, ça ?</p> <p>"What is this?"</p>
<p>Ça, c'est de l'art.</p> <p>"This is art."</p>	<p>Le supermarché est au centre commercial.</p> <p>"The supermarket is at the mall."</p>
<p>Vous pouvez me donner un café, s'il vous plaît ?</p> <p>"Can you give me a coffee, please?"</p>	<p>La voiture gêne les piétons.</p> <p>"The car is in the pedestrians' way."</p>
<p>Veillez patienter.</p> <p>"Please, be patient."</p>	<p>Veillez vous asseoir.</p> <p>"Sit down, please."</p>
<p>Je patiente jusqu'à l'été.</p> <p>"I wait until the summer."</p>	<p>Excusez-moi, avez-vous du pain?</p> <p>"Excuse me, do you have some bread?"</p>
<p>La boisson est excellente.</p> <p>"The drink is excellent."</p>	

GRAMMAR

In French, "please" is *s'il vous plaît*, which is the formal type of the expression. This form is the most common, and you can use it in any situation in which you feel you need to express respect, such as asking for directions on the street and with shopkeepers. However, there is also a familiar form, *s'il te plaît*, that we use with people we are personally acquainted with, such as friends and family members. For traveling, this is less useful as you will need language

to speak with people you don't know. It would be good to know *s'il te plaît* in any case, so you won't be confused when you hear it, or so you can say "please" once you make friends!

The first word, *s'il*, is actually the contraction of two words, *si* and *il*. *Si* means "if" and *il*, in this case, means "it." So all together we have *s'il*, which means "if it." It is followed by *vous*, which in English is "you" or "to you." So to recap here, we have *s'il vous*. Literally, this means "if it you." This is followed by *plaît*, which means "pleases." So all together we have *s'il vous plaît*. Literally, this means "if it pleases you." The most rudimentary way of using "please" is pointing at something while saying *s'il vous plaît*, but let's try and build this up a bit, shall we?

Let's start with the expression "this please," which in French is *ça, s'il vous plaît*. In English, "this" comes before "please." In French, the word order is the same. In French, the word for "this," *ça*, precedes *s'il vous plaît*. Looking at the word for "this" warrants a look at the word for "that," which for our purposes, is the same word, *ça*. The phrase "that please" is the same as "this please," which is *ça, s'il vous plaît*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Forceful "Please" in French

As we have seen, we can use *S'il vous plaît* as a polite way to ask for someone's attention, just like "excuse me" in English. It can also be a direct way to tell someone you want to get by, also like "excuse me." This is useful in crowded areas such as the metro. Teachers use *S'il vous plaît* to get their classroom to quiet down. Police officers also use it to control crowds. If someone is in your way, you can say *S'il vous plaît* and he or she will know to move.

Another word for "excuse me" that is less forceful but equally polite is *pardon*, which is obviously close to the English "pardon me." *Pardon* is generally the better term for when you want to get by as it is less forceful, but the French are not shy about using *S'il vous plaît* to make their point. Thus, *S'il vous plaît* is a term that you may not say as much as others say it to you.

Finally, French speakers do not use *S'il vous plaît* or *s'il te plaît* as commonly as the English "please." For instance, in English, announcements and signs would employ "please," where in French, they would use *veuillez*, which is the imperative tense of the verb *vouloir* ("to want"). For example, *veuillez patienter* translates as "please wait" and literally means "want to wait." *Veuillez* is always followed by a verb in the infinitive form (verbs with the *-er* ending) as in the above example and in the following sentence: *Veuillez excuser la gêne occasionnée*. ("Please excuse the momentary disturbance," a phrase you will hear a lot in France.) If the French use *S'il vous plaît* on signs, they often write it like this: *S.V.P.* as in *S.V.P., Respectez le silence*. ("Please keep quiet" or literally "please respect the silence"). Again, these are not terms you need to use yourself, but you will hear and read them often.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #4

Basic Greetings

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- 3 Cultural Insight

4

FRENCH

1. Bonjour.
2. Bonsoir.

ENGLISH

1. Hello.
2. Good evening.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
le soir	evening	noun	masculine
bonjour	hello	expression	
bonsoir	good evening	expression	
jour	day	noun	masculine
bon	good	adjective	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ce soir, je vais au cinéma. "This evening, I am going to the movies."</p>	<p>Bonjour Madame. "Hello, ma'am."</p>
<p>Bonsoir, mesdames et messieurs. "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen."</p>	<p>Ils ouvrent un nouveau magasin dans trois jours. "They are opening a new store in three days."</p>

C'est le jour de la fête des mères.

"It's Mother's day."

C'est un bon livre.

"It is a good book."

Le chocolat, c'est bon.

"Chocolate is good."

GRAMMAR

In French, we can use the phrase *bonjour* as a universal greeting. The first word, *bon*, means "good." It is followed by *jour*, which in English means "day." All together, that makes *bonjour*, which literally means "good day."

Afterward, we have the evening greeting, which in French is *bonsoir*. The first word, *bon*, means "good," as we saw with *bonjour*. It is followed by *soir*, which in English means "evening." *Bonjour* and *bonsoir* are the only greetings you will need on your trip, but there are a couple more that might be useful, if only for knowing what someone is saying to you.

To say "hello" in a very sweet and endearing way, the French say *coucou*. This is reserved for your closest friends and romantic partners, so don't say it to a police officer unless you have personal intentions!

When on the phone, everyone answers with *allô* and not *bonjour* or *bonsoir*. As we will see in the following quick tip, we use *bonjour* or *bonsoir* to open up conversation, while *allô* is more like asking "is someone there?" After one says *allô* on the phone, then you can say *bonjour* or *bonsoir*. The exchange goes something like this:

The phone rings. PERSON 1 picks it up.

PERSON 1: *Allô?*

PERSON 2: *Bonjour, Marc. C'est Julien.* ("Hello, Marc. It's Julien.")

PERSON 1: *Bonjour...*

Now, the conversation can continue.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

To Kiss or Not to Kiss: That Is the Question

When meeting someone in France, one of the first questions a traveler asks himself or herself is do I shake hands or do I do the French *bisous* ("kiss hello")? This is an awkward spot for many a newcomer, so don't feel bad if you don't figure it out right away. Here are some

guidelines to help you. Traditionally, we reserve the *bisous* only for certain social situations in which a third person introduces you to someone or in which you already know the other person, such as a friend, and you are seeing that person for the first time that day. You perform the *bisous* like this: you and the other person touch cheek to cheek, usually starting on the left, and kiss the air. Then again, on the other side. The number of kisses depends on the region, but most often it's just two, one for each side.

Though women kiss each other hello, there is no strict rule between men, though when they meet for the first time, they often shake hands. If you're not sure what to do, follow the other person's lead. If you are not comfortable with a kiss hello, a handshake always works, especially if you are foreign. The French are quite used to travelers in their country (it's the number one tourist destination in the world!) and adapt this customary greeting easily to newcomers. Lastly, in a professional setting, everyone shakes hands.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #5 Parting Greetings (Goodbye)

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

#5

FRENCH

1. Au revoir.
2. À bientôt.
3. Bonne soirée.
4. Ciao.

ENGLISH

1. Good bye.
2. See you soon.
3. Good night.
4. Bye.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
bonne	good	adjective	feminine
au revoir	goodbye	expression	
à	at or to	preposition	
ciao	bye	expression	
soirée	evening, party	noun	feminine
bientôt	soon	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Bonne journée Monsieur Martin! "Have a nice day Monsieur Martin!"	Au revoir, à demain. "Bye, see you tomorrow."
Je suis à la maison. "I am at home."	J'habite à Sidney. "I live in Sydney."
Je vais à la campagne. "I go to the countryside."	Je pars: ciao! "I'm leaving, bye!"
Elles se préparent pour la soirée. "They get ready for the evening."	Quelle bonne soirée. Je vais à une soirée. "What a nice evening! I am going to a party."
Au revoir, et à bientôt. "Bye, and see you soon."	Bientôt, je vais au travail. "Soon, I'm going to work."

GRAMMAR

Customs for greeting and parting are essential in French culture. How you leave things, perhaps more than how you start them, can truly mark the moment. In the following quick tips, we will cover some of the varying ways of saying good-bye. If you can't master them all, don't worry. There are way too many to remember. *Au revoir* works fine for any situation.

One very common way to construct a parting phrase is to start with the article *à* ("until") and follow it with a future moment in time. This ranges from the general to the specific. These are rather perfunctory and you can use them in formal and informal contexts, unless otherwise noted. Here is a list of such expressions.

For Example:

Informal:

French	"English"
<i>à bientôt</i>	"see you soon"
<i>à la prochaine</i>	"until next time"
<i>à plus tard</i>	"see you later"

<i>à plus</i>	literally, "until more," which we translate as "see ya"
<i>ciao</i>	"bye"

Neutral:

French	"English"
<i>à demain</i>	"see you tomorrow"
<i>à tout a l'heure</i>	"see you later (today)"
<i>à tout de suite</i>	"see you very shortly"/"see you in a minute"
<i>à _____</i>	Here, you put in the exact time, date, or period of time you'd like, such as <i>à la semaine prochaine</i> , which is "see you next week."

Formal:

1. *Adieu:*
 "until God"
 Only say this when you believe you will never see the person again in this lifetime. The French never use this phrase except in literature. Only the French would have such a dramatic parting expression.

Again, as with any extra language I give you, this is good to know not so much for future use, but so you know what you hear or read.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Thinking Positive in French

A way to leave things on a more positive note is to wish the other person, or persons, a good day, afternoon, evening, etc. We do this by starting the phrase with the word *bon* (masculine) or *bonne* (feminine) depending on the gender of the following noun. Then add the time of day or activity that is coming after your departure. As with the other parting phrases, we can use these in formal or informal situations, unless indicated otherwise.

For Example:

1. *Bonne journée.*
"Have a good day."
2. *Bon après-midi.*
"Have a good afternoon."
3. *Bonne soirée.*
"Have a good evening."
4. *Bonne nuit.*
"Good night."
We strictly use *bonne nuit* for saying "good-bye" right before going to bed.

In France, you can get even more precise about the time of day you want to talk about by adding *fin* ("end") to the phrase. *Fin* is feminine, so it always takes *bonne*.

For Example:

1. *Bonne fin de journée.*
"Have a good end to your day."
2. *Bonne fin d'après-midi.*
"Have a good end to your afternoon."
3. *Bonne fin de soirée.*
"Have a good end to your evening."

You can also specify the activity that the other person is going to engage in following your parting.

For Example:

1. *Bon travail.*
"Enjoy your work."
2. *Bonnes courses.*
"Enjoy your shopping."
3. *Bon repas.*
"Have a good meal."
4. *Bon/bonne _____.* (put in the noun of your choice)

There are other more general well-wishing phrases that you might hear.

For Example:

1. *Bonne continuation.*
Literally, "Good continuation" (with whatever it is we talked about), which we translate as "all the best!"
2. *Bon courage.*
Literally, "good courage," which we translate as "best of luck."
3. *Bonne chance.*
"Good luck."

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #6

Where Is the Bathroom?

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

6

FRENCH

1. Où sont les toilettes?
2. Les toilettes, s'il vous plaît.

ENGLISH

1. Where are the toilets?
2. The toilets, please.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
toilettes	restrooms	noun	feminine plural
où	where	adverb	
salle de bain	bathroom (not toilet)	noun	
papier toilette	toilet paper	noun	masculine
hommes	men's	noun	
dames	ladies	noun	
s'il vous plaît	please (formal)	expression	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Les toilettes sont ici. "The restrooms are here."</p>	<p>Tu habites où, déjà? J'habite à Paris. "Where do you live, again? I live in Paris."</p>
---	---

<p>Où tu es? "Where are you?"</p>	<p>Je suis dans la salle de bain. "I am in the bathroom."</p>
<p>Je n'ai plus de papier toilette. "I am out of toilet paper."</p>	<p>Les toilettes pour hommes. "Men's room."</p>
<p>Les toilettes pour dames. "Ladies' room."</p>	<p>Vous pouvez me donner un café, s'il vous plaît ? "Can you give me a coffee, please?"</p>

GRAMMAR

Finding the bathroom in France is a snap. All you really need are the words *les toilettes*, and someone will show you the way. However, one common mistake is to say the phrase in the singular form, *la toilette*, which means essentially "washing and grooming" and not bathroom. So be sure to say *LES toilettes*, as in general there are more than one.

In French, "Where is the bathroom?" is *Où sont les toilettes?*

Let's take a look at the components. The first word, *où*, means "where." It is followed by *sont*, which in English means "are." So to recap, we have *où sont*. Literally, this means "where are." The next word, *les*, means "the." It is followed by *toilettes*, which means "toilets."

So all together, we have *où sont les toilettes?* Literally, this means "where are the toilets?"

A shorter way of asking for the bathroom is to say *les toilettes, s'il vous plaît*, which means "the bathroom, please." Thankfully, it is made of words we have already learned.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Learn These Words So You Don't Make a Mistake!

In French, you may hear or read several words for toilet. Other than *toilette*, you will often see and hear *wc*, which we pronounce "vay-say." A very gruff way of saying toilet is *la commode*. You can impress your close French friends with this one. Another word for bathroom is *salle de bains*, but this is not the toilet. *Salle de bain* literally means "room of baths," and we translate it as "bathroom." This room has sinks, showers, and baths but no toilets. The French often keep showers and toilets separate. Another term for *salle de bains* is *salle d'eau* or "water room," but

this is rare. Lastly, if you are looking for "toilet paper," the term is *papier toilette*.

Men's and women's bathrooms are marked in different ways. Most commonly, the men's is marked *Hommes* and the women's *Femmes*. Sometimes this is shortened to just *H* and *F*. Remember which is which so you don't make a mistake! In general, to express the men's area and the women's area, say for dressing rooms, the French say *chez les hommes* for the men and *chez les femmes* for the women. Another more fancy way to write and say it is *messieurs* for men and *dames* for women. You may find this in more upscale places like restaurants.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #7

I Don't Understand

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

#7

FRENCH

1. Je ne comprends pas.
2. Je ne parle pas français.
3. Non, merci.

ENGLISH

1. I do not understand.
2. I don't speak French.
3. No, thank you.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
français	French	noun	masculine
merci	thank you	noun	
comprendre	to understand	verb	
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
parler	to speak, to talk	verb	
non	no	expression	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Oui, je suis français. "Yes, I'm French."	Mille mercis. "A thousand thanks."
---	--

Je comprends le français. "I understand French."	Je vais bien. "I am well."
Ils parlent français. They speak French.	Tu parles espagnol ? "Do you speak Spanish?"
Non, je ne suis pas d'accord. "No, I don't agree."	

GRAMMAR

Not understanding what you hear when visiting a foreign country is a normal part of the process. So don't be frustrated if you don't understand. The French know that their language is not easy, and they often appreciate seeing a foreigner make a sincere effort to speak it, no matter how incorrect he or she might be. So if you don't understand, the French are likely to be patient if you show you are trying. On the contrary, if you show no effort in speaking French and say *je ne comprend pas* as an excuse to speak in English, they may not accept it and continue in French just to show you what for. It is important to show a respect for the language and customs, as the French are raised to hold them somewhat sacredly.

In French, "I don't understand" is *Je ne comprend pas*. The first word, *je*, means "I." It is followed by *ne*, which in French we put before a verb to make it negative, similar to "don't" in English. So to recap here, we have *je ne*. Literally, this means "I don't." The next word, *comprend*, means "understand." It is followed by *pas*, which, along with *ne*, completes the negation of the verb. So all together, we have *Je ne comprend pas*. Literally, this means "I don't understand." Another short way to express this is to say *comment?* This literally means "how?" and is similar to "I'm sorry?" The person will repeat what he or she said following this response.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Giving Someone the Brush-Off in French

Even though we often do not like not understanding, it can come in handy, for instance, if you want someone peddling wares or asking for money to leave you alone, as is very common in France. Since France is the number one tourist destination in the world, clandestine souvenir sellers are there in droves. Sometimes they can be hard to shake, especially since they are often immigrants and speak better English than most French people. To give them a little

surprise, say "I don't understand. I don't speak French" in French. This combines the two phrases we have recently learned: *Je ne comprend pas. Je ne parle pas français.*

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #8

Can You Speak English?

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

8

FRENCH

1. Parlez-vous anglais?
2. Vous parlez anglais?
3. Tu parles anglais?
4. Je parle un peu français.

ENGLISH

1. Do you speak English? (formal "vous" form)
2. You speak English?
3. Speak English? (informal "tu" form)
4. I speak a little French.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
parler	to speak, to talk	verb	
tu	you (informal)	personal pronoun	
vous	you (formal)	pronoun	neuter
anglais(e)	English	noun	masculine/feminine
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
français	French	noun	masculine
un peu	a little	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ils parlent français. They speak French.	Tu parles espagnol ? "Do you speak Spanish?"
Tu as 20 ans. "You are twenty years old."	Tu vas au travail. "You go to work."
Vous êtes ici. "You are here."	Vous vous appelez David. "You are called David."
Mon ami anglais vient de Londres. "My English friend comes from London."	L'anglais est la langue des affaires. "English is the language of business."
Je vais bien. "I am well."	Oui, je suis français. "Yes, I'm French."
Je veux un peu de fromage. "I want a little cheese."	

GRAMMAR

As mentioned, English is taught very early on in French schools, so almost everyone will know some basic English. However, you shouldn't rely on this everywhere you go. Older people and rural people tend not to speak English very much. Younger people, on the other hand, tend to speak quite a lot of English, as popular culture, such as movies, music, and the Internet, is more and more Anglophone.

The *Académie Française*, the government institution that regulates the French language, sees this change as a problem. There are laws controlling how much English can be broadcast in the media. For instance, all radio stations and movie theaters must have a majority of French language content: that is to say, no more than fifty percent of content can be in English, and most stations and movie theaters push this quota to the limit. So if you are looking for an English break on your trip, the movie theatre and the radio have plenty. If you are looking for signs or brochures in English, look for the British flag or the letters GB (Great Britain), as most of the English speakers in France come from England.

In French, "I don't understand" is *Je ne comprends pas*. The first word, *je*, means "I." It is followed by *ne*, which in French we put before a verb to make it negative, similar to "don't" in

English. So to recap here, we have *je ne*. Literally, this means "I don't." The next word, *comprends*, means "understand." It is followed by *pas*, which, along with the *ne*, completes the negation of the verb. So all together, we have *Je ne comprends pas*. Literally, this means "I don't understand." Another short way to express this is to say *comment?* This literally means "how?" and is similar to "I'm sorry?" The person will repeat what he or she said following this response.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Finding Common Language Ground in French

In French, there are two ways of asking someone whether he or she speaks English. One is the way we learned in the podcast, *Parlez-vous anglais?* which is the more common and more respectful form. The French almost never say the second and more informal form using *tu*: *parles-tu anglais?* So another way to make the expression more informal is to take away the inversion and simply say *Vous parlez anglais?* or in the *tu* form, *Tu parles anglais?* Again, the first phrase is the best for our purposes, but the second two maybe asked of you since the person you are speaking with may hear your accent. But we won't let that happen, will we?

Now that you speak a little French, you may find it useful to express this fact in French. For instance, if someone you meet does not speak English, you will need to find another common language. The obvious one is French. To say you speak a bit of French, say *Je parle un peu de français*. Here is a conversation you may have:

You: *Parlez-vous anglais?*

French person: *Non.*

You: *Parlez-vous allemand?*

French person: *Non.*

You: *Ok, je parle un peu de français.*

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #9

Can You Say It Again?

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

9

FRENCH

1. Répétez, s'il vous plaît.
2. Comment?
3. Doucement, s'il vous plaît.
4. Répétez doucement, s'il vous plaît.
5. Pourriez-vous répéter, s'il vous plaît?

ENGLISH

1. Once again, please.
2. I'm sorry. or What's that?
3. Slowly, please.
4. Once again slowly, please.
5. Can you say it once again, please?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
répéter	to repeat	verb
excusez-moi	excuse me	expression
comprendre	to understand	verb
encore	again, more	adverb

s'il vous plaît	please (formal)	expression
pouvoir	can	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Vous pouvez répéter la question? "Can you repeat the question?"</p>	<p>Excusez-moi, avez-vous du pain? "Excuse me, do you have some bread?"</p>
<p>Je comprends le français. "I understand French."</p>	<p>Le client est encore revenu pour se plaindre. "The customer came back again to complain."</p>
<p>Vous pouvez me donner un café, s'il vous plaît ? "Can you give me a coffee, please?"</p>	<p>Je peux lui montrer comment le faire. "I can show him how to do it."</p>
<p>Pardon, vous pouvez me laisser passer ? "Excuse me; can you let me go through?"</p>	

GRAMMAR

If you've ever traveled in a foreign country like I have, you are sure to come across the problem of having mastered asking a few questions, but having no idea what the answer coming back to you is. However, it is at this opportunity that we really learn the language with the locals as our teachers. The phrase *Répétez s'il vous plaît* will be instrumental in your learning of French. In French, "Once again, please" is *Répétez, s'il vous plaît*. The first word, *répétez*, means "repeat." It is followed by *s'il vous plaît*, which we learned in a previous chapter and in French is "please." So all together, we have *Répétez, s'il vous plaît*. Literally, this means "repeat if it pleases you."

Another common way of asking someone to repeat what he or she has just said is to say *comment?* This literally means "how?" and is similar to "I'm sorry?" or "what's that?"

At times, even repetition of what is said isn't enough to understand the speaker because the words are still too fast. For situations like this, you can use the phrase "slowly, please." In

French, "slowly, please" is *Doucement, s'il vous plaît*. The first word, *doucement*, literally means "softly or sweetly," and we translate it as "slowly." It is followed by *s'il vous plaît*, which we saw in the earlier phrase. So all together, we have *Doucement, s'il vous plaît*. Literally, this means "softly, please." We can use these phrases, "Once again, please" and "slowly, please," together, as in "once again slowly, please": *Répétez doucement, s'il vous plaît*. In order to make this phrase even more courteous, we can add "can you?" to the front of it, making "Can you say it once again, please?" or *Pourriez-vous Répétez, s'il vous plaît*. In French, "can you?" is *pourriez-vous*. The first word, *pourriez*, means "can." It is followed by *vous*, which in French is, as we have learned, "you." So to recap here, we have *pourriez vous*. Literally, this means "can you?" So all together we have *Pourriez vous répétez s'il vous plaît?* We can use this together with "slowly" or *doucement* to as *Pourriez-vous répéter doucement s'il vous plaît?* ("Can you say it once again slowly, please?")

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Play (or Say) It Again in French, Please!

In the lesson, we translate the phrase "Once again, please" as *Répétez s'il vous plaît*, literally "repeat, please." I would like to draw our attention to the word for "again" in French. It is *encore*, a word you may recognize from concerts. We use *encore* in many ways that we do not use "again" in English, and that is why we do not directly translate it for the phrase "once again, please." To literally translate it, we would say *Encore une fois, s'il vous plaît*, or "one more time, please." This a bit too direct in French and is why we say *Répétez, s'il vous plaît*.

Here, we use *encore* to mean "more," which is its primary meaning in French. For example, if someone asks whether you want some more, say when he or she is serving you at a dinner, he or she might ask *Encore?* which is similar to "More?" Keep your ears peeled for this one, especially if you do want some more.

When you don't understand something and you would like the other person to repeat what he or she said, there is one way to impress, if you feel revved up for it. You can try putting together the two phrases we learned from the last two lessons. Together, they go like this: *Excusez-moi, je ne comprends pas. Pourriez-vous répéter, s'il vous plaît?* meaning "Excuse me, I don't understand. Can you say it once again?" If someone repeats, it's always appropriate to show your gratitude. Say *Merci beaucoup!*

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #10

I'm Sorry

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

10

FRENCH

1. Pardon.
2. Excusez-moi.
3. Je vous en prie.

ENGLISH

1. Pardon.
2. Excuse me.
3. By all means.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
excusez-moi	excuse me	expression	
pardon	excuse me, sorry	noun	masculine
Je vous en prie.	You are welcome, please	expression	
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
vous	you (formal)	direct pronoun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Excusez-moi, avez-vous du pain?</p> <p>"Excuse me, do you have some bread?"</p>	<p>Pardon, vous pouvez me laisser passer ?</p> <p>"Excuse me; can you let me go through?"</p>
<p>Je vous en prie, entrez.</p> <p>"Please, come in."</p>	<p>Je vais bien.</p> <p>"I am well."</p>
<p>Je vous aime.</p> <p>"I love you."</p>	<p>Il est enchanté de vous rencontrer.</p> <p>"He is pleased to meet you."</p>

GRAMMAR

In today's lesson, we'll cover phrases we use for apologizing. Now, as you haven't quite mastered French, it's probably very prudent to go over the phrases for apologizing as they just might come in handy. We'll start with *pardon*. We use this phrase when we want to get by someone, when we want to apologize for bumping into someone, or when we don't understand what someone says. This phrase is quite common and you will hear it a lot in crowded places like markets and the metro.

Next, we'll take a look at *Excusez-moi*. We also use this phrase to get by someone, but it is a bit stronger and a bit more forceful without losing any politeness. We also use it to apologize for oneself in a more emphatic way than *pardon*. Whereas we can say *pardon* in passing, just like "excuse me" in English, we use *excusez-moi* to communicate our apology directly to a particular person. We can say *excusez-moi* alone, like *pardon*. It always comes before a sentence explaining what you are apologizing for.

For Example:

1. *Excusez-moi, je ne parle pas Français.*

Now, what if someone says *excusez-moi* to you?" If someone uses this expression toward you, the proper response is to say the phrase we learned for "you're welcome," which is *Je vous en prie*.

As we have seen, apologizing for bumping into people or needing to get by someone are a daily need. However, there are more specific situations in which apologizing needs a different tone and different words. For example, if you are in an informal situation, say with family and/or friends, and you want to say *excusez-moi*, the other person is familiar and so you do not need to address him or her with the formal *vous*. In that situation, you say *excuse-moi*, which is the *tu* form. The following situations in the Cultural Insight section are other situations that call for

different phrases.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How Sorry Are You?

When traveling, we often find ourselves needing to ask for help from strangers, such as asking directions. In France, this can be tricky as the French have a very particular way of going about asking each other for information when they don't know each other. We studied this problem earlier when we looked at basic greetings. Do you remember the magic word to use to get someone's attention? It's *bonjour* (*bonsoir* after six o' clock). Well, it's also customary to apologize for interrupting someone before you ask your question. Here is a phrase that you can use in almost any situation where you need to do this: *Bonjour/soir. (wait for reply) Excusez moi de vous déranger, mais j'ai un problème.* This means "Hello. Excuse me for disturbing you, but I have a problem." Then you say your question. This phrase will disarm any French person from whom you need help. If it seems too complicated, here is a shorter version that is less fancy, but for a traveler it works well: *Bonjour/soir, excusez-moi. J'ai un problème,* which means "Hello. Excuse me, I have a problem."

So far we've learned how to excuse ourselves for slight problems such as not understanding someone or bumping into someone. What about apologizing for more serious mistakes, like breaking something? For these situations, we say *Je suis désolé*, which means "I'm sorry." We use this regardless of formality or gender differences. If we want to be more emphatic, we can say *Je suis vraiment désolé*, which means "I'm really sorry."

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #11

How Many People?

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

11

FRENCH

1. Combien de personnes?
- 2 un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq

ENGLISH

1. How many people?
- 2 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
un/une	one	adjective	
deux	two	noun	masculine
trois	three	noun	masculine
quatre	four	noun	masculine
cinq	five	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Une table pour une personne, s'il vous plaît. "A table for one, please."	J'ai deux frères. "I have two brothers."
Il a trois ans. "He is three years old."	Quatre euros pour une baguette? C'est cher! "Four euros for a baguette? That's expensive!"

J'ai cinq voitures !

"I have five cars!"

GRAMMAR

There is a wide variety of French food, and your job as a visitor is to eat as much of as many things as possible! However, before you start eating, you have to get the table! So in today's lesson we'll cover getting to the table in a restaurant. As for ordering...well, you'll just have to hang on until next lesson.

When entering a restaurant in France, the host or hostess will greet you with *bonjour* or *bonsoir*. The first question he or she will ask you is "How many people in your party?" In French, this is *Combien de personnes?* The first word, *combien*, means "how many" or "how much." This is followed by *de*, which in English means "of." Lastly, *de* is followed by *personnes*, which in English means "people."

Now let's go over how to answer. First, let's just recap numbers here. From one to five they are *un, deux, trois, quatre*, and *cinq*. Now adding the word for "person," we have *une personne, deux personnes, trois personnes, quatre personnes*, and *cinq personnes*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Interacting with Your French Host/Hostess

Another question a restaurant host may ask you after you enter is whether you want to eat or drink. Many restaurants function as bars at the same time, even high-class establishments. The question is *C'est pour manger ou pour boire?* The key words here are *manger* ("to eat") and *boire* ("to drink"). The waiter needs to know because restaurants are usually divided into two areas and he needs to place you accordingly.

Another way to answer the question *Combien de personnes* is to show fingers. If you have ever traveled, you will notice that different cultures count differently with the fingers. In France, we indicate "one" with the thumb. To show "two," you put the thumb back and show the index and middle fingers. To indicate "three," use the index, middle, and ring fingers. At "four," you add the pinky, and at "five" the thumb.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #12

Restaurant: Part 1

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

12

FRENCH

1. Fumeur ou non-fumeur?
2. Pourrions-nous nous asseoir là?
3. Pourrions-nous nous asseoir ici?
4. Ou vous voulez.

ENGLISH

1. Smoking or non-smoking?
2. Could we sit there?
3. Could we sit here?
4. Wherever you like.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
là	there, here	adverb of place
nous	we	personal pronoun
s'asseoir	to sit	verb
ici	here	adverb
pouvoir	can	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Il est là. "He is there."</p>	<p>Nous voulons vous donner ce cadeau de remerciement. "We want to give you this thank you gift."</p>
<p>Nous voyageons ensemble. "We travel together."</p>	<p>Nous apprenons le français. "We learn French."</p>
<p>Tu t'assoies ici. "You sit here."</p>	<p>Nous nous asseyons au premier rang. "We sit in the first row."</p>
<p>Nous sommes ici. "We are here."</p>	<p>Je suis ici. "I am here."</p>
<p>Je peux lui montrer comment le faire. "I can show him how to do it."</p>	<p>Pardon, vous pouvez me laisser passer ? "Excuse me; can you let me go through?"</p>

GRAMMAR

Dining in restaurants is one of the favorite activities of the French. Some restaurants are very popular and you must reserve in advance, whereas some restaurants do not take reservations at all. Most restaurants do both reservations and walk-ins. If you already know a place you'd like to eat, be sure to call and find out whether you can reserve a table.

Now remember, when you enter a restaurant you'll hear *Combien de personnes?* This will likely be followed by one of the following expressions. "Non-smoking" in French is *non-fumeur*. The first word, *non*, means "no." This is followed by *fumeur*, which in English means "smoker." "Smoking" in French is simply *fumeur*. Together, people often ask the question *Fumeur ou non fumeur?* This means "Smoking or non-smoking?" You can beat them to the punch by saying how many people in your party and "non-smoking" first. For example, you can say *Trois personnes, non-fumeurs s'il vous plaît.*

Now, secondhand smoke may not be the only obstacle on your path toward the perfect meal, as you may not like the location of the table selected for you. Perhaps you want a table by the window or one not next to the kitchen door! Try this: *Pourrions-nous nous asseoir là?* The first word, *pourrions*, means "could." It is followed by *nous*, which in English means "we." So to recap, we have *pourrions-nous?* This is followed by *nous asseoir*, which in French is "we" + the infinitive of the verb meaning "to sit." Lastly, we have *là*, which in English means "there."

So all together, we have *Pourrions-nous nous asseoir là?* that literally means "Could we sit there?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Do You Want to Eat at Thirteen O'Clock in France?

You can reserve a table using some of the phrases you have just learned. Say *Bonjour/ Bonsoir. J'aimerais une table pour (X) personnes, non-fumeur (or fumeur) à (Y) heure.* ("Hello. I would like a table for (X number of) people, non-smoking (or smoking), at (Y) o'clock.") For example, *Bonsoir. J'aimerais une table pour deux personnes, non-fumeur, à vingt heures.* ("Good evening. I would like a table for two people, non-smoking, at eight o'clock.") You may have noticed that the hour in the example is not "eight" o'clock but "twenty" o'clock. All p.m. hours in France are spoken using the twenty-four-hour clock and not the twelve-hour clock. For example, "one o'clock" in the afternoon is "treize (13) heures." We will take a look at numbers again later.

Restaurant dinner hours are almost always later than what most travelers are used to. The earliest dinner service is at eight p.m. and the last one sometime between eleven and midnight. So if you walk up to a restaurant at seven p.m., you will likely be turned away. However, there are restaurants that run all day long called *brasseries*. The food is never the best, but you are sure to be served.

Right behind eating out, smoking is the second favorite activity in French culture, and for a non-smoker, this can be frustrating. Restaurants have been going to the trouble of creating non-smoking areas for some years, but these are never truly separated from the smoking sections. Sometimes there is simply no escape, and the most we can do is ask someone to move their cigarette or smoke in another direction. This can be tricky as it means interrupting someone in their private conversation. Remember that magic phrase we learned? *Excusez-moi de vous déranger, mais...* This is the perfect opportunity to put it to use. Say *Excusez-moi de vous déranger, mais pourriez-vous fumer avec l'autre main/dans l'autre direction ?* ("Sorry to disturb you, but can you smoke with the other hand/in the other direction?") However, all this may not be necessary as French law forbade smoking in restaurants and bars starting in January 2008.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #13

Restaurant: Part 2

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

13

FRENCH

1. Qu'est-ce que vous recommandez?
2. De l'eau, s'il vous plaît.
3. Sans glaçons, s'il vous plaît.

ENGLISH

1. What do you recommend?
2. Water, please.
3. No ice, please.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
sans	without	preposition	
un glaçon	an ice cube	noun	masculine
s'il vous plaît	please	phrase	
l'eau	water	noun	
du/de la/de l'	some	partitive article	
qu'est-ce que	what	interrogative pronoun	
vous	you (formal)	pronoun	neuter
recommander	to recommend	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Cela va sans dire. "It's without saying."</p>	<p>J'aime mon Coca Cola avec glaçons. "I like my Coke with ice."</p>
<p>La carte des vins, s'il vous plaît. "The wine list, please."</p>	<p>L'eau minérale est bonne pour la santé. "Mineral water is healthy."</p>
<p>Je mange du pain. "I'm eating some bread."</p>	<p>Je veux de la confiture, du beurre et de l'eau. "I want some jam, some butter, and some water."</p>
<p>Qu'est-ce que c'est, Le Louvre ? "What is the Louvre?"</p>	<p>Qu'est-ce que tu as? "What do you have?"</p>
<p>Et vous, vous êtes en vacances ? "And you, you are on vacation?"</p>	<p>Je recommande ce film, il est très bien. "I recommend this movie; it's very good."</p>

GRAMMAR

Restaurant service in France can vary widely from highly attentive and welcoming to practically nonexistent. This seems to be due to the fact that French culture does not seem to adhere to any particular service philosophy. Rather, each waiter is left to run things how he or she sees fit. I find it useful to see a restaurant or a shop as someone else's home. This person has left his door open to offer strangers the opportunity to shop or eat in his home. In a sense, he is doing you, the stranger, a favor by offering this opportunity to enter his territory. The fact that you bring money does not change this relationship. Therefore, it is important to respect or even ingratiate yourself with the establishment in order to be well served.

Waiters do not walk around looking to see how they can serve you in every way possible. You have to get their attention a lot. So bone up on the terms you have learned and put your nose out a little. You'll need to use *excusez-moi*, which we learned earlier means "excuse me." As we said, we can use this phrase generally to get the attention of strangers, including waiters.

Another way to get a waiter's attention is to say *Monsieur*, which means "sir," or *Madame*, which means "madam." We learned about these words earlier as well. We use them generally to get a person's attention. If you like, you can say these two phrases together: for example, *Monsieur, excusez-moi*.

Once the waiter or waitress comes to your table, you can go with the standard point and "this please." As we have learned in the first lesson, in French "this please" is *ça, s'il vous plaît*. Now if you're feeling ambitious, you could go for "What do you recommend?" In French, "What do you recommend?" is *Qu'est-ce que vous recommandez*. The first word, *Qu'est-ce que*, means "What is it that?" and we translate it as "What?" It is followed by *vous*, which, as we have learned, in English means "you." This is followed by *recommandez*, which means "recommend." All together, we have *Qu'est-ce que vous recommandez*.

Now two more phrases that will come in handy have to do with water and ice! In France, the water is safe to drink. In French, "water, please" is *de l'eau, s'il vous plaît*. The first word, *de l'eau*, means "some water." It is followed by *s'il vous plaît*, which we know means "please." Now on to the ice issue! Whether it is a health concern or economic decision, in French "no ice, please" is *sans glaçons, s'il vous plaît*. The first word, *sans*, means "without." It is followed by *glaçons*, which in English means "ice cubes." All together, we have *sans glaçons, s'il vous plaît*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quenching Your Thirst in France

Sometimes when you ask for water it will come in a small glass and you will remain thirsty. To avoid asking for water over and over, ask for a pitcher of water. You can do this with the term *Une carafe d'eau, s'il vous plaît* ("A pitcher of water, please."). When it comes to ice, restaurants and bars sometimes don't offer it automatically and you have to ask for it if you want it. To ask for ice, say *Avec glaçons, s'il vous plaît*, which means "With ice, please."

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #14

Restaurant: Part 3

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

14

FRENCH

1. À table!
2. Bon appétit.
3. C'est bon.
4. C'est délicieux.
5. Merci, c'était bon !

ENGLISH

1. Dinner's ready!
2. Enjoy your meal.
3. It's good.
4. This is delicious.
5. Thank you, that was delicious!

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
délicieux	delicious	adjective	masculine
bon	good	adjective	masculine
être	to be	verb	
bon appétit	Enjoy your meal.	phrase	

c'est	this is, that is, it's	phrase
merci	thank you	phrase
à table	Dinner's ready.	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>La femme apprécie une délicieuse pizza. "This woman is eating a delicious pizza."</p>	<p>Le couscous, c'est délicieux. "Couscous is delicious."</p>
<p>C'est plus que bon, c'est délicieux ! "This is more than good; this is delicious!"</p>	<p>C'est un bon livre. "It is a good book."</p>
<p>Le chocolat, c'est bon. "Chocolate is good."</p>	<p>Il vaut mieux être seul que mal accompagné. "It is worth more to be alone than badly accompanied."</p>
<p>Il semble être heureux. "He seems to be happy."</p>	<p>Être ou ne pas être. "To be or not to be."</p>
<p>Bon appétit ! "Enjoy your meal!"</p>	<p>C'est un vieux livre. "It's an old book."</p>
<p>C'est mon collègue préféré. "It's my preferred coworker."</p>	<p>C'est mon porte-feuille. "This is my wallet."</p>
<p>Mille mercis. "A thousand thanks."</p>	<p>Il est 20h, à table ! "It's 20:00, dinner's ready!"</p>

GRAMMAR

As mentioned, it is proper to let the host take the lead in all things related to your meal. On more informal occasions, others may take the lead and serve food and drinks as well if the host agrees. If you ever feel like taking the initiative, it is customary to serve everyone else before serving yourself. When it comes to serving seconds, present the item you wish to serve and ask *Vous en voulez?* (formal "you") or *Tu en veux?* (informal "you"), which means, "Would you like some?" Be sure to ask everyone and serve yourself last.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Raising Your Glass in France

When you offer a toast, there are a couple of customs that outsiders find a little superstitious, but I enjoy them. First, you don't toast when the beverages are non-alcoholic. I am not sure why. Second, each person must take the time to touch his or her glass with everyone else's. Generally, this means no two pairs of people are to toast at the same time (though most people cheat on this) and certainly, no two pairs of people are to cross arms trying touching their glasses across the table. Third, you are to look each person kindly in the eyes as you touch glasses. If you miss this detail, the French people will swiftly correct you. Once everyone has toasted, you may drink.

Other French expressions for a toast are *à votre santé* ("to your health") and *à vous* ("to you"). If you are only toasting one other person in an informal situation, you can use *à ta santé* and *à toi*.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #15

Restaurant: Part 4

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
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- 4 Cultural Insight

15

FRENCH

1. Excusez-moi.
2. L'addition, s'il vous plaît.
3. C'est délicieux.
4. Prenez-vous la carte de crédit?

ENGLISH

1. Excuse me.
2. The bill, please.
3. It's delicious.
4. Do you take credit cards?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
excusez-moi	excuse me	expression	
c'est	it's, this is, that is	contraction	
addition	bill, check, addition	noun	feminine
prendre	to take	verb	
délicieux	delicious	adjective	masculine
s'il vous plaît	please (formal)	expression	
carte de crédit	credit card	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Excusez- moi, avez- vous du pain?</p> <p>"Excuse me, do you have some bread?"</p>	<p>C'est à mon père.</p> <p>"It's my father's."</p>
<p>L'addition est 1,10 euros plus 0,90 centimes d'euros, ça fait 2 euros.</p> <p>"The bill is 1.10 euros plus 0.90 cents of a euro; it is two euros."</p>	<p>Il prend le train jeudi.</p> <p>"He takes the train on Thursday."</p>
<p>Il a pris le train.</p> <p>"He took the train."</p>	<p>La femme apprécie une délicieuse pizza.</p> <p>"This woman is eating a delicious pizza."</p>
<p>Le couscous, c'est délicieux.</p> <p>"Couscous is delicious."</p>	<p>C'est plus que bon, c'est délicieux !</p> <p>"This is more than good; this is delicious!"</p>
<p>Vous pouvez me donner un café, s'il vous plaît ?</p> <p>"Can you give me a coffee, please?"</p>	<p>La banque nous a proposé une carte de crédit.</p> <p>"The bank offered us a credit card."</p>
<p>Vous êtes ici.</p> <p>"You are here."</p>	<p>Vous vous appelez David.</p> <p>"You are called David."</p>

GRAMMAR

Closing out a meal in France can be a slow affair. France takes pride in its cuisine and so, whether in a restaurant or a person's home, meals can take their time. One often gets three courses, even in low-cost establishments, and discussion, the other French pride, can eat up the hours. After dessert, it is common to continue the meal with an *apéritif*. Lunch service in restaurants, however, is usually quite fast as many are on their one-hour lunch break.

Today we'll cover getting out of a restaurant. First, you may have to get a hold of the staff. Again, you can accomplish this by saying *Excusez-moi*. Once at your table, you can ask for the check. In French, "check, please" is *L'addition, s'il vous plaît*. The first word, *l'addition*, means "the bill." It is followed by *s'il vous plaît*, which, as we have learned, in English means "please." If you'd like to tell someone how good the food is, or if you're eating with someone and you want to let that person know how good you think the food is, you can say *délicieux*. Don't forget to say "thank you."

In France, it is not a common practice to tip. So your amount will be on your check. However, it is always a kind gesture to leave your loose change.

One last useful phrase has to do with credit cards. In French, "Do you take credit cards?" is *Prenez-vous la carte de crédit?* The first word, *prenez*, means "take." It is followed by *vous*, which, as we have learned, in English means "you." So to recap, we have *prenez vous*, which literally means "take you?" This is followed by *la*, which is French for "the" in the feminine form. Next is *carte*, which means "card." So to recap we have *Prenez-vous la carte*, which literally means "Take you the card." This is followed by *de*, which as we have learned means "of." Lastly, we have *crédit*, which means "credit." So all together that makes *Prenez-vous la carte de crédit?* Literally, this is "Take you the card of credit?" and we translate it as "do you take credit cards?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Tips for Using Your Plastic and for Tipping in France

Credit cards in France all come equipped with a chip that other countries don't use. Therefore, some automated machines will not take foreign cards. It is best to use your cards where a person is involved so you will be sure to be able to swipe.

Most if not all ATMs in France take foreign ATM cards. Check with your bank to determine whether it has any partnerships with a French bank. This can circumvent any expensive transaction fees. Also, ATMs have the best exchange rate going around. It is best to leave your travelers checks and currency at home and take out euros once you are there.

Lastly, if you are in a group in a restaurant and you want to pay separately, France allows a single bill to be divided among several cards. If you are low on cash, cards are very handy.

On the matter of tipping, restaurant bills say that the gratuity is included. However, most waiters rely on the small tips or *pour boire* (literally, "for drinking") they get every day. Being a waiter is considered a legitimate profession with unions and regulated salaries, but the pay is low and they work hard. Even if the waiter is somewhat unpleasant, I always leave something. So a good rule with tipping is to be as generous as you want. Americans in particular often get special attention as they tip heavily compared to most tourists. I've even seen waiters argue over who gets to serve the American group.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #16

Counting 1 - 10

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

16

FRENCH

1. une personne
2. deux personnes

ENGLISH

1. one person
2. two people

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
un/une	one	adjective	
deux	two	noun	masculine
une personne	a person	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Une table pour une personne, s'il vous plaît. "A table for one, please."	J'ai deux frères. "I have two brothers."
Je suis ami avec une personne célèbre. "I am friends with a famous person."	

GRAMMAR

French uses the same cardinal numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 0) as you do, so reading numbers will be a snap. You will have to count a lot on your trip, (tickets, beds, the clock, etc.) so knowing the first ten numbers is important. Here are the first ten numbers in French:

French	"English"
<i>un</i>	"one"
<i>deux</i>	"two"
<i>trois</i>	"three"
<i>quatre</i>	"four"
<i>cinq</i>	"five"
<i>six</i>	"six"
<i>sept</i>	"seven"
<i>huit</i>	"eight"
<i>neuf</i>	"nine"
<i>dix</i>	"ten"
<i>zéro</i>	"zero"

Counting things in French is very straightforward as the number is followed by the thing being counted. For example, "one person" is *une personne*. The number comes first followed by the thing, in this case people.

In French, nouns have singular and plural forms. Therefore, if there are two people, you say *deux personnes*. In French, nouns also have gender. In case of the word for people, the gender is feminine, so you say *une personne* and not *un personne*. "One" is the only number that changes gender.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Recognizing Written French Ordinal Numbers

Sometimes you will not see the cardinal number but the word. Here is a list of the numbers written as words.

Ordinals

French	"English"
<i>premier /1er</i>	"first"/"1st"
<i>deuxième/2eme</i>	"second"/"2nd"
<i>troisième /3eme</i>	"third"/"3rd"
<i>quatrième /4eme</i>	"fourth"/"4th"
<i>cinquième/5eme</i>	"fifth"/"5th"
<i>sixième /6eme</i>	"sixth"/"6th"
<i>septième /7eme</i>	"seventh"/"7th"
<i>huitième /8eme</i>	"eighth"/"8th"
<i>neuvième /9eme</i>	"ninth"/"9th"
<i>dernier</i>	"last"

Sometimes we can master saying the numbers in a foreign language but hearing and understanding them is another matter. Most French people know one through ten in English so if you do not understand, you can always ask *Parlez-vous anglais?*

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #17

How Much?

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Informal French
- 2 Informal English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

17

FRENCH

1. Combien?
2. Combien ça coûte?
3. C'est combien?

ENGLISH

1. How much?
2. How much is it?
3. How much is it? (easier)

INFORMAL FRENCH

1. C'est combien?

INFORMAL ENGLISH

1. How much is it?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
c'est	it's, this is, that is	contraction
combien	how much	adverb

ça	it	demonstrative adjective
coûter	to cost	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>C'est à mon père. "It's my father's."</p>	<p>C'est combien ? "How much is it?"</p>
<p>C'est quoi, ça ? "What is this?"</p>	<p>Ça, c'est de l'art. "This is art."</p>
<p>Combien coûte ce fromage qui pue? "How much is this stinky cheese?"</p>	<p>Le billet d'avion coûte neuf cent cinquante euros. "The plane ticket costs 950 euros."</p>

GRAMMAR

As in English, commerce can happen with very little language. You can simply point at something and say *combien?* But you may enjoy your shopping more if you learn more elaborate phrases. In France, commerce is a highly appreciated and delicate art with all kinds of phrases and posturing. In the following quick tips, we will learn some of these.

In French, "how much" is *combien*. Depending on your spending habits, you may frequently use this phrase when shopping at the market or at an eatery! The most rudimentary way of using "how much" is pointing at something while saying *combien?* But let's try and build this up a bit, shall we?

Let's start with the expression "How much is this?" In French, this is *combien ça coûte?* The first word, *combien*, means "how much" as we have seen. This is followed by *ça*, which we covered in the third lesson and which in English means "that." This is followed by *coûte*, which in English means "cost." So all together, we have *combien ça coûte?* This literally translates as "how much does that cost?" Another more common and easier way to say this phrase is *c'est combien?* This literally means "it's how much?" The first word, *c'est*, as we have learned in an earlier lesson, means "it's." All together, we have *c'est combien?*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Phrases to Know When Shopping at the French Market

When you know the name of the item you would like to buy, for instance, "a coffee" (*un café*) you can ask its price by saying *c'est combien pour un café?* When you don't know the name but you can point to it or carry it to the seller, you can use the phrase we already learned, *c'est combien.*

One of the most exciting cultural experiences you can have is shopping at an outdoor market. France has a strong tradition of fresh produce markets that are erected in public squares and on sidewalks a couple times a week. Here, the question *c'est combien* may not be enough. For example, you may need to know the price of something per kilo (tomatoes), per one hundred grams (cheese), or per bunch (carrots). If you want to know the "price per kilo," show or point to the item and say *c'est combien le kilo?* "Per 100 grams" is *c'est combien les cents grammes?* and "per bunch" is *c'est combien la botte?*

Price and weight signs are often written by hand, and even though the French print numbers the same as in Anglophone countries, the French do not write them the same way. For example, we write the number one like a teepee or a ship's sail, and we write the number nine like a lowercase -g. Letters also look different when we handwrite them, but this we will cover another time!

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #18

Please Lower the Price

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- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
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- 3 Cultural Insight

18

FRENCH

1. Trop cher.
2. Moins cher, s'il vous plaît.

ENGLISH

1. Too expensive.
2. Less expensive, please.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
trop	too	adverb	
moins	less	adverb	
cher	expensive	adjective	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Il a trop de devoirs pour ce week-end. "He has too much homework for this weekend."</p>	<p>Ma jupe est trop grande. "My skirt is too large."</p>
<p>Ce film est moins amusant que je le pensais. "This movie is less amusing than I thought."</p>	<p>C'est cher de vivre à Tokyo. "It is expensive to live in Tokyo."</p>

Ce sac est cher.

"This bag is expensive."

Dix euros pour un stylo, c'est cher.

"Ten euros for a pen, it's expensive."

GRAMMAR

Haggling over prices is not common everywhere in France. Grocery stores and clothing shops, for example, have set prices. However, negotiating prices is common at flea markets and to some extent at outdoor produce markets. Read the following quick tips to learn some tricks.

The phrase we cover in this lesson relates to the phrase "How much?" In French, this is *Combien?* We also introduce "How much is this?" which is *Combien ça coûte.*

When you come to France, one of the most interesting and fun things to do is haggle at the market! So when you're at the market and talking prices, there is another phrase that will come in very handy! That phrase is "too expensive." In French, "too expensive" is *trop cher*. The first word, *trop*, means "too much." This is followed by *cher*, which in English means "expensive." All that makes *trop cher*.

Another phrase that we can use in combination with this is "less expensive, please," which in French is *moins cher, s'il vous plaît*. The first word *moins* means "less." All together, that makes *moins cher, s'il vous plaît*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

To Market, to Market in France

French flea markets are a blast. They are one of the few places where commerce is a little wilder and more personal. You can rummage through a clothing bin or a pile of vintage records and propose a deal. Often, the salespeople are immigrants and we can do away with the normal French decorum.

If you want to lower a price, first ask the seller *combien?* He will tell you his price. Then refuse, saying *c'est trop cher*. If he makes a second offer and it is still too high, make a very low counteroffer. He will try to convince you of the quality of his product rather than change the price. Offer a second time, a little higher. Do not act convinced by him. Act as if you are doing him a favor by getting the item off his hands. Once you have an offer from him you like, say *D'accord. C'est bon*.

Vendors sniff out travelers in France because they are a much easier sell than the French

themselves. But you don't have to play along. If you are interested but don't want to be seen as an easy sell, start by refusing flatly. *Non merci*. This won't turn a vendor away and he'll continue to press you to buy. If you say *trop cher*, he will know to go down. From this point, continue as we elucidate in the first quick tip.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #19

Currency

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Cultural Insight

19

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
l'euro	the euro	noun	masculine
centime, cent	cent	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>A - Tu as un euro ? B - Voilà!</p> <p>"A - Do you have a euro ? B - There you go!"</p>	<p>Deux euros.</p> <p>"two euros"</p>
<p>Cette bouteille coûte vingt-cinq euros.</p> <p>"This bottle costs twenty-five euros."</p>	<p>0.05 euro (cinq cents / cinq cents d'euro)</p> <p>"0.05 euro (five cents / five cents of a euro)"</p>
<p>0,50 Euro [cinquante cents / cinquante centimes (d'euro)]</p> <p>"0.50 euro [fifty cents (of a euro)]"</p>	<p>1,20 Euro (un euro vingt)</p> <p>"1.20 euro (one, twenty / one euro and twenty cents)"</p>

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Euros and Cents in Europe

In France, the currency is the euro with denominations consisting of ones, twos, fives, tens, twenties, fifties, hundreds, two hundreds, and five hundreds. As of October 2007, the exchange rate is roughly seventy euro cents to one U.S. dollar and roughly sixty euro cents to one hundred Japanese yen. Paper currency includes seven bills and eight coins.

In French, we pronounce the word *euro* as "euro." We translate the word "cents" in two ways. One is to simply say the word in English but with a French accent: *cents*. The second and more common way is to say *centimes*.

When saying a price, we often do not say the word *cents*. For example, "one euro twenty" translates as *un euro vingt*. If the price is made only of cents, then we say the price and then

centimes. For example, "fifty cents" is *cinquante centimes*.

As the euro is the common currency for eleven of the twenty-five countries of the European Union, also known as the Euro Zone, the currency was designed to appeal to different European cultures. However, the Euro Zone countries could not agree on what to put on what bills with everyone fighting to represent their country on the largest bill.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #20

Internet

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

20

FRENCH

1. Cyber café
2. Avez-vous le wifi?
3. Mot de passe et pseudo, s'il vous plaît.

ENGLISH

1. Internet café
2. Do you have wifi?
3. Password and username, please.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
cyber café	internet cafe	noun	masculine
avoir	to have	verb	
vous	you (formal)	pronoun	neuter
WIFI	wireless connection	noun	masculine
un mot de passe	a password	noun	masculine
un pseudo	a username	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Les cyber cafés sont des endroits publics d'accès à Internet.</p> <p>"Internet cafes are public places to access the Internet."</p>	<p>Il a une voiture.</p> <p>"He has a car."</p>
<p>J'ai trente-trois ans.</p> <p>"I am thirty-three years old."</p>	<p>Excusez-moi, avez-vous du pain?</p> <p>"Excuse me, do you have some bread?"</p>
<p>Vous êtes ici.</p> <p>"You are here."</p>	<p>Vous vous appelez David.</p> <p>"You are called David."</p>
<p>J'utilise le WIFI quand je travaille dans un café.</p> <p>"I use a wireless connection when I work in a coffee shop."</p>	<p>J'ai le même mot de passe pour tous les sites que je visite.</p> <p>"I have the same password for all the websites I visit."</p>
<p>Mon pseudo sur Ebay est Frank223.</p> <p>"My username on Ebay is Frank223."</p>	

GRAMMAR

In France, when you walk into a store seeking Internet service, approach the reception desk and tell the clerk what you're here for. Just say "Internet" or in French, *Internet*. The attendant will print out a tab that states the time you signed in. When you leave, simply bring that tab to the counter and the attendant will charge you for the hours you stayed. The price is usually about one euro per half hour. The price is all inclusive for the time you stayed there. Some places have a discount for longer stays, so be sure to look over the entire price list before making a decision.

Another critical question for all you laptop-packing world trekkers is "Does this store have WiFi?" In French, "Do you have WiFi?" is *Avez-vous le wifi?* The first word, *avez*, means "have." It is followed by *vous*, which, as we have learned, in English means "you." This is followed by *le wifi*, which means "WiFi." So all together, we have *Avez-vous le wifi*. Literally, this means "Have you the WiFi?"

And finally, here is one more phrase that might prove useful: "Password and username, please." In French, "Password and username, please" is *mot de passe et pseudo, SVP*. The first word, *mot*, means "word." It is followed by *de passe*, which in English means "pass." So far we

have *mot de passe*, which means "password." This is followed by *et*, which as we have learned in English means "and." This is followed by *pseudo*, which in French is "username." This is followed by *s'il vous plaît*, which as we have learned is French for "please." So all together, we have *mot de passe et pseudo, s'il vous plaît*.

Internet cafés in France are a foreigner's home away from home, and for this reason, French Internet cafés often have signs in English. (When looking for the café, just look for the "@" on a sign.) However, the Anglophone (qwerty) keyboard is not so common, as most of the keyboards are French (azerty). Some cafés carry Anglophone keyboards. Some don't. Thankfully, the French keyboard is not entirely different and has all the same letters as the Anglophone keyboard, just in a slightly different order. To ask for a qwerty keyboard, say *Avez-vous un clavier américain ?* ("Do you have an American keyboard?") to the person at the reception desk.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

French One-Stop Shops for Printing, Copying, and Calling

If you would like to print something, the word for "printer" is *imprimante*. Click under the word for "file," *fichier*, and click on *imprimante*. Be sure to look at the price board to know what you can afford. Prices tend to vary a lot between Internet cafés.

Secondly, many Internet cafés double as copy shops (or many copy shops double as Internet cafés) so if you need to get any copying and printing done, bring what you need with you.

Internet cafés also double as phone centers quite often, especially in immigrant neighborhoods where the population needs to call out of the country. You will see rooms with computers and rooms lined with phone booths. These phone booths have their own rates separate from the public phones on the street that the establishment sets, which are usually cheaper for calling abroad. These stores also sell very cheap phone cards. You can also get one at a tobacco shop, or *tabac*, which a red diamond symbolizes on the street.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #21

Riding the Bus 1

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- 2 French
- 2 English
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- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

21

FRENCH

1. Est-ce que ce bus va à Châtelet?

ENGLISH

1. Does this bus go to Châtelet?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
est-ce que	is, that	phrase	
ce (see also cet)	this	demonstrative adjective	masculine singular
un bus	a bus	noun	masculine
aller	to go	verb	
à	at or to	preposition	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Est-ce que c'est une Cadillac ? "Is it a Cadillac?"	Je voudrais ce livre. "I would like this book."
Ce musée est intéressant. "This museum is interesting."	Le premier bus est à cinq heures du matin. "The first bus is at five o'clock in the morning."
Ils vont au parc le dimanche. "They go to the park on Sundays."	Marie va en Egypte. "Mary goes to Egypt."

Je suis à la maison.

"I am at home."

J'habite à Sidney.

"I live in Sydney."

Je vais à la campagne.

"I go to the countryside."

GRAMMAR

Taking the right bus in France can be a snap. All you need is the handy phrase *Est-ce que ce bus va à ___ ?* When a bus comes, walk up to the door and ask the driver this question, filling in the destination you want. If his bus does not go there, he will know which one will.

In today's lesson, let's use the station *Châtelet*. In French, "station" means "station." In French, "Will this bus go to Châtelet?" is *Est-ce que ce bus va à Châtelet?* The first word, *est-ce que*, literally means "is it that," and we translate it as "does." It is followed by *ce*, which in French is "this." So to recap here, we have *est-ce que ce*. Literally, this means "is it that this." The next word, *bus*, means "bus." This is followed by *va*, which in English means "go." The next word is *à*, which in English means "to." Finally, we have *Châtelet*, which is the name of our destination. So all together, we have *Est-ce que ce bus va à Châtelet?* Literally, this means "Is it that this bus goes to Châtelet?"

Once you have the right bus, you need to know a few things about riding the bus. City buses in France are different in each city, and so prices and ticketing systems vary. Few buses provide text explanations in English, so be sure to ask the driver or another local (for instance, a tourist office employee) how it all works. However, there are a few commonalities. First, you can almost always buy your ticket from the bus driver if you don't have one already. Second, prices vary system to system, so ask at the local tourist office. Third, you can pay with coins or bills. Finally, an average fare is one euro fifty.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Tips for Reaching Your French Destination by Bus

If you are worried about missing your stop, you can request that the driver alert you when you get there. The way to ask for this is to say *S'il vous plaît, pourriez-vous me dire quand nous sommes arrivés à* (your destination). In English, this is "Please tell me when we arrive at (your destination)." An easier but less cordial way of saying this is *Dîtes-moi quand nous sommes arrivés à* (your destination). Don't forget to stay at the front so the driver can find you when the time comes.

French cities do not offer twenty-four hour metro service, but they make up for it with night buses. These usually have different routes than the day buses and run less frequently. The word in French for night bus is *bus de nuit*.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #22

Riding the Bus 2

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- 2 English
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- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

22

FRENCH

1. Quel est le prochain arrêt?
2. Est la tour Eiffel le prochain arrêt?

ENGLISH

1. What is the next stop?
2. Is the Eiffel Tower the next stop?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
quel(le)	which, what	interrogative adjective	feminine
La Tour Eiffel	the Eiffel tower	proper noun	feminine
être	to be	verb	
le	the (singular)	definite article	masculine
prochain(e)	next	adjective	
un arrêt	a stop	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Quel âge as-tu ? "How old are you?"	Quelle ville tu visites ? "Which city are you visiting?"
La tour Eiffel s'illumine chaque nuit. "The Eiffel Tower is lit up every night."	La tour Eiffel est magnifique ! "The Eiffel tower is magnificent."

<p>Il vaut mieux être seul que mal accompagné.</p> <p>"It is worth more to be alone than badly accompanied."</p>	<p>Il semble être heureux.</p> <p>"He seems to be happy."</p>
<p>Être ou ne pas être.</p> <p>"To be or not to be."</p>	<p>Le supermarché est au centre commercial.</p> <p>"The supermarket is at the mall."</p>
<p>Le prochain train est à 9h.</p> <p>"The next train is at 9:00."</p>	<p>Je désire aller à Bordeaux le week-end prochain.</p> <p>"I'd like to go to Bordeaux next weekend."</p>

La municipalité a publié un arrêt sur les déchets.

"The municipality published a decree on waste."

GRAMMAR

Once on the bus, you'll hear announcements informing the passengers of where the bus will stop next. Now, in the case that there is no English announcement, you may not catch the location just announced. So you may find the phrase "What is the next stop?" indispensable. In French, "What is the next stop?" is *Quel est le prochain arrêt?* The first word, *quel*, means "what." It is followed by *est*, which in English means "is." So to recap here, we have *quel est*. Literally, this means "what is." The next word, *le*, means "the." It is followed by *prochain*, which means "next." Finally, we have *arrêt*, which means "stop." So all together, we have *Quel est le prochain arrêt?* Literally, this means "What is the next stop?"

Another way of inquiring could be asking whether your desired destination is the next stop. For this phrase we'll use the Eiffel Tower as the destination. So the phrase "Is the Eiffel Tower the next stop?" is *Est la tour Eiffel le prochain arrêt?* The first word, *est*, means "is," as we have learned. This is followed by *la tour Eiffel*, which is "the Eiffel Tower." So to recap here, we have *Est la tour Eiffel*. Literally, this means "Is the Eiffel Tower." Let's take a look at the next part of the phrase: *le prochain arrêt*, as we just learned, means "the next stop." So all together, we have *Est la tour Eiffel le prochain arrêt?* Literally, this means "Is the Eiffel Tower the next stop?"

A different company runs buses for each city in France, so prices and ticketing systems vary. Very few buses provide text explanations in English, so be sure to ask the driver or another local how it all works. There is no national bus service in France (though there is an international bus service within Europe), but the train system is fairly good.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Taking in the French Sights by Bus and Bike

If you are visiting a major city in France, such as Paris, there are several public transportation systems at your disposal. If you have a choice between the metro and the bus, the bus has a major advantage: views. The metro may be quicker, but you spend up to thirty minutes underground when you could be above ground taking in the sights. It is also a good way to understand how the city is laid out.

As with most bus systems, the bus never comes exactly when scheduled, but for the most part, buses are reliable in France.

Another public transportation system that has recently become quite successful is the public bicycle. Paris and Lyon, for example, have a network of automated public bike stations where you can use your credit card to rent a bike for a day. The stations are numerous enough to make it workable, and you get a little exercise.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #23

Riding the Train

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

23

FRENCH

1. Est-ce que ce train va à Châtelet?

ENGLISH

1. Does this train go to Châtelet?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
est-ce que	is, that	phrase	
ce (see also cet)	this	demonstrative adjective	masculine singular
un train	a train	noun	masculine
aller	to go	verb	
à	at or to	preposition	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Est-ce que c'est une Cadillac ? "Is it a Cadillac?"	Je voudrais ce livre. "I would like this book."
Ce musée est intéressant. "This museum is interesting."	L'Orient Express est un vieux train. "The Orient Express is an old train."
Ils vont au parc le dimanche. "They go to the park on Sundays."	Marie va en Egypte. "Mary goes to Egypt."

Je suis à la maison. "I am at home."	J'habite à Sidney. "I live in Sydney."
Je vais à la campagne. "I go to the countryside."	

GRAMMAR

The Parisian metro is one of the most efficient and extensive subways in the world. In fact, there are two subways. The second is called the RER and is the commuter train that serves the suburbs. It also has stops within the city and can be much faster as it makes fewer stops. The two systems combined make it possible to get anywhere in the city in under thirty minutes.

Other French cities have subway systems, but the Parisian is France's icon. Its entrances are maintained in the original art nouveau style from when it first opened in the twenties. If you make it to Paris, it is definitely a must-see.

Once you make it to a metro platform, you may want to confirm the train you're about to board is heading the right way. So in French "Will this train go to Châtelet" is *Est-ce que ce train va à Châtelet?* The first word, *est-ce que*, literally means "is it that," and we translate it as "does." It is followed by *ce*, which in French is "this." So to recap here, we have *est-ce que ce*. Literally, this means "is it that this." The next French word, *train*, means "train" in English. It is followed by *va*, which in English means "go." The next word is *à*, which in English means "to." Finally, we have *Châtelet*, which is our destination. So all together, we have *Est-ce que ce train va à Châtelet?* Literally, this means "Is it that this train goes to Châtelet?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Shhh! Be Quiet on the Metro

For all its efficiency, there is nothing more frustrating than when the public transportation workers go on strike. The French often announce strikes well in advance as so many people rely on public transportation. Some strikes only last a day, but some have lasted up to a month. French culture has a strong sense for workers' rights, so people tolerate such disturbances. If public transportation does go on strike, walking or biking is your best way to get around. Cars and taxis will be jammed in traffic.

Another peculiarity of the French metro is the silence. Many travelers are surprised to find that everyone rides in silence, staring off into their own world, unless of course they are with

friends. But even conversations between friends are kept hushed. One theory is that the metro is one of the few places in the city where one can have some quiet. The city is so boisterous that once everyone finally sits, they want to recuperate. The ones who don't seem to pick up on this are, of course, the tourists. One can always tell them apart by the loudness of their voices. It would be a respectful gesture to watch your voice in the metro, so as not to disturb the meditating Parisians.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #24

Riding the Train 2

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

24

FRENCH

1. Un billet pour Dijon, SVP.
2. Deux billets pour Dijon, SVP.

ENGLISH

1. One ticket for Dijon, please.
2. Two tickets for Dijon, please.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
billet	bill, ticket	noun	masculine
pour	for, to	preposition	
Dijon	Dijon	proper noun	
deux	two	noun	masculine
un	a, an	indefinite article	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

J'ai seulement un billet de 100 euros. "I only have a 100 euro bill."	Mon billet d'avion n'est pas cher. "My plane ticket is not expensive."
Pour aller à Paris, je prends le train. "To go to Paris, I take the train."	C'est pour toi. "This is for you."

<p>Il étudie la chimie pour être pharmacien.</p> <p>"He studies chemistry to be a pharmacist."</p>	<p>J'aime la moutarde de Dijon.</p> <p>"I like Dijon mustard."</p>
<p>J'ai deux frères.</p> <p>"I have two brothers."</p>	<p>Un peu d'eau.</p> <p>"A little water."</p>

GRAMMAR

Taking the train is one of the best ways to see all France has to offer. With the phrases you have just learned, you will be able to travel the rails with ease. To make your rail travel even smoother, here are some quick tips to guide you through some kinks.

In France, you can buy train tickets at the ticket gate window, a vending machine, or on the train, though this last option is more expensive. When traveling long distances, there are several types of tickets, which we'll take a look at in a minute, but first let's work on asking for the ticket. We can accomplish this by asking "Ticket to (destination), please." Now, of course, we need a destination. So let's use Dijon. This city is located in the eastern part of France and is well known for its mustard. So to ask for one ticket to Dijon in French, we say *Un billet pour Dijon SVP*, which means "One ticket to Dijon, please." The first word, *un*, means "a." It is followed by *billet*, which in English means "ticket." So to recap here, we have *un billet*. Literally, this means "a ticket." The next word is *pour*, which means "for." This followed by *Dijon*, our destination. Lastly, we have *SVP*, which as we have learned means "please." So all together, we have *Un billet pour Dijon, SVP*. Literally, this means "One ticket for Dijon, please."

Now if you want to buy more than one ticket—for example, if you wanted to buy two tickets—you can accomplish this by saying *Deux billets pour Dijon, SVP*. Notice that we simply substitute *un* with *deux* and change *billet* to *billets*. However, just the destination may not be enough, as there are several types of seats on trains in France. There are first-class seats and second-class seats. Once we have established the destination, it is time to select the type of seat you want. In French, "first class" is *première classe*. The first word, *première*, means "first." It is followed by *classe*, which in French is "class." So all together, we have *première classe*. Literally, this means "first class." "Second class" is *seconde classe*. The first word, *seconde*, means "second." It is followed by *classe*, which in French is "class" as we have learned.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

All Aboard the French Train System!

The French train system is one of the best in the world. The French run high-speed trains, or TGV (*trains de grande vitesse*, French for "high-speed trains") to all corners of the country. One can travel from Paris to Marseille in under four hours, whereas by car it would take at least eight hours. However, not all trains are TGV. There are two other systems, Corail and TéoZ, that access the minor cities. These can run at a snail's pace as they stop at every town along the way. Be sure to go through the options with the ticket agent to make sure you get the train you want. The slower trains can be a nice way to see the countryside if you have the time.

You can easily buy a ticket on the French train system on the website <http://www.voyages-sncf.com>. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and look for the British flag to read the site in English. The website offers special Internet deals as well in the "promos" section, though you must be in the French version to see them.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #25

Taking a Taxi

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- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

25

FRENCH

1. À l'Arc de Triomphe, s'il vous plaît.
2. J'aimerais aller à l'Arc de Triomphe.

ENGLISH

1. To the Arc de Triomphe, please.
2. I would like to go to Arc de Triomphe.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
à	at or to	preposition	
l'	the (dropped e in front of vowel)	article	both
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
aimer	to like	verb	
l'Arc de Triomphe	the Arch of Triumph	proper noun	masculine
aller	to go	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Je suis à la maison. "I am at home."	J'habite à Sidney. "I live in Sydney."
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<p>Je vais à la campagne. "I go to the countryside."</p>	<p>L'homme frigorifié se bat pour rester chaud. "The cold man is struggling to stay warm."</p>
<p>Je vais bien. "I am well."</p>	<p>J'aimerais une bière, s'il vous plaît. "I would like a beer, please."</p>
<p>Elle aime discuter au bistrot. "She likes to chat at the bistro."</p>	<p>L'Arc de Triomphe est à Paris. "The Arch of Triumph is in Paris."</p>
<p>Je vais chez Cécile ce soir. "I am going to Cécile's tonight."</p>	<p>On va dans le sud pour Noël. "We're going south for Christmas."</p>

GRAMMAR

France offers a multitude of quality public transportation options: the metro, the bus, the public bicycle, and so forth. But sometimes a taxi is just what you want. For example, the public transportation in Paris can be jam-packed at rush hour and you need some peace and quiet. Or maybe you need to get somewhere in a hurry. Taxis are always the fastest. Or it's late and the public transportation has closed.

If you are worried about prices, splitting the ride can make it worth it. Travel within Paris, for example, will never exceed twenty-five euros. Therefore, split between four people, a taxi can be the best option.

In this lesson, we'll cover a phrase you can use to get to your destination when riding in a taxi. We'll look at the most basic way to express this, which is the word "to" followed by a destination. In today's lesson, we'll use the *Arc de Triomphe*. Now let's hear it once again: *Arc de Triomphe*. This location is known for its eight-lane traffic circle. So now let's go over what to say to the taxi driver to get there. In French, "to the Arc de Triomphe" is *à l'Arc de Triomphe*. The word for "to" in French is *à*, as we have learned in a previous lesson. This is the most basic way of expressing where you would like to go.

Well, actually just saying your desired destination should work, but speaking the local language is one of the most fun things you can do on your travels. So let's go over another option! You can also say "I would like to go to (destination)," which in French is *J'aimerais aller à l'Arc de Triomphe*. The first word, *j'aimerais*, means "I would like." It is followed by *aller*, which in English means "to go." So to recap here, we have *j'aimerais aller*. Literally, this means "I would like to go." The next part, *à l'Arc de Triomphe*, means "to the Arc de Triomphe," as we

learned already. So all together, we have *J'aimerais aller à l'Arc de Triomphe*. Literally, this means "I would like to go to the Arc de Triomphe."

In France, you are not expected to tip the driver, although tip if you feel like it's appropriate, as taxi drivers do not make much money and rely on tips regardless of this rule.

One more helpful phrase when taking a taxi is "Here is fine." This phrase will allow you to get out of the taxi whenever and wherever you want. In French, "Here is fine" is *Là, c'est bon*. The first word, *Là*, means "here." It is followed by *c'est*, which in English means "it's." Lastly, we have *bon*, which in English means "good." All together, that makes *Là, c'est bon*. Literally, this means "Here, it's good."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Tips for Hailing and Tipping Your French Taxi Driver

Now that you know all about talking to a taxi driver, how do you get a taxi? The most obvious option is to go to a busy street and look for one in the traffic. Raise your hand and say the word "taxi." If his light is on, he's available. If it's off, he's not.

Another option is to go to a taxi queue. These are identified by tall green boxes with a white top that reads "taxi." If there are no taxis in the queue, the green boxes have intercoms that talk to an operator who will then send one to you.

The last option is to call a taxi using a number from the yellow pages. If you do this, be warned that the driver will start running his meter from the moment he is called, and this can make things quite expensive if he is far away. To minimize this, look for numbers that call taxi stations near you.

As mentioned in the lesson, tipping is not expected; however, it is much appreciated. Taxi drivers do not earn very much money and rely on tips from tourists regardless of whether the French give them or not. If you feel like being generous, be generous.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #26

Like It and Don't Like It in France

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

26

FRENCH

1. J'aime bien.
2. J'adore.
3. Je n'aime pas.

ENGLISH

1. I like it.
2. I really like it./I like it very much.
3. I don't like it.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
ne/n'...pas	this is the negation that you are going to use in a sentence	phrase
beaucoup	a lot, very much	adverb
bien	well	adverb
aimer	to like	verb
je / j'	I	personal pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Je ne vais pas au cinéma.</p> <p>"I am not going to the movies."</p>	<p>Je n'ai pas de voiture.</p> <p>"I do not have a car."</p>
<p>Je n'aime pas beaucoup le vin.</p> <p>"I don't like wine very much."</p>	<p>Je révise beaucoup le soir.</p> <p>"I study a lot in the evening."</p>
<p>C'est très bien!</p> <p>"That's very good!"</p>	<p>C'est bien fait.</p> <p>"It's well done."</p>
<p>J'aimerais une bière, s'il vous plaît.</p> <p>"I would like a beer, please."</p>	<p>Elle aime discuter au bistrot.</p> <p>"She likes to chat at the bistro."</p>
<p>Je vais bien.</p> <p>"I am well."</p>	

GRAMMAR

In today's lesson, we'll introduce you to a phrase you'll use countless times on your travels! For everyone out there who likes French food, this is the word you want to know so that you keep getting more of it!

In French, "I like it" is *J'aime bien*. The first word, *j'aime*, means "I like." It is followed by *bien*, which in French is "well." So all together, we have *J'aime bien*. Literally, this means "I like well."

If you want to say that you really like something, then you can use the phrase *J'aime beaucoup*, which means "I really like it." *Beaucoup* means "a lot." This phrase literally means "I like a lot."

In the event that you don't like something, "I don't like it" is *Je n'aime pas*. This is essentially the same as the first phrase, but negative. The first word, *je*, means "I" as we know. This is followed by *n'aime*, which in French is "like" in the negative. So to recap here, we have *Je n'aime*. Literally, this means "I no like." The next word, *pas*, means something like "not" and completes the negation of the verb.

So all together, we have *Je n'aime pas*. Literally, this means "I don't like this."

These survival phrases will be the essential phrases you need to express your preferences. But there are some finer points to work out.

The phrase *j'aime bien* means "I like it," but the verb *aimer* also means "to love." For instance, "I love you" is *je t'aime*. Expressing the right version of *aimer* can be tricky because we don't want to say "I love it" in the romantic sense when we mean "I like it." For instance, *je l'aime* means "I love him/her." When we are talking about a thing, say a painting, we can say today's phrase, *j'aime bien*. When we are talking about a person, we say *je l'aime bien*, which is something like "I like him/her a lot." When we really like something, we can say *j'adore*. Have fun when you say it.

Quick Tip: More Ways to Say You Like and Don't Like Something in French

Here are some other phrases to express preferences. Have fun with these. Say them with emphasis. The French do.

French	English
<i>Je n'aime pas du tout.</i>	"I don't like it all."
<i>Je déteste.</i>	"I hate it."
<i>Ça me plaît .</i>	"I like it." (Literally, "It pleases me." It is somewhat more refined than <i>j'aime ça</i> .)
<i>Je suis fan.</i>	"I'm a fan."

Here some ways to ask others their likes and dislikes.

For Example:

1. *Est-ce que vous aimez/tu aimes ça?*
"Do you like it?"
2. *Ça vous/te plaît ?*
"Do you like it?"

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #27

Where Can I Find?

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

#27

FRENCH

1. Où est-ce que je peux trouver...?
2. Où est-ce que je peux trouver un bar?
3. Excusez-moi, vous pouvez me dire où est-ce que je peux trouver un téléphone?
4. Excusez-moi, vous pouvez me dire où est-ce que je peux trouver un tabac?

ENGLISH

1. Where can I find...?
2. Where can I find a bar?
3. Excuse me, can you tell me where I can find a telephone?
4. Excuse me, can you tell me where I can find a tobacco shop?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
un supermarché	supermarket	noun	masculine
vous	you (formal)	pronoun	neuter
me	me	pronoun	
dire	to say, to tell	verb	
un bar	a bar	noun	masculine
un tabac	a tobacco shop	noun	masculine

trouver	to find	verb	
pouvoir	can	verb	
où	where	adverb	
un	a	article	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Je vais bien. "I am well."</p>	<p>Le supermarché est fermé le dimanche. "The supermarket is closed on Sundays."</p>
<p>Vous êtes ici. "You are here."</p>	<p>Vous vous appelez David. "You are called David."</p>
<p>Tu me parles? "Are you talking to me?"</p>	<p>Qu'est-ce que tu dis? "What are you saying?"</p>
<p>Il doit dire la vérité! "He must tell the truth!"</p>	<p>Le bar est plein de monde. "The bar is full of people."</p>
<p>J'achète le journal au tabac. "I buy the newspaper at the tobacco shop."</p>	<p>Il a trouvé son ticket de loto hier. "He found his lotto ticket yesterday."</p>
<p>Pardon, vous pouvez me laisser passer ? "Excuse me; can you let me go through?"</p>	<p>Où tu habites ? "Where do you live?"</p>
<p>Un martini, s'il vous plaît. "A martini, please."</p>	

GRAMMAR

Have you ever been in a city you don't know at all, and you are desperately looking for something you need and cannot find it? It has happened so many times to me! I wandered around without knowing where to go to find, for example, a bar, a phone, or a restroom! Don't worry! Today, I would like to introduce you to a phrase that will help you track down that specific something you're looking for. "Where can I find...?" in French is *Où je peux trouver...?*

Then, you add the name of the specific thing you are looking for.

This sentence gives you a basic structure you can use in any situation in which you will need to get something. This structure is made up of the adverb *où* ("where"), followed by the pronoun and verb *je peux* ("I can" or "can I"), and finally the infinitive form of the verb *trouver* ("to find").

Now let's see what kinds of things you might need if you're traveling abroad. Let's imagine you're walking around one of France's many beautiful villages, it's very hot, and you need to get something to drink. Let's go and ask where you can find a bar! A nice man with a moustache happens to be nearby. Let's ask him. "Where can I find a bar?" in French is *Où je peux trouver un bar?*

As you can easily note, you have the structure you have just seen, *Où je peux trouver*, followed by the thing you are looking for, *un bar* ("a bar"). *Bar* is a very easy noun: it is the same in French and English. In this case, *bar* is preceded by the masculine singular indefinite article *un*, or in English, "a."

With this form, you can go anywhere you need and ask for anything you are looking for. You could use another form if you wanted to be more polite and wanted to use a different expression. Let's imagine you are looking for a tobacco shop this time. "Excuse me, could you tell me where I can find a tobacco shop?" in French is *Excusez-moi vous pouvez me dire où je peux trouver un tabac?* Don't you think this is more formal? Of course it is! So what do we have here? We have *Excusez-moi* ("excuse me"), then the verb and pronoun *vous pouvez*, which we know by now means "can you." This is followed by *me dire*, which means "tell me" in English. After we have said *Excusez-moi, vous pouvez me dire* ("Excuse me, can you tell me"), we have to add what we want to be told! In this case, we want to find "a tobacco shop," which is *où je peux trouver un tabac?* We have "Where can I find," which we've seen is *où je peux trouver*, and finally what we want to find, *un tabac* ("a tobacco shop"). There you have it!

To ask for any other item, we can just replace *un bar* or *un tabac* with any other word. Let's try it with "supermarket," which in French is *supermarché*. "Excuse me, could you tell me where I can find a supermarket?" in French is *Excusez-moi vous pouvez me dire où je peux trouver un supermarché?*

These phrases will come in handy when talking with taxi drivers or other people trying to help you locate a desired item.

Quick Tip: Other Helpful French Destinations

Here are some other things you might be looking for:

French	"English"
<i>un cinéma</i>	"cinema"
<i>un bureau de poste</i>	"post office"
<i>un hôpital</i>	"hospital"
<i>une pharmacie</i>	"pharmacy"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Let Your Fingers Do the Walking

The easiest and most efficient tool for searching for those odd items is to use the French "Yellow Pages," or *Pages Jaunes*. Thankfully, there is a website that is easily navigated, and if you click on the British flag, you'll get the English version. However, that won't help with your search once you're on the street. Get a good English-French dictionary to find the right terms for what you are looking for.

Unlike in the United States, France does not champion one-stop shopping department stores like Wal-Mart. Running errands can be a bit tiring, as sometimes you have to visit several stores. However, the notion of big chain stores is catching on. For example, the Home Depot of France is called *Bricorama*. *Brico* is short for *bricolage*, which in French means "do-it-yourself." There is one store in France, however, that does offer everything, and it does it very well: the BHV (*Bazar de l'Hôtel de Ville* or "City Hall Bazaar"). There is really only one, in Paris. If you get a chance to go, it is quite a sight, because the store really does have everything: hardware, clothing, food, video games, craft supplies, and so forth.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #28

Is There a French Store Near Here?

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

28

FRENCH

1. Est-ce qu'il y a une pharmacie près d'ici?
2. Est-ce qu'il y a une banque près d'ici?

ENGLISH

1. Is there a pharmacy near here?
2. Is there an ATM near here?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
près de/d'	next to, close to, near	locution	
une pharmacie	pharmacy	noun	feminine
un distributeur de billets	an ATM	noun	masculine
est-ce que	is, that	phrase	
ici	here	adverb	
Il y a	ago, there is, there are	expression	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Paris, c'est près de Toulouse ? "Is Paris near Toulouse?"	La pharmacie vend des médicaments. "The pharmacy sells medicine."
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<p>Le distributeur de billets est vide.</p> <p>"The ATM is empty."</p>	<p>Est-ce que c'est une Cadillac ?</p> <p>"Is it a Cadillac?"</p>
<p>Nous sommes ici.</p> <p>"We are here."</p>	<p>Je suis ici.</p> <p>"I am here."</p>
<p>Il va y a avoir du monde chez moi demain.</p> <p>"There will be a lot of people at my place tomorrow."</p>	<p>Il y a une banque rue Martel.</p> <p>"There is a bank on Martel Street."</p>
<p>Il y a un concert au Stade de France.</p> <p>"There is a concert at the France Stadium."</p>	

GRAMMAR

If you are looking to acquire a particular thing in France, look for it between eight o'clock in the morning and eight o'clock in the evening. There are no stores open twenty-four hours, except for some pharmacies and convenience stores. In addition, most shops close on Sunday, though some shops close on a different day of the week so that they can be open for desperate Sunday shoppers. In tourist-heavy places, such as the Riviera, shops tend to be open on Sundays, too.

In the previous lesson, we covered how to ask where to find something. In today's lesson, we'll introduce you to another useful phrase for asking about the place where you can find what you are looking for. Today's phrase is "Is there a (place) near here?" First, we need a place. Let's use the word *pharmacie*, which means "pharmacy," but we can also translate it as "chemist" or "drugstore."

In French, "Is there a pharmacy near here?" is *Est-ce qu'il y a une pharmacie près d'ici?*

The first words, *Est-ce qu'il y a*, literally mean "Is it that there is." They are followed by the object *une pharmacie*, which means "a pharmacy" in English. Next, we have *près d'ici*, which is "near here," or "close to here." Together, this literally means "is it that there is a pharmacy near here?" *Est-ce qu'il y a une pharmacie près d'ici?*

To ask for a different place, we can just replace the word *pharmacie* with any other word, and the sentence works just fine. Let's imagine you need to withdraw some money from the bank. In French, "Is there an ATM near here?" is *Est-ce qu'il y a un distributeur de billets près d'ici?* The only thing that changes is the thing you are looking for: in this case, the "ATM," which in French is *un distributeur de billets*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Tell-Tale Sign of a French Pharmacy

You can spot French pharmacies by their green equal-armed cross lit up either in neon or against a white background. Pharmacists are usually very decent diagnosticians and they speak English. They can help you with many medical problems and can be your first line of defense if you're feeling sick in France.

Knock, Knock...Is the Baker in?

It's well known that French bakeries make fresh, delicious pastries. If you're out around five or six o'clock a.m. (after a long night of partying or just trying to catch an early train), and if you pass by a bakery, don't hesitate to enter (or knock on the door) even if it's closed to the public. There you can ask for a croissant that will probably come free or very cheap, as there will be some sympathy between the baker and you for being up so early in the morning. The phrase to ask for croissants is *Vous avez des croissants?*

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #29

French Directions: Part I

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

29

FRENCH

1. Allez tout droit.
2. Tournez à droite.
3. Tournez à droite au feu.
4. Tournez à gauche.
5. C'est à droite.
6. C'est à gauche.

ENGLISH

1. Go straight.
2. Turn right.
3. Turn right at the traffic light.
4. Turn left.
5. It's on the right.
6. It's on the left.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
droite	right	noun	feminine

gauche	left	noun	feminine
tout droit	straight ahead	expression	
un feu	a traffic light	noun	masculine
aller	to go	verb	
tourner	to turn	verb	
à	at or to	preposition	
c'est	it is	pronoun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ma maison est à droite. "My house is on the right."</p>	<p>C'est à gauche. "It's on the left."</p>
<p>La place? C'est tout droit. "The square? It's straight ahead."</p>	<p>Il va tout droit. "He goes straight."</p>
<p>Le feu est rouge. "The light is red."</p>	<p>Ils vont au parc le dimanche. "They go to the park on Sundays."</p>
<p>Marie va en Egypte. "Mary goes to Egypt."</p>	<p>Tournez à droite. "Turn right."</p>
<p>Je suis à la maison. "I am at home."</p>	<p>J'habite à Sidney. "I live in Sydney."</p>
<p>Je vais à la campagne. "I go to the countryside."</p>	<p>C'est bien. "It is good."</p>

GRAMMAR

In today's lesson, we'll introduce you to directions that will help you make your way around

French cities' streets. Previously we introduced the questions "Is there a (place) near here?" and "Is there a (something) near here?" But while we can now ask, we still need to understand the answer. Today, we're going to work on understanding directions.

First, we have "Go straight." In French, "Go straight" is *Allez tout droit*. The first word, *allez*, means "go" and it's in the imperative mood. The next two words, *tout droit*, mean "straight."

Now we're going to work on turning. You certainly don't want to turn right when you're told to turn left. Personally, I will still do that even though I understand French...but that's just me and my bad sense of direction.

Let's try "turn right." In French, "turn right" is *Tournez à droite*. The first word, *tournez*, means "turn." It is followed by *à*, which in English means "to." Lastly, we have *droite*, which in English means "right." Do not confuse this with *tout droit*, which we spell without a final e and which we pronounce slightly differently from *droite*, meaning "right."

Now, "turn left." It is the same as the previous phrase, only we replace the word *droite* ("right") with the word *gauche* ("left"). In French, "turn left" is *Tournez à gauche*. *Tournez* is "turn," and *à* is "to," and *gauche* is "left." *Tournez à gauche*.

Now, there are other ways to give directions in French. For example, you might be told "It's on the right." In French, this is *c'est à droite*. The first words, *c'est*, mean "it's." They are followed by *à*, which in French is, as we have learned, "to." Lastly, we have *droite*, and we now know *droite* is "right." So all together we have *C'est à droite*.

"It's on the left" is the same as the previous phrase, only we replace the word *droite* with the word *gauche*. In French, "It's on the left" is *C'est à gauche*.

Quick Tip: Informal French Directions

The phrases you learned are in the *vous* form, meaning in the formal or the plural "you" form. Here are the same phrases in the *tu* form:

French	"English"
<i>va tout droit</i>	"go straight"
<i>tourne à droite</i>	"turn right"
<i>tourne à gauche</i>	"turn left"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Finding Your Way in France Bit by Bit

A useful trick when getting directions in a foreign language is to ask for the general direction of your destination, and the closer you get, ask more people. That way, you don't need to retain detailed directions in a foreign language all at once. Rather, people can show you where to go using landmarks in the immediate area. Once you find the local landmark, ask another person who will indicate more things you'll see, sending you a little further along the way like a treasure hunt. A good question to ask with this technique is *Je cherche _____*. *C'est dans quelle direction?* which means "I'm looking for _____. Which direction is it?"

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #30

Can You Take My/Our Picture?

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

30

FRENCH

1. Vous pouvez me prendre en photo?
2. Tu peux me prendre en photo?
3. Vous pouvez nous prendre en photo?
4. Tu peux nous prendre en photo?

ENGLISH

1. Can you take my photo?
2. Can you take my picture?
3. Can you take our photo?
4. Can you take our photo?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
me	me	pronoun	
vous	you (formal)	pronoun	neuter
pouvoir	can	verb	
prendre	to take	verb	
une photo (photographie)	a photo	noun	feminine
nous	us	indirect and direct pronoun	

en

in, to

preposition

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tu me parles? "Are you talking to me?"	Vous êtes ici. "You are here."
Vous vous appelez David. "You are called David."	Je peux lui montrer comment le faire. "I can show him how to do it."
Pardon, vous pouvez me laisser passer ? "Excuse me; can you let me go through?"	Il prend le train jeudi. "He takes the train on Thursday."
Il a pris le train. "He took the train."	Le paparazzi acharné attend patiemment de prendre une photo. "The fierce paparazzi wait patiently to take a picture."
Il est à gauche sur la photo. "He is on the left in the picture."	La photo est nette. "The picture is clear."
Il est chez nous. "He is at our place."	Il est avec nous. "He is with us."
Je vais à Monaco en juin. "I am going to Monaco in June."	On va en classe ensemble. "We go to class together."

GRAMMAR

French people may have a somewhat serious demeanor that does not attract strangers with cameras, but that's just a cover. They will be happy to help you out with picture taking. First, remember our magic phrase to get someone's attention: *bonjour, excusez-moi*. Then ask *vous pouvez me prendre en photo ?*

In French, "Can you take my picture?" is *Vous pouvez me prendre en photo ?* The first words, *vous pouvez*, mean "can you." They are followed by *me*, meaning "me." This is followed by *prendre*, which in English means "take." It is followed by *en*, which in English means "in." Lastly, we have *photo*, which in English means "photo."

So all together we have *Vous pouvez me prendre en photo ?* Literally, this means "Can you take me in photo?"

If you are not by yourself, say "Can you take our picture?" or *Vous pouvez nous prendre en photo ?* Here, the phrase is the same as the previous one, but we simply substitute the word *me* with *nous*.

In English, before someone takes a picture, the person taking the picture may say, "One, two, three, cheese." You will hear it in France, too. However, the person taking the picture might also say *trois, deux, un, ouistiti!*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1: Asking Informally for Help with a Picture

If you need to ask a friend to take your picture, you will have to use the informal *tu* when asking him/her. Here it is:

1. *Tu peux me prendre en photo?*
"Can you take my picture?"
2. *Tu peux nous prendre en photo?*
"Can you take our picture?"

Quick Tip 2: Don't Flash Anyone in the Museum!

Photos are sometimes allowed in museums. Ask a docent *Je peux prendre des photos ?* If he or she says yes, be sure not to use the flash. The way to say "no flash" is *sans flash*. Once I went to an exhibition at the Musee d'Orsay in Paris with my friend. She loves impressionist art and ran around the museum taking pictures with her digital camera. However, she forgot to turn off the flash and splashed light all over original Van Goghs. Needless to say, the security guards made her put her camera away.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #31

May I Take Your Picture?

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

31

FRENCH

1. Je peux prendre une photo avec vous ?
2. Je peux prendre une photo ici ?

ENGLISH

1. Can I take a photo with you?
2. Can I take a photo here?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
pouvoir	can	verb	
ici	here	adverb	
vous	you (formal)	direct pronoun	
prendre	to take	verb	
une photo (photographie)	a photo	noun	feminine
avec	with	preposition	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Je peux lui montrer comment le faire. "I can show him how to do it."	Pardon, vous pouvez me laisser passer ? "Excuse me; can you let me go through?"
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<p>Nous sommes ici. "We are here."</p>	<p>Je suis ici. "I am here."</p>
<p>Je vous aime. "I love you."</p>	<p>Il est enchanté de vous rencontrer. "He is pleased to meet you."</p>
<p>Il prend le train jeudi. "He takes the train on Thursday."</p>	<p>Il a pris le train. "He took the train."</p>
<p>Le paparazzi acharné attend patiemment de prendre une photo. "The fierce paparazzi wait patiently to take a picture."</p>	<p>Il est à gauche sur la photo. "He is on the left in the picture."</p>
<p>La photo est nette. "The picture is clear."</p>	<p>Tu manges avec moi? "Will you eat with me?"</p>
<p>Je suis avec Frédéric. "I am with Frederic."</p>	

GRAMMAR

There are many occasions on which you might want to take a stranger's photo: a cute child, a sweet old lady, that man with the baguette who is oh-so-typically French looking. However, the French do not tend to appreciate being photographed by strangers, so it is important to ask permission. If the person says no, accept it. However, seeing as France is the number one tourist destination in the world, there are street performers left, right, and center in the summer season who would be glad to pose for you for a little tip.

There may be times when you want to take a picture with someone. In this case, you could ask by saying *Je peux prendre une photo avec vous?* The first words, *je peux*, mean "Can I" as we have learned. They are followed by *prendre*, which in English means "to take," as we have learned. Next we have *une*, which in English means "a." So to recap here, we have *Je peux prendre une*. Literally, this means "May I to take a." The next word is *photo*, which, as we just learned, means "photo." This is followed by *avec*, which in English means "with." Lastly, we have *vous*, which, as we know is French for "you." So all together we have *Je peux prendre une photo avec vous?* Literally, this means "Can I take a photo with you?"

And finally, for asking permission to take a picture, you can say "May I take a picture here?" which in French is *Je peux prendre une photo ici?* This is almost the same as the previous phrase, except the ending is different. Instead of *avec vous* at the end, we say *ici*, which in English means "here." So all together, we have *Je peux prendre une photo ici?* Literally, this means "Can I take a photo here?"

Quick Tip: Asking Permission Politely

To ask permission in a very respectful way, remember our little magic phrase when talking to strangers: *Excusez-moi...* and then ask *Je peux prendre une photo avec vous?*

In French, the verb for "can" is *pouvoir*, and we can conjugate this in many different ways depending on respect and formality.

The respectful form of "can I" or "may I" is *puis-je*, it's polite and often appreciated !

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #32

How Do You Say This In French?

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

32

FRENCH

1. Comment on dit "blue cheese" en français?
2. Comment on dit ça en français?
3. Comment tu traduis "Happy Birthday" en français?

ENGLISH

1. How do you say 'blue cheese' in French?
2. How do you say 'this'/'that' in French?
3. How do you translate 'Happy Birthday' into French?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
tu	you (informal)	personal pronoun	
comment	how	adverb	
dire	to say, to tell	verb	
on	we / people	personal pronoun, third person singular	
ça	it	demonstrative adjective	
en	in, to	preposition	
français	French	noun	masculine
traduire	to translate	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Tu as 20 ans. "You are twenty years old."</p>	<p>Tu vas au travail. "You go to work."</p>
<p>Comment tu t'appelles ? "What is your name?"</p>	<p>Comment ça va ? "What's up? How are you?"</p>
<p>Qu'est-ce que tu dis? "What are you saying?"</p>	<p>Il doit dire la vérité! "He must tell the truth!"</p>
<p>En France, on aime le fromage. "In France, people like cheese."</p>	<p>Toi et moi, on parle anglais et français. "You and me, we speak English and French."</p>
<p>C'est quoi, ça ? "What is this?"</p>	<p>Ça, c'est de l'art. "This is art."</p>
<p>Je vais à Monaco en juin. "I am going to Monaco in June."</p>	<p>On va en classe ensemble. "We go to class together."</p>
<p>Oui, je suis français. "Yes, I'm French."</p>	<p>Je traduis l'espagnol. "I translate Spanish."</p>

GRAMMAR

Asking the locals for help with French vocabulary is probably the quickest way to learn this foreign language, as the teacher is the original source of the language. The French, in particular, are aware that their language is not the easiest to learn, as they had to learn its finer grammar points in school as well. There is a strong pride in the language, so if you show people you are sincerely interested in learning it, they will be quick to help, having been there themselves. Sometimes, the French will even correct you without you asking. This can come off as rude to us Anglophones, but in French culture, it's considered polite. The thinking is that since the language is a challenge for everyone, we need to help each other out, so catch any mistakes your friends make.

For today's lesson, we're going to need a word, as we're going to cover "How do you say (something) in French?" For today's lesson, let's use "blue cheese" for that something.

In French, "How do you say 'blue cheese' in French?" is *Comment on dit "blue cheese" en français ?* The first word, *comment*, means "how." It is followed by *on*, which in English means "one." So to recap here, we have *Comment on*. Literally, this means "how one." The next word, *dit*, means "says." This is followed by "blue cheese," and we know what that means. Next, we have *en*, which as we have learned means "in." Lastly, we have *français*, which means "French."

So all together we have *Comment on dit "blue cheese" en français ?* Literally, this means "How one says 'blue cheese' in French?"

You can also use this expression without using any English. To accomplish this, you can use the expression "How do you say this in French?" In French, "this" is *ça*. In French, "How do you say this in French?" is *Comment on dit ça en français?* This phrase is the same as the previous one, except that we replace the words "blue cheese" with the word for "this," *ça*.

So all together, we have *Comment on dit ça en français?* Literally, this means "How one says this in French?"

But wait, it's your French friend's birthday and you want to wish him/her a "happy birthday" but you don't know how to say it. *Comment tu traduis "Happy Birthday" en Français?* means "How do you translate 'Happy Birthday' in French?" The first word, *comment*, means "how." Then you have *tu*, which is the informal "you" followed by *traduis*, which is the second person singular form of "to translate." Finally, you have *en français*, which you have previously seen, along with the word or expression you wish someone to translate. So all together, we have *Comment tu traduis "Happy Birthday" en français?*

Quick Tip 1: Alternative Ways to Learn More French

In French, there are some other ways of asking "how do you say?"

For Example:

1. *Comment est-ce qu'on dit cela?*
"How do you say that?" (with auxiliary *est-ce que* and pronoun *cela*)
2. *Comment ça se dit?*
"How is that said?"
3. *Comment dites-vous cela?*
"How do you say that?" (formal "you")
4. *Comment dis-tu cela?*
"How do you say that?" (informal "you")

Quick Tip 2: On, The French General "You" and "We"

In this lesson, we also learned the word *on* for the first time. This word means many things. The first most obvious meaning is "one," as in "how does one say that?" But in French, *on* is much more common as a subject pronoun than "one" is in English. For example, in English we don't say "how does one say that?" even though we could. We say "how do you say that?" when "you" means "everybody." In that sense, in French we use *on* to talk about things that are true for everybody, and we can translate it as the general "you" or the general "we."

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #33

Write It Down in French, Please

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

33

FRENCH

1. Vous pouvez l'écrire, s'il vous plaît?
2. Vous pouvez me l'écrire, s'il vous plaît?
3. Comment vous prononcez ça?
4. Vous avez un papier et un stylo?

ENGLISH

1. Can you write it down please?
2. Can you write it down please?
3. How do you pronounce this?
4. Do you have paper and pen?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
prononcer	to pronounce	verb	
un papier	a paper	noun	masculine
ça	it	demonstrative adjective	
me	me	pronoun	
pouvoir	can	verb	
vous	you (formal)	pronoun	neuter

l'	it	direct object pronoun	
écrire	to write	irregular verb	
le (pronoun)	it, him	pronoun	masculine
un stylo	a pen	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Je prononce bien le français. "I pronounce French well."</p>	<p>Tu as un papier? "Do you have paper?"</p>
<p>C'est quoi, ça ? "What is this?"</p>	<p>Ça, c'est de l'art. "This is art."</p>
<p>Tu me parles? "Are you talking to me?"</p>	<p>Je peux lui montrer comment le faire. "I can show him how to do it."</p>
<p>Pardon, vous pouvez me laisser passer ? "Excuse me; can you let me go through?"</p>	<p>Vous êtes ici. "You are here."</p>
<p>Vous vous appelez David. "You are called David."</p>	<p>Tu l'organises. (pronoun) "You organize it."</p>
<p>Écrire un blog est comme écrire un journal, mais sur Internet. "Writing a blog is like writing a journal, but on the Internet."</p>	<p>Il peut écrire une synthèse. "He can write a synthesis."</p>
<p>L'arbre est beau. Jean le regarde. "The tree is beautiful. Jean is looking at it."</p>	<p>J'ai un stylo rouge. "I have a red pen."</p>

GRAMMAR

Today we'll learn how to ask people to write down what they are saying so you can better understand it. This may prove a very useful technique when you are first learning French, as many French words resemble English words: often only the intonation is different. So you will find the two phrases *Vous pouvez l'écrire, s'il vous plaît* ("Can you write it?") and *Comment vous prononcez ça?* ("How do you pronounce this?") indispensable.

In French, "Can you write it down please?" is *Vous pouvez l'écrire, s'il vous plaît?* The first words, *vous pouvez*, mean "can you." The next word, *l'écrire*, means "write it." Lastly, we have *s'il vous plaît*, which, as we know, is "please." So all together, we have *Vous pouvez l'écrire, s'il vous plaît?* Literally, this means "Can you write it please?"

Once you have the written words, you may find that you have no idea how to pronounce them. In French, "How do you pronounce this?" is *Comment vous prononcez ça?* You can say this while pointing at the word. The first word, *comment*, means "how." Next, we have *vous prononcez*, which in English is "you pronounce." Then you have *ça*, which you know very well and is "this." So to recap here, we have *Comment vous prononcez ça?* Literally, this means "How you pronounce this?"

Quick Tip: Asking for French Spelling Tips

Sometimes you may not be able to write, say on a crowded bus or metro, but you want to know how to write the words being said to you. To ask for this, say *Comment ça s'écrit?* or "How is that written?" The person will spell the words to you in French. If you cannot understand the French letters, you can ask them to say it in English with *Pouvez-vous le dire en anglais?*

Sometimes reading or hearing what someone is saying isn't enough to understand (for example, if a person's pronunciation and handwriting are not understandable). In this case, you can ask the person to write what he or she wants to say in English. To ask for this, say *Pouvez-vous l'écrire en anglais?*

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #34

How Do You Read This in French?

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar

34

FRENCH

1. Comment ça se lit en français?
2. Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire?
3. Comment ça se prononce?

ENGLISH

1. How does this read in French?
2. What does it mean?
3. How do you pronounce this?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
vouloir dire	to mean	phrase	
comment	how	adverb	
lire	to read	verb	
prononcer	to pronounce	verb	
se (or s')	oneself, itself (grammatical form, part of pronominal verbs)	personal pronoun	
en	in, to	preposition	
français	French	noun	masculine
qu'est-ce que / qu'est-ce qu'	what	question word	

ça	it	demonstrative adjective
on	we / people	personal pronoun, third person singular

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Cela veut dire. "That means."	Comment ils vont ? "How are they?"
Comment tu t'appelles ? "What is your name?"	Il adore lire le journal le dimanche matin. "He loves to read the newspaper on Sunday morning."
Je prononce bien le français. "I pronounce French well."	Elles se préparent pour la soirée. "They get ready for the evening."
Les athlètes s'entraînent régulièrement. "Athletes practice regularly."	L'immeuble menace de s'effondrer. "The building threatens to break down."
Je vais à Monaco en juin. "I am going to Monaco in June."	On va en classe ensemble. "We go to class together."
Oui, je suis français. "Yes, I'm French."	Qu'est-ce que c'est, le Louvre ? "What is the Louvre?"
Qu'est-ce que tu prépares pour ce soir ? "What are you preparing for this evening?"	Alors, qu'est-ce que tu fais ? "So, what are you doing?"
C'est quoi, ça ? "What is this?"	Ça, c'est de l'art. "This is art."

En France, on aime le fromage.

"In France, people like cheese."

Toi et moi, on parle anglais et français.

"You and me, we speak English and French."

GRAMMAR

In today's lesson, we'll introduce you to a phrase that will provide you with the tools to learn from the people around you. A dictionary is a great idea, but don't forget that you can use French to learn in a more fun and interactive way.

When you come across a word you can't read, you can simply use this phrase to get your answer. "How do you read this?" is *Comment ça se lit?* The first word, *comment*, means "how." It is followed by *ça*, which in English means "this." So to recap here, we have *Comment ça*. Literally, this means "how this." The next word, *se*, means "itself." This is followed by *lit*, which in English means "reads."

So all together, we have *Comment ça se lit?* Literally, this means "How does this read itself?" and we translate it as "how do you read this?"

Once you know how to say the word, you will want to know what it means. "What does it mean?" is *Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire?* The first word, *qu'est-ce que*, literally means "what is it that" and we translate it as "what." It is followed by *ça*, which, as we just learned, means "this." So to recap here, we have *Qu'est-ce que ça*. Literally, this means "What is it that this." The next word, *veut*, means "wants." This is followed by *dire*, which in English means "to say."

So all together we have *Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire?* Literally, this means "What is it that this wants to say?" and we translate it as "what does it mean?"

Quick Tip 1: Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Help

Asking how to read something will be essential to your learning of the French language. French spelling implies different sounds than in English, even if words are written in exactly the same way. So don't be shy about pointing at words you see and asking today's question.

There are also other ways of asking how something is read. These are a little more "proper" than *Comment ça se lit en français?* which is more common. I would save these examples for more formal occasions, such as with teachers.

For Example:

1. *Comment lit-on cela en français?*
"How does one read this in French?"

2. *Comment lisez-vous cela en français?*
"How do you read this in French?" (formal "you")
3. *Comment lis-tu cela en français?*
"How do you read this in French?" (informal "you")

Notice the word for "this" in these examples is *cela* and not *ça*. *Ça* and *cela* mean exactly the same thing; however, *cela* is somewhat fancier and rings more beautifully. The inverted subject-verb word order is also somewhat more refined, and that is why it calls for a more refined vocabulary.

Quick Tip 2: Speed Your Progress with English/French Cognates

After you ask *Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire?* ("What does it mean?"), you will likely need other phrases like *Vous pouvez répéter?* ("Please say it again.") and *Vous pouvez l'écrire, s'il vous plaît?* ("Can you write it down?")

One trick to knowing how to say something in French is to work with words you already know in English that are spelled the same way in French, such as *nation* ("nation") and *government* ("government"). This will clue you in very quickly on the differences between the two ways of pronouncing words.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #35

Hotel, Part 1: Checking into Your French Hotel

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

35

FRENCH

1. J'ai une réservation.
2. Je voudrais une chambre.
3. Votre nom, s'il vous plaît.

ENGLISH

1. I have a reservation.
2. I would like a room.
3. Your name, please.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
un nom	a name	noun	masculine
votre	your (formal)	possessive adjective	masculine or feminine
une réservation	a reservation	noun	feminine
une	a	indefinite article	feminine
faire	to do, to make	verb	
aimer	to like	verb	
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>J'épèle mon nom M-O-R-I-N. "I spell my name M-O-R-I-N."</p>	<p>Votre ami arrive. "Your friend is coming."</p>
<p>La réservation numéro 2 est confirmée. "The reservation number two is confirmed."</p>	<p>C'est une jolie maison. "It is a beautiful house."</p>
<p>Ma femme a reçu une promotion. "My wife received a promotion."</p>	<p>Je fais un gâteau. "I am making a cake."</p>
<p>Je peux lui montrer comment le faire. "I can show him how to do it."</p>	<p>J'aimerais une bière, s'il vous plaît. "I would like a beer, please."</p>
<p>Elle aime discuter au bistrot. "She likes to chat at the bistro."</p>	<p>Je vais bien. "I am well."</p>

GRAMMAR

In French, "I would like to check in" is *J'ai une réservation*. The first word, *J'ai*, means "I have." It is followed by *une réservation*, which in English means "a reservation." So to recap here, we have *J'ai une réservation*. Literally, this means "I have a reservation." In French, there are no words for "check in." You will need to say that you have a reservation or that you would like to reserve a room.

"I would like a room" in French is *Je voudrais une chambre*. The first words, *je voudrais*, mean "I would like." Then we have *une*, which is the feminine indefinite article. It is followed by *chambre*, which in English means "room."

All together, we have *Je voudrais une chambre*, which means "I would like a room."

Upon stating the phrase "Check in, please," you will most likely be asked "Your name, please," which in French is *Votre nom s'il vous plaît*. The first word, *vosre*, means "your." It is followed by *nom*, which in English means "name." So to recap here, we have *vosre nom*. Literally, this means "your name." The next word, *s'il vous plaît*, means "please."

So all together, we have *Votre nom s'il vous plaît*. Literally, this means "your name, please."

Quick Tip 1: First, Middle, and Last French Names

We translate the question *Votre nom, s'il vous plaît* as "your last name, please." The word *nom* refers only to a person's last name, whereas the homonym "name" in English usually means a person's first name. Watch out for this false friend, especially when filling out forms like customs declarations. The word for first name is *prénom*. Middle name is *deuxième prénom*.

Quick Tip 2: Popular French Accommodations

Here is a glossary list of different types of accommodations in France so you will be able to read signs and tourist literature.

French	"English"
<i>hôtel</i>	"hotel"
<i>une auberge de jeunesse</i>	"a hostel"
<i>un gîte</i>	"a vacation condo/cottage/cabin"
<i>une chambre d'hôte</i>	"a bed and breakfast"
<i>un camping</i>	"a campground"

Note: we sometimes use the word *hôtel* in French for fancy buildings like *hôtel de ville*, which means "City Hall" (literally, "hotel of the city"). This is not a hotel chain, though you could pull a joke on your friends and say "If you come to France, stay in the *Hôtel de Ville*. Every town has one and they're always centrally located.")

For a nice diversity of destinations and original ways of visiting France, check out *Gîtes de France*: these are bed and breakfasts throughout the country that offer a wide range of types of accommodations from farms to village houses to rooms in the middle of a vineyard.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #36

French Hotel, Part 2

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar

36

FRENCH

1. A quelle heure devons-nous quitter la chambre?
2. Je peux avoir une serviette?

ENGLISH

1. At what time must we leave the room?
2. Can I have a towel?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
quitter	to leave	verb	
quel(le)	which, what	interrogative adjective	feminine
une serviette	a napkin, towel	noun	feminine
l'heure	time (on the clock)	noun	feminine
de	of, from, by, some	preposition, determiner	
un hôtel	a hotel	noun	masculine
devoir (+ infinitive)	need, must	verb	
nous	we	personal pronoun	
avoir	to have	verb	
à	at or to	preposition	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Je quitte la maison à huit heures. "I leave the house at 8:00 am."</p>	<p>Quel âge as-tu ? "How old are you?"</p>
<p>Quelle ville tu visites ? "Which city are you visiting?"</p>	<p>Tu as une serviette en papier et une fourchette ? "Do you have a paper napkin and a fork?"</p>
<p>Les serviettes de salle de bains sont dans le placard. "Towels are in the closet."</p>	<p>C'est l'heure de dormir. "It's time to sleep."</p>
<p>C'est l'heure de partir. "It's time to go."</p>	<p>J'ai de l'eau. "I have some water."</p>
<p>Un poème de Victor Hugo. "A poem by Victor Hugo."</p>	<p>Il part de San Francisco. "He leaves from San Francisco."</p>
<p>Le père de Cathie est strict. "Cathie's father is strict."</p>	<p>Le tour de France "Tour of France"</p>
<p>L'hôtel est bien situé. "The hotel is well located."</p>	<p>Je dois manger mieux. "I must eat better."</p>
<p>Les voyageurs doivent présenter leurs passeports. "The travelers need to present their passports."</p>	<p>Nous voulons vous donner ce cadeau de remerciement. "We want to give you this thank you gift."</p>
<p>Nous voyageons ensemble. "We travel together."</p>	<p>Nous apprenons le français. "We learn French."</p>
<p>Il a une voiture. "He has a car."</p>	<p>J'ai trente-trois ans. "I am thirty-three years old."</p>

<p>Excusez-moi, avez-vous du pain?</p> <p>"Excuse me, do you have some bread?"</p>	<p>Je suis à la maison.</p> <p>"I am at home."</p>
<p>J'habite à Sidney.</p> <p>"I live in Sydney."</p>	<p>Je vais à la campagne.</p> <p>"I go to the countryside."</p>

GRAMMAR

Today's survival phrases will help you when you're leaving your hotel. Since you don't want to pay for an extra day just because you weren't aware of the check-out time, we will provide you with the indispensable question "What is our check-out time?" which in French is *A quelle heure devons-nous quitter la chambre?* The first word, *a*, means "at." It is followed by *quelle*, which in English means "which." So to recap here, we have *a quelle*. Literally, this means "at which." The next word is *heure*, which is "hour." This is followed by *devons*, which in English means "must" in the first plural pronoun form. The next word is *nous*, which in English means "we." Then we have *quitter*, which in French is "to leave." Finally, we have *la chambre*, which means "the room."

So all together, we have *A quelle heure devons-nous quitter la chambre?* Literally, this means "At what time must we leave the room?"

There will be times when you need certain things from the front desk. Let's try asking for a towel. In French, "Can I have a towel?" is *Je peux avoir une serviette?* Make sure you use the article with the correct gender.

A few more words might come in handy.

For Example:

French	"English"
<i>une brosse à dents</i>	"a toothbrush"
<i>le dentifrice</i>	"toothpaste"
<i>le shampoing</i>	"shampoo"
<i>le savon</i>	"soap"

Quick Tip 1: Watch for Different French Currents!

In France, the electrical system runs at 220 volts. Therefore, we'll introduce you to a crucial phrase for all of you travelers out there who like to bring electrical appliances thousands of miles to die a fiery death on foreign soil.

In French, "Do you have a power converter?" is *Avez-vous un adaptateur?* The first word, *avez*, means "have." It is followed by *vous*, which, as we know, in English means "you." So to recap here, we have *avez-vous*. Literally, this means "have you." The next word, *un*, means "a." This is followed by *adaptateur*, which in English means "converter."

So all together, we have *Avez-vous un adaptateur?* Literally, this means "Do you have a converter?"

Quick Tip 2: Some Different French Travel Words for Airports

Now you're all set with checking in and checking out. However, we translate the check-in at an airport differently. Here are some useful terms for when you are traveling through airports.

For Example:

French	"English"
<i>l'enregistrement</i>	"check-in"
<i>l'embarquement</i>	"boarding"
<i>les départs</i>	"departures"
<i>les arrivées</i>	"arrivals"

Usage Note: *Serviette*

One final note: in French, the word *serviette* is also a "napkin." Ask for a *serviette* at a restaurant, and, no, the waiter will not bring you a beach towel.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #37

French Post Office, Part I

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

37

FRENCH

1. Je voudrais envoyer ceci à New York.
2. Je voudrais envoyer cette carte postale à New York.
3. Je voudrais envoyer cette lettre à New York.
4. Je voudrais envoyer ce colis à New York.

ENGLISH

1. I would like to send this to New York.
2. I would like to send this postcard to New York.
3. I would like to send this letter to New York.
4. I would like to send this package to New York.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
vouloir	would like	verb	
ce/cet	this, that	demonstrative adjective	masculine
cette	this, that	demonstrative adjective	feminine
une lettre	a letter	noun	feminine
à	at or to	preposition	
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	

envoyer	to send	verb	
une carte postale	a postcard	noun	feminine
ceci, ça, cela	this	adverb	
un colis	a package	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Tu voudrais dormir ? "You'd like to sleep?"</p>	<p>Cet animal est dangereux. "This animal is dangerous."</p>
<p>Je veux ce chat. "I want this cat."</p>	<p>Cette association est très utile. "This association is very useful."</p>
<p>Je vais envoyer une lettre d'amour à Mike. "I am going to send a love letter to Mike."</p>	<p>Je suis à la maison. "I am at home."</p>
<p>J'habite à Sidney. "I live in Sydney."</p>	<p>Je vais à la campagne. "I go to the countryside."</p>
<p>Je vais bien. "I am well."</p>	<p>J'envoie un mail à Cécile. "I'm sending an e-mail to Cécile."</p>
<p>J'envoie une lettre à ma mère. "I am sending a letter to my mother."</p>	<p>Il y a une carte postale du Maroc pour toi! "There is a postcard from Morocco for you!"</p>
<p>Je voudrais acheter ceci. "I would like to buy this."</p>	<p>J'adore recevoir des colis. "I love to receive packages."</p>

GRAMMAR

The French postal service is government owned and operated. Therefore, the public postal service is the only one available, and everyone, from rich to poor, must go to the post office at some point. Going can be like taking a peek at all the types of people who live in the neighborhood. Fortunately, service has improved over the years with faster lines and more coherent options.

Today we're going to work on getting your postcards, letters, and packages home. The expression to accomplish this is "I'd like to send this to" and then the desired country. For today's lesson, we'll use New York.

In French, "I'd like to send this to New York" is *Je voudrais envoyer ceci à New York*. The first words, *je voudrais*, mean "I would like," as we learned in previous lessons. They are followed by *envoyer*, which in English means "to send." So to recap here, we have *je voudrais envoyer*. Literally, this means "I would like to send." The next word, *ceci*, means "this." It is followed by *à*, which in English means "to" as we have learned. Lastly, we have "New York."

So all together, we have *Je voudrais envoyer ceci à New York*. Literally, this means "I would like to send this to New York."

We can build this up a bit by adding in the words for what we would like to send. For example, above we mentioned postcards, letters, and packages, so let's start there. The word for "postcard" in French is *une carte postale*. It's a feminine noun. So the expression would now be *Je voudrais envoyer **cette** carte postale à New York*. Notice the position of *carte postale* in the sentence.

"Letter" in French is *une lettre*. It is a feminine noun, too. *Je voudrais envoyer **cette** lettre à New York*.

And finally, we have the word for "package" in French, *un colis*. It is a masculine noun; therefore, *cette* will become *ce*. *Je voudrais envoyer **ce** colis à New York*.

Sending a package requires a closer look, which we'll do in the next lesson.

Quick Tip 1: This Is in Your Hands!

You may have noticed that we translate the word for "this" in the phrase "I would like to send this to New York" as *ceci* (*Je voudrais envoyer ceci...*) and not *ça* or *cela*, which we have seen to mean "this" in previous lessons. This is because the package will be in your hands and *ceci* represents what is close to you. *Ça* and *cela* can also mean "this" in other circumstances: for example, when you point at something and ask a question about it, such as *comment ça se lit?*

Quick Tip 2: Where to Buy French Stamps

The French word for "stamps" is *les timbres*. You can buy stamps at the post office, but if you want to avoid the long lines, you can use the electronic scales that print stamps depending on

the weight of your package. You can also buy stamps at a *tabac* or "tobacco shop." You can find these buy looking for a red sign in the shape of a distinctive elongated diamond. However, if you have a package, you must stand in line and hand deliver it to someone at the counter. You must put letters into the yellow mailboxes on the street.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #38

French Post Office, Part II: Packages

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar

38

FRENCH

1. Je voudrais envoyer ce colis à New York.
2. Quel est le contenu de votre colis ?
3. Qu'est-ce qu'il y a dans votre colis ?

ENGLISH

1. I would like to send this package to New York.
2. What does your package contain?
3. What's in your package?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
le contenu	the contents	noun	masculine
vouloir	would like	verb	
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
de	of	preposition	
être	to be	verb	
quel(le)	which, what	interrogative adjective	feminine
dans	in	preposition	
il y a	there is	phrase	
ce/cet	this, that	demonstrative adjective	masculine

votre	your (formal)	possessive adjective	masculine or feminine
un colis	a package (postal)	noun	masculine
qu'est-ce que	what	interrogative pronoun	
envoyer	to send	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Je ne connais pas le contenu de ce cours.</p> <p>"I don't know the contents of this class."</p>	<p>Tu voudrais dormir ?</p> <p>"You'd like to sleep?"</p>
<p>Je vais bien.</p> <p>"I am well."</p>	<p>J'ai un bouquet de tulipes.</p> <p>"I have a bouquet of tulips."</p>
<p>Il vaut mieux être seul que mal accompagné.</p> <p>"It is worth more to be alone than badly accompanied."</p>	<p>Il semble être heureux.</p> <p>"He seems to be happy."</p>
<p>Être ou ne pas être.</p> <p>"To be or not to be."</p>	<p>Quel âge as-tu ?</p> <p>"How old are you?"</p>
<p>Quelle ville tu visites ?</p> <p>"Which city are you visiting?"</p>	<p>Nous sommes dans la ville de Mexico.</p> <p>"We are in Mexico city."</p>
<p>Je suis dans le jardin.</p> <p>"I am in the yard."</p>	<p>En face de chez moi, il y a un parc.</p> <p>"In front of my house, there is a park."</p>
<p>Cet animal est dangereux.</p> <p>"This animal is dangerous."</p>	<p>Je veux ce chat.</p> <p>"I want this cat."</p>

Votre ami arrive. "Your friend is coming."	J'envoie un colis en Espagne. "I send a package to Spain."
Qu'est-ce que c'est, Le Louvre ? "What is the Louvre?"	Qu'est ce que tu as? "What do you have?"
J'envoie un mail à Cécile. "I'm sending an e-mail to Cécile."	J'envoie une lettre à ma mère. "I am sending a letter to my mother."

GRAMMAR

Today we're going to work on getting your package one step closer to its intended destination. In a previous lesson, we discussed the phrase "I would like to send this package to New York," which was *Je voudrais envoyer ce colis à New York*. When sending a package though, you're going to have to explain what's in the package. You may even be asked, "What's in the package?" which in French is *Quel est le contenu de votre colis ?* The first word, *quel*, means "what." It is followed by *est*, which in English means "is." So to recap here, we have *quel est*. Literally, this means "what is." Let's take a look at the next word, *le contenu*, means "the content." It is followed by *de votre colis*, which in English is "of your package." *De* is "of," *votre* is "your," and finally, *colis* is "package."

So all together, we have *Quel est le contenu de votre colis ?* Literally, this means "What is the content of your package?"

Other ways to ask what is in your package might be useful to know.

For Example:

1. *Qu'est-ce qu'il y a dans votre colis ?*
Literally, "What is there in your package?"
2. *Qu'est-ce que votre colis contient ?*
Literally, "What does your package contain?"

You might also need a few other words in order to make it through the post office experience.

For Example:

French	"English"
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<i>le poids</i>	"weight"
<i>le destinataire</i>	"addressee"
<i>l'expéditeur</i>	"sender"

Quick Tip: Avoiding the French Tax Man

Other companies like DHL and FedEx send packages at almost the same rates as the post office, so you may try them first if you have a package. However, be careful if you have packages sent to you, as there are heavy taxes on any imported merchandise. So if you buy anything from overseas and have it sent to you on your trip, it will come with a tax. On the reverse end, if you buy a certain amount of merchandise in France and you take it back home, you can collect what's called the *detaxe* or the "sales tax." This is the same notion that operates commerce in a duty-free shop in an airport: non-resident customers can be exempt from sales tax. To collect the sales tax at customs, you must ask for the *detaxe* at the store where you are shopping. There usually is a minimum purchase to be eligible, but if you can get it, it's worth it as it is around twenty percent.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #39

French Foreign Exchange

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

39

FRENCH

1. Est-ce qu'il y a un distributeur près d'ici ?
2. Vous savez où je peux changer de l'argent ?
3. En petites coupures, s'il vous plaît.

ENGLISH

1. Is there an ATM near here?
2. Do you know where I can exchange currency?
3. Smaller denominations, please.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
en petites coupures	small denominations	nominal group	feminine/plural
changer (de l'argent)	to exchange (currency), to change	verb	
pouvoir	can	verb	
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
vous	you (formal)	personal pronoun	
où	where	adverb	
savoir	to know	verb	
petit(e)	small	adjective	masculine
ici	here	adverb	
près de/d'	next to, close to, near	locution	

une banque	a bank	noun	feminine
est-ce que	is, that	phrase	
il y a	there is	phrase	
un distributeur de billets	an ATM	noun	masculine
l'argent	money	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Je veux cet argent en petites coupures.</p> <p>"I want this money in small denominations."</p>	<p>Je veux changer mes euros en dollars.</p> <p>"I want to exchange my euros into dollars."</p>
<p>Je peux lui montrer comment le faire.</p> <p>"I can show him how to do it."</p>	<p>Pardon, vous pouvez me laisser passer ?</p> <p>"Excuse me; can you let me go through?"</p>
<p>Je vais bien.</p> <p>"I am well."</p>	<p>Vous pouvez garder vos affaires de valeur.</p> <p>"You can keep your valuable belongings."</p>
<p>Vous êtes contre la loi.</p> <p>"You are breaking the law."</p>	<p>Où tu habites ?</p> <p>"Where do you live?"</p>
<p>Tu sais, je suis américain !</p> <p>"You know, I'm American!"</p>	<p>Tu sais ce qu'il a fait ?</p> <p>"Do you know what he did?"</p>
<p>Elle est petite.</p> <p>"She is small."</p>	<p>Les toilettes sont ici.</p> <p>"The restrooms are here."</p>
<p>Paris, c'est près de Toulouse ?</p> <p>"Is Paris near Toulouse?"</p>	<p>J'ai mon argent à la banque.</p> <p>"My money is in the bank."</p>

<p>Est-ce que c'est une Cadillac ?</p> <p>"Is it a Cadillac?"</p>	<p>En face de chez moi, il y a un parc.</p> <p>"In front of my house, there is a park."</p>
<p>Le distributeur de billets est vide.</p> <p>"The ATM is empty."</p>	<p>Tu as de l'argent pour moi ?</p> <p>"Do you have money for me?"</p>

GRAMMAR

Exchanging money in France is quite convenient! You can exchange money at airports or banks, or you can withdraw money from an ATM. Rates applied when withdrawing money from an ATM are likely to be the best; however, when using an ATM, it is advisable to make one large withdrawal as you may be charged by both the local bank and your home one. So first things first: let's find a location that will exchange money.

First, let's review some previous phrases and patterns we've already covered.

In French, "Is there an ATM near here?" is *Est-ce qu'il y a un distributeur près d'ici ?* The first words, *est-ce qu'il y a*, mean "is there." This is followed by *un*, which in English means "a." So to recap here, we have *est-ce qu'il y a un*. Literally, this means "Is it that there is." This is followed by *distributeur*, which means "ATM." The next word, *près*, means "near." Lastly, we have *d'ici*, which means "to here."

So all together, we have *Est-ce qu'il y a un distributeur près d'ici ?* Literally, this means "Is it that there is an ATM near of here?"

Now to ask for a bank, we can just replace the word for "ATM" with "bank" and the phrase works just fine. "Is there a bank near here?" is *Est-ce qu'il y a une banque près d'ici ?* The only thing that changes is the thing you are looking for. In this case, it's *banque*.

For times when there is neither a bank nor an ATM, you can ask, "Do you know where I can exchange currency?" In French, this is *Vous savez où je peux changer de l'argent ?* The first words, *vous savez*, mean "do you know." Then *où* means "where." So to recap here, we have *Vous savez où*. Literally, this means "Do you know where." The next word, *je*, means "I" in English. This is followed by *peux*, which in English means "can." This is followed by *changer*, which in English means "exchange." Lastly, we have *de l'argent*, which is French for "some money."

So all together, we have *Vous savez où je peux changer de l'argent ?* Literally, this means "Do you know where I can exchange money?"

Exchanging currency is pretty straightforward. You need to fill out some forms and then present the amount you want exchanged. One extremely useful phrase is "Smaller

denominations, please," as it is usually beneficial to have smaller amounts of currency on you for paying for the bus fare, taxi fare, etc. In French, "Smaller denominations, please" is *En petites coupures*. The first word, *en*, means "in." Then *petites* means "small." Finally, *coupures* means "denominations."

So to recap here, we have *En petites coupures*. Literally, this means "in small denominations."

These phrases will certainly be enough to get you where you need for your money needs. However, if you would like more simplified versions, here are a couple.

As we learned, "Is there an ATM near here" is *Est-ce qu'il y a un distributeur près d'ici ?* We can also say "I'm looking for an ATM," which is *Je cherche un distributeur*. When we are looking for something, all we need to say is *Je cherche ____* and then say the thing. If we are looking for "an exchange office," we say *Je cherche un bureau de change*. "A bank?" *Je cherche une banque*.

Remember, say *bonjour* before you ask questions to strangers.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1: Getting Bigger Bills

ATMs give out bills in tens, twenties, and fifties. If you want larger denominations, you will have to go inside a bank. To ask "larger denominations, please," say *Des billets plus gros, s'il vous plaît*, which literally means "Larger bills, please."

Quick Tip 2: Where to Exchange Other Currencies

If you do any traveling outside the Euro Zone, the countries that all use the euro as currency, you may end up with foreign currency, such as Swiss francs or Czech kröner. If you would like to change these in France, you can go to any bank or a *bureau de change* ("exchange office"). Also, if you have any old French francs from a trip ten years ago, the only place you can change them for euros is at the *Banque de France* ("Bank of France"), which is like the French mint. No other banks accept francs.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #40

French Telephone Card

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- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar

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FRENCH

1. Vous avez des cartes téléphoniques?
2. Une carte téléphonique à cinq euros, s'il vous plaît.
3. Une carte téléphonique à dix euros, s'il vous plaît.
4. Est-ce qu'il y a une cabine téléphonique près d'ici?

ENGLISH

1. Do you have phone cards?
2. A five-euro phone card please.
3. A ten-euro phone card, please.
4. Is there a payphone/phone booth near here?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
cinq	five	noun	masculine
près de/d'	next to, close to, near	locution	
il y a	there is	phrase	
est-ce que	is, that	phrase	
une cabine téléphonique	a phone booth	noun	feminine
l'euro	the euro	noun	masculine
dix	ten	noun	masculine

vous	you (formal)	pronoun	neuter
avoir	to have	verb	
une carte téléphonique	a phone card	noun	feminine
ici	here	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>J'ai cinq voitures ! "I have five cars!"</p>	<p>Paris, c'est près de Toulouse ? "Is Paris near Toulouse?"</p>
<p>En face de chez moi, il y a un parc. "In front of my house, there is a park."</p>	<p>Est-ce que c'est une Cadillac ? "Is it a Cadillac?"</p>
<p>Les cabines téléphoniques de Londres sont uniques. "London's phone booths are unique."</p>	<p>A - Tu as un euro ? B - Voilà! "A - Do you have a euro? B - There you go!"</p>
<p>Deux euros. "two euros"</p>	<p>Cette bouteille coûte vingt-cinq euros. "This bottle costs twenty-five euros."</p>
<p>J'ai dix ans. "I am ten."</p>	<p>Ça fait dix euros. C'est notre offre de la semaine ! "It costs ten euros. It is our offer of the week!"</p>
<p>Et vous, vous êtes en vacances ? "And you, you are on vacation?"</p>	<p>Il a une voiture. "He has a car."</p>
<p>J'ai trente-trois ans. "I am thirty-three years old."</p>	<p>Excusez-moi, avez-vous du pain? "Excuse me, do you have some bread?"</p>

<p>J'achète une carte téléphonique pour appeler à l'étranger.</p> <p>"I am buying a phone card to call abroad."</p>	<p>Nous sommes ici.</p> <p>"We are here."</p>
<p>Je suis ici.</p> <p>"I am here."</p>	

GRAMMAR

When you are traveling in France, you might want to share your feelings and call your friends or your family. For that, you may need to buy a telephone card.

The standard phone card in France is called *Télécarte*, which the national phone company, France Telecom, provides. Time on the card is counted in units, or in French, *unités*. The rates are not the most competitive and you can only use them in phone booths or *cabines téléphoniques*. This is because they use a special electronic chip called a *puce* that stores the card's number of units and is only compatible with French phone booths. There are other phone cards you can buy that don't use the electronic chip. Those are called *cartes téléphoniques*. Their rates will vary depending on where you buy them.

Let's see how to ask for those.

"Do you have phone cards" in French is *Vous avez des cartes téléphoniques ? Vous avez* means "do you have." It is followed by *des*, which is the plural indefinite article. Finally, we have *cartes téléphoniques*, which we just saw means "phone cards."

You might want to ask for a specific rate. Those might vary, so we'll imagine you want either a five-euro card or a ten-euro card.

"A five-euro phone card, please" in French is *Une carte téléphonique à cinq euros, s'il vous plaît*. We know that *Une carte téléphonique* means "a phone card." Then we have *à*, which means "of" in English. Finally, we have the price, *cinq euros*, which is "five euros." By now you all know that *s'il vous plaît* means "please."

All together, we have *Une carte téléphonique à cinq euros s'il vous plaît*. Literally, this means "A phone card of five euros, please."

Let's imagine that your card is ten euros. All you have to do is replace *cinq euros* with *dix euros*: *Une carte téléphonique à dix euros, s'il vous plaît*.

Now, the next step will be to find a phone booth in order to make your call. If you want to ask where you can find a phone booth, just use the question we've learned in previous lessons:

Est-ce qu'il y a une cabine téléphonique près d'ici ? which means "Is there a phone booth near here?"

Even with the rise of cell phones, French cities and villages have been pretty good at keeping phone booths all over their streets.

Quick Tip 1: Choices, Choices of French Telephone Providers

Telecommunications has become big business in France since the government privatized it ten years ago. The prices can get quite competitive, which is good news for consumers, but the number of choices can be mind-boggling. If you want to circumvent the problem, either bring or rent an international cell phone, which you will learn about in the next lesson, or buy international phone cards at home, which you can find on the Internet.

Quick Tip 2: Finding Other Phone Cards

Competitors' phone cards are also available at call centers and Internet cafés. These are easy to find buy looking for an "@" sign on the street, which are quite common in immigrant neighborhoods where people make overseas calls regularly.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #41

One, Please

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- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

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FRENCH

1. Un ticket, s'il vous plaît.
2. Trois tickets, s'il vous plaît.
3. Cinq tickets, s'il vous plaît.
4. Votre ticket, s'il vous plaît.

ENGLISH

1. One ticket, please.
2. Three tickets, please.
3. Five tickets, please.
4. Your ticket, please.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
votre	your (formal)	possessive adjective	masculine or feminine
s'il vous plaît	please (formal)	expression	
un ticket	a ticket	noun	masculine
cinq	five	noun	masculine
trois	three	noun	masculine
un / une	a, an	indefinite article	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Votre ami arrive. "Your friend is coming."</p>	<p>Vous pouvez me donner un café, s'il vous plaît ? "Can you give me a coffee, please?"</p>
<p>Tiens, j'ai un ticket de bus pour toi. "Here you go; I have a bus ticket for you."</p>	<p>J'ai cinq voitures ! "I have five cars!"</p>
<p>Il a trois ans. "He is three years old."</p>	<p>J'ai un euro. "I have one euro."</p>
<p>C'est une grande plage. "This is a large beach."</p>	<p>"Lonely Planet" est un bon guide de voyage. "<i>Lonely Planet</i> is a good travel guide."</p>

GRAMMAR

There are three translations for "ticket" in French: *un ticket*, *une place*, and *un billet*. *Place* is the seat that the ticket represents. At a movie theatre, for instance, the ticket seller might ask you *Combien de places?* This means "How many tickets?" but has the sense of "How many places?" You might also hear *Combien de tickets?* which sounds more familiar.

When you go into the theatre, the person who tears your ticket will say *Votre billet, s'il vous plaît*, which means "your ticket, please." Here, *billet* ("ticket") means the actual physical ticket in your hand. We use *billet* for other tickets as well. Again, you might just hear *Votre ticket, s'il vous plaît*.

In some cases, the word *billet* is mandatory.

For Example:

1. *un billet d'avion*
"a plane ticket"
2. *un billet de train*
"a train ticket"

Bus and metro tickets are called "tickets."

A ticket that a policeman gives you, like a speeding ticket, is *une amende*.

Quick Tip 1: Language Nuances: *Un/Une* and *Place*

Remember that the translation for "one" is either *un* or *une* depending on the gender of the object. For example, we say *un billet*, *un ticket* (masculine), and *une place* (feminine). The other numbers do not change genders, or rather, they have no gender.

The word *place* also refers to the seat you use. For example, an usher at a theater will ask you *Quelle est votre place?* This means "What seat do you have?" However, the actual physical chair is not called *une place* but *un siège*.

Quick Tip 2: Tip for French Theater-Goers: Get a Snack First

Some movie theaters in Paris only start selling tickets five minutes before the movie starts (we're talking about art-house theatres here, which you might want to check out as most of them are historical, like the Champo in the Fifth Arrondissement). Make sure you find a nice spot to drink a tea or a coffee by the theater before you show up, because they won't let you wait inside, even if it's raining out! Those French...

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #42

Renting a Telephone in France

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

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FRENCH

1. J'aimerais louer un portable.
2. Est-ce que les appels entrants sont gratuits ?
3. Combien coûtent les appels vers les États-Unis ?

ENGLISH

1. I would like to rent a cell phone.
2. Are incoming calls free?
3. How much are calls to the U.S.?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
louer	to rent	verb	
Les États-Unis	The United States	proper noun	masculine, plural
vers	toward	preposition, adverb	
un appel	a call	noun	masculine
coûter	to cost	verb	
combien	how much	adverb	
appeler	to call	verb	
on	we / people	personal pronoun, third person singular	
quand	when	adverb	
gratuit(e)	free	adjective	

c'est	it is	pronoun	
est-ce que	is, that	phrase	
un téléphone portable	a cell phone	noun	masculine
aimer	to like	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Je loue une voiture pour voyager. "I rent a car to travel."</p>	<p>Les États-Unis ont cinquante états. "The United States has fifty states."</p>
<p>La piscine est vers le centre-ville. "The swimming-pool is near the town center."</p>	<p>Je regarde vers l'horizon. "I am looking toward the horizon."</p>
<p>J'ai reçu un appel de ta mère. "I got a call from your mother."</p>	<p>Combien coûte ce fromage qui pue? "How much is this stinky cheese?"</p>
<p>Le billet d'avion coûte neuf cent cinquante euros. "The plane ticket costs 950 euros."</p>	<p>C'est combien ? "How much is it?"</p>
<p>J'appelle mes amis à l'étranger. "I call my friends abroad."</p>	<p>En France, on aime le fromage. "In France, people like cheese."</p>
<p>Toi et moi, on parle anglais et français. "You and me, we speak English and French."</p>	<p>Quand je suis à Paris, je fume. "When I am in Paris, I smoke."</p>
<p>Quand est-ce que tu viens ? "When do you come?"</p>	<p>Le Louvre est gratuit pour les enfants. "The Louvre is free for kids."</p>
<p>C'est bien. "It is good."</p>	<p>Est-ce que c'est une Cadillac ? "Is it a Cadillac?"</p>

Mon téléphone portable n'a pas internet. "My cell phone does not have the Internet."	J'aimerais une bière, s'il vous plaît. "I would like a beer, please."
--	---

Elle aime discuter au bistrot.

"She likes to chat at the bistro."

GRAMMAR

Some other countries' cell phones work in France. You must verify with your carrier whether your phone is compatible. If this is the case, you will need to get a French SIM card (Subscriber Identity Module) that looks like a little chip and contains all the phone's data. This will replace the SIM card currently in your phone, which you will put back once you are home. These are relatively inexpensive to purchase, around thirty-five euros, and you will have your own French phone number. If you do not have a France-compatible phone, you can also buy one when you buy the SIM card. This may get more expensive than renting, but that depends on how long you stay. Cell phone calls in France are much more expensive than in other countries, so most people send text messages when they need to contact another cell phone. Long-distance calls are incredibly expensive on French cell phones, though receiving calls is free.

If you are looking for a "cell phone store," the term is a *magasin de téléphone portable*. A "phone rental place" is a *location de téléphone portable*.

In French, "I would like to rent a cell phone" is *J'aimerais louer un portable*. The first word, *j'aimerais*, means "I would like," as we have learned in previous lessons. This is followed by *louer*, which in English means "to rent." So to recap here, we have *J'aimerais louer*. Literally, this means "I would like to rent." The next word, *un*, as we have learned, means "a." Lastly, we have *portable*, which means "cell phone."

So all together, we have *J'aimerais louer un portable*. Literally, this means "I would like to rent a cell phone."

In this day and age, there may be instances when you need to rent more than one phone. For instance, you may want a phone for each member of the family. In this case, you would add the number of phones you want.

For Example:

1. *J'aimerais louer deux portables.*
"I would like to rent two phones."

- 2 *J'aimerais louer trois portables.*
"I would like to rent three phones."

Two important questions related to your plan are "Are incoming calls free?" and "How much are calls to (country)?"

"Are incoming calls free?" is *Est-ce que les appels entrants sont gratuits?*

And "How much are calls to the United States?" is *Combien coûtent les appels vers les Etats-Unis?* The French word for "the United States" is *Les Etats Unis*. To ask about another country or destination, simply substitute the name of the country for the United States. In the case of England, the phrase becomes *Combien coûtent les appels vers l'Angleterre?*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Is that a [Z] Sound I Hear?

You may have noticed that the words for "the United States," *Les États-Unis*, have a lot of [z] sounds in them. This is our old friend *liaison*: the sounding of silent letters at the end of a word, in this case -s, when placed before a word that begins with a vowel. In *Les États-Unis*, there is a silent -s at the end of *Les* and *Etats*. You put them together with the -e of *Etat* and the -u of *Unis* and they turn into -z's. Sometimes people refer to the United States as *Les States* or even *Les U.S.*

The word *portable* is short for *téléphone portable* just like "cell" is short for "cell phone." *Portable* is also short for *ordinateur portable*, which means "portable computer" aka "laptop." The only way to know the difference is to listen to the context of the sentence, though usually *portable* means "cell phone."

How to say "I would like" in French.

J'aimerais means "would like." We use the verb *aimer* here, conjugated at the conditional present (*Le conditionnel présent*).

To say "I would like," you can also use *Je voudrais* using the verb *vouloir* at the conditional present (*Le conditionnel présent*).

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #43

Do You Have an English Guide to France?

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

43

FRENCH

1. Avez-vous un guide en anglais ?

ENGLISH

1. Do you have an English information guide?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
avoir	to have	verb	
vous	you (formal)	pronoun	neuter
un guide	an information guide	noun	masculine
en	in, to	preposition	
anglais(e)	English	noun	masculine/feminine
français(e)	French	adjective	
japonais(e)	Japanese	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Il a une voiture. "He has a car."	J'ai trente-trois ans. "I am thirty-three years old."
Excusez-moi, avez-vous du pain? "Excuse me, do you have some bread?"	Vous êtes ici. "You are here."

<p>Vous vous appelez David. "You are called David."</p>	<p>J'ai acheté un guide avant de partir en voyage. "I bought an information guide before traveling."</p>
<p>Je vais à Monaco en juin. "I am going to Monaco in June."</p>	<p>On va en classe ensemble. "We go to class together."</p>
<p>Mon ami anglais vient de Londres. "My English friend comes from London."</p>	<p>L'anglais est la langue des affaires. "English is the language of business."</p>
<p>La chanteuse Vanessa Paradis est française. "The singer Vanessa Paradis is French."</p>	<p>Tokyo est une ville japonaise. "Tokyo is a Japanese city."</p>

GRAMMAR

In today's lesson, we'll introduce you to a crucial phrase for all of you travelers out there who are interested in learning more about the tourist attractions you're going to visit. Learning about the history and cultural significance of places you visit can be just as rewarding as seeing them. Today we'll cover "Do you have an English information guide?"

In French, "Do you have an English information guide?" is *Avez-vous un guide en anglais?** The first two words, *vous avez*, mean "do you have," as we have learned in previous lessons. They are followed by *un*, which in English means "a," as we know. This is followed by *guide*, which in English means "guide." So to recap here, we have *Avez-vous un guide*. Literally, this means "you have a guide." The next word, *en*, means "in." This is followed by *anglais*, which in English means "English." So all together, we have *Avez-vous un guide en Anglais?** Literally, this means "Do you have a guide in English?"

*You can also say *Vous avez un guide en anglais ?*

Today's phrase will help you in places where information guides are offered, such as museums. What if you are looking for something in English other than a guide? A more universal phrase is *Avez-vous une version anglaise?* which means "Do you have an English version?" Again, if you want to look for another language, all you need is to change the word *anglais* for the language you desire.

For Example:

<i>French</i>	"English"
<i>japonais</i>	"Japanese"
<i>allemand</i>	"German"
<i>espagnol</i>	"Spanish"
<i>italien</i>	"Italian"

And if you are brave enough to try to read everything in French, you can ask for a guide *en français*!

Quick Tip 1: French Capitalization Tip

You will notice that the word for "English," *anglais*, is not capitalized. In French, we do not capitalize languages and nationalities. There are other words that we do not capitalize as well. For instance, we do not capitalize days of the week and months. However, we do capitalize the names of countries, like "France."

Quick Tip 2: Which French Movie Version Should You See?

At the movie theater, English-language films are often offered in two versions: V.F. and V.O. V.F. stands for *version française* or "French version." This is the version other actors dub over in French. V.O. stands for *version originale* or "original version." This version has no dubbing but it still has French subtitles. If you go to the movies to see the latest film from the United States, be sure to verify what version is screening. You may buy your ticket and sit down to realize the whole thing is dubbed. To verify the version, look for the letters V.F. or V.O. on the poster outside the theater or in the listings in the newspaper.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #44

How Do You Eat This French Food?

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

44

FRENCH

1. Comment ça se mange ?
2. Est-ce qu'on y ajoute quelque chose ?
3. Ça pique ?

ENGLISH

1. How do you eat this?
2. Do you add something?
3. Is this spicy?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
comment	how	adverb
se (or s')	oneself, itself (grammatical form, part of pronominal verbs)	personal pronoun
manger	to eat	verb
ça pique	It's spicy.	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Comment ils vont ? "How are they?"	Comment tu t'appelles ? "What is your name?"
--	--

<p>Elles se préparent pour la soirée.</p> <p>"They get ready for the evening."</p>	<p>Les athlètes s'entraînent régulièrement.</p> <p>"Athletes practice regularly."</p>
<p>L'immeuble menace de s'effondrer.</p> <p>"The building threatens to break down."</p>	<p>Les français mangent bien.</p> <p>"French people eat well."</p>
<p>Il mange le quart du gâteau.</p> <p>"He eats a quarter of the cake."</p>	<p>La harissa, le condiment pour le couscous, ça pique !</p> <p>"La harissa, the condiment for couscous, it's spicy!"</p>

GRAMMAR

In France, there are many delicious dishes! We've already covered how to order them, but now we'll talk about how to eat them! That, however, is not always so straightforward. So in today's lesson, we'll learn how to ask "How do you eat this?"

In French, "How do you eat this?" is *Comment ça se mange?* The first word, *comment*, means "how." It is followed by *ça*, which in French is "this." So to recap here, we have *Comment ça*. Literally, this means "How that?" The next word, *se*, means something like "itself." Lastly, we have *mange*, which in French is "eat."

So all together, we have *Comment ça se mange?* Literally, this means "How does that eat itself?" and means "How is this eaten?" which could be answered with the smart remark : *avec la bouche* meaning with the mouth.

There are other instances when you may want to add some sauce or the like to your dish. To say "Do you add something..." use *Est-ce qu'on y ajoute quelque chose ?* The first word *Est-ce* means "is it". The following word is *qu'on* which in French is "that one". It is the contraction of two word *que* and *on* meaning *that* and *one*. For the recap here, we have *Est-ce qu'on* literally it is "Is it that one". Let's take a look at the next word which is *y*. This means something like "to this". It is followed by *ajoute* which in French is add. Then this is followed by *quelques* meaning some. Lastly we have *chose* which is in French thing. So all together we have *Est-ce qu'on y ajoute quelque chose ?* literally meaning "Is this that one add something to this ?"

Finally, the all-important question is "Is this hot?" referring to "hot" as in "spicy!" In French, "Is this hot?" is *Ça pique ?* The first words, *Ça*, mean "this." This is followed by *pique*, which in English means "stingy." So all together, we have *Ça pique?* Literally, this means "This sting?" and translate as "Is this spicy?"

You may have noticed that many phrases in this course use reflexive verbs, which are verbs whose subject is also the object. *Comment ça se mange*, for example, is literally "how does this eat itself?" meaning "How is this eaten?" The French often speak in reflexive verbs. *Se mange*, *se dit*, and *se lit* ("eat," "say," and "read") are some examples we have seen. You will notice that when the French want to talk about something in general, such as how we eat something, they will use this form, while in English we use the passive form, as in "How is this eaten?"

All this complicated grammar just shows how subtle the language can get.

Quick Tip 1: Subtleties of French Cuisine

Very little food in French cuisine is spicy. Rather, French cuisine is based on bringing out the natural flavors of meats and vegetables or enhancing them with butter or cream. The results are subtle and delicate, which spices would overpower. The closest thing the French have is hot mustard, but this is rare. If you want spicy food, France is home to a vibrant immigrant culture. Arab and Indian cuisines, for example, offer an option for all you fans of hot sauce.

Quick Tip 2: Taking Risks with Your French Food

French food is almost always eaten with silverware, usually a fork and knife. However, some dishes, such as snails, require special silverware, while some meals, such as frog's legs, need your fingers. I recommend eating both of these once while you are in France just to have the experience. Going outside our habits is all a part of traveling.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #45

I'm a French Vegetarian

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

45

FRENCH

1. Je suis végétarien.
2. Je ne mange pas de viande.

ENGLISH

1. I am a vegetarian.
2. I don't eat meat.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
être	to be	verb	
végétarien(ne)	vegetarian	noun; adjective	masculine (-ne: feminine)
ne/n'...pas	this is the negation that you are going to use in a sentence	phrase	
manger	to eat	verb	
la viande	meat	noun	feminine
le fromage	cheese	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Je vais bien. "I am well."</p>	<p>Il vaut mieux être seul que mal accompagné. "It is worth more to be alone than badly accompanied."</p>
<p>Il semble être heureux. "He seems to be happy."</p>	<p>Être ou ne pas être. "To be or not to be."</p>
<p>Elle est végétarienne. Elle ne mange que des légumes. "She is vegetarian. She only eats vegetables."</p>	<p>Je ne vais pas au cinéma. "I am not going to the movies."</p>
<p>Je n'ai pas de voiture. "I do not have a car."</p>	<p>Je mange un sandwich. "I am eating a sandwich."</p>
<p>Vous mangez le déjeuner à midi ? "You eat lunch at noon?"</p>	<p>Je ne veux pas de viande. "I don't want any meat."</p>
<p>Je veux de la viande. "I want some meat."</p>	<p>Je ne veux pas de fromage. "I don't want any cheese."</p>
<p>Je mange du fromage tous les jours. "I eat cheese every day."</p>	

GRAMMAR

Today's lesson is not only for all of the vegetarians out there but is also for anyone with an aversion to a particular food! There are many reasons a person won't eat a particular food, and there may be instances when communicating this is necessary. Today we'll go over some phrases to ensure you don't get any unwanted surprises on your plate.

In French, "I am a vegetarian" is *Je suis végétarien*. The first word, *je*, means "I." It is followed by *suis*, which in English means "am." So to recap here, we have *Je suis*. Literally, this means "I am." The next word, *végétarien*, means "vegetarian."

So all together, we have *Je suis végétarien*. Literally, this means "I am vegetarian."

Another way you communicate you don't eat a particular food is by saying just that!

In French, "I don't eat meat!" is *Je ne mange pas de viande*. The first word, *je*, means "I," as we learned. This is followed by *ne*, which in French is a negative auxiliary that comes before the verb. So to recap here, we have *Je ne*. Literally, this means "I not." The next word *mange*, means "eat." This is followed by *pas de*, which in French is a negative form used for uncountable things, such as meat, water, and so forth. Finally, we have *viande*, which in French is "meat."

So all together, we have *Je ne mange pas de viande*. Literally, this means "I don't eat meat."

Quick Tip 1: Saying What You Do Eat in French

You just learned how to say what you don't eat. How do you say what you do eat? Simple, take out the negative participles from today's phrase *Je ne mange pas de viande* and you have *Je mange de la viande*: "I eat meat."

Quick Tip 2: If You're Vegan, Can You Survive in France?

Vegetarianism is slowly catching on, but it is not yet common. If you are invited to dinner, you must be sure to tell your host the phrase you just learned. However, if you want to cook vegetarian meals, France has some of the best produce in Europe, plus some of the best vegetable cuisine. Vegetarians do not have to start eating meat to survive here. Most restaurants have a couple vegetable options. For vegans, though, it is another matter. Dairy-free food is hard to come by. In France, there is a natural food chain called Naturalia, which has some vegan options. The word for *vegan* is *végétalien* with an *l*.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #46

Asking for Help in French

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar

46

FRENCH

1. Au secours!
2. Police !

ENGLISH

1. Help!
2. Police!

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Au secours!	Help!	phrase	
la police	police	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Au secours ! Un chien m'attaque ! "Help! A dog is attacking me!"	La police surveille la manifestation. "The police watch the demonstration."
--	---

GRAMMAR

In today's lesson, we'll introduce you to some phrases that hopefully you won't have to use. When traveling to France, while the threat of physical violence is not prevalent, you should always be careful. In addition, this phrase is not limited to threatening situations, but you can also use it in the unfortunate event that you or someone around you is in the need of immediate assistance. Today we'll learn how to call for help.

In French, "Help!" is *Au secours*. The first word, *au*, means something like "to the." It is followed by *secours*, which in French is something like "help."

So all together, we have *Au secours*. Literally, this means "to the help."

You can call for the police by simply yelling "Police!"

The phone number for the police in France is 17.

Quick Tip 1: Less Urgent Ways to Seek Help in France

The terms you learned today will be all you need in an emergency. However, there are other phrases we can use when we need help less urgently.

For Example:

1. *J'ai besoin d'aide.*
"I need help."
2. *Aidez-moi.*
"Help me."
3. *Pouvez-vous m'aider?* (formal "you")
"Can you help me?"
4. *Peux-tu m'aider?* (informal "you")
"Can you help me?"

Quick Tip 2: French Police Lingo

In France, there is not one police force, but three. If you ever have things stolen or need to report some other crime, you will have to look for the right one. Each has its own headquarters as well. Here is a list of the different types of police:

1. *Police nationale* ("national police"): These are the civil police who keep the peace in urban areas. They are distinguished by a flat round hat with a bill.
2. *Gendarmes* (literally, "people of arms"): Military police. Technically, they fall under the ministry of defense (military), but France uses them as the police force for rural areas. They are distinguished by a cylindrical hat with a bill and dark blue uniforms.

3. *CRS*, or *Compagnie républicaine de sécurité* ("Republican Company of Security"): A section of the national police force deployed during protests, marches, and riots. They are distinguished by a red, shield-shaped badge and small blue hat with no bill and peaked in the middle. And a large shield is also usually accompanying them.

Here is a list of various police-related buildings:

1. *Commisariat* ("police station"): This is the local police station. You can report crimes here.
2. *Préfecture* ("police headquarters"): You can also report crimes here. This also the administrative building where foreigners regulate their papers.
3. *Hôtel de ville* ("City Hall"): You can report stolen items at City Hall.

The French police are not the nicest police force in the world. When they get angry, they can get somewhat gang-like, as we saw during the suburban riots in 2005. But, for the most part, they are easy to talk to if you speak in a respectful manner. They are very useful if you need directions, for instance.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #47

Asking for Medical Assistance in French

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

47

FRENCH

1. J'ai besoin d'un médecin.
2. J'ai besoin d'une pharmacie
3. S'il vous plaît, amenez-moi chez le médecin.
4. S'il vous plaît, appelez-moi une ambulance.

ENGLISH

1. I need a doctor.
2. I need a pharmacy.
3. Please take me to the doctor.
4. Please call me an ambulance.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
une pharmacie	pharmacy	noun	feminine
avoir besoin	have the need	phrasal verb	
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
médecin	doctor	noun	feminine or masculine
moi	me	stressed pronoun (pronom tonique)	
amener	to bring, to take	verb	

chez	to, at, in	preposition
à	at or to	preposition

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>La pharmacie vend des médicaments. "The pharmacy sells medicine."</p>	<p>J'ai besoin d'aller à la campagne pour me reposer. "I need to go to the country to rest."</p>
<p>Je vais bien. "I am well."</p>	<p>Je consulte un médecin régulièrement. "I visit the doctor regularly."</p>
<p>Allons à la plage toi et moi ! "Let's go to the beach, you and me!"</p>	<p>Moi je suis contente. "Me, I'm happy."</p>
<p>J'amène Pierre chez moi. "I bring Peter to my place."</p>	<p>Monsieur Martin est chez lui. "Mr. Martin is at his home."</p>
<p>Je suis à la maison. "I am at home."</p>	<p>J'habite à Sidney. "I live in Sydney."</p>
<p>Je vais à la campagne. "I go to the countryside."</p>	

GRAMMAR

In today's lesson, we'll introduce you to some phrases useful in the case you need medical assistance. When traveling, sometimes the body takes a little time to adjust, and the immune system is no different. So today, we'll go over some phrases that will help get you to a location where you can get medical assistance. We'll start with the phrase "I need a doctor."

In French, "I need a doctor" is *J'ai besoin d'un médecin*. The first word, *J'ai*, means "I have." Composed with *j* ("I"), the contracted form of *je* and *ai* meaning "have." It is followed by *besoin*, which in French is "need." So to recap here, we have *J'ai besoin*. Literally, this means "I have need." The next word, *d'un*, means "of a," a contraction of *de* ("of") and *un* à. "This is

followed by *medecin*, which in French is "doctor."

So all together, we have *J'ai besoin d'un médecin*. Literally, this means "I have need of a doctor."

If things aren't too bad, perhaps you only need to get to a pharmacy. In French, "I need to get to a pharmacy." is *J'ai besoin d'une pharmacie*. First we have *j'ai besoin d'*, which is French for "I have the need," as seen previously. Notice that the only thing that changes is *une pharmacie*, the rest is the same.

All together, we have *J'ai besoin d'une pharmacie*, which literally means "I need to get to a pharmacy."

If you need to get there or would like someone to take you, you can use the following phrase: "Please take me to the doctor." which is *S'il vous plaît, amenez-moi chez le médecin*. We know that *s'il vous plaît* is "please." Then we have *amenez*, which means something like "bring."

To recap, we have *S'il vous plaît, amenez*. Literally, this means "Please take" or "Please bring." Let's take a look at the following word *moi* which means "me." This is followed by *chez*, which in French is something like "the house of" or "the place of." Next, we have *le*, which in French means "the." Lastly, we have *médecin*, meaning "doctor."

All together, we have *S'il vous plaît, amenez-moi chez le médecin*, literally meaning "Please bring me to the place of the doctor."

And of course for the pharmacy, you can just substitute the word *chez le médecin* with *à la pharmacie* and you'll get *S'il vous plaît, amenez-moi à la pharmacie*, which is "Please take me to the pharmacy."

And just for insurance purposes, we should cover the phrase "Please call an ambulance," which in French is *S'il vous plaît, appelez-moi une ambulance*. The first words, *S'il vous plaît*, mean "please," as we know. They are followed by *appelez*, which in French is "call." So to recap here, we have *S'il vous plaît, appelez*. Literally, this means "please call." The next word, *moi* means "me." Then we have *une*, meaning "a." Lastly, we have "ambulance," which in French is *ambulance*.

So all together, we have *S'il vous plaît, appelez-moi une ambulance*. Literally, this means "Please call me an ambulance."

The phone number for an ambulance in France is 15.

Today's lesson provides all the phrases you'll need for your medical problems. However, there are a few fine points. When we want to express need, we have two choices. First, to express need, we use the word *besoin*, as in *j'ai besoin de*. There is another term, *il me faut*, the third person conjugation of *falloir*, which means something like "necessitate." We use this like this *Il me faut _____* and you fill in the object that you need. For example, *il me faut un docteur*, which means "I need a doctor." This formulation is just as common as the first.

Quick Tip 1: Other French Emergency Services

Today we learned about emergencies. In France, the emergency response service is called SAMU. SAMU stands for *Service d'Aide Médicale d'Urgence* or "Emergency Medical Aid Service." This is the equivalent service to the one Americans use when they call 9-1-1. You can call for any emergency problem and the operator will direct you to the correct service (police or firefighters).

If you need to call firefighters, they are called *les pompiers* (think of pumping water) and the number is 18.

Quick Tip 2: Why You Should Consider Traveling to France for Your Next Medical Procedure

The French medical system is likely one of the most complete and well priced in the world. Despite some long lines and some testy bureaucrats, it's hard to beat. The doctors are well trained and French social security covers a majority of the costs, even if you are not a French resident. I know Americans who have flown to France for dental work and, even after the airfare and hotel, had still spent less than if they had done the work at home. Did I entice you? Not so fast though: not all procedures are covered universally. You'll have to do some homework for that.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #48

Explaining Symptoms in French

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

48

FRENCH

1. J'ai mal à la tête.
2. J'ai de la fièvre.
3. J'ai la diarrhée.
4. J'ai mal ici.

ENGLISH

1. I have a headache.
2. I have a fever.
3. I have diarrhea.
4. I hurt here.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
avoir	to have	verb	
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
s'il vous plaît	please (formal)	expression	
un rhume	a cold	noun	masculine
pour	for	preposition	
un médicament	a medicine	noun	masculine
avoir mal à la tête	to have a headache	phrase	

avoir mal au ventre	to have a stomachache	phrase
---------------------	--------------------------	--------

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Il a une voiture.</p> <p>"He has a car."</p>	<p>J'ai trente-trois ans.</p> <p>"I am thirty-three years old."</p>
<p>Excusez-moi, avez-vous du pain?</p> <p>"Excuse me, do you have some bread?"</p>	<p>Je vais bien.</p> <p>"I am well."</p>
<p>Vous pouvez me donner un café, s'il vous plaît ?</p> <p>"Can you give me a coffee, please?"</p>	<p>Mets ton manteau, tu vas attraper un rhume !</p> <p>"Put on your coat; you're going to catch a cold!"</p>
<p>C'est pour toi.</p> <p>"This is for you."</p>	<p>Je suis pour l'équipe rouge.</p> <p>"I'm for the red team."</p>
<p>J'ai besoin d'un médicament pour la douleur.</p> <p>"I need a pain killer medicine."</p>	<p>J'ai toujours mal à la tête quand je suis fatigué.</p> <p>"I always have a headache when I am tired."</p>

Le poisson n'était pas frais. Maintenant j'ai mal au ventre.

"The fish wasn't fresh. Now I have a stomachache."

GRAMMAR

In today's lesson we will work on explaining symptoms so you can get the proper treatment and any medicine you need. In French "I have a headache." is *J'ai mal à la tête*. First we have *J'ai* meaning I have. It is followed by *mal* which in French is literally "bad". But in this context, it means pain.

So to recap we have *J'ai mal* which literally means "I have pain." The next word is *à* meaning "in." This is followed by *la* which in French means "the" in the feminine form. Lastly we have *tête* which in French is "head."

So all together we have *J'ai mal à la tête*. literally translated as "I have pain in the head." meaning "I have a headache."

We'll look at some more phrases with the same pattern; namely, "I have" stays the same and only the symptom changes. So let's go over some other symptoms. In French, the word for "fever" is *la fièvre*. The phrase "I have a fever" is *J'ai de la fièvre*. Here are some additional sample sentences.

For Example:

1. *J'ai mal à l'estomac.*
"I have a stomachache."
2. *J'ai un rhume.*
"I have a cold."
3. *J'ai mal à la gorge.*
"I have a sore throat."
4. *J'ai le nez bouché.*
"I have a stuffed nose."
5. *J'ai des brûlures d'estomac.*
"I have heartburn."

The next phrase may be hard to listen to, but if it happens to you, you'll be extremely glad we went over it. In French the expression "I have diarrhea." is *J'ai la diarrhée*. with the word for "diarrhea" being *la diarrhée*.

Today's phrase *J'ai mal* is all you will need to tell people where you are in pain. We can simply say *J'ai mal* and then say *au* for masculine body parts as in *J'ai mal au ventre*. "My belly hurts.", *à la* for feminine body parts as in *J'ai mal à la tête*. "My head hurts." or *aux* followed by plural body parts as in *J'ai mal aux pieds*. "My feet hurts.". Even simpler, point to the body part that hurts and say *J'ai mal ici*. "I hurts here."

Most French medical doctors had to learn medical symptoms in English as part of their training, so if you speak in English, doctors will likely understand you. However, if you speak with someone who is not a doctor, you will need today's phrases.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1: Don't Look for Drugs at Your Neighborhood French Grocery Store

The French have the highest per-capita consumption of pharmaceuticals in the world. So whatever you are looking for, you can probably find it. However, in France, you cannot buy over-the-counter drugs in a grocery store, as you can in some other countries. You must go to a pharmacy. To find a pharmacy, look for neon green crosses on the street. This shouldn't be hard. Even in smaller towns, there seems to be a green cross on every other block. One can also purchase hygiene products at the drug store, such as face cream and Kleenex, though you can get these at the supermarket too.

Quick Tip 2: Where You Can Find Medicine in France in the Middle of the Night

Not all pharmacies in France are open seven days a week. For those urgent needs on Sundays or after business hours, you will have to ask around for an open pharmacy. To do this, say *Connaissez-vous une pharmacie de garde? Les pharmacies de garde* are pharmacies that are open on Sundays and at night for emergencies. To find out which one is open in the neighborhood you're staying in, look on the door of any closed *pharmacie*, and a sign will let you know where to go.

If you are covered by French social security, medication can be rather inexpensive. However, for tourists, it can add up. I would pack a couple staple medications such as aspirin or ibuprofen. But of course, if you are desperate, the prices aren't extraordinary.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #49

Explaining Allergies in French

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

49

FRENCH

1. Je suis allergique aux cacahuètes.
2. J'ai une réaction allergique.

ENGLISH

1. I am allergic to peanuts.
2. I am having an allergic reaction.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
faire	to do, to make	verb	
un oeuf	an egg	noun	masculine
être	to be	verb	
une cacahuète	a peanut	noun	feminine
le lait	milk	noun	masculine
allergique	allergic	adjective	feminine or masculine
une crevette	shrimp	noun	feminine
une réaction	a reaction	noun	feminine
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Je fais du surf.</p> <p>"I surf."</p>	<p>Alors, qu'est-ce que tu fais ?</p> <p>"So, what are you doing?"</p>
<p>J'ai mis les oeufs au réfrigérateur.</p> <p>"I put the eggs in the fridge."</p>	<p>Il vaut mieux être seul que mal accompagné.</p> <p>"It is worth more to be alone than badly accompanied."</p>
<p>Il semble être heureux.</p> <p>"He seems to be happy."</p>	<p>Être ou ne pas être.</p> <p>"To be or not to be."</p>
<p>J'ai horreur des cacahuètes salées.</p> <p>"I hate salted peanuts."</p>	<p>Je ne bois jamais de lait.</p> <p>"I never drink milk."</p>
<p>Je suis allergique aux chiens.</p> <p>"I am allergic to dogs."</p>	<p>Il est allergique aux fruits de mer.</p> <p>"He is allergic to seafood."</p>
<p>Des crevettes grillées ? Miam !</p> <p>"Grilled shrimp? Yummy!"</p>	<p>Je n'aime pas du tout ta réaction !</p> <p>"I don't like your reaction at all!"</p>
<p>Je vais bien.</p> <p>"I am well."</p>	

GRAMMAR

In today's lesson, we'll cover a phrase that will prove invaluable for those of you with allergies. Letting other people know about your allergies is vital to a fun and healthy trip. In today's lesson, we'll go over how to say "I'm allergic to (something)" in French.

To start, we'll need something that we're allergic to. Allergies to peanuts can be extremely dangerous, so let's start there.

In French, "I am allergic to peanuts" is *Je suis allergique aux cacahuètes*. The first word, *je*, means "I" as we know. This is followed by *suis*, which in English means "am." To recap here, we have *je suis*. Literally, this means "I am." The next word, *allergique*, means "allergic." It is followed by *aux*, which in English means something like "to the." Lastly, we have *cacahuètes*, which is "peanuts."

So all together, we have *Je suis allergique aux cacahuètes*. Literally, this means "I am allergic

to peanuts."

Now let's go over some other common allergies. Let's try shrimp. In French, "I am allergic to shrimp" is *Je suis allergique aux crevettes*. Notice the only thing that changes here is *crevettes*, and the rest of the sentence is the same.

More examples:

Je suis allergique aux oeufs. "I am allergic to eggs."

Je suis allergique au lait. "I am allergic to milk."

Je suis allergique aux fruits de mer. "I am allergic to seafood."

In French, "I am having an allergic reaction" is *J'ai une réaction allergique*. The first words, *J'ai* is the contraction of *je* and *ai*, which means "I have." It is followed by *une*, which in English means "a," as we know. So to recap here, we have *J'ai une*. Literally, this means "I have a." The next word, *réaction*, means "reaction." This is followed by *allergique*, which in French is "allergic."

So all together, we have *J'ai une réaction allergique*. Literally, this means "I make an allergic reaction."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip: Covering the Medical Bases

Before you leave for France, it's better to get health coverage from your health insurance company. France's medical costs are not that high, and if you need care that is not surgery or heavy treatment, you will most likely be able to pay for it. However, make sure you're covered in case of emergency. France, despite its great health care system, does not cover foreigners. The CMU (Universal Medical Coverage) only covers French citizens who live abroad and residents of France. So if you're a tourist, watch out!

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases #50

First Encounters: Introducing Yourself in French

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

50

FRENCH

1. Heureux de vous rencontrer.
2. De même.
3. Je m'appelle Julia.
4. Enchantée.

ENGLISH

1. Nice to meet you.
2. Likewise.
3. My name is Julia.
4. Nice to meet you.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
aller	to go	verb	
comment	how	adverb	
s'appeler	to be called	verb	
enchanté(e)	nice to meet you, pleased to meet you	adjective	feminine
je / j'	I	personal pronoun	
ça	it	demonstrative adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ils vont au parc le dimanche. "They go to the park on Sundays."</p>	<p>Marie va en Egypte. "Mary goes to Egypt."</p>
<p>Comment ils vont ? "How are they?"</p>	<p>Comment tu t'appelles ? "What is your name?"</p>
<p>Je m'appelle Nicolas. "My name is Nicolas."</p>	<p>Comment tu t'appelles ? "What is your name?"</p>
<p>Il est enchanté de vous rencontrer. "He is pleased to meet you."</p>	<p>Elle est enchantée de vous voir. "She is pleased to see you."</p>
<p>Je vais bien. "I am well."</p>	<p>C'est quoi, ça ? "What is this?"</p>
<p>Ça, c'est de l'art. "This is art."</p>	<p>Et vous, vous êtes en vacances ? "And you, you are on vacation?"</p>

GRAMMAR

There is no impression like the first. In today's lesson, we'll work on leaving a first impression that will last.

In French "How do you do?" is *Comment allez-vous?* *Comment* is "how." Then we have *allez-vous*, which literally means "do you go." All together, we have *Comment allez-vous?* which literally means "How do you go?" and we translate it with "How do you do?" Notice that this is the formal way, as we are using the formal "you," *vous*.

If you want to be less formal, you can just say *Comment ça va?* which means "How is it going?" The first word, *comment*, is "how." It is followed by *ça*, which is "it" or "this" in French. Finally we have *va*, which means "goes." All together, we have *Comment ça va?* literally "How it

goes?" It's more casual than *Comment allez-vous?*, but you can use it in most settings. Nothing familiar in it.

For the next phrase, we'll need a name, so we'll use mine.

In French, "I am Virginie" is *Je m'appelle Virginie*. The first word, *je*, means "I" as we have learned in previous lessons. This is followed by *m'appelle*, which in French is something like "call myself." So to recap here, we have *je m'appelle*. Literally, this means "I call myself." The next word, *Virginie*, is my name.

So all together, we have *Je m'appelle Virginie*. Literally, this means "I call myself Virginie."

And finally, "Nice to meet you." In French, this is *Enchanté*.

These phrases will be the essentials you need to cruise through your first encounters. Here are some more phrases to fill in the conversation a little more.

Another way to say *je m'appelle (name)* is *je suis (name)*. The latter is a less common saying, adopted from the Anglo-Saxon phrasing "I am (name)." After we introduce ourselves, it is also common to say *et vous?* or "and you?" (*et tu?* if for the informal "you.") This makes *Je m'appelle (name), et vous?*

Other ways to ask a person's name are:

For Example:

1. *Comment vous vous appelez ?*
"What's your name?" (formal "you")
2. *Comment tu t'appelles?*
"What's your name?" (informal "you")

If we want to ask how someone is doing on a first encounter, we can say:

For Example:

1. *Comment-allez vous ?*
"How are you?" (formal "you")
2. *Comment vas-tu ?*
"How are you?" (informal "you")
3. *Comment ça va ?*
"How is it going?" (informal)
4. *Ça va ?*
"Doing well?" Literally, "it goes?" (informal)

We pronounce the -ç like an -s.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1: Keeping the French Conversation Going

If someone asks you these questions, you can answer accordingly:

Question: *Comment-allez vous ?/Comment vas-tu ?*

Response: *Bien, merci.*

Question: *Comment ça va ?/Ça va ?*

Response: *Bien, merci.* OR *Ça va, merci.*

Quick Tip 2: Closing a French Conversation

Now that we have learned to say hello at the first encounter, how do we say good-bye?

To say "Very pleased to have made your acquaintance," we say *Ravi d'avoir fait votre connaissance.*



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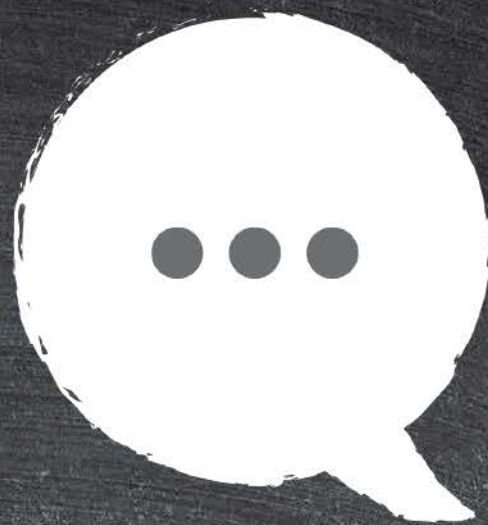
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LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #1 Public Holidays

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

1

FRENCH

1. What are the five most important public holidays in France?
2. 1. La fête nationale
3. 2. La fête du travail
4. 3. Le jour de l'an
5. 4. Le lundi de Pâques
6. 5. La Toussaint

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most important public holidays in France?
2. 1. National Day
3. 2. Labor Day
4. 3. New year's day
5. 4. Easter Monday
6. 5. All Saint's Day

VOCABULARY

French	English
Le jour de l'an	New Year's day

La fête du travail	Labor Day
La fête nationale	National Day
Le lundi de Pâques	Easter Monday
La Toussaint	All Saint's Day

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Pendant la nuit du jour de l'an, les gens boivent souvent du champagne.</p> <p>"On New year's night, French people usually drink champagne."</p>	<p>Au premier mai, les gens offrent souvent du muguet à leurs amis et famille.</p> <p>"On May 1st, people usually offer lily of valley flowers to their friends and family."</p>
<p>Au 14 juillet, des bals sont organisés dans la rue.</p> <p>"On July 14th, balls are organized in the streets."</p>	<p>Le lundi de Pâques, les enfants mangent beaucoup de chocolat Pâques, les enfants mangent beaucoup de chocolat.</p> <p>"On Easter Monday children eat a lot of chocolate."</p>
<p>Le jour de la Toussaint, les gens vont mettre des fleurs sur la tombe de leurs proches.</p> <p>"On All Saint's Day, people go to put flowers on their relatives' graves."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. National Day (July 14th)

It is the most important national holiday which celebrate the French revolution, and more precisely, the fall of the Bastille, which is a symbol of French revolution victory.

2. Labor Day (May 1st)

The *premier mai* or *fête du travail* is Labor Day in France. Usually all companies and stores are closed on that day.

3. New year's day (January 1st)

Le jour de l'an or *Le premier de l'an* is the 1st day of the year which celebrates the Happy New Year as in many countries. Most companies and stores are closed in France.

4. Easter Monday (first Monday after Easter Day)

This Monday is a religious Christian day which takes place on the Monday after Easter Sunday. Businesses and stores are likely to be closed on this day.

5. All Saint's Day (November 1st)

La Toussaint is the All Saints' Day in France, celebrating the memory of the dead. People usually go to cemeteries on that day and many businesses are closed too.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #2 Food

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

2

FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular foods in France?
2. 1. Pot au feu
3. 2. Blanquette de veau
4. 3. Cassoulet
5. 4. Sole meunière
6. 5. Croque-monsieur

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular foods in France?
2. 1. French beef stew
3. 2. Veal ragout
4. 3. Bean pot stew
5. 4. Pan-fried sole
6. 5. Toasted sandwich with ham and cheese

VOCABULARY

French	English
pot au feu	French beef stew

blanquette de veau	veal ragout
cassoulet	bean pot stew
sole meunière	pan-fried sole
croque-monsieur	toasted sandwich with ham and cheese

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Le pot-au-feu est un plat d'hiver. "French beef stew is a winter recipe."</p>	<p>La blanquette de veau se mange généralement avec du riz. "Veal ragout is usually prepared with rice."</p>
<p>Le cassoulet est un plat typique du sud ouest de la France, plus particulièrement de la ville de Toulouse. "Bean pot stew is a typical recipe from the southwest of France, particularly the city of Toulouse."</p>	<p>La sole Meunière est plat très apprécié par les amateurs de poisson. "Pan-fried sole is a dish that is appreciated by seafood lovers."</p>
<p>Le croque-monsieur est un sandwich toasté que l'on mange souvent à midi. "The croque monsieur is a toasted sandwich often eaten at lunch."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. French beef stew

This is beef stew gently cooked for a long time, served with several vegetables (carrots, turnips, leeks, celery, and onions)

2. Veal ragout

This is a veal ragout served with rice and butter sauce.

3. Bean pot stew

This is a unique dish containing meat (pork sausages, duck and sometimes mutton) and white haricot beans that are put together in a casserole called *cassole*. This recipe comes from southwest France.

4. Pan-fried sole

This is a classic dish consisting of sole, which is a white flat fish, covered with flour and then fried in butter. It is served with butter sauce and lemon.

5. Toasted sandwich with ham and cheese

This is a hot ham and cheese toasted sandwich. It is often eaten as a lunch snack since it is served in cafés and bars.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #3 Drinks

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

3

FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular beverages in France?
2. 1. Limonade
3. 2. Pastis
4. 3. Champagne
5. 4. Perrier
6. 5. Vin

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular beverages in France?
2. 1. Lemonade
3. 2. Anise-flavored liqueur
4. 3. Champagne
5. 4. A brand of sparkling mineral water
6. 5. Wine

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
limonade	lemonade	noun	feminine

Pastis	anise-flavored liqueur		
champagne	champagne		
Perrier	Perrier, a brand of sparkling mineral water		
le vin	wine	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Boire de la limonade en été est très rafraichissant.</p> <p>"It is very refreshing to drink lemonade in the summer."</p>	<p>Les enfants vendaient de la limonade.</p> <p>"The children sold lemonade."</p>
<p>Le Pastis doit être mélangé avec de l'eau.</p> <p>"Pastis has to be mixed with water."</p>	<p>Le Champagne est sans doute la boisson la plus élégante et festive.</p> <p>"Champagne is certainly the most elegant and festive beverage."</p>
<p>Le Perrier est l'eau minérale qu'il faut boire après un gros repas car elle aide à digérer.</p> <p>"Perrier is the appropriate mineral water to drink after a heavy meal since it helps to digest."</p>	<p>En France, on dit que boire un verre de vin par jour est bon pour la santé.</p> <p>"In France it is said that 1 glass of wine per day is healthy."</p>
<p>J'aime le vin de Bordeaux.</p> <p>"I like Bordeaux wine."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Lemonade

Lemonade in France is carbonated, and is mainly drunk during summer season.

2. Anise-flavored liqueur

It is a famous anise-flavoured liqueur and aperitif from southern France. It must be mixed with water and is usually drunk in summer. It has been old-fashioned for a while but it's getting trendy again today.

3. Champagne

A really famous alcoholic beverage from "Champagne" region which is now famous all over the world to be a really "elegant" beverage. It is made of white grape and it is sparkling.

4. A brand of sparkling mineral water

Perrier is first of all the name of the brand which makes this sparkling water, really famous in France.

5. Wine

Wine is of course the most famous and typical French beverage. It can be red (*vin rouge*), white (*vin blanc*) or "rosé" (*vin rosé*).

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #4 Home Cooking

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

#4

FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular home cooked meals in France?
2. 1. Ratatouille
3. 2. L'aligot
4. 3. Bouillabaisse
5. 4. Moules-frites
6. 5. Tarte tatin

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular home cooked meals in France?
2. 1. A vegetable dish containing eggplant, zucchini, onion, and tomato
3. 2. A cheese and potato puree
4. 3. Shellfish and fish stew
5. 4. Mussels with french fries
6. 5. Upside-down apple pie with caramel sauce

VOCABULARY

French	English
---------------	----------------

ratatouille	a vegetable dish containing eggplant, zucchini, onion, and tomato
aligot	a cheese and potato puree
bouillabaisse	shellfish and fish stew
moules-frites	mussels with french fries
tarte tatin	upside-down apple pie with caramel sauce

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>La ratatouille est le nom d'un dessin-animé populaire de Disney qui se passe à Paris.</p> <p>"Ratatouille is also the name of a famous Disney movie which takes place in Paris."</p>	<p>L'aligot est un plat qui se mange en particulier l'hiver.</p> <p>"Aligot is a recipe especially consumed in the winter season."</p>
<p>La bouillabaisse était à l'origine un plat pour les pêcheurs pauvres.</p> <p>"La bouillabaisse was originally a recipe for poor fishermen."</p>	<p>Les moules-frites sont au départ une recette belge.</p> <p>"Moules-frites is originally a Belgian recipe."</p>
<p>La tarte tatin est un dessert populaire qui peut être commandé dans la plupart des brasseries françaises.</p> <p>"Tarte Tatin is a common dessert that can be ordered in most French 'brasseries' (traditional French restaurants)."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. A vegetable dish containing eggplant, zucchini, onion, and tomato

It is a recipe made of many mediterranean vegetables slow-cooked in the same casserole.

2. A cheese and potato puree

It is a "purée" made of mashed potatoes, cream, cheese and butter. This is a traditional recipe from the Aubrac region in central France.

3. Shellfish and fish stew

It is a really old recipe which is typically "Marseillaise" (from Marseille city) in southern France. It is made of fish soup, garlic toasted bread and entire fishes served with potatoes.

4. Mussels with french fries

This recipe is composed of steamed mussels in white wine and French fried potatoes.

5. Upside-down apple pie with caramel sauce

It is an apple pie made with shortcrust pastry, apples coated with caramel and thick cream or ice cream. The pie has to be served warm with vanilla ice cream or cold cream on it. It is a hot-cold dessert.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #5 Sweets

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

#5

FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular sweets and desserts in France?
2. 1. Profiteroles
3. 2. Fraisier
4. 3. Mille-feuille
5. 4. Eclair
6. 5. Mont-blanc

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular sweets and desserts in France?
2. 1. Cream puffs with chocolate sauce
3. 2. Strawberry cake
4. 3. A dessert made with puff pastry and cream
5. 4. Eclair
6. 5. Chestnut and cream dessert

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
---------------	----------------	--------------

profiteroles	cream puffs with chocolate sauce	
fraisier	strawberry cake	
mille-feuille	a dessert made with puff pastry and cream	
eclair	eclair	noun
mont-blanc	chestnut and cream dessert	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Les profiteroles se mangent avec une sauce au chocolat.</p> <p>"Profiteroles are eaten with a chocolate sauce."</p>	<p>Les filles françaises aiment souvent les fraisières.</p> <p>"French girls generally love strawberry cakes."</p>
<p>Le mille-feuille est sans doute le dessert français le plus connu.</p> <p>"The mille-feuille is certainly the most famous French dessert."</p>	<p>Les éclairs peuvent être au chocolat ou au café.</p> <p>"Eclairs can be chocolate or coffee flavored."</p>
<p>Le Mont-Blanc est un gâteau mais aussi le nom d'une marque de crème dessert française.</p> <p>"Mont-blanc is a cake but it is also the name of a French dessert cream."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Cream puffs with chocolate sauce

Profiteroles are small balls made of choux pastry filled with cream, pastry cream, or ice cream. Profiteroles are usually served covered with chocolate sauce. This is a hot/cold dessert since the inside is often cold while the sauce should be hot.

2. Strawberry cake

It is a strawberry cake made of entire strawberries and pastry cream.

3. A dessert made with puff pastry and cream

Mille-feuille literally means "thousands sheets." It is a complex pastry cake made of several slices (vanilla, cream and custard) often covered with a sugar and chocolate icing.

4. Eclair

Eclair literally means "flash of lighting." This dessert has a long shape and it is garnished with cream and covered with icing. There are two main flavors: chocolate and coffee.

5. Chestnut and cream dessert

Mont-blanc is originally an Italian dessert that became so popular in France that it has a French name now. It is made of chestnut cream, covered with whipped cream. The name is the same as that of the highest European mountain, located in French Alps. *Mont-blanc* is also the name of a dessert brand in France which sells chocolate, vanilla or coffee creams.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #6 Fruits

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

6

FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular fruits in France?
2. 1. Pomme
3. 2. Poire
4. 3. Fraise
5. 4. Melon
6. 5. Cerise

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular fruits in France?
2. 1. Apple
3. 2. Pear
4. 3. Strawberry
5. 4. Melon
6. 5. Cherry

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
une pomme	apple	noun	feminine

poire	pear		
fraise	strawberry	noun	feminine
un melon	melon	noun	masculine
cerise	cherry	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>En France, les pommes sont aussi utilisées pour faire du cidre en Normandie.</p> <p>"Apples in France are also used to make cider in the Normandy region."</p>	<p>Il existe beaucoup de différentes pommes.</p> <p>"There are a lot of various apples."</p>
<p>La poire Belle-Hélène est un dessert fait avec une poire cuite couverte d'une sauce au chocolat et de glace à la vanille.</p> <p>"The 'poire Belle-Helene' dessert is made with cooked pears covered with chocolate sauce and vanilla ice cream."</p>	<p>J'aime la confiture de fraise.</p> <p>"I like strawberry jelly."</p>
<p>J'adore les fraises mais je suis allergique: c'est dommage.</p> <p>"I love strawberries but I'm allergic; it's a shame."</p>	<p>Pour choisir un bon melon, les français ont l'habitude de les sentir.</p> <p>"To choose a good melon, French people usually smell it."</p>
<p>Le melon d'Espagne est excellent.</p> <p>"Spanish melon is excellent."</p>	<p>Les cerises sont souvent chères car il est difficile d'en trouver de bonnes.</p> <p>"Cherries are usually expensive because it's hard to find good ones."</p>
<p>Il y a des cerises sur l'arbre.</p> <p>"There are some cherries on the tree."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Apple

Apples from the Normandy region are known to be the best ones.

2. Pear

In France, pears are often eaten cooked in desserts such as in the *poire Belle-Helene* recipe.

3. Strawberry

Strawberries are also often used in cakes and desserts.

4. Melon

Melon is a summer fruit, usually eaten with Italian ham and port.

5. Cherry

Cherries are quite expensive in France because the season is really short.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #7 Vegetables

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

7

FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular vegetables in France?
2. 1. Pommes de terre
3. 2. Poireau
4. 3. Navet
5. 4. Carotte
6. 5. Haricots verts

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular vegetables in France?
2. 1. Potatoes
3. 2. Leek
4. 3. Turnip
5. 4. Carrot
6. 5. French beans

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Pommes de terre	potatoes	noun	

poireau	leek	noun	
navet	turnip	noun	masculine
carotte	carrot	noun	feminine
Haricots verts	French beans	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Les "French fries" sont sans doute les pommes de terre les plus connues dans le monde, mais en France on les appelle "les frites".</p> <p>"French fries" are certainly the most famous potatoes in the world, but in France we call them "frites".</p>	<p>En France, il est facile de trouver des poireaux au marché</p> <p>"In France, you can easily find leeks in traditional markets."</p>
<p>En général, les enfants détestent les navets en France.</p> <p>"Children usually hate turnips in France."</p>	<p>En France, on dit souvent que manger des carottes donne bonne mine.</p> <p>"In France, we often say that eating carrots give people a healthy glow."</p>
<p>C'est assez ennuyant d'écosser des haricots verts.</p> <p>"Shelling French beans is quite boring."</p>	<p>Aimez-vous les haricots verts en salade?</p> <p>"Do you like French beans in a salad?"</p>

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Potatoes

Potatoes are a basic ingredient for many French recipes, such as *gratin*.

2. Leek

Leeks are used in French cooking mostly for leek pies or leek soups.

3. Turnip

The turnip is an old vegetable, still commonly used in soups.

4. Carrot

Carrots are one of the two main ingredients of the famous dish *boeuf-carottes*, which mixes beef and slow-cooked carrots.

5. French Beans

French beans are the most common vegetable that you will find in hot dishes and salads.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #8 Pop and Traditional culture

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

8

FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular examples of pop or traditional culture in France?
2. 1. Les yéyés
3. 2. Mai 68
4. 3. Les Bretons
5. 4. Les Ch'tis
6. 5. Les parisiens

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular examples of pop or traditional culture in France?
2. 1. Yeye singers
3. 2. May 1968
4. 3. People from Brittany
5. 4. People from Nord-Pas-de Calais region (north of France)
6. 5. Parisian people

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
Les yéyés	Yéyé singers	noun

Mai 68	May 1968	expression
Les Bretons	People from Brittany	noun
Les Ch'tis	People from the Nord-Pas-de Calais region (north of France)	noun
Les parisiens	Parisian people	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Le magazine populaire sur les chanteurs yéyé s'appelait "Salut les copains".</p> <p>"A famous magazine about Yéyé singers was called 'Salut les copains' (Hi buddies)."</p>	<p>Quand les français parlent de ce mois spécial, ils parlent de "Mai 68".</p> <p>"When French people talk about this special month, they call it 'Mai 68'."</p>
<p>En Bretagne, les spécialités culinaires sont les crêpes, le cidre et le beurre.</p> <p>"In Brittany, regional specialties are crêpes, cider and butter."</p>	<p>Un film français très populaire, qui s'appelle "Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis" se passe dans cette région du nord.</p> <p>"A very popular French movie, called 'Welcome to Ch'tis', took place in this northern region."</p>
<p>Les parisiens sont souvent considérés comme des personnes prétentieuses.</p> <p>"Parisians are often considered pretentious."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Yeye singers

Yéyé singers were the leaders of a new music trend starting in the 60s. They sang simple songs, inspired by American music, very different from old classic singers. Some of them like Johnny Hallyday and Sylvie Vartan are still popular today.

2. May

May 1968 was a special month for young French people since that was when a "generation revolution" took place. Students and workers had demonstrations in the streets and demanded change.

3. People from Brittany

People from Brittany are usually close to their traditional culture: they promote their regional cooking, and the local language and festivals.

4. People from Nord-Pas-de Calais region (north of France)

Ch'tis are people from the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region. They also have a local language and a specific culture, and are known for being friendly.

5. Parisian people

Parisian people do not have a good reputation among those in other parts of France. They have an image of being impatient, aggressive, and not very friendly. This image is especially common in Marseille, a city that traditionally has a rivalry with Paris.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #9 Animals

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

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FRENCH

1. What are the five best-known animals in France?
2. 1. Cheval
3. 2. Chat
4. 3. Chien
5. 4. Cochon
6. 5. Coq

ENGLISH

1. What are the five best-known animals in France?
2. 1. Horse
3. 2. Cat
4. 3. Dog
5. 4. Pig
6. 5. Rooster

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
chat	cat	noun	masculine

chien	dog	noun	masculine
cochon	pig	noun	masculine
coq	rooster	noun	masculine
cheval	horse	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Les chats noirs sont souvent suspectés de porter malheur.</p> <p>"Black cats are often thought to bring misfortune."</p>	<p>En France, un proverbe dit que le chien est le meilleur ami de l'Homme.</p> <p>"In France, a proverb says that the dog is Man's best friend."</p>
<p>En France, un proverbe dit que tout est bon dans le cochon.</p> <p>"In France, a proverb says that every part of a pig is edible."</p>	<p>Le cri du coq se prononce "cocorico" en France.</p> <p>"The cry of a rooster in French is pronounced 'cocorico'."</p>
<p>En France, un proverbe dit que le cheval est la plus belle conquête de l'Homme.</p> <p>"In France, a proverb says that the horse is the greatest conquest of Man."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Horse

Horses have always been very important in France. In the past, they were used as a means of transportation, and these days, horse-back riding is very popular.

2. Cat

Cats are the most common pet in France.

3. Dog

Dogs are the second most common pet in France. There are also a lot of guide dogs in France.

4. Pig

Pigs have always been part of French culture, as they are a really common animal on French farms.

5. Rooster

The rooster has been the symbol of France for a long time. The cry that it makes in French, "*cocorico*", is used by French people to show pride in their country.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #10 Plants

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

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FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular plants in France?
2. 1. Rose
3. 2. Sapin
4. 3. Pâquerette
5. 4. Olivier
6. 5. Platane

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular plants in France?
2. 1. Rose
3. 2. Christmas tree
4. 3. Daisy
5. 4. Olive tree
6. 5. Plane tree

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
sapin	Christmas tree	noun	

pâquerette	daisy	noun	
olivier	olive tree	noun	
platane	plane tree	noun	
rose	rose	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Une chanson de Noël populaire s'appelle "Mon beau sapin".</p> <p>"A famous Christmas song is called 'My beautiful Christmas tree'."</p>	<p>En France, on utilise souvent l'expression "à ras des pâquerettes" pour parler de quelque chose de très simple.</p> <p>"In France, we often use the expression 'à ras des paquerettes' ('the exact height of a daisy') to talk about something very simple."</p>
<p>Les oliviers donnent beaucoup d'huile d'olive.</p> <p>"Olive trees provide a lot of olive oil."</p>	<p>Les routes françaises bordées par des platanes sont assez dangereuses.</p> <p>"French roads lined with plane trees are quite dangerous."</p>
<p>En France, certaines roses ont reçu le nom de personnes connues.</p> <p>"In France, some types of roses are named after famous people."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Rose

The red rose is the symbol of the French Socialist political party.

2. Christmas Tree

In France, every family has a Christmas tree in their living room for Christmas. Christian families

also put a crib under it.

3. Daisy

French people love daisies because they appear when spring comes.

4. Olive Tree

There are many olive trees on the French Mediterranean coast.

5. Plane Tree

The plane tree is the most common tree in France. You can see many of them on the sides of the roads.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #11 Geographical Features

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

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FRENCH

1. What are the five most famous geographical features in France?
2. 1. Le Mont-Blanc
3. 2. Le Mistral
4. 3. La Méditerranée
5. 4. Les volcans d'Auvergne
6. 5. La Seine

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most famous geographical features in France?
2. 1. Mont Blanc
3. 2. Mistral Wind
4. 3. The Mediterranean Sea
5. 4. Auvergne Volcanoes
6. 5. The Seine River

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
Le Mont-Blanc	Mont Blanc	proper noun

Le Mistral	Mistral Wind	proper noun
La Méditerranée	The Mediterranean Sea	proper noun
Les volcans d'Auvergne	Auvergne volcanoes	proper noun
La Seine	The Seine River	proper noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Le Mont-Blanc est le plus haut mont d'Europe, il a une altitude de 4810 mètres.</p> <p>"The Mont-Blanc is the highest mountain in Europe at 4810 meters high."</p>	<p>Dans le sud de la France, les maisons sont souvent construites dos au vent du Mistral.</p> <p>"In southern France, houses are often built not facing the Mistral wind."</p>
<p>La mer Méditerranée est celle qui sépare le sud de la France de l'Afrique du nord.</p> <p>"The Mediterranean Sea is the one separating Southern France from North Africa."</p>	<p>Il y a de nombreuses sources d'eau minérale sous les volcans d'Auvergne.</p> <p>"There are a lot of mineral water sources under the Auvergne volcanoes."</p>
<p>Il est possible de prendre des bateaux-mouches sur la Seine pour visiter Paris.</p> <p>"You can ride open excursion boats on the Seine River to visit Paris."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Mont Blanc

The Mont-Blanc is the most visited mountain in Europe. You can scale it in a cable car, but you must not be scared of heights!

2. Mistral Wind

The Mistral is the name of a wind that only blows in the southern region called *le midi*. It is very cold in winter.

3. The Mediterranean Sea

Many Parisians go to the Mediterranean coasts on holiday. This sea is particularly warm in the summer.

4. Auvergne Volcanoes

The Auvergne volcanoes are all dormant, but are still really impressive. They are a good place to hike or to relax.

5. The Seine River

The Seine river is the one that goes through Paris. It starts from the Northeast part of France and flows into the Manche sea.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #12 Cities

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

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FRENCH

1. What are the five best-known cities in France?
2. 1. Paris
3. 2. Marseille
4. 3. Lyon
5. 4. Toulouse
6. 5. Strasbourg

ENGLISH

1. What are the five best-known cities in France?
2. 1. Paris, the capital of France
3. 2. Marseille, the 2nd largest city in France
4. 3. Lyon, the 3rd largest city in France
5. 4. Toulouse, a city in the southwestern part of France
6. 5. Strasbourg, a city in the northeastern part of France

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
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Marseille	Marseille, the 2nd largest city in France	proper noun	
Lyon	Lyon, the 3rd largest city in France	proper noun	
Toulouse	Toulouse, a city in the southwestern part of France	proper noun	
Strasbourg	Strasbourg, a city in the northeastern part of France	proper noun	
Paris	Paris, the capital of France	proper noun	n/a

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Marseille est une ville située sur la côté Méditerranéenne.</p> <p>"Marseille is a city located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea."</p>	<p>Lyon est connue pour être la capitale française de la gastronomie.</p> <p>"Lyon is known as France's capital of gastronomy."</p>
<p>Toulouse est appelée la ville rose à cause de ses nombreuses maisons construites en briques roses.</p> <p>"Toulouse is called the 'pink city' because many of its houses and buildings are made with pink bricks."</p>	<p>Le marché de Noël de Strasbourg est particulièrementdépaysant. Il est possible d'y acheter des décorations de Noël et des spécialités culinaires .</p> <p>"The Christmas market in Strasbourg is particularly enchanting. You can buy Christmas decorations and special foods."</p>
<p>Paris est souvent décrite comme la plus belle ville du monde.</p> <p>"Paris is often described as the most beautiful city in the world."</p>	<p>J'habite à Paris.</p> <p>"I live in Paris."</p>

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Paris, the capital of France

Paris is the capital of France, and also the most visited city in the world. There are many historical monuments, museums and beautiful places in Paris.

2. Marseille, the 2nd largest city in France

Marseille is the 2nd biggest city in France in terms of population. It has its own culture and specific French accent. People from Marseille are known to be much more relaxed than Parisians.

3. Lyon, the 3rd largest city in France

Lyon is the 3rd largest city in France. It is located in the central eastern part of France and is very close to the French Alps.

4. Toulouse, a city in the southwestern part of France

Toulouse is located in the southwestern part of France and is a pleasant city where the people are friendly. It is also known as a college town.

5. Strasbourg, a city in the northeastern part of France

Strasbourg is located in the Northeastern region called L'Alsace near Germany. It has maintained a big German influence since people there celebrate Saint-Nicolas Day, which is the equivalent of Christmas for German people.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #13 Sports

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

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FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular sports in France?
2. 1. Tennis
3. 2. Natation
4. 3. Rugby
5. 4. Football
6. 5. Cyclisme

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular sports in France?
2. 1. Tennis
3. 2. Swimming
4. 3. Rugby
5. 4. Soccer
6. 5. Cycling

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
cyclisme	cycling	noun	masculine

tennis	tennis	noun	masculine
natation	swimming	noun	feminine
rugby	rugby	noun	
football	soccer	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Le cyclisme est particulièrement populaire en France au mois de juillet, pendant le Tour de France.</p> <p>"Cycling in France is especially popular during July, when the "Tour de France" takes place."</p>	<p>Le plus grand tournoi de tennis en France est Roland Garros, qui se déroule sur terre battue.</p> <p>"The biggest tennis competition in France is Roland Garros, which takes place on clay courts."</p>
<p>Les jeunes hommes jouent au tennis.</p> <p>"The young men are playing tennis."</p>	<p>Il y a beaucoup de piscines où l'on peut pratiquer la natation en France.</p> <p>"There are a lot of swimming pools to practice swimming at in France."</p>
<p>En France, il n'y a jamais de flash Info ou télé sans résultats de football .</p> <p>"There is never a TV or radio flash news without soccer results in France."</p>	<p>Les joueurs jouent au football.</p> <p>"The players are playing soccer."</p>

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Tennis

In France, tennis used to be a high-class sport, but it's now becoming more and more popular among everyone.

2. Swimming

Swimming is very popular in France now thanks to the French female swimmer Laure Manaudou, who won at the 2004 Olympics.

3. Rugby

Rugby is especially popular among men from the southwestern part of France, in cities such as Toulouse or Biarritz.

4. Soccer

Soccer is definitely the most popular sport in France, especially since the French team won the World cup in 1998.

5. Cycling

The "Tour de France" is the most famous cycling competition in the world and attracts a lot of fans each summer.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #14 Recreational Activities

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

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FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular recreational activities in France?
2. 1. randonnée
3. 2. pétanque
4. 3. cuisine
5. 4. camping
6. 5. shopping

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular recreational activities in France?
2. 1. Hiking
3. 2. Petanque, the French game of boules
4. 3. Cooking
5. 4. Camping
6. 5. Shopping

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
camping	camping	noun	

shopping	shopping	noun	
randonnée	hiking	noun	
pétanque	petanque, a French game similar to bocce	noun	feminine
cuisine	cooking, cuisine	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>À Paris, un grand magasin de camping très connu s'appelle "le vieux campeur".</p> <p>"A big, famous camping store is called 'Le vieux campeur' ('The old camper') in Paris."</p>	<p>Le shopping sur internet devient même plus répandu que le shopping traditionnel en France.</p> <p>"Online shopping is becoming even more common than in-store shopping in France."</p>
<p>La randonnée est une activité bonne pour la santé et dépayssante pour de nombreux citadins.</p> <p>"Hiking is healthy and is a change of scenery for many urban people."</p>	<p>La pétanque a longtemps été démodée mais elle redevient à la mode, même à Paris.</p> <p>"Petanque has been considered old-fashioned for a long time, but it's now becoming trendy again, even in Paris."</p>
<p>La pétanque est similaire au jeu de boules bocce.</p> <p>"Petanque is similar to the ball game bocce."</p>	<p>Il y a de nombreuses émissions culinaires à la télé française.</p> <p>"There are a lot of shows about cooking on French TV."</p>
<p>La cuisine est pratique.</p> <p>"The kitchen is convenient."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1.

Hiking

Hiking is popular because France has many beautiful and various landscapes. People usually go to the mountains in the summer to enjoy nature.

2. *Petanque*, the French game of *boules*

Petanque is a traditional game from southern France consisting of launching a heavy metal ball as close as possible as another smaller one called the "piglet." The piglet is usually placed ten meters from the players.

3. Cooking

Cooking is perhaps the most natural hobby for French people, who were raised in a gastronomic country. Cooking is not only an activity, but a lifestyle in France.

4. Camping

There are two different ways of camping in France: cheaply, with a tent in a field, or in luxury, in a comfortable RV.

5. Shopping

Shopping is also a very common activity, especially during sales when you can get big discounts. Since Paris is the capital of fashion, there are a lot of good deals you can find when buying clothes.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #15 Tourist Attractions

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

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FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular tourist attractions in France?
2. 1. La Tour Eiffel
3. 2. Le château de Versailles
4. 3. Le Mont Saint-Michel
5. 4. Le pont d'Avignon
6. 5. Notre-Dame de Paris

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular tourist attractions in France?
2. 1. The Eiffel Tower
3. 2. Palace of Versailles
4. 3. Mont Saint-Michel
5. 4. The Avignon Bridge
6. 5. Notre-Dame Cathedral

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
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Le château de Versailles	Palace of Versailles	proper noun	
Le Mont Saint-Michel	Mont Saint-Michel	proper noun	
Le pont d'Avignon	The Avignon bridge	proper noun	
Notre-Dame de Paris	Notre-Dame Cathedral	proper noun	
La Tour Eiffel	the Eiffel tower	proper noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>La pièce la plus impressionnante de Versailles s'appelle la Galerie des glaces.</p> <p>"The most impressive room in the Palace of Versailles is called the Hall of Mirrors."</p>	<p>Le Mont Saint-Michel est incontournable pour de nombreux touristes, en particulier pour les japonais.</p> <p>"The Mont Saint-Michel is a must-see for many tourists, especially those from Japan."</p>
<p>Il est possible d'aller dans les deux tours du cathédrale de Notre- Dame de Paris.</p> <p>"It is possible to go into both towers of the Notre-Dame Cathedral."</p>	<p>La tour Eiffel s'illumine chaque nuit.</p> <p>"The Eiffel Tower is lit up every night."</p>
<p>La tour Eiffel est magnifique !</p> <p>"The Eiffel tower is magnificent."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. The Eiffel Tower

The Eiffel tower is the most visited monument in France. It is possible to go up to the second level with elevator. From there, tourists can enjoy a beautiful view of Paris.

2. Palace of Versailles

The Palace of Versailles has been the residence of many French kings. The most famous was Louis XIV, also known as the "Sun King." The Palace of Versailles is located in the city of Versailles in the west area of Paris.

3. Mont Saint-Michel

The Mont Saint-Michel is a rocky island located in Normandy. The Mont is one kilometer from the coast. It has only forty-one inhabitants, while millions of tourists visit it each year.

4. The Avignon Bridge

The Avignon Bridge is a medieval construction located close to Avignon city in southern France. The bridge originally spanned the Rhône River, but it was destroyed by several floods, and eventually stopped being repaired. These days, the bridge only spans half of the river.

5. Notre-Dame Cathedral

Notre-Dame Cathedral is the biggest cathedral in Paris, located right in the center of the city. It is also the setting of the famous book "The Hunchback of Notre-Dame," written by Victor Hugo.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #16 Inside a French Home

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

16

FRENCH

1. What are five common things in homes in France?
2. 1. télévision
3. 2. cheminée
4. 3. baignoire
5. 4. bibliothèque
6. 5. cafetière

ENGLISH

1. What are five common things in French homes?
2. 1. TV
3. 2. Chimney
4. 3. Bathtub
5. 4. Book shelf
6. 5. Coffee maker

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
bibliothèque	book shelf	noun	

cafetière	coffee maker	noun	
une télévision	television	noun	feminine
cheminée	chimney	noun	
baaignoire	bathtub	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>La plupart des étagères en France sont achetées chez Ikea.</p> <p>"Most book shelves in France are bought in Ikea stores."</p>	<p>En France, presque tout le monde a une cafetière à la maison.</p> <p>"In France, almost everybody has a coffee maker at home."</p>
<p>En France, la principale émission d'information commence à 20h.</p> <p>"The main TV news program in France starts at 8 p.m."</p>	<p>La télévision est éteinte.</p> <p>"The TV is off."</p>
<p>Un des plus anciens métiers en France est celui de ramoneur, qui consiste à nettoyer les cheminées.</p> <p>"One of the oldest jobs in France is that of a 'ramoneur,' which consists of cleaning chimneys."</p>	<p>En France, il est possible de trouver de nombreux produits pour le bain dans les magasins de cosmétiques.</p> <p>"In France, it's possible to find many bath products in cosmetic stores."</p>
<p>Il y a une baignoire dans ma salle de bain.</p> <p>"There is a bathtub in my bathroom."</p>	<p>Dans mon bateau, j'ai une baignoire.</p> <p>"In my boat, I have a bathtub."</p>

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. TV

Almost every family has a TV in France. There are nineteen free channels that feature a variety of programs, from cultural documentaries to funny game shows.

2. Chimney

There are still many houses and old apartments with chimneys. It is a comfortable place where the family can gather in winter.

3. Bathtub

The bathtub is the most important item in the French bathroom. Even if small apartments only have showers, it is a big plus to have a bathtub or a jacuzzi to relax.

4. Book shelf

French people love to put their books in open or transparent shelves in order to talk about them with guests.

5. Coffee maker

It is now really trendy to have a Nespresso coffee maker in France. It has been a big success for the past five years.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #17 Medicines

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

17

FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular commonly used medicine and drugs in France?
2. 1. Doliprane
3. 2. Aspirine
4. 3. Mercurochrome
5. 4. Spasfon
6. 5. Biafine

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most commonly used medicine and drugs in France?
2. 1. Doliprane, a pain reliever and fever reducer
3. 2. Aspirin
4. 3. Mercurochrome, a topical antiseptic
5. 4. Spasfon, a medicine for intestinal disorders
6. 5. Biafine, a cream used for burns

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
---------------	----------------	--------------

Doliprane	Doliprane, a pain reliever and fever reducer	proper noun
Aspirine	Aspirin	proper noun
Mercurochrome	Mercurochrome, a topical antiseptic	
Spasfon	Spasfon, a medicine for intestinal pain	proper noun
Biafine	Biafine, a cream used for burns	proper noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>On peut facilement acheter du Doliprane dans toutes les pharmacies.</p> <p>"Doliprane is easy to buy in any pharmacy."</p>	<p>Il faut faire attention à ne pas prendre d'aspirine si l'on est allergique.</p> <p>"Be careful not to take aspirin if you are allergic."</p>
<p>Les enfants trouvent le Mercurochrome amusant car il est rouge comme le sang.</p> <p>"Children find Mercurochrome funny because it is red like blood."</p>	<p>Les comprimés de Spasfon sont roses.</p> <p>"Spasfon pills are pink."</p>
<p>La Biafine est aussi utilisée contre les vraies brûlures, si l'on touche de l'eau bouillante par exemple.</p> <p>"Biafine is also used for real burns, for example, a burn caused by boiled water."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Doliprane, a pain reliever and fever reducer

Doliprane is like aspirin, but even more popular. It is a pain reliever that works on almost any kind of pain, including headaches, stomachaches or muscle aches.

2. Aspirin

Aspirin is a really common medicine that acts as a pain reliever.

3. Mercurochrome, a topical antiseptic

Mercurochrome is a red liquid lotion used as an antiseptic for small injuries like cuts or bruises.

4. Spasfon, a medicine for intestinal pain

Spasfon is a special medicine for stomachache and intestinal pain.

5. Biafine, a cream used for burns

Biafine is the name of a white skin cream used to soothe burns and sunburns. It is a medicine that almost everybody has in their beach bag since it is really useful on the first day of tanning.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #18 Transportation

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

18

FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular frequently used modes of transportation in France?
2. 1. voiture
3. 2. métro
4. 3. bus
5. 4. vélo
6. 5. tramway

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most frequently used modes of transportation in France?
2. 1. Car
3. 2. Subway
4. 3. Bus
5. 4. Bicycle
6. 5. Tram

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
tramway	tram	noun	masculine

voiture	car	noun	feminine
méto	subway	noun	masculine
un bus	bus	noun	masculine
vélo	bike, biking	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Avez-vous déjà pris un tram en France? "Have you ever used a tram in France?"</p>	<p>Arrête la voiture! "Stop the car!"</p>
<p>A défaut du train, je prends la voiture. "Instead of the train, I am taking the car."</p>	<p>Le métro fonctionne jusqu'à deux heures du matin en fin de semaine. "The subway runs until two A.M. on the weekend."</p>
<p>Le métro est en retard. "The subway is late."</p>	<p>Je voyage en bus. "I travel by bus."</p>
<p>Mon vélo est vieux. "My bicycle is old."</p>	<p>Ce vélo est un vélo tout terrain. "This bike is a mountain bike."</p>

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Car

Cars are the main mode of transportation in France, especially in rural areas where no public transportation exists. It is common for families to own two cars.

2. Subway

The subway in France is used a lot, but only in big cities. In Paris, for example, there are two main subway types. One is the *métro* which is only inside the city, and the other one is *RER* which goes out further.

3. Bus

The bus is a popular, cheap and convenient mode of transportation, especially in downtown areas. It is often considered a bit old-fashioned too, because its users are mostly elderly people.

4. Bicycle

The bicycle is now very trendy, and is popular in cities because it is ecologically friendly and cheap to use. Furthermore, main cities have now built safe bicycle paths in downtown areas.

5. Tram

The tram is being used more and more these days, especially in medium-sized cities where they replace buses, which create too much pollution.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #19 Shops and Services

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

19

FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular shops and services in France?
2. 1. boulangerie
3. 2. bar-tabac
4. 3. la poste
5. 4. banque
6. 5. supermarché

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular shops and services in France?
2. 1. Bakery
3. 2. Pub where cigarettes are sold
4. 3. Post office
5. 4. Bank
6. 5. Supermarket

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
boulangerie	bakery	noun	feminine

bar-tabac	pub where cigarettes are sold	noun	
la poste	post office	noun	
banque	bank	noun	feminine
supermarché	supermarket	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>En France, les boulangeries sont toujours pleines de monde le week-end.</p> <p>"French bakeries are always crowded on weekends."</p>	<p>Les bars-tabac sont les seuls endroits où la vente de cigarettes est autorisée en France.</p> <p>"'Bars-tabac' are the only places where tabacco sale is allowed in France."</p>
<p>Il y a deux façons d'appeler la Poste en France, soit La Poste qui est le nom de l'entreprise ou le bureau de poste qui est le nom général.</p> <p>"There are two ways to call the post office in France, either La Poste, which is the company name, or 'le bureau de poste' which is the general name."</p>	<p>Les banques françaises imposent de nombreux frais à leurs clients et ont souvent mauvaise réputation.</p> <p>"French banks impose many types of charges to their clients and often have a bad reputation."</p>
<p>Les banques sont fermées le dimanche.</p> <p>"Banks are closed on Sunday."</p>	<p>Le supermarché le plus connu à Paris est le "Monoprix" que tous les parisiens appellent le "Monop."</p> <p>The most common supermarket in Paris is the "Monoprix" that all Parisians call the "Monop."</p>

Le supermarché est au centre commercial.

"The supermarket is at the mall."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Bakery

The bakery is no doubt the most popular shop in France. Everyday without exception people go there to buy bread, cakes and croissants.

2. Pub where cigarettes are sold

These pubs are typically French—they serve alcohol like beers or wine, and sometimes food just as in a pub, but their main purpose is to sell cigarettes.

3. Post office

The post office in France is a real institution that was managed by the state for a long time. Now it is private, but French people are still very attached to it, even if they are also always criticizing it.

4. Bank

You'll see many banks in French cities since many different companies exist. All have an ATM at the front door where you can withdraw money even if you don't belong to that specific bank.

5. Supermarket

Supermarkets in France boast a wide variety of fresh produce, as well as extensive selections of cheese and baked goods. La Grande Épicerie de Paris is known as the largest supermarket in Paris.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #20 Chain Stores

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

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FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular chain stores in France?
2. 1. Carrefour
3. 2. Decathlon
4. 3. Nicolas
5. 4. L'Occitane
6. 5. Picard

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular chain stores in France?
2. 1. Carrefour, a supermarket/hypermarket chain
3. 2. Decathlon, a sporting goods chain store
4. 3. Nicolas, a shop specializing in wine and alcoholic beverages
5. 4. L'Occitane, a natural cosmetics chain
6. 5. Picard, a chain store specializing in frozen food products

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
---------------	----------------	--------------

Carrefour	Carrefour, a supermarket/ hypermarket chain	proper noun
Decathlon	Decathlon, a sporting goods chain store	proper noun
Nicolas	Nicolas, a shop specializing in wine and alcoholic beverages	proper noun
L'Occitane	L'Occitane, a natural cosmetics chain	proper noun
Picard	Picard, a chain store specializing in frozen food products	proper noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Carrefour à récemment ouvert de plus petits supermarchés appelés "Carrefour City", qui sont situés dans les grandes les villes</p> <p>"Carrefour recently opened smaller supermarkets called Carrefour City that are located in big cities."</p>	<p>Décathlon est maintenant devenu une marque internationale.</p> <p>"Decathlon has now become an international brand."</p>
<p>Aller chez Nicolas est une bonne idée quand on ne connaît pas bien les vins car les vendeurs donnent de bons conseils.</p> <p>"Going to Nicolas is a good idea if you don't know wines very well, since a sales assistant can give you advice."</p>	<p>Ramener des produits de chez L'Occitane dans votre pays fera plaisir aux filles que vous connaissez.</p> <p>"Bringing back L'Occitane products to your country as gifts will make girls you know happy."</p>
<p>Même si les produits sont bons, il ne vaut mieux pas dire que l'on a acheté chez Picard quand on invite des amis à dîner.</p> <p>"Even if it tastes good, it's better not to say you went to Picard when you invite some friends for a dinner!"</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Carrefour

Carrefour is the name of the biggest supermarket/hypermarket chain stores in France. It is known to be one of the most expensive chains.

2. Decathlon

Decathlon is a chain store entirely dedicated to sporting goods and outdoor activities. They cater to nearly every popular sport in France, from soccer to horseback riding. They sell both famous big-name brands, and a cheaper brand owned by the store.

3. Nicolas

Nicolas is a shop specializing in wine and alcoholic beverages. It is always located in downtown areas, and offers a large selection of wines and beverages.

4. L'Occitane

L'Occitane is a chain store specializing in natural cosmetics whose ingredients come from La Provence, a southern region of France. Their products are now known all over the world.

5. Picard

Picard is the name of a chain store that only sells frozen food products. You can basically find anything, but everything is in plastic bags packages presented in large refrigerators. It is a very successful chain because the products are convenient and good.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #21 Food Souvenirs

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

21

FRENCH

1. What are the five most popular food souvenirs in France?
2. 1. calissons
3. 2. macarons
4. 3. camembert
5. 4. crème de marrons
6. 5. cognac

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most popular food souvenirs in France?
2. 1. Calissons, a traditional French candy
3. 2. Macarons
4. 3. Camembert, a type of cow-milk cheese
5. 4. Chestnut cream
6. 5. Cognac

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
---------------	----------------	--------------

calissons	calissons, a traditional French candy	noun
macarons	macaroons	noun
camembert	camembert, a type of cow-milk cheese	noun
crème de marrons	chestnut cream	noun
cognac	cognac	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Les calissons sont une bonne idée pour un cadeau souvenir.</p> <p>"Calissons are a good idea for a souvenir."</p>	<p>Les meilleurs macarons français sont ceux de la boutique La Durée à Paris.</p> <p>"The best French macarons are the ones from La Durée stores in Paris."</p>
<p>Il ne faut pas laisser un camembert trop longtemps dans le frigo, sinon il deviendra coulant et sentira mauvais.</p> <p>"Don't leave Camembert cheese too long in the fridge; it will become sticky, smelly and runny."</p>	<p>Manger un pancake avec de la crème de marron est délicieux</p> <p>"Eating a pancake with chestnut cream is delicious."</p>
<p>Le Cognac est un alcool fort donc il ne fait pas trop en boire</p> <p>"Cognac is a strong alcohol, so don't drink too much of it!"</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Calissons, a traditional French candy

Calissons is a type of candy made with sugar and almonds. It is a speciality from the southern city of Aix-en-Provence.

2. Macarons

Macaroons are small cakes made of two crispy biscuit slices with a smooth cream inside. Many different flavors can be found, such as chocolate, vanilla, and various fruit flavors.

3. Camembert, a type of cow-milk cheese

Camembert is a soft, creamy cow milk cheese from Normandy region. It is certainly the most famous type of French cheese.

4. Chestnut Cream

Chestnut cream is a really sweet cream made of chestnut purée and sugar. It comes from the Ardèche region.

5. Cognac

Cognac is a strong alcohol which comes from the Cognac region. It is usually served after a big dinner as a digestive beverage.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #22 Places to Live

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

22

FRENCH

1. What are the five most common places to live in France?
2. 1. appartement
3. 2. pavillon
4. 3. villa
5. 4. colocation
6. 5. auberge espagnole

ENGLISH

1. What are the five most common places to live in France?
2. 1. Apartment
3. 2. Detached house
4. 3. Villa
5. 4. Shared house
6. 5. Exchange student house

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
appartement	apartment	noun	masculine

pavillon	detached house	noun
villa	villa	noun
colocation	shared house	noun
auberge espagnole	exchange student house	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Les étudiants des grandes villes louent généralement de petits appartements chers.</p> <p>"Students in big cities usually rent very small but expensive apartments."</p>	<p>Les pavillons sont populaires car de plus en plus de familles françaises préfèrent vivre dans des quartiers calmes.</p> <p>"Detached houses are becoming popular because more and more French families prefer to live in quiet districts."</p>
<p>Les villas en France sont surtout situées en bord de mer ou à la campagne.</p> <p>"French villas are mainly located on sea coasts or in the countryside."</p>	<p>Les colocations sont très répandues en France.</p> <p>"Shared houses are very common in France."</p>
<p>L'expression "auberge espagnole" vient du titre d'un film français très connu.</p> <p>"The expression 'auberge espagnole' comes from the title of a famous French movie."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Apartment

Apartments in Paris are known to be particularly expensive, but it remains the main type of housing in big French cities.

2. Detached House

There are many detached houses in big city suburbs. It is a residential area where mainly families and elderly people live.

3. Villa

In France, the word *villa* mainly designates the 2nd family house, the one used for holidays. It is also called "a holiday villa."

4. Shared House

Shared houses are houses where several young people (often students) live and share common areas in order to split the rent. In French, roommates are called *collocataires*.

5. Exchange Student House

Auberge espagnole, which literally means "Spanish inn," is the word used in French to refer to big apartments or houses shared by many foreign students who are living in France.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #23 Historical Figures

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

23

FRENCH

1. Who are the five most famous historical figures in France?
2. 1. Napoléon I
3. 2. Général de Gaulle
4. 3. Jeanne d'Arc
5. 4. Louis XIV
6. 5. Marie-Antoinette

ENGLISH

1. Who are the five most famous historical figures in France?
2. 1. Napoléon I, a French military and political leader
3. 2. Général de Gaulle, a French general and statesman
4. 3. Joan of Arc, a famous French heroine
5. 4. Louis XIV, the most powerful king of France
6. 5. Marie-Antoinette, the queen of France in the 18th century

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
---------------	----------------	--------------

Napoléon I	Napoléon I, a French military and political leader	proper noun
Général de Gaulle	Général de Gaulle, a French general and statesman	proper noun
Jeanne d'Arc	Joan of Arc, a famous French heroine	proper noun
Louis XIV	Louis XIV, the most powerful king of France	proper noun
Marie-Antoinette	Marie-Antoinette, the queen of France in the 18th century	proper noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Napoléon Ier était un empereur, tout comme l'a été son neveu Napoléon III, quelques décennies plus tard.</p> <p>"Napoleon I was an emperor, as well as his nephew Napoleon III some decades later."</p>	<p>Il y a des milliers de rue, de places et d'avenues portant le nom de "Charles de Gaulle" en France.</p> <p>"There are thousands of streets, places or avenues called 'Charles de Gaulle' in France."</p>
<p>Il y a une grande statue de Jeanne d'Arc sur une place connue de Paris</p> <p>"There is a big statue of Joan of Arc in a famous place in Paris."</p>	<p>Louis XIV a vécu au 17ème siècle.</p> <p>"Louis XIV lived in the 17th century."</p>
<p>Le film "Marie-Antoinette" de Sophia Coppola explique la vie de la reine de façon amusante.</p> <p>"The movie 'Marie Antoinette' by Sophia Coppola explains the queen's life in an interesting way."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Napoléon I, a French military and political leader

Napoléon the First was a famous political and military leader who also served as emperor of the French from 1804 to 1815. He was one of the greatest military commanders the world had ever seen.

2. Général de Gaulle, a French general and statesman

The Général de Gaulle is certainly the most admired French historical figure since he was the leader of the resistance movement against the Nazis during World War II. From London he organized the defeat of Germany, and then arrived in Paris victorious on May 8th, 1945, to liberate the city. After that, he was elected president of France.

3. Joan of Arc, a famous French heroine

Joan of Arc is the most famous historical figure in France. She lived during the Middle Ages, but her story is a mix of true facts and legends. She is known to have become a real warrior fighting English invaders, even though she started out as a poor girl from the countryside.

4. Louis XIV, the most powerful king of France

Louis XIV was the most powerful king of France but also the most eccentric. He called himself the "sun king" because he chose the sun as his emblem and his symbol of power. He was a king for seventy-two years, which is longer than any other European monarch.

5. Marie-Antoinette, the queen of France in the 18th century

Marie-Antoinette was the wife of the king Louis XVI. She was known to be eccentric and capricious during this time. She married King Louis XVI at age fifteen, and became queen at age nineteen.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #24 Artists

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

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FRENCH

1. Who are the five most popular artists in France?
2. 1. Claude Monet
3. 2. Paul Cézanne
4. 3. Henri Matisse
5. 4. Serge Gainsbourg
6. 5. Philippe Stark

ENGLISH

1. Who are the five most popular artists and musicians in France?
2. 1. Claude Monet, an impressionist painter
3. 2. Paul Cézanne, a post-impressionist painter
4. 3. Henri Matisse, a painter and sculptor
5. 4. Serge Gainsbourg, a painter turned singer-songwriter
6. 5. Philippe Stark, a famous designer

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
---------------	----------------	--------------

Claude Monet	Claude Monet, an impressionist painter	proper noun
Paul Cézanne	Paul Cézanne, a post-impressionist painter	proper noun
Henri Matisse	Henri Matisse, a painter and sculptor	proper noun
Serge Gainsbourg	Serge Gainsbourg, a painter turned singer-songwriter	proper noun
Philippe Starck	Philippe Starck, a famous designer	proper noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Il est possible d'aller voir les œuvres d'art de Claude Monet au musée d'Orsay à Paris.</p> <p>"You can see Claude Monet's works of art in the Orsay museum in Paris."</p>	<p>Un des tableaux célèbres de Cezanne est "le panier de pommes".</p> <p>"One of Cezanne's most famous paintings is called 'Basket of apples'."</p>
<p>Un des plus célèbres tableaux d'Henri Matisse est le "Luxe, calme et volupté", et est exposé au musée d'Orsay à Paris.</p> <p>"One of Henri Matisse's most famous paintings is called 'Luxury, Calm and Pleasure', and is exhibited in the Orsay museum in Paris."</p>	<p>L'ancienne maison de Serge Gainsbourg existe toujours et est devenue un lieu de pèlerinage pour ses fans.</p> <p>"The former house of Serge Gainsbourg still exists, and has become a place of pilgrimage for his fans."</p>
<p>Il y a beaucoup de restaurants décorés par Starck en France.</p> <p>"There are many restaurants designed by Starck in France."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Claude Monet, an impressionist painter

Claude Monet is a famous impressionist painter who lived in the 19th and early 20th century. His most famous paintings are *Le déjeuner sur l'herbe*, or *The Luncheon on the Grass*, which is a good example of his interest in painting nature and people.

2. Paul Cézanne, a post-impressionist painter

Paul Cezanne was a post-impressionist painter, and his work is considered as a link between the Impressionism and the cubism trends. He lived between the end of the 19th and the early 20th century.

3. Henri Matisse, a painter and sculptor

Henri Matisse is a painter who lived between the 19th and 20th century. He was the leader of the Fauvism painting trend and his main rival and friend was Pablo Picasso.

4. Serge Gainsbourg, a painter turned singer- songwriter

Serge Gainsbourg is one of the most talented French artists. He was first a painter before becoming a popular singer and songwriter. He wrote famous provocative songs like *Je t'aime moi non plus*, a duet sung with the iconic Brigitte Bardot.

5. Philippe Stark, a famous designer

Philippe Stark is a famous designer who is still active today, designing things such as furniture, watches, and even buildings.

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Essential French Vocabulary S1 #25 Writers

CONTENTS

- 2 French
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Cultural Insight

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FRENCH

1. Who are the five most popular writers in France?
2. 1. Victor Hugo
3. 2. Emile Zola
4. 3. Molière
5. 4. Voltaire
6. 5. Françoise Sagan

ENGLISH

1. Who are the five most popular writers in France?
2. 1. Victor Hugo, a poet, novelist, and dramatist
3. 2. Emile Zola, a novelist, critic, and political activist
4. 3. Molière, a French playwright and actor
5. 4. Voltaire, a writer, historian and philosopher
6. 5. Françoise Sagan, a female playwright, novelist, and screenwriter

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class
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Victor Hugo	Victor Hugo, a poet, novelist, and dramatist	proper noun
Emile Zola	Emile Zola, a novelist, critic, and political activist	proper noun
Molière	Molière, a French playwright and actor	proper noun
Voltaire	Voltaire, a writer, historian and philosopher	proper noun
Françoise Sagan	Françoise Sagan, a female playwright, novelist, and screenwriter	proper noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Les élèves français étudient généralement les livres de Victor Hugo</p> <p>French students usually study Victor Hugo's novels.</p>	<p>Émile Zola est le meneur de file du mouvement littéraire naturaliste.</p> <p>Emile Zola is the leader of the "naturalist" literature movement.</p>
<p>On dit souvent que Molière n'a pas écrit ses propres pièces mais qu'un auteur anonyme les a écrites.</p> <p>It is said that many of Molière's plays were not written by himself but by another anonymous writer.</p>	<p>Un des livres les plus connus et drôle de Voltaire est Candide.</p> <p>One of the most famous and funny works of Voltaire is "Candide".</p>
<p>Françoise Sagan est connue pour être une auteure tourmentée, qui a commencé à écrire très jeune.</p> <p>"Françoise Sagan is known to be a tormented writer who started to write very young."</p>	

CULTURAL INSIGHT

1. Victor Hugo, a poet, novelist, and dramatist

Victor Hugo is an emblematic writer who created some of the most famous stories in French literature, like the *Notre-Dame de Paris* and *Les Misérables*. He was also a political figure in his time.

2. Emile Zola, a novelist, critic, and political activist

Emile Zola is a writer whose famous works include *L'Assommoir* and *Thérèse Raquin*. He was also a political figure in the late 19th century.

3. Molière, a French playwright and actor

Molière is a comedy theater playwright from the 17th century. He was also a friend of king Louis XIV. He wrote comical plays like *Le malade imaginaire* or *Tartuffe*. His plays are still performed today.

4. Voltaire, a writer, historian and philosopher

Voltaire is a writer from the 18th century, known for his irony and sarcasm. He wrote very intelligent and comical works which are now still studied at schools.

5. Françoise Sagan, a female playwright, novelist, and screenwriter

Françoise Sagan is a female writer of the 20th century. Her works were sad and realist, and she published her first book *Bonjour tristesse* when she was only 18 years old.

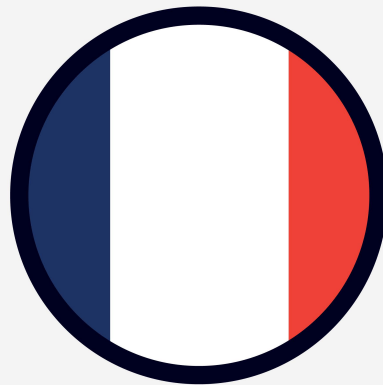


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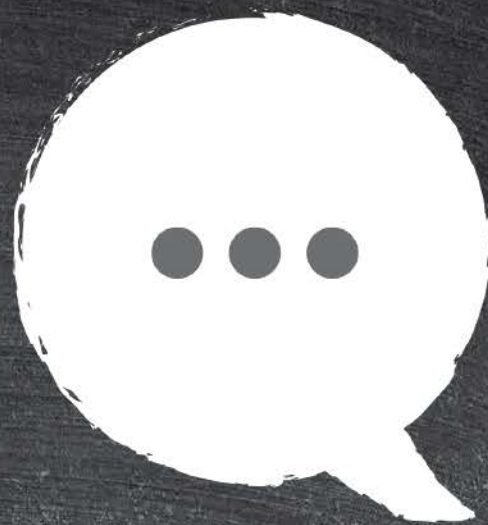
French Holidays

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LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #1

New Year's Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

1

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Tour Eiffel	Eiffel Tower	noun, proper noun	feminine
Nouvel An	New Year's Day	noun	masculine
banderole	banner	noun	feminine
apéritif	aperitif, drink before lunch or dinner	noun	masculine
bonne année	happy new year		
étrennes	New Year's gift	noun	feminine
Bonnes résolutions	New Year's resolutions	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>La tour Eiffel est en forme de "A" parce que c'est la première lettre du mot "amour".</p> <p>"The Eiffel Tower is in the shape of the "A" letter because it's the first letter of the word "love" in French (amour)."</p>	<p>La tour Eiffel est magnifique !</p> <p>"The Eiffel tower is magnificent."</p>
<p>Les gendarmes sont partout la nuit du Nouvel An.</p> <p>"Policemen are everywhere New Year's Eve."</p>	<p>On aime l'apéritif.</p> <p>"We love the drink."</p>
<p>Je n'arrive jamais à tenir jamais mes bonnes résolutions.</p> <p>"I can never keep my New Year's resolutions."</p>	

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #2

National Holiday

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

2

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Prise de la Bastille	storming of Bastille	phrase	
fête nationale	National holiday	expression	
Fête de la Fédération	Federation Day	phrase	feminine
Révolution française	French Revolution	phrase	feminine
Président de la République	President of the Republic	proper noun	masculine
feux d'artifices	fireworks	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>La fête nationale est un jour chômé et payé.</p> <p>"National Day is a public paid holiday."</p>	<p>Le 14 juillet, on commémore la Révolution française en France.</p> <p>"On July 14th, we commemorate the French Revolution in France. "</p>
<p>On organise des feux d'artifices dans toutes les communes.</p> <p>"Fireworks are organised in every city. "</p>	

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #3

Christmas

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

3

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
marché de Noël	Christmas market	phrase	masculine
Noël	Christmas	proper noun	masculine
vin chaud	hot wine	noun	masculine
sapin	Christmas tree	noun	masculine
le réveillon de Noël	Christmas Eve	phrase	masculine
dinde de Noël	Christmas turkey	phrase	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Le marché de Noël de Strasbourg est particulièrement dépaysant. Il est possible d'y acheter des décorations de Noël et des spécialités culinaires .</p> <p>"The Christmas market in Strasbourg is particularly enchanting. You can buy Christmas decorations and special foods."</p>	<p>Noël est célébré par beaucoup de français.</p> <p>"Christmas is celebrated by many French people."</p>
<p>Joyeux Noël.</p> <p>"Merry Christmas."</p>	<p>Une chanson de Noël populaire s'appelle "Mon beau sapin".</p> <p>"A famous Christmas song is called 'My beautiful Christmas tree'."</p>
<p>Je passe le réveillon de Noël chez mes parents.</p> <p>"I spend Christmas Eve at my parents'."</p>	

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #4

Armistice

CONTENTS

2 Vocabulary

4

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Première Guerre Mondiale	World War I	proper noun	feminine
Champs-Élysées	Champs-Élysées, an avenue in Paris	proper noun	masculine
Arc de Triomphe	Triumphal Arch	proper noun	masculine
Bleuet de France	the Bleuet of France	proper noun	masculine
armistice	armistice	noun	masculine

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #5

Labor Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

#5

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Internationale Ouvrière	the Congress of the Second Socialist International	phrase	
Fête du Travail	Labor day	noun	feminine
la journée de huit heures	eight-hour work	phrase	
manifestation	demonstration	noun	feminine
muguet	lily of the valley	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Cette journée donne lieu chaque année à de nombreuses manifestations.

"This day leads to numerous demonstrations every year."

Cette journée est consacrée aux manifestations.

"This day is devoted to demonstrations."

Les gens offrent du muguet le premier mai.

"People offer lily of the valley on May 1st."

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #6

Candlemas

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

6

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Chandeleur	Candlemass	noun	feminine
crêpe	crepe (thin pancake)	noun	feminine
chandelle	candle	noun	feminine
poêle à frire	frying pan	noun	feminine
chance	good luck	noun	feminine
malchance	bad luck	noun	feminine
Louis d'or	Louis d'or, a gold Louis	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Je prépare toujours une fête avec des amis pour célébrer la Chandeleur.</p> <p>"I always prepare a party with some friends to celebrate Candlemass."</p>	<p>Ces crêpes sont trop bonnes!</p> <p>"These crepes are too good!"</p>
<p>C'est sympa de dîner à la lumière des chandelles.</p> <p>"It's nice to have dinner under the candle lights."</p>	<p>La chance est pratique pour gagner au loto !</p> <p>"Chance is useful to win at the lottery!"</p>
<p>J'ai de la chance de rester plus longtemps.</p> <p>"I had the opportunity to stay longer."</p>	

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #7

Epiphany

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

7

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Galette des Rois	King Cake	noun	feminine
Épiphanie	epiphany	proper noun	feminine
frangipane	frangipani, marzipan	Noun	feminine
fève	charm (in a pudding)	noun	feminine
fabophile	fabophile, those who collect these charms from galettes des Rois	noun	masculine and feminine
pâtissier	pastry chef	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>C'est ma troisième galette des Rois de la saison.</p> <p>"It's my third King Cake this season."</p>	<p>Il y a beaucoup de frangipane dans la galette.</p> <p>"There is a lot of almond paste in this round, flat cake."</p>
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LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #8

Easter

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

8

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
laïque	secular	adjective	masculine
Pâques	easter	noun	feminine
Le lundi de Pâques	Easter Monday	phrase	
résurrection	resurrection	noun	feminine
Carême	Lent	noun	masculine
oeufs de Pâque	Easter eggs	phrase	
Dimanche de Pâques	Easter Sunday	phrase	masculine
Lapin de Pâques	Easter Rabbit	phrase	masculine
agneau de Pâques	easter lamb	phrase	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Le lundi de Pâques, les enfants mangent beaucoup de chocolat.</p> <p>"On Easter Monday children eat a lot of chocolate."</p>	<p>Le Carême est une période qui s'étend sur 40 jours.</p> <p>"Lent is a time that spreads over 40 days."</p>
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LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #9

Carnival

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

9

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Mardi gras	Mardi gras	noun	masculine
Carnaval	Carnival	noun	masculine
pâtisserie	pastry	noun	
Rome Antique	Ancient Rome	noun	
Moyen Âge	Middle Ages	noun	masculine
fleur	flower	noun	feminine
bataille de fleurs	flower competition	noun	feminine
oeuf	egg	noun	masculine
beignet	donut	noun	masculine
bugne	fritter	noun	feminine
friture	fried food	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Il ne mange que des pâtisseries récemment.</p> <p>"He's been eating only pastries lately."</p>	<p>Une fleur qui sent bon. / Renifler des fleurs.</p> <p>"A good smelling flower. / Sniffing flowers."</p>
<p>Il arrose des fleurs tous les matins.</p> <p>"He waters flowers every morning. "</p>	<p>Les tulipes sont des fleurs.</p> <p>"Tulips are flowers."</p>
<p>La taille d'un oeuf d'autruche est incroyable.</p> <p>"The size of an ostrich's egg is remarkable."</p>	<p>J'aime bien casser les oeufs mais pas les manger.</p> <p>"I like breaking eggs but not eating them."</p>

Pour une quiche, j'ai besoin de trois oeufs.

"For a quiche, I need three eggs."

Les beignets sont souvent fourrés à la compote de pomme.

"Donuts are often filled with applesauce."

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #10

Music Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

10

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
piano	piano	noun	masculine
un concert	a concert	noun	masculine
Fête de la Musique	music day	proper noun	feminine
ministère de la Culture	ministry of Culture	phrase	masculine
fêter	to celebrate	verb	
faire	to do, to make	verb	
guitare	guitar	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Un piano c'est cher. "A piano is expensive."</p>	<p>Il y a un concert au Stade de France. "There is a concert at the France Stadium."</p>
<p>Tu viens fêter ça avec nous? "Are you coming to celebrate with us?"</p>	<p>Je ne sais pas quoi faire. "I don't know what to do."</p>
<p>Je fais du surf. "I surf."</p>	<p>Alors, qu'est-ce que tu fais ? "So, what are you doing?"</p>
<p>Jouer de la guitare sur la plage. "Playing guitar on the beach."</p>	<p>La guitare est un instrument à cordes. "A guitar is a string instrument."</p>

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #11

Heritage Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

11

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
thème général	national theme	noun	masculine
visites guidée	guided tours	noun	
palais du Luxembourg	Luxembourg Palace	noun	
un musée	museum	noun	masculine
Les Journées du patrimoine	Heritage day	phrase	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Le musée d'Orsay est aménagé dans l'ancienne gare d'Orsay inaugurée pour l'Exposition universelle de 1900.</p> <p>"The Orsay Museum is housed in the former Orsay railway station, which was inaugurated at the 1900 Universal Exhibition."</p>	<p>Ce musée est intéressant.</p> <p>"This museum is interesting."</p>
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LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #12

The Release Date of Beaujolais Nouveau

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

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VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Japon	Japan	noun	masculine
cépage Gamay	Gamay grape	noun	
Beaujolais Nouveau	Beaujolais Nouveau, a wine brand name	noun	
vin de dégustation	tasting wine	phrase	masculine
vin de table	table wine	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Les vins de table sont des vins standards.

"Table wines are standard wines."

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #13

Valentine's Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

13

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
amour	love	noun	masculine
commercial(e)	commercial	adjective	commerciale (feminine)
rouge	red	adjective	feminine or masculine
rose	rose	noun	feminine
parfum	perfume	noun	masculine
Saint Valentin	Valentine's day	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Les poèmes d'amour sont les plus beaux.</p> <p>"Love poems are the most beautiful ones."</p>	<p>Elle est assistante commerciale.</p> <p>"She is a commercial assistant."</p>
<p>En cas d'urgence, appuyer sur le bouton rouge.</p> <p>"In case of emergency, press the red button."</p>	<p>Le feu est rouge.</p> <p>"The stoplight is red."</p>

En France, certaines roses ont reçu le nom de personnes connues.

"In France, some types of roses are named after famous people."

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #14

Mother's Day

CONTENTS

2 Vocabulary

14

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
école maternelle	kindergarten	noun	feminine
Rhéa	Rhea, Zeus' mother	noun	
fête des Mères	Mother's day	phrase	feminine
berceau de la Fête des Mères	cradle of Mother's Day	noun	
famille nombreuse	large family	phrase	feminine

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #15

Father's Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

15

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
vêtements	clothes; clothing	noun	masculine
père	father	noun	masculine
Fête des Pères	Father's day	phrase	feminine
parfum	perfume	noun	masculine
éditeur	publisher	noun	
rose	rose	noun	feminine
rouge	red	adjective	feminine or masculine
blanc / blanche	white	adjective	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Je porte des vêtements. "I wear clothing."</p>	<p>J'adore acheter des vêtements. "I love shopping for clothes."</p>
<p>C'est un bon père. "He is a good father."</p>	<p>Le père de Christine est marié à sa mère ! "Christine's father is married to her mother!"</p>
<p>En France, certaines roses ont reçu le nom de personnes connues. "In France, some types of roses are named after famous people."</p>	<p>En cas d'urgence, appuyer sur le bouton rouge. "In case of emergency, press the red button."</p>
<p>Le feu est rouge. "The stoplight is red."</p>	<p>Mon pantalon est blanc. "My pants are white."</p>
<p>Le blanc est de loin ma couleur préférée. "White is by far my favorite color."</p>	<p>La colombe est blanche. "The dove is white."</p>

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #16

Grandmother's Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

16

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
orchidée	orchid	noun	feminine
grand-mère	grandmother	noun	feminine
petits-enfants	grandchildren	noun	masculine
Fête des grands-mères	Grandmother's day	phrase	
réunion de famille	family gathering	noun	feminine
bouquet de fleurs	bunch of flowers	phrase	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Il ne voit ses petits-enfants qu'à Noël : c'est triste.

"He only sees his grandchildren for Christmas. That's sad."

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #17

Victory Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

17

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
La Marseillaise	French National Anthem	noun	feminine
Tombe du Soldat Inconnu	the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier	noun	feminine
la Seconde Guerre Mondiale	World War II	nominal group	feminine
victoire	victory	noun	feminine
Fête de la Victoire	Victory day	phrase	feminine
Arc de Triomphe	Triumphal Arch	proper noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

La fin de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale est célébrée tous les ans.

"The end of World War II is celebrated each year."

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #18

Ascension Thursday

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

18

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Italie	Italy	proper noun	feminine
Espagne	Spain	proper noun	feminine
conseil scolaire	school board	noun	masculine
autoroute	highway	noun	feminine
Pâques	easter	noun	feminine
Ascension Thursday	Jeudi de l'Ascension	noun	masculine
ascension	climbing	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

L'ascension d'un montagne est toujours difficile.

"Climbing a mountain is always difficult."

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #19

Assumption Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

19

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
spectacles	shows	noun	
Marie	Virgin Mary	noun	
Assomption	Assumption Day	noun	feminine
danse	dance	noun	feminine
été	summer	noun	masculine
automne	autumn	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ma saison préférée est l'été. "My favourite season is summer."	L'été est ma saison préférée "Summer is my favorite season."
L'été est la saison chaude. "Summer is the hot season."	L'automne commence fin septembre. "Fall begins at the end of September."

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #20

Pentecost

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

20

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Esprit saint	Holy spirit	phrase	masculine
Tables de la Loi	the Tablets of Law	noun	feminine
Pentecôte	Pentecost	noun	feminine
Concordat	Concordat	noun	
canicule	heatwave	noun	feminine
âgé(e)	elderly, old	adjective	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

La canicule peut être dangereuse.

"The heatwave may be dangerous."

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #21

The Annual Day of the Memory of Slavery

CONTENTS

2 Vocabulary

21

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
en mémoire de	in memory of	expression	
annuel	annual	adverb	
esclavage	slavery	noun	feminine
esclave	slave	noun	masculine
Afrique	Africa	noun	feminine
Napoleon Bonaparte	Napoleon, military general and first emperor of France	noun	
crime contre l'humanité	crime against humanity	phrase	masculine
Armée Française	French Army	noun	feminine
Journée annuelle de la mémoire de l'esclavage	Annual Day of Remembrance of Slavery	proper noun	feminine

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #22

Neighbor's Party

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

22

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
Immeubles en fête	Residents party	phrase	
voisin	neighbor	noun	masculine
Fête des Voisins	Neighbours' Day	phrase	feminine
ami	friend	noun	masculine
immeuble	building	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Mon voisin est retraité. "My neighbor is retired."</p>	<p>Mes amis ont organisé une surprise. "My friends have organized a surprise."</p>
<p>La nuit dernière il y avait un incendie dans l'immeuble en face. "Last night, there was a fire in the building across the street."</p>	<p>Elles voulaient monter sur le toit de l'immeuble mais je les ai arrêtées. "They wanted to climb on the roof of the building but I stopped them."</p>

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #23

Gastronomy Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

23

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
gastronomique	gastronomic	Adjective	feminine or masculine
Fête de la Gastronomie	Gastronomy day	phrase	feminine
repas	meal	noun	masculine
Le repas gastronomique des Français	French gastronomic meal	noun	masculine
concours	contest	noun	masculine
cuisine	cooking, cuisine	noun	feminine
amateur	hobbyist, amateur	noun	masculine
Guide Michelin	Michelin Guide	noun	
foie gras	foie gras	noun	masculine
blanquette de veau	veal ragout		

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Les plats gastronomiques sont hors de prix.</p> <p>"The gastronomical dishes are priceless."</p>	<p>Le repas est délicieux.</p> <p>"The meal is delicious."</p>
<p>J'ai gagné le premier prix du concours de littérature.</p> <p>"I won the first prize in the literature contest."</p>	<p>Il y a de nombreuses émissions de cuisine à la télé française.</p> <p>"There are a lot of shows about cooking on French TV."</p>
<p>La cuisine est pratique.</p> <p>"The kitchen is convenient."</p>	<p>La blanquette de veau se mange généralement avec du riz.</p> <p>"Veal ragout is usually prepared with rice."</p>

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #24

All Saints' Day

CONTENTS

- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences

24

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
souci	marigold	noun	masculine
fête des morts	day of the dead	phrase	feminine
Toussaint	All Saints Day	noun	feminine
Odilon de Cluny	the fifth Benedictine Abbot of Cluny	noun	
tombe	tomb, grave	noun	feminine
cimetière	cemetery, graveyard	noun	
Les vacances de la Toussaint	All Saints' vacation	noun	feminine
chrysanthème	chrysanthemum	noun	masculine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

À la Toussaint notre famille se réunit pour se souvenirs de nos défunts.

"On All Saints Day, our family gets together to remember our deceased."

De nombreux artistes, comme Oscar Wilde ou Jim Morrison, sont enterrés au Cimetière du Père-Lachaise.

"Many artists, like Oscar Wilde and Jim Morrison, are buried in the Père-Lachaise cemetery."

Les chrysanthèmes sont utilisés dans les cimetières.

"Chrysanthemums are used in cemeteries."

LESSON NOTES

Culture Class: Holidays in France

S1 #25

Summer Holidays

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VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
vacances	vacation	noun	feminine
grandes vacances	summer holidays	phrase	feminine
vacances scolaires	school holidays	phrase	feminine
congés payés	paid holiday	phrase	masculine
Espagne	Spain	proper noun	feminine
Italie	Italy	proper noun	feminine
Grèce	Greek	noun	feminine
mer Méditerranée	Mediterranean sea	noun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mes vacances sont en juillet et en décembre.

"My vacations are in July and December."