

French Language Tutorial



Aix-en-Provence

2nd Edition

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by Dr. Jennifer Wagner

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Introduction

The second edition of French Language Tutorial is a grammar and vocabulary review of the French language with many sample sentences, informal and slang vocabulary, as well as information about French culture for English-speakers living in France. This new edition has been redesigned in an order that encourages progression and repetition of language skills over time. Many of the vocabulary lists include cross-references to similar topics for easier review of previously learned vocabulary.

The first appendix includes extended vocabulary lists that reach beyond introductory or even intermediate French courses, especially with respect to cultural vocabulary specific to certain situations that students or expats in France may experience. The second appendix is an overview of French pronunciation for speakers of American English. An alphabetical index is included after the appendices.

IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbols are used for pronunciation for all of the verb conjugations and the majority of the vocabulary lists. If you do not know the IPA, sample words are provided in English that contain similar sounds, but there are some vowel sounds in French that do not exist in English.

In addition, all of the vocabulary lists, verb conjugations, and sample sentences have been recorded by three native French speakers so that you can listen and read along at the same time. The accompanying mp3s are included in the original product file as a .rar file which can be easily extracted using WinRAR or another program.

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Pronunciation Guide for the International Phonetic Alphabet

Below are all of the vowel and consonant symbols used in this book for the French language. Sounds in gray do not exist in English.

English + French Vowels

a	father
e	bait
ɛ	bet
i	she
o	no
ɔ	law
ə	sofa
u	you

French Vowels Only

ɑ	pâte *	long /a/
ø	yeux	rounded /e/
œ	sœur	rounded /ɛ/
y	tu	rounded /i/

Nasal Vowels

ɑ̃	dent
ɛ̃	bain
ɔ̃	long
œ̃	brun *

Semi-Vowels

ɥ	huit	/y/ + /i/
j	yes	
w	we	

The English vowels /ɪ/ as in did, /ʊ/ as in put, and /æ/ as in bat are not found in native French words. All vowels in French are pure, i.e. they are not diphthongs as in English. The so-called long vowels in English tend to have a second sound, either /j/ or /w/. For example, play is pronounced /plej/ instead of /ple/. Be sure to never pronounce the /j/ or /w/ after pure vowels in French.

The vowel /ɑ/ is not pronounced in all dialects of French, and it is being replaced by /a/. Similarly, the nasal vowel /œ̃/ is being replaced by /ɛ̃/.

Consonants

b	big	m	man	s	sing
d	dog	n	note	ʃ	shy
f	fun	ɲ	canyon	t	train
g	gold	ŋ	parking	v	vase
k	cat	p	poor	z	zebra
l	lose	ʀ	rire	ʒ	genre, measure

The sounds /tʃ/ as in church and /dʒ/ as in judge are not found in native French words. French /ʀ/ is probably the only consonant that will give you much trouble.

Basic Phrases / Les expressions de base

Bonjour	/bõzUR/	Hello / Good day / Good morning
Bonsoir	/bõswAR/	Good evening
Au revoir	/õR(ə)vwar/	Goodbye
Salut	/saly/	Hi / Bye
S'il vous plaît	/sil vu plɛ/	Please (formal)
S'il te plaît	/sil tɛ plɛ/	Please (informal)
Merci (beaucoup)	/mɛRSI boku/	Thank you (very much)
Je vous en prie	/zə vu zã pri/	You're welcome (formal)
De rien / Je t'en prie	/də Rjɛ̃/ /zə tã pri/	You're welcome (informal)
Bonne journée	/bõn zURne/	Have a nice day
Pardon	/pARDõ/	Excuse me (passing through) / Sorry (stepped on foot)
Excusez-moi	/ekskyze mwa/	Excuse me (getting attention) / I'm sorry (more formal apology)
Je suis désolé(e)	/zə sɥi dezõle/	I'm sorry
Oui / Non	/wi/ /nõ/	Yes / No
Monsieur	/mɛsjø/	Mr. / Sir
Madame	/madam/	Mrs. / Ma'am
Mademoiselle	/madwazɛl/	Miss
Enchanté(e)	/ãjãte/	Nice to meet you
À bientôt	/a bjẽto/	See you soon
À tout à l'heure	/a tu ta lœR/	See you in a little while
À plus tard	/a ply tar/	See you later
À demain	/a dɛmɛ̃/	See you tomorrow
Allons-y	/alõ zi/	Let's go
Bonne nuit	/bõn nuʝ/	Good night (only said when going to bed)

Questions & Responses

Comment allez-vous ?	/kõmã tale vu/	How are you? (formal)
Je vais bien	/zə vɛ bjɛ̃/	I'm fine (formal)
Très bien / mal / pas mal	/trɛ bjɛ̃/ /mal/ /pa mal/	Very good / bad / not bad
Ça va ?	/sa va/	How are you? (informal)
Ça va.	/sa va/	I'm fine (informal)

Comment vous appelez-vous ?	/kɔmã vu zaplɛ vu/	What's your name? (formal)
Tu t'appelles comment ?	/ty tapɛl kɔmã/	What's your name? (informal)
Je m'appelle...	/ʒə mapɛl/	My name is...
Vous êtes d'où ?	/vu zɛt du/	Where are you from? (formal)
Tu es d'où ?	/ty ɛ du/	Where are you from? (informal)
Je suis de...	/ʒə sɥi də/	I am from...
Vous venez d'où ?	/vu vənɛ du/	Where do you come from? (formal)
Tu viens d'où ?	/ty vjɛ du/	Where do you come from? (informal)
Je viens de...	/ʒə vjɛ də/	I come from...
Où habitez-vous ?	/u abitɛ vu/	Where do you live? (formal)
Tu habites où ?	/ty abit u/	Where do you live? (informal)
J'habite à...	/ʒabit a/	I live in...
Quel âge avez-vous ?	/kɛl aʒ ave vu/	How old are you? (formal)
Tu as quel âge ?	/ty a kɛl aʒ/	How old are you? (informal)
J'ai ____ ans.	/ʒə ____ ɑ̃/	I am ____ years old.
Parlez-vous français ?	/parlɛ vu frãsɛ/	Do you speak French? (formal)
Tu parles anglais ?	/ty parl ɑ̃glɛ/	Do you speak English? (informal)
Je parle allemand.	/ʒə parl almã/	I speak German.
Je ne parle pas espagnol.	/ʒə nə parl pa ɛspaɲɔl/	I don't speak Spanish.
Comprenez-vous?	/kɔ̃prɛnɛ vu/	Do you understand? (formal)
Tu comprends?	/ty kɔ̃prã/	Do you understand? (informal)
Je comprends	/ʒə kɔ̃prã/	I understand
Je n'ai pas bien compris	/ʒə nə pa bjɛ̃ kɔ̃pri/	I didn't understand
Comment ?	/kɔmã/	What? Pardon?
Pouvez-vous m'aider ?	/puvɛ vu medɛ/	Can you help me? (formal)
Tu peux m'aider ?	/ty pø medɛ/	Can you help me? (informal)
J'ai besoin d'aide.	/ʒə bɛzwɛ̃ dɛd/	I need help.

More Useful Phrases

Je vous présente...	/ʒə vu prezɑ̃t/	I'd like to introduce you to...
Je te présente...	/ʒə tə prezɑ̃t/	This is... (informal)
Je sais	/ʒə sɛ/	I know
Je ne sais pas	/ʒə nə sɛ pa/	I don't know
Je n'en sais rien	/ʒə nɑ̃ sɛ rjɛ̃/	I really don't know
Je suis perdu(e)	/ʒə sɥi pɛRdy/	I'm confused
Bien sûr.	/bjɛ̃ syR/	Of course.
Tenez / Tiens	/tənɛ/ /tjɛ̃/	Hey / Here (formal / informal)
Voici / Voilà	/vwasi/ /vwala/	Here is / are... / There it is.
Il y a ... / Il y avait...	/il i a/ /il i avɛ/	There is / are... / There was / were...
Où est ... / Où sont ... ?	/u ɛ/ /u sɔ̃/	Where is ... / Where are ... ?
Comment dit-on ____ en français ?	/kɔmɑ̃ di tɔ̃ ___ ɑ̃ frɑ̃sɛ/	How do you say ____ in French?
Qu'est-ce que c'est que ça ?	/kɛs kə sɛ kə sa/	What is that?
C'est quoi ça ?	/sɛ kwa sa/	What is that? (informal)
Qu'est-ce qu'il y a ?	/kɛs kil i a/	What's the matter?
Qu'est-ce qui se passe ?	/kɛs ki sɛ pas/	What's happening?
Je n'ai aucune idée.	/ʒə nɛ okyn ide/	I have no idea.
Ça ne fait rien.	/sa nə fɛ rjɛ̃/	It doesn't matter.
Je suis fatigué(e) / Je suis malade.	/ʒə sɥi fatigue/ /ʒə sɥi malad/	I'm tired / I'm sick.
J'ai faim / J'ai soif.	/ʒɛ fɛ̃/ /ʒɛ swaf/	I'm hungry / I'm thirsty.
J'ai chaud / J'ai froid.	/ʒɛ ʃo/ /ʒɛ frwa/	I'm hot / I'm cold.
Je m'ennuie.	/ʒə mɑ̃nuji/	I'm bored.
J'ai oublié.	/ʒɛ ublije/	I forgot.
Ça m'est égal. / Je m'en fiche.	/sa mɛ tegal/ /ʒə mɑ̃ fij/	I don't care. (neutral / informal)
Je dois y aller.	/ʒə dwa i ale/	I have to go.
Ne vous en faites pas.	/nə vu ɑ̃ fɛt pa/	Don't worry (formal)