

frenchtoday™

Sample Version



À Moi Paris

The Beginnings

Paris here I come - Les Débuts



COPYRIGHT © 2014 by Camille Chevalier-Karfis / French Today
1st Edition - Published July 2014

For more information, contact us at

French Today
63 Rue De Goas Plat
22500 Paimpol - France

www.frenchtoday.com
info@frenchtoday.com
Twitter: @frenchtoday
Facebook: www.facebook.com/frenchtoday

All rights reserved. This book or parts of it should not be reproduced in any form whatsoever without the prior written permission of the author.

The scanning, uploading and distribution of this book via the internet or via any other means without the permission of the author is illegal, and punishable by law. Please purchase only authorized electronic editions, and do not participate in or encourage the electronic piracy of copyrighted materials. Your support of the author's rights is appreciated.

While we take every reasonable step to ensure that all information displayed in this book is accurate, we accept no liability for any losses arising, however caused.

Table Of Contents

Introduction.....	12
How to work with the audio recordings	13
The study guide	13
The story part	13
Key.....	14
Grammar Lexicon.....	15
What is an agreement?.....	15
What is a verb?.....	15
What is a noun?.....	15
What does “gender” mean?.....	15
What does number mean?.....	16
What is an article?.....	16
What is a pronoun?	16
What is an adjective?.....	17
What is an adverb?.....	17
What is a subject?.....	17
What is a person?	18
What is an accent?	18
What is a liaison?.....	18
What is a gliding?	18
What is an elision?	18
What is a verb conjugation?.....	19
What is the infinitive of a verb?.....	19
What is a verb tense?.....	19
On the present tense.....	20

Section Une

1. Julie, une amie du bureau22

 Story 22

 Study guide 23

 Greetings and basic politeness moves..... 23

 Hi and bye..... 23

 First name or not?..... 23

 Subject Pronouns - Singular..... 24

 Punctuation differences..... 25

2. Monsieur Dupont, un voisin âgé.....26

 Story 26

 Study Guide 27

 Tu, toi, te and vous 27

 Subject Pronouns - Plural..... 29

3. Michel et Jeanne, des amis d’Anne31

 Story 31

 Study Guide 32

 The verb to go = aller 32

 How are you? 34

 I’m fine, great, so-so, not great..... 34

4. Laure, une bonne copine.....35

 Story 35

 Study Guide 37

Understanding the context	37
'Thank you,'you are welcome' and 'please'	37
And you?	38
'Let me introduce you to...!'	39
'See you soon,'have a good day/evening'	39

Section Deux

5. Vous êtes anglaise ?.....	42
Story	42
Study Guide	43
Present tense of the verb 'to be'	43
Exercise	44
The key to memorizing your verbs: drilling	45
Vocabulary: the members of the family	45
6. Nous parlons français	47
Story	47
Study Guide	48
Verbs in ER + consonant - Pronunciation	48
Verbs in ER + consonant - Written Form	49
7. J'adore les enfants	51
Story	51
Study Guide	52
The days of the week	52
The conjugation in the present tense of regular ER verbs starting with a vowel or a mute h	53

Elision.....	54
Exercise	55

Section Trois

8. Tu aimes la musique ?.....	57
Story.....	57
Study guide	58
Le, la, l', les: which one should you use?.....	58
The French verb "aimer"	60
The verb "préférer".....	62
9. Moi, j'adore les croissants !.....	64
Story.....	64
Study Guide.....	65
Making a noun plural	65
Irregular plural	66
Vocabulary - Breakfast food.....	67
"Moi", "toi"... The French stress pronouns	67

Section Quatre

10. Je m'appelle Tugdual	71
Story.....	71
Study Guide.....	72

"Un", "une" = a, an, one 72
 Des = indefinite plural quantity, both feminine and masculine 73
 Reflexive verbs = se or s' + verb..... 74
 Le verbe s'appeler - to say your name 77
 Related vocabulary..... 77

11. Je rêve d'aller aux États-Unis 79
 Story 79
 Study Guide 81
 How do you say "French" and "France"? 81
 Vocabulary – continents, countries and nationalities..... 83
 Countries and Prepositions of Place 84

Section Cinq



12. Un dîner typiquement français 89
 Story 89
 Study Guide 90
 Food-related vocabulary 90
 Making a verb negative 92
 Exercise 93
 When two verbs follow each other 95
 Exercise 96

13. J'ai des oeufs 97
 Story 97
 Study Guide 99
 The partitive article: du, de la, de l', des - unspecified quantity 99

The verb "avoir" – to have..... 101

14. Désolée, je ne peux pas103

Story 103

Study Guide 104

"Pouvoir" = Can, to be able to 104

Numbers 1 to 29 106

Section Six

15. Quelle heure est-il ?109

Story Part 109

Study Guide 110

Numbers 30 to 100..... 110

Telling the time 112

16. Je sors de l'école à seize heures.....115

I get out of school at 4PM Story 115

Study guide 116

Three ways of telling the time 116

Transportation 119

17. Est-ce qu'il y a un jardin ?120

Story 120

Study Guide 121

School Vocabulary 121

"Il y a": there is, there are 122

Section Sept

18. Il fait beau125

 Story 125

 Study Guide 126

 Talking about the weather 126

 Ordinal numbers 127

19. J’adore voyager129

 Story 129

 Study Guide 131

20. Je fais du vélo134

 Story 134

 Study Guide 135

 The mutant forms of “le” and “les” with “à” and “de” 135

 To play a sport, a game, an instrument 138

 Faire – to do, to make, and many other things! 139

21. Conclusion141

Introduction

When I read a French method, I am always appalled by its difficulty. Even 'Beginner 101' courses assume you have had some French before or are a language genius...

This method was created from the ground up with the total beginner in mind. As the story develops, I will be using vocabulary and concepts studied in the previous chapters, and will slowly add new ones. Your knowledge of French will therefore expand gradually. As we learn best with repetitions, I will be using both known and new vocabulary in the story part, as well as in the examples and exercises.

Guessing from the context is essential when you learn any foreign language. Another essential concept is to accept and embrace the fact that you will not always understand every single word being used. As we advance through this audio method, I will introduce some very common concepts, which are too advanced to be studied here. Doing so will train your ear to understand them, even if you may not be able to use them yet yourself. Rest assured however that I will mostly use concepts that I do explain, and that you will fully master them once you complete this audiobook.

French pronunciation can be a challenge. This book is full of pronunciation notes, and with the recorded audio may be self-sufficient. However, French pronunciation follows simple rules and knowing them will make more sense than just guessing. I strongly suggest that you study "Secrets of French Pronunciation" (<http://www.french-today.com/sfp>) at the same time as you are following this method. As you work your way through this audiobook, I will be suggesting other in depth lessons that you could benefit from if you want to focus on particular, more specific, concepts.

The amount of work you will put into this book is up to you: you can just listen to the story part, enjoy, and learn some truly useful French sentences... and have fun along the way. If you are motivated however, this method could be the basis for hours of serious studying, gradually building up your knowledge and giving you the confidence that you need to interact in French.

So now, here is my advice on how to best use this book.

How to work with the audio recordings

Each chapter of the story is recorded three times: once very slowly so you can really hear all the French sounds, then at a normal speed, respecting the modern glided pronunciation of spoken French. The whole section is then recorded in a "street French" manner, mostly for you to practice on understanding French people when they speak among themselves in everyday life. Don't sweat trying to speak that fast yet, this will come with experience and practice.

Written French and spoken French are quite different, so make sure you **always** work with the audio first, and memorize the correct pronunciation before you memorize the spelling. Beware of the many silent letters. And repeat out loud, not only in your head, that doesn't count :-)

1. LISTEN to the slow recording of the story part. Can you guess what is happening?
2. Read the English translation, then read the French at the same time as the normal recording is playing. Note the glidings, liaisons, intonation and word groupings that happen. Write them down on the print out of this PDF to help you read the story better.
3. REPEAT OUT LOUD - first sentence by sentence with the slow recording, then once you master the slow recording, repeat longer dialogues with the normal recording speed. You will probably need to use the pause and play buttons to have time to repeat in between each phrase.
4. Use the "street French" recording of the whole section to test your understanding. You will probably not be able to speak that fast at first, but you need to train your ear to be able to understand people speaking that way (which is 'normal' speed for natives)!

The study guide

ALWAYS STUDY WITH THE AUDIO. Go as slow as you need, repeating as many times as necessary until you get the pronunciation and are able to memorize the points being explained. It's not about going as fast as possible to the next chapter. Au contraire, you need to focus on the same point until you **really** get it, and can do the exercises without hesitation.

- Do and redo the exercises. After I give you the English sentences, pause to have time to answer out loud or to write down your answer. Then check both your answer and its pronunciation with the audio and pdf. Train with the audio to repeat my answer out loud.
- Make flash cards to memorize the new words and expressions. Test yourself with your flashcards.
- Remember the golden rule of studying: for any time spent studying new material, try spending twice as much time reviewing previously studied material: so go back! Repetition is the key!

The story part

You can use the story to improve your understanding and pronunciation, as well as your written French.

Once you are familiar with the meaning of the story, go back then play, pause and REPEAT OUT LOUD each

sentence. Try to mimic the sing-song of my voice as if you were an actor: pay close attention to the glidings, the elisions and liaisons, and also to the word grouping: where I pause and breathe within the sentence. Repeat as many times as necessary for you to be able to read comfortably.

Try not to translate! Stay focused on the context and the storyline. So you didn't understand one word? The worse that can happen is for your brain to freeze - and then you'd miss the rest of the story. What you don't know, you can usually guess: guessing what is logically happening in a given context is very important in language learning. It's essential that you develop this ability in French and force your brain to go with the flow of the story or conversation.

Don't try to link the French words to English! Link the words to images, verbs to actions, get a visual image of it all - you don't need to go through English to speak French. Doing so will lead to mistakes, and will considerably slow you down when speaking since your brain would be doing twice the work (idea to English, THEN English to French... rather than idea to French directly!!)

If you want to work on your written French, you can use the audio of the slow story as a dictation. Play with the pause button as needed so you have time to write the sentences down.

Good luck with your French studies, and remember, repetition is the key!

Key



EUROPEAN
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE



Pronunciation Note

Any note related to specific pronunciation will be highlighted with this icon.



Language Note

Any note on the particularities of the French language will be highlighted with this icon.



Cultural Note

When an aspect of French culture affects the way we use the French language, it will be noted with this icon



Suggested Additional Reading/Listening

Some subjects are beyond the scope of this beginner method. When that subject is explored in greater length in another French Today product, I'll point it out.

Grammar Lexicon

In order to properly study French, you'll need to have a minimum of basis in grammatical analysis and terms. This is essential to understand how phrases are properly constructed and how verbs, nouns, conjugations change based on the context of the phrase.

What follows is a quick overview and recap of what these different grammar terms mean and will serve to refresh your memory as you start your French learning venture.

1. What is an agreement?

In French, some words are said to “agree” with each other. The same way as in English you will add an “s” to the 3rd person singular (she singS); in French, you will have to change some words or parts of words (like the endings of verbs) to match other words related them.

2. What is a verb?

A verb indicates an action. It can be physical (to walk, to run, to go), mental (to think, to laugh), or a condition (to be, to have). A verb is “conjugated” to match (we say to agree with) its subject: he does, she has, they were...

3. What is a noun?

A noun is the name of a person, an animal, a thing, a place, an idea... Nouns can be **common nouns**: man, dog, cup, home, love... or they can be **proper nouns**: Mary, Paris, France...

4. What does “gender” mean?

In English, gender is linked to the sex of a living being. A man is masculine, and to talk about him, you'd use masculine pronouns such as “him”, “he”, “his”. A woman is feminine, and you'd use “her, she, her” to talk about her. And things are neutral, like a book, and you'd use “it, its” to refer to it.

In French, all nouns – whether they refer to living being or not – are either masculine or feminine. If it's a living being, the gender will be determined by the sex: feminine or masculine.

[GRAMMAR LEXICON CONTINUES IN FULL PRODUCT]

Section Une



Au Marché

At the Market

In this first section, we'll meet Anne Castel, a woman in her forties, and Mary, her English au pair who is seventeen. Anne and Mary are strolling along at an open-air market and they meet Anne's acquaintances.

In this section, we will study:

- The greetings
- The expressions of politeness
- The subject pronouns
- The irregular verb «to go» (aller)

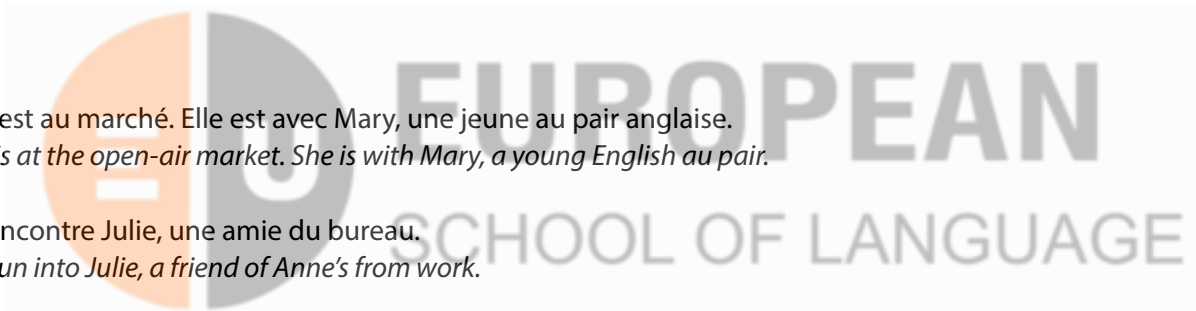
Chapitre 01

Julie, une amie du bureau

Julie, a friend from work (using the tu form)

Before starting to work with this method, I encourage you to read the "How to use this method" section.

Story



Anne est au marché. Elle est avec Mary, une jeune au pair anglaise.
Anne is at the open-air market. She is with Mary, a young English au pair.

Elle rencontre Julie, une amie du bureau.
They run into Julie, a friend of Anne's from work.

Anne Bonjour Julie, comment vas-tu ?
 Hi Julie, how are you doing?

Julie Je vais bien, merci, et toi ?
 I'm fine, thank you, and you?

Anne Je vais très bien, merci.
 Julie, je te présente Mary.
 Mary, je te présente mon amie Julie.
 I am doing great, thank you. Julie, let me introduce you to Mary. Mary, let me introduce you to Julie.

Julie Enchantée Mary.
 Nice to meet you Mary.

Mary Enchantée Julie.
 Nice to meet you Julie.

Anne Au revoir Julie !
 Good-bye Julie!

Julie	Au revoir Anne. Au revoir Mary. <i>Good-bye Anne. Good-bye Mary.</i>
Mary	Au revoir Julie. <i>Good-bye Julie.</i>

Study guide

1. Greetings and basic politeness moves

On this subject, many things could be said as we all have many different ways to greet people depending on age, context, social class and of course personal preferences.

In France, greetings follow a kind of routine:

1. First you say "hello"
2. Then you ask "how are you"?
3. The person answers "I'm fine/ not so good" then "thank you", and then "and you"?
4. At the end, people say "goodbye" and usually also add "have a good day/evening..."

When adults meet, they shake hands or kiss on the cheeks, depending on their level of friendship. French people don't hug and would be uncomfortable with this foreign move.

When children or teenagers meet, they may kiss, or just wave "hi". However, when they meet adults, it is expected of them to kiss (very likely) or shake hands (especially if the person is a business acquaintance of their parents).

2. Hi and bye.

Bonjour = hi, hello, good morning, good afternoon – used all day long, the most common way to say hello. (Note that in Québec, they also use "bonjour" to say goodbye. It's never used this way in France).

Bonsoir = hello in the evening only, rarely used to say goodbye.

Salut = hey (mostly used with young people, quite informal). Sometimes used to say bye as well.

Au revoir = goodbye, bye. Note the pronunciation " or vwoar ". It's the most common way to say goodbye.

3. First name or not?

If you are talking to a friend, you'd usually use their first name. The same goes for a child.

Bonjour Mary! Salut Anne! Bonsoir Thomas!

With other people, you'd use "Monsieur" for a man, "Madame" for a woman, "Mademoiselle" (middle e silent) for a younger woman. If you know the last name, saying it is more polite.

Bonjour Monsieur. Bonjour Monsieur Dupont.

Bonjour Madame. Bonjour Madame Dupont.

Bonjour Mademoiselle. Bonjour Mademoiselle Dupont.

4. Subject Pronouns - Singular

To replace a noun, you use a word called "a pronoun". You choose this pronoun according to both the grammatical value of the word it replaces and the meaning of the word it replaces.

Anne est au marché. Elle est avec Mary.

To replace "Anne" in the second sentence, I used "elle" (she). "Elle" is a subject pronoun: it replaces a noun subject of the verb.

In French, the list of singular subject pronouns is:

Je (or j' + vowel or h) = I

Je vais bien, merci.

Tu (never t') = you singular informal

Comment vas-tu.

Il = it, he - long "ee" sound

Elle = it, she - short clip "L" sound

Elle est avec Mary

On - this one is more difficult to understand. It used to mean "one", but nowadays is used in casual French to say "we", instead of the now more formal/written form "nous".

Vous = you, one person, formal



There is no "it" form in French. Everything: objects, concepts, animals etc. are either masculine or feminine in French, and are therefore referred to as "il" or "elle".