

 PASSPORT BOOKS

# Just Listen 'n Learn **FRENCH**

The Basic Course for Succeeding in French and  
Communicating with Confidence



# Just Listen 'n Learn **FRENCH**

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## *Note on the Accompanying Recorded Material*

The *Just Listen 'n Learn* Language Programs are available in either audiocassette or compact disc formats. References in this book to the taped or recorded material apply equally to the audiocassettes and compact discs.

Also available

*Just Listen 'n Learn French PLUS*

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# *How to use this course*

Following this course will help you understand, speak and read most of the French you are likely to need on holiday or on business trips. The course is based on recordings made in France of ordinary French people in everyday situations. Step by step you will learn first to understand what they are saying and then to speak in similar situations yourself.

Before producing the course we talked to hundreds of people about why and how they learn languages. We know how important it is for learning to be enjoyable – and for it to be usable as soon as possible. Again and again people told us that there was not much point in knowing all the grammar if you were unable to ask for a cup of coffee! In this course you will learn to ask for a coffee in the very first unit – and the only explanations of grammar will be ones that actually help you understand and use the language.

## *General hints to help you use the course*

- Have confidence in us! Real language is complex and you will find certain things in every unit which are not explained in detail. Don't worry about this. We will build up your knowledge slowly, selecting only what is most important to know at each stage.
- Try to study regularly, but in short periods. 20–30 minutes each day is usually better than 3½ hours once a week.
- To help you learn to speak, say the words and phrases out loud whenever possible.
- If you don't understand something, leave it for a while. Learning a language is a bit like doing a jigsaw or a crossword: there are many ways to tackle it and it all falls into place eventually.
- Don't be afraid to write in the book and add your own notes.
- Do review frequently. (There are revision/review sections after every three units.) It helps to get somebody to test you – and they don't need to know French.
- If you can possibly learn with somebody else you will be able to help each other and practice the language together.
- Learning French may take more time than you thought. Just be patient and above all don't get angry with yourself.

## *Suggested study pattern*

Each unit of the course consists of approximately fourteen pages in the book and ten minutes of tape. The first page of each unit will tell you what you are going to learn and suggest what we think is the best method for going about it. As you progress with the course you may find that you evolve a method of study which suits you better – that's fine, but we suggest you keep to our pattern at least for the first two or three units or you may find you are not taking full advantage of all the possibilities offered by the material.

The book contains step-by-step instructions for working through the course: when to use the book on its own, when to use the tape on its own, when to use them both together, and how to use them. On the tape our presenter Pierre will guide you through the various sections. Here is an outline of the study pattern proposed.

### *Dialogues*

Listen to the dialogues, first without stopping the tape, and get a feel for the task ahead. Then go over each one bit by bit in conjunction with the vocabulary and the notes. You should get into the habit of using the PAUSE/STOP and REWIND buttons on your cassette recorder to give yourself time to think, and to go over the dialogues a number of times. Don't leave a dialogue until you are confident that you have at least understood it. (Symbols used in the notes are explained on p. 6.)

### *Key words and phrases*

Study this list of the most important words and phrases from the dialogues. If possible, try to learn them by heart. They will be practiced in the rest of the unit.

### *Practice what you have learned*

This section contains a selection of exercises which focus your attention on the most important language in the unit. To do them you will need to work closely with the book and often use your tape recorder – sometimes you are asked to write an exercise and then check the answers on tape; other times to listen first and then fill in answers in the book. Again, use your PAUSE/STOP and REWIND buttons to give yourself time to think and to answer questions. Pauses have been left to help you to do this.

### *Grammar*

At this stage in a unit things should begin to fall into place and you are ready for the grammar section. If you really don't like grammar, you will still learn a lot without studying this part, but most people quite enjoy finding out how the language they are using actually works and how it is put together. In each unit we have selected just one or two important grammar points.

### *Read and understand and Did you know?*

In these sections you will be encouraged to read the kind of signs, menus, brochures, and so on you may come across in France and you will be given some practical background information on French customs and culture.

### *Your turn to speak*

Finally, back to the tape for some practice in speaking the main words and phrases which you have already heard and had explained. The book only gives you an outline of the exercises, so you are just listening to the tape and responding. Usually you will be asked to take part in a conversation where you hear a question or statement in French, followed by a suggestion in English as to how you might reply. You then give your reply in French and listen to see if you were right. You will probably have to go over these spoken exercises a few times before you get them absolutely correct.

### *Answers*

The answers to all the exercises (except those given on tape) can be found on the last page of each unit.

If you haven't learned languages using a tape before, just spend five minutes on Unit 1 getting used to the mechanics: practice pausing the tape, and see how long the rewind button needs to be pressed to recap on different length phrases and sections.

Don't be shy – take every opportunity you can to speak French to French people and to listen to real French. Try listening to French broadcasts on the radio.

**Bon courage!**

## *At the back of the book*

At the back of the book is a reference section which contains:

- p. 213 the written part of the revision sections which occur after every third unit on the tape.
- p. 221 a short grammar glossary with definitions of grammatical terms (noun, adjective, etc.) The section also covers the main rules of French grammar for those who wish to study them in greater detail than the main part of the course provides.
- p. 227 a French-English vocabulary list containing all the words in the course.
- p. 237 a brief index to enable you to look things up in the book.

## *Symbols and abbreviations*



If your cassette recorder has a counter, set it to zero at the start of each unit and then fill in these boxes the number showing at the beginning of each dialogue. This will help you find the right place on the tape quickly when you want to wind back.

◆ This indicates a key word or phrase in the dialogues.

m. masculine  
f. feminine  
sing. singular

pl. plural  
lit. literally

# 1 Talking about yourself

## What you will learn

- exchanging greetings
- observing basic courtesies
- using numbers 1–10
- understanding and answering simple questions about yourself
- the documentation you need for France
- some useful addresses for the tourist

## Before you begin

Before you start, read the introduction to the course on p. 4. This gives some useful advice on studying alone, and all the details of the specific study pattern recommended for the course.

Look at the *Study guide* below. It has been designed to help you make the most effective use of the unit, so that you will go on from understanding the gist of the recorded dialogues to understanding them in detail and finally to being able to produce a number of key words, phrases and sentences yourself.

We shall be trying to develop your ability to *follow the gist* of spoken French right from the start. So begin by listening to the first group of dialogues on the tape without using your book, and without worrying about the details of what is being said. This will prepare you for hearing French in France without panicking because you can't understand every word.

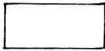
## Study guide

	<b>Dialogues 1, 2:</b> listen straight through, without the book
	<b>Dialogues 1, 2:</b> listen, read and study one by one
	<b>Dialogues 3, 4:</b> listen straight through, without the book
	<b>Dialogues 3, 4:</b> listen, read and study one by one
	<b>Dialogue 5:</b> listen straight through, without the book
	<b>Dialogue 5:</b> listen, read and study
	<b>Dialogues 6, 7:</b> listen straight through, without the book
	<b>Dialogues 6, 7:</b> listen, read and study one by one
	Study the <i>Key words and phrases</i>
	Do the exercises in <i>Practice what you have learned</i>
	Study the <i>Grammar</i> section
	Do the exercise in <i>Read and understand</i>
	Read <i>Did you know?</i>
	Do the tape exercises in <i>Your turn to speak</i>
	Finally, listen to all the dialogues again straight through



# Dialogues

If you have a cassette recorder with a counter, put it to zero and note the counter reading for each dialogue in the rectangle. This will help you find the dialogues more quickly when you want to listen to them a second time.



## 1 *Saying hello*

*Robert* Bonjour, Madame. Bonjour, Monsieur.

*Stephanie* Bonjour, Monsieur.

*Henri* Bonjour, Madame.

*Jean-Claude* Bonjour, Madame.

*Stephanie* Bonjour, Monsieur.

*Michel* Bonjour, Madame.

*Anne* Bonjour, Monsieur.

*Michèle* Bonjour, Mademoiselle.

*Nicole* Bonjour, Madame.

*Nicole* Bonjour, Messieurs-dames.



## 2 *And when the evening comes. . .*

*Michel* Bonsoir, Monsieur.

*Christian* Bonsoir, Monsieur.

*Stephanie* Bonsoir, Monsieur.

*Luc* Bonsoir, Madame.

*Bernadette* Bonne nuit.

*Barbara* Bonne nuit.



## 3 *Thank you and good-bye*

*Robert* Bon. Merci. Merci, Madame. Au revoir, Madame.

*Réceptionniste* Au revoir, Monsieur.

*Robert* Au revoir, Monsieur. Merci.

*Julie* Merci.

*Réceptionniste* Bonnes vacances.

*Julie* Merci. Au revoir, Madame.

- ♦ **merci** thank you
- ♦ **au revoir** good-bye
- une réceptionniste** a receptionist

The most important expressions are marked with a ♦; these are the ones you should try to remember. They will be listed again on p. 14.

- 1 ♦ **bonjour** good morning, good afternoon and hello.  
♦ **Madame** literally means Madam, but see below.  
♦ **Monsieur** literally means Sir. We no longer call people Sir or Madam in ordinary conversation in English but it is a matter of politeness to use **Monsieur** or **Madame** in French. They also mean Mr and Mrs and in writing are often abbreviated to **M** and **Mme**.  
♦ **Mademoiselle** literally means Miss. It is used in the same way as **Monsieur** and **Madame** but for an unmarried woman – or one who looks too young to be married. Written abbreviation: **Mlle**.  
♦ **Messieurs-dames** ladies and gentlemen. If you go into a small shop where there are other customers waiting, it is normal to say **Bonjour, Messieurs-dames** (or even just **Messieurs-dames**).
- 2 ♦ **bonsoir** good evening. Used for both hello and good-bye after about 5 p.m.  
**bonne nuit** good night.
- 3 ♦ **bon** literally means good. It is used here, and often, to wind up a conversation – we would say ‘right’ or ‘OK’.  
♦ **bonnes vacances** (have a) good holiday. **Vacances** is always used in the plural, (with an ‘s’ on the end).

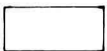


## 4 Please

*Paul* S'il vous plaît, Monsieur?  
*Jacques* Un café et une bière, s'il vous plaît.

*Réceptionniste* Votre nom, s'il vous plaît?  
*Nicole* Durand.  
*Réceptionniste* Et votre prénom?  
*Nicole* Nicole.  
*Réceptionniste* Et votre adresse, s'il vous plaît?  
*Nicole* Six (6), avenue Général-de-Gaulle.

◆ **et** and  
**votre** your  
**un nom** a surname  
**une adresse** an address  
**un prénom** a forename  
**une avenue** an avenue



## 5 Learning to count

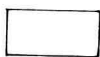
*Nadine* Un crayon, deux crayons, trois crayons, quatre crayons, cinq, six.  
 Tu comptes avec moi?  
*Pierre-Yves* Nnnn.  
*Nadine* Un, deux . . . tu dis? Deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept . . .  
*Pierre-Yves* Maman!  
*Nadine* Huit.  
*Pierre-Yves* C'est quoi? ←  
*Nadine* Neuf.  
*Pierre-Yves* Maman!  
*Nadine* Dix!  
*Pierre-Yves* Non!  
*Nadine* Tu comptes avec moi?  
*Pierre-Yves* Non! C'est quoi?  
*Nadine* C'est un micro.

**un crayon** a/one pencil  
**Maman** Mommy  
 ◆ **non** no

- 4 ♦ **s'il vous plaît** please. Used here as a polite way of attracting someone's attention.
- ♦ **un café et une bière, s'il vous plaît** a coffee and a beer, please. If you ask for **un café** you will be given a *black* coffee. You will learn how to ask for coffee with milk in Unit 3. **Un** and **une** both mean 'a', or 'an' or 'one' (see *Grammar*, p. 17). There is very little difference between a *café* and a bar in France, so a mixed order of coffee and beer is not unusual in either. You will learn how to order drinks and snacks in Unit 3.

- 5 ♦ **un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept, huit, neuf, dix** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.
- tu comptes avec moi?** are you going to count with me? (lit. you count with me?) Putting a questioning tone into your voice is enough to turn a sentence into a question in French. There are two words for 'you' in French: **tu** is only used to people you know well (see p. 17 for further explanation).
- tu dis?** are you going to say it? (lit. you say?)
- ♦ **c'est quoi?** what's that? (lit. it is what?). The little boy has spotted the microphone!
- c'est un micro** it's a mike (microphone). **C'est** is a very useful phrase meaning 'it is' or 'that is' e.g. also **c'est un crayon** (that's a pencil).

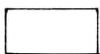




## 6 *Are you English?*

- Henri* Vous êtes anglaise?  
*Stephanie* Oui – et vous?  
*Henri* Je suis français. Vous êtes en vacances?  
*Stephanie* Oui.  
*Henri* Vous êtes de Londres?  
*Stephanie* Ah non – de Brighton. Et vous?  
*Henri* Moi, j'habite Paris.

♦ oui yes



## 7 *Getting to know you*

- Jean-Claude* Bonjour, Madame.  
*Stephanie* Bonjour, Monsieur.  
*Jean-Claude* C'est . . . euh . . . Madame ou Mademoiselle?  
*Stephanie* Mademoiselle.  
*Jean-Claude* Ah bon . . . vous êtes anglaise ou américaine?  
*Stephanie* Anglaise – et vous?  
*Jean-Claude* Je suis français. Et . . . vous habitez Londres?  
*Stephanie* Ah non – Brighton.  
*Jean-Claude* Ah bon, Brighton. Moi, j'habite Paris. Vous êtes touriste?  
*Stephanie* Je suis en vacances, oui.  
*Jean-Claude* En vacances? Ah bon. Et vous êtes avec un groupe ou vous êtes toute seule?  
*Stephanie* Toute seule.  
*Jean-Claude* Toute seule?

- euh er  
 ♦ ou or  
 ♦ américaine American (lady)  
 ♦ un/une touriste a tourist  
 ♦ en vacances on holiday  
 ♦ avec with  
 ♦ un groupe a group

- 6** ♦ **vous êtes anglaise?** are you English? If Henri had been speaking to a man he would have said **vous êtes anglais?** (See *Grammar* p. 17, for an explanation.) Most French people use **anglais** (English) to mean British.
- ♦ **et vous?** and you? A useful way of returning a question. **Vous** is the normal word for 'you' whether you are talking to one or more persons.
- ♦ **je suis français** I'm French. A woman would say **je suis française**. (See p. 17) 'I'm English' would be **je suis anglais** (if you are a man) **je suis anglaise** (if you are a woman).
- vous êtes en vacances?** are you on holiday?
- ♦ **vous êtes de Londres?** are you from London? If you were talking to a French person you might want to say **vous êtes de Paris?** (are you from Paris?).
- ♦ **moi, j'habite Paris** I live in Paris (lit. me, I live in Paris). The **moi** is used here for emphasis. Note also:  
**j'habite Londres** I live in London    **j'habite Newcastle** I live in Newcastle

- 7** **c'est Madame ou Mademoiselle?** is it Mrs or Miss? He could quite politely call her either, but he wants to know whether she is married.
- vous habitez Londres?** do you live in London?
- ♦ **ah bon** oh yes. Used to acknowledge what someone has said.
- ♦ **vous êtes avec un groupe?** are you with a group? You might want to answer: **non, je suis avec ma famille** (no, I'm with my family).
- toute seule** on your own (lit. all alone). A man alone would be **tout seul** (see *Grammar* p. 17.)



## Key words and phrases

Here are the most important words and phrases which you have met in the dialogues. You should make sure you know them before you go on to the rest of the unit as you will need them for the exercises which follow. Practise saying them aloud.

<b>bonjour</b>	good morning, good afternoon, hello
<b>bonsoir</b>	good evening

<b>Monsieur</b>	Sir, Mr
<b>Madame</b>	Madam, Mrs
<b>Mademoiselle</b>	Miss
<b>Messieurs-dames</b>	ladies and gentlemen

<b>oui</b>	yes
<b>non</b>	no
<b>bon</b>	good, right, OK
<b>merci</b>	thank you
<b>au revoir</b>	good-bye
<b>s'il vous plaît</b>	please
<b>un café et une bière</b>	a coffee and a beer

<b>un</b>	one
<b>deux</b>	two
<b>trois</b>	three
<b>quatre</b>	four
<b>cinq</b>	five
<b>six</b>	six
<b>sept</b>	seven
<b>huit</b>	eight
<b>neuf</b>	nine
<b>dix</b>	ten

<b>c'est quoi?</b>	what's that?
--------------------	--------------

<b>vous êtes français?</b>	are you French? ( <i>to a man</i> )
<b>française?</b>	( <i>to a woman</i> )
<b>et vous?</b>	and you?
<b>je suis anglais</b>	I'm English ( <i>for a man</i> )
<b>anglaise</b>	( <i>for a woman</i> )
<b>vous êtes de Paris?</b>	are you from Paris?
<b>j'habite Londres</b>	I live in London

<b>je suis en vacances</b>	I'm on holiday
<b>avec un groupe</b>	with a group
<b>avec ma famille</b>	with my family
<b>ah bon</b>	oh yes, oh really?
<b>bonnes vacances!</b>	have a good holiday!

# Practice what you have learned

This part of the unit is designed to help you cope more confidently with the language you have met in the dialogues. You will need both the book and the cassette to do the exercises but all the necessary instructions are *in the book*. You will have more opportunity to speak at the end of the unit.

- 1 Listen to the conversation on the tape as many times as you like and fill in the woman's particulars on the form below. (You'll find them jumbled up beside the form.) You can check your answers on p. 20.

anglaise Paris  
avenue Smith  
7 (sept) de  
Gaule  
Barbara

Nom (M/Mme/Mlle)	.....
Prénom	.....
Adresse	.....
	.....
Nationalité	.....

une nationalité a nationality

- 2 How would you say hello in each of the situations below? Remember that it is polite to add **Monsieur**, **Madame**, **Mademoiselle** or **Messieurs-dames**. Write your answers in the spaces, then check them on p. 20. You won't need your tape recorder.



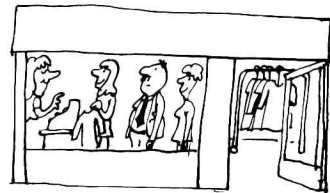
1. ....



2. ....



3. ....



4. ....



5. ....



6. ....



- 3** Choose the right words and phrases from the list below to put in the gaps in the conversation. Write them in first and then check them on p. 20. You won't need your tape recorder.

êtes                      au revoir                      en                      je  
s'il vous plaît                      bonjour, Madame                      merci, Madame                      bonnes  
                    suis                      vous

*Waitress* Bonjour, Monsieur.  
*Customer* .....  
Une bière, .....  
*Waitress* Oui, Monsieur.  
(Brings it) Votre bière, Monsieur.  
*Customer* .....  
Vous êtes de Paris?  
*Waitress* Non, je ..... de Rouen.  
*Customer* Vous ..... française?  
*Waitress* Oui – et .....?  
*Customer* Moi, ..... suis anglais.  
*Waitress* Ah bon? Vous êtes ..... vacances?  
*Customer* Oui.  
*Waitress* ..... vacances, Monsieur!  
*Customer* Merci, Madame ..... !

- 4** Now a chance to practise the numbers 1–10 – vitally important to know in all sorts of situations, from saying how many cream cakes you want, to how many people you want rooms for at a hotel. See if you can write in the answers (in words, not figures) to the sums below.

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. deux + deux = .....  | f. dix – trois = .....   |
| b. quatre + un = .....  | g. six – quatre = .....  |
| c. cinq + trois = ..... | h. deux × quatre = ..... |
| d. neuf + un = .....    | i. trois × trois = ..... |
| e. huit – cinq = .....  | j. dix ÷ deux = .....    |

Now cover up the sums above. Play the next bit of the tape and try to write down the numbers you hear. This time write them in figures, not words. They should be the same as the answers to the sums above. You can check your answers on p. 20. Numbers given on the tape:

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| a. .... | f. .... |
| b. .... | g. .... |
| c. .... | h. .... |
| d. .... | i. .... |
| e. .... | j. .... |

- ★★ Remember to look back at the *Study guide* on p. 7 to check your progress.