

# C'est ça!

ESSENTIALS OF FRENCH

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C'est ca! Essentials of French

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# PREFACE

elcome to *C'est ça!*, a brief textbook for your introductory French course. Designed to be completed in two semesters or three quarters, *C'est ça!* presents the essentials of French grammar and a manageable vocabulary for first-year college or university students. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills are developed through a variety of engaging activities and features.

Each chapter of *C'est ça!* introduces thematic core vocabulary, short dialogues or narrative passages reflecting real-life situations, and brief grammar presentations. Practice sequences include both exercises for learning basic grammatical forms and constructions, and a wide range of interesting communicative activities that encourage student creativity. French and Francophone culture (particularly African and Canadian) is presented through authentic readings, cultural notes, and realia. In addition, the exclusive Video to accompany *C'est ça!* is tied directly to the text and presents scenes shot on location in France as well as authentic footage from several French and Francophone sources.

*C'est ça!* features sixteen regular chapters, a preliminary chapter, and eight reading/review sections called **Entractes.** Each regular chapter follows this simple three-part organization:

**ESQUISSES.** The vocabulary section promotes initial self-expression through visuals and brief dialogues in context. This section introduces practical vocabulary through attractive illustrations and grammar points that are developed in detail later in the chapter.

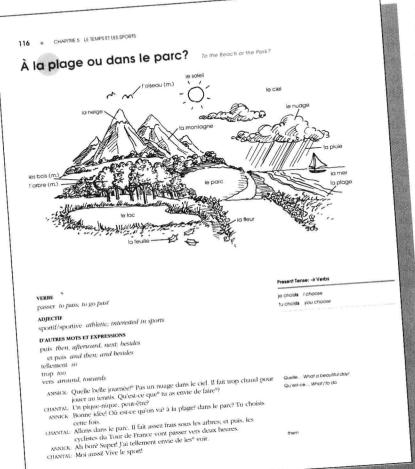
**GRAMMAIRE ESSENTIELLE.** This section presents three to six grammar points in a condensed format. Only essential, first-year material is included. Every grammar point is introduced visually through an illustration and caption taken from a dialogue in the preceding **Esquisses** section. Contextualized exercises and activities, including partner/pair and small group work, immediately follow the explanation of each grammar point.

**EN AVANT.** This culminating three-part section contains realia-based, communicative, and video activities. The **Réalités** activities present colorful pieces of realia from French or Francophone publications, and students answer questions based on their content. The communicative activities of **Bavardons un peu!** encourage personal creativity and interaction among students. **Vidéo-Club** provides activities for students to complete after viewing scenes from the exciting Video to accompany *C'est ça!* 

After every two chapters, an **Entracte** section features a reading and an integrative visual review. *C'est ça!* also contains a glossary of grammatical terms, color maps of France and the Francophone world, verb charts, and French-English and English-French vocabularies.



# GUIDED TOUR THROUGH C'EST CA!



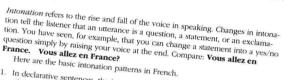
ESQUISSES Vocabulary is presented visually through attractive illustrations. Engaging dialogues use new vocabulary and preview the chapter's structures within natural contexts.

> **GRAMMAR** FORESHADOWING BOXES Grammar boxes that appear in Esquisses foreshadow grammar points that will be fully presented in the chapter's Grammaire essentielle.

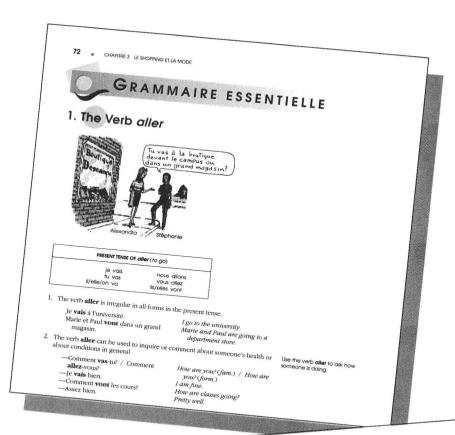
PRONONCIATION The basics of French pronunciation are covered in the first five chapters of the book. (Expanded presentations and practice continue throughout the Workbook/Laboratory Manual and Audiocassette Program.)

# PRONONCIATION

#### Intonation



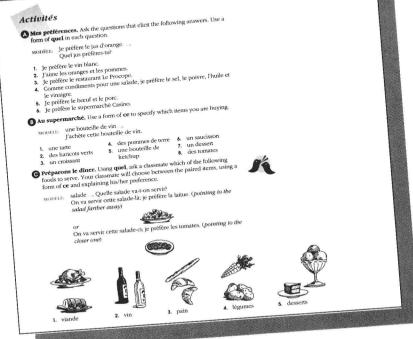
- I. In declarative sentences, the intonation rises within each breath group (group of words pronounced in one breath), and falls at the end of the sentence. Je m'appelle Marie-France. Bonjour, mademoiselle.
- 2. In yes/no questions the intonation rises at the end of the question. Est-ce que c'est ton père? Il aime le football?



VISUAL GRAMMAR
OPENER Each grammar
point opens with a visual presentation recycled from one of
the **Esquisses** dialogues and
showing the structure used in
context.

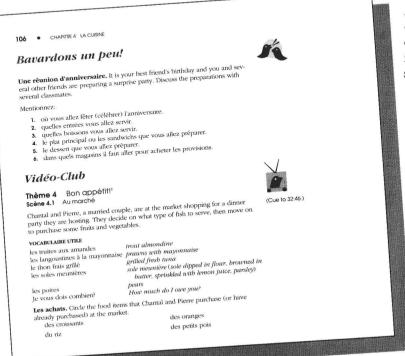
MARGINAL STUDENT NOTES Helpful notes summarize grammar points for easy reference by students.

ACTIVITIES Students progress from basic and form-focused activities, such as contextualized fill-in-the-blanks and sentence builders, to more open-ended and communicative ones, such as art- and realia-based, conversational, interview, and survey activities.





RÉALITÉS Colorful pieces of realia illustrate in context the vocabulary and grammar presented in the chapter. Each piece is followed by an interesting comprehension activity.



BAVARDONS UN PEU! At the end of each chapter, communicative activities encourage personal creativity and interaction among students.

VIDÉO-CLUB Activities accompany the exclusive *C'est ça!* video, with scenes shot on location in France and authentic footage from a variety of French and Francophone sources. A handy marginal cue indicates the starting time of each scene for easy classroom use.











ICONS Marginal icons identify partner-pair activities and the **Prononciation**, **Vidéo-Club**, **Lecture**, and **Par écrit** sections.

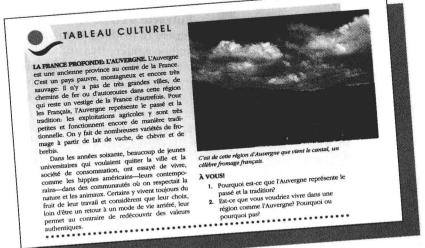


TABLEAU CULTUREL Two to four cultural notes per chapter, illustrated with a full-color photograph, describe engaging and relevant aspects of French and Francophone culture. The notes are in English up through Chapter 6 and in French after that.

À VOUS! Comprehension and open-ended questions appear at the end of each **Tableau culturel** in Chapters 7–16.

#### ÉTUDE DE MOTS

ADVERBS: A few adverbs used with adjectives will allow you to be more descriptive as you speak and write.

assez somewhat, rather très very

peu hardly un peu a little

L'appartement est **peu** grand, mais il est **très** joli. Paul est **assez** sympathique, mais il est **un peu** timide. The apartment is hardly big, but it is very pretty. Paul is rather nice, but he is a little shy.

ÉTUDE DE MOTS Useful expressions, cognates, and word-building hints help students recognize patterns and increase their French vocabulary.

#### AIDE-MÉMOIRE

LEARNING VOCABULARY: Try to use as many methods as possible to learn vocabulary. Say the words aloud, write them down, copy them onto flash cards for rapid recognition, or have a friend say them to you. In addition, try to visualize and mimic actions that involve the vocabulary words. By expanding your study techniques and concentrating on those that fit your particular learning style, you'll find it easier to remember new vocabulary.

AIDE-MÉMOIRE Students are given practical suggestions on how to study and create their own learning aids.



#### LECTURE

Avant de lire

SKIMMING FOR THE GIST: When reading authentic French texts, you will improve your comprehension if, prior to an in-depth reading, you skim the text for an overall idea of its content. This will make more difficult passages

sier to understand.

The following movie review comes from Télérama, a French TV guide. easier to understand. Look at the tide and the three headings. What do they tell you about the organization of the article and about the film itself? Does the photo set the scene in

any way?

Now quickly read each paragraph. If you do not understand a word, read ahead. Remember that your goal is just to get the gist of each section. When you have finished, skim the review once more, this time jotting down the main you nave misned, skim the review once more, this time joiting down the m point(s) of each section. Finally, read the entire review carefully to find out what happens when an inspector from the health department tries to shut what nappens when an inspector from the neath depart down the residence of a group of Africans living in Paris

Film français de Thomas Gilou (1986).
Précédente diffusion; mai 1991.
Jacques Villeret : Michel Le Gorgues.
Jacques Villeret : Michel Le Gorgues.
Jacques Villeret : Michel Le Gorgues.
Jacques : Amina.
Cheik Dout
Kamara: Sa Fiche tec
Annaud. F
et Thomas
Musique
87 mn. de fermeture par In-

Le genr riche en L'histoi XVIII<sup>e</sup>

de fermeture par les services d'hygiène. Ainsi' en a décidé l'impocteur desdits services, le brave mais the Michel. Pour conjure tous et faire éche éche funeste décisions les locataires du four convoquent les dieux's locataires du four convoquent les dieux's locataires du four convoquent les dieux's locataires du four mabout 'qu'ils font venir d'Adrique. Dans l'am marbout renconte un jeune Noir dynaique, sympathique trusund'nonna Lemmy, qui il raconte na venur le raison de su voyage. Lemmy substitute au saint homme pour toucher la raison de suin homme pour toucher les penses les success remporté par cett point petite omdétie était métité. D'abbitude, les films qui raitent de la communaux noire défonncent le racisme ment, ordinaire ou déclaré des Blancs, sont des pamphlets ou des témoignages graves; il en

faut. Mais il faut aussi des comédies comme celles-ci qui disent les
mêmes choses sur le qui plaisant du
vaudeville et du burtesque. On est
ici délicieusement mainem dans\*
une succession de situations
hillarantes, on sourit on rin, on
comprend les raisons des unus et des
comprend les raisons des unus et des
autres\*et on admir les d'une, le
campo, la frénésie de ces astucieuses combinations de ces astucieuses combinations de fonctiontransda, grands naffs et fonctionnatice consecuencieux de fonctionde les sarabandes l'interprétation
des Noirs est globalemen de l'autre d'une des
et acques Villeret, comme toujours, parfait.

Gilbert Sales-he-

ENTRACTE Appearing after

Entracte sections feature a

and one literary) accompanied by practical pre-reading strate-

gies (Avant de lire) and post-

activities (Après la lecture).

every two chapters, the

variety of readings (two author-written, five authentic,

reading comprehension

Glibert Salachas

ENTRACTE • 205 in this case a holy man



Black micmac



\*Excerpted from Télérama

Après la lecture

Black Micmac. Est-ce que les phrases suivantes sont vraies ou fausses? Si la Black Micmac est un film africain.

C'est un film comique.

 C'est un film comique.
 À Paris, les services d'hygiène veulent fermer un immeuble habité par des Alticanis.
4. Les Africains font venir (send for) un saint homme (boly man) pour les

aider.

5. Dans l'avion, le saint homme rencontre un jeune truand. Ensemble, ils vont aider les Africains qui vivent à Paris.

Le critique aime ce film parce qu'on parle d'un sujet grave, le racisme, sans un contente outresque.
Selon (According to) le critique, les acteurs ne sont pas très bons.

Parlons du film. Répondez aux questions suivantes.

Qui veut fermer le foyer d'Africains? Pourquoi, à votre avis?

Qui est Lemmy? Décrivez-le.
 Qu'est-ce que Lemmy va faire? Pourquoi?
 Selon le critique, d'habitude (usually), comment sont les films qui traitent du racisme? Dans quelle mesure ce film est-il différent?

#### PAR ÉCRIT

C'est vous le critique! Using the critique of Black Micmac as a model, review a Cest vous le critiquei using the critique of *mace micritic* as a model, review. film, play, or television show that you've recently seen. Use the elements below le titre (du film, de la pièce, de l'émission)

• le genre



- I'histoire (Lise the present tense. Your plot synopsis should give your reader only a general idea of what the film is about. Do not attempt to relate the votre réaction («Ce que j'en pense»)

#### MISE EN SCÈNE

# Une soirée à la Comédie-Française

Look at the drawings, name the characters, and then describe the events prior to, during, and after the play. Describe each scene as fully as possible, using the passe compose (with avoir and etre) and the imperfect, where appropriate. Try to come up with a minimum of four sentences for each scene.











#### VOCABULAIRE UTILE

aller chercher to pick up discuter de to discuss discuter de to discuss
à cause de because of
d'abord first, first of all
puis, ensuite next, then
arriver en retard to arrive late
les heures (f) de pointe rush bour
l'embouteillage (m.) traffic fam

The section concludes with a writing activity (Par écrit) and an attractive and stimulating composite drawing (Mise en scène). The latter provides a visual review that integrates the vocabulary and grammar from the two previous chapters.

#### SUPPLEMENTS

C'est ça! is a complete program that includes the following components:

The Workbook/Laboratory Manual provides additional exercises on vocabulary and grammar, a complete listening program, and supplemental video activities. With one preliminary chapter and sixteen regular chapters that correspond to the text and audiocassettes, the Workbook/Laboratory Manual is designed for independent study. To assess their progress, students may check their answers against those given in the back of the Workbook.

Recorded by native speakers, the **Audiocassette Program** contains abundant exercises and listening passages to assist students in speaking practice and listening comprehension, either on their first exposure to the material or as a review. The Audiocassette Program is available from the publisher to instructors free of charge and to students for purchase.

The **Tapescript** is a complete transcription of the Audiocassette Program. One copy of the Tapescript is included with each Audiocassette Program sent to language laboratories.

The Instructor's Manual and Testing Program contains sample lesson plans, testing materials, a complete videoscript for the Video to accompany *C'est çal*, supplementary class aids, and methodological suggestions. Included for the instructor are recommendations for teaching difficult points of grammar, hints on how to vary the presentation of each lesson, and strategies to help students avoid common pitfalls and overcome areas of confusion.

The Video to accompany C'est ça! features scenes filmed on location in France and cultural vignettes containing authentic footage from a variety of French and Francophone sources.

The McGraw-Hill Video Library of Authentic French Materials includes one volume of French music videos and one volume of French commercials, each accompanied by an Instructor's Guide.

A set of full-color **Overhead Transparencies** is useful for presenting vocabulary, doing classroom activities, initiating discussion, and reviewing chapter material.

The McGraw-Hill Electronic Language Tutor (MHELT 2.0) contains single-response exercises from the text. It is available in Macintosh and IBM formats.

**Slides** showing various parts of the French-speaking world come with a booklet of commentary and questions for classroom use.

A Practical Guide to Language Learning: A Fifteen-Week Program of Strategies for Success by H. Douglas Brown (San Francisco State University) introduces beginning foreign-language students to the language-learning process. The guide is filled with useful information, practical strategies, exercises, self-tests, and encouraging guidance.

A **Training/Orientation Manual** for use with teaching assistants, by James F. Lee (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), offers practical advice for beginning language instructors and coordinators.

All the components in the *C'est ça!* program are designed to complement your instruction and to enhance your students' learning experience. Please contact your local McGraw-Hill representative for information on the availability and costs of supplemental materials.

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#### GLOSSARY OF GRAMMATICAL TERMS

**ADJECTIVE** A word that modifies, qualifies, or describes a noun or pronoun.

a big house

une **grande** maison

She is smart

Elle est intelligente.

**Demonstrative Adjective** An adjective that points out or indicates a noun.

this boy

ce garcon

those books

ces livres

**Interrogative Adjective** An adjective that expresses *which* or *what* about a noun.

Which notebook?

Quel cahier?

**What** is your address?

Ouelle est votre adresse?

**Possessive Adjective** An adjective that indicates who possesses the person or thing being discussed.

mv sister

ma sœur

their cars

leurs voitures

**ADVERB** A word that describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

She writes well.

Elle écrit bien.

He is **very** tall.

Il est **très** grand.

They are going too quickly.

Ils vont trop vite.

**ARTICLE** A determiner that precedes a noun.

**Definite Article** A determiner that indicates a particular person, place. thing, or (in French) a general concept.

the men

les hommes

the country

le pays

the bread

le pain

liberty

la liberté

**Indefinite Article** An article that indicates an indefinite person, place, or thing.

**a** woman

une femme

a city

une ville

(some) carrots

des carottes

Partitive Article An article that indicates a part of a whole. Some is not always expressed in English, but it is always expressed in French.

(some) chocolate

du chocolat

(some) pie

de la tarte

(some) apples

des pommes

**CARDINAL NUMBERS** The form of numbers that counts and indicates how many (one, two, three, etc.; un, deux, trois, etc.).

**CLAUSE** There are two primary types of clauses: 1. a main, or independent, clause, which contains both a noun and a verb and can stand alone because it expresses a complete thought; 2. a dependent clause, which acquires meaning only in association with an independent (main) clause. Although a dependent clause contains both a subject and a verb, it cannot stand alone because it does not express a complete thought.

I will give Paul the car (main clause) when he arrives

Je donnerai la voiture à Paul lorsqu'il arrivera.

(dependent clause).

If I were rich (**dependent clause**), I would buy a house

Si j'étais riche, j'achèterais une

ause), I would buy a house maison.

(main clause).

**COMPARATIVE** The comparison of two nouns or verbs, using adjectives or adverbs.

She is **taller than** Julien. She runs **faster than** Julien. Elle est **plus grande que** Julien. Elle court **plus vite que** Julien.

**CONDITIONAL** A verb tense that expresses possible or potential actions.

If I had a lot of money, I **would buv** that car.

Si j'avais beaucoup d'argent, i'achèterais cette voiture.

**CONJUGATION** The six possible forms of a verb for a particular tense.

I speak, you speak, he/she/ one/it speaks, we speak, you speak, they speak je parle, tu parles, il/elle/ on parle, nous parlons, vous parlez, ils/elles parlent

**CONJUNCTION** A word or phrase that links together words, phrases, or clauses.

Christophe **and** Diane He doesn't drink coffee **or** tea. I shave, **then** I get dressed. Christophe **et** Diane Il ne boit **ni** café **ni** thé. Je me rase, **puis** je m'habille.

**DIRECT OBJECT** The person, place, or thing receiving the action of a verb.

I see **Catherine**.
We are visiting **Paris**.
She is buying an **apple**.

Je vois **Catherine**. Nous visitons **Paris**. Elle achète une **pomme**.

**FUTURE** A verb tense that expresses what is yet to come, expressed in English with *will* and *shall*.

I will do it

Je le **ferai.** 

**GENDER** A term used to divide nouns into categories. French nouns belong to two genders: masculine and feminine.

**IMPERATIVE** See Mood.

**IMPERFECT (IMPARFAIT)** A past tense that has no specific beginning or ending; a past descriptive tense.

We **used to swim** often. Nous **nagions** souvent.

**IMPERSONAL CONSTRUCTION** One whose subject is *it*.

It is important that . . . Il est important que...

**INDICATIVE** See Mood.

**INDIRECT OBJECT** This tells to whom or for whom an action is performed. Marc gives the present **to Rachel.** Marc donne le cadeau **à Rachel.** 

**INFINITIVE** The form of a verb introduced in English by *to: to play, to sell, to come.* In French dictionaries this form of the verb—**jouer, vendre, venir**—is listed as the main entry.

**MOOD** A set of categories for a verb, used to indicate the attitude of a speaker toward what he or she is saying: the indicative mood denotes actions or states considered facts; the subjunctive mood is based on a wish, emotion, or doubt; the imperative mood indicates a command.

**NOUN** A word that denotes a person, place, or thing. A proper noun is a capitalized name.

lawyer, city, newspaper, Diane avocat, ville, journal, Diane

**ORDINAL NUMBERS** The form of numbers that points out an order or a series ( *first, second, third,* etc.; **premier/première, deuxième, troisième,** etc.).

**PASSÉ COMPOSÉ (OR PRESENT PERFECT)** A past tense formed in French by the conjugation of an auxiliary verb (**avoir** or **être**) and the past participle. The equivalent tense in English can take several forms.

I ate (have eaten, did eat). J'ai mangé.

**PAST PARTICIPLE** The form of a verb that represents a completed action or state. It is used with an auxiliary to form the **passé composé:** j'ai **regardé;** il a **vendu.** 

**PERSON** Each verb in a given tense has six forms that indicate the person involved in the action of the verb: singular (one person)—*I* (first person), *you* (second person), *he, she, one, it* (third person); plural (more than one person)—*we* (first person), *you* (second person), *they* (third person).

**PREPOSITION** A word that shows the relationship of one word (usually a noun or pronoun) to another word in the phrase, clause, or sentence. Prepositions normally indicate position, direction, or time.

near the airport près de l'aéroport

with himavec luito schoolà l'écolebefore midnightavant minuit

**PRONOMINAL VERB** A verb that has a reflexive pronoun as well as a subject pronoun or noun in its conjugated form. Its infinitive can be recognized by the preceding **se.** 

to remember: I remember se rappeler: je me rappelle

**PRONOUN** A word that is used in place of one or more nouns.

**Subject Pronoun** A pronoun that replaces the noun representing the person or thing performing the action of the verb.

Luc and Julie are playing Luc et Julie jouent au tennis.

tennis.

**They** are playing tennis. **Ils** jouent au tennis.

**Object Pronoun** A pronoun that can replace a direct object noun (*me*, *you*, *bim*, etc.; **me**, **te**, **le**, etc.) or an indirect object noun (*to me*, *to you*, *to bim*, etc.; **me**, **te**, **lui**, etc.).

I see **Alain.** I see **him.** Je vois **Alain.** Je **le** vois.

I give the book **to Mireille.** Je donne le livre à Mireille.

I give the book **to her.** Je **lui** donne le livre.

**Reflexive Pronoun** A direct or an indirect object pronoun that represents the same person as the subject.

I look at **myself** in the mirror. Je **me** regarde dans le miroir.

**Demonstrative Pronoun** A pronoun that replaces a noun and points out a particular person or thing.

Here are two books. **This one** is interesting but **that one** is

Voici deux livres. **Celui-ci** est intéressant mais **celui-là** est

boring. ennuyeux.

**Interrogative Pronoun** A pronoun that asks a question about a person or thing

Who is he? Oui est-il?

What do you prefer? Qu'est-ce que vous préférez?

**Relative Pronoun** A pronoun that represents a noun previously mentioned and introduces a dependent clause.

We are talking to the woman Nous parlons à la femme **qui** 

**who** lives here. habite ici.

Stressed (Disjunctive) Pronoun A pronoun that is used for emphasis or

as the object of a preposition.

You are impossible! Tu es impossible, toi! I work with him. Je travaille avec lui.

**REFLEXIVE VERB** A verb whose action is initiated by a subject and is received by the same subject.

He cuts himself when he Il se coupe quand il se rase. shaves.

silaves.

**SENTENCE** A statement with a subject and a verb that expresses a complete thought.

Sylvie is a student. Sylvie est étudiante.

**SUBJECT** The word(s) denoting the person, place, or thing performing the action of a verb.

Salima works here.Salima travaille ici.Our city is very beautiful.Notre ville est très belle.That table costs a lot.Cette table coûte cher.

**SUBJUNCTIVE** See Mood.

**SUPERLATIVE** A form of an adjective or adverb that denotes the highest degree of a particular quality.

the most expensive dress la robe la plus chère

**TENSE** Sets of verb forms (six in each tense) that express past, present, or future time.

**VERB** The part of speech that expresses the occurrence of an action or the existence of a state or condition.

He **arrivé.**He **was** tired.

Il **est arrivé.**Il **était** fatigué.

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