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Phrasebook

# French



**Où habitez-vous ?**  
*Where do you live?*

**Au dernier étage.**  
*On the top floor.*

**Includes: 21 language lessons**

# ***French***

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© Assimil 2013  
ISBN 978-2-7005-0574-0  
Graphic design: Atwazart



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This phrasebook doesn't claim to be a substitute for a language course, but if you devote a bit of time to reading it and learning a few useful phrases, you'll quickly find that you're able to participate in basic exchanges with French speakers, enriching your travel experience.

A word of advice: don't aim for perfection! Those you're speaking to will forgive any mistakes and appreciate your efforts to communicate in their language. The main thing is to leave your inhibitions behind and speak!

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# Getting started

## ➤ DAY 1

### Je m'appelle... My name is...

#### 1 Bonjour ! Comment vous appelez-vous ?

*boh'jzoor komah' voo zaplay voo*

hello! how you(formal) call-yourself?

*Hello! What's your name?*

#### 2 Je m'appelle Alexandre. Enchanté !

*jzuh mapel aleksah'druh ah'sha'tay*

i myself-call alexandre. enchanted!

*My name is Alexandre. Pleased to meet you!*

#### 3 D'où venez-vous ?

*doo vuhnay voo*

from-where come-you

*Where are you from?*

#### 4 Je viens d'Australie. J'habite à Brisbane.

*jzuh vya' dohstralee jzabeet ah breezban*

i come from-australia. I-live at brisbane.

*I am from Australia. I live in Brisbane.*

### Notes

There are two ways to say *you* in French: **tu** and **vous**. **Tu** is the informal *you* when speaking to a relative, friend or child. **Vous** is formal and should be used to address someone older or who you don't know well. **Vous** is also the plural *you*, for addressing more than one person. The formal **vous** should be used virtually

any time you address a stranger, along with the **vous** form of the conjugated verb (the second-person plural).

**Je m'appelle** ('I call myself') is the equivalent of *My name is*. The verb **s'appeler** to call oneself includes a reflexive pronoun, indicating that the subject is performing the action on itself (eg, *myself, yourself, himself*, etc.). These are often left out in English, but must be included in French. Here are some various forms:

<b>Comment t'appelles-tu ?</b>	<i>What's your name? (informal singular)</i>
<b>Tu t'appelles...</b>	<i>Your name is ... (inf. sing.)</i>
<b>Il/Elle s'appelle...</b>	<i>His/Her name is ...</i>
<b>Vous vous appelez...</b>	<i>Your name is ... (form.) / Your names are ... (pl.)</i>

In French you need to say where you 'come' from, rather than where you 'are' from: **Je viens de** (*I come from*) + the country. If the country starts with a vowel, **Je viens de** becomes **Je viens d'** → **Je viens d'Australie**.

### Practice – Translate the following sentences:

1. What's your name? (*inf.*)
2. Where are you from? (*form.*)
3. **Je m'appelle Sophie.**
4. **J'habite à New York.**

### Answers:

1. **Comment t'appelles-tu ?**
2. **D'où venez-vous ?**
3. My name is Sophie.
4. I live in New York.

## Conversing

### ➤ First contact

The French have retained certain etiquette that may seem somewhat formal to English speakers. This doesn't necessarily imply reserve, but is more a question that good manners are considered to be respectful. One of the ways the French indicate politeness is embedded in their language with the **tu** and **vous** forms of *you*. **Tu** is the familiar, informal *you* used with people you know well. **Vous** is the formal, polite *you* for addressing basically everyone else (or if speaking to more than one person). Use **vous** whenever you address a stranger (in a restaurant, hotel, shop, the street, etc.).

### Greetings

In France, it is customary to greet people with **Bonjour** when you walk in somewhere (a shop, a waiting room, an office, etc.) and to say **Au revoir** when leaving. In these contexts, **monsieur**, **madame** or **mademoiselle** are the norm; first names are only used in more informal situations. With relatives and friends, cheek kissing (**la bise**) is the usual greeting (and parting). The number of kisses depends on the region.

### Saying hello

<i>Hello! (day)</i>	<b>Bonjour !</b>	<i>boh'jzoor</i>
<i>Hello! (evening)</i>	<b>Bonsoir !</b>	<i>boh'swar</i>
<i>Hi!</i>	<b>Salut !</b>	<i>salew</i>
<i>How's it going?</i>	<b>Ça va ?</b>	<i>sa va</i>
<i>Are you well? (inf. sing.) / (form./pl.)</i>	<b>Tu vas bien ? Vous allez bien ?</b>	<i>tew va bya' voo zalay bya'</i>
<i>How are you? (formal)</i>	<b>Comment allez-vous ?</b>	<i>koma'h' talay voo</i>

## Taking leave

<i>Goodbye!</i>	<b>Au revoir !</b>	<i>oh ruhvwar</i>
<i>Bye!</i>	<b>Ciao !</b>	<i>chow</i>
<i>See you tomorrow!</i>	<b>À demain !</b>	<i>ah duhma'</i>
<i>See you later!</i>	<b>À tout à l'heure !</b>	<i>ah too tah luhr</i>
<i>See you soon!</i>	<b>À bientôt !</b>	<i>ah bya'toh</i>
<i>See you next year!</i>	<b>À l'année prochaine !</b>	<i>ah lanay proshen</i>
<i>Have a nice day!</i>	<b>Bonne journée !</b>	<i>bon jzoomay</i>
<i>Have a good week!</i>	<b>Bonne semaine !</b>	<i>bon suhmen</i>
<i>Good night!</i>	<b>Bonne nuit !</b>	<i>bon nwee</i>

## Addressing someone

<i>Mrs, Madam</i>	<b>Madame</b>	<i>madam</i>
<i>Miss</i>	<b>Mademoiselle</b>	<i>maduhmwazel</i>
<i>Ladies and gentlemen</i>	<b>Mesdames et messieurs</b>	<i>maydam zeh maysyuh</i>
<i>Mr, Sir</i>	<b>Monsieur</b>	<i>muhsyuh</i>

## Offering wishes

### On holiday

<i>Welcome!</i>	<b>Bienvenue !</b>	<i>bya'vuhnew</i>
<i>Enjoy your stay!</i>	<b>Bon séjour !</b>	<i>boh' sayjzoor</i>
<i>Have a good trip!</i>	<b>Bon voyage !</b>	<i>boh' vwahyazj</i>
<i>Have a nice holiday!</i>	<b>Bonnes vacances !</b>	<i>bon vakah's</i>

## In everyday situations

<i>Cheers! (when toasting)</i>	<b>Santé !</b>	<i>sah'tay</i>
<i>Congratulations!</i>	<b>Félicitations !</b>	<i>fayleeseetasyoh'</i>
<i>Enjoy your meal!</i>	<b>Bon appétit !</b>	<i>bon apaytee</i>
<i>Good luck!</i>	<b>Bonne chance !</b>	<i>bon shah's</i>
<i>Best of luck!</i>	<b>Bon courage !</b>	<i>boh' koorajz</i>

## Special occasions

<i>Happy Birthday!</i>	<b>Joyeux anniversaire !</b>	<i>jzwahyuh zaneevhrsehr</i>
<i>Happy New Year!</i>	<b>Bonne année !</b>	<i>bon anay</i>
<i>Merry Christmas!</i>	<b>Joyeux Noël !</b>	<i>jzwahyuh noel</i>

## Agreeing and disagreeing

The gestures that accompany these expressions are similar to those in English, though the French may flick their index finger right to left when saying no.

<i>Yes.</i>	<b>Oui.</b>	<i>wee</i>
<i>Of course.</i>	<b>Bien sûr.</b>	<i>bya' sewr</i>
<i>Yes, I'd love to.</i>	<b>Oui, je veux bien.</b>	<i>wee jzuh vuh bya'</i>
<i>OK.</i>	<b>D'accord.</b>	<i>dakor</i>
<i>Maybe.</i>	<b>Peut-être.</b>	<i>puhtetruh</i>
<i>No.</i>	<b>Non.</b>	<i>noh'</i>
<i>Not at all.</i>	<b>Pas du tout.</b>	<i>pah dew too</i>
<i>I agree.</i>	<b>Je suis d'accord.</b>	<i>juh swee dakor</i>
<i>I disagree.</i>	<b>Je ne suis pas d'accord.</b>	<i>juh nuh swee pa dakor</i>
<i>Me too./So do I.</i>	<b>Moi aussi.</b>	<i>mwa ohsee</i>
<i>Neither do I.</i>	<b>Moi non plus.</b>	<i>mwa noh' plew</i>