

Collins

French

with Paul Noble

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HarperCollins Publishers
77-85 Fulham Palace Road
Hammersmith
London
W6 8JB

www.collinslanguage.com

First published 2010
Reprint 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
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ISBN 978-0-00-736395-7

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Edited by Joe Laredo and Naomi Laredo for Small Print

Typeset by Marc Marazzi

Produced in China by Sony DADC

Other languages in the
Collins with Paul Noble series:
Spanish and Italian

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The Paul Noble Method

Over the years, I have taught many, many people. Curiously, they have each had much the same story to tell regarding their previous experiences of language learning. As a result, these days, when I first start a teaching session, I ask my students to raise their hands if they have had any of the following experiences.

Raise your hand, I say:

- **If you studied a language for several years at school but came out unable to really say anything.**
- **If you have ever bought a language course and given up around page thirty, somewhere around chapter two.**
- **If you have ever felt more confused by a teacher's explanation of the language than by the language itself.**
- **If you have ever been amazed by just how closely grammar books resemble furniture assembly instructions.**
- **If you have ever felt that you may in fact be more or less incapable of learning a foreign language.**

Invariably, all the students soon have at least one hand in the air – and they laugh. They laugh because for some reason our language-learning experiences tend to be very similar and, sadly, these similar experiences tend not to be very good ones.

My own initial experiences of language learning were also uncannily similar to those described above. In fact, when I ask my students these questions, my own hand is the first to go up – and it stays up until we have gone through them all.

However, these less-than-positive experiences have had an upside both for myself and for those individuals I have taught because they, along with a number of other factors, have helped inform and shape the method that will be used during this course.

Using this method, you will learn how to communicate in French and how to formulate your own ideas and thoughts using French.

As you learn with it, you will quickly discover that I do not use complicated grammatical explanations *at all*, and I will not ask you to memorise long lists of vocabulary – the way the course is structured will by itself ensure that you remember what you are taught. Instead, through your interaction with the CDs, I will lead you through the French language, enabling you to build up complex sentences by yourself, step by step, so that you are actually speaking independently in French by the end of the course. And this is regardless of how little, or how much, you know when you begin.

You will also discover that the language I teach is designed to be adaptable, so that you will be able to use it just as easily for holidaying in a French-speaking country as for living or working in one; it will be just as easy to use it to order a coffee as to hold a conversation with the waiter who brings it to you. And, again, all of this regardless of how little, or how much, you know when you begin.

At the time of writing, this method has already proved extremely successful with a very great many students, including hundreds of so-called “no-hopers”. Interestingly, not one of these students failed to learn using this method. It is these many success cases and thank-you letters – and even the occasional hug – that have made teaching languages so very worthwhile for me and it is this which has persuaded me to publish my courses here, for the first time.

I anticipate and hope that they will be as effective for you as they have been for so many of my other students.

Au revoir – and good luck!

Paul Noble

Paul Noble
Head of the Paul Noble Language Institute

How to use this booklet

This booklet has been designed to provide you with a quick and easy way to review and reinforce the key vocabulary, structures and contents of your Paul Noble Method French course.

Although the core part of your learning will take place via your use of the accompanying course CDs, we have also included this booklet in order to provide you with a quick reference guide to the language, as well as a way to begin to get to grips with both reading and writing French, should you wish to do so.

It is worth noting that this booklet should be used after you have begun working through the accompanying CDs. It will serve as excellent reinforcement, guidance and review material but is not designed to teach you French by itself. This is what the CDs will do – and very rapidly, too. After you have begun working through the CDs, you will find this booklet to be an extremely useful review and reference resource, but you must start by listening to the CDs.

So, if you haven't done so already, go and unwrap CD 1 and get started. You are about to find out just how good a course this is!

Creating French words

Use these conversion techniques to create several thousand French words out of English.

Words ending in... in English	become... in French	Examples
ion	<i>stay the same</i>	transformation information invitation
age	<i>stay the same</i>	cage bandage courage
ade	<i>stay the same</i>	parade barricade escapade
ude	<i>stay the same</i>	attitude gratitude solitude
ure	<i>stay the same</i>	agriculture sculpture signature
ible/able	<i>stay the same</i>	possible terrible table
ant/ent	<i>stay the same</i>	important intelligent excellent
um	<i>stay the same</i>	album maximum minimum

Words ending in... in English	become... in French	Examples
ary	aire	ordinary = ordinaire salary = salaire solitary = solitaire
ory	oire	glory = gloire history = histoire victory = victoire
ic/ical	ique	political = politique typical = typique magic = magique
id	ide	candid = candide stupid = stupide timid = timide
ism	isme	optimism = optimisme pacifism = pacifisme sarcasm = sarcasme
ty	té	publicity = publicité activity = activité quality = qualité
or	eur	doctor = docteur actor = acteur pastor = pasteur
ist	iste	artist = artiste pianist = pianiste fascist = fasciste
ian	ien (m) / ienne (f)	optician = opticien musician = musicien Parisian = Parisien
ive	if (m) / ive (f)	active = actif / active captive = captif / captive massive = massif / massive

Core course review

The best way to use this part of your booklet is to start by reading through a page, looking at both the English and the French. Then go back to the beginning of that same page and, while covering the French side of the text, translate the English into French – just as you did when you listened to the course CDs.

Once you can get 90% of a page's content correct, move on to the next page and follow the process again. By doing this, you will quickly recall and reinforce what you learnt with the CDs.

The past (using “have”)

I	Je
have	ai
I have	J'ai

NOTE! Notice that, as there would be two vowels touching in **Je ai**, it contracts instead to **J'ai** – this is a common occurrence in French and one that you will quickly get used to.

visited	visité
the Louvre	le Louvre
I have visited the Louvre.	J'ai visité le Louvre.
the park	le parc
I have visited the park.	J'ai visité le parc.
prepared	préparé
I have prepared	J'ai préparé
the coffee	le café
I have prepared the coffee.	J'ai préparé le café.
for you	pour vous
I have prepared the coffee for you.	J'ai préparé le café pour vous.

English words which end in “ion” came into English through French. There are 1250 of them. If you know them in English, then you can use them in French.

reservation	réservation
invitation	invitation
decoration	décoration

If you take an “ion” word, such as **préparation**, cut off the “**ation**” on the end and add a café “**é**” in its place, you will have a word like **préparé**, which means *prepared*. This means you can now say: I have prepared, I have visited, I have decorated etc. Try the example below:

preparation	préparation
-------------	--------------------

The Past (using “have”)

Now, cut off the “**ation**”, which leaves you with “**prépar**”, and then add a café “**é**”. You will end up with **préparé**, which means *prepared*.

I have prepared	J'ai préparé
I have visited	J'ai visité
decoration	décoration
I have decorated	J'ai décoré
the house	la maison

NOTE! One of the best things about French, and one way in which it is easier than English, is that in order to talk about the past, you don't need to use as many different tenses as you would in English.

For instance, take the following sentences in English: *I have decorated the house, I decorated the house, I did decorate the house*. In French, these are all expressed in the same way, simply as: *I have decorated the house*, which in French is:

J'ai décoré la maison. The above three sentences can therefore be served by the same single tense in French.

Have a go at this using the following three prompts:

I've decorated the house.	J'ai décoré la maison.
I decorated the house.	J'ai décoré la maison.
I did decorate the house.	J'ai décoré la maison.

You see, they are all the same! This is excellent news, as it means you don't need to worry about switching between tenses when talking about events in the past in French.

reservation	réserveation
reserved	réservé
I have reserved	J'ai réservé
I have reserved a table.	J'ai réservé une table.
You have	Vous avez

You have reserved a table.

We have

We have reserved a table.

He has

He has reserved a table.

She has

She has reserved a table.

You have (*inf.*)

You have reserved a table. (*inf.*)

They have

They have reserved a table.

They have (*female group*)

They have reserved a table.

Vous avez réservé une table.

Nous avons

Nous avons réservé une table.

Il a

Il a réservé une table.

Elle a

Elle a réservé une table.

Tu as

Tu as réservé une table.

Ils ont

Ils ont réservé une table.

Elles ont

Elles ont réservé une table.

NOTE! As you may have noticed above, there are two words for *they* in French.

Normally, you will use **ils** for *they*. However, if you are talking about an entirely, 100%,

female group – a group of five women, for example – you should use **elles**. If the group

is male, or partly male, however, you will use **ils** – which is more or less the default form.

Even if a group contained 99 women and just 1 man, you would still use **ils**.

This is not something to worry or think too much about, though, and if in doubt use **ils!**

Asking questions in the past

There are several ways to ask questions in French. Let’s start by simply inverting the word order, as we do in English.

Inverting the word order

You have

Have you?

Have you visited?

Did you visit?

Vous avez

Avez-vous?

Avez-vous visité?

Avez-vous visité?

Notice that the above two phrases are both translated in the same way in French.

Did you visit the Louvre?

Yes, I visited the Louvre.

Have you visited the park?

Have you prepared the coffee?

Have you prepared roast beef for dinner?

Avez-vous visité le Louvre?

Oui, j’ai visité le Louvre.

Avez-vous visité le parc?

Avez-vous préparé le café?

**Avez-vous préparé le rosbif
pour le dîner?**

NOTE! Notice how the French use the words for **the** in French (**le/la/les**) more than we use *the* in English. You can see this in the above example. Literally: *Have you prepared **the** roast beef for **the** dinner?* The best way to get used to this is simply to remember the French word with the “the” already attached to it and then use it in that way. So think of *dinner* not as **dîner** but as **le dîner**, and think of *roast beef* not as **rosbif** but as **le rosbif**.

Have you decorated the house?

Did you decorate the house?

Have you reserved a table for dinner?

We have

Have we?

Avez-vous décoré la maison?

Avez-vous décoré la maison?

**Avez-vous réservé une table
pour le dîner?**

Nous avons

Avons-nous?

Have we reserved a table for dinner?

**Avons-nous réservé une table
pour le dîner?**

Have we visited the Louvre?

Avons-nous visité le Louvre?

Using “est-ce que...?”

Another way to ask a question in French is to put **est-ce que...?** (literally: *is it that...?*) in front of a statement.

We have reserved a table.

Nous avons réservé une table.

Have we reserved a table?

**Est-ce que nous avons réservé
une table?**

You have decorated the house.

Vous avez décoré la maison.

Have you decorated the house?

**Est-ce que vous avez décoré
la maison?**

Using a rising intonation

Another way to ask a question is to use a rising intonation, as we do in English. However, this is used far more frequently in French than it is in English. To ask a question this way, simply raise the pitch of your voice at the end of the sentence.

Try the examples below. First say the sentence as a statement, and then try again, this time raising your pitch at the end to change it into a question.

He has reserved a table.

Il a réservé une table.

Has he reserved a table?

Il a réservé une table?

They have prepared roast beef for dinner.

**Ils ont préparé le rosbif pour
le dîner.**

Have they prepared roast beef for dinner?

**Ils ont préparé le rosbif pour
le dîner?**

NOTE! Although a rising intonation is used very frequently in speech in order to ask a question in French, it is not normally used in writing. Why? Well, simply because the reader cannot hear you when you raise your pitch at the end of the sentence, can they? So, when writing, use **est-ce que...?** or invert the word order.

Using “it” in the past

I have prepared.

I have prepared it.

J’ai préparé.

Je l’ai préparé.

NOTE! Notice how, unlike in English, the “it” goes before “have” – not after it. For this, keep in mind the simple rule you learnt during the course: “have” always steals the pronouns and places them directly in front of itself. (Pronouns are little words like *it, me, you, us, him, her, them.*)

You have prepared.

You prepared it.

We have prepared it.

to buy

bought

We have bought it.

He has bought it.

to understand

understood

He has understood it.

She has understood it.

You have understood it. (*inf.*) → 1

to eat

eaten

They have eaten it.

They have eaten it. (*female group*)

Vous avez préparé.

Vous l’avez préparé.

Nous l’avons préparé.

acheter

acheté

Nous l’avons acheté.

Il l’a acheté.

comprendre

compris

Il l’a compris.

Elle l’a compris.

Tu l’as compris.

manger

mangé

Ils l’ont mangé.

Elles l’ont mangé.

→ JARGON BUSTER 1

Inf. = informal (referring here to the **tu** form of address used when talking to family, close friends and children).

Using “some/any” in the past

I have eaten it.
some / some of it / any / any of it
I have eaten some of it.
to find
found
They have found it.
They have found some of it.
He has found some of it.
She has found some of it.
You have found some of it. (*inf.*)
You have found some of it.
Have you found some of it?

Je l'ai mangé.
en
J'en ai mangé.
trouver
trouvé
Ils l'ont trouvé.
Ils en ont trouvé.
Il en a trouvé.
Elle en a trouvé.
Tu en as trouvé.
Vous en avez trouvé.
Est-ce que vous en
avez trouvé?

Using negatives in the past

I have
I have prepared.
I have prepared it.
I haven't prepared it.
I didn't prepare it.
You haven't prepared it.
You didn't prepare it.
You didn't prepare any (of it).
You didn't find it.
We didn't find it.
We didn't find any (of it).
to buy
bought
We didn't buy it.
to sell
sold
We didn't sell it.
to see

J'ai
J'ai préparé.
Je l'ai préparé.
Je ne l'ai pas préparé.
Je ne l'ai pas préparé.
Vous ne l'avez pas préparé.
Vous ne l'avez pas préparé.
Vous n'en avez pas préparé.
Vous ne l'avez pas trouvé.
Nous ne l'avons pas trouvé.
Nous n'en avons pas trouvé.
acheter
acheté
Nous ne l'avons pas acheté.
vendre
vendu
Nous ne l'avons pas vendu.
voir

The Past (using “have”)

seen

We didn't see it.

We didn't understand it.

He didn't understand it.

She didn't understand it.

me

She didn't understand me.

They didn't understand me.

to wait

waited

They didn't wait for you.

They didn't wait for me.

He didn't wait for me.

vu

Nous ne l'avons pas vu.

Nous ne l'avons pas compris.

Il ne l'a pas compris.

Elle ne l'a pas compris.

me

Elle ne m'a pas compris.

Ils ne m'ont pas compris.

attendre

attendu

Ils ne vous ont pas attendu.

Ils ne m'ont pas attendu.

Il ne m'a pas attendu.

The past (using “to be”)

Sometimes in French, you cannot use “have” for the past tense. Instead, you need to use a form of “to be”. This occurs when you use a verb →2 in the past that involves going or coming **in any sense**.

So, when you are talking about going, coming, arriving, departing, going out, going up, coming down, being born (coming into the world) or dying (going out of the world), you will use “to be” to form the past tense – **not** “to have”.

Therefore, to say in French that *he has gone / he went* you will literally say “he is gone”. To say *she has arrived / she arrived* you will say “she is arrived”. To say *he has left / he left* you will say “he is left”. This is, however, **only** for verbs that involve going or coming in some sense. →3 Let’s look at an example:

I am
to arrive
arrived

**Je suis
arriver
arrivé / arrivée / arrivés /
arrivées**

I have arrived.
We are
We have arrived.

**Je suis arrivé / arrivée.
Nous sommes
Nous sommes arrivés /
arrivées.**

Before moving on, it is probably worth explaining why “arrived” is spelt in four different ways above – and sometimes in two different ways in a single sentence!

The first point to make is that, when speaking, this spelling difference doesn’t matter because all four spellings are pronounced in exactly the same way: **arrivé**. However, if you decide that you wish to learn to write French, you will need to be aware that the spelling for “arrived” changes according to what I like to call “**the fiancé rule**”.

→ JARGON BUSTER 2

What is a verb? An easy way to identify a verb is to see if you can put “I”, “he” or “we” directly in front of it. If you can, it is a verb. For example: I go, he eats, we fly, I buy, he thinks, we leave. All the underlined words are verbs; you know this because you can put “I”, “he” or “we” **directly in front of them**.

→ JARGON BUSTER 3

The exception to the ‘coming and going’ rule is **rester**, meaning *to stay*. After going or coming somewhere, of course, you would need somewhere to stay, which may help you to remember this.

The fiancé rule

You may well be thinking: what on earth is this? Well, we all know what a fiancé is: a person someone is engaged to. In English, a male person you are engaged to is spelt *fiancé*. However, a female person you are engaged to is spelt *fiancée* with an extra “e” on the end.

This fiancé/fiancée rule happens to apply to all verbs in French when they are used with “to be” to form the past tense. Let’s look at an example:

I have arrived. (*said by a man*)

Je suis arrivé.

I have arrived. (*said by a woman*)

Je suis arrivée.

You can see how, although it is **arrivé** for a man who has arrived, it is **arrivée** for a woman, with an extra “e” on the end. This is just the same as for *fiancé/fiancée* – fiancé for a man but fiancée, with an extra “e”, for a woman.

As stated earlier, however, it is only for this group of “going and coming” verbs (which use “to be” to form the past tense) that there is this difference. Normal verbs, which use “have” to form the past tense, are the same no matter who they refer to.

Take a look:

I have eaten. (*said by a man*)

J’ai mangé.

I have eaten. (*said by a woman*)

J’ai mangé.

You see? They are the same – and they never change!

The fiancé rule doesn’t simply stop here, however. In English, if you are engaged to one male person, he is your *fiancé*. If you’re engaged to one female person, she is your *fiancée*. What would happen, however, if you were very naughty and were simultaneously engaged to two people? Well, it works like anything else in English: you add an “s”.

I have one book.

but I have two books.

I have one male fiancé.

but I have two male fiancés.

I have one female fiancée.

but I have two female fiancées.

Now let’s see this in action in French:

I have arrived. (*said by a man*)

Je suis arrivé.

We have arrived. (*said by two men*)

Nous sommes arrivés.

I have arrived. (*said by a woman*)

Je suis arrivée.

We have arrived. (*said by two women*)

Nous sommes arrivées.

So, if you are familiar with the English word “fiancé”, you now know the fiancé rule and so can write very sophisticated, advanced and, crucially, **correct** French.

The fiancé rule shows you how to write the correct endings, depending on **who** it is that has arrived, gone, left etc. Let’s look at this through a series of examples:

I have arrived. (*said by a man*)

Je suis arrivé.

We have arrived. (*said by two men*)

Nous sommes arrivés.

The Past (using “to be”)

I have arrived. (*said by a woman*)
We have arrived. (*said by two women*)
You are
You have arrived. (*said to one man*)
You have arrived. (*said to two men*)
You have arrived. (*said to one woman*)
You have arrived. (*said to two women*)

Je suis arrivée.
Nous sommes arrivées.
Vous êtes
Vous êtes arrivé.
Vous êtes arrivés.
Vous êtes arrivée.
Vous êtes arrivées.

NOTE! Again, be aware that the spelling of “arrived” alters according to **who** it is that has arrived and always according to **the fiancé rule**.

Now take a look at these other verbs below and simply apply the rule in exactly the same way.

to go
gone
I have gone. (*said by a man*)
I have gone. (*said by a woman*)
We have gone. (*said by two men*)
We have gone. (*said by two women*)
You are
You have gone. (*said to one man*)
You have gone. (*said to one woman*)
You have gone. (*said to two men*)
You have gone. (*said to two women*)
to come
came
He came yesterday.
She came this morning.
to leave
left
He left yesterday evening.
She left this evening.

aller
allé / allée / allés / allées
Je suis allé.
Je suis allée.
Nous sommes allés.
Nous sommes allées.
Vous êtes
Vous êtes allé.
Vous êtes allée.
Vous êtes allés.
Vous êtes allées.
venir
venu / venue / venus / venues
Il est venu hier.
Elle est venue ce matin.
partir
parti / partie / partis / parties
Il est parti hier soir.
Elle est partie ce soir.

The present

Using “it is”

Words ending in “-ic” and “-ical” in English end in “-ique” in French.

typical

typique

exotic

exotique

political

politique

It is

C'est

It is typical!

C'est typique!

It is exotic!

C'est exotique!

It is political!

C'est politique!

It is not

Ce n'est pas

It is not political!

Ce n'est pas politique!

It is not exotic!

Ce n'est pas exotique!

Talking about what you would like to, want to, can and must do

“I would like to...”

I would like

Je voudrais

I would like to prepare the dinner.

Je voudrais préparer le dîner.

with you

avec vous

I would like to prepare the dinner with you.

Je voudrais préparer le dîner

avec vous.

I would like to prepare the dinner because

Je voudrais préparer le dîner

parce que

I'm hungry (I have hunger).

J'ai faim.

NOTE! You will probably remember, from your time with the CDs, that the “m” _____
at the end of **faim** is not clearly pronounced but rather is only touched on nasally. _____
This is because, in general, consonants on the very end of French words are not _____
pronounced unless they are in **FoR LuCK**. _____

I would like to prepare the coffee because

**Je voudrais préparer le café
parce que**

I am thirsty (I have thirst).

J'ai soif.

NOTE! By contrast, the “**f**” on the end of **soif** *is* pronounced because it **is** in

FoR LuCK.

I would like to prepare the coffee for you.

**Je voudrais préparer le café
pour vous.**

I would like to prepare the roast beef for
(the) dinner.

**Je voudrais préparer le rosbif
pour le dîner.**

I would like to reserve a table.

Je voudrais réserver une table.

I would like to reserve a table for dinner.

**Je voudrais réserver une table
pour le dîner.**

to know

savoir

I would like to know

Je voudrais savoir

if

si

I would like to know if it is possible.

**Je voudrais savoir si c'est
possible.**

you want

vous voulez

you want it

vous le voulez

I would like to know if you want it.

**Je voudrais savoir si vous
le voulez.**

I would like to know if you want some (of it).

**Je voudrais savoir si vous
en voulez.**

why

pourquoi

I would like to know why you want some
(of it).

**Je voudrais savoir pourquoi
vous en voulez.**

I would like to know why it is possible.

**Je voudrais savoir pourquoi
c'est possible.**

I would like to know why it is not possible.

**Je voudrais savoir pourquoi
ce n'est pas possible.**

“want”

there

là

I want to go there.

Je veux aller là.

It is possible (and in fact usual) in French to replace **là** with **y**, which also means *there*. Let's look at both:

to go there (*using là*)

to go there (*using y*)

I want to go there.

I want to go there with you.

I don't want to go there.

You don't want to go there. (*inf.*)

He wants to go there.

She wants to go there.

to eat

She wants to eat.

We want to eat.

You want to eat.

They want to eat.

They want to eat. (*female group*)

aller là

y aller

Je veux y aller.

Je veux y aller avec vous.

Je ne veux pas y aller.

Tu ne veux pas y aller.

Il veut y aller.

Elle veut y aller.

manger

Elle veut manger.

Nous voulons manger.

Vous voulez manger.

Ils veulent manger.

Elles veulent manger.

NOTE! Don't forget that **veulent** is pronounced "vurl". The letters "**ent**" are silent here, as they are whenever "**ent**" comes at the end of a verb that follows "they".

They don't want to eat.

They don't want to eat it.

I want to know why they don't want to eat it.

I want to know why they don't want to eat any of it.

Ils ne veulent pas manger.

Ils ne veulent pas le manger.

Je veux savoir pourquoi ils ne veulent pas le manger.

Je veux savoir pourquoi ils ne veulent pas en manger.

"can"

I can go there with you.

I can go there this evening.

I cannot go there this evening.

You cannot go there this evening. (*inf.*)

He can go there this evening.

Je peux y aller avec vous.

Je peux y aller ce soir.

Je ne peux pas y aller ce soir.

Tu ne peux pas y aller ce soir.

Il peut y aller ce soir.

The Present

He cannot go there this evening.
We can go there this evening.
We cannot go there this evening.

We cannot come this evening.

to see

We cannot see it.
They cannot see it.
They cannot see it. (*female group*)
They cannot see any of it.

Il ne peut pas y aller ce soir.
Nous pouvons y aller ce soir.
Nous ne pouvons pas y aller ce soir.

Nous ne pouvons pas venir ce soir.

voir

Nous ne pouvons pas le voir.
Ils ne peuvent pas le voir.
Elles ne peuvent pas le voir.
Ils ne peuvent pas en voir.

NOTE! Don't forget that **peuvent** is pronounced "perv". The letters "**ent**" are silent here, as they are whenever "**ent**" comes at the end of a verb that follows "they".

to leave
They cannot leave.
tomorrow
They cannot leave tomorrow.

to go out
They cannot go out tomorrow.

I would like to know why they cannot go out tomorrow.
to understand
They cannot understand it.

They cannot understand me.

They cannot understand you.

to sell
They cannot sell it.
They cannot sell any of it.

partir
Ils ne peuvent pas partir.
demain
Ils ne peuvent pas partir demain.

sortir
Ils ne peuvent pas sortir demain.

Je voudrais savoir pourquoi ils ne peuvent pas sortir demain.
comprendre
Ils ne peuvent pas le comprendre.

Ils ne peuvent pas me comprendre.

Ils ne peuvent pas vous comprendre.

vendre
Ils ne peuvent pas le vendre.
Ils ne peuvent pas en vendre.

to wait
to wait for you
They cannot wait for you.

attendre
vous attendre
Ils ne peuvent pas vous attendre.

to wait for me
He can wait for me.

m'attendre
Il peut m'attendre.

NOTE! Make sure, when pronouncing these verbs that end in “**dre**”, to pronounce the “**dre**” very clearly. It is pronounced like the “**dra**” at the end of the English name “Sandra”.

“**must**”

I must go there with you.
to prepare the dinner
I must prepare the dinner.
to prepare it
I must prepare it.
You must prepare it. (*inf.*)
She must prepare it.
She must find it.
We must find it.
We must find some (of it).
You must buy some (of it).
They must buy some (of it).
They must buy some (of it). (*female group*)

Je dois y aller avec vous.
préparer le dîner
Je dois préparer le dîner.
le préparer
Je dois le préparer.
Tu dois le préparer.
Elle doit le préparer.
Elle doit le trouver.
Nous devons le trouver.
Nous devons en trouver.
Vous devez en acheter.
Ils doivent en acheter.
Elles doivent en acheter.

NOTE! Don't forget that **doivent** is pronounced “dwoirve”. The letters “**ent**” are silent here, as they are whenever “**ent**” comes at the end of a verb that follows “they”.

The present tense without “want”, “can”, “must” etc.

We will now take a look at the more general present tense in French – the present tense without “want”, “can”, “must” etc. By the end of this quick run-through, you will be able to use the vast majority of verbs in the French language, in the present tense, with almost no difficulty whatsoever. To do this, you need only to follow two very simple steps.

The first step: chop off the “r”! – Verbs ending in “er”

To use the present tense with verbs that end in “er” in French, simply chop off the “r” and pronounce the consonant at the end of the word. Let’s take “to think” as an example.

to think

penser

In order to say *I think, he thinks, she thinks* etc., simply chop off the “r” from the end of **penser** and you are left with **pense** (pronounced rather like “ponse” in the English word *response*). Let’s try a few examples:

I think / I am thinking

Je pense

He thinks / He is thinking

Il pense

She thinks / She is thinking

Elle pense

You see? Having simply **chopped off the “r”** from **penser**, we have discovered the present tense for *I, he and she*.

Chopping off the “r” also works for *you think (inf)* and for *they think* in spoken French, as they both sound **exactly** the same as **pense** above. For those interested in learning to write the language, however, notice that there’s a spelling change (although the pronunciation remains exactly the same as it is for the examples above). Let’s take a look:

You think / You are thinking (*inf.*)
 They think / They are thinking
 They think / They are thinking
 (*female group*)

Tu penses
Ils pensent
Elles pensent

NOTE! As you will recall, the letters “**ent**” are silent whenever “**ent**” comes at the end of a verb that follows “they”, and so **pensent** is still pronounced “pense” – exactly the same pronunciation as for the other spellings above.

Therefore, to find the present tense for *I, he, she, you (inf.)* and *they* – for verbs ending in “**er**” – simply chop off the “**r**” and pronounce the consonant at the end of the word.

The second step: swap the “r”! – Verbs ending in “er”

Chopping off the “**r**” above has given us the present tense for everything except *you (formal)* and *we*, which behave slightly differently from the others but which are also extremely straightforward. To work out how to say *you think / you are thinking*, you simply copy the sound of “to think”.

to think
 You think / You are thinking

penser
Vous pensez

Although spelt differently, **penser** and **pensez** are pronounced in exactly the same way, so if you know how to say *to think, to eat, to speak* etc., that means you also know how to say *you think, you eat, you speak* etc. They sound **exactly** the same, the only difference being in the spelling, because you **swap the “r”** at the end for a “**z**”.

For *we think / we are thinking* you simply have an “**ons**” instead of an “**ez**” at the end.

You think / You are thinking

Vous pensez

We think / We are thinking

Nous pensons

NOTE! These patterns work in exactly the same way for all regular verbs ending in “**er**” in French – that’s almost 90% of all verbs in the French language!

Let’s take a look now at how this applies to the minority of verbs in French that don’t end in “**er**”.

The first step: chop off the “r”! – Verbs not ending in “er”

For regular French verbs that don’t end in “**er**”, again you simply **chop off the “r”** – along with any letters that follow it – but then you **do not** pronounce the last consonant at the end of the word. Let’s take “to wait” as an example.

to wait

attendre

In order to say *he waits, she waits* etc., again simply **chop off the “r”** from the end of **attendre** – along with any letters that follow it – and you will be left with **attend**, pronounced “atton”. Now, let’s use it!

He waits / He is waiting

Il attend

She waits / She is waiting

Elle attend

As you can see, having simply **chopped off the “r”** – along with any letters that follow it – from **attendre**, we have once again discovered the present tense.

Chopping off the “**r**” also works for *I wait* and for *you wait (inf.)* in spoken French, as they both sound **exactly** the same as **attend** above. For those interested in learning to write the language, however, notice that there is a minor spelling change (although the pronunciation remains exactly the same as it is above).

I wait / I am waiting

J’attends

You wait / You are waiting (*inf.*)

Tu attends

This same step described above can be taken with countless other “non-er” verbs, for example “to finish”.

to finish

finir

Again, you simply **cut off the “r”** and then make sure not to pronounce the consonant at the end of the word, if there is one. In the case of **finir** there will again be some spelling variations, as there are above, but each variation will be pronounced in exactly the same way; in this case they are all pronounced “fɛni”.

I finish / I am finishing

Je finis

You finish / You are finishing (*inf.*)

Tu finis

He finishes / He is finishing

Il finit

She finishes / She is finishing

Elle finit

Again, therefore, for regular verbs that do not end in “er” (verbs ending in “re” or “ir”, that is), simply **chop off the “r”** – along with any letters that follow it – but then **do not** pronounce the last consonant at the end of the word.

The second step: swap the “r”! – Verbs not ending in “er”

Returning to our first “non-er” verb example, **attendre**, you can see that chopping off the “r” above hasn’t given us the present tense for *you (formal)* or for *we*, which behave slightly differently from the others. Fortunately, however, they are extremely straightforward because they follow exactly the same pattern as the “er” verbs earlier; simply swap the “r” – along with any letters that follow it – and replace them with either an “ez” for *you*, or an “ons” for *we*. Let’s compare the “er” and the “non-er” verbs:

You think / You are thinking

Vous pensez

You wait / You are waiting

Vous attendez

We think / We are thinking

Nous pensons

We wait / We are waiting

Nous attendons

NOTE! As you can see, the *you* form simply ends with “ez” and the *we* form with “ons”. This is the same in both the “er” and “non-er” groups and so should be easy to remember.

The future

Using “going to” / “aller” to express the future

“Going to” can be used in essentially the same way as it is in English in order to express what you are “going to” do in the future. It is very easy to get the hang of, as you will see!

to go

You are going

We are going

I am going

He is going

She is going

You are going (*inf.*)

They are going

They are going (*female group*)

to eat

I'm going to eat.

I'm going to eat it.

I am going to go there.

later

I'm going to go there later.

He is going to prepare

He is going to prepare the dinner.

He is going to go out this evening.

She is going to leave this evening.

to stay

You are going to stay here this evening.

You are going to stay here this evening. (*inf.*)

We are going to take it.

They are going to take it.

They are going to take it. (*female group*)

aller

Vous allez

Nous allons

Je vais

Il va

Elle va

Tu vas

Ils vont

Elles vont

manger

Je vais manger.

Je vais le manger.

Je vais y aller.

plus tard

Je vais y aller plus tard.

Il va préparer

Il va préparer le dîner.

Il va sortir ce soir.

Elle va partir ce soir.

rester

Vous allez rester ici ce soir.

Tu vas rester ici ce soir.

Nous allons le prendre.

Ils vont le prendre.

Elles vont le prendre.

Using “going to” / “aller” in questions

Are you going to prepare dinner this evening?

Est-ce que vous allez préparer le dîner ce soir? /

Allez-vous préparer le dîner ce soir? /

Vous allez préparer le dîner ce soir?

Are you going to prepare dinner this evening? (*inf.*)

Est-ce que tu vas préparer le dîner ce soir? /

Vas-tu préparer le dîner ce soir? /

Tu vas préparer le dîner ce soir?

Using “will” to express the future

There are two main ways to express the future in French. The first is by using “going to”, which we have just looked at above; the second is by using “will”. “Going to” and “will” are relatively interchangeable in spoken French, so in general you will be able to use whichever you prefer when speaking the language. In formal written French, however, there is a preference for “will”.

Let’s learn about this tense now.

NOTE! The key to using “will” correctly is simply to hook the appropriate version of “have/has” onto the “r” at the end of a verb.

I have

J’ai

Therefore “have”, for “I” / **je**, is “**ai**”.

Hook this “**ai**” onto the “**r**” at the end of a verb, such as “to eat”, which is **manger**, and you will get **mangerai**, which means *will eat*.

I will eat.

Je mangerai.

The Future

“To leave” is **partir**.

I will leave

Je partirai.

“To speak” is **parler**.

I will speak

Je parlerai

We can also make “he will” simply by looking at “he has”:

He has

Il a

Again, we simply hook the **a** onto the “**r**” at the end of the verb.

He will leave

Il partira

He will eat

Il mangera

He will speak

Il parlera

Let’s look now at *you have* and *we have*.

You have

Vous avez

We have

Nous avons

For *you* and *we*, you will use only the ends of the words for “have”. For *you* take the “**ez**” from **avez**, and for *we* take the “**ons**” from **avons**, and then hook them onto the “**r**” at the end of the verb.

You will leave.

Vous partirez.

You will eat.

Vous mangerez.

You will speak.

Vous parlerez.

We will leave.

Nous partirons.

We will eat.

Nous mangerons.

We will speak.

Nous parlerons.

They have

Ils ont

They will leave.

Ils partiront.

They will eat.

Ils mangeront.

They will speak.

They will speak with you tomorrow.

You have (*inf.*)

You will leave. (*inf.*)

You will eat. (*inf.*)

You will speak. (*inf.*)

Ils parleront.

**Ils parleront avec vous
demain.**

Tu as

Tu partiras.

Tu mangeras.

Tu parleras.

As you can see, this is not so difficult, as long as you know the French for “have/has”. In terms of pronunciation, the key sound at the end of these words is the “have/has” hooked onto the “**r**”. It is important to make this “**r**” sound clear.

For *I will* and *you will* the key sound at the end of the words is “Ray” – they are spelt differently (“**rai**” and “**rez**” respectively) but are pronounced in the same way.

For *we will* and *they will* the key sound at the end of the words is “Ron” – they are spelt differently (“**rons**” and “**ront**” respectively) but are pronounced in the same way.

For *he will*, *she will* and *they will* (*inf.*) the key sound at the end of the words is “Ra”.

So, in terms of the sounds you will hear at the end of the words, remember that **it will always be either Ray, Ron or (the Sun God) Ra leading you into the future** – without exception!

Let’s look at a few examples:

I will eat with you later.

We will eat with you tomorrow morning.

He will leave this evening.

**Je mangerai avec vous
plus tard.**

**Nous mangerons avec vous
demain matin.**

Il partira ce soir.

Let's try it with another verb, this time one ending in “**dre**”. Again, simply hook the correct endings onto the “**r**”.

I will wait.

I will wait for you.

He will wait for you.

He will wait for me.

He won't wait for me.

She won't wait for me this evening.

J'attendrai.

Je vous attendrai.

Il vous attendra.

Il m'attendra.

Il ne m'attendra pas.

Elle ne m'attendra pas ce soir.

Travelling in France

You now have a chance to use what you have learnt to deal with those everyday situations you are likely to come across when travelling in a French-speaking country.

You will be familiar with the scenarios below from their use on the CDs. The best way to use them here is in the same way as in the core course review above: first read through a scenario, looking at both the English and the French, and then go back to the beginning of that same scenario and, while covering the French side of the text, translate the English into French – just as you did when you listened to the CDs.

At the hotel

<i>Traveller</i>	I would like a room for two people for two nights.	Je voudrais une chambre pour deux personnes pour deux nuits.
<i>Receptionist</i>	I have a room for two people with (a) shower.	J'ai une chambre pour deux personnes avec douche.
<i>Traveller</i>	It's how much?	C'est combien?
<i>Receptionist</i>	For two nights, with breakfast... 100 euros.	Pour deux nuits, avec petit déjeuner... cent euros.
<i>Traveller</i>	Can I see it (her)?	Je peux la voir?
<i>Receptionist</i>	Yes.	Oui.

You are taken up to see the room; it's not bad.

<i>Traveller</i>	Ah yes, it's perfect!	Ah oui, c'est parfait!
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You go back downstairs to reception.

<i>Receptionist</i>	Your name, please?	Votre nom, s'il vous plaît?
<i>Traveller</i>	Say and then spell your name. (See page 60 for spelling guidance.)	
<i>Receptionist</i>	How are you paying?	Comment payez-vous?
<i>Traveller</i>	Can I pay by (with a) credit card?	Je peux payer avec une carte de crédit?
<i>Receptionist</i>	Yes.	Oui.

The receptionist then takes your card, and you enter your PIN.

<i>Traveller</i>	Thank you.	Merci.
<i>Receptionist</i>	Thank you.	Merci.

Eating out

On the telephone

Traveller	I would like to reserve a table for two people.	Je voudrais réserver une table pour deux personnes.
Restaurant	For this evening?	Pour ce soir?
Traveller	Yes, for seven o'clock.	Oui, pour sept heures.
Restaurant	Your name, please.	Votre nom, s'il vous plaît.
Traveller	Say and then spell your name. (See page 60 for spelling guidance.)	
Restaurant	Thank you, bye.	Merci, au revoir.

Later, at the hotel reception

Traveller	Where is it that I can get a taxi?	Où est-ce que je peux prendre un taxi?
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The concierge flags one down for you and you get in.

Traveller	The Louvre, please.	Le Louvre, s'il vous plaît.
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The taxi arrives outside the Louvre, just opposite the restaurant.

Traveller	Keep the change.	Gardez la monnaie.
Taxi driver	Thanks.	Merci.

You cross the road and enter the restaurant.

Traveller	We have reserved (a table).	Nous avons réservé.
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You are seated, given a menu and decide to order something inexpensive.

Traveller	A bottle of white wine and two dishes of the day, please.	Une bouteille de vin blanc et deux plats du jour, s'il vous plaît.
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You finish your meal but have clearly drunk too much wine.

<i>Traveller</i>	Where are the toilets?	Où sont les toilettes?
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The waiter gestures in their direction and, later, after you come back:

<i>Waiter</i>	Would you like (Desire you to take) a coffee?	Désirez-vous prendre un café?
<i>Traveller</i>	Yes, two coffees and the bill, please.	Oui, deux cafés et l'addition, s'il vous plaît.

At the tourist office / Getting directions

In the street

<i>Traveller</i>	Excuse me, where is the tourist office?	Pardon, où est l'office du tourisme?
<i>Parisian</i>	The tourist office is opposite the cathedral, over there. It's signposted (indicated).	L'office du tourisme est en face de la cathédrale, là-bas. C'est indiqué.

In the tourist office

<i>Traveller</i>	I would like to visit Chartres. Do you have a guide?	Je voudrais visiter Chartres. Vous avez un guide?
<i>Tourist officer</i>	Yes, we have a guide of the region.	Oui, nous avons un guide de la région.
<i>Traveller</i>	How much is it?	C'est combien.
<i>Tourist officer</i>	Five euros.	Cinq euros.

You pay and take the guide.

<i>Traveller</i>	Thank you.	Merci.
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Back outside

<i>Traveller</i>	Excuse me, in order to get to the train station?	Pardon, pour aller à la gare?
<i>Parisian</i>	Continue straight on, after the cathedral turn right – no, no, sorry, left.	Continuez tout droit, après la cathédrale tournez à droite – non, non, pardon, à gauche.
<i>Traveller</i>	Thank you.	Merci.

Taking a train

At the train station

<i>Traveller</i>	Where can I buy a ticket?	Où est-ce que je peux acheter un billet?
<i>Station employee</i>	Over there.	Là-bas.
<i>Traveller</i>	Thank you.	Merci.

In the ticket office

<i>Traveller</i>	Two tickets for Chartres, please.	Deux billets pour Chartres, s'il vous plaît.
<i>Ticket clerk</i>	Single or return?	Aller simple ou aller-retour?
<i>Traveller</i>	Return, please.	Aller-retour, s'il vous plaît.
	Do I have to change (trains)?	Dois-je changer?
<i>Ticket clerk</i>	No, it's not necessary.	Non, ce n'est pas nécessaire.
	Eighteen euros, please.	Dix-huit euros, s'il vous plaît.

You pay and she hands you your tickets.

<i>Ticket clerk</i>	Your tickets.	Vos billets.
<i>Traveller</i>	Thank you.	Merci.

On the platform

<i>Traveller</i>	This is the train for Chartres?	C'est le train pour Chartres?
<i>Station guard</i>	No, the train for Chartres is over there.	Non, le train pour Chartres est là-bas.

Some time later, on a train headed for Chartres

<i>Conductor</i>	Prepare your tickets, please.	Préparez vos billets, s'il vous plaît.
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To another passenger, who has brought a bicycle on board:

<i>Conductor</i>	You must pay a supplement.	Vous devez payer un supplément.
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Finally, he reaches the area where you are sitting.

<i>Conductor</i>	Tickets, please.	Billets, s'il vous plaît.
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A while later, as the train slows down, you ask another passenger:

<i>Traveller</i>	I'm going to Chartres. Do I have to get off (descend) here?	Je vais à Chartres. Dois-je descendre ici?
<i>Passenger</i>	Yes.	Oui.

You get off the train.

A brief encounter

Outside, looking for the market

<i>Traveller</i>	Excuse me, is there a market here?	Pardon, est-ce qu'il y a un marché ici?
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The gentleman you ask replies but you do not understand.

<i>Traveller</i>	I don't understand. Can you repeat that, please?	Je ne comprends pas. Pouvez-vous répéter, s'il vous plaît?
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Again, you do not understand because he speaks so quickly.

<i>Traveller</i>	Can you speak more slowly, please?	Pouvez-vous parler plus lentement, s'il vous plaît?
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He tries again, this time more slowly.

<i>Man in the street</i>	Go straight down there, turn left after the cathedral.	Continuez tout droit, après la cathédrale tournez à gauche.
<i>Traveller</i>	Ah, I understand. Thank you.	Ah, je comprends. Merci.

You are about to leave but he continues talking to you.

<i>Man in the street</i>	Where are you from?	Vous êtes d'où?
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You say where you are from.

<i>Traveller</i>	I'm from And you?	Je suis de Et vous?
<i>Man in the street</i>	I'm from Toulouse. I'm Jacques.	Je suis de Toulouse. Je suis Jacques.

You tell him your name.

<i>Traveller</i>	I'm	Je suis
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You note how smartly dressed he is and ask him what it is he does.

<i>Traveller</i>	What do you do? / What is your profession?	Quelle est votre profession?
<i>Man in the street</i>	I'm (a) civil servant. And you?	Je suis fonctionnaire. Et vous?

You tell him your profession.

<i>Traveller</i>	I'm a	Je suis
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He looks at his watch.

<i>Man in the street</i>	I'm sorry but I must go/leave. Goodbye.	Je regrette mais je dois partir. Au revoir.
<i>Traveller</i>	Bye.	Au revoir.

Shopping at the market

At the first stall

<i>Traveller</i>	Can you help me?	Pouvez-vous m'aider?
<i>First stallholder</i>	What would you like?	Qu'est-ce que vous désirez?
<i>Traveller</i>	Do you have any cheese?	Est-ce que vous avez du fromage?
<i>First stallholder</i>	Yes.	Oui.
<i>Traveller</i>	I would like 200 grams of brie.	Je voudrais deux cent grammes de brie.
	Do you have a bag?	Vous avez un sac?

He gives you a bag.

<i>First stallholder</i>	That's all?	C'est tout?
<i>Traveller</i>	Yes, that's all. How much is it?	Oui, c'est tout. C'est combien?
<i>First stallholder</i>	Ten euros.	Dix euros.

At the second stall

<i>Second stallholder</i>	Can I help you?	Je peux vous aider?
<i>Traveller</i>	I would like a baguette, please.	Je voudrais une baguette, s'il vous plaît.
<i>Second stallholder</i>	There you go. That's all?	Voilà. C'est tout?

<i>Traveller</i>	No, I would like an éclair.	Non, je voudrais un éclair.
<i>Second stallholder</i>	I'm sorry, we don't have any.	Je suis désolé, nous n'en avons pas.
<i>Traveller</i>	Okay, how much is it?	Ah bon, c'est combien?
<i>Second stallholder</i>	Two euros.	Deux euros.

You pay and go off to eat your bread and cheese.

Seeing a doctor

Feeling unwell, you go down to the reception in your hotel.

<i>Traveller</i>	I'm ill. Can you recommend me a doctor?	Je suis malade. Pouvez-vous me recommander un docteur?
<i>Receptionist</i>	Is it urgent?	C'est urgent?
<i>Traveller</i>	Yes, it's very urgent – and can the doctor come here?	Oui, c'est très urgent – et est-ce que le docteur peut venir ici?
<i>Receptionist</i>	Yes, one moment please.	Oui, un moment, s'il vous plaît.
<i>Receptionist</i>	He is going to come immediately (tout de suite).	Il va venir tout de suite.

The doctor arrives a while later and comes to your room.

<i>Doctor</i>	What's wrong? / What are your symptoms?	Quels sont vos symptômes?
<i>Traveller</i>	I have been sick.	J'ai vomi.
<i>Doctor</i>	Do you have a fever?	Avez-vous de la fièvre?
<i>Traveller</i>	Yes.	Oui.
<i>Doctor</i>	Since when?	Depuis quand?
<i>Traveller</i>	For (since) two hours.	Depuis deux heures.
<i>Doctor</i>	Can you tell me... Are you diabetic?	Pouvez-vous me dire... Êtes-vous diabétique?
<i>Traveller</i>	No.	Non.

<i>Doctor</i>	Do you have a heart condition?	Êtes-vous cardiaque?
<i>Traveller</i>	No.	Non.
<i>Doctor</i>	Are you asthmatic?	Êtes-vous asthmatique?
<i>Traveller</i>	No.	Non.

He examines you further and then decides.

<i>Doctor</i>	You have sunstroke.	Vous avez une insolation.
<i>Traveller</i>	Is it serious?	C'est grave?
<i>Doctor</i>	No, it's not very serious but you mustn't go out today.	Non, ce n'est pas très grave mais vous ne devez pas sortir aujourd'hui.

He leaves you some rehydration salts and says goodbye.

<i>Traveller</i>	Thank you, goodbye.	Merci, au revoir.
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Finding a campsite

<i>Traveller</i>	Where is the camping site?	Où est le camping?
<i>Passerby</i>	The camping site's over there!	Le camping est là-bas.

You walk over to someone who appears to be a farmer / campsite owner.

<i>Traveller</i>	Can we camp here?	Pouvons-nous camper ici?
<i>Farmer</i>	Yes, you can camp here.	Oui, vous pouvez camper ici.
<i>Traveller</i>	For one night, it's how much?	Pour une nuit, c'est combien?
<i>Farmer</i>	Caravan ten euros, tent five euros.	Caravane dix euros, tente cinq euros.
<i>Traveller</i>	I have a tent and I would like to stay for three nights.	J'ai une tente et je voudrais rester pour trois nuits.
<i>Farmer</i>	Fifteen euros.	Quinze euros.

Taking a taxi

<i>Traveller</i>	The Louvre, please.	Le Louvre, s'il vous plaît.
	It's how much?	C'est combien?
<i>Driver</i>	Ten euros.	Dix euros.
<i>Traveller</i>	Keep the change!	Gardez la monnaie!

At a café

<i>Waiter</i>	What would you like? (You desire?)	Vous désirez?
<i>Traveller</i>	A coffee, please.	Un café, s'il vous plaît.
<i>Traveller 2</i>	For me, a white wine and a sandwich, please.	Pour moi, un vin blanc et un sandwich, s'il vous plaît.
<i>Traveller</i>	It's how much?	C'est combien?
<i>Waiter</i>	Six euros.	Six euros.

Taking a bus

<i>Traveller</i>	Where can I buy a ticket?	Où est-ce que je peux acheter un billet?
<i>Bus driver</i>	Over there.	Là-bas.
<i>Traveller</i>	A ticket for Bordeaux, please.	Un billet pour Bordeaux, s'il vous plaît.
<i>Ticket office clerk</i>	Single or return?	Aller simple ou aller-retour?
<i>Traveller</i>	Return please.	Aller-retour, s'il vous plaît.
<i>Ticket office clerk</i>	Twelve euros, please.	Douze euros, s'il vous plaît.

Introducing yourself

<i>Traveller</i>	I'm I'm from..... And you?	Je suis Je suis de Et vous?
<i>Marion</i>	I'm Marion. I'm from Normandy.	Je suis Marion. Je suis de Normandie.
<i>Traveller</i>	What do you do? / What is your profession?	Quelle est votre profession?
<i>Marion</i>	I'm (a) teacher.	Je suis professeur.

At the bakery

<i>Baker</i>	What would you like? (You desire?)	Vous désirez?
<i>Traveller</i>	A baguette, please.	Une baguette, s'il vous plaît.
<i>Baker</i>	That's all?	C'est tout?
<i>Traveller</i>	No. Two croissants and a pain au chocolat.	Non. Deux croissants et un pain au chocolat.
<i>Baker</i>	That's all ?	C'est tout?
<i>Traveller</i>	Yes, that's all.	Oui, c'est tout.
<i>Baker</i>	Four euros, please.	Quatre euros, s'il vous plaît.

At the pharmacy

<i>Traveller</i>	I am ill.	Je suis malade.
<i>Pharmacist</i>	What's wrong? / What are your symptoms?	Quels sont vos symptômes?
<i>Traveller</i>	I have been sick.	J'ai vomi.
<i>Pharmacist</i>	Do you have a fever?	Avez-vous de la fièvre?
<i>Traveller</i>	Yes.	Oui.
<i>Pharmacist</i>	You have sunstroke and I think that you should (must) see a doctor.	Vous avez une insolation et je pense que vous devez voir un docteur.

Essential verbs: a snapshot

I go / I am going	je vais
he goes / he is going	il va
she goes/ she is going	elle va
you go / you are going (<i>inf.</i>)	tu vas
you go / you are going	vous allez
we go / we are going	nous allons
they go / they are going	ils vont
they go/ they are going (<i>f</i>)	elles vont
Root verb (to go)	aller

I have	j' ai
he has	il a
she has	elle a
you have (<i>inf.</i>)	tu as
you have	vous avez
we have	nous avons
they have	ils ont
they have (<i>f</i>)	elles ont
Root verb (to have)	avoir

I must	je dois
he must	il doit
she must	elle doit
you must (<i>inf.</i>)	tu dois
you must	vous devez
we must	nous devons
they must	ils doivent (pronounced <i>dwoive</i>)
they must (<i>f</i>)	ils doivent (pronounced <i>dwoive</i>)
Root verb (must/have to)	devoir

I am	je suis
he is	il est
she is	elle est
you are (<i>inf.</i>)	tu es
you are	vous êtes
we are	nous sommes
they are	ils sont
they are (<i>f</i>)	elles sont
Root verb (to be)	être

Essential Verbs

I can	je peux
he can	il peut
she can	elle peut
you can (<i>inf.</i>)	tu peux
you can	vous pouvez
we can	nous pouvons
they can	ils peuvent (pronounced <i>per</i>)
they can (<i>f</i>)	elles peuvent
Root verb (can / to be able to)	
pouvoir	

I want	je veux
he wants	il veut
she wants	elle veut
you want (<i>inf.</i>)	tu veux
you want	vous voulez
we want	nous voulons
they want	ils veulent (pronounced <i>vurl</i>)
they want (<i>f</i>)	elles veulent
Root verb (to want)	
vouloir	

Numbers

You can listen to all these numbers on tracks 10 and 11 of CD 10 for the correct pronunciation.

0	zéro	30	trente
1	un	31	trente et un
2	deux	32	trente-deux
3	trois	33	trente-trois
4	quatre	34	trente-quatre
5	cinq	35	trente-cinq
6	six	36	trente-six
7	sept	37	trente-sept
8	huit	38	trente-huit
9	neuf	39	trente-neuf
10	dix	40	quarante
11	onze	41	quarante et un
12	douze	42	quarante-deux
13	treize	43	quarante-trois
14	quatorze	44	quarante-quatre
15	quinze	45	quarante-cinq
16	seize	46	quarante-six
17	dix-sept	47	quarante-sept
18	dix-huit	48	quarante-huit
19	dix-neuf	49	quarante-neuf
20	vingt	50	cinquante
21	vingt et un	51	cinquante et un
22	vingt-deux	52	cinquante-deux
23	vingt-trois	53	cinquante-trois
24	vingt-quatre	54	cinquante-quatre
25	vingt-cinq	55	cinquante-cinq
26	vingt-six	56	cinquante-six
27	vingt-sept	57	cinquante-sept
28	vingt-huit	58	cinquante-huit
29	vingt-neuf	59	cinquante-neuf

60	soixante	94	quatre-vingt-quatorze
61	soixante et un	95	quatre-vingt-quinze
62	soixante-deux	96	quatre-vingt-seize
63	soixante-trois	97	quatre-vingt-dix-sept
64	soixante-quatre	98	quatre-vingt-dix-huit
65	soixante-cinq	99	quatre-vingt-dix-neuf
66	soixante-six	100	cent
67	soixante-sept	101	cent un
68	soixante-huit	102	cent deux
69	soixante-neuf	103	cent trois
70	soixante-dix	104	cent quatre
71	soixante et onze	105	cent cinq
72	soixante-douze	106	cent six
73	soixante-treize	107	cent sept
74	soixante-quatorze	108	cent huit
75	soixante-quinze	109	cent neuf
76	soixante-seize	110	cent dix
77	soixante-dix-sept	111	cent onze
78	soixante-dix-huit	112	cent douze
79	soixante-dix-neuf	113	cent treize
80	quatre vingts	114	cent quatorze
81	quatre-vingt-un	115	cent quinze
82	quatre-vingt-deux	116	cent seize
83	quatre-vingt-trois	117	cent dix-sept
84	quatre-vingt-quatre	118	cent dix-huit
85	quatre-vingt-cinq	119	cent dix-neuf
86	quatre-vingt-six	120	cent vingt
87	quatre-vingt-sept	121	cent vingt et un
88	quatre-vingt-huit	122	cent vingt-deux
89	quatre-vingt-neuf		
90	quatre-vingt-dix		
91	quatre-vingt-onze		
92	quatre-vingt-douze		
93	quatre-vingt-treize		

and so on...

130	cent trente
140	cent quarante
200	deux cents
201	deux cent un
202	deux cent deux
250	deux cent cinquante
1000	mille
1001	mille un
2000	deux mille
50,000	cinquante mille
500,000	cinq cent mille
1,000,000	un million

The alphabet

You can listen to the entire French alphabet on track 12 of CD 10 for the correct pronunciation.

Letter	Pronounced in French as
A	ah
B	bay
C	say
D	day
E	uh
F	ef
G	zhay (or the French j'ai)
H	ash
I	ee
J	zhee
K	kah
L	ell
M	emm
N	enn
O	oh
P	pay

Q	kew (Round your lips as though you are going to whistle, but instead of whistling say the English word “key” while keeping your lips in the rounded, whistling position.)
R	ehr
S	ess
T	tay
U	ew (Round your lips as though you are going to whistle, but instead of whistling say the English letter “e” while keeping your lips in the rounded, whistling position.)
V	vay
W	doo-bluh-vay
X	eex
Y	ee-grek
Z	zed

CD track listing

CD 1

Track	Topic	Key elements
1	Welcome	
2	Ground rules	Relax and don't worry if you forget
3	Entente cordiale	The similarities between French and English
4	The past with have	Including: <i>I have, you have, have you?</i>
5	You have	A question of pronunciation
6	He has, she has	Plus <i>your</i>
7	-ation words and the café E	1,250 easy French words
8	Three into one will go	<i>I have decorated, I decorated, I did decorate</i>
9	To prepare	Plus <i>I would like, hungry, thirsty</i>
10	The 'For luck' rule	Knowing when to pronounce consonants on the end of words
11	Finding French words	Including <i>chambre, personne, nuit</i>
12	-ic and -icle words	Plus <i>it is</i>
13	Do you want?	Plus <i>to know, if</i>

CD 2

Track	Topic	Key elements
1	It's not	Forming the negative
2	Another way of asking questions	A question of intonation; plus <i>why, with</i>
3	I haven't	Using the negative in the past; plus <i>I'm sorry but ...</i>
4	Putting 'it' in its place	An introduction to pronouns; plus <i>can, do, today</i>
5	More questions	<i>Est-ce que?</i> – a third way of asking questions in French; plus <i>we can</i>
6	They	<i>Ils peuvent; plus me</i>
7	To see	Plus <i>her</i>
8	A different kind of 'it'	Masculine and feminine; plus <i>breakfast, perfect</i>
9	How much is it?	Plus <i>name, to stay, to pay</i>
10	Numbers 1–20	
11	Booking a hotel room	Plus <i>euros</i> and spelling your name
12	Where is it?	Plus <i>there, over there</i> and some camping vocabulary

CD 3

Track	Topic	Key elements
1	Carry on camping	A review of <i>can</i> and the negative
2	Using what you know 1	Booking a campsite
3	You and you	Formal (<i>vous</i>) and informal (<i>tu</i>)
4	A question of understanding 1	<i>Comprendre</i> with <i>me</i> and <i>vous</i>
5	Verbs	How to recognise them; plus the different endings
6	Wanting	<i>Vouloir</i> ; plus <i>now</i>
7	Leaving	<i>Partir</i>
8	They want	Plus <i>to take</i>
9	Female groups	<i>Elles</i>
10	Ordering drinks	<i>Vous désirez?</i> , <i>l'addition</i>
11	Giving instructions	Including <i>keep the change</i> , ordering food and wine
12	Using what you know 2	Taking a taxi
13	Using what you know 3	At the café
14	A little practice 1	<i>Je veux</i> and <i>je peux</i> ; plus this evening
15	A little formality	When to use <i>tu</i>
16	Where?	Practising asking questions
17	Using 'are'	Plus some pronunciation options

CD 4

Track	Topic	Key elements
1	Telling the time	Plus <i>we have</i>
2	Using what you know 4	Eating out
3	A little practice 2	<i>Can</i>
4	Some and any	Using <i>en</i>
5	Going	<i>Aller</i>
6	'Proxy nouns'	Understanding pronouns
7	Here and there	Using <i>y</i>
8	Doing your duty 1	<i>I/you/he/she/we must</i> ; plus <i>to wait for</i>
9	Doing your duty 2	<i>They must</i>
10	A little practice 3	<i>Devoir</i>
11	Asking the way 1	<i>Opposite, signposted</i> ; plus <i>office du tourisme</i>
12	At the tourist office	<i>Of the</i> ; plus asking for a map

CD 5

Track	Topic	Key elements
1	Asking the way 2	<i>Straight ahead</i> ; plus <i>pour aller à</i>
2	Asking the way 3	<i>To the right, to the left</i> ; plus <i>tourner, après</i>
3	Using what you know 5	Finding your way
4	More and more	<i>Later, bigger, smaller</i>
5	A little practice 4	<i>Devoir</i> ; plus <i>acheter</i>
6	A little practice 5	<i>Où</i> ; plus <i>billet</i> ; <i>aller simple, aller-retour, ou</i>
7	Using what you know 6	Buying a ticket
8	On the train	<i>Changer</i> , words ending <i>-ary</i> , <i>descendre, supplément</i>
9	A little practice 6	<i>Devoir, pouvoir</i> and <i>vouloir</i>
10	A little practice 7	<i>Aller</i>
11	Going, going	<i>Je vais, tu vas, il/elle va, ils/elles vont</i>
12	Still going	Plus <i>à, vos, expirer</i>
13	A little practice 8	On the move
14	Using what you know 7	A train trip
15	Best intentions	Using <i>aller</i> for the future; plus <i>partir</i>

CD 6

Track	Topic	Key elements
1	The 'have-stealing' rule	The position of pronouns in the past; plus <i>they have</i>
2	Déjà-vu	The past of <i>voir</i> and <i>vendre</i>
3	To have and to have not	Working with negatives in the past
4	Waiting game	Using <i>attendre</i>
5	Where are you from?	<i>De, you are</i> ; plus <i>busy, determined, Londres</i>
6	What is your profession?	<i>Quel est?</i> ; plus common professions
7	Using what you know 8	Introducing yourself
8	There is	<i>Il y a</i>
9	A question of understanding 2	Using <i>comprendre</i>
10	A question of understanding 3	Using <i>répéter</i>
11	A question of understanding 4	<i>Parler plus lentement</i>
12	Using what you know 9	Making contact
13	Pronunciation practice	<i>Ils ont</i> and <i>elles ont</i>

CD 7

Track	Topic	Key elements
1	A little practice 9	The past
2	An exception	<i>Compris, pris</i>
3	A little practice 10	<i>Comprendre</i> and <i>pouvoir</i>
4	A little practice 11	<i>En</i>
5	A little practice 12	<i>Vouloir</i>
6	A little practice 13	<i>Devoir</i>
7	A little practice 14	Using <i>aller</i> with <i>le</i> and <i>la</i>
8	A little practice 15	<i>C'est</i> ; plus <i>tout</i>
9	May Day	<i>Aider</i> ; plus French food
10	'Desolation'	<i>Désolé</i> ; plus practising <i>it</i> and <i>some of it</i>
11	Using what you know 10	Shopping at the market
12	A little practice 16	Pronouns and <i>avoir</i>

CD 8

Track	Topic	Key elements
1	To be	<i>Être</i>
2	A little practice 17	Pronouns in the past
3	A different past	How to use <i>être</i> in the past
4	Coming and going 1	When to use <i>être</i>
5	Coming and going 2	More <i>être</i> verbs
6	Coming and going 3	In the negative; plus <i>hier</i>
7	Coming and going 4	With <i>y</i>
8	A little practice 18	Some common verbs
9	I think, therefore I am thinking	<i>Penser</i> ; plus forming the present tense
10	I think that ...	Introducing <i>que</i>
11	Feeling unwell	Explaining what's wrong
12	At the doctor's	More symptoms; plus <i>since when?</i> , <i>a moment</i> , <i>please</i>
13	Using what you know 11	At the pharmacy
14	A little practice 19	Coming and going; plus <i>tout de suite</i> , <i>grave</i> , more maladies
15	Using what you know 12	Calling the doctor

CD 9

Track	Topic	Key elements
1	One can	Using <i>on peut</i>
2	'One' meaning 'we'	Using <i>on veut</i>
3	A little practice 20	<i>Vouloir</i> and <i>pouvoir</i>
4	A little practice 21	Asking for and giving directions
5	A little practice 22	Travelling by train
6	A little practice 23	Asking the way
7	A little practice 24	<i>Devoir</i> and <i>avoir</i>
8	A little practice 25	<i>Aller</i>
9	A little practice 26	<i>Avoir</i> and the past tense with <i>avoir</i>
10	A little practice 27	<i>Etre</i> and the past tense with <i>être</i>
11	Only one present	Forming and using the present tense
12	The present in detail	The two groups of present tense words; plus <i>donner</i>
13	His and hers	Using <i>le</i> and <i>la</i> to mean, 'it', 'him' and 'her'
14	'L is for last'	Getting <i>me</i> , <i>le</i> and <i>lui</i> in the right order

CD 10

Track	Topic	Key elements
1	Giving them to them	<i>Les</i> and <i>leur</i>
2	Us and you	<i>Nous</i> and <i>vous</i> as pronouns
3	Going to	The future with <i>aller</i>
4	Another future	Forming the 'will' tense 1
5	'Ray', 'Ron' and 'Ra'	Forming the 'will' tense 2
6	On leave	The future of <i>partir</i>
7	A little practice 28	The future of <i>parler</i>
8	Wait for me	The future of <i>attendre</i>
9	A little practice 29	The future of <i>donner</i>
10	Numbers	With English prompts
11	Numbers	In French only
12	The French alphabet	Learn to spell in French
13	Goodbye	

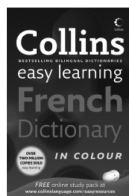
Review CD 1

Track	Topic
1	Introduction
2	At the hotel and campsite
3	Eating and drinking
4	Finding the way
5	Travelling by train
6	What you are, where you are from
7	Asking questions
8	Shopping
9	At the doctor's
10	I have, you have
11	He has, he did
12	I would like 1
13	I would like 2

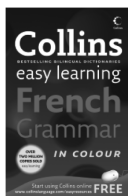
Review CD 2

Track	Topic		
1	I would like 3; plus '-ic' words	19	-er verbs in the present
2	I would like 4	20	-er and -ir verbs in the future
3	To have and to have not	21	it/him/her/them in the future
4	<i>Devoir, pouvoir, vouloir</i>		
5	<i>Aller</i>		
6	<i>Avoir</i>		
7	Can do; want to; it/him/her/them in the present		
8	It/me in the past		
9	The past with <i>être</i>		
10	The future with <i>aller</i>		
11	-ic words; at the campsite and hotel		
12	At the café/restaurant		
13	Where oh where?		
14	Moving on		
15	<i>Être</i>		
16	Out and about		
17	Shopping		
18	Not feeling well		

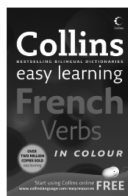
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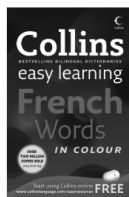
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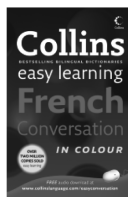
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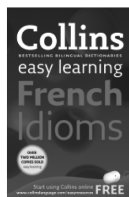
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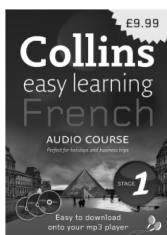
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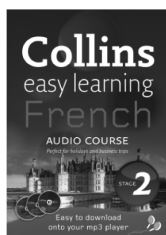
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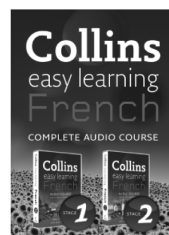
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