

frenchtoday™



À Moi Paris - First Encounter

Free Audiobook

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Introduction

What is this Free Audiobook About?

This audiobook is indeed a first encounter: both with the characters of our “À Moi Paris” audiobook series, and with French Today’s unique method and approach to teaching French.

Although the “À Moi Paris Series” does cover higher levels, we wanted to offer an audiobook that would be reachable for anyone, including beginners.

This is why the six chapters of this particular audiobook are written in the present tense, and feature relatively simple vocabulary and grammatical structures.

The actual “À Moi Paris” audiobooks are indeed level specific, the story is usually longer, the points of grammar / vocabulary are explained in depth. Some levels feature exercises or a longer Q&A section.

In this audiobook, you will get introduced to Mary, the main character of the series: this audiobook is where her French adventure starts - her story will evolve throughout the series.

What is the À Moi Paris Series?

“À Moi Paris” is a complete French learning method organized around a progressive and ongoing novel.

Most students are not quite fond of grammar and verb tenses. Because I am both French and American, and bilingual, I understand what is particularly difficult for English speakers to grasp. Over more than 20 years I’ve perfected how to explain it simply, and efficiently. In other words, I make French simple to understand.

The audio novel is lively and features realistic situations : you'll learn, in context, vocabulary you can actually use when speaking French. The characters too are real life like, and you'll grow attached to them. That's important since the story will keep you motivated in your studies because you'll want to know what comes next.

Besides, the story is always built to illustrate the points of grammar, so on top of the theory, you will also learn French in context. I am 100% convinced that it's the best way to actually remember French grammar and tenses!

In this audiobook, you will also hear our unique audio recordings. You know how in English we write "I am going to" but say "I'm going to" or even "I gonna"? Well, it's the same - actually, it's much worse - in French!

So there is a huge difference between:

1. The way French is written (which is what you probably have been introduced to in school),
2. French spoken in a formal environment (which is the French taught by traditional audio methods, and most French teachers - although this is slowly starting to change)
3. The French language French people actually speak (at home, with friends: what you hear in French movies...)

I call the later "street French", and I've recorded each chapter of the "À Moi Paris" story at different speeds and levels of enunciation. This way, you'll learn both traditional / formal / classroom French pronunciation, but also the "real" French used by every French people everyday.

This is why this method is truly unique. I've poured all my heart and experience in teaching French into it, and it works: our customers love it, and I guarantee you will love it too.

Many teachers have been successfully using "À Moi Paris" in their classroom. We do offer educational discount for any one interested.

Who Are We and What is French Today's Mission?

My name is Camille and I'm the founder of French Today. I'm a French native, lived in Paris till my mid-twenties and moved to the US for about 16 years before taking my family back to France.

I met my husband Olivier in Boston. He is also French, but we both became American citizens in early 2005. Our daughter Leyla was born in the US, she is a bilingual kid and still speaks English fluently although we moved back to France when she was 4. We currently live in Paimpol, on the north coast of Brittany in France.

Our aim with French Today is to provide clear and simple explanations about the French language and culture to English speaking students.

We develop audiobooks recorded at several speeds to teach both traditional and modern French pronunciation, and give our students the confidence and tools to interact with French people.

We also have an extensive [French language blog](#) with more than 500+ free lessons/articles, we recommend [immersion stays at French teacher's homes](#), and are quite active on the various social medias!

Now, feel free to dig directly into the story and accompanying study guide, to see what this is all about. However, if you are serious about studying French, I suggest you first read the next **How To Work with this Audiobook** section.



How to Use This Audiobook

“The spoken French taught in American classrooms is a fiction, based on ideas about how people should speak, not on how they do speak”

- Linda R. Waugh & Bonnie Fonseca Greber - University of Arizona

How to Work With the Audio

Each chapter of the story is recorded three times:

1. Once very slowly so you can really hear all the French sounds.
2. Then at a normal speed, respecting the modern glided pronunciation of spoken French.
3. The whole story is then recorded in a “street French” manner, mostly for you to practice on understanding French people when they speak among themselves in everyday life.

Don't sweat trying to speak that fast yet, this will come with experience and practice.

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

Here is how you should proceed:

1. LISTEN to the slow recording of the story part. Can you guess what is happening?
2. Read the translation, then read the French at the same time as the normal recording is playing. Note the glidings, liaisons, intonation and word grouping that happen. Write them down on the print out of this PDF to help you read the story better.
3. REPEAT OUT LOUD - first sentence by sentence with the slow recording, then once you master the slow recording, repeat longer dialogs with the normal recording. You will probably need to use the pause and play buttons to have time to repeat.

The Story Part

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

Once you are familiar with the meaning of the story, play, pause and REPEAT OUT LOUD each sentence. Try to mimic the sing-songy of my voice as if you were an actor: pay close attention to the glidings, the elisions and liaisons, and also to the word grouping: where I pause and breathe in the sentence. Repeat as many times as necessary for you to be able to read comfortably first the slow and, then the normal recordings.

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

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

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

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



Suggested Additional Reading/Listening

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

01. Rencontre Dans Un Train

Meeting in a Train



Story

Nous sommes dans l'Eurostar de Londres à Paris. Une jeune fille blonde entre dans le compartiment.

We are in the Eurostar from London to Paris. A young blond girl enters the train car.

Mary Excusez-moi : est-ce que c'est la voiture 8 ?
Excuse-me: is this the car number 8?

Pierre Oui, c'est la voiture 8.
Yes, it's car number 8.

Mary Merci. Et c'est la place 42B ?
Thank you. And this is seat 42B?

Pierre Oui, regardez, le numéro est ici, sur le dossier du siège. Ce n'est pas très facile à voir !
Yes, look, the number is here, on the back of the seat. It's not very easy to see.

Mary Mais pourquoi est-ce qu'il y a deux numéros ?
But why are there two numbers?

Pierre Je ne sais pas. Mais je sais que c'est le numéro allumé qui compte.
I don't know. But I know it's the lit number that counts.

Mary D'accord, merci.
OK, thanks.

Mary place sa valise un peu plus loin, sur une plateforme pour mettre les valises, et puis elle retourne à sa place. Sa place est à côté de la fenêtre, donc elle doit déranger son voisin.

Mary places her suitcase a bit farther, on a platform to put away suitcases, and then goes back to her seat. Her seat is by the window, so she has to bother her seat mate.

- Mary Excusez-moi de vous déranger une nouvelle fois.
Excuse me for bothering you once more.
- Pierre Mais pas du tout, c'est normal. Euh... On peut peut être se tutoyer ? Je m'appelle Pierre, et toi ?
Not at all, it's all right. Well... maybe we could use "tu" to talk to each other? My name is Pierre, what's yours?
- Mary Moi, c'est Mary. Excuse-moi, je suis anglaise et je ne sais pas vraiment quand je dois dire "tu" ou "vous".
I'm Mary. I'm sorry, I'm English and don't really know when I must say "tu" or "vous".
- Pierre Non, non, c'est normal. C'est une bonne idée de vouvoyer au début. Mais entre jeunes, on dit "tu" plus facilement.
No, no, it's normal. It's a good idea to say "vous" at the beginning. But among a younger crowd, we say "tu" more easily.
- Mary D'accord, je comprends, merci.
Ok, I understand, thank you.
- Pierre Donc tu es anglaise. Ton français est vraiment excellent ! Tu n'as aucun accent !
So you're English. Your French is really excellent! You have no accent!
- Mary Tu es gentil, mais je triche un peu. En fait, je suis bilingue. Ma mère est anglaise, et mon père est français.
You're kind, but I'm kind of cheating. In fact, I am bilingual. My mother is English, and my dad is French.
- Pierre Ah oui ? C'est génial ! Et tu parles français avec ton père et anglais avec ta mère ?
Really? That's great! And you speak French with your dad and English with your mum?
- Mary Exactement !
Exactly!

Questions and Answers

Time for you to practice your French. If you are a total beginner, this may be too hard at this point. You need to study the basis first! I suggest you start studying French with my downloadable audiobook [À Moi Paris Method Beginner](#).

If you've had some French before, then make sure you answer to these questions out-loud to get over your [fear of speaking](#). Doing it in your head won't help! Use the pause button to have more time to answer if you need to..

You will notice that the questions sometime feature the street French way of speaking, such as "tu habites où ça ?" versus "où habites-tu ?"... That may be a bit new to you too! It's all explained in my audiobooks.

1. D'où vient le train ?

Where does the train come from?

Il vient de Londres.

It's coming from London.

2. Et il va où-ça ?

And where does it go?

Il va à Paris.

It goes to Paris.

3. Mary est blonde ou brune ?

Is Mary a blond or a brunette?

Elle est blonde.

She is a blond.

4. C'est la voiture numéro combien ?

What is the car number?

C'est la voiture numéro huit.

It's the number 8 car.

5. Où se trouve le numéro du siège ?

Where is the seat number located?

Il est sur le dossier du siège.

It's on the back of the seat.

6. Est-ce que c'est facile à voir ?

Is it easy to see ?

Non.

No it isn't.

7. Où est-ce que Mary place sa valise ?

Where does Mary put her suitcase ?

Elle place sa valise sur une plateforme un peu plus loin.

She places her suitcase on a platform a bit further.

8. Pourquoi doit-elle déranger son voisin ?

Why does she have to bother her neighbor?

Parce qu'elle est assise à côté de la fenêtre.

Because she is sitting by the window.

9. Pourquoi est-ce que Mary peut tutoyer Pierre ?

Why can Mary say 'tu' to Pierre ?

Parce qu'ils sont jeunes.

Because they are young.

10. Pourquoi le français de Mary est-il excellent ?

Why is Mary's French excellent?

Parce que son père est français et elle est bilingue.

Because her father is French and she is bilingual.

Study Guide: Spoken French Versus Written French

You may have been a bit surprised when you first listen to the story part of this audiobook: it probably didn't sound like the French you studied in school.

The reason is that French is a fast evolving language, and unfortunately, traditional methods teach traditional French, and teach you to pronounce French just like you write it. And this is so wrong!

Nowadays, everybody talking French applies some glidings to the French language. On top of elision and liaisons (two grammatical terms I will explain below) modern glidings are so strong that spoken French ends up being something most foreigners have a very difficult time with.

I will apply "medium" glidings, meaning that I won't go full "teenage suburb" on you, nor will I talk like a book. I am going to teach you to speak like a real French person does, so make sure you always study with the audio and pay attention to the way I "jam" the words together.

1. What is "an Elision"

Elision happens when a few very common short words (je, le, de, ne, que, se, ce, me, te and la) are followed by a vowel or an h.

To avoid a clash of vowels (which is hard on the jaws), the short word will then drop its final vowel and replace it in writing with an apostrophe. In pronunciation, the remaining consonant sound will become the first sound of the following word.

You will see, this happen A LOT, and it's very important you master this to sound French.

Example: L'Eurostar, c'est, ce n'est pas, d'accord, je m'appelle etc...

2. What is a "liaison"?

A liaison occurs when a silent consonant (like the t of "c'est") is followed by a vowel or a mute H (like the word "une").

In a liaison, the silent letter becomes the first sound of the following word, so here the silent "t" of "c'est" will become the first sound of "une", making it sound like "tune".

Most consonants keep their sound in liaison, except for S that makes a liaison sound in Z, X becomes Z, and D becomes T.

Listen carefully to the audio, and liaisons will become obvious to you!

3. What is a gliding?

A gliding is what happens in modern French, when we glide over some letters, kind of like "gotta go" instead of "I have got to go" in American English. It's very common nowadays in French, and reinforces the difference between spoken and written French.

The use of glidings differ among people: it's a question of context, age, social class, region, personal preference. Some people glide a lot, others enunciate more, but EVERY French person applies some glidings, so it is essential that you get accustomed to understanding glided words, even if you choose not to say them this way yourself (and therefore be more conservative in the way you speak French).

You will note that many letters, or even words glide so much that they often disappear. It is the case of many short words ending in "e": the "ne" of the negative, of the preposition "de", the article or pronoun "le", even the subject pronoun "je" which becomes as kind of "ch" sound: "je ne sais pas" becomes "chaypa" in totally glided modern French.

A good example of this spoken vs. written French difference is the phrase "it's not nice out, there is no sun"

When it is in written form, the phrase is: "Il ne fait pas beau, il n'y a pas de soleil"

When it is spoken by a native Parisian to another it sounds like: "y fait pas beau, ya pad soleil". And

this is not an exaggeration nor specific to a teenager or hipster way to speak, this is how anybody engaging in small talk will say it.

It needs some getting use to, but thanks to my realistic audio novels, this won't be a problem for you!

4. The French alphabet

Pay close attention to the audio, in particular to the letter "J" and "G" which are quite confusing!

The French alphabet is the same as the English one and it also has 26 letters.

However, we have 6 vowels: a, e, i, o, u and y (which is always a vowel in French!)

A, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z.



Unlike English pronunciation, French pronunciation follows simple rules, and knowing them will make things much easier. I strongly recommend you study French pronunciation with the audio lesson I've written and recorded, it will give you a head start on your French studies.
[Secrets of French Pronunciation](#)

You will also note some differences between the recording speeds : the faster you speak, the more glidings there will be. So in the slow recordings, I enunciate much more and in the normal ones, I glide much more, even more so in the street French recording of the whole story.

Train to repeat the slow and normal recordings, and train to understand the street French one. You don't need to speak as fast as this, but eventually you need to be able to understand French people at that speed.

02. Et Toi, Tu Es Français ?

And You, Are You French?



Story

Nous sommes dans L'Eurostar qui va de Londres à Paris. Mary, une jeune Anglaise parle avec Pierre, un jeune Français, qui est assis à côté d'elle.

We are in the Eurostar train which goes from London to Paris. Mary, a young English girl is speaking with Pierre, a young French man, who is sitting next to her.

Mary Et toi, tu es français, n'est-ce pas ?
And you, you are French, aren't you?

Pierre Oui. Je viens d'aller à Londres pour voir des amis, mais je suis français.
Yes. I have just been to London to visit some friends, but I am French.

Mary Et donc tu parles aussi anglais ?
And so you speak English as well?

Pierre Vraiment, je ne parle pas très bien anglais. J'ai un accent horrible !
In reality, I don't speak English very well. I have a terrible accent!

Mary Est-ce que tu vas souvent à Londres ?
Do you often go to London?

Pierre Non, malheureusement, pas très souvent. Et toi, pourquoi vas-tu à Paris aujourd'hui ?
No, unfortunately, not very often. And you, why are you going to Paris today?

Mary Je vais travailler à Paris pendant trois mois.
I'm going to work in Paris for three months.

Pierre Ah oui, vraiment ? C'est super ! Tu vas faire quoi ?
Really? That's great! What are you going to do?

- Mary Je vais être jeune fille au pair.
I'm going to be an au pair.
- Pierre Et tu connais déjà la famille pour laquelle tu vas travailler ?
And do you already know the family you are going to work for?
- Mary Non... pas vraiment. Nous sommes amis sur Facebook, donc je connais un peu leurs habitudes. Ils ont l'air très gentils.
No... not really. We are friends on Facebook, so I know their habits a bit. They seem very nice.
- Pierre Et tu vas t'occuper de plusieurs enfants ?
And you're going to take care of several children?
- Mary Non, juste un. Un petit garçon de 8 ans. Il s'appelle Paul.
No, only one. An 8 years old little boy. His name is Paul.
- Pierre Et lui aussi il est bilingue ?
And he is bilingual as well?
- Mary Non pas du tout. Mais il apprend un peu d'anglais à l'école. Et toi, tu fais quoi ?
No, not at all. But he is learning a bit of English in school. And you, what do you do?
- Pierre Moi, je suis en troisième année de droit.
I'm in my third year of Law studies.
- Mary Et où est-ce que tu étudies ?
And where are you studying?
- Pierre À l'université Dauphine.
At the Dauphine university.



Chapters 1 and 2 were written at a beginner French level (A1). This is equivalent to the level of [À Moi Paris Method - Beginner](#) L1

Questions and Answers

Actually before doing the questions and answers quite now, you may want to read or listen to the study guide portion since it's about the different ways of asking questions in French!

1. De quelles nationalités sont Mary et Pierre ?

What nationalities are Mary and Pierre?

Mary est anglaise et Pierre est français.

Mary is English and Pierre is French.

2. Quel est le problème de Pierre en anglais ?

What's Pierre problem in English?

Il a un accent horrible.

He has a terrible accent.

3. Est-ce qu'il va souvent à Londres ?

Does he often visit London?

Non, pas très souvent.

No, not very often.

4. Pourquoi Mary va-t-elle à Paris ?

Why is Mary going to Paris?

Elle va travailler.

She is going to work.

5. Pendant combien de temps va-t-elle être à Paris?

How long is she going to be in Paris for?

Elle va être à Paris pendant trois mois.

She's going to be in Paris for three months.

6. Et elle va faire quoi ?

And what is-she going to do?

Elle va être jeune fille au pair.

She's going to be an au pair.

7. Elle connaît déjà la famille pour laquelle elle va travailler ?
Does she already know the family for which she is going to work?
Un peu. Ils sont amis sur Facebook.
A bit. They are friends on Facebook.
8. Comment s'appelle le petit garçon dont Mary va s'occuper ?
What is the name of the little boy Mary is going to take care of?
Il s'appelle Paul.
His name is Paul.
9. Et il a quel âge ?
And how old is he?
Il a huit ans.
He is eight.
10. Dans quelle université Pierre étudie-t-il ?
In which university does Pierre study?
Il étudie à l'université Dauphine.
He studies at the Dauphine university.

Study Guide: Asking Questions in French

We have many different ways of asking questions in French, and this is what makes it difficult. In this book, I will mostly use the street French way, which people use all the time now.

Unfortunately, traditional method almost never mention it, students don't train with it, and it's the main reason why they cannot handle a conversation in French: they don't understand the questions fast enough!

1. Street French

This is the most common construction now, and the one I will mostly use in this book. It's also the simplest :) You just raise your intonation towards the end of the sentence!

If you use an interrogative expression (like when, why, where...) It goes all the way at the end of your sentence.

Tu parles aussi anglais = Do you also speak English?

2. Est-ce que

“Est-ce que” is nowadays mostly used to ask questions that can be answered by “oui” or “non”, and with “qu’est-ce que” (what do you...).

It means nothing by itself (watch out! It doesn’t translate as ‘is’), it is like the inverted question mark Spanish uses before the question – it warns you that a question is coming :-)

Est-ce que tu vas souvent à Londres ? = do you often go to London?

3. Inversion

Inversion is the most formal way of asking a question yet it’s still very much used, especially when using an interrogative expression. In inversion, you pretty much invert the subject verb order, placing the verb first.

Pourquoi vas-tu à Paris ? = why are you going to Paris?

4. N’est-ce pas

Grammar makes it a question, so I have to list it here. But it’s only used as a tag question, when you are almost sure the answer is “yes”.

Tu es français, n’est-ce pas ? = You are English, right /aren’t you?



There is a lot more to say about asking questions in French. Questions are essential to conversation; mastering them is the key to a successful interaction in French. I've dedicated a one hour audio masterclass to them: [Secrets of French Conversation](#)

03. Au Wagon Restaurant

At the snack car



Story

Mary a faim.
Mary is hungry.

Mary J'ai un peu faim. Est-ce que tu sais si on peut acheter à manger dans le train ?
I am a bit hungry. Do you know if you can buy something to eat on the train?

Pierre Oui. Il y a un wagon restaurant au milieu du train. Voiture 15 je crois. Ce n'est pas très loin.
Yes, there is a snack car in the middle of the train. Car number 15 I believe. It's not very far.

Mary D'accord, alors je vais y aller. Tu veux quelque chose ?
OK, so I'm going to go there. Would you like something?

Pierre Moi aussi j'ai faim. Je viens avec toi.
I'm hungry as well. I'm coming with you.

Mary et Pierre marchent dans le train. Le train bouge beaucoup, alors il faut faire attention à ne pas tomber, ou bousculer les passagers endormis qui dépassent souvent de leur place. Finalement, ils arrivent au wagon restaurant.

Mary and Pierre are walking in the train. The train moves a lot, so they must be careful not to fall, or bump into the sleeping passengers who often stick out from their seats a bit. Finally, they reach the snack car.

Mary Et bien ! Ce n'est pas l'Orient Express !!
Well! This is not the Orient Express!

- Pierre Ah non, ça c'est sûr. C'est juste un bar. On peut acheter des sandwiches et des boissons, des choses à grignoter. Il y a des salades et des plats chauds simples. Mais rien de gourmet !
No it isn't, that's for sure. It's just a bar. You can buy sandwiches and drinks, and snacks. There are salads and simple warm dishes. But nothing gourmet!
- Mary Et où est-ce qu'on mange ?
And where do we eat?
- Pierre Il y a des tables hautes et des tabourets, ou bien tu peux aussi manger debout, ou bien retourner à ta place pour manger.
There are high tables and stools, or you can also eat while standing, or go back and eat at your seat.
- Pierre et Mary regardent la carte qui est affiché à côté du vendeur.
Pierre and Mary look at the menu which is displayed next to the clerk/vendor.
- Vendeur Bonjour Mademoiselle. Qu'est-ce qui vous ferait plaisir?
Hi Miss. What would strike your fancy?
- Mary Je voudrais un sandwich au jambon et au fromage, et un Coca, s'il vous plaît.
I would like a ham and cheese sandwich, and a Coke, please.
- Vendeur Désirez-vous un dessert ? Vous pouvez bénéficier de notre "menu bistrot".
Would you care for a desert? You could take advantage of our "bistrot selection".
- Mary Ah... euh... oui, d'accord. Je vais prendre une tartelette aux pommes.
Ah... hum... yes, OK. I'll take a small apple pie.
- Vendeur Voilà. Ça fait onze Euros soixante dix.
Here you go. It comes to eleven Euros seventy [cents].
- Mary Pardon, je n'ai pas bien compris. Vous pouvez répéter, s'il vous plaît ?
Sorry, I didn't quite get it. Could you repeat please?
- Vendeur Onze Euros soixante dix centimes.
Eleven Euros and seventy cents.
- Mary Voilà un billet de vingt Euros.
Here you go, a twenty Euro bill.
- Vendeur Et voilà votre monnaie, huit Euros trente. Bon appétit!
And here is your change, eight Euros and thirty [cents]. Enjoy your meal!

Questions and Answers

This chapter is more challenging - numbers, interactions at a restaurant... The recording too was a bit faster (I did it on purpose), and so are the questions!

This is the next level of French, as featured in [À Moi Paris Method Beginner L2](#).

1. Où est le wagon restaurant ?

Where is the snack car?

Il est au milieu du train.

It's located in the middle of the train.

2. Pourquoi Pierre y va-t-il avec Mary ?

Why is Pierre going there with Mary?

Parce qu'il a faim.

Because he's hungry.

3. Pourquoi faut-il faire attention quand on marche dans le train ?

Why do you have to be careful when you walk through the train?

Parce que le train bouge beaucoup et on peut tomber.

Because the train moves a lot and you can fall.

4. Est-ce que Mary est déçue par le wagon restaurant ?

Is Mary disappointed by the snack car?

Oui, un peu.

Yes, a little.

5. Où est-ce qu'on mange la nourriture qu'on achète ?

Where do you eat the food you buy?

Il y a des tables hautes et des tabourets ; on peut manger debout, ou bien retourner à sa place.

There are high tables and stools; you can eat standing up, or go back to your seat.

6. Quelle expression le vendeur utilise-t-il pour prendre la commande de Mary ?

What expression does the clerk use to take Mary's order?

Il demande: "qu'est-ce qui vous ferait plaisir ?"

He asks: "what would strike your fancy"?

7. Et Mary commande quoi ?

And what does Mary order?

Elle commande un sandwich au jambon et au fromage, et un Coca.

She orders a ham and cheese sandwich and a Coke.

8. Pourquoi prend-elle une tartelette aux pommes ?

Why does she take a small apple pie ?

Pour pouvoir bénéficier du menu bistrot.

To be able to take advantage of the "bistrot selection".

9. Ça coûte combien ?

How much is-it ?

Ça coûte onze Euros soixante dix.

It costs eleven Euros and seventy [cents].

10. Mary donne un billet de combien ?

What amount bill does Mary give?

Elle donne un billet de vingt Euros.

She hands in a twenty.

Study Guide: Food Vocabulary

As you know, food is an art form in France. Restaurants always invent new and inventive names for dishes, which elude even the French customers!

You should however know some basic vocabulary before you travel there, just so that you can have an idea of what you are ordering.

Unless you are in a very touristy area, most menus will not be available in English and you cannot expect that the waiter will speak English...

1. General

Un plat	a dish
L'entrée	appetizer
Le plat principal	the English entrée
La salade	salad
Le fromage	cheese
Le dessert	dessert
Le plat du jour	today's special
Un menu	a fixed price selection
Une carte	a menu

Watch out for the false friends “un menu” and “une entrée”... and the pronunciation of the word “un dessert”.

2. La viande - *meat*

Le boeuf	beef
Le porc	pork
Le poulet	chicken
Le veau	veal
Un steak frites	a beef steak with French fries
Un steak tartare	raw ground meat with seasonings
Le beefsteak (ou juste “steak”) haché	hamburger meat
La charcuterie	cold cuts
Le jambon	ham
La saucisse	sausage
Le saucisson	dry sausage / salami
Les abats	offals
Un oeuf	an egg

Un végétarien / une végétarienne	a vegetarian
Un végétalien / une végétalienne	a vegan

Watch out that for the average French person, a “vegetarian” still eats fish, poultry, eggs, seafood... Anything but red meat. So you might want to explain what you eat or don’t eat in order to avoid any surprises.

3. Le poisson - *Fish*

Le saumon (fumé)	smoked salmon
La truite	trout
La sole	sole
Les fruits de mer (m)	seafood
Le crabe	crab
Le homard	lobster
Les crevettes (f)	shrimps
Les huitres (f)	oysters
Les moules (f)	mussels
Les coquilles Saint-Jacques (f)	scallops

4. Les légumes - *vegetables*

Une courgette	squash
Des épinards (m)	spinach
Des haricots verts (m)	green beans
Des petits pois	peas
Un avocat	avocado
Un champignon	mushroom

Un concombre	cucumber
Un poivron	pepper
Une aubergine	eggplant
Une carotte	carrot
Une pomme de terre	potato

5. Les fruits - *fruits*

Une pomme	an apple
Le raisin	grapes
Un ananas	a pineapple
Un citron	a lemon
Un melon	a cantaloupe
Un pamplemousse	a grapefruit
Une banane	a banana
Une cerise	a cherry
Une fraise	a strawberry
Une framboise	a raspberry
Une mûre	a blackberry
Une orange	an orange
Une pêche	a peach
Une poire	a pear
Une prune	a plum
Une mangue	a mango
Les fruits exotiques	tropical fruits
Une tomate	a tomato
Les noix (f)	nuts

6. Les pâtes, etc... - *Pastas etc...*

Des chips (f)	potato chips
Des frites (f)	French fries
Des pâtes (f)	pastas
Du maïs (m)	corn
Du riz (m)	rice

Don't mistake "les pâtes" (pastas) and "le pâté" (duck paté, mousse...)

7. Les desserts - *deserts*

Une glace	ice cream
Un sorbet	sherbet
Un biscuit	cookie
Un chocolat	chocolate
Un gâteau	cake
Une crêpe	a crepe
Une glace à la vanille, au chocolat, à la fraise	vanilla, chocolate, strawberry ice cream
Une pâtisserie	pastry
Une tarte	a tart

8. Les boissons - *beverages*

L'eau (f)	water
De l'eau gazeuse	bubble/sparkling water
De l'eau du robinet	tap water
De l'eau minérale	bottle water

Le lait	milk
Le thé	tea
Le café	coffee
Un chocolat	hot chocolate
Un jus de fruit	fruit juice
Le vin (rouge, blanc, rosé)	red, white, rosé wine
Le champagne	champagne
Une bière	a beer



When traveling abroad, you are guaranteed to encounter some typical situations such as ordering in a restaurant, booking a hotel room, asking for directions... I suggest you prepare for such interactions in French with my lesson "[Essential French Dialogs](#)".

This audio lesson recreates typical dialogs but also gives many cultural tips to prepare you for your trip (such as not expecting an Orient Express style dining car in the TGV which several of my students were disappointed to find out...)

04. Mary Arrive À Paris

Mary Arrives in Paris



Story

Nous sommes à la gare du Nord, à Paris. L'Eurostar de Londres vient d'arriver, et une jeune fille blonde descend. Elle a une valise bleue. Son voisin de train, qui descend aussi à Paris, propose de l'aider avec sa valise.

We are at the "gare du Nord" train station in Paris. The Eurostar train from London has just arrived, and a young blond girl is getting off the train. She has a blue suitcase. Her train seat mate, who is also getting off in Paris, offers to help her with her suitcase.

Pierre Attends ! Ta valise est lourde, je vais t'aider !
Wait! Your suitcase is heavy, I'm going to help you!

Mary C'est vraiment gentil, merci.
That's very kind of you, thanks.

Pierre Je t'en prie. Tu as une grosse valise !
You are welcome. You have a big suitcase!

Mary Oui, mais souviens-toi que je vais être à Paris pendant trois mois !
Yes, but remember I'm going to be in Paris for three months!

Pierre Vu comme ça... Bon, tu as mon numéro de téléphone, appelle-moi, d'accord ?
Looking at it this way... Well, you have my phone number, call me, OK?

Mary D'accord. Merci Pierre, à bientôt.
OK. Thank you Pierre, see you soon.

Pierre Au revoir Mary. Bonne chance !
Bye Mary. Good luck!

Mary marche sur le quai. Sa voiture est à la fin du train, et elle doit marcher beaucoup pour arriver à la gare ! Heureusement, sa valise a des petites roulettes, et elle roule bien. Un jeune garçon court dans sa direction. Il s'arrête devant elle.

Mary is walking down the platform. Her car is at the end of the train, and she must walk a lot to arrive at the station! Fortunately, her suitcase has small wheels, and it rolls well. A young boy runs in her direction. He stops in front of her.

Paul Bonjour. Est-ce que vous êtes bien Mademoiselle Joe ?
Hello. You are Miss Joe, aren't you?

Mary Mais oui Paul, c'est bien moi ! Je suis vraiment contente de te rencontrer ! Mais Paul, tu peux me dire "tu", et aussi m'appeler Mary, bien sûr !
Well yes Paul, it's me all right! I'm so happy to meet you! But Paul, you can use "tu" to talk to me, and of course also call me Mary!

Paul D'accord, Mary, merci ! Tu es comme sur la photo. Viens, mes parents sont là-bas.
Ok Mary, thanks! You really look like your picture. Come, my parents are over there.

Paul et Mary arrivent au bout du quai. Un homme blond et une femme brune leur font des signes de la main.

Paul and Mary reach the end of the platform. A blond man and a brunette are waving at them.

Anne Bonjour Mary, je suis Anne Castel, et voici mon mari Gérard.
Hi Mary, I am Anne Castel, and this is my husband Gérard.

Mary Enchantée de faire votre connaissance.
It's very nice meeting you.

Gérard Nous aussi ça nous fait plaisir de finalement te rencontrer. Tu as fait bon voyage ?
We are also pleased to finally meet you. Did you have a good trip?

Mary Oui, très bon merci.
Yes, very good, thanks.

Anne Le trajet dure combien de temps ?
How long is the trip?

Mary Environ trois heures. Plus une heure de voiture pour aller chez moi.
About three hours. Plus an hour by car to go to my place.

Anne Bon, et bien nous sommes garés au parking. Encore une demi-heure de voiture, et c'est fini ! Tu dois être un peu fatiguée.
OK, well we're parked at the parking lot. Another half an hour by car, and you're done! You must be a bit tired.

Mary Non, pas du tout. Je suis très contente d'être ici. J'ai hâte de voir votre appartement, et de commencer mon travail de jeune fille au pair. Paul a l'air charmant, je suis sûre qu'on va devenir de bons amis !
No, not at all. I'm very happy to be here. I'm impatient to see your flat/apartment, and to begin my work as an au pair. Paul looks charming, and I'm sure we're going to become good friends!



Chapters 3 and 4 were written at an intermediate beginner French level (A1-A2). This is the level of A Moi Paris Method Beginner- L2

[More Details...](#)

Questions and Answers

1. À quelle gare parisienne le TGV arrive-t-il ?

In which Parisian station does the TGV arrive?

Il arrive gare du Nord.

It arrives in gare du Nord.

2. Pierre propose de faire quoi ?

What does Pierre offer to do?

Il propose d'aider Mary avec sa valise.

He offers to help Mary with her suitcase.

3. Pourquoi ça ?

Why?

Parce que la valise de Mary est lourde.

Because Mary's suitcase is heavy.

4. Combien de temps Mary va-t-elle rester à Paris ?

For how long is Mary going to stay in Paris ?

Elle va y rester trois mois.

She'll stay there for three months.

5. Qui court pour accueillir Mary ?

Who runs to welcome Mary?

C'est Paul.

Paul does.

6. Comment Paul s'adresse-t-il à Mary ?

How does Paul address Mary?

Il dit "Mademoiselle" et il utilise "vous".

He says "Miss" and he uses "vous (you formal)".

7. Comment Paul a-t-il reconnu Mary ?

How did Paul recognize Mary?

Parce qu'elle est comme sur sa photo, et ils sont amis sur Facebook.

Because she is like on her picture, and they are friends on Facebook.

8. Combien d'heures de trajet représente le voyage de Mary depuis chez elle à Londres à chez les Castel ?

How many hours of traveling is Mary's trip taking from her home in London to the Castel's home?

Trois heures de train, une heure de voiture depuis chez Mary, une demi-heure pour aller chez les Castel. Ça fait quatre heures et demie au total.

Three hours of train, one hour of car drive from Mary's home, half an hour to go to the Castel. It sums up to a total of four hours and a half.

9. La voiture est garée où ça ?

Where is the car parked?

La voiture est au parking.

The car is in the parking garage.

10. Mary à hâte de faire quoi ?

What is Mary impatient to do?

Elle a hâte de voir l'appartement et de commencer son travail.

She is impatient to see the flat and to start her work.

Study Guide: French Adjectives

1. What is an adjective?

An adjective describes a noun or a pronoun in different ways:

1. A descriptive adjective indicates a quality: *tall, blond, intelligent*.
2. A possessive adjective shows possession: *my* book, *their* dogs.
3. A demonstrative adjective points out a noun: *this* book, *that* dog.
4. An interrogative adjective asks a question about a noun: *what* book, *which* dog?

French adjective follow very different rules than their English counterparts !!

2. What is different between French and English adjectives?

French adjectives have two very different behaviors than English ones:

1. They usually come after the noun:
Une valise bleue.
In English, most adjectives come before the noun: a blue suitcase
2. They agree in gender (masculine/feminine) and number (singular/plural) with the noun / pronoun they modify : *Une fille blonde, des garçons blonds.*
In English, adjectives don't change : a blond girl, blond boys.

This means that in French, each time you use an adjective, **you must first analyze the word that it modifies:**

1. Is it a masculine or feminine word?
2. Is it a singular or plural word?
3. And for some adjectives, does it start with a consonant, or a vowel or a silent h?

Then, you will have to make the adjective match (in grammar we also use the word *agree*) with the noun or pronoun it modifies.

And finally, you will have to remember to place your adjective AFTER the noun (for most cases, there are some exceptions).

This too will take some training and getting use to :-)

3. How do I make an adjective agree with a feminine word?

The basic rules to make an adjective feminine are the following :

1. If your masculine adjective ends in a consonant, add a silent "e". The consonant (which is going to be silent in the masculine form) will then be pronounced because of the "e" (the "e" itself is silent).
Il est blond - ends in a silent "d".
Elle est blonde - the "de" is now pronounced.
2. If your masculine adjective ends in a "e" (very common in French), no change in spelling nor pronunciation.
Il est jeune, elle est jeune.
3. Watch out! If the masculine adjective ends in a "é" ("e" with an accute accent), you will add an "e" for the feminine, but the pronunciation will remain the same.
Il est fatigué, elle est fatiguée.

4. How do I make an adjective agree with a plural word?

The basic rule is easy. You add a silent "s". Since this "s" is silent, there will be no difference in pronunciation between a singular and a plural adjective, the only difference will be in writing.

La voiture est garée - the car is parked
Les voitures sont garées - the cars are parked



These are the basic rules, but of course, there are many, many exceptions. It's kind of crazy because in my experience, students often know the exceptions better than they can use regular adjectives. It's because traditional method only talk about the exceptions, and don't spend enough time practicing with regular adjectives.

I have dedicated [a whole audiobook to French adjectives](#). This audiobook will teach you everything you need to know about how French adjectives work, provide lists of truly useful adjectives, and give you the audio practice you need to master them.

05. En Attendant L'Ascenseur

Waiting for the Elevator



Story

Anne, Gérard, Paul et Mary marchent jusqu'à la voiture. Gérard met la valise de Mary dans le coffre, ils sortent du garage et se dirigent vers l'appartement des Castel. Après 25 minutes, ils arrivent dans une rue calme, et Gérard dépose tout le monde - et la grosse valise - devant la porte de l'immeuble avant d'aller garer la voiture.

Anne, Gérard, Paul and Mary walk to the car. Gérard puts Mary's suitcase in the trunk, they exit the parking garage and take the direction to the Castel's apartment. After 25 minutes, they arrive in a calm street, and Gérard drops everybody - and the large suitcase - in front of the building's door, before leaving to park the car.

Anne fait le code, puis Paul monte en premier dans l'ascenseur avec la valise, parce qu'il n'y a pas la place pour tout le monde dans ce petit ascenseur parisien ! Pendant ce temps, Anne et Mary bavardent.

Anne keys in the door security code, and then Paul goes in the elevator first with the suitcase, because there isn't enough room for everybody in this small Parisian elevator! During that time, Anne and Mary chat.

Anne Le problème à Paris c'est qu'il y a très peu de places de parking. Donc, on doit bien chercher, et avoir de la chance !
The problem in Paris is that there is a very limited amount of parking places. So, one has to search carefully, and be lucky!

Mary C'est le même problème à Londres. C'est impossible de trouver une place pour se garer dans la rue, et les appartements ont rarement de parking. Du coup, les places de parking privées se louent très cher.
It's the same problem in London. It's impossible to find a parking place on the street, and the condos rarely have (their own) parking. As a result, private parking places are being rented for a lot of money.

Anne Exactement comme à Paris. C'est pour ça qu'on a seulement une voiture. Quelques fois, je me dis qu'on n'a pas besoin de voiture, mais en général, quand on a des enfants, on a une voiture.
It's exactly the same in Paris. This is why we only have one car. Sometimes, I tell myself we don't need a car, but in general, when you have children, you have a car.

Mary Oui. À Londres maintenant, de plus en plus de gens n'ont pas de voiture.
Yes. In London now, more and more people don't own a car.

Anne Et toi Mary, tu sais conduire ?
And you Mary, do you know how to drive?

Mary Non, pas du tout. Mes parents ont une voiture parce qu'on va souvent chez ma Grand-mère qui habite à Brighton. On est contents d'avoir une voiture quand on va chez elle.
No, not at all. My parents have a car because we often go to my Grandma's house, who lives in Brighton. We are happy to have a car when we go to her place.

Anne Et ta grand-mère conduit elle aussi ?
And your Grandma drives as well?

Mary Oui, elle est complètement indépendante. C'est une femme très sportive ; elle nage beaucoup et elle fait aussi beaucoup de vélo. Quand on est sportif, on n'est pas fatigué, on reste jeune et plein d'énergie. Et vous Anne, vous aimez le sport ?
Yes, she is totally independent. She is a very sporty woman: she swims a lot and does a lot of biking as well. When you are athletic, you are not tired, you remain young and full of energy. What about you Anne, do you like sports?

Anne Mais je t'en prie Mary, tu peux me tutoyer !
 Oui, c'est vrai, le sport, c'est vraiment bon pour la santé. Gérard et moi on fait un peu de jogging, du tennis, et on adore faire de la plongée sous-marine en vacances. Mais on n'est pas très sportifs sinon. Ah, l'ascenseur est libre !
 Please Mary, you can use "tu" when you talk to me!
 Yes, it's true, sports are really good for your health. Gérard and I we jog a little, we play tennis and we love to scuba dive on vacation. But otherwise we are not very athletic. Ah, the elevator is available!

Questions and Answers

With this chapter, we've progressed to yet another level of French, where we use longer sentence constructions, and more complex grammatical structures such as using the pronoun "on".

This chapter, although smaller, is typical of what you'd find in my audiobook [À Moi Paris Method Intermediate L3](#). The story really concentrates on a point of grammar (here the many uses of the subject pronoun "on", hence illustrating the theory which is then explained in the study guide).

So now, let's practice our French with questions and answers. Of course, since the story level is more challenging, so is going to be answering these questions! You can learn a lot from them!

1. Pourquoi Gérard ne descend-il pas avec les autres ?

Why isn't Gérard getting off the car with the others?

Parce qu'il doit aller garer la voiture.

Because he needs to go park the car.

2. Que faut-il faire avant de rentrer dans l'immeuble ?

What do you have to do before entering the building?

Il faut faire le code.

You have to enter the door security pin/code.

3. Paul prend tout seul l'ascenseur avec la valise pourquoi ?

Why does Paul take the elevator with the suitcase by himself?

Parce que les ascenseurs sont petits à Paris !

Because elevators are small in Paris!

4. Quel est le problème à Paris et à Londres quand on a une voiture ?

What's the problem in Paris and London when you have a car?

C'est impossible de trouver une place pour se garer dans la rue, et les appartements ont rarement de parking.

It's impossible to find a parking space on the street, and the apartments/flats seldom have (their own) parking.

5. Pourquoi les Castel n'ont-ils qu'une seule voiture ?

Why do the Castel only have one car?

Parce que c'est presque impossible de se garer !

Because it's almost impossible to park.

6. Est-ce que Mary sait conduire ?

Does Mary know how to drive?

Non, pas du tout.

No, not at all.

7. Les parents de Mary sont contents d'avoir une voiture à quelle occasion ?

In which situation are Mary's parents happy to have a car?

Quand ils vont voir la grand-mère de Mary.

When they go visit Mary's grandmother.

8. Où habite-t-elle ?

Where does she live?

Elle habite à Brighton.

She lives in Brighton.

9. Est-ce que la grand-mère de Mary est sportive ?

Is Mary's grandmother sporty/active?

Oui, très.

Yes, very much so.

10. Quel sport Gérard et Anne pratiquent-ils quand ils sont en vacances ?

What sport does Gérard and Anne practice when they are on vacation?

Ils font de la plongée sous-marine.

They scuba dive.

Study Guide: The Many Meanings of the Subject Pronoun "On"

More often than not, the modern uses of the pronoun "on" is a mystery to students of French.

Traditional methods teach that "on" means "one". But in today's French, "on" is mostly used instead of "nous".

Actually, "nous" is becoming more and more formal, used mostly for writing. When speaking, we use "on".

Here is how "on" works

1. "On" = 3rd person singular verb ("il" verb form)

The first thing to understand when it comes to "on", is that no matter its meaning, "on" will ALWAYS take a 3rd person singular verb form, like "il" and "elle".

On doit, on a, on peut...

2. "On" = 'one', 'people' (you)

This is the old explanation for "on". Honestly, how often do you use the English "one" in a sentence?

So "on" is the "impersonal, the unspecific" subject pronoun, but watch out! It's not at all the same thing as "it" in English, which refers to a thing or an animal. "On" always refers to a person.

On doit bien chercher - One has to look carefully

On peut louer une voiture - it's possible to rent a car

In this meaning, you could also translate "on" as "people", or even "you" - not meaning "you" in particular, but an unspecific "you"... that would be a bit more modern than "one" !!!

En général, quand on a des enfants, on a une voiture - in general, when people/you have children, people/you have a car.

3. "On" = "nous" in spoken French

Watch out though!

The verb is still an "il" form, not a "nous" form. This is the most common way of saying "we" nowadays. I use it all the time, so do my parents, so it's very, very much used this way. "Nous" is more formal, used in writing or in a formal context. But it's very used as well.

C'est pour ça qu'on a seulement une voiture - that's why we only have a car.

4. "On" and the adjective agreements

When "on" means "we", the adjective, if any, will agree in number and gender with the true meaning of "on": so it will be plural for sure, feminine or masculine.

On est contents - we are happy

On n'est pas très sportifs - we are not very sporty

When "on" means "one, you, people", or an unspecific person, it's usually masculine singular.

Quand on est sportif, on est pas fatigué - when you are sporty, you are not tired.

But you have to be smart, and stay focused on the context. Sometime, this unspecific person could only be feminine...

Quand on est enceinte, on est fatiguée - when you are pregnant, you are tired

5. The tricks "on" plays on your ear

1. On makes a strong liaison in N

And that's problematic because it makes it sound like a negative... Contrast:

On est contents - on n'est pas très sportifs.

There is no difference in pronunciation between “on est” with a liaison in N, and “on n’est”. So it’s only the “pas” that gives away the negative... Tricky indeed !

2. On sounds like “ont”

Les appartements ont rarement de parking.

You could argue that “on” sounds like “ton”, or “sont”, or “non”... Or even that you don’t hear “on” very well, that it’s almost silent!

So, with “on”, you cannot really trust your ears. You have to stay really focused on the context!

06. Visite De L'Appartement

Tour of the Apartment



Story

Anne et Mary montent dans l'ascenseur. Anne presse le bouton du quatrième étage, et une voix enregistrée annonce: "attention, fermeture des portes", au grand étonnement de Mary.

Anne and Mary board the elevator. Anne presses the button of the 5th floor (US English - "le quatrième étage" is 4 floors up from the street level), and a recorded voice announces at Mary's stupefaction: "Caution. Doors are closing".

Quand elles arrivent à destination, la même voix proclame: "Quatrième étage. Attention, ouverture des portes".

When they reach their destination, the same voice announces: "Fifth floor, opening of the doors".

Anne Et voilà, c'est ici ! Tu vas pouvoir rencontrer le dernier membre de notre famille, ma fille Sylvie.

Here we are. You're going to meet the last member of our family, my daughter Sylvie.

Sylvie Salut Mary. Ça va ?

Hi Mary. How are things?

Mary Bonjour Sylvie, ça va merci.

Hi Sylvie, everything is fine, thanks.

Sylvie Tu n'es pas trop fatiguée par le voyage ?

You're not too tired by the trip?

Mary Non, pas trop, merci. Wow, c'est super joli ici. J'adore la décoration !

No, not too much, thanks. Wow, it's really beautiful here. I love the decoration/style!

Sylvie Oui, ce n'est pas très grand, mais c'est calme, ce qui est super rare pour Paris. Viens, je vais te montrer ta chambre. Paul y a déjà mis ta valise. Ça l'amuse de la faire rouler !

Yes, it's not very big, but it's calm, which is super rare for Paris. Come, I'll show you to your room. Paul already brought in your suitcase. He finds it fun to make it roll!

- Mary Il a l'air trop mignon ton frère.
Your brother seems so cute.
- Sylvie Ouais, on peut dire ça... Tu sais, il a huit ans, et moi quinze ans, alors ce n'est pas toujours l'amour entre nous ! Et toi, tu as quel âge ?
Yep, you could say that... You know, he's 8, and I'm 15 so it's not always love between us! And you, how old are you?
- Mary Moi, j'ai dix-sept ans.
I'm 17.
- Sylvie Donc, ben là, c'était l'entrée, et puis à droite là, tu as le salon. Il est tout petit !
So, well there, that was the foyer, and then to your right, over there, you have the living room. It's tiny!
- Mary Oui, mais très lumineux. J'aime bien les couleurs.
Yes, but it's very bright. I like the colors.
- Sylvie Bon, ici tu as des toilettes. Et là, à gauche, la salle à manger cuisine. C'est la plus grande pièce de la maison, et c'est bien comme ça parce qu'on y est tout le temps. Il y a aussi un petit balcon, pas très grand mais c'est agréable de s'y asseoir quand il fait beau.
OK, here, you have the toilets. And there, to the left, the dining room / kitchen. It's the biggest room of the house (meaning more "home" here), and it's a good thing because we're there all the time. There is also a small balcony, not very big but it's pleasant to seat there when it's nice out.
- Mary Dis donc, ta mère a la main verte ! C'est une vraie jungle ce balcon !
Gosh ("say"), you're mother has green thumbs. This balcony is a real jungle!
- Sylvie Oui, elle adore jardiner. Alors comme on n'a pas de jardin... Voilà les chambres: à droite, celle des parents, à gauche, celle de Paul, et à droite encore, la tienne. La salle de bains est au bout du couloir.
Yes, she loves to garden. So since we don't have a garden... Here are the bedrooms: to the right, my parents', to the left, Paul's, and to the right again, yours. The bathroom is at the end of the corridor.
- Mary Et toi? Tu dors où ça ?
What about you? Where do you sleep?
- Sylvie Ben là, avec Paul. Je te donne ma chambre.
Well right now (we say "right here"), with Paul. I'm giving you my room.
- Mary Oh non... Tu es sûre ? Tu es vraiment trop gentille, ça me gêne.
Oh no... Are you sure? You are really too kind, I'm embarrassed.

Sylvie Mais non Mary, c'est normal. Et puis Paul est plein de défauts, mais il ne ronfle pas encore ! De toutes les façons, comme dit Maman, je suis tout le temps chez mes copines. Non, vraiment, ça ne me gêne pas du tout. Allez, installe-toi, cet après-midi je crois que Maman veut t'emmener au marché !
Not at all Mary, it's normal. Besides, Paul is full of flaws, but he doesn't snore yet! Anyway, like Mom says, I'm always at my girlfriends'. No, really, it's no trouble at all. Go, settle in, I think that this afternoon Mom wants to take you to the open-air market!



Chapters 5 and 6 were written at an High Beginner level (A2). This is the level of A Moi Paris Method - Intermediate L3.

[More Details...](#)

Questions and Answers

In addition to simply answering the questions out loud, you can also use these short sentences as a dictation and check your French spelling.

You may also want to use them to train on your French pronunciation, and just repeat out-loud after me, trying to mimic my voice and intonation as if you were an actor.

1. Les Castel habite à quel étage ?

What floor do the Castel live on?

Ils habitent au quatrième.

They live on the fourth floor [fifth floor in the US].

2. Qu'est-ce qui étonne Mary quand Anne et elle prennent l'ascenseur ?

What surprises Mary when Anne and she take the elevator?

Une voix annonce l'étage et dit de faire attention aux portes.

A voice announces the floor and warns people about the doors.

3. Qui est-ce que Mary n'a pas encore rencontré ?

Who did Mary not meet yet?

Sylvie, la fille des Castel.

Sylvie, the Castel's daughter.

4. Pourquoi Paul a-t-il déjà mis la valise de Mary dans sa chambre ?

Why did Paul already put Mary's suitcase in her bedroom?

Parce que ça l'amuse de la faire rouler.

Because he thinks it's fun to make it roll.

5. Quels âges ont Sylvie et Mary ?

How old are Sylvie and Mary?

Sylvie a quinze ans et Mary dix-sept ans.

Sylvie is fifteen and Mary seventeen.

6. Où se trouve le salon ?

Where is the living-room ?

Il est à droite de l'entrée.

It's to the right of the entrance.

7. Qu'est-ce qu'il y a sur le balcon ?

What's on the balcony?

Il y a beaucoup de plantes.

There are many plants.

8. Combien de chambres il y a-t-il dans l'appartement ?

How many bedrooms are there in the apartment?

Il y a trois chambres.

There are three bedrooms.

9. Pourquoi Mary est-elle gênée ?

Why is Mary embarrassed?

Parce que Sylvie va lui donner sa chambre.

Because Sylvie is going to lend her her bedroom.

10. Et du coup, Sylvie va dormir où ?

And so, where is Sylvie going to sleep?

Elle va dormir avec Paul.

She'll bunk in with Paul.

Tips To Learn French Efficiently

Typically, in my other À Moi Paris audiobooks, we would be studying vocabulary about the house, giving directions in French, and the use of “il y a” to match the story.

However, in this audiobook, I thought I'd finish by sharing with you some useful tips about learning French.

Learning French, like any other new language, implies a lot of memorization, and often, as adults, our memory is not what it used to be. These tips will help you memorize new information longer, and learn French more efficiently.

1. Always Study French with Audio

Let's start with one that many people don't realize but is a key if you want to do more than just read novels or French magazines...

As you now understand, and have experienced in the previous chapters, written French and spoken French are almost 2 different languages.

There are many silent letters, glidings, liaisons etc... and they are everywhere, including in French verb conjugations and grammar.

Picking the right audio tool though is essential: a French beginner will be discouraged with a [French movie](#). At that stage, French movies should be used as a recreation, not a serious study tool.

Picking the right French audiobook is your first challenge, and from your choice may very well depend the success or failure of your French studies.

2. Self Studying is NOT for Everybody

When it comes to learning languages, not everybody is the same. I've taught hundreds of students, and I can tell you from experience that some people have an easier time with languages than others. It's not fair... and it's not popular to say it... but it's the honest truth.

It doesn't mean that someone less gifted cannot learn French, but it means that self studying is not necessarily for everybody.

Some students need the expertise of a teacher to guide them through their studies, motivate them and find creative ways to explain the same point until it is understood. [Skype French lessons](#) can be a good solution. If you really want to boost your French, try one of the [immersions at a teacher's home I recommend](#).

3. Translate French Into English as Little as Possible

When you are a total beginner, some translation is going to occur but try as much as possible to avoid it.

Translating adds a HUGE step in the process of speaking:
Idea → English and then English → French
versus just "idea → French".

It makes your brain waste time and energy, and will fool you into making a mistake when literal translation doesn't work.

4. Link to Images and Visual Situations, not English Words

So if you don't translate in your head, what should you do?

Try as much as possible to link any new French vocabulary to images, situations, feelings and NOT to English words.

For example, when learning "j'ai froid", visualize that you are cold, bring up the feeling, not the English words "I – am – cold" – which won't translate well since in French we don't use "I am", but "I have".

If you are creating flashcards to study French – which [I strongly encourage you do](#) – draw the word/ situation whenever possible instead of writing English.

Even if you are not a good artist, you'll remember what your drawing meant, and it's much more efficient to learn French this way.

5. Beware of French Cognates

This is exactly why you should be particularly careful with cognates – words that are the same between the two languages.

Many students approach them thinking *"ah, that's easy, I know that one"*. But then when they need to use that word, they don't remember it's the same word as in English...

Furthermore, cognates always have a different pronunciation, and your English brain is going to fight saying that word the French way. I hear many students having a hard time with the word "chocolat".

In French, the ch is soft, as in "shave", and the final t is silent. Shocola. Most English speaking students tend to pronounce it "tchocolaT", a bit like "chocolate" in English.

Finally, there are many false cognates: words that exist in both languages but don't have the same meanings (like 'bras' in English (a kind of *underwear*) and 'bras' in French (which is an *arm*)).

So, cognates need more of your attention, not less.

6. Learn French in Sentences

Learn the new French vocabulary in a sentence. Like that you will [learn "in context"](#): you'll remember the situation and words longer, and you'll already have a series of words that go well together handy for your next French conversation!

7. Make Your French Examples Close to Your Own World

Let's say your teacher told you to write some sentences for homework – or maybe let's imagine you are doing [French flashcards](#).

You want to learn "the black dog" in French. Instead of writing down "Le chien est noir", look for a black dog you personally know, and write:

"le chien de Peter est noir, Fluffy est noir". (Peter's dog is black, Fluffy is black).

Your brain will remember a sentence describing a truth or a memory much longer than it will remember a sentence of made up facts.

8. Group Related Vocabulary Together

This is the same idea as the concept of learning French in context. Use larger flashcards and on the same flashcard, write all related French vocabulary as you come across it. You'll get to the info faster if you have processed and memorized it all together.

9. Don't Try to Learn Everything = Prioritize

Often, to make learning more fun, we try to present a text, a story. At least I do, as much as possible. If your memory is great, go ahead and memorize everything!

But if it's not the case, PRIORITIZE: what words in this story are YOU likely to use? Focus on learning these first, then revisit the story once you've mastered your first list.

The same logic applies to tenses: in conversation, most of the time we use the present indicative. So focus on the present when studying your French verb conjugations, and then move on to adjectives, essential vocabulary, asking questions, [pronouns](#)... things that will make an immediate difference in your ability to converse in French.

The [French subjunctive](#) can wait!

10. Study French Regularly, for a Short Time, not all in one Sitting

If you study French all afternoon, chances are that you'll exhaust yourself, and are much more likely to get frustrated, lose your motivation or attention span.

Spending 15 minutes a day learning French – not while multitasking but with 100% of your attention – will get you better results than two hours during the weekend with the kids or TV playing in the background.

11. Constantly Review – Repetition is the Key!

This is probably the number one mistake most students make.

They concentrate on learning new material, and forget to review the older one.

Rule of thumb: for each hour spent learning new things, you need to spend a minimum of one hour reviewing older things.

Remember... Repetition is the key!

Conclusion

Congratulations! You have completed “À Moi Paris First Encounter”. As you noticed, this audiobook started quite simple, and then the French got more complex through the chapters.

However, since there are only six chapters, that progression was quite fast! Don't worry, in my audiobooks, the transition will be much smoother.

Now, the only thing left to do is to pick up the right “À Moi Paris” audiobook to study with. The story is indeed ongoing, so for a nice review of the basics and to know everything about Mary's life, why not start with [À Moi Paris Method - Beginner](#)?

However, should you be more advanced in French, don't worry, there is a recap of the story so you can go directly to a higher level and still have lots of fun.

Follow the links on the pictures on the transcript to go to each audiobook page on [FrenchToday.com](#), access the description and table of content and listen to audio samples of each level.

In any case, all our audiobooks have a 120 days 100% money back guarantee - so if you feel you've chosen the wrong level, just [contact us](#), and we'll exchange it for you.

Olivier, Leyla and I wish you good luck with your French studies. And hopefully we'll touch base soon on French Today's social networks (see below for links).

À bientôt !

The À Moi Paris French Method



À Moi Paris Method - Beginner

This audiobook explains the foundations of French like no others. Clear grammar explanations, modern pronunciation tips, and really useful vocabulary. All illustrated by a fun story recorded at three different levels of enunciation (slower, enunciated and modern). Q & A section will entice you to practice out loud what you've learned and improve your confidence when handling simple conversations. **Audio:** 17hrs 46 mins - **Transcript:** 340 Pages - [More Details](#)

Real-life Situations Covered Include:

- Talking about your family & country
- Describing your hobbies (sports, music, travels)
- Discussing the weather
- Ordering food
- Telling the time
- Buying groceries
- Being sick
- Shopping for clothes
- Commenting on an apartment
- Planning a vacation and packing
- Going to the movies
- And more

The Study Guide Includes:

- Verbs in ER + modern pronunciation
- Top 30 irregular verbs & pronunciation
- Reflexive verbs
- Formal and Informal greetings
- Politeness expressions
- Shopping & clothing vocabulary
- Traveling vocabulary
- Food vocabulary
- Housing & furniture vocabulary
- Family Vocabulary
- Sickness & medicine vocabulary
- And more



À Moi Paris Method - Intermediate

Master intermediate grammar and drastically expand your vocabulary. Keep practicing the present tense: the tense used the most in everyday conversation. Reinforce all these concepts in the context of an ongoing story recorded at 2 different levels of enunciation (enunciated & modern). Q & A section will entice you to practice out loud what you've learned and improve your confidence when handling intermediate conversations.

Audio: 18hrs 01 mins - **Transcript:** 380 Pages - [More Details](#)

Real-life Situations Covered Include:

- Describing and comparing people and things
- Making various kinds of phone calls
- Ordering and commenting on food
- Flirting in French
- Discussing a TV show
- Going to the hospital
- Common slang
- Grocery shopping & setting a menu
- Taking the plane
- Driving in France
- Talking with and about babies/kids
- + A lot of small talk

The Study Guide Includes:

- Direct & indirect object pronouns
- Asking questions: Est-ce que, inversion & street
- Common & complex interrogative expressions
- Expressing possession & possessive adjectives
- Demonstrative & Interrogative adjectives
- Adjectives of colors and nuances
- Tous, tout, toute or toutes & pronunciation
- Quel, quelques, lequel, duquel, auquel, quelques-uns...
- Possessive & demonstrative pronouns
- Comparative & superlative adverbs
- Y/En and their modern glided pronunciation
- Adverbs and their place in the sentence



À Moi Paris Method - Upper Intermediate

Understand how you build and use tenses of the past and future in French versus English. Unravel the secrets of Passé Composé versus Imparfait, the elusive “On” and more. Reinforce all these concepts in the context of an ongoing story recorded at 2 different levels of enunciation (enunciated & modern). Q & A section will entice you to practice out loud what you’ve learned and improve your confidence when handling upper intermediate conversations.

Audio: 19hrs 34 mins - **Transcript:** 447 Pages - [More Details](#)

Real-life Situations Covered Include:

- Discussing vacations and hobbies
- Going to the hairdresser and discussing looks
- Exploring feelings and relationships
- Addressing a problem in a restaurant
- Bargaining for prices
- Discussing diets, nutrition, and ecology
- Interacting with a young child
- Talking and making plans over the phone
- Going on a journey by train
- Relating pet stories
- Touring Giverny & discussing art

The Study Guide Includes:

- Recap overview of the present (le présent)
- Depuis ≠ pendant, en, dans, pour, il y a
- The near future construction (futur proche)
- The future (futur simple) and the future perfect (le futur antérieur)
- On versus nous
- The imperfect (l'imparfait) and the past tense “passé-composé”
- The participles (le participe présent et le participe passé)
- A direct and indirect object review
- How to choose between être or avoir for the passé-composé?
- The preterit / simple past (le passé simple) and the pluperfect (le plus-que-parfait)
- Expressing cause and consequences, opposition and restriction



À Moi Paris Method - Advanced

Learn the meaning, construction and uses of the French conditional, imperative and subjunctive moods. Compare them to English and learn how the French avoid them. Reinforce these concepts in the context of an ongoing story recorded at 2 different levels of enunciation (enunciated & modern). Q & A section will entice you to practice out loud what you've learned and improve your confidence when handling advanced conversations and narration.

Audio: 19hrs 9 mins - **Transcript:** 461 Pages - [More Details](#)

Real-life Situations Covered Include:

- Renting an apartment in Paris
- Discussing the news
- Debating and lightly arguing
- Accepting/refusing an invitation
- Describing and navigating a city
- Tasting and describing a wine
- Discussing cooking, nutrition & health
- Going over a child's routine
- Expressing surprise and emotions
- Relating events in the past
- Communicating with co-workers
- Going to a yoga class

The Study Guide Includes:

- Present subjunctive construction & uses
- Ways to avoid the Subjunctive
- Subjunctive ≠ Indicative
- The "ne" explétif – a "ne" without any negative value
- Conditional present construction
- "Je" form – Conditional pronunciation ≠ futur simple
- Conditional use in French ≠ English
- Past conditional – should have, would have, could have
- Hypothesis in French ("if" clauses)
- Imperative present construction & uses
- Imperative and pronouns
- The indirect speech

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) Equivalent

French Today's method is unique. The À Moi Paris method progresses differently than the traditional methods, so this is not a perfect match with the CEFR. Yet it will give you a rough idea.

À Moi Paris Method -Beginner

- À Moi Paris L1 - Complete beginner to A1
- À Moi Paris L2 - Expansion of A1 towards A2

À Moi Paris Method - Intermediate

- À Moi Paris L3 - A2
- À Moi Paris L4 - Expansion of A2 towards B1

À Moi Paris Method - Upper Intermediate

- À Moi Paris L5 - B1
- À Moi Paris L6 - Expansion of B1 towards B2

À Moi Paris Method -Advanced

- À Moi Paris L7 - Level B2
- À Moi Paris L8 - Expansion of B2 towards C levels

Additional Products



French Verb Drills Series (Vol. 1, 2 & 3)

Hundreds of drills on verb conjugation for the cornerstone verbs in the French language. 6 minutes a drill will build long lasting reflexes and will dramatically improve your French level and confidence.

[More Details...](#)

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