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À Moi Paris - Level 2

Meet The Gang

SAMPLE

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Introduction

Now that you know your French fundamentals, let's expand your vocabulary...

Most methods concentrate on teaching tenses. But there is so much more to French than conjugations, and you can communicate efficiently using only the present tense. To start communicating in French you'll need adequate vocabulary, good modern pronunciation, and confidence.

So, in this companion audio novel, we'll concentrate on the present tense, and work on developing everything you need to handle everyday conversations with a French native.

This audiobook is the second in the "À Moi Paris" audiobook series.

- In the "À Moi Paris Level 1" audiobook method, you took your first step in French and mastered politeness and basic structures, as you developed a sense of the pronunciation of French and learned essential vocabulary.
- In this "À Moi Paris Level 2" companion audio novel, the aim is to drastically increase your fundamental vocabulary of French, and practice understanding French in context, as well as the modern way of speaking. The Q & A portion will entice you to practice out loud what you've learned, and improve your confidence when handling simple conversations.
- In the "À Moi Paris Level 3" audiobook method you will develop your fluency with the present tense, by studying pronouns, adverbs and more advanced adjectives. As usual, you will learn all these grammatical concepts within the context of the story.
- In the "À Moi Paris Level 4" companion audio novel, I'll introduce longer dialogues, more complex vocabulary and start using other French tenses. This will begin your transition into more advanced French conjugation and grammar concepts.
- Then, future audiobooks will focus on the other tenses and moods of French. As usual, the story will illustrate the rules, helping you understand them in context. But that's still in the planning stages :-)

The amount of work you will put into this book is up to you: you can just listen to the story and have fun along the way. If you are motivated however, this audiobook series could be the basis for hours of in-depth studying, gradually building up your knowledge and giving you the confidence you need to interact in French.

How to work with this audiobook

The most important tip here is REPEAT OUT LOUD, not just in your head.

The Story

Each chapter of the story is recorded three times:

1. Once very slowly ("slow" recordings) so you can really hear all the French sounds, and practice on repeating them.
2. Then at an almost normal speed but still well enunciated ("normal" recordings).
3. Finally at a "street French" speed, respecting the modern glided pronunciation of spoken French, mostly for you to practice on understanding French people when they speak among themselves ("street" recordings).

How to study:

1. LISTEN to the normal recording of the story part. Can you guess what is happening? 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 or conversation.
2. If you need to, read the English translation, then read the French at the same time as the normal recording is playing. Note the glidings, liaisons, intonation and word groupings 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 dialogues with the normal recording speed. You will probably need to use the pause and play buttons to have time to repeat in between each phrase. Try to mimic the sing-song and modulation 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 within the sentence. Repeat as many

times as necessary for you to be able to read comfortably.

4. Use the “street French” recording to test your understanding. You will probably not be able to speak that fast at first, but you need to train your ear to be able to understand people speaking that way (which is ‘normal’ speed for natives)!

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

The workbook

The aim of this workbook is to drastically expand your vocabulary. You will find irregular verb conjugations, and long list of vocabulary related to the theme being explored in the story chapter.

ALWAYS STUDY WITH THE AUDIO. Go as slow as you need, repeating as many times as necessary until you get the pronunciation.

Don't try to 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!!)

For irregular verbs conjugations, first work with the audio, then memorize the spelling. Test yourself out of order :-) I mean, write down a list of subject pronouns out of the usual order, then pick one at random and say it out loud with the appropriate verb form.

Example: if drilling on the verb être:

Nous... sommes.

Tu... es.

Ils... sont.

etc...

To memorize the vocabulary, do flashcards. Test yourself by looking at the English, and seeing if you can come up with the French word.

The Questions And Answers

This section is designed to entice you to speak out-loud, and practice what you've learned. I tried to ask pretty straightforward questions, but your answer may vary a bit from mine, and still be correct.

The Questions and Answers are also a great section to train on your pronunciation, since the sentences are quite short. Repeat out loud, or say the sentence before I do and compare your pronunciation to mine. If you want to work on your written French, you can use the audio as a dictation. Play with the pause button as needed so you have time to write the sentences down.

I encourage you to really work with this section, and often repeat these exercises. Understanding questions fast and having the courage to answer them out loud is the key to any successful interaction in French.

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

Chapitre 08

Visite de l'Appartement

The Apartment Visit



Story

Le lendemain, Mary va visiter l'appartement.

The next day, Mary goes to visit the apartment.

Sophie Bonsoir, Mary.
Good evening, Mary.

Mary Bonsoir, Sophie. Que je suis contente d'être ici. Vous êtes vraiment gentilles de m'avoir invitée à dîner.
Good evening, Sophie. I'm so happy to be here. It's really nice of you to have me over (lit : have invited me) for dinner.

Sophie Pas de problème ! Claudia nous prépare sa spécialité ; des pâtes fraîches au pesto. Et quand Claudia cuisine, quand il y en a pour deux, il y en a pour trois... Surtout qu'elle ne mange rien !
No problem! Claudia is making her specialty for us ; fresh pasta with pesto sauce. And when Claudia cooks, "when there is enough for two, there is enough for three"... Especially since she doesn't eat anything!

Mary Mmm, en tout cas, ça a l'air délicieux ! Salut Claudia !
Mmm, in any case, it looks delicious! Hi Claudia!

Claudia Bonsoir. Alors, que penses-tu de notre appartement ?
Hi. So, what do you think of our apartment?

Mary Cette pièce est magnifique !
This room is magnificent!

- Claudia** Magnifique, tu exagères un peu ! Mais c'est sympa d'avoir une cuisine à l'américaine : on peut s'installer autour du bar, et puis celle qui cuisine peut participer à la conversation tout en cuisinant.
Comme tu le vois, la cuisine est très bien équipée ; il y a même un lave-vaisselle, et le réfrigérateur est très grand.
Magnificent, you're exaggerating a little! But it's nice to have an American-style kitchen : you can gather around the bar, and then whoever is cooking can take part in the conversation while she's cooking.
As you can see, the kitchen is very well-equipped ; there's even a dishwasher, and the refrigerator is very big.
- Sophie** Oui, et tout est très moderne.
Yes, and everything is very modern.
- Mary** Et propre !
And clean!
- Sophie** Oui, mais ce n'est pas toujours aussi bien rangé !
La partie salon n'est pas très grande, mais elle est très confortable ; nous avons du soleil toute la journée, et la nuit, c'est assez tranquille. Comme tu vois, nous avons une grande télévision.
Yes, but it isn't always so neat!
The living room area isn't very big, but it's very comfortable ; we have sun all day, and at night, it's very quiet. As you see, we have a big television.
- Mary** Oui, et j'ai une stéréo que nous pouvons mettre dans ce coin-là !
Yes, and I have a stereo that we can put in that corner over there!
- Sophie** Parfait !
Au fait, dans l'autre coin, derrière la plante verte, nous avons une table et des chaises pliantes ; quand des amis viennent dîner, nous poussons les gros fauteuils, et voilà ! Ça nous sert de salle à manger.
Perfect!
Actually, in the other corner, behind the green plant, we have a table and folding chairs ; when friends come over for dinner, we push aside the big armchairs, and voilà! It serves as our dining room.
- Claudia** Oui, tu vois, ce n'est pas très grand, mais on s'arrange !
Yes, you see, it isn't very large, but we manage!
- Sophie** Viens, je vais te faire visiter le reste de l'appartement ; voici ma chambre...
Come on, I'm going to take you to see the rest of the apartment ; here is my room...
- Mary** J'aime beaucoup la décoration.
I love the decor.
- Sophie** Merci. Et voilà la chambre de Claudia... Comme tu vois, ce n'est pas très organisé...
Thanks. And here's Claudia's room... As you see, it isn't very organised...

- Mary Non, mais ça a son charme.
No, but it has its charm.
- Sophie Voilà la salle de bains ; il va falloir se serrer, car elle est minuscule !
Here's the bathroom ; it will be a tight squeeze for us, because it's so tiny!
- Mary Oui, mais il y a une baignoire !
Yes, but there's a bathtub!
- Sophie Toi aussi, tu aimes prendre des bains ?
You like to take baths too?
- Mary Oui, je trouve ça bien plus relaxant qu'une douche.
Yes, I think it's a lot more relaxing than a shower.
- Sophie Et pour finir, voici ta chambre ; elle est petite, mais très calme. Tu vois, elle donne sur une cour intérieure, donc il n'y a aucun bruit de voiture.
And finally, here's your room ; it's small, but very quiet. As you can see, it looks onto an inner courtyard, so there isn't any traffic noise.
- Mary C'est parfait pour moi.
It's perfect for me.
- Sophie Ici, dans le couloir, tu as un grand placard. Claudia et moi allons retirer nos affaires, comme ça tu peux y mettre les tiennes.
Here, in the corridor, you have a big closet. Claudia and I are going to take out our things, so that you can put yours there.
- Mary Merci, mais tu sais, je viens d'arriver d'Angleterre, et je repars dans quelques mois, alors je n'ai vraiment pas beaucoup de vêtements !
Thanks, but you know, I just got here from England, and I go back in a few months, so I really don't have a lot of clothes!
- Sophie Maintenant, passons aux choses sérieuses ; pour l'appartement, le loyer est de trois mille Euros, mais comme ta chambre est plus petite, nous te proposons de payer six cents Euros. Pour le téléphone et l'électricité, on divise en trois.
Now, let's go over some serious things ; for the apartment, the rent is 3000 Euros, but as your room is smaller, we suggest you pay 600 Euros. For the telephone and electricity, we divide by three.
- Mary Pas de problème.
No problem.
- Sophie Et pour les courses, on tourne : chacune fait le marché à son tour, et à la fin du mois, on additionne les frais et on divise en trois. Si tu achètes quelque chose de spécial pour toi, tu le paies toi-même et tu as une place réservée dans le frigidaire.
And for shopping, we take turns : everyone does the shopping in turn, and at the end of the month, we add up the bills and divide by three. If you buy something special for yourself, you pay for it yourself and you have a reserved spot in the refrigerator.
- Mary Très bien.
Okay.

- Sophie Voilà, tu sais tout. Des questions ?
Well, you know everything. Any questions?
- Mary Quand est-ce que je peux emménager ?
When can I move in?
- Sophie Quand tu veux ! Alors, ça te plaît vraiment ?
Whenever you want! So, do you really like it?
- Mary C'est formidable ! Merci encore les filles !
It's great! Thanks again, girls!
- Claudia Alors, à table ! C'est prêt !
Okay, come sit down! It's ready!

Study Guide

Le lendemain : the day after

Que je suis contente : I am so happy

Claudia nous prépare : (here) Claudia is cooking for us

Quand il y en a pour deux, il y en a pour trois : French saying about sharing : when there is enough for 2 persons, there is enough for three persons.

S'installer autour du bar : to sit around the counter

Pliant, pliante : folding

Ça nous sert de : We use it as

On s'arrange : we manage, find a solution

Ça a son charme : expression meaning it is not without charm

Il va falloir : we're going to have to

Se serrer : to squeeze

Donner sur : to overlook

Y mettre les tiennes : put yours in there

Passons aux choses sérieuses : expression meaning let's talk business, let's move on to more serious topics

Les courses : the groceries

On tourne : we take turn

Faire le marché : to go grocery shopping

Additionner / diviser : to add / to subtract

Ça te plaît vraiment ? : you really like it ?

A table : come sit down (*for a meal*)

C'est prêt : it's ready

Le rez-de-chaussée : first floor.

Le premier étage : second floor.

Note that in French, we use the word étage for floors above the first one, so our 1st floor is an English 2nd floor.

Le grenier : the attic.

La cave : cellar.

Une pièce : a room.

Une chambre : a bedroom (not just any room).

Les escaliers (m) : stairs.

Une marche : a step.

Un ascenseur : an elevator.

Le mur : the wall.

Le plafond : the ceiling.

Le toit : the roof.

Une cheminée : a chimney, a fireplace.

Une porte : a door.

La porte d'entrée : the front door.

Une fenêtre : a window.

Un balcon : a balcony.

Une terrasse : a terrasse.

Un garage : a garage.

Un jardin : a garden.

Une cour : a courtyard.

Dedans : inside.

Dehors : outside.

En haut : upstairs.

En bas : downstairs.

L'entrée : entrance, foyer.

Le couloir : the corridor.

La cuisine : the kitchen.

Une cuisine à l'américaine : an open kitchen

La salle à manger : dining room.

La salle de séjour : family room.

Le salon : living room.

Le bureau : study.

La salle de bain : bathroom, washroom.

Les toilettes (f) : toilets, lady's room, bathroom.

La buanderie : laundry room.

La véranda : sunroom.

Les meubles (m) : furniture.

Un lit : a bed.

Une table de nuit : a night stand.

Une armoire : a wardrobe.

Un placard : a closet.

Une commode : a drawer case.

Une étagère : shelf.

Une table : a table.

Une chaise : a chair.

Un fauteuil : armchair.

Un divan, un canapé : sofa.

Une baignoire : a bathtub.

Une douche : a shower.

Un lavabo : bathroom sink.

Un évier : kitchen sink.

Une machine à laver la vaisselle : a dishwasher.

Une machine à laver le linge : a washing machine.

Un séchoir : a dryer.

Un frigidaire : a refrigerator.

Un congélateur : a freezer.

Un four : an oven.

Un four à micro-ondes : a microwave.

Un broyeur : a disposal.

La décoration : the decoration.

Un tableau : a painting.

Une plante verte : a plant.

Un coussin : cushion.

Une lampe : lamp.

Une glace, un miroir : mirror.

Une moquette : wall to wall carpet.

Un tapis : a rug.

La peinture : wall paint.

Le papier peint : wall paper.

Les rideaux : curtains.

Une radio : a radio.

Une télévision : TV.

Un magnétoscope : VCR.

Un lecteur de DVD : DVD player.

Une chaîne stéréo : stereo.

Un ordinateur : a computer.

Questions & Answers

01. Mary est invitée pour le déjeuner. Vrai ou Faux ?

Mary is invited for lunch. Right or wrong?

Faux. Elle est invitée pour le dîner.

Wrong. She is invited for dinner.

⇒ *Note the spelling of dîner in French.*

02. Est-ce que Claudia cuisine de petites portions ?

Does Claudia cook little portions?

Non, quand Claudia cuisine "quand il y en a pour deux, il y en a pour trois".

No, when Claudia cooks for two, there is enough to eat for three.

03. Est-ce que la cuisine de l'appartement est une cuisine traditionnelle française ?

Is the apartment's kitchen a typical French kitchen?

Non, c'est une cuisine à l'américaine.

No, it is an American style kitchen.

04. Est-ce qu'elle est bien équipée ?

Is it well equipped?

Oui elle est très bien équipée.

Yes, it is very well equipped.

05. Est-ce que l'appartement est sombre ?

Is the apartment dark?

Non, il n'est pas sombre, il y a du soleil toute la journée.

No, it is not dark, there is sun all day long.

06. Est-ce que c'est bruyant ?

Is it noisy?

Non, c'est calme

No, it is quiet.

07. Est-ce qu'il y a une salle à manger formelle ?

Is there a formal dining room?

Non, les filles ont une table et des chaises pliantes.

No, the girls have a folding table and chairs.

08. La salle de bain est très petite. Vrai ou faux ?

The bathroom is very little. True or false?

C'est vrai. Elle est minuscule.

It's true. It is tiny.

09. Sophie préfère-t-elle prendre des bains ou des douches ?

Sophie likes to take a bath or a shower?

Elle préfère prendre des bains.

She prefers a bath.

10. Où est-ce que Mary va pouvoir mettre ses affaires ?

Where is Mary going to be able to store her things?

Elle va pouvoir mettre ses affaires dans le placard du couloir.

She is going to be able to store them in the closet in the corridor.

11. Est-ce qu'elle a beaucoup d'affaires ?

Does she have a lot of things ?

Non, elle n'a pas beaucoup d'affaires.

No, she doesn't.

12. Pour le loyer, pourquoi Mary va-t-elle payer moins que Claudia et Sophie ?

For the rent, why is Mary going to pay less than Claudia and Sophie?

Parce que sa chambre est plus petite.

Because her room is smaller.

13. Est-ce que les filles partagent la nourriture ?

Do the girls share the food?

Oui, elles partagent la nourriture, mais elles ont une place réservée pour des choses spéciales.

Yes, they share the food, but they have a reserved place for special things.

14. Est-ce que Mary est d'accord pour emménager avec les filles ?

Does Mary agree to move in with the girls?

Oui, elle est d'accord.

Yes, she agrees.

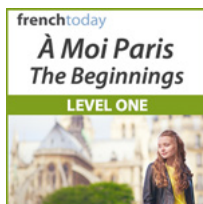
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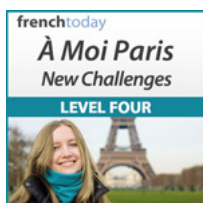
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