

frenchtoday™



À Moi Paris - Level 3

Parisian Life

SAMPLE

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For more information, contact us at

French Today
63 Rue De Goas Plat
22500 Paimpol - France

www.frenchtoday.com
info@frenchtoday.com
Twitter: @frenchtoday
Facebook: www.facebook.com/frenchtoday

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Introduction

The Intermediate level can be a challenge.

What a thrill to learn your first words, dare to say a few useful sentences. Then, shortly after their first steps in the language, students want to become fluent. And that is when frustration sets in, in particular with a language like French which is really two languages in one: spoken and written French.

With schools mostly concentrating on tenses, students often spend too little time on what really makes someone fluent in a language such as adjectives, adverbs pronouns... My role as a teacher is to organize the information in a logical way, so that you can build up your fluency step by step, as you would with construction blocks.

To achieve this, I have chosen a path that is quite different from the usual curriculum. I stay in the present tense and concentrate on vocabulary, structure of the language, modern pronunciation and audio exercises, therefore raising my students to a comfortable level of fluency. And then and only then tackle the other French tenses.

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

- In "À Moi Paris Level 1", 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 "À Moi Paris Level 2", you drastically increased your basic vocabulary of French, and practice understanding French in context. You got to train out loud with the Questions and Answers and reached a level where you could handle simple conversations in the present tense.
- The aim of this book is to increase your eloquency within the present tense, by studing pronouns, adverbs and more advanced adjectives. As usual, you will learn all these grammatical concepts within a story, so that you can memorize the new vocabulary and grammar in context.
- In "À Moi Paris Level 4", I'll challenge your understanding by introducing you to longer dialogues and more complexe vocabulary. I will also develop your ear for the other French tenses, using them more than I did before even though a lot of the dialogues will still be using the present tense.
- Then, future audiobooks will focus on the tenses. As usual, the story will illustrate the rules, helping you understand them since you'll see them being used 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 part and have fun along the way. If you are motivated however, this method could be the basis for hours of serious studying, gradually building up your knowledge and giving you the confidence that you need to interact in French.

So now, here is my advice on how to best use this book...

How to work with the audio recordings

Each chapter of the story is recorded two times: once slower so you can really hear all the French sounds, then at a street French speed, respecting the modern glided pronunciation of spoken French for you to practice on understanding French people when they speak among themselves in everyday life.

Don't worry, you are not expected to speak at this street speed quite yet but you need to understand it since this is 'normal' speed for the French natives. Based on your interest and current speaking level, you might want to target the slower (also somewhat more traditional) or the street speed version - it's up to you. If you are uncertain, start with the slower version until you are comfortable then move on to the street speed.

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, that doesn't count :-)

1. LISTEN to the slower recording of the story part several times until you can guess/understand what is happening in the story.
2. Read the English translation, then read the French at the same time as the 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 recording, then longer dialogues. You will probably need to use the pause and play buttons to have time to repeat.
4. Use the street French recording to test your understanding. Whether you want to speak that way or not, you'll need to train your ear to be able to understand the way real French natives speak today.

The study guide

ALWAYS STUDY WITH THE AUDIO. Go as slow as you need, repeating as many times as necessary until you get the pronunciation and are able to memorize the points being explained. It's not about going as fast as possible to the next chapter. Au contraire, you need to focus on the same point until you **really** get it, and can do the exercises without hesitation.

- Do and redo the exercises. After I give you the English sentences, pause to have time to answer out loud or to write down your answer. Then check both your answer and its pronunciation with the audio and pdf. Train with the audio to repeat my answer out loud.
- Make flash cards to memorize the new words and expressions. Test yourself with your flashcards.
- Remember the golden rule of studying: for any time spent studying new material, try spending twice as much time reviewing previously studied material: so go back! Repetition is the key!

The story part

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

Once you are familiar with the meaning of the story, go back then play, pause and REPEAT OUT LOUD each sentence. Try to mimic the sing-song 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.

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 or conversation.

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!!)

If you want to work on your written French, you can use the audio of the slower 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!

Key



Pronunciation Note

Any note related to specific pronunciation will be highlighted with this icon.



Language Note

Any note on the particularities of the French language will be highlighted with this icon.



Cultural Note

When an aspect of French culture affects the way we use the French language, it will be noted with this icon



Suggested Additional Reading/Listening

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

Chapitre 10

Tu Préfères Celui-ci ou Celui-là ?

Do You Prefer This One or That One?

Story

Le serveur apporte les plats. Tout à l'air délicieux. Patrick montre l'assiette de Mary.
The waiter brings the dishes. Everything looks delicious. Patrick points at Mary's plate.

Patrick Qu'est-ce que c'est ?
What is it?

Mary C'est un "Guinness Stew", un ragoût de boeuf avec de la Guinness. Tu veux goûter ?
It's a Guinness stew: a beef stew made with Guinness. You want to taste it?

Patrick Volontiers.... Mmmm, c'est bon ! Tu veux goûter mon plat ?
I would love to... Mmmm, it's good. You want to try my dish?

Mary Oui, bien sûr... Ouais, c'est pas mal, mais je préfère le mien. C'est un Yorkshire pudding, c'est ça ?
Yes, of course... Yeah, not too bad but I prefer mine. It's a Yorkshire Pudding, right?

Patrick Oui. C'est la première fois que j'en mange.
Yes. It's the first time I have it [lit. that I eat it]

Mary Il faut que tu goûtes celui de ma grand-mère. Le sien est vraiment léger et il absorbe bien le jus de la viande.
You have to try my Grandmother's one. Hers is really light and really absorbs the meat juices well.

Patrick Miam ! Tu as raison, celui-ci est un petit peu sec. Enfin c'est bon quand même. Et le steak est très bon. Et toi Claudia, qu'est-ce tu as pris ?
Yum! You are right, this one is a little dry. Well, it's still good anyways. And the steak is really good too. And you Claudia, what did you get?

- Claudia J'ai pris une "kidney pie". C'est une tarte aux rognons. En général, j'aime bien ça. La grand-mère de Mary en fait une absolument délicieuse. La sienne est onctueuse et le goût des rognons est léger. Mais celle-ci est forte. Je ne suis pas sûre de pouvoir la manger.
I got a "Kidney Pie". It's a pie made with kidneys. Usually I like it. Mary's grandmother makes one that's absolutely delicious. Her's is moist and the kidney taste is subtle. But this one is really strong flavored. I'm not sure I'll be able to eat it.
- Mary Il faut dire que la "kidney pie", c'est très spécial... Ce n'est pas pour tout le monde. Tu veux échanger avec mon plat ? Moi j'ai l'habitude.
A Kidney Pie can be a tricky dish indeed... It's not for everyone. Do you want to switch with me? I'm used to it [the kidney pie].
- Claudia Tu es sûre que ça ne te dérange pas d'échanger nos plats ?
Are you sure it doesn't bother you switching dishes?
- Mary Non, pas du tout. Celui-ci ou celui-là, ça m'est égal.
No, not at all. This one or that one, it's all the same to me.
- Patrick Tu as de la chance Claudia, parce que ce ragoût-là est vraiment délicieux. Oh... je viens de voir passer des desserts à la table d'à côté... ils ont l'air pas mal !
You are lucky Claudia because this stew is really delicious. Oh... I just saw the desserts from the table next to us... They don't look bad at all!
- Mary Gros gourmand !
You have such a sweet tooth! ["Gourmand" is generic for someone who likes all types of food]
- Patrick Mais je ne sais pas du tout ce que c'est que ce dessert-là !
But I don't know at all what type of desert this is!
- Mary Lequel ?
Which one?
- Patrick Celui-ci. Celui que la jeune fille mange.
This one. The one that this young woman is eating.
- Mary Ha ! Ça c'est un "Eton Mess". Enfin je crois... ou peut être un "trifle". Tu veux que je lui demande ?
Oh! That's an "Eton Mess". Well, I believe so... Or maybe a "Trifle". You want me to ask him?
- Patrick Non, je vais demander discrètement au serveur tout à l'heure.
No, I'll ask the waiter discretely later.
- Mary Tu as vu celui-là ?
Did you see that one?
- Patrick Oh, un cheese-cake. Ça c'est vraiment décadent. Ça fait longtemps que tu n'en as pas fait.
Oh, a cheese cake. That's really decadent. It's been a while since you made one.

Mary Tu as raison. Mais comme Claudia est tout le temps au régime, je fais plus souvent des crumbles ou des choses plus légères. Le cheese-cake, ce n'est pas vraiment régime...
You are right. But since Claudia is always on a diet, I mostly do crumbles or lighter things. Cheese cake is not really diet friendly...

Study Guide

Let's continue with more French pronouns.

You remember, in the previous chapters we studied de "possessive adjectives" (mon, ton, son, notre, votre, leur etc...) and the "demonstrative adjectives" (ce, cet, cette, ces). Now let's take a look at the corresponding pronouns.

First, a little grammatical review.

What is the difference between a pronoun and an adjective?

An adjective is followed by a noun, and adds additional information about that noun.

Ce plat. Cette tarte. Ma grand-mère.

A pronoun replaces a noun. You don't repeat the noun.

Je préfère mon plat = je préfère le mien.

Sa tarte est onctueuse = la sienne est onctueuse.

Possessive pronouns

Possessive pronouns replace a possessive adjective followed by a noun.

As always in French, the pronouns will change according to the number and gender of the noun it replaces, not the gender and number of the speaker. It's the same logic as with the possessive adjective, but the noun is included in the concept.

- Mine = le mien, la mienne, les miens, les miennes.

Ma fille = la mienne

Mon fils = le mien

Mes filles = les miennes

Mes fils = les miens

It doesn't matter whether "I" am a man or a woman, one person or several people. What matters is the gender and number of the word that is being replaced.

I am not going to repeat the logic and examples for each variation, I think you get it :-)

- Yours (for tu) = le tien, la tienne, les tiens, les tiennes.
- His = le sien, la sienne, les siens, les siennes
- Hers = le sien, la sienne, les siens, les siennes
- Its = le sien, la sienne, les siens, les siennes
- Ours = le nôtre, la nôtre, les nôtres (both feminine and masculine)
- Yours (for vous) = le vôtre, la vôtre, les vôtres (both feminine and masculine)
- Theirs = le leur, la leur, les leurs (both feminine and masculine)



Do not mistake "les siens" and "le leur"...

Les siens = "He, she or it" is the owner or several items.

Le leur = "They" is the owner of one item.

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns replace a demonstrative adjective followed by a noun:
"This one, that one, these ones, those ones".

To translate the concept of "this one over here" and "that one over there", we add "-ci" and "-là" to them. "-ci" tends to be closer, "-là" farther, but it's not set in stone. Often, we just use them interchangeably, or to reinforce the position of two different items.

Note that we also often use these demonstrative pronouns in a live situation, and point to the object/person as well.

A. For one item:

This one = celui-ci, celle-ci,
That one = celui-là, celle-là

B. For several items.

These ones = ceux-ci, celles-ci
Those ones = ceux-là, celles-là

Note that you can combine this notion with a possessive notion :
Celle de ma grand-mère = the one of my grandmother, my grandmother's one.

Watch out! These little words are tricky in French. Even though you understand the logic right now, you may forget it in the future. It takes a lot of repetition to remember both logic and the different forms in French...

Exercise

Fill in the blanks according to the model.

C'est ton stylo ou c'est celui de Claudia ?

Non, c'est le mien !

or - C'est le sien.

1. C'est ____ chemise ou c'est ____ de Claudia ?
Non, _____.
2. C'est ____ bague ou c'est ____ de Claudia ?
C'est _____.
3. Ce sont ____ chaussures ou ce sont ____ de Claudia ?
Non, _____.
4. C'est ____ sac ou c'est ____ de Claudia ?
C'est _____.
5. Ce sont ____ boucles d'oreilles ou ce sont ____ de Claudia ?
Ce sont _____.

Answers

1. C'est ta chemise ou c'est celle de Claudia ?
Non, c'est la mienne.
2. C'est ta bague ou c'est celle de Claudia ?
C'est la sienne.
3. Ce sont tes chaussures ou ce sont celles de Claudia ?
Non, ce sont les miennes.
4. C'est ton sac ou c'est celui de Claudia ?
C'est le sien.
5. Ce sont tes boucles d'oreilles ou ce sont celles de Claudia ?
Ce sont les siennes.

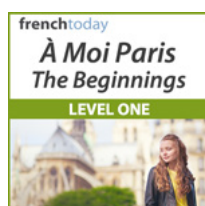
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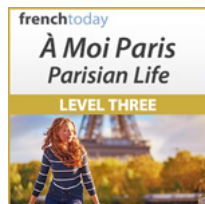
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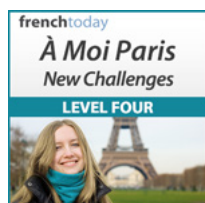
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À Moi Paris Level 3 "Parisian Life"

Increase your eloquency with the present tense, by studying pronouns, adverbs, and more advanced adjectives. As usual, learn all these grammatical concepts within the context of the story so that you can memorize the new vocabulary and grammar easily.

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