

Parle French

From First Words to Everyday Conversations

Levin

A0-A2 | English edition



Make the book work for you

Start with a task you can recognise: greeting a neighbour, buying a ticket, explaining a problem. Read the situation before studying the forms. Your first aim is to make your meaning clear, then to make it more accurate. Photographs illustrate the situations; use the written documents for the exercise facts.

A practical study cycle

1. Read the French exchange once for its purpose. 2. Cover the meaning column and recover useful phrases. 3. Study the small grammar step. 4. Attempt the reading and exercises before turning to the keys. 5. Complete the speaking and writing tasks with the page closed. 6. Compare with the full models and try the changed situation.

Use a notebook for answers and a short error log: what I wrote, a better version, and the reason. Return to three useful phrases the next day and again after a week. Progress by what you can do without looking, rather than by pages you have read.

Speaking and sound

Read the printed role cards aloud and change roles. These are text-based activities: recordings are not included, and silent reading does not test listening or pronunciation. A proficient partner can optionally read a script and give feedback. No app purchase is needed.

A0 is used here as a convenient starting label. Pre-A1, A1 and A2 describe increasing communicative scope, not a guaranteed result or a certificate. Work through the early units before choosing later topics. The neighbourhood, people, notices, prices and timetables in the exercises are fictional.

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In these free chapters

Two full lessons, including their answers and models, followed by a later practical challenge. Attempt each task before reading its solution.

U01	Your first French exchange	5
U09	Order and check the bill	13
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Your route through the full book

28 practical units, from first greetings to explaining and negotiating everyday plans.

Start: U01-U04

Greet, give a name, use numbers and ask for clarification.

Everyday exchanges: U05-U16

Meet people, describe routines, order, shop, find a route, choose tickets, arrange an outing and manage a stay.

Connected tasks: U17-U28

Tell what happened, compare options, explain a problem, make calls and adapt a plan with other people.

Study beyond one lesson

Four cumulative reviews, two longer practical challenges and a compact reference section help you return to earlier learning. Every unit includes its complete explained keys and full spoken and written models.

The final challenge in this sample shows a later task. It expects language developed in the full sequence; it is not a placement test or proof of an A2 result.

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Arrive, greet, leave

Nora has just moved to the neighbourhood. Outside a community building, she asks Elias where the library is. Read the French once for the situation, then use the meanings to check. You do not need to analyse every word yet.



Start and end a brief encounter, ask politely for help and recognise a few useful doorway words.

A first encounter in the neighbourhood.

Nora Bonjour, monsieur.	Hello, sir.
Elias Bonjour, madame.	Hello, madam.
Nora Pardon, la bibliothèque, s'il vous plaît ?	Excuse me, the library, please?
Elias Ici, madame.	Here, madam.
Nora Ah, merci !	Ah, thank you!
Elias Je vous en prie.	You're welcome.
Nora Au revoir !	Goodbye!
Elias À bientôt !	See you soon!

U01-E01 Choose the expression that fits each function.

1. Start a neutral daytime encounter. Au revoir. / Bonjour.
2. Thank someone after receiving help. Pardon. / Merci.
3. Leave when you expect another meeting. Ici. / À bientôt.

Words you can use straight away

Learn these as useful whole expressions. Cover the meaning column and recall it; then cover the French and produce the expression. Keep the accent in à and the apostrophe in s'il.

bonjour	hello; good morning/afternoon	monsieur	sir; polite address
bonsoir	good evening	oui	yes
salut	hi; bye, informally	non	no
merci	thank you	s'il vous plaît	please, with vous
pardon	excuse me; sorry	je vous en prie	you're welcome, politely
au revoir	goodbye	ici	here
à bientôt	see you soon	la bibliothèque	the library
madame	madam; polite address	le cours	the class/course

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Bienvenue !

Le cours de français est ici.

À bientôt !

The notice welcomes visitors and says the French class is here. Its job is to direct you, not to test a verb table. Keep le with cours and la with bibliothèque as you learn the nouns.

U01-E02 Complete the phrase or match the meaning.

1. To ask for something politely: s'il vous _____. plaît / merci
2. Which expression can be both an informal hello and an informal goodbye? Bonsoir. / Salut.
3. Which word on the notice means "here"? ici / cours

Build a small polite exchange

A useful expression does not always translate word for word. Merci is a complete thank-you: do not add je before it. Je vous en prie is a complete polite reply to thanks. Learn it as a chunk before trying to explain its individual parts.

Merci. → Je vous en prie.

Pardon, la bibliothèque, s'il vous plaît ? → Ici.

Bonjour. → Bonjour.

Au revoir. → Au revoir. / À bientôt.

Vous is a useful default with an unfamiliar adult or a member of staff. In s'il vous plaît, keep the whole expression together. You can simply say Bonjour without adding madame or monsieur when you do not know how someone wishes to be addressed.

For English-speaking learners

French does not divide the day into exactly the same greeting phrases as English. Bonjour covers many daytime meetings. Choose bonsoir for an evening greeting; there is no universal clock time at which every speaker changes. Salut is a register choice, not a shorter formal greeting.

U01-E03 Choose the written form or response that fits.

1. Keep the apostrophe in the polite expression. si il vous plaît / s'il vous plaît
2. Which complete reply politely answers Merci ? Je vous en prie. / Je merci.
3. Copy the leave-taking with its written accent. A bientôt. / À bientôt.

Read the situation before speaking

À l'entrée de la bibliothèque, Nora rencontre Elias. Elle dit bonjour. Elle demande de l'aide avec « pardon » et « s'il vous plaît ». Elias montre l'entrée : « Ici. » Nora le remercie. Avant de partir, elle dit au revoir. Elias répond : « À bientôt ! »

Meaning support: at the entrance, Nora meets Elias. She greets him, asks for help politely and thanks him. Before leaving, she says goodbye. Rencontre means “meets”, montre means “shows”, and avant de partir means “before leaving”. Use the text to check the order of the actions.

A short speaking preparation

Mark the phrase groups: Bonjour / monsieur. Then say each whole group calmly. Written spelling is a guide to reading, not a sound recording. This book supplies no recordings. If a proficient French-speaking partner reads the lines while you hide them, you may separately try identifying arrival or departure; without that input, listening is not tested.

U01-E04 Choose the French line that matches the action in the text.

1. Nora begins the encounter. Bonjour. / À bientôt.
2. Nora asks for help with courtesy. Au revoir, merci. / Pardon, s'il vous plaît ?
3. Elias indicates the entrance. Ici. / Bonsoir.

Make the exchange yours

U01-S01

You enter a community library and speak to an unfamiliar adult. Role A: greet the person, ask politely for the library, thank them and leave. Role B: return the greeting, indicate “here”, answer the thanks and return the goodbye. Work alone by covering one role and supplying it before checking the model.

- Use a greeting and a leave-taking that fit a first encounter.
- Include s'il vous plaît and merci where they have a real function.

U01-W01

Write two very short French notes for a community room: one welcomes a daytime visitor; the other thanks the visitor and says goodbye until the next meeting. Use only expressions you can explain. An invented name is fine; no personal details are needed.

- Copy accents and apostrophes, then close the vocabulary page and write again.
- Check the function of each note, not the number of words.

U01-E05 Choose a useful response for each new situation.

1. A staff member says Merci to you. S'il vous plaît. / Je vous en prie.
2. You meet an unfamiliar staff member in the evening. Bonsoir. / À bientôt.
3. You leave after a first short encounter. Au revoir. / Bonjour.

Recall it in a changed setting

Move the encounter to the entrance of a French class. Begin with no written script. Greet the person, ask “Le cours, s’il vous plaît ?”, respond to “Ici”, then leave. Change one detail on a second attempt: use an evening greeting, or be the person who gives help. Do not repeat a long line whose meaning you cannot explain.

U01-E06 Recall expressions from earlier pages without looking.

1. You want to attract attention politely before a question. Pardon. / Non.
2. Someone helps you find the class. Say thank you. Bonsoir. / Merci.
3. You are leaving and expect to see the person again. À bientôt. / Oui.

☐ I can choose a greeting for daytime or evening.

☐ I know which expressions ask for help and which thank someone.

☐ I can give a polite reply to Merci.

☐ I can end an encounter rather than greet again.

☐ I can copy à and s’il accurately.

☐ I can change one detail without reading the whole model.

Check E01-E06 on the next page. If arrival and departure are still mixed up, sort the four lines Bonjour, Bonsoir, Au revoir and À bientôt into two groups and try again tomorrow. Next you will learn to give and check a name. Reading the page is preparation; being able to recall a suitable reply is the useful result.

Check the eighteen answers

U01-E01

1. Bonjour. This opens a neutral daytime encounter. Au revoir closes one.
2. Merci. Merci thanks the helper. Pardon attracts attention or apologises.
3. À bientôt. This is a leave-taking with the idea of meeting again. Ici indicates a place.

U01-E02

1. plaît The complete polite chunk is s'il vous plaît.
2. Salut. Salut can be informal hello or goodbye; context decides.
3. ici Ici locates something here; cours names a class or course.

U01-E03

1. s'il vous plaît The apostrophe joins the written s' and il in this fixed expression.
2. Je vous en prie. This complete expression replies politely to thanks. Je merci is not the French construction.
3. À bientôt. Copy the accent in à; it is part of the written expression.

U01-E04

1. Bonjour. It starts the encounter; À bientôt ends it.
2. Pardon, s'il vous plaît ? The line politely requests attention/help in this exercise.
3. Ici. Elias indicates where the entrance is: here.

U01-E05

1. Je vous en prie. Reply to thanks rather than making a new request.
2. Bonsoir. The setting is an evening greeting, not a departure.
3. Au revoir. This closes the encounter. À bientôt can also work if another meeting is expected. Also: À bientôt.

U01-E06

1. Pardon. Use pardon before the help request; non means no.
2. Merci. This thanks the helper for a concrete action.
3. À bientôt. It fits leaving with an expectation of meeting again.

Models, alternatives and a next attempt

U01-S01

A : Bonjour. La bibliothèque, s'il vous plaît ?

B : Bonjour. Ici.

A : Merci. Au revoir !

B : Je vous en prie. À bientôt !

A complete successful exchange greets, makes the request understandable, acknowledges the help and closes the encounter. You can add Pardon before the request or use Au revoir in the last line. These are models, not the only permitted lines. A solo covered-role attempt practises recall; it does not measure how another person understood you.

U01-W01

Note 1 : Bonjour ! Bienvenue !

Note 2 : Merci. À bientôt !

The first note welcomes a visitor; the second thanks them and points to another meeting. Au revoir is an acceptable neutral ending. Check that your accents and apostrophes remain visible. There is no need to add unfamiliar grammar merely to make the note longer.

Nouvel essai

A : Bonsoir. Le cours de français, s'il vous plaît ?

B : Bonsoir. Ici.

A : Merci. Au revoir.

B : Au revoir !

Try the changed setting once more after a break, with the model hidden. If a line is missing, return to the vocabulary bank, choose its function, and rebuild the short exchange. Keep a separate note if you want to practise hearing these expressions later with suitable spoken input.

A small order, a complete exchange

Nora takes a lunch break at the café des Tilleuls. First read for the practical result: what she wants, where she eats and how she pays. The prices belong to this fictional menu.



Order two items, choose eat-in or takeaway, check the total and pay politely.

A pause at the café des Tilleuls.

Nora Bonjour, madame.

Hello.

L'employée Bonjour. Vous désirez ?

Hello. What would you like?

Nora Je voudrais un café et un sandwich au fromage, s'il vous plaît.

I would like a coffee and a cheese sandwich, please.

L'employée Sur place ou à emporter ?

Eat in or takeaway?

Nora Sur place. Le sandwich est à quatre euros ?

Eat in. Is the sandwich four euros?

L'employée Oui. Avec le café, ça fait six euros.

Yes. With the coffee, that is six euros.

Nora D'accord. Vous acceptez la carte ?

All right. Do you accept cards?

L'employée Oui. Voici votre ticket.

Yes. Here is your receipt.

U09-E01 Choose the fact stated in the exchange.

1. Where does Nora eat? À emporter. / Sur place.
2. Which sandwich? Au fromage. / Aux légumes.
3. What total is stated? Sept euros. / Six euros.

Read the menu, keep the article

un café	a coffee	un ticket	a receipt
un thé	a tea	une carte	a card
un sandwich	a sandwich	en espèces	in cash
le fromage	cheese	par carte	by card
les légumes	vegetables	sur place	eat in
un jus de pomme	an apple juice	à emporter	takeaway
une carafe d'eau	a jug of water	payer	to pay
une addition	a bill	ça fait combien ?	what is the total?

CAFÉ DES TILLEULS

Café : 2,00 €

Thé : 2,50 €

Sandwich au fromage : 4,00 €

Sandwich aux légumes : 4,50 €

Jus de pomme : 3,00 €

The menu gives a price per item. Add the ordered items before checking the ticket. A comma separates euros from cents. A jug of water is a useful request phrase; this menu gives no price for it.

U09-E02 Use the menu. Choose the correct total or noun phrase.

1. A tea and cheese sandwich cost... 6,50 € / 6,00 €
2. An apple juice and vegetable sandwich cost... 7,50 € / 6,50 €
3. Choose the feminine noun phrase. un carafe / une carafe

A polite request and a clear answer

One useful request frame

Learn je voudrais as a complete polite phrase here. Keep je, then add the item with its article. You can join two items with et. You do not need to learn the full conditional system to use this request.

Je voudrais un thé.

Je voudrais un thé et un sandwich, s'il vous plaît.

Answer the question being asked

Sur place ou à emporter asks about where you consume the order. Par carte ou en espèces asks about payment. A short phrase is enough if it supplies the missing information. Add s'il vous plaît to the request, not mechanically to every sentence.

Language bridge

English may omit an article when talking about food generally. Here un café is one serving. Keep the article and learn un café versus une carafe.

U09-E03 Complete each phrase with the correct option.

1. Je ___ un thé. voudrais / voudrait
2. Je paye ___ carte. par / pour
3. Sur place ou ___ emporter ? en / à

A second order: read and rehearse

Il est midi. Sam est au café des Tilleuls avec Elias. Sam regarde la carte. Il voudrait un thé et un sandwich aux légumes. Le thé coûte deux euros cinquante et le sandwich coûte quatre euros cinquante. Sam demande le total : cela fait sept euros. Il choisit à emporter, parce qu'il mange au parc. Elias est libre à midi aussi. Il préfère un café. Sam paye par carte et garde son ticket.

Il voudrait means he would like; recognise it here without changing the je voudrais frame for your own request. Coûte means costs and garde means keeps. Read once for the people, then find the two amounts and the place where Sam eats.

Sound and rhythm

In vous, ou represents /u/; in café, é represents /e/. Read the request in two groups: Je voudrais un café / s'il vous plaît. Written sound work prepares pronunciation; it is not evidence of listening comprehension.

U09-E04 Read Sam's account and choose.

1. Where does Sam eat? Au parc. / Dans le café.
2. What does his order cost? Sept euros. / Six euros.
3. Who prefers a coffee? Sam. / Elias.

Your turn at the counter

U09-S01

Customer: order a tea and a cheese sandwich, choose takeaway, ask the total and pay by card. Employee: use the menu, ask eat-in or takeaway and give the total. In a second round, say 7,50 € once; the customer should check it politely. Alone, cover the model and answer each employee question before comparing.

- Name both items.
- Confirm takeaway and the correct total.
- Greet, pay and close the exchange.

U09-W01

Write 40-60 words to Sam about a visit to the café. Use Nora's coffee-and-cheese-sandwich order from page 1. Give the place, two items, total, eat-in choice and card payment. Include a greeting and closing.

- Keep the menu facts accurate.
- Use complete sentences with je.

U09-E05 Choose a relevant reply.

1. Sur place ou à emporter ? À emporter, s'il vous plaît. / Par carte.
2. Vous payez par carte ? Un thé. / Oui, par carte.
3. A tea and cheese sandwich are billed at 7,50 €. Excusez-moi, ça fait six euros cinquante ? / Au revoir, jeudi.

Change one fact, keep the task

Nouvelle commande : un jus de pomme et un sandwich au fromage. À emporter. Paiement en espèces.

Build a new request from this order before looking at the choices. Retrieve three earlier tools: a greeting from U01, a number from U03 and a repetition request from U04. Change the details, while keeping the same conversational purpose.

U09-E06 Use the changed order.

1. Which total is correct? Six euros. / Sept euros.
 2. How do you answer the payment question? Par carte. / En espèces.
 3. You did not catch the total. Je m'appelle Sam. / Vous pouvez répéter, s'il vous plaît ?
- ☐ I request two items with their articles.
- ☐ I choose eat-in or takeaway.
- ☐ I check a total from the menu.
- ☐ I state the payment method.
- ☐ I ask for repetition when needed.
- ☐ I write a short message with all required facts.

Study record

This lesson supplies no recording. If no proficient French reader is available, mark listening not tested. Reading aloud and comparing with the printed model practise retrieval; they do not independently assess your accent.

Answers: meaning before speed

U09-E01

1. Sur place. She explicitly chooses eat-in.
2. Au fromage. Her order names cheese.
3. Six euros. The employee says six euros.

U09-E02

1. 6,50 € Add 2,50 and 4,00.
2. 7,50 € Add 3,00 and 4,50.
3. une carafe Carafe is feminine.

U09-E03

1. voudrais The learnt request is je voudrais.
2. par Par carte names the payment method.
3. à The expression is à emporter.

U09-E04

1. Au parc. The text says il mange au parc.
2. Sept euros. 2,50 plus 4,50 is 7,00.
3. Elias. Elias prefers coffee; Sam orders tea.

U09-E05

1. À emporter, s'il vous plaît. This answers where the order is consumed.
2. Oui, par carte. It confirms payment.
3. Excusez-moi, ça fait six euros cinquante ? Check the menu total politely.

U09-E06

1. Sept euros. 3,00 plus 4,00 is 7,00.
2. En espèces. The new card specifies cash.
3. Vous pouvez répéter, s'il vous plaît ? Ask for the missing detail again.

Models to compare after trying

U09-S01

Client : Bonjour. Je voudrais un thé et un sandwich au fromage, s'il vous plaît.

Employée : Sur place ou à emporter ?

Client : À emporter. Ça fait combien ?

Employée : Sept euros cinquante.

Client : Excusez-moi, ça fait six euros cinquante ?

Employée : Oui, pardon. Vous payez par carte ?

Client : Oui, par carte. Merci.

Employée : Merci. Au revoir.

The customer covers both items, takeaway, the correction and card payment. C'est combien ? can replace ça fait combien ? A short request such as un thé, s'il vous plaît is also natural. Compare facts before small spelling details.

U09-W01

Salut Sam ! Aujourd'hui, je suis au café des Tilleuls. À midi, je voudrais un café et un sandwich au fromage. Ça fait six euros. Je mange sur place et je paye par carte. Le café est petit et calme. À bientôt ! Nora

This 44-word model has the requested audience, place, order, total, consumption and payment details. Payer may be written je paye or je paie. Count words separated by spaces; aujourd'hui is one word. Do not copy the model until you have checked your own version.

A changed-facts reply

Je voudrais un jus de pomme et un sandwich au fromage, à emporter. Ça fait sept euros ? Je paye en espèces.

If an item changes, recompute the total rather than keeping the old number. If the payment changes, replace the whole payment phrase.

A changed journey, a clear solution

Bring the earlier skills together. Read the situation without drafting a response yet. Separate the fixed constraints, the preferences and the information still missing.

Nora et Sam ont prévu une journée à Montlac samedi. Ils devaient partir à 9 h et arriver à 9 h 45. Vendredi soir, le service de transport annonce que le premier départ est annulé. Nora veut quand même faire une courte visite, mais Sam doit rentrer avant 18 h pour travailler. Ils ont chacun un budget de 35 euros pour le transport et le repas. Ils préfèrent une solution simple qui laisse le temps de déjeuner. Sam marche difficilement sur les longues pentes ; il faut demander des informations précises sur le trajet entre l'arrêt et le lieu de visite. Le nom de la destination ne permet pas de deviner son accessibilité.

Prepare a decision

In a notebook, draw three columns: must respect; would like; must check. Copy only facts that influence the plan. A preference may be negotiable; a deadline or an unconfirmed detail must be handled explicitly.

Choose useful phrases from the relevant units before you speak. Then close them. An understandable short sentence is better than a long sentence that hides a necessary fact.

Read, calculate, verify

AVIS ET CHOIX POSSIBLES

Départ de 9 h annulé. Départ de 10 h maintenu ; arrivée 10 h 45.

Aller-retour : 18 euros par personne. Retour : départ 16 h, arrivée 16 h 45.

Maison du lac : entrée gratuite ; accès depuis l'arrêt à vérifier auprès de l'accueil.

Restaurant du centre : menu à 13 euros ; réservation conseillée.

Ingrédients à demander.

Nora a laissé un message pour deux places à 12 h 30, mais elle n'a pas encore reçu de confirmation.

Service transport : guichet ouvert vendredi jusqu'à 18 h et samedi dès 8 h.

Check the plan against the data

C02-1. Which departure is still running?

C02-2. What is the stated arrival time at Montlac?

C02-3. What is transport plus the menu per person?

C02-4. Is the restaurant booking confirmed?

C02-5. Is the return compatible with the 18 h deadline?

C02-6. What access detail is still unknown?

These notices are exercise documents. A stated time is a planning fact within this task, not a guarantee for a real journey.

Speak, write, then review

Spoken task

You are Nora speaking with the transport service. Explain the cancellation in the past, confirm the replacement departure and return, and ask one access question. Then report the answer to Sam. If no access information is available, state that it still needs checking.

Written task

Write 60-85 words to Sam. Explain what changed, propose the new timetable, give the cost per person, distinguish the unconfirmed restaurant request from a confirmed booking, and say what you will check next.

Before comparing

Check six points: the recipient is clear; every requested fact is present; times and costs agree with the documents; questions are distinguishable from statements; unknown information is labelled honestly; the message has an appropriate greeting and ending.

Read the result aloud. If a long phrase breaks down, split it into two clauses. In a solo role exchange, leave a short pause before giving the other role's reply. This rehearses retrieval; it does not measure interaction with an unpredictable real speaker.

After checking the models, change one constraint: a different available time, a smaller budget or an unanswered question. Make a second workable response. Keep the useful structure while changing the facts.

Solutions and complete models

Information keys: 1. Le départ de dix heures. 2. À dix heures quarante-cinq. 3. Trente et un euros. 4. Non, Nora attend une confirmation. 5. Oui, l'arrivée prévue est à seize heures quarante-cinq. 6. Le trajet entre l'arrêt et la maison du lac.

One spoken version

Nora : Bonjour, notre départ de neuf heures a été annulé. Le départ de dix heures est-il maintenu ?

Agent : Oui, l'arrivée est prévue à dix heures quarante-cinq.

Nora : Et le retour de seize heures arrive bien à seize heures quarante-cinq ?

Agent : Oui.

Nora : Le chemin entre l'arrêt et la maison du lac est-il long ou en pente ? Y a-t-il des escaliers ?

Agent : Je n'ai pas cette information. Il faut appeler l'accueil.

Nora : Merci, je vais les contacter.

Nora, à Sam : Les deux horaires sont confirmés, mais le trajet à pied reste à vérifier. Je vais appeler l'accueil pour demander sa longueur, les pentes et les escaliers.

One written version

Salut Sam, le départ de neuf heures a été annulé. Je te propose de prendre celui de dix heures et de rentrer à seize heures, avec une arrivée prévue à seize heures quarante-cinq. Le transport et le menu coûtent trente et un euros par personne. J'ai demandé deux places au restaurant, mais ce n'est pas encore confirmé. Je vais aussi appeler l'accueil pour vérifier le chemin depuis l'arrêt. Est-ce que cette solution te convient ?
Nora

Other plans are possible if they satisfy the constraints. Compare the content before the wording. Repair the smallest missing element, then deliver the whole response again without reading this page.