



Beginners' French

Required starting level

This class is designed for complete beginners; no previous knowledge is required. It is the ideal introduction to conversational French, covering the basic situations you would encounter as a tourist/visitor to France.

Aims & working methods

Emphasis will be on speaking and listening as well as pronunciation in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Together we explore the French language and have some fun with games and songs. There will be a bit of grammar along the way: mostly basic useful (regular and irregular) verbs in the present tense and in the imperative; the use of specific structures to indicate past as well as future. Topics and expressions may be introduced and revised visually through PowerPoint presentations but mostly through listening and speaking (audio recording or video clips). Role plays will be used extensively to practice and integrate new material.

There will be homework to reinforce and review your knowledge.

On completion of the course, you should be able to get by in French and participate in simple everyday conversations with a degree of confidence. You may feel inspired to continue studying French and join the Improvers course the following year.

Textbooks

There is no need to buy a course manual. In the long term, a phrasebook may be useful and this will be discussed in class.

What to bring to class

Bring yourself and let's get started! is the most important thing. However, a pen, paper, and one or two highlighters would be useful.

Homework

Suggested homework is a few minutes per day revising or working on the topic/work done that week.

Topic areas

Throughout the year, emphasis will be on pronunciation, vocabulary, speaking and listening practice, starting simply and gradually increasing knowledge and confidence. Topics will include (but not exclusively):

- Greetings and making introductions
- Talking about yourself and family
- French alphabet
- Using numbers and understanding prices
- months and days of the week - dates
- Telling the time (24 hour clock)
- Ordering food and drinks in a cafe
- Shopping
- Finding your way around
- Travelling and public transport
- Booking and checking in at a hotel
- Visiting the pharmacy/doctor
- Basic cultural landmarks: Paris, etiquette, traditions and awareness of regional customs and differences
- Christmas and New Year Celebrations as well as special national days.