

Intermediate

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French Lessons Canada ™ Intermediate Lessons

Intermediate Lessons

Conceived to meet the essential need for oral communication, French Lessons Canada ™ addresses a diversified public who favours the training of French by means of conversation.

On-line lessons are provided for students by means of audio files and accompanying text documents which contain the lesson transcript. Previews are provided here for each lesson and contain both an audio clip and a textual description.

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Intermediate-Lesson 1

The basic sentence

Three (3) components are usually enough to form a

simple sentence

1- The subject

2- The verb

3- The complement

ex {mp3}A0260000{/mp3}

-Le français est une langue merveilleuse.

-J'étudie le français.

nb: when the subject is a personal pronoun, it is called

subject personal pronoun and it concerns people.

full text + audio files are available to download with a

username and a password !

text: 3\$

audio: 2\$

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Intermediate-Lesson 2

The possessive adjectives

The possessive adjectives refer automatically to the

possessor(s) / possession(s) and they agree in gender and

number with the possession which is the noun contrary

to english in case of the following specific possessive

adjectives:

son; sa; ses; ses

So, they are not connected with the possessor but with

the following possession.

ex{mp3}A0710000{/mp3}

le père d'Andréa; son père

la femme de John; sa femme

It will be similar for the plural possessive adjectives, in

the masculine(ses) or in the feminine(ses) eventhough

the difference is not obvious.

ex{mp3}A0720000{/mp3}

les vêtements de Madame Frey; ses vêtements.

les habitudes de Monsieur Cole; ses habitudes

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Intermediate-Lesson 3

The relatives pronouns "Qui" and "Qu'(e)"

As the name indicates, the relative pronouns establishes a link between at least two parts of the sentence and makes them become only one.

The usual relative pronouns are: Qui and Qu'(e)

-Qui is used as the subject of the verb in the relative clause and it refers to somebody or something.

ex: Nous avons un oncle;

il habite aux îles de la madeleine.

Nous avons un oncle qui habite aux îles de la madeleine.

ex: Le café est une boisson;

elle est délicieuse.

Le café est une boisson qui est délicieuse.

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-Qu'(e) is used as the object of the verb in the relative clause

and there is another subject applied to the verb of the

relative clause. It refers also to somebody or something.

ex: Elle rencontre un homme dans le métro;

c'est son voisin.

L'homme qu'elle rencontre dans le métro est son voisin.

ex: Le chocolat est un produit;

j'adore !

Le chocolat est un produit que j'adore.

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Note 1:

Contrary to "Qui" where the verb agrees with the antecedent which means the preceding word of the relative pronoun,

it doesn't in case of "Que" because there is another subject in the relative clause.

Note 2:

Que becomes Qu' before vowel or silent h

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Intermediate-Lesson 4

The simple and compound tenses

Seven (7) tenses can be considered as simple tenses

including the imperfect which refers to the past.

The simple tense implies only one verb without any

auxiliary

ex:

Le matin, elle prend son déjeuner à dix heures (10h00)

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When there is an auxiliary verb (avoir or être) with a

following past participle, the whole tense will form part of

the compound tenses category

ex:

Ce matin, elle a pris son déjeuner à onze heures (11h00)

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Note 1

If the perfect tense is a compound tense, the compound tense include not only the perfect tense but also the pluperfect, the past conditional, the future perfect, the perfect subjunctive...

auxiliary verb + past participle = compound tenses

(present indicative) + past participle = perfect tense

(imperfect) + past participle = pluperfect

(present conditional) + past participle = past conditional

(future) + past participle = future perfect

(present subjunctive) + past participle=perfect subjunctive

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Intermediate-Lesson 5

The reported speech

To report the speech or the thought of someone to others,

the reported speech is necessary in the present or in the past:

-Qu'est-ce que ? ----- ce que

ex: "Je suis jeune" (Amy)

Qu'est-ce qu'elle dit ? (Peter)

Elle dit qu'elle est jeune (John)

-Qu'est-ce qui ? -----ce qui

ex: "Qu'est-ce qui se passe ?" (Amy)

Qu'est-ce qu'elle demande ?(Peter)

Elle demande ce qui se passe (John)

-Est-ce que ? -----si

ex: "Est-ce que tu travailles ?" (Amy)

Qu'est-ce qu'elle te demande ? (Peter)

Elle me demande si je travaille (John)

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nb: Remember that The following interrogative words:

qui ?; où ?; comment ? etc... have to be replaced in the

answers.

ex: Qui es-tu ? Où habites-tu ? et Comment vas-tu ? (Amy)

Qu'est-ce qu'elle te demande ? (Peter)

Elle me demande qui je suis, où j'habite, et

comment je vais.(John)

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nb: On ne demande pas une question but

On pose une question

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Intermediate-Lesson 6

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The subject personal pronouns are six(6):

Singular

1- Je but J' before vowel or silent h

2- Tu

3- Il/Elle/On

Plural

1- Nous

2- Vous

3- Ils/Elles

Singular

1- Je: the first person in the masculine or in the feminine

It refers to me

2- Tu: the second person in the masculine or in the

feminine

It refers to you

3- Il: the third person exclusively in the masculine.

It refers to him

-Elle: the third person exclusively in the feminine

It refers to her

-On: the indefinite pronoun

It refers to us

Plural

1- Nous: the first person in the masculine or in the feminine

It refers to us

2- Vous: the second person in the masculine or in the

feminine

It refers to you

3- Ils: the third person exclusively in the masculine

It refers to them

- Elles: the third person exclusively in the feminine

It refers to them

Note: Vous is a plural personal subject pronoun but it can

be singular when you address only one person in the

purpose to be formal

In french, we identify three main conjugations and the

infinitive endings determine each category

The first conjugation

Except Aller, all the verbs ending in er require the same

conjugation

Singular

silent e with the first person

j'étudi(e)

silent es with the second person

tu étudi(es)

silent e with the third person

il/elle/on étudi(e)

Plural

pronounced ons with the first person

nous étudi(ons)

pronounced ez with the second person

vous étudi(ez)

silent ent with the third person

ils/elles étudi(ent)

conjugate

danser, garder, téléphoner

The second conjugation

End in ir in the infinitive form and in issons at the plural

first person, the second group verbs require the same

conjugation

ex: finir

Singular

silent s at the the first person

je fini(s)

silent s at the second person

tu fini(s)

silent t at the third person

il/elle/on fini(t)

Plural

pronounced issons at the first person

nous fin(issons)

pronounced issez at the second person

vous fin(issez)

silent ent at the third person

ils/elles fin(issent)

conjugate

choisir, punir

The third conjugation

All the verbs end in re, oir belong to the third group verbs

and almost require the same conjugation.

ex: souri(re)

The common endings are:

Singular

silent s at the first person

je souri(s)

silent s at the second person

tu souri(s)

silent t at the third person

il/elle/on souri(t)

Plural

pronounced ons at the first person

nous souri(ons)

pronounced ez at the second person

vous souri(ez)

silent ent at the third person

ils/elles souri(ent)

Note: when a verb end in ir in the infinitive form and the

plural first person is different than issons, it is a third group

verb.

ex: offrir

Singular

silent e at the first person

j' offr(e)

silent es at the second person

tu offr(es)

silent e at the third person

il/elle/on offr(e)

Plural

pronounced ons at the first person

nous offr(ons)

pronounced ez at the second person

vous offr(ez)

silent ent at the third person

ils/elles offr(ent)

conjugate

rire, ouvrir

nb: verbs in dre in the infinitive form

take

-d at the third person (singular)

ex: vendre s; s; d; ons; ez; ent

To complete the basic sentence, the last component is the

object which is direct or indirect

Direct object

The direct object refers to someone or something and it is

located directly after the verb without any linking

preposition.

ex: J'admire Ann

ex: Elle lit le journal

Indirect object

The indirect object refers exclusively to someone with the

linking preposition before the object which is a person.

ex: Vous parlez à Jack

Note: if some verbs are only indirect and require an

indirect object, some others will be direct and indirect at

the same time.

ex: Il prépare du café à Mark.

ex: Nous offrons une robe à Suzy.

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