day 1 bonjour!

Say hello and goodbye, give your name and ask someone theirs, with tu or vous.

Bonjour and your name open every conversation in France, and choosing tu or vous shows respect from the very first word.

words

word	meaning	example
bonjour	hello, good morning	Bonjour ! Je m'appelle Anna. Hello! My name is Anna.
salut	hi; bye (casual)	Salut ! Je m'appelle Léo. Hi! I'm Léo.
au revoir	goodbye	Merci, au revoir ! Thank you, goodbye!
merci	thank you, thanks	Merci, Camille ! Thank you, Camille!
je	I	Je m'appelle Sam. My name is Sam.
tu	you (a friend, family, a child)	Comment tu t'appelles ? What's your name?
vous	you (polite, or more than one)	Comment vous appelez-vous ? What's your name?
me	me, myself	Je m'appelle Léo. My name is Léo.
te	you, yourself (with tu)	Comment tu t'appelles ? What's your name?
s'appeler	to be called (name)	Je m'appelle Anna. My name is Anna.
comment	how; what (with a name)	Comment vous appelez-vous ? What's your name?
enchanté	nice to meet you	Enchanté, Camille ! Nice to meet you, Camille!
et	and	Je m'appelle Anna. Et vous ? I'm Anna. And you?

pattern tu or vous?

comment | tu t'appelles | or | vous vous appelez | ?

French has two words for “you”. Say tu to a friend, a child or someone your own age; say vous to a stranger, a shop assistant, your teacher, or to more than one person. So “What's your name?” is Comment tu t'appelles ? with a friend and Comment vous appelez-vous ? when you're being polite. When in doubt, start with vous.

Comment tu t'appelles ? What's your name? (to a friend)

Comment vous appelez-vous ? What's your name? (polite)

Je m'appelle Sam. Et vous ? I'm Sam. And you?

dialogue the first class

camille Bonjour ! Je m'appelle Camille.
Hello! My name is Camille.

camille Et vous ? Comment vous appelez-vous ?
And you? What's your name?

anna Bonjour ! Je m'appelle Anna.
Hello! I'm Anna.

camille Enchantée, Anna !
Nice to meet you, Anna!

sam Salut, Anna ! Je m'appelle Sam.
Hi, Anna! I'm Sam.

anna Enchantée, Sam !
Nice to meet you, Sam!

camille Merci et au revoir !
Thank you, and goodbye!

anna Au revoir, Camille ! Salut, Sam !
Goodbye, Camille! Bye, Sam!

spell it cover the word, write it, check

hello, good morning	**bonjour**
hi; bye (casual)	**salut**
goodbye	**au revoir**
thank you, thanks	**merci**
I	**je**
you (a friend, family, a child)	**tu**

good to know · Bonjour is the magic word in France: say it when you walk into a shop, a café or even a lift. Skipping it sounds rude. Je m'appelle literally means “I call myself”. The double l of appelle is said like one l. Salut means both hi and bye, but only with friends. With a stranger, say bonjour and au revoir. Enchanté (said by a man) and enchantée (said by a woman) sound exactly the same.

You can now walk into any room in France, say bonjour and give your name. Day one, done!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 2 i'm english

Say your nationality and whether you study or work with être, and say no with ne … pas.

Être (to be) is the most used verb in French, and ne … pas turns any sentence into a “no”.

words

word	meaning	example
être	to be	Je suis anglaise. I'm English.
il	he; it	Il est français. He's French.
elle	she; it	Elle est professeure. She's a teacher.
oui	yes	Oui, je suis étudiant. Yes, I'm a student.
non	no	Non, je ne suis pas française. No, I'm not French.
ne	not (ne … pas)	Je ne suis pas anglais. I'm not English.
pas	not (ne … pas)	Elle n'est pas française. She isn't French.
anglais	English	Anna est anglaise. Anna is English.
français	French	Léo est français. Léo is French.
américain	American	Sam est américain. Sam is American.
l'étudiant	student (university, college)	Léo est étudiant. Léo is a student.
le professeur	teacher	Camille est professeure. Camille is a teacher.
travailler	to work	Je travaille. Et vous ? I work. And you?

pattern être (to be) and ne … pas

je **ne** **suis** **pas** **anglais**

Être is irregular: je suis, tu es, il/elle est, nous sommes, vous êtes, ils/elles sont. To say no, put ne before the verb and pas after it: je ne suis pas anglais. Before a vowel ne becomes n': il n'est pas. Nationalities add -e for a woman: anglais, anglaise; américain, américaine.

Je suis anglaise. I'm English.

Vous êtes française ? Are you French?

Il n'est pas anglais, il est américain. He isn't English, he's American.

Je ne travaille pas. I don't work.

dialogue who are you?

camille	Anna, vous êtes anglaise ? Anna, are you English?
anna	Oui, je suis anglaise. Yes, I'm English.
camille	Et vous, Sam ? Vous êtes anglais ? And you, Sam? Are you English?
sam	Non, je ne suis pas anglais. Je suis américain. No, I'm not English. I'm American.
camille	Vous êtes étudiant ? Are you a student?
sam	Non, je ne suis pas étudiant. Je travaille. No, I'm not a student. I work.
anna	Et vous, Camille ? Vous êtes française ? And you, Camille? Are you French?
camille	Oui, je suis française, et je suis professeure ! Yes, I'm French, and I'm a teacher!

spell it cover the word, write it, check

to be	**être**
he; it	**il**
she; it	**elle**
yes	**oui**
no	**non**
not (ne … pas)	**ne**

good to know · Tu es and il est sound the same: “è”. Je suis sounds like “swee”. No word for “a” before a job: je suis étudiant, elle est professeure. In fast speech the ne often slips away (je suis pas…). Write it, and say it while you learn. The -e of the feminine makes the last consonant heard: français (no s sound), française (z sound).

Je suis… je ne suis pas…: with one verb you can already say who you are, and who you aren't.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 3 how are you?

Ask and answer “how are you?”, greet people politely in the evening, and ask a yes/no question with just your voice.

You'll hear Ça va ? ten times a day, and letting your voice go up at the end turns any sentence into a question.

words

word	meaning	example
ça va	how are you?; I'm fine	Ça va ? Ça va, merci ! How are you? Fine, thanks!
bien	well, fine; good	Ça va bien, merci. I'm fine, thanks.
très	very	Très bien, merci ! Very well, thank you!
mal	badly, not well	Pas mal, et toi ? Not bad, and you?
aussi	too, also	Toi aussi, tu es anglaise ? Are you English too?
moi	me (on its own)	Moi, je suis anglaise. Me, I'm English.
toi	you (on its own, friend)	Ça va bien. Et toi ? I'm fine. And you?
bonsoir	good evening	Bonsoir, madame ! Good evening!
le monsieur	sir, Mr; gentleman (pl. messieurs)	Bonsoir, monsieur. Good evening, sir.
madame	madam, Mrs, Ms (pl. mesdames)	Bonjour, Madame Martin ! Hello, Madame Martin!
excusez-moi	excuse me	Excusez-moi, vous êtes professeur ? Excuse me, are you a teacher?
de rien	you're welcome	Merci ! De rien. Thank you! You're welcome.
s'il vous plaît	please (polite)	Monsieur, s'il vous plaît ! Excuse me, sir!
aller	to go	Comment allez-vous ? Je vais bien, merci. How are you? I'm well, thank you.

pattern a question with your voice

tu es étudiant **↗ ?**

The easiest French question is a normal sentence with your voice going up at the end: Tu es anglaise ? (Are you English?) has the same words as Tu es anglaise. (You're English.); only the melody changes. It's how people ask most questions in everyday French. Answer with oui or non, and add et toi ? or et vous ? to ask back.

Ça va ? How are you?

Vous êtes professeur ? Are you a teacher?

Toi aussi, tu es étudiant ? Are you a student too?

dialogue good evening!

anna Bonsoir, Madame Martin !
Good evening, Madame Martin!

martin Bonsoir, Anna. Comment allez-vous ?
Good evening, Anna. How are you?

anna Je vais bien, merci. Et vous, madame ?
I'm well, thank you. And you?

martin Pas mal, merci.
Not bad, thank you.

léo Excusez-moi, madame ! Bonsoir !
Excuse me, madame! Good evening!

martin Bonsoir, Léo.
Good evening, Léo.

léo Salut, Anna ! Ça va ?
Hi, Anna! How's it going?

anna Ça va, et toi ?
Fine, and you?

léo Très bien ! Au revoir, madame ! Salut, Anna !
Great! Goodbye, madame! Bye, Anna!

spell it cover the word, write it, check

how are you?; I'm fine	**ça va**
well, fine; good	**bien**
very	**très**
badly, not well	**mal**
too, also	**aussi**
me (on its own)	**moi**

good to know · Bonjour becomes bonsoir from about 6 pm, or once it's dark. Bonjour, madame and Merci, monsieur are said with no name and sound polite, never stiff. Monsieur is said “muh-syuh”: the on is not said like on. Très bien, merci is the classic answer. Pas mal (not bad) and ça va (fine) are more casual. Comment allez-vous ? (polite) and Ça va ? (casual) both mean “how are you?”. The answer to the first is Je vais bien, merci.

Ça va ? Ça va ! Your voice did the work, and you just had your first small talk.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 4 i live in paris

Say where you live and where you're from, with all the subject pronouns: je, tu, il, elle, on, nous, vous, ils, elles.

“Where do you live?” and “Where are you from?” come right after your name, and the nine subject pronouns go with every verb you'll ever learn.

words

word	meaning	example
nous	we; us	Nous habitons à Paris. We live in Paris.
ils	they (men, or a mixed group)	Ils habitent en France. They live in France.
elles	they (women only)	Elles sont françaises. They're French.
on	we (casual); people, one	On habite ici. We live here.
où	where	Vous habitez où ? Where do you live?
de	of, from; some, any	Je ne suis pas d'ici. I'm not from here.
à	in, at, to	J'habite à Paris. I live in Paris.
en	in (a country)	Elle travaille en France. She works in France.
habiter	to live (somewhere)	Tu habites où ? Where do you live?
la ville	town, city	Elle travaille en ville. She works in town.
la France	France	Nous habitons en France. We live in France.
Paris	Paris	On habite à Paris. We live in Paris.
ici	here	Tu habites ici ? Do you live here?
venir	to come	Je viens de Manchester. I'm from Manchester (I come from Manchester).

pattern je, tu, il... + habiter

nous **habitons** **à** **Paris**

The subject pronouns are je (I), tu (you, a friend), il (he), elle (she), on (we, casual), nous (we), vous (you, polite or plural), ils (they) and elles (they, all women). Habiter goes j'habite, tu habites, il/on habite, nous habitons, vous habitez, ils habitent; the endings -e, -es and -ent are silent. Say à before a city and en before most countries: à Paris, en France.

Nous habitons à Paris. We live in Paris.

Vous habitez où ? Where do you live?

Elles ne sont pas d'ici. They're not from here.

dialogue where do you live?

inès Bonjour ! Je m'appelle Inès.
Hello! I'm Inès.

anna Enchantée ! Moi, je m'appelle Anna.
Nice to meet you! I'm Anna.

inès Tu habites où, Anna ?
Where do you live, Anna?

anna J'habite ici, à Paris. Et toi ?
I live here, in Paris. And you?

inès Moi aussi ! Léo et moi, on habite ici.
Me too! Léo and I live here.

inès Et tu viens d'où ?
And where are you from?

anna Je ne suis pas d'ici. Je viens de Manchester, en Angleterre.
I'm not from here. I come from Manchester, in England.

léo Et Sam et Camille ? Ils habitent où ?
And Sam and Camille? Where do they live?

anna Ils habitent à Paris, en ville.
They live in Paris, in town.

spell it cover the word, write it, check

we; us	**nous**
they (men, or a mixed group)	**ils**
they (women only)	**elles**
we (casual); people, one	**on**
where	**où**
of, from; some, any	**de**

good to know · habite, habites and habitent all sound the same. Only nous habitons and vous habitez sound different. Before a vowel, the s of nous, vous, ils and elles is said like z: ils‿habitent. That link is called a liaison. In everyday speech on habite is much more common than nous habitons. Both mean "we live". Où (where) has an accent; ou (or) has none. They sound the same.

Je, tu, il, elle, on, nous, vous, ils, elles: you've met every person of French. Every verb from now on uses them.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 5 a man, the woman

Use un/une and le/la/l'/les, know that every noun is masculine or feminine, and ask who someone is.

Every French noun comes with a little word in front that shows its gender. Learn the two together and the rest of French gets easier.

words

word	meaning	example
le	the	La femme est anglaise et l'homme est français. The woman is English and the man is French.
un	a, an; one	Léo ? C'est un ami. Léo? He's a friend.
ce	this, that; it (c'est)	Cette femme est professeure. This woman is a teacher.
qui	who	Qui est Inès ? Who is Inès?
l'homme	man	Cet homme est américain. That man is American.
la femme	woman; wife	Cette femme habite ici. That woman lives here.
l'ami	friend	Sam est un ami. Sam is a friend.
la fille	girl; daughter	Qui est cette fille ? Who's that girl?
le garçon	boy	Ce garçon est anglais. This boy is English.
l'enfant	child	Qui est cet enfant ? Who's that child?
la personne	person	Cette personne est professeure. That person is a teacher.
le nom	name; surname	Le nom, s'il vous plaît ? Your surname, please?
le prénom	first name	Le prénom, c'est Anna, et le nom ? The first name is Anna, and the surname?

pattern un, une · le, la, l', les

un / une a **le / la / l' / les** the

Every French noun is masculine or feminine, even for things. Un (a) and le (the) go with masculine nouns: un homme, le garçon. Une and la go with feminine nouns: une femme, la fille. Before a vowel or a silent h, le and la become l': l'ami, l'enfant. In the plural, “the” is always les. So learn each noun with its article.

C'est un homme, et c'est une femme. That's a man, and that's a woman.

L'ami de Léo est américain. Léo's friend is American.

Les enfants sont ici. The children are here.

dialogue who's that?

anna Léo, qui est cet homme ?
Léo, who's that man?

léo C'est un ami. Il est américain.
He's a friend. He's American.

anna Américain ? Comment il s'appelle ?
American? What's his name?

léo Il s'appelle Sam.
His name is Sam.

anna Sam ? C'est un ami aussi !
Sam? He's my friend too!

anna Et qui est cette femme ?
And who's that woman?

léo La femme ? C'est Inès !
The woman? That's Inès!

anna Et la fille et le garçon ?
And the girl and the boy?

léo Les enfants ? Ils ne sont pas d'ici.
The kids? They're not from round here.

spell it cover the word, write it, check

the	**le**
a, an; one	**un**
this, that; it (c'est)	**ce**
who	**qui**
man	**l'homme**
woman; wife	**la femme**

good to know · Learn every noun with its article: une femme, un homme. The gender is part of the word. le and la become l' before a vowel or a silent h: l'ami, l'homme, l'enfant. les sounds like “lay”; before a vowel its s is said like z: les‿enfants. ce becomes cet before a vowel (cet homme), cette for feminine nouns (cette femme) and ces in the plural.

Un homme, une femme, l'ami, les enfants: now you can see the gender of every noun. Soon you'll hear it too.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 6 i speak a little french

Say which languages you speak and what you like with regular -er verbs, and link ideas with et, mais, ou and alors.

Most French verbs end in -er and follow one pattern: learn it once and you can use hundreds of verbs.

words

word	meaning	example
parler	to speak, to talk	Vous parlez anglais ? Do you speak English?
aimer	to like; to love	J'aime Paris ! I love Paris!
alors	so, then, well	Alors, tu parles français ? So, do you speak French?
écouter	to listen (to)	Nous écoutons le professeur. We listen to the teacher.
regarder	to look at, to watch	Elle regarde la ville. She's looking at the town.
étudier	to study	J'étudie le français. I'm studying French.
la langue	language; tongue	J'aime les langues. I love languages.
le mot	word	C'est un mot français ? Is that a French word?
un peu	a little, a bit	Je parle un peu français. I speak a little French.
beaucoup	a lot, very much	Merci beaucoup ! Thank you very much!
avec	with	J'étudie avec Sam. I study with Sam.
mais	but	Je parle anglais, mais pas français. I speak English, but not French.
ou	or	Tu es anglaise ou américaine ? Are you English or American?
savoir	to know (a fact, how to)	Je ne sais pas. I don't know.
dire	to say, to tell	Comment dit-on « merci » en anglais ? How do you say “merci” in English?

pattern -er verbs: parler, aimer, écouter… · et, mais, ou, alors

je parle | **nous parlons** | **vous parlez** | **ils parlent**

Most French verbs end in -er and work like habiter. Drop -er and add the ending: je parle, tu parles, il/elle/on parle, nous parlons, vous parlez, ils/elles parlent. Four of the six forms sound exactly the same. Join ideas with et (and), mais (but), ou (or) and alors (so, then).

Ils parlent anglais. They speak English.

J'écoute et je regarde. I listen and I watch.

Tu es anglaise ou américaine ? Are you English or American?

dialogue do you speak french?

sam Anna, tu parles français avec Léo ?
Anna, do you speak French with Léo?

anna Oui, un peu. Mais Léo parle beaucoup !
Yes, a little. But Léo talks a lot!

sam Et Madame Martin ? Elle parle anglais ?
And Madame Martin? Does she speak English?

anna Je ne sais pas ! Avec moi, elle parle français, alors j'écoute et j'étudie.
I don't know! With me she speaks French, so I listen and I study.

sam Moi, j'aime beaucoup la langue française.
I really love the French language.

anna Moi aussi. Et tu aimes Paris ?
Me too. And do you like Paris?

sam Oui, beaucoup ! Mais je ne parle pas bien français.
Yes, a lot! But I don't speak French well.

anna Alors on parle français, toi et moi !
Then let's speak French, you and me!

spell it cover the word, write it, check

to speak, to talk	**parler**
to like; to love	**aimer**
so, then, well	**alors**
to listen (to)	**écouter**
to look at, to watch	**regarder**
to study	**étudier**

good to know · parle, parles, parlent: one sound. The -ent of ils parlent is always silent. un peu = a little, beaucoup = a lot. Merci beaucoup = thank you very much. Before a vowel je becomes j': j'aime, j'écoute, j'étudie. Alors starts half the sentences of spoken French: so, well, then. Two phrases for class: Comment dit-on … en français ? (How do you say … in French?) and Je ne sais pas (I don't know).

Je parle un peu français: today that's true. Every -er verb you meet from now on works the same way. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**