day 42 it's raining!

Say what the weather is like and talk about the four seasons.

The weather is the easiest small talk in the world: with il fait and il pleut you can start a chat with anyone.

words

word	meaning	example
pleuvoir	to rain	Il pleut à Paris. It's raining in Paris.
le soleil	sun	Il y a du soleil aujourd'hui. It's sunny today.
l'hiver	winter	En hiver, il fait froid. It's cold in winter.
le printemps	spring (season)	Au printemps, il pleut souvent. It often rains in spring.
l'été	summer	En été{ete}, il fait chaud. It's hot in summer.
l'automne	autumn, fall	J'aime l'automne à Paris. I love autumn in Paris.
l'année	year (the whole year)	Cette année, j'habite à Paris. This year I'm living in Paris.
l'air	air; look	L'air est froid ce matin. The air is cold this morning.
changer	to change	Le temps change vite ici. The weather changes quickly here.
environ	about, around (a number)	La gare est à environ dix minutes. The station is about ten minutes away.
plus	more; (ne … plus) no longer	Il ne pleut plus ! It's stopped raining!
peu	little, not much	Il y a peu de soleil en hiver. There isn't much sun in winter.
tellement	so, so much	Il fait tellement beau ! The weather's so lovely!

pattern the weather: il fait, il pleut

il fait | **beau, chaud, froid** · **il pleut**

French describes the weather with il fait (literally “it makes”): il fait beau, il fait chaud, il fait froid. Rain has its own verb: il pleut, it's raining. To ask, say quel temps fait-il ? And the seasons: en été, en automne, en hiver, but au printemps.

Il fait beau aujourd'hui. The weather's nice today.

Il pleut depuis ce matin. It's been raining since this morning.

Demain, il va faire chaud. It's going to be hot tomorrow.

Au printemps, il fait bon. In spring it's pleasantly warm.

dialogue what weather!

martin Bonsoir, Anna ! Vous avez froid ?
Good evening, Anna! Are you cold?

anna Oui ! Il pleut tellement ! Il pleut depuis environ deux heures.
Yes! It's raining so hard! It's been raining for about two hours.

martin Au printemps, à Paris, il pleut souvent. Mais le temps change vite.
In spring it often rains in Paris. But the weather changes fast.

anna À Manchester, il pleut au printemps, en été, en automne et en hiver !
In Manchester it rains in spring, summer, autumn and winter!

martin Ici, en été, il fait chaud. Parfois trop chaud !
Here it's hot in summer. Sometimes too hot!

anna Moi, je préfère le printemps. Il ne fait pas trop chaud, et l'air est bon.
I prefer spring. It's not too hot, and the air is nice.

martin Regardez : il ne pleut plus ! Et voilà le soleil.
Look: it's stopped raining! And here comes the sun.

anna Enfin ! Et demain, il va faire quel temps ?
At last! And what's the weather going to be like tomorrow?

martin Demain, il va faire beau et plus chaud. Cette année, le printemps est magnifique !
Tomorrow it's going to be nice and warmer. The spring is gorgeous this year!

anna En janvier, à Manchester, il pleut et il fait gris !
In January in Manchester it rains and it's grey!

spell it cover the word, write it, check

to rain	**pleuvoir**
sun	**le soleil**
winter	**l'hiver**
spring (season)	**le printemps**
summer	**l'été**
autumn, fall	**l'automne**

good to know · Il fait bon means it's pleasantly warm; il fait beau means it's nice and sunny. Both are compliments to the weather. Avoir froid is about you (j'ai froid, I'm cold); il fait froid is about the weather. Never say je suis froid. Il ne pleut plus: ne … plus means no longer. Put it round the verb like ne … pas.

Il pleut, il fait beau, il fait chaud: you can talk about the weather now, which means you can talk to anyone in France.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 43 out of the city

Talk about the sea, the mountains and the countryside, and say what “we” do with on.

In everyday French, “we” is almost always on, not nous. Learn on today and you'll sound like a local.

words

word	meaning	example
la mer	sea	On va à la mer samedi ? Shall we go to the sea on Saturday?
la montagne	mountain	Léo préfère la montagne. Léo prefers the mountains.
la campagne	countryside, country	Ma grand-mère habite à la campagne. My grandmother lives in the country.
la nature	nature	On adore la nature. We love nature.
la lumière	light	La lumière est belle ce soir. The light is beautiful this evening.
la terre	earth, soil; land	Dans ce jardin, la terre est bonne. The soil in this garden is good.
le bois	wood; woods	La table est en bois{bois}. The table is made of wood.
le feu	fire (pl. feux)	Le soir, on fait un feu. In the evening we make a fire.
le village	village	C'est un petit village. It's a little village.
la route	road	La route est belle. It's a beautiful road.
le cheval	horse (pl. chevaux)	Il y a deux chevaux dans le jardin. There are two horses in the garden.
ensemble	together	On mange ensemble ce soir ? Shall we eat together tonight?
le bord	edge, side; shore	On marche au bord de la Seine. We're walking along the Seine.
le vélo	bike, bicycle	À la campagne, on fait du vélo. In the country we go cycling.
le pont	bridge	Il y a un vieux pont sur la Seine. There's an old bridge over the Seine.

pattern on: the everyday “we”

on **va, fait, mange** **= nous allons…**

In everyday French, people say on instead of nous: on va à la mer = nous allons à la mer. The verb takes the il/elle form, so it's easy: on va, on fait, on mange. On can also mean people in general: en France, on mange tard.

On va à la mer ? Shall we go to the sea?

Nous allons à la campagne. On va à la campagne. We're going to the country (formal, then everyday).

Le soir, on fait un feu. In the evening we make a fire.

En France, on mange tard. In France people eat late.

dialogue grandmother's village

inès Regarde, Anna : c'est le village de notre grand-mère, à la campagne.
Look, Anna: this is our grandmother's village, in the country.

anna C'est magnifique ! Il y a des chevaux ?
It's gorgeous! Are there horses?

inès Oui, et des bois partout. On adore la nature.
Yes, and woods everywhere. We love nature.

léo Au village, on fait du vélo sur les petites routes. On passe sur un vieux pont en pierre…
In the village we cycle along the little roads. We go over an old stone bridge…

anna Et le soir, qu'est-ce que vous faites ?
And what do you do in the evening?

léo Le soir, on fait un feu dans le jardin, et on mange ensemble.
In the evening we make a fire in the garden and eat together.

inès Et toi, Anna, tu préfères la mer ou la montagne ?
And you, Anna, do you prefer the sea or the mountains?

anna La mer ! J'adore la lumière au bord de la mer.
The sea! I love the light by the sea.

inès Alors un jour, on va à la mer ensemble !
Then one day we'll go to the sea together!

anna Oui, en juillet, quand il fait beau !
Yes, in July, when the weather's nice!

spell it cover the word, write it, check

sea	**la mer**
mountain	**la montagne**
countryside, country	**la campagne**
nature	**la nature**
light	**la lumière**
earth, soil; land	**la terre**

good to know · On + the il form: on va, on fait, on mange. Never on allons. À la mer, à la montagne, à la campagne: all three take à la. Au bord de la mer is more precise: right by the sea. Un feu is a fire, but un feu rouge is a red traffic light.

On va à la mer, on fait du vélo, on mange ensemble: with on, your French just got a lot more relaxed.
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day 44 shall we go?

Invite someone, suggest a plan, and say yes or no politely.

Invitations are how friendships start: “Tu veux venir ?” and “Avec plaisir !” open a lot of doors.

words

word	meaning	example
les vacances	holiday(s), vacation	Les vacances, c'est en août ! The holidays are in August!
organiser	to organise	Inès organise un week-end à la mer. Inès is organising a weekend by the sea.
inviter	to invite	Je t'invite au restaurant. I'm taking you out to a restaurant.
proposer	to suggest, to offer	Je te propose de venir avec nous. Why don't you come with us?
accepter	to accept	Vous acceptez la carte ? Do you take cards?
refuser	to refuse, to say no	Léo ne refuse jamais un dîner. Léo never says no to a dinner.
d'accord	OK, all right; agreed	D'accord, à samedi ! OK, see you on Saturday!
profiter	to make the most (of), to enjoy	On profite du soleil ! We're making the most of the sun!
partager	to share	On partage la voiture ? Shall we share the car?
rencontrer	to meet (for the first time)	Au parc, on rencontre{rencontrer} beaucoup de monde. You meet lots of people in the park.
le plaisir	pleasure	Avec plaisir, merci ! I'd love to, thank you!
la rencontre	meeting, encounter	C'est une belle rencontre{rencontre} ! What a lovely person to meet!
le parc	park	On va au parc ? Shall we go to the park?
super	great (casual)	Super, à demain ! Great, see you tomorrow!

pattern invite, suggest, answer

tu veux / on | **venir… ?** | **avec plaisir ! / je ne peux pas**

To invite a friend, ask tu veux + verb ? (vous voulez with vous) or simply on + verb ?: on va au parc ? To suggest, say je te propose de + verb. Say yes with avec plaisir !, d'accord ! or super !, and no with merci, mais je ne peux pas, plus a reason.

Tu veux venir à la mer ce week-end ? Do you want to come to the sea this weekend?

On va au parc ? D'accord ! Shall we go to the park? OK!

Je vous invite à dîner samedi. I'd like to invite you to dinner on Saturday.

Merci, mais je ne peux pas : je travaille. Thanks, but I can't: I'm working.

dialogue a plan for the weekend

inès Salut, Anna ! J'organise un week-end à la mer. Tu veux venir ?
Hi, Anna! I'm organising a weekend by the sea. Do you want to come?

anna Super ! Avec plaisir ! C'est quand ?
Great! I'd love to! When is it?

inès Le week-end prochain. J'invite aussi Léo et Sam.
Next weekend. I'm inviting Léo and Sam too.

anna Mais Léo travaille au café le week-end, non ?
But Léo works at the café at weekends, doesn't he?

inès Oui, il refuse toujours… mais ce samedi, il peut changer son jour.
Yes, he always says no… but this Saturday he can swap his day.

anna Sam est au parc avec moi. Sam, un week-end à la mer avec Inès ?
Sam's in the park with me. Sam, a weekend by the sea with Inès?

sam D'accord ! J'accepte !
OK! I accept!

inès On part en voiture. Je vous propose de partager le prix de l'hôtel.
We're going by car. I suggest we share the cost of the hotel.

anna D'accord ! On va profiter de la mer et du soleil !
OK! We're going to make the most of the sea and the sun!

inès Oui ! Samedi, il va faire beau et chaud.
Yes! On Saturday it's going to be sunny and warm.

spell it cover the word, write it, check

holiday(s), vacation	**les vacances**
to organise	**organiser**
to invite	**inviter**
to suggest, to offer	**proposer**
to accept	**accepter**
to refuse, to say no	**refuser**

good to know · Je t'invite (or je vous invite) also means “it's on me”: the person who invites usually pays. Refuser sounds strong. To say no kindly, use merci, mais je ne peux pas, and give a reason. Rencontrer is meeting someone new; for friends you already know, say retrouver: on se retrouve au café ?

Tu veux venir ? Avec plaisir ! You can make plans in French now, so make some.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 45 me too!

Say what interests you, and use moi, toi, lui, eux on their own or after a preposition.

“Moi aussi !” and “Et toi ?” are the two shortest ways to keep a conversation going, and you'll use them every day.

words

word	meaning	example
lui	him (on its own); to him, to her	Je vais au cinéma avec lui. I'm going to the cinema with him.
eux	them (men, or a mixed group)	On mange chez eux ce soir. We're eating at their place tonight.
courir	to run	Inès aime courir dans le parc. Inès likes running in the park.
gagner	to win; to earn	Qui va gagner ? Who's going to win?
la course	race; run	Bonne chance pour la course ! Good luck in the race!
le roman	novel	Je lis un roman français. I'm reading a French novel.
le journal	newspaper (pl. journaux)	Inès écrit pour un journal. Inès writes for a newspaper.
l'internet	the internet	Je lis le journal sur internet. I read the paper online.
l'image	picture, image	Ce livre a de belles images. This book has beautiful pictures.
la mode	fashion	Paris, c'est la ville de la mode. Paris is the city of fashion.
la culture	culture	J'aime la culture française. I love French culture.
intéresser	to interest	La culture française m'intéresse beaucoup. I'm very interested in French culture.
la chance	luck; chance	Bonne chance, Sam ! Good luck, Sam!

pattern moi, toi, lui, eux...

moi, toi, lui, elle | **nous, vous, eux, elles** | **aussi · avec · chez · c'est**

French has a second set of pronouns for when they stand on their own: moi, toi, lui, elle, nous, vous, eux, elles. Use them alone (moi aussi !), after a preposition (avec lui, chez eux, pour toi), after c'est (c'est moi) and to stress who you mean: lui, il lit le journal.

Moi aussi ! Me too!

Je vais au cinéma avec lui. I'm going to the cinema with him.

Eux, ils aiment courir. They love running.

Moi non plus. Me neither.

dialogue what interests you?

camille Ce soir, on parle de culture. Sam, qu'est-ce que vous aimez ?
Tonight we're talking about culture. Sam, what do you like?

sam Moi, j'adore le cinéma. Le soir, je regarde des films sur internet.
I love cinema. In the evening I watch films online.

camille Et vous, Anna ?
And you, Anna?

anna Moi, je lis des romans. Et la mode m'intéresse aussi.
I read novels. And I'm interested in fashion too.

sam Les romans, moi aussi ! Mais la mode, non. Ça ne m'intéresse pas.
Novels, me too! But fashion, no. It doesn't interest me.

camille Et vos amis, Léo et Inès ?
And your friends, Léo and Inès?

anna Lui, il fait de la musique. Elle, elle écrit pour un journal. Et elle court !
He plays music. She writes for a newspaper. And she runs!

sam Dimanche, il y a une grande course dans le parc. On va voir Inès avec eux ?
On Sunday there's a big race in the park. Shall we go and watch Inès with them?

anna Oui ! Qui va gagner ? Elle ! Elle gagne toujours.
Yes! Who's going to win? Her! She always wins.

camille Alors, bonne chance à elle !
Then good luck to her!

spell it cover the word, write it, check

him (on its own); to him, to her	**lui**
them (men, or a mixed group)	**eux**
to run	**courir**
to win; to earn	**gagner**
race; run	**la course**
novel	**le roman**

good to know · Moi aussi agrees with a yes (j'aime ça. Moi aussi !); moi non plus agrees with a no (je n'aime pas ça. Moi non plus !). Ça m'intéresse = I'm interested (literally, it interests me). The thing that interests you is the subject. Lui is “him” for a man, but for a woman you say elle: avec lui, avec elle.

Moi aussi, moi non plus, et toi ? Short words, long conversations. Bonne chance… you don't need it!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

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day 46 mission: a weekend by the sea

French A1 in 70 days
unit 7 · weather & free time

Follow a weekend trip: the drive, the weather, a race, an evening by the fire and plans for next time.

Everything from this unit in one story: weather, nature, invitations and moi, toi, lui. If you can follow it, you can plan your own weekend away.

chapter 1 on the road

inès Vous êtes prêts ? On part !
Are you ready? We're off!

léo Attendez-moi ! J'arrive !
Wait for me! I'm coming!

sam Léo, tu arrives toujours tard. Toujours !
Léo, you always turn up late. Always!

anna Inès, quel temps fait-il à la mer ?
Inès, what's the weather like at the sea?

inès Ce matin, il pleut un peu. Mais après, il va faire beau.
It's raining a bit this morning. But later it's going to be nice.

sam C'est loin ?
Is it far?

inès Environ trois heures. Mais la route est belle : la campagne, des villages…
About three hours. But it's a lovely road: countryside, villages…

léo Regardez les chevaux, là, à côté de la route !
Look at the horses, there, next to the road!

anna Et ce vieux pont en pierre ! La nature est tellement belle ici.
And that old stone bridge! Nature is so beautiful here.

chapter 2 the race

inès Voilà le village ! Et voilà la mer !
Here's the village! And here's the sea!

anna Il ne pleut plus ! Il y a du soleil !
It's stopped raining! The sun's out!

sam On fait du vélo au bord de la mer ?
Shall we go cycling along the sea?

léo D'accord ! On fait la course jusqu'au pont ? On va voir qui gagne !
OK! Race you to the bridge? Let's see who wins!

inès Moi, je reste ici. Je veux profiter de la lumière pour mes photos.
I'm staying here. I want to make the most of the light for my photos.

anna Allez ! Bonne chance, Sam !
Go on! Good luck, Sam!

sam C'est moi qui gagne !
I win!

léo Lui, il a de la chance : son vélo est neuf, et mon vélo est vieux !
He's lucky: his bike is new, and mine is old!

anna Léo, tu refuses de perdre !
Léo, you just refuse to lose!

chapter 3 a fire by the sea

inès Ce soir, on fait un feu de bois au bord de l'eau ?
Shall we make a wood fire by the water tonight?

anna Super ! On partage le pain, le fromage et les fruits.
Great! We'll share the bread, the cheese and the fruit.

sam L'air est froid, ce soir…
The air's cold tonight…

léo Viens près du feu, Sam ! Ici, il fait chaud.
Come near the fire, Sam! It's warm here.

anna Merci d'organiser ce week-end, Inès. Je suis tellement contente !
Thanks for organising this weekend, Inès. I'm so happy!

inès Avec plaisir ! J'adore inviter mes amis ici. Avec vous, c'est toujours les vacances.
My pleasure! I love inviting my friends here. With you lot, it's always a holiday.

sam Et toi, Léo, tu préfères la mer ou la montagne ?
And you, Léo, do you prefer the sea or the mountains?

léo La montagne, en hiver ! Mais la mer, au printemps, c'est bien aussi.
The mountains, in winter! But the sea in spring is nice too.

anna Moi, je préfère la mer en été. Et en automne, la campagne !
I prefer the sea in summer. And the countryside in autumn!

chapter 4 rain on sunday

anna	Il pleut encore ! Le temps change tellement vite ici. It's raining again! The weather changes so fast here.
inès	Au bord de la mer, il pleut souvent. On reste à l'hôtel ce matin ? It often rains by the sea. Shall we stay at the hotel this morning?
sam	D'accord. Moi, je lis un roman, et Léo regarde le journal sur internet. OK. I'll read a novel, and Léo can look at the news online.
anna	Et toi, Inès, tu travailles pour ton journal ? And you, Inès, are you working for your paper?
inès	Oui, j'écris sur la culture des villages. Ça m'intéresse beaucoup. Yes, I'm writing about village life and culture. It really interests me.
léo	Et tes photos sont magnifiques ! La mode, la culture, la nature… tu aimes beaucoup de choses, Inès ! And your photos are gorgeous! Fashion, culture, nature… you love so many things, Inès!
inès	Merci ! Bon, on rentre à Paris ? Léo, tu conduis un peu ? Thanks! Right, shall we head back to Paris? Léo, will you drive for a bit?
léo	Moi ? D'accord… mais on part à midi, pas à huit heures ! Me? OK… but we leave at noon, not at eight!
anna	L'année prochaine, on organise encore un week-end ensemble ! Next year we're organising another weekend together!

A weekend by the sea, all in French: the weather, a race, a fire and a plan for next year. Unit 7 done: bravo!
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