



Beginners' French

Getting by confidently in 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 if you were visiting 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 with some 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).

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

For best results, you would need to spend a few minutes per day reinforcing what you've learnt and reviewing vocabulary and grammar.

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
- Cultural input about festivals and special French days

Next Steps

The course runs for a school year with classes taking place over three terms.

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 Beginners' French Plus course the following year.