

## Lesson 1:1

# Introduction and Overview of CD1: The Basics

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**O**n Disc One, you start off with the pronouns, followed by introductions and greetings, common words and phrases, and finally words and phrases that you just can't live without.

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## Lesson 1:2

# Personal Pronouns and Formalities

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### *Personal pronouns*

I	<i>je</i>
you (S)	<i>tu</i>
he	<i>il</i>
she	<i>elle</i>
we	<i>nous</i>
you (S/Formal or Plural)	<i>vous</i>
they	<i>ils</i> (M or mixed group); <i>elles</i> (F)

Use *j'* instead of *je* if the verb begins with a vowel or a mute h.



Use *tu* with people you know well, like members of your family, friends, children, and peers. Use *vous* with people you don't know well and with your superiors, like your boss, your teacher, or elders. Although *vous* can also mean plural you, it can also refer to one person when used formally.

### *Formalities*

Mr./Sir	<i>Monsieur</i>
Mrs.	<i>Madame</i>
Miss	<i>Mademoiselle</i>

## Lesson 1:3

# Saying “Hello” and “Goodbye”

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### *Greetings*

hello; hi (Informal)	<i>salut</i>
hello; good morning	<i>bonjour</i>
good afternoon	<i>bon après-midi</i>
good evening	<i>bon soir</i>
good night	<i>bonne nuit</i>
How’s it going?	<i>Comment ça va?</i>



Use *bonne nuit* only if you or someone else is going to sleep.

### *Goodbyes*

goodbye	<i>au revoir</i>
goodbye (Informal)	<i>salut</i>
see you soon	<i>à bientôt</i>
see you in a minute	<i>à tout de suite</i>
see you later	<i>à plus tard</i>
until next time	<i>à la prochaine</i>
see you tomorrow	<i>à demain</i>
see you next week	<i>à la semaine prochaine</i>

see you on Monday      *à lundi*

Have a good day!      *Bonne journée!*

Good luck!      *Bonne chance!*



Aside from a few exceptions, final consonants aren't pronounced in French. You pronounce a consonant only if it's followed by a vowel.

## Lesson 1:4

# Saying and Replying to "How Are You?"

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How are you? (Informal)	<i>Comment vas-tu?</i>
How are you? (Formal)	<i>Comment allez-vous?</i>
How's it going? (Informal)	<i>Ça va?</i>
It's going well.	<i>Ça va bien.</i>
Everything is going well.	<i>Tout va bien.</i>
I'm fine, thank you.	<i>Je vais bien, merci.</i>
I'm very well.	<i>Je vais très bien.</i>
I'm not doing very well.	<i>Je ne vais pas très bien.</i>
I'm so-so.	<i>Je vais comme-ci, comme-ça.</i>
And you? (Informal)	<i>Et toi?</i>
And you? (Formal)	<i>Et vous?</i>

## Lesson 1:5

# Introducing Yourself and Talking about Where You're From

**I**f you're meeting someone for the first time, it's always more polite to use the *vous*, or formal, form. Of course, you can use the *tu* form when speaking to children even if you're meeting them for the first time. The following questions are posed in both the *tu* and *vous* forms so that you can practice both forms.

What's your name? (Informal)

*Comment t'appelles-tu?*

What's your name? (Formal)

*Comment vous appelez-vous?*

My name is Olivier.

*Je m'appelle Olivier.*

I'm Caroline.

*Je suis Caroline.*

What's your first name? (Informal)

*Quel est ton prénom?*

What's your first name? (Formal)

*Quel est votre prénom?*

What's your last name? (Informal)

*Quel est ton nom (de famille)?*

What's your last name? (Formal)

*Quel est votre nom (de famille)?*

My last name is Nadal.

*Mon nom de famille est Nadal.*

Delighted.

*Enchanté.*

Delighted to make your  
acquaintance.

*Enchanté de faire votre  
connaissance.*

It's a pleasure to meet you.

*C'est un plaisir de vous  
rencontrer.*

Likewise.

*De même.*

What country are you from?  
(Informal)

*De quel pays es-tu?*

What country are you from?  
(Formal)

*De quel pays êtes-vous?*

I'm from the United States.

*Je suis des États-Unis.*

## Lesson 1:6

# Indispensable Words and Phrases

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### *Pleasantries*

yes	<i>oui</i>
no	<i>non</i>
please (Informal)	<i>s'il te plaît</i>
please (Formal)	<i>s'il vous plaît</i>
Thank you.	<i>Merci.</i>
Thank you very much.	<i>Merci beaucoup.</i>
You're welcome. (Informal)	<i>Je t'en prie.</i>
You're welcome. (Formal)	<i>Je vous en prie.</i>
It's nothing.	<i>Il n'y a pas de quoi.</i>
Excuse me.	<i>Excusez-moi.</i>
Please repeat.	<i>Répétez, s'il vous plaît.</i>

### *Asking for help*

Help!	<i>Au secours!</i>
information	<i>renseignements</i>
police	<i>la police</i>
emergency	<i>urgence</i>
doctor	<i>médecin</i>
accident	<i>accident</i>



The definite articles (*the*) in French are

- ✓ *le* for masculine singular nouns
- ✓ *la* for feminine singular nouns
- ✓ *l'* for either masculine or feminine singular nouns that begin with a vowel or a mute h
- ✓ *les* for either masculine or feminine plural nouns

## Places

the city	<i>la ville</i>
the country	<i>le pays</i>
the train station	<i>la gare</i>
the airport	<i>l'aéroport</i>
the hospital	<i>l'hôpital</i>
the hotels	<i>les hôtels</i>
the church	<i>l'église</i>
the restaurants	<i>les restaurants</i>
the bathroom	<i>la salle de bains</i>



The indefinite articles (*a* and *an*) in French are *un* (masculine) and *une* (feminine).

## People

a man	<i>un homme</i>
a woman	<i>une femme</i>
a boy	<i>un garçon</i>
a girl	<i>une fille</i>

## 14 CD1: The Basics

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a child	<i>un enfant (M); une enfant (F)</i>
a father	<i>un père</i>
a mother	<i>une mère</i>
a son	<i>un fils</i>
a daughter	<i>une fille</i>
a brother	<i>un frère</i>
a sister	<i>une sœur</i>
a husband	<i>un mari</i>
a spouse (M)	<i>un époux</i>
a wife	<i>une femme</i>
a spouse (F)	<i>une épouse</i>
a friend (M)	<i>un ami</i>
a friend (F)	<i>une amie</i>

## Lesson 1:7

# Useful Expressions and Phrases

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Excuse me.	<i>Excusez-moi.</i>
I don't understand.	<i>Je ne comprends pas.</i>
Can you repeat that?	<i>Pouvez-vous répéter?</i>
Could you speak slower?	<i>Pouvez-vous parler plus lentement?</i>
I don't speak French very well.	<i>Je ne parle pas bien français.</i>
Can you translate for me?	<i>Pouvez-vous traduire pour moi?</i>
Do you speak English?	<i>Parlez-vous anglais?</i>
Yes, I speak English.	<i>Oui, je parle anglais.</i>
May I help you?	<i>Est-ce que je peux vous aider?</i>
Yes, thank you.	<i>Oui, merci.</i>
What do you need?	<i>De quoi avez-vous besoin?</i>
I need some information.	<i>J'ai besoin de renseignements.</i>
I'm lost.	<i>Je suis perdu.</i>
Where is the hotel?	<i>Où est l'hôtel?</i>
Where are you going?	<i>Où allez-vous?</i>
I don't know.	<i>Je ne sais pas.</i>
I would like some coffee.	<i>Je voudrais du café.</i>
With pleasure.	<i>Avec plaisir.</i>

## Lesson 1:8

# Introducing Question Words



Who?

*Qui?*

What?

*Qu'est-ce que?*

Where?

*Où?*

When?

*Quand?*

Why?

*Pourquoi?*

How?

*Comment?*

How much?; How many?

*Combien?*

Is there?; Are there?

*Y a-t-il?*

## Lesson 1:9

# Useful Questions and Answers

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Who is that man?	<i>Qui est cet homme?</i>
He's the manager.	<i>C'est le gérant.</i>
Who are these people?	<i>Qui sont ces gens?</i>
They're students.	<i>Ce sont des étudiants.</i>
What are you doing? (Informal)	<i>Qu'est-ce que tu fais?</i>
I'm cooking.	<i>Je fais la cuisine.</i>
What do you want? (Formal)	<i>Qu'est-ce que vous voulez?</i>
I want to eat.	<i>Je veux manger.</i>
Where are you going? (Informal)	<i>Où vas-tu?</i>
I'm going to the museum.	<i>Je vais au musée.</i>
Where are the tickets?	<i>Où sont les billets?</i>
They're in the drawer.	<i>Ils sont dans le tiroir.</i>
Where is the Louvre located?	<i>Où se trouve le Louvre?</i>
In the first district.	<i>Dans le premier arrondissement.</i>
Where is the ATM?	<i>Où est le distributeur automatique?</i>
When do we leave?	<i>Quand partons-nous?</i>

We leave tomorrow morning.	<i>Nous partons demain matin.</i>
When is checkout time?	<i>Quand faut-il régler la note?</i>
How much does this bottle of wine cost?	<i>Combien coûte cette bouteille de vin?</i>
It costs 30 euros.	<i>Elle coûte trente euros.</i>
How many suitcases do you have?	<i>Combien de valises avez-vous?</i>
I have two suitcases.	<i>J'ai deux valises.</i>

## Lesson 1:10

# You Can Count on Me: An Overview of Numbers

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1	<i>un</i>
2	<i>deux</i>
3	<i>trois</i>
4	<i>quatre</i>
5	<i>cinq</i>
6	<i>six</i>
7	<i>sept</i>
8	<i>huit</i>
9	<i>neuf</i>
10	<i>dix</i>
11	<i>onze</i>
12	<i>douze</i>
13	<i>treize</i>
14	<i>quatorze</i>
15	<i>quinze</i>
16	<i>seize</i>
17	<i>dix-sept</i>
18	<i>dix-huit</i>
19	<i>dix-neuf</i>
20	<i>vingt</i>

With numbers 21 to 69, you combine the tens with the words for numbers 1 to 9.

21	<i>vingt et un</i>
22	<i>vingt-deux</i>
30	<i>trente</i>
31	<i>trente et un</i>
32	<i>trente-deux</i>
40	<i>quarante</i>
41	<i>quarante et un</i>
42	<i>quarante-deux</i>
50	<i>cinquante</i>
51	<i>cinquante et un</i>
52	<i>cinquante-deux</i>
60	<i>soixante</i>
61	<i>soixante et un</i>
62	<i>soixante-deux</i>

With the numbers 70 to 79, combine the tens with the tens.

70	<i>soixante-dix</i>
71	<i>soixante et onze</i>
72	<i>soixante-douze</i>

With the numbers 80 to 89, combine the number 4, the number 20, and the ones. For example, in French 80 is four 20s, 81 is four 20s plus 1, and so forth.

80	<i>quatre-vingts</i>
81	<i>quatre-vingt-un</i>
82	<i>quatre-vingt-deux</i>

For numbers 90 to 99, combine the number 4, the number 20, and the tens. For example, 90 is four 20s plus 10, 91 is four 20s plus 11, and so forth. (The *plus* isn't included in the expression.)

90	<i>quatre-vingt-dix</i>
91	<i>quatre-vingt-onze</i>
92	<i>quatre-vingt-douze</i>
100	<i>cent</i>
101	<i>cent un</i>
102	<i>cent deux</i>
150	<i>cent cinquante</i>
200	<i>deux cents</i>
500	<i>cinq cents</i>
1,000	<i>mille</i>

## Lesson 1:11

# Talking about Time

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### *Time-related terms*

time	<i>l'heure</i>
hour	<i>l'heure</i>
minute	<i>minute</i>
second	<i>seconde</i>
morning	<i>le matin</i>
afternoon	<i>l'après-midi</i>
evening	<i>le soir</i>
night	<i>la nuit</i>
day	<i>le jour</i>
today	<i>aujourd'hui</i>
yesterday	<i>hier</i>
tomorrow	<i>demain</i>

### *Time questions and answers*

Do you have a minute?	<i>Avez-vous une minute?</i>
Do you have the time?	<i>Avez-vous l'heure?</i>
What time is it?	<i>Quelle heure est-il?</i>
It's late.	<i>Il est tard.</i>
It's early.	<i>Il est tôt.</i>
It's 8 in the morning.	<i>Il est huit heures du matin.</i>
It's noon.	<i>Il est midi.</i>

It's 5 in the afternoon. *Il est cinq heures de l'après-midi.*

It's 7 in the evening. *Il est sept heures du soir.*

It's a quarter past 7. *Il est sept heures et quart.*

It's 7:30. *Il est sept heures et demie.*

It's a quarter to 8. *Il est huit heures moins le quart.*

## Lesson 1:12

# Going through the Calendar and Forming Dates

The days of the week and the months of the year aren't capitalized in French.

### *Days of the week*

Monday	<i>lundi</i>
Tuesday	<i>mardi</i>
Wednesday	<i>mercredi</i>
Thursday	<i>jeudi</i>
Friday	<i>vendredi</i>
Saturday	<i>samedi</i>
Sunday	<i>dimanche</i>



When you're writing a date in French, you put the numbers in a different order than you would if you were writing it in English. You start with the day, then you write the month, and then the year. For example, to express September 27, 2006, you would write 27/9/06 instead of 9/27/06.

## *Months of the year*

January	<i>janvier</i>
February	<i>février</i>
March	<i>mars</i>
April	<i>avril</i>
May	<i>mai</i>
June	<i>juin</i>
July	<i>juillet</i>
August	<i>août</i>
September	<i>septembre</i>
October	<i>octobre</i>
November	<i>novembre</i>
December	<i>décembre</i>

## *Common questions and answers*

What day is it?	<i>Quel jour sommes-nous?</i>
It's Friday.	<i>C'est vendredi.</i>
What's the date?	<i>Quelle est la date?</i>
It's the first of May.	<i>C'est le premier mai.</i>
It's December 3.	<i>C'est le trois décembre.</i>
It's August 20.	<i>C'est le vingt août.</i>



Only cardinal numbers are used for dates, except for the first of the month, which uses the ordinal number *premier* (first). For example, you say *c'est le premier janvier*, but you say *c'est le deux janvier*.

## Lesson 1:13

# Directions



east	<i>est</i>
west	<i>ouest</i>
north	<i>nord</i>
south	<i>sud</i>
to the right	<i>à droite</i>
to the left	<i>à gauche</i>
turn right	<i>tournez à droite</i>
turn left	<i>tournez à gauche</i>
straight ahead	<i>tout droit</i>
across	<i>en face de</i>
in front of	<i>devant</i>
in back of	<i>derrière</i>
next to	<i>à côté de</i>
between	<i>entre</i>
near; close	<i>près de</i>
far	<i>loin de</i>
street	<i>rue</i>
the next street	<i>la prochaine rue</i>
at the corner of	<i>au coin de</i>
downtown	<i>au centre-ville</i>
Can you tell me where that is?	<i>Pouvez-vous me dire où ça se trouve?</i>

Can you show me  
where that is?

*Pouvez-vous me montrer où ça  
se trouve?*

Are we near the  
theater?

*Est-ce que nous sommes près du  
théâtre?*

Here/there it is.

*Le/la voilà.*

You're far from the mall. *Vous êtes loin du centre commercial.*

