

French Beginner 1 - online course 2026/27

Course Description

This course is designed for learners who are starting their journey in the target language. The aim is to help students acquire the ability to understand and use very basic expressions, communicate simple needs, and build confidence in everyday interactions. By the end of the course, students will be able to manage simple social exchanges, provided the other person speaks slowly and clearly.

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Level: Beginner 1

Number of sessions: 20 (2x100 min./week)

Goals and Learning Outcomes

Learners will develop the ability to understand simple greetings, introductions, and very common expressions. They will be able to recognize familiar words related to themselves, their families, and their immediate surroundings. By the end of the course, students should be able to follow short, clear speech about everyday topics, such as ordering food or asking for directions.

The course places a strong emphasis on communication. Students will learn to use greetings and polite expressions, introduce themselves and others, and ask and answer basic questions about personal details such as name, nationality, and family. They will practice expressing likes and dislikes, as well as talking about numbers, time, and dates.

Learners will practice reading short, simple texts, such as signs, notices, and personal information on forms. They will be able to understand very simple sentences related to familiar needs, and gradually expand their ability to read short descriptive texts about people and daily life.

Students will learn to write simple words, phrases, and short sentences. By the end of the course, they will be able to fill in forms with personal details, write postcards, notes, and short lists, and use sentence patterns to talk about themselves in writing.

The vocabulary focus includes personal and family information, numbers from 1 to 100, days of the week, months, colors, basic food items, and places in town. Students will also build a foundation of basic verbs in the present tense, including “to be,” “to have,” and common everyday action verbs.

The grammar component will cover subject pronouns, the simple present tense (affirmative, negative, and questions), articles (a/an, the), demonstratives (this/that), plural nouns, and basic word order in statements and questions. These structures will give learners the tools to build simple but meaningful sentences.

By the end of this course, students will be able to introduce themselves and others, ask and answer simple questions about personal details, understand very basic everyday speech, read simple texts, and write short, clear sentences. They will be equipped with the vocabulary and grammar necessary to participate in predictable social interactions and to communicate in simple, everyday situations.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Regular attendance (at least 10 sessions out of 12) is mandatory.

The students’ performance will be assessed, on a PASS/FAIL or GRADE basis, through

1. active participation in class
2. final test at the end of the semester.

Terminal grade: 60% class performance, 40% final exam.

Format

Teaching will be done through Zoom and a Google drive folder containing a Google document for the class notes and handouts.

Most classes will begin with discussing the problems with their homework.

Students will regularly be given specially prepared grammar and vocabulary handouts to use apart from the fundamental course book. Other readings, visual and audio materials will also be used during the classes.

The Autumn Session will be concluded with a final revision and a consultation followed by a final written exam.

The course book

Annie BERTHET, Emmanuelle DAILL, Catherine HUGOT, Véronique M. KIZIRIAN,
Monique WAENDENDRIES: Alter Ego A1+, Hachette, 2012.

Course Outline

Topics and proportions are subject to change according to the learners' previous knowledge, actual needs and fields of interest. Students will be informed of any modifications.

Week 1 – Course book Dossier 0

Languages, countries, and nationalities
Asking about someone's identity
Introducing yourself (part 2)
Numbers from 0 to 69

langue, pays et nationalités
s'informer sur l'identité de l'autre
se présenter 2
nombres de 0 à 69

Week 2 – Course book Dossier 1

Greeting and saying goodbye
Introducing yourself (part 2)
Asking for and giving personal information
Use of *tu* and *vous*
Possessive adjectives
Negation

saluer et prendre congé
se présenter 2
demander et donner des informations personnelles
usage de *tu* et de *vous*
adjectifs possessifs
négation

Week 3 – Course book Dossier 1

Asking politely
Indefinite articles
Interrogative adjective *quel*
Months of the year
Talking about your passions and dreams
Expressing likes and dislikes
Numbers from 70 to 99
Signs and punctuation

demander poliment
articles indéfinis
adjectif interrogatif *quel*
mois de l'année
parler de ses passions et de ses rêves
expression des goûts
nombre de 70 à 99
signes et ponctuation

Week 4 – Course book Dossier 2

Talking about your town/city
Asking about accommodation
Making a reservation
Understanding and giving simple directions
Yes/no questions

parler de sa ville
s'informer sur un hébergement
réservation
comprendre et indiquer un itinéraire simple
les questions fermées

Modes of transportation

le mode de déplacement

Week 5 – Course book Dossier 2

Writing a postcard

écrire une carte postale

Giving your impressions of a place

donner ses impressions sur un lieu

Talking about your activities

parler de ses activités

Talking about the weather

dire le temps qu'il fait

Demonstrative adjectives

adjectifs démonstratifs

Week 6 – Course book Dossier 3

Talking about yourself: profession, tastes and interests, activities

parler de soi : de sa profession, de ses goûts et centre d'intérêts, de ses activités

Describing a person

caractériser une personne

Stressed pronouns

les pronoms toniques

Week 7 – Course book Dossier 3

Talking about your family

parler de sa famille

Understanding an announcement/invitation

comprendre un faire-part

Announcing a family event

annoncer un événement familial

Reacting and congratulating

réagir et féliciter

Asking for and giving news about someone

demander et donner des nouvelles de quelqu'un

Parts of the body

parties du corps

Week 8 – Course book Dossier 4

Asking and telling the time and schedules

demander et indiquer l'heure et les horaires

Expressing obligation

exprimer une obligation

Talking about daily routines

parler de ses habitudes quotidiennes

Suggesting, accepting, and refusing an outing

proposer, accepter et refuser une sortie

Making an appointment

fixer un rendez-vous

Inviting someone

inviter

Il faut and *devoir*

il faut et devoir

Reflexive verbs

verbes pronominaux

Time expressions: regularity

expressions de temps: la régularité

Week 9 – Course book Dossier 4

Pouvoir and *vouloir*

pouvoir et vouloir

Pronoun *on* (=we)

pronom *on* (=nous)

Imperative

impératif

Near future (futur proche)

futur proche

Talking about past events

raconter des événements au passé

Passé composé

passé composé

Expressions of frequency

expressions de fréquence

Week 10 – Final Revision-consultation

Written test

SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Grammar, Vocabulary

- Dominique Jennepin, Yvonne Delatour, Marie-Pierre Caquineau-Gündüz, Françoise Lesage-Langot : Les 500 exercices de grammaire A1. Hachette, 2005.
- Maïa Grégoire, Odile Thiévenaz (etc) : Grammaire progressive du français intermédiaire 4e édition. CLE international, 2019.
- Michèle Boulares, Odile Grand-Clément : Conjugaison progressive du français - Niveau débutant. CLE international, 2020.
- Claire Miquel, Alle Goliot-Lété : Vocabulaire progressif du français - Niveau intermédiaire. CLE international, 2017.