

French Pre-Intermediate 1 - online course 2026/27

Course Description

This course is designed for learners who have acquired basic French communication skills and wish to develop greater confidence and fluency in everyday situations. Using *Alter Ego+ A2* as the main resource, the course focuses on enhancing oral and written communication through real-life contexts such as social relationships, work, studies, and media. Interactive activities, role-plays, and authentic materials will enable students to explore cultural and societal aspects of French-speaking communities.

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Level: Pre-Intermediate 1

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

Goals and Learning Outcomes

This Pre-Intermediate course is aimed at learners who already master the basics of French and now wish to communicate with more confidence in a variety of everyday and professional contexts. Throughout the semester, students will improve their ability to interact in social situations, whether talking about friendships, romantic relationships, or neighborhood life. They will also explore themes connected to academic and professional development, such as student internships, the process of job searching, and preparing for job interviews, while learning the vocabulary and expressions that are most relevant to these areas.

A strong focus will also be placed on cultural and social awareness. Students will learn how to recognize and discuss stereotypes, compare different lifestyles, and reflect on the quality of life in Paris versus the rest of France. Another important part of the course will be devoted to the media: learners will become familiar with both new forms of participatory media and more traditional outlets like newspapers, radio, and television. Through authentic texts and listening materials, they will practice understanding and reacting to everyday news stories (*faits divers*) and develop strategies to follow different types of media more effectively.

By the end of the course, students will be able to express opinions more clearly, describe situations with greater detail, and participate in conversations that go beyond basic survival French. They will have improved their listening and reading comprehension, expanded their vocabulary, and gained more confidence in writing short, coherent texts such as emails, personal narratives, or opinion pieces. The overall goal is to prepare them for more independent communication in French while deepening their understanding of the culture and society in which the language is used.

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 A2+, 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 1

Talking about a relationship	parler d'une relation
Giving a definition	donner une définition
Describing a person	décrire une personne
Relative pronouns	pronoms relatifs
Passé composé	passé composé
Past participle agreement	accord du participe passé

Week 2 – Course book Dossier 1

Reporting speech	rapporter des paroles
Talking about neighborhood relations	parler de ses relations de voisinage
Mentioning changes	évoquer des changements
Telling a story about a meeting and what happened next	raconter une rencontre et la suite
Indirect speech in the present tense	discours indirect au présent
Imparfait (past imperfect)	imparfait
Comparative structures	structure de comparaison
Time markers	marqueurs temporels

Week 3 – Course book Dossier 2

Talking about university and professional experiences	raconter une expérience universitaire et professionnelle
Plus-que-parfait (past perfect)	plus-que-parfait
Adverbs	adverbes
Job searching	rechercher un emploi
Applying for a job	postuler pour un emploi

Week 4 – Course book Dossier 2

Giving advice	donner des conseils
Indicating necessary changes	indiquer des changements nécessaires
Time markers	marqueurs temporels
Subjunctive	subjonctif

Week 5 – Course book Dossier 3

Talking about a country and its inhabitants	parler d'un pays et de ses habitants
Discovering stereotypes	découvrir des stéréotypes
Understanding and expressing percentages	comprendre et exprimer un pourcentage

Relative pronouns
Demonstrative pronouns

pronoms relatif
pronoms démonstratifs

Week 6 – Course book Dossier 3

Asking about / mentioning a life change
Expressing feelings about a life change

questionner sur / évoquer un changement de vie
exprimer son ressenti concernant un
changement de vie

Mentioning cultural differences
Understanding social norms and etiquette rules
Inverted questions with subject pronoun

évoquer des différences culturelles
comprendre des usages et règles de savoir-vivre
question inversée avec reprise du sujet par un
pronom

Inverted questions with reflexive verbs in passé
composé
Indefinite pronouns and adverbs

question inversée avec les verbes pronominaux
au passé composé
pronom indéfinis et adverbess

Week 7 – Course book Dossier 3

Understanding a comparative study or ranking

Talking about one's place of residence
Justifying one's choices
Superlative
Emphasis 1

comprendre une étude comparative, un
classement
parler de son lieu de vie
justifier ses choix
superlatif
mise en relief 1

Week 8 – Course book Dossier 4

Reporting an event
Making a suggestion
Encouraging action
Participating in the blogosphere
Understanding press headlines
Reacting to and giving opinions about a TV
program
Interrogative and possessive pronouns
Si + imparfait (conditional sentences)
Nominalization
Gender of nouns

rendre compte d'un événement
faire une suggestion
inciter à agir
intervenir dans la blogosphère
comprendre des titres de presse
réagir et donner son opinion sur un programme
de télévision
pronoms interrogatifs et possessifs
si + imparfait
nominalisation
genre des noms

Week 9 – Course book Dossier 4

Emphasis 2
Understanding events reported in the media

Reporting a news item
Witnessing an event
Past tenses
Passive voice
Past participle agreement with direct object

mis en relief 2
comprendre des événements rapportés dans les
médias
rapporter un fait divers
témoigner d'un événement
temps du passé
forme passive
accord du participe passé avec le COD

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 B1. 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 intermédiaire. CLE international, 2020.
- Claire Miquel, Alle Goliot-Lété : Vocabulaire progressif du français - Niveau intermédiaire. CLE international, 2017.