

French – Elementary (b)

Who is the course for?

Those who have had some experience of French e.g. minimum Elementary (a), and want to continue expanding knowledge and competency.

What skills, knowledge or experience do I need to start this course?

You have a grasp of:

- Making simple requests and ask permission
- Asking for simple information
- Asking for directions
- Talking about likes and dislikes
- Giving simple physical descriptions and comment
- Following simple instructions
- Following simple directions
- Recognising the purpose of simple texts encountered in daily life e.g. an advert, an appointment card, a form
- Finding specific, predictable information in simple everyday materials i.e. a holiday brochure or timetable or cooking instruction on packets
- Understanding a variety of public signs, written directions, prices, simple menus, bills, simple adverts
- Completing a registration form
- Writing a simple letter / email

What will the course cover?

Practical language to enable you to communicate on a visit to the country: asking for goods and services in everyday situations, understanding basic written information, holding a simple conversation with a native speaker. You'll learn some grammar as you cover topics including The World, Weather & Environment, Town & Country, Finding Out Information, Holiday Activities, Travel, Special Occasions etc. Above all, you will gain the confidence to express yourself. We also aim to stimulate your interest in and knowledge of the cultures of French speaking people.

What should I be able to do by the end of the course?

Each student will have a list of CAN DO STATEMENTS which they are aiming to achieve by the end of the course. These cover Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing:

- Can talk about what you 'need', 'want' 'would like'
- Can talk about what you 'think', 'prefer'
- Can make simple suggestions
- Can talk about your last holiday
- Can recognise and respond to greetings; instructions; offers and requests for information
- Can recognise the purpose of simple texts encountered in daily life e.g. an advert, an appointment card, a simple registration form
- Can find specific, predictable information in simple everyday materials i.e. a catalogue, brochure, timetable, leaflets or cooking instructions on packets
- Can understand a variety of public signs, written directions, prices, simple menus, bills, simple adverts
- Can complete a questionnaire tick boxes and places for comment
- Can write a simple personal letter / postcard

How is the course organised?

We use course books, handouts, worksheets; audio and videotapes, 'realia' (eg real menus etc). You will be encouraged to speak as much as possible in class, to work in small groups and pairs, to take an active part in your learning and, each lesson, to work on the four skills: listening (and understanding), speaking, reading and writing.

What extra study or practice is expected outside of the class?

Reviewing and learning what has been done in the class. Preparing for your next class (homework might be set). For best results, try hard to spend 15 minutes everyday doing some kind of language practice: listen to a tape, watch a video, read a bit, repeat, learn sentences/words by heart.

How will my progress be assessed?

You will be encouraged to assess your own progress with help from your tutor, who will monitor your achievements by question and answer, some written work, quizzes, questionnaires, games and more formal achievement tests. You and your tutor will keep referring to the CAN DO statements you are aiming to achieve by the end of the course.

Which course can I expect to go on to after this course?

If you are satisfied that you have largely achieved the CAN DO statements, French Pre-Intermediate (a)