

The BBC logo is located in the top left corner, consisting of the letters 'B', 'B', and 'C' each inside a white square, which are themselves inside a larger purple square.

new edition

the
FRENCH
experience

Authors

**MARIE-THÉRÈSE BOUGARD
DANIELE BOURDAIS**

Course Designer

ANNY KING

University of Cambridge Language Centre



Contents

Introduction	4
Course menu	8
<i>Bienvenue!</i>	10
Unité 1 <i>Présentations</i>	14
Unité 2 <i>Famille</i>	24
Unité 3 <i>Professions</i>	36
Unité 4 <i>Ville et campagne</i>	46
Unité étape 1	56
Unité 5 <i>Les courses</i>	60
Unité 6 <i>Toutes directions</i>	70
Unité 7 <i>A toute vitesse</i>	80
Unité 8 <i>Hôtels et campings</i>	92
Unité étape 2	102
Unité 9 <i>Intérieurs</i>	106
Unité 10 <i>Loisirs</i>	116
Unité 11 <i>Bon appétit!</i>	126
Unité 12 <i>Forme et santé</i>	136
Unité étape 3	146
Unité 13 <i>Au travail</i>	150
Unité 14 <i>Plaire et séduire</i>	160
Unité 15 <i>Par tous les temps</i>	170
Unité 16 <i>Voyages</i>	178
Unité étape 4	186
Unité 17 <i>Langues et travail</i>	190
Unité 18 <i>Vacances</i>	198
Unité 19 <i>Culture: Séjour à Paris</i>	206
Unité 20 <i>Les francophones</i>	214
Reference section	
Answers	222
Language summary	232
Map of France	247
Cassette/CD transcripts	248
French-English glossary	270



BIENVENUE!

Bonjour, messieurs-dames!

- Hellos and goodbyes
- Addressing people

🎧 **W**elcome to *The French Experience!* This unit introduces some basic words and phrases, beginning with the first words you'll need in a conversation. Turn on your tape/CD and listen to people greeting each other.

INFO LANGUE

• HELLOS ...

Morning, early afternoon:

Late afternoon, evening:

To a good friend:

For first introductions:

or more formally:

On the phone:

Bonjour

Bonsoir

Salut!

Bonjour

Enchanté(e)

Allô

• ... AND GOODBYES

At any time:

To a good friend:

To someone off to bed:

'Have a good day'

'Have a good evening'

Au revoir

Salut! Good

Bonne nuit

Bonne journée

Bonne soirée

- 1 🎧 Listen to a series of conversations. Match them to these situations, for example: 1b
- a two neighbours greeting each other
 - b a man phoning
 - c two friends parting
 - d a man going off to bed
 - e a woman entering a busy shop in the morning
 - f business people meeting for the first time
 - g two old friends meeting
 - h a couple entering a shop in the evening

CULTUROSCOPE

Madame, mademoiselle, monsieur

Titles are used widely in French: *monsieur* for a man, *madame* for a woman, or *mademoiselle* if she is young.

Titles are normally used by both parties where a service is sought and given, for example, in shops, banks, restaurants, cafes and hotels. Also, titles are used to address people you're not on first-name terms with. On entering a shop or café, French people often address everyone present with a quietly-spoken *Monsieur-dame!*, or to a larger group, *Messieurs-dames!*

When followed by a surname, these titles are shortened in writing (except in letters) to *M.*, *Mme* and *Mlle*.

2 *Allez-y!*

What would you say in these situations?

- a entering a crowded shop in the morning
- b phoning a receptionist at your hotel
- c meeting an old French friend
- d meeting a French business client (female) for the first time
- e leaving your friends to go off to bed
- f leaving a café at lunchtime

Françoise Sagan's famous novel!

Françoise Sagan
Bonjour tristesse

Sur ce sentiment
inconnu dont l'en-
fance, la douceur
m'obsédait, j'hésite
à apposer le nom,
le feu nom grave
de tristesse. C'est un
sentiment si com-
plet, si égoïste que
j'en ai presque hor-
reur.

De A à Z

• Spelling with the French alphabet

🔊 Listen to the tape/CD for the names of the letters in the French alphabet.



1 🔊 Listen to people spelling their names. Number them 1–6 in the list as you hear them.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| M. Lagresle | Mme Baudelot |
| M. Jasserand | Mme Dugreux |
| Mme Jay | Mme Beayneel |

2 🔊 Listen to that recording again, covering up the list of names. See if you can write out the names as people spell them.

3 🔊 **Allez-y!**
Have a go at spelling out the following names. Check with the tape/CD.
Mme Dubourg
Mlle Sonya Kharioz
M. Williams
Dr Julien Hoque

Note! For a double letter, such as ll, mm, nn, say: *deux l* (2 l), *deux m*, *deux n*.

4 **Et vous?**
Over to you: can you spell your name in French?



Un café, s'il vous plaît!

• Asking for things

How can you get what you want with very little language? Look at the cartoon below and listen to the recording.



- 1 Can you find these in the cartoon?
- the right station for the Paris-Bordeaux TGV
 - the names of five drinks
 - four places or things the traveller asked for

INFO LANGUE

• ATTRACTING SOMEONE'S ATTENTION

in the street: Excusez-moi, monsieur!

Pardon, monsieur!

in a café: Mademoiselle, s'il vous plaît!

You can also use *Pardon!* and *Excusez-moi!* to apologise. Use *Pardon?*, making your voice go up at the end, to ask someone to repeat.

• ASKING FOR SOMETHING

Un café, s'il vous plaît A coffee, please

La gare, s'il vous plaît The station, please

• GENDER ISSUES

Everything in French has a gender, masculine or feminine, and this affects words like 'the' and 'a'.

	masculine	feminine
the	le taxi	la gare
	l'aéroport	l'idée
	les taxis	les idées
a/an	un café	une bière
some	des cafés	des bières

When talking about more than one, *le*, *la* and *l'* (in front of a vowel) all become *les*, and *un* and *une* become *des*. In most cases, an *-s* is added to the noun in the plural, but there is no change in sound: *café* and *cafés* sound the same.

Mot à mot

oui/non	yes/no
C'est là-bas	It's down there/over there
une gare	railway station
une voie	platform
un coca	Coca Cola
un vin rouge	red wine
Bonne idée!	Good idea!
Vous désirez?	What will you have?
Voilà	Here you are
Bon appétit!	Enjoy your meal!
Merci	Thank you

2 

Listen to people ordering in a café, and look at the menu card. Tick the items as you hear them mentioned. Listen again and fill in *un* or *une* in front of each item. (Leave the prices column until later.)

3 *Allez-y!*

Your turn to order something from the menu. Be polite! Say, for example: *Bonjour, madame. Un café, s'il vous plaît. Merci.*

Un, deux, trois...

• Numbers up to 20

 Listen to the tape/CD and repeat.

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

1 

Listen to Fabienne Dumas buying a newspaper. Read the conversation and fill in the numbers.

Fabienne Bonjour, madame.*Vendeuse* Bonjour, madame.*Fabienne* Le journal, s'il vous plaît.*Vendeuse* Oui, voilà.*Fabienne* Merci. C'est combien?*Vendeuse* C'est euros.*Fabienne* Euh, voici euros.*Vendeuse* Merci,, et,*Fabienne* Merci, madame.*Vendeuse* Au revoir.2 

Now fill in the prices on the café menu (left). Listen to customers asking how much something is: *C'est combien, le.../la..., s'il vous plaît?* The waitress answers: euros.

POINTS DE REPÈRE

At the end of this unit, do you think you can ...?	Yes	No	If not, go to ...
say hello and goodbye			p 10
use titles and address people			p 10
understand the alphabet			p 11
spell your name in French			p 11
attract someone's attention			p 12
ask for things			p 12
understand some prices			p 13
say numbers up to 20			p 13



Je m'appelle Corinne

• Introducing yourself • Numbers from 20 to 70

☞ Turn on the tape/CD, and listen to people introducing themselves. You'll learn how to say your name, your age, and what you do for a living.

Corinne Baudelot Je m'appelle Corinne Baudelot. J'ai 33 ans.

Clara Baudelot Je m'appelle Clara. J'ai 18 ans. Je suis étudiante.

Françoise Comment vous appelez-vous?

Martine Debray Martine Debray.

Françoise Oui. Et quel est votre métier?

Martine Mère au foyer.

Françoise Vous vous appelez comment?

Claude Théret Monsieur Théret.

Françoise Et votre prénom?

Claude Mon prénom, c'est Claude.

Françoise Et qu'est-ce que vous faites comme métier?

Claude Je suis garagiste.

20	vingt	50	cinquante
21	vingt et un(e)	56	cinquante-six
30	trente	57	cinquante-sept
31	trente et un(e)	60	soixante
32	trente-deux	68	soixante-huit
33	trente-trois	69	soixante-neuf
40	quarante	70	soixante-dix
44	quarante-quatre		
45	quarante-cinq		... more on page 32!

INFO LANGUE

• INTRODUCING YOURSELF

■ 4, 34 ▶

name	Je m'appelle Corinne Baudelot
age	J'ai 33 ans
job	Je suis journaliste

• ASKING OTHERS

name*	Comment vous appelez-vous? Vous vous appelez comment?
age*	Quel âge avez-vous? Vous avez quel âge?
job*	Quelle est votre profession? Quel est votre métier?

* Two ways of asking the same question.

Mot à mot

un agent des postes	post-office worker
un(e) architecte	architect
un(e) étudiant(e)	student
un(e) garagiste	garage owner
un(e) journaliste	journalist
une mère au foyer	mother and housewife
un professeur	teacher
un(e) secrétaire	secretary
mon prénom	my first name
un nom de famille	surname
Je suis au chômage	I'm unemployed
Je suis retraité(e)	I'm retired
Qu'est-ce que vous faites comme métier?	What job do you do?

1

Listen to the numbers and tick the ones you hear.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 <input type="checkbox"/> | 33 <input type="checkbox"/> | 37 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 <input type="checkbox"/> | 40 <input type="checkbox"/> | 41 <input type="checkbox"/> | 44 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 <input type="checkbox"/> | 50 <input type="checkbox"/> | 55 <input type="checkbox"/> | 56 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 <input type="checkbox"/> | 60 <input type="checkbox"/> | 63 <input type="checkbox"/> | 66 <input type="checkbox"/> |

2

Listen to people saying their names and what they do for a living. Match up the details in the two columns.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Jean-Paul Jasserand | a architecte |
| 2 Mme Lebœuf | b professeur de tennis |
| 3 Antoine Bernard | c agent des postes |
| 4 Anne-Marie Lépine | d journaliste |
| 5 Frank Martin | e secrétaire |

3

Vous y êtes?

How would you say the following in French?

- I'm 32 years old.
- I'm a teacher.
- My name is Georges Lépine.
- How about you?
- What's your name?
- How old are you?
- What's your job?
- I'm a journalist.



Corinne Bandelot

4

Allez-y!

Imagine you're watching a game show on French television. The contestants introduce themselves. What does each of them say?

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------|------------|
| Mireille Ritz | 34 ans | architecte |
| Jean-Pierre Duclos | 22 ans | étudiant |
| Emile Depardieu | 42 ans | garagiste |
| Corinne Picard | 56 ans | secrétaire |

5

Et vous?

Say your name and what you do for a living. See **R6** for a list of jobs; if yours isn't there, you may need to use a dictionary.

CULTUROSCOPE

Noms et prénoms

There are about 250 000 different surnames used in France. The ten most common are: Martin, Bernard, Moreau, Durand, Petit, Thomas, Dubois, Michel, Laurent, Simon.

First names go in and out of fashion, so they can give an idea of when people were born. Here are a few examples of the most popular names for children born in four different periods.

LE HIT-PARADE DES PRÉNOMS

	1920-1924	1960-1964	1980-1984	1990-2000
garçons (boys)	Jean Ancre Pierre René Marcel	Philippe Pascal Eric Thierry Patrick	Nicolas Julien Sébastien Mickaël Mathieu	Thomas Nicolas Lucas Hugo Alexandre
filles (girls)	Marie Jeanne Madeleine Simone Yvonne	Sylvie Catherine Véronique Isabelle Christine	Aurélie Emilie Céline Virginie Elodie	Laura Julie Léa Manon Camille



J'habite en France

• Saying where you live

☞ Listen to people saying where they live.

Françoise Où habitez-vous?
Mme Baudaillet J'habite à Anvin.

Françoise Et vous habitez où?
Martine A Saint-Pol-Ternois.

Françoise Comment vous appelez-vous?
Gabriel Persyn Persyn, Gabriel.

Françoise Oui, et vous êtes de la région?
Gabriel Je suis d'Hesdin.

Françoise Et vous habitez toujours la région?
Gabriel Non, j'habite le sud de l'Espagne maintenant.

Françoise Ah, vous habitez en Espagne!

INFO LANGUE

• SAYING WHICH COUNTRY YOU LIVE IN ■ 23, R5 ▶

The French names of countries and regions have genders, i.e. they are feminine or masculine. For example, *la Belgique* and *l'Australie* are feminine, *le pays de Galles* and *le Canada* are masculine. *Les Antilles* (feminine) and *les Etats-Unis* (masculine) are plural, as they are in English – the West Indies, the United States.

	Où habitez-vous?	
fem.	J'habite en	France Ecosse
masc.	au	Canada pays de Galles
plural	aux	Etats-Unis Antilles

• SAYING WHICH TOWN YOU LIVE IN

J'habite (à)	Marseille Sydney	I live in ...
Je suis de	La Rochelle Montréal	I'm from ...

You can say *J'habite Londres* – the *à* is optional.

Mot à mot

l'Afrique du Nord (f)	North Africa
l'Allemagne (f)	Germany
l'Angleterre (f)	England
les Antilles (f)	West Indies
l'Australie (f)	Australia
la Belgique	Belgium
l'Ecosse (f)	Scotland
l'Espagne (f)	Spain
les Etats-Unis (m)	USA
la Grande-Bretagne	Great Britain
l'Irlande (f)	Ireland
l'Italie (f)	Italy
les Pays-Bas (m)	Netherlands
le pays de Galles	Wales
le Royaume-Uni	United Kingdom
la Suède	Sweden
la Suisse	Switzerland
toujours	still
maintenant	now
le sud de	the south of

1 ☞ Listen to six people saying where they live. Which of the following cities do they mention?

Berlin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marseille	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boulogne	<input type="checkbox"/>	New York	<input type="checkbox"/>
Edimbourg	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paris	<input type="checkbox"/>
Londres	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rome	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Vous y êtes?

How would you say the following?

- I live in France.
- I live in Wales.
- I live in the West Indies.
- I'm from London.
- I'm from Orléans.
- Where do you live?

If you don't understand something, say 'Je ne comprends pas' or 'Vous pouvez répéter, s'il vous plaît?'

3 Allez-y!

Imagine you live in each of the cities represented by these landmarks: say what country and town you live in. For example: *J'habite en France, j'habite Paris.* Listen to the tape to check your statements.



4 *Et vous?*

Say where you live: in what country and what town, city or village.

CULTUROSCOPE

Les régions françaises




Since 1960, Metropolitan France (i.e. excluding overseas territories) has been divided into 22 regions. Each region has its own capital and groups together several départements (see map, page 247).



Je suis français – Je suis française

• Giving your nationality

 Listen to people saying where they were born and what nationality they are.

Françoise Vous êtes... vous êtes d'ici?

Martine Debray Je suis née en France.

Françoise Et vous êtes donc française?

Martine Je suis française.

Françoise Et vous êtes né à Anvin aussi?

Claude Théret Je suis né à Anvin, oui.

Françoise Donc vous êtes français?

Claude Je suis français, bien sûr.

Hassan Zouazou Je m'appelle Hassan Zouazou. Donc mon prénom, c'est Hassan. H-A-S-S-A-N. Mon nom de famille, c'est Zouazou. Z-O-U-A-Z-O-U.

Corinne C'est un nom d'origine...?

Hassan Donc, moi-même, je suis marocain [.....]

Philippe Sanchez Je suis né en Afrique du Nord, à Alger plus exactement.

Mot à mot

Vous êtes né(e)...?	Were you born...?
Vous êtes de quelle nationalité?	What's your nationality?
e:	and
bien sûr	of course
donc	so
moi-même	myself
allemand(e)	German
américain(e)	American
anglais(e)	English
australien(ne)	Australian
belge	Belgian
britannique	British
écossais(e)	Scots, Scottish
espagnol(e)	Spanish
français(e)	French
gallois(e)	Welsh
iranien(ne)	Iranian
irlandais(e)	Irish
italien(ne)	Italian
japonais(e)	Japanese
marocain(e)	Moroccan
suédois(e)	Swedish

INFO LANGUE

• SAYING YOUR NATIONALITY

■ 6, R5 ▶

Je suis	masculine		feminine	
	britannique			
	belge			
	français		française	
	italien		italienne	
	allemand		allemande	
	espagnol		espagnole	

Espagnol, espagnole: different spelling, same sound.

• SAYING WHERE YOU WERE BORN

■ 23 ▶

Je suis né(e) à Paris
à Londres
à Tokyo
Je suis né(e) en France
au Japon
aux États-Unis

Né is masculine, née is feminine. Different spelling, same sound.

Use à for cities, towns, villages. Use en, au, aux for countries, depending on gender (see p 16).

• NATIONALITIES AND ORIGINS

Je suis de nationalité française
d'origine italienne

Nationalité and origine are both feminine words, so the adjective (e.g. française) has a feminine ending.

1

Read the following statements, and work out which were made by men, and which by women. Then listen to the tape/CD to check your answers.

- 1 Je suis français. M F
- 2 Je suis française. M F
- 3 Je suis américaine. M F
- 4 Je suis américain. M F
- 5 Je suis australienne. M F
- 6 Je suis italien. M F
- 7 Je suis allemande. M F
- 8 Je suis japonais. M F

2 Vous y êtes?

How would you say the following?

- 1 I'm English. (woman)
- 2 I'm Irish. (man)
- 3 I was born in Berlin. (man)
- 4 I'm a teacher.
- 5 I'm 42.
- 6 What's your nationality?

3 Allez-y!

Six people who live in the country of their birth make the following statements. Can you complete them, following the model of the first?

- 1 Je suis née à Paris. Je suis française et j'habite en France.
- 2 Je suis né à Rome. Je suis..... et j'habite.....
- 3 Je suis née à Francfort.
- 4 Je suis né à Chicago.
- 5 Je suis née à Londres.
- 6 Je suis né à Dublin.

4

We spoke to several tourists near the Pyramide du Louvre in Paris, and asked them their nationality. As you listen to the conversations, note down the nationalities and countries mentioned.

5 Allez-y!

Imagine you are Ieoh Ming Pei, the architect responsible for the Pyramide du Louvre: you are interviewed by a French journalist. Listen to the tape/CD, and answer the questions. Then take on the journalist's role and ask the questions, following the cues on the tape/CD.

Nom : Pei
Prénoms : Ieoh Ming
Nationalité : américain
Né : en Chine, à Canton
Profession : architecte



6 Et vous?

Say as many details as possible about yourself: your name, your age, where you live, your nationality and place of birth. Listen to Corinne first, as an example.

CULTUROSCOPE

Le Louvre

The Louvre, which celebrated its 200th anniversary on 18 November 1993, is one of the largest museums in the world. Originally built as a palace, it became a museum a few months after the execution of King Louis XVI. The glass pyramid, which was completed in 1989, is now the main entrance to the museum.



Opening times:
9.00 to 18.00.

Mondays and
Wednesdays,
9.00 to 22.00.

Closed on Tuesdays.

Ça va?

• Asking people if they're OK

Ça va? occurs often in French conversation, particularly in greetings and in telephone calls. It's an informal way of asking how someone is or how things are going. **Ça va**, said as a statement rather than a question, is the most common reply – 'Fine'. You'll find other ways

of replying in the cartoon strip below. You can apply **Ça va?** to almost anything:

Ça va, le travail? *How's work?*

Ça va, le bébé? *How's the baby?*

Ça va, à Londres? *How are things in London?*

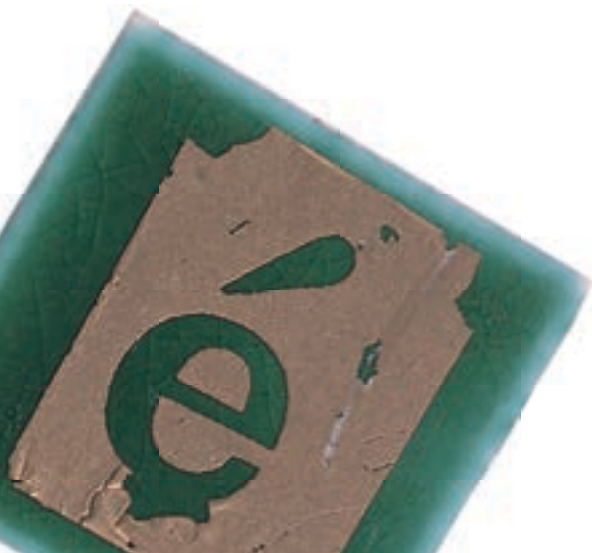
1

Look at the cartoon strip and listen to the tape/CD. Listen a second time and find the right snatch of conversation for each frame of the cartoon.

- a – Ça va?
– Ça va.
- b – Ça va?
– Non! Ça ne va pas!
- c – Ça va?
– Oh, comme ci comme ça!
- d – Ça va?
– Très bien, merci.
- e – Ça va?
– Pas très bien!

2

See if you can say the scenes from memory, while looking at the cartoon strip. Listen to the tape/CD again first.



Les chiffres de l'immigration

France has a wide ethnic mix which reflects its history as a colonial power and as a haven for political and economic refugees. French influence abroad spread especially in the Caribbean (e.g. Martinique, Guadeloupe), North America (e.g. Quebec, Louisiana), East Asia (e.g. Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia), North Africa (e.g. Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia), and Central and West Africa (e.g. Senegal, Ivory Coast).

The proportion of foreigners living in France has reduced slightly in the last 10 years. There were 3.3 million in 1999, which was 5.6% of the population, compared to 6.4% in 1990 and 6.8% in 1982. In 1999, 51% of immigrants were from Africa. Those from other European countries were the next largest proportion, with people from Turkey and other Asian countries making up the rest.



POINTS DE REPÈRE

At the end of this unit, do you think you can ...?	Yes	No	If not, go to ...
introduce yourself: your name, age and job			p 14
ask someone for their name, age and job			p 14
count to 70			p 14
say where you live: country and town			p 16
ask someone where they live			p 16
say your nationality			p 18
give your country and town of birth			p 18
ask someone what their nationality is			p 18
ask someone if they're OK			p 20
say how you are			p 20

PHONÉTIQUE

⊗ Liaisons

The *-s* at the end of *les* is sometimes silent:
 les touristes les Pays-Bas
 When the word after *les* starts with a vowel, the *-s* is often pronounced:
 les étudiants les Antilles
 This extra sound is called a *liaison*. It is shown here by a line linking two words.

Liaisons affect some other letters at the end of common words. Listen to the examples on the tape/CD.
 Vous avez quel âge?
 J'habite en Angleterre.
 J'habite aux États-Unis.

1 Say the following aloud, making a *liaison* where appropriate. (Draw in the *liaisons* if that helps you.) Check what you say by listening to the tape/CD.

Les touristes, les étudiants.
 Six Français, six Allemands.
 Vous vous appelez comment?
 Je suis né aux Antilles.
 J'habite en Écosse.

⊗ Ça va? Ça va, merci.

Listen to the way someone's voice rises in pitch at the end of a question, but falls in an answer or statement.

2 Listen and add '?' or '.' to these sentences, to show whether you hear them as questions or answers. Then repeat after the tape/CD.

Vous vous appelez Carmen
 Vous avez 18 ans
 Ça va, en France
 Vous êtes irlandaise