



Community Education Spring 2025

French for Beginners

Tuesday 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Instructor: Anne Menard

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Course Description: Oui, c'est possible. This French for beginners class is for adult learners with no previous knowledge of French and also for people who have studied French in the past and want to brush up their skills. In that class, you will learn the basics of pronunciation, vocabulary, grammatical structure, and dialogues. Reference book: French in 3 months by Ronald Overy and Jacqueline Lecanuet (edition 2022). Taught by a native speaker.

Learning Outcomes: *As a result of taking this course, students will:*

- Know how to pronounce French alphabet, vowels and consonants.
- Learn how to introduce yourself in French and how to greet people in French.
- Learn the numbers, days, months, seasons of the year and how to tell time.
- Learn how to use the subject pronouns with verbs.
- Learn how to conjugate verbs.
- Determine the gender of nouns (masculine and feminine).
- Understand the three kinds of articles and making nouns plural.
- Learn how to use demonstrative, possessive adjectives and adverbs in sentences.
- Read simple sentences and learn more words.
- Learn basic expressions used in everyday situations.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction, alphabet, pronunciation, elision & liaison, French greetings.

In first lesson, you will learn how to pronounce French alphabet (in case you have to spell out a word). You will learn to pronounce vowels, consonants and also French sounds that require special attention. You will learn two elements: elision and liaison. You will learn appropriate French greetings and learn new words and key phrases.

Week 2: Addressing people, subject pronouns, present tense of verbs *avoir*, *être* and regular verbs ending in *-er*, expressions using *avoir*, three ways asking questions.

You will know how to address people (difference between *tu* and *vous*). You will learn the subject pronouns, present tense of verbs *avoir*, *être*, and regular verbs ending in *-er*. You will see three ways to ask questions. You will recognize expression with *avoir* et *être*. You will learn new words and new expressions.

Week 3: Definite, indefinite and partitive articles, masculine and feminine nouns, formation of plural, say colors in French, present tense of regular verbs ending in *-ir*.

In third lesson, you will recognize whether a noun is masculine or feminine, and which article to use with each gender and you will see the formation of plural. You will learn the colors. You will conjugate regular verbs ending in *-ir* in the present tense. And finally, you will read useful expressions and sentences.

Week 4: Numbers, days of the week, months, seasons of the year, period of time, regular verbs ending in *-re*,

The fourth lesson, you will learn cardinal, ordinal numbers, days of the week, months, seasons of the year and period of time. You will conjugate regular verbs ending in *-re*. You will learn new words and new expressions.

Week 5: What time is it? (*Quelle heure est-il?*), present tense of irregular verbs, expressions with: *je voudrais*, *je veux*. Easiest way to point something out: *c'est...*

In week 5, *Quelle l'heure est-il?* You will conjugate irregular verbs in the present tense. Expressions with: *je voudrais* et *je veux*. Expressions with *c'est*. You will learn more words and more key phrases.

Week 6: Descriptive adjectives, present perfect of regular verbs, make negative sentences, asking questions: where, when, how, why, etc.

Week 6, you will know how to describe things with adjectives. You will conjugate regular verbs in present perfect. How to make a sentence negative in French. You will see some words for asking questions. You will do fun exercises.

Week 7: Demonstrative and possessive adjectives, present perfect of irregular verbs.

Week 7, you will see demonstrative and possessive adjectives. You will see irregular verbs in past tense. You will do fun exercises.

Week 8: Review previous lessons and discussion.

Week 8, review of weeks 1 to 7, questions on what you have learned. Check your spoken French with simple questions.

Selected Bibliography/Resources:

- French in 3 months by Ronald Overy and Jacqueline Lecanuet.

Class Evaluation: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your “junk mail,” but we can assure you it’s from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation, please email Continuingeducation@clark.edu or call 360.992.2939.

Inclement Weather:

If the College cancels due to icy conditions you can find this on the college website www.clark.edu ~ If Community Education concludes that the weather is too hazardous, we may also decide to cancel this class. In that case you will receive both a phone call and email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information by viewing the class roster.

Looking for classes? Visit our Community Education webpage: www.clark.edu/cce/