

Introduction to Basic French Phrases

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Designed for beginners – quick reference and practice guide

1. Greetings & Polite Expressions

French	Pronunciation	English	Usage Tips
Bonjour	bɔ̃ʒuʁ	Good morning / Hello	Use until early evening.
Bonsoir	bɔ̃swaʁ	Good evening	After ~6pm.
Salut	saly	Hi / Bye (informal)	With friends, peers.
Au revoir	o ʁəvwɑʁ	Goodbye	Formal or neutral.
À bientôt	a bjɛ̃to	See you soon	Friendly farewell.
Merci	mɛʁsi	Thank you	Add beaucoup for “thanks a lot”.
S’il vous plaît	sil vu plɛ	Please (formal)	Use with strangers, elders.
S’il te plaît	sil tɛ plɛ	Please (informal)	With peers or children.
Excusez-moi / Pardon	ɛkskyze mwa / paʁdɔ̃	Excuse me / Sorry	For getting attention or apologising.

2. Introducing Yourself

French	Pronunciation	English	Example
Je m’appelle ...	ʒə mapɛl ...	My name is ...	<i>Je m’appelle Marie.</i>
Je suis ...	ʒə sɥi ...	I am ... (nationality, profession)	<i>Je suis américain.</i>
J’ai ... ans	ʒə ... ɑ̃	I am ... years old	<i>J’ai vingt-trois ans.</i>
Je viens de ...	ʒə vjɛ̃ dɛ ...	I come from ...	<i>Je viens de Montréal.</i>
Enchanté(e)	ɑ̃ʃɑ̃tɛ / ɑ̃ʃɑ̃tɛe	Nice to meet you	Add e if you are female.

3. Common Courtesy & Small Talk

Phrase	Pronunciation	Meaning	When to Use
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Comment ça va ?	k?m?? sa va	How are you? (informal)	With friends, peers.
Comment allez-vous ?	k?m?? tale vu	How are you? (formal/plural)	In shops, with strangers.
Ça va bien, merci.	sa va bj??, m?? si	I'm fine, thank you.	Standard reply.
Et vous ? / Et toi ?	e vu / e twa	And you? (formal / informal)	To return the question.
Quel âge avez-vous ?	k?l a? a.ve vu	How old are you? (formal)	When age is relevant.
Quel temps fait-il ?	k?l t?? f? til	What's the weather like?	Light conversation starter.
Où sont les toilettes ?	u s?? le tw?l?t	Where are the restrooms?	Essential for travel.

4. Numbers (0-20) – Quick Reference

French Pronunciation English

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