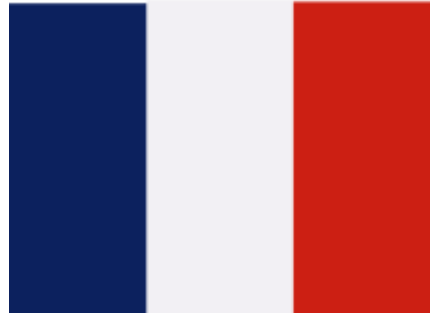


YOUR FIRST FRENCH LESSON



Although French people are world-renowned not to be as polite and friendly as in other European countries... their language includes many polite phrases one should learn.

This first step will soon allow you to start a conversation with your new French friends and check whether all French clichés are true indeed...or not....



How to say « hello »

English

Hello

Good morning

Good afternoon

Good day

Hello John

Good evening

Good evening ladies and gentlemen

Hi

(Very informal, use this only with close friends !)

Hi everybody!

French

Bonjour

("bon" means good, "jour" day.

Do not say "BUN-JAW" !)

Bonjour Jean

Bonsoir

Bonsoir mesdames et messieurs

Salut

Salut tout le monde!

Useful tips :

It is very common in France to say "bonjour" to everybody, when you enter a shop, restaurant, or bar etc.

At school, it is very common for boys to shake hands when meeting, whereas girls kiss each other on the cheek (girl and boy friends also kiss each other on the cheek).

At work, it is normal practice to shake hands.

When you greet someone of the opposite sex whom you know well, you often kiss him or her on each cheek. There is no fixed rule for this.

Within a family, cheek kissing is normal between all sexes.

N.B. : In the northern part of France, you kiss each cheek twice, whilst in other regions it is only once.

How to say « goodbye »

English

Good bye

Good bye and see you tomorrow.

Good evening, Good night

Good evening ladies and gentlemen

Bye,

See you soon

See you tomorrow

Bye everybody!

French

Au revoir

Au revoir et à demain

Bonsoir, Bonne nuit

Bonsoir mesdames et messieurs

Salut

À bientôt

À demain

Salut tout le monde!

Introducing oneself

English

I'm Pierre

My name is Marie

(In French you say "I call myself Susan"

This is a reflexive verb)

I am French

I'm Marie from Paris

I come from France

French

Je suis Pierre

Je m'appelle Marie

Je suis française

Je suis Marie, de Paris

Je viens de France

How to say « please » and « thank you »

Do not forget that in French, 'tu' is the informal 'you' whereas 'vous' is the formal 'you'. You can say 'tu' to a friend or a child, but you must use 'vous' when addressing someone you don't know well, or someone you must show respect to (older people, teachers...)

English

Please (informal singular)

Please (formal singular, or plural)

Please, where is the telephone?

What time is it please?

Thank you

Thank you very much

Thank you madame

I thank you

French

S'il te plait

S'il vous plait

S'il te plait, où est le téléphone ?

Quelle heure est-il, s'il vous plait?

Merci

Merci beaucoup

Merci madame

Je vous remercie

Links :

« Bonjour Paris ! » (*Funny Face*):

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrlJjB_dyP0&feature=player_embedded#!