

3 MINUTE FRENCH COURSE 3 **RECAP NOTES**



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PRENDRE VS. AVOIR

The verb **avoir** in French means **to have**, but if you're talking about **having food and drink**, you should use a different verb: **prendre**.

The verb **prendre** literally means **to take**, but you can use it to say that you're **having** something to eat or drink

Puis-je prendre un café?

Can I have a coffee?

je voudrais prendre le poulet

I would like to have the chicken

You can imagine that when you use **prendre** with food or drink, you're literally saying things like, "**Can I intake the food?**" meaning **to eat it**.

HOW DO I GET TO...?

There's a nice phrase, "**Pour aller à...?**", which literally means, "**For to go to...?**". However, you can use it as a way of asking, "**How do I get to...?**"

Pour aller au restaurant Ciel de Paris?

How do I get to the Ciel de Paris restaurant?

It's simply a nice alternative to "**Où est...?**", which means, "**Where is...?**"

Où est le restaurant Ciel de Paris?

Where is the Ciel de Paris restaurant?

SOME & ANY

If you place the word "**de**" in front of any word for "**the**" in French, you get the word for "**some**" or "**any**" (it's the same word in French). And don't forget about the "**de**" contractions (**du** & **des**)

du pain

some bread / any bread

des voitures

some cars / any cars

de la dinde

some turkey / any turkey

du sucre

some sugar / any sugar

des tables

some tables / any tables

de la viande

some meat / any meat

(ON THE) LEFT

The two phrases **à gauche** and **à droite** mean **on the left** and **on the right**, respectively. However, they can also just mean **left** and **right**

à gauche - (on the) left

à droite - (on the) right

tournez à gauche

turn left

le restaurant est à gauche

the restaurant is on the left

COMPARATIVES

You can make comparisons in English by either adding the letters “er” to the end of an adjective, or by putting the word “more” in front of an adjective.

smaller
bigger
more beautiful
more delicious

In French, you make comparisons by putting the word “plus” in front of an adjective.

plus grand - *bigger*
plus petit - *smaller*
plus beau - *more beautiful*
plus délicieux - *more delicious*

You can also use the word “moins” in front of adjectives, to mean “less”.

moins beau - *less beautiful*
moins délicieux - *less delicious*

BIG and SMALL

We learnt the adjectives “grand” and “petit” (“big” and “small”) in course 3. Let’s just have a look at the different forms of each adjective: the masculine singular, masculine plural, feminine singular and feminine plural

BIG	grand	grands	grande	grandes
SMALL	petit	petits	petite	petites

NUMBERS

We learnt numbers back in course 1:

1 **un**
 2 **deux**
 3 **trois**
 4 **quatre**
 5 **cinq**

These numbers are called **cardinal numbers**. In course 3, we learnt three **ordinal numbers**. In English, the **ordinal numbers** are **first, second, third** etc. We learnt the first three in French, but let’s learn a few more. You’ll notice that they all (except **première**) end in “**ième**”

first **première**
second **deuxième**
third **troisième**
fourth **quatrième**
fifth **cinquième**
sixth **sixième**
seventh **septième**
eighth **huitième**
ninth **neuvième**
tenth **dixième**

In English, we can abbreviate the ordinal numbers (**1st, 2nd, 3rd** etc). Well, we can do the same in French; you simply put the letter “e” after the number.

1st **1er** 6th **6e**
 2nd **2e** 7th **7e**
 3rd **3e** 8th **8e**
 4th **4e** 9th **9e**
 5th **5e** 10th **10e**

FRENCH LIAISON

We learnt about the **CaReFuL** rule in course 1, which reminds us that we don't pronounce consonants on the end of words in French, except for the letters **C, R, F** and **L**.

However, there is an exception to this rule, and that is when the next word starts with a vowel. If a word ends in a consonant, and the next word starts with a vowel, you can pronounce the consonant.

allez à l'hôtel

ah-LAY zah loh-TEL

je voudrais aller

jsheugh voo-DRAY zah-LAY

c'est absolument extraordinaire

seh tab-soh-loo-MON tex-tra-or-dee-NAIR

TROP

The word "**trop**" means "**too**" or "**too much**". You can use it by itself, or you can use it in front of adjectives.

c'est trop

it's too much

c'est trop pour moi

it's too much for me

ça c'est trop grand

that's too big

ça c'est trop petit pour moi

that's too small for me

TROP DE

You can also place the word "**trop**" in front of a noun, to say "**too much**" or "**too many**" of that noun. However, you have to add a little extra word, and say, "**trop de**"

trop de carottes

too many carrots

trop de vin

too much wine

PLUS DE / MOINS DE

In the same way that you have to use "**de**" after "**trop**" if you want to use a noun, you also have to use the word "**de**" after "**plus**" and "**moins**" if you want to use them in front of a noun.

plus de carottes

more carrots

moins de carottes

fewer carrots

plus de vin

more wine

moins de vin

less wine

Just note that normally the word "**plus**" is pronounced "**ploo**". However, when you use "**plus de**", the word "**plus**" is pronounced "**ploos**" with the **S** clearly spoken.



COMMANDS

When we learnt about directions, we got a few words that all end in “ez”. These are command words that you can use to tell people what to do:

allez - go
prenez - take
tournez - turn

You can compare “**allez**” with “**aller**”. The word “**allez**” is a command, used to tell people what to do, whereas, “**aller**” means “(to) go”, and you can use it after phrases like “**je voudrais**” or “**puis-je**”

allez là
 go there

je voudrais aller à Paris
I would like to go to Paris

puis-je aller avec Pierre?
can I go with Pierre?

ÇA VS. CELA

The word “**ça**” means “**that**”, but there’s a synonym that you can use, “**cela**”. There are a lot of times where you’ll find that there are multiple ways to say the same thing in French. In fact, this is true in any language, not just French. So, you can choose “**ça**” or “**cela**”, and they mean the same thing.

je voudrais ça - *I would like that*
je voudrais cela - *I would like that*

TICKETS, PLEASE

I think we ought to just recap the different words for “tickets” in French, as well as recapping the plurals of these phrases:

un billet - *a ticket*
deux billets - *two tickets*

un aller simple - *a one-way ticket*
deux allers simples - *two one-way tickets*

un aller-retour - *a return ticket*
deux allers-retours - *two return tickets*



Whilst we’re on the topic of tickets, just remember that in French, you ask for a ticket **for** somewhere rather than **to** somewhere

un billet pour Paris - *a ticket to Paris*



THIS & THESE

Just like there are multiple ways to say “**the**”, “**a**” and “**my**” in French, there are multiple ways to say “**this**”

ce - *this* (masculine)

cette - *this* (feminine)

ce restaurant - *this restaurant*

cette voiture - *this car*

ce mois - *this month*

cette semaine - *this week*

If you have a masculine noun that **starts with a vowel or a h**, however, you have to use the word “**cet**” for “**this**”

cet hôtel - *this hotel*

In the plural, we use the word “**ces**” instead, which means “**these**”

ces restaurants - *these restaurants*

ces voitures - *these cars*

IT

You can place the word “**it**” after a verb in English, and say things like, “**I would like it**”. However, in French, you have to put the word “**it**” in front of the verb instead. The word for “**it**” in this situation is “**le**”.

j’aime - *I like*

je l’aime - *I like it*

je préfère - *I prefer*

je le préfère - *I prefer it*

je voudrais - *I would like*

je le voudrais - *I would like it*

avez-vous? - *do you have?*

l’avez-vous? - *do you have it?*

COLOURS LES COULEURS

When you want to use a colour with a noun, you put the colour after the noun rather than before it. This is the opposite to what we do in English

une voiture rouge - *a red car*

la maison blanche - *the white house*

un manteau bleu - *a blue coat*

chaussures jaunes - *yellow shoes*

le chat noir - *the black cat*

Let’s do a quick recap of all the colours in French

red	rouge
orange	orange
yellow	jaune
green	vert(e)
blue	bleu(e)
purple	violet(te)
pink	rose
brown	marron
black	noir
white	blanc(he)
grey	gris(e)

feminine endings in brackets