

frenchtoday™



Une Semaine À Paris
Audio Novel & Travel Tips

- SAMPLE -

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For more information, contact us at

French Today
63 Rue De Goas Plat
22500 Paimpol - France

www.frenchtoday.com
info@frenchtoday.com
Twitter: @frenchtoday
Facebook: www.facebook.com/frenchtoday

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Introduction

Many people enjoy France and its language. They have studied French, know the rules of grammar, speak French more or less fluently, and are eager to find good materials to help them improve their conversation and understanding skills.

Unfortunately, if there are a lot of books/ movies available for advanced levels, these tools are too difficult for the beginner and intermediate students, and often end up being more discouraging than helpful.

So I've decided to write this series. In these realistic and lively dialogues, you'll join Thomas and Angela on their trips to France. You learn a ton of helpful, daily, up-to-date vocabulary, learn about France's culture and prepare for likely conversations and situations, as you are discovering a specific region of France.

The style of writing is rather straightforward: I use simple sentence constructions, focus on everyday vocabulary and expressions, favor dialogues and simple tenses, so that the story be reachable – yet entertaining and interesting – to any level of French speaker. Since the story is entirely translated into English, you can easily peek at the translation.

I then recorded the story at two speeds – a slower speed you can repeat, and a faster street French speed to prepare you to understand French natives when they speak.

The amount of work you will put into this book is up to you: you can just listen to the story and have fun along the way, or make a point to memorize all the vocabulary and expressions and really improve your French.

Good luck with your French studies, and remember, repetition is the key!

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How to work with this audiobook

1. The Story

Each chapter of the story is recorded two times:

1. At an almost normal speed but still well enunciated so you can really hear all the French sounds
2. Then at a "street French" speed, respecting the modern glided pronunciation of spoken French, for you to practice on understanding French people when they speak among themselves.

How to study:

1. LISTEN to the recording of the story part. Can you guess what is happening? Stay focused on the context and the storyline. So you didn't understand one word? The worse that can happen is for your brain to freeze - and then you'd miss the rest of the story. What you don't know, you can usually guess: guessing what is logically happening in a given context is very important in language learning. It's essential that you develop this ability in French and force your brain to go with the flow of the story or conversation.
2. If you need to, read the English translation, then read the French at the same time as the recording is playing. Note the glidings, liaisons, intonation and word groupings that happen. Write them down on the print out of this PDF to help you read the story better.
3. REPEAT OUT LOUD - first sentence by sentence with the recording, then longer dialogues. You will probably need to use the pause and play buttons. Try to mimic the sing-song and modulation of my voice as if you were an actor: pay close attention to the glidings, the elisions and liaisons, and also to the word grouping: where I pause and breathe within the sentence. Repeat as many times as necessary for you to be able to read comfortably.
4. Create your own flash cards. Use the underlined and bold vocabulary to create theme specific lists and test your memory.

2. The Questions And Answers

This section is designed to entice you to speak out-loud, and practice what you've learned. I tried to ask pretty straightforward questions, but your answer may vary a bit from mine, and still be correct.

The Questions and Answers are also a great section to train on your pronunciation, since the sentences are quite short. Repeat out loud, or say the sentence before I do and compare your pronunciation to mine. If you want to work on your written French, you can use the audio as a dictation. Play with the pause button as needed so you have time to write the sentences down.

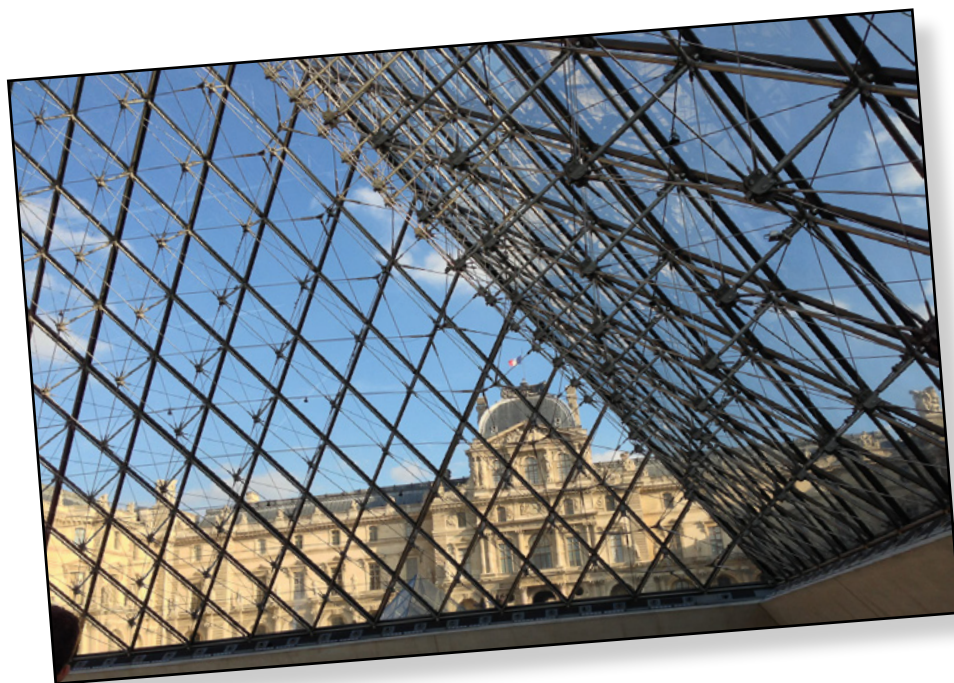
I encourage you to really work with this section, and often repeat these exercises. Understanding questions fast and having the courage to answer them out loud is the key to any successful interaction in French.

Good luck with your French studies, and remember, repetition is the key!

Chapitre 10

Le dimanche

Sunday



Story

Thomas et Angéla se réveillent dimanche matin. Ils ont bien dormi et il est... dix heures déjà ! Oh, la, la... pas une minute à perdre, il faut aller au Louvre ! Ils boivent un café, et partent. Dehors, il fait gris et il pleut légèrement.

Thomas and Angela wake up on Sunday. They slept very well and it is... 10 already! Whoa... there's not a minute to waste; they have to go to the Louvre! They drink a coffee, and leave. Outside, the sky is overcast, and some light rain is falling.

Thomas Ça va ? Tu n'as pas froid ?
You're OK? You're not cold?

Angéla Non, non, ça va, mais on devrait quand même acheter un parapluie, au cas où il se mette à pleuvoir plus fort.
No, no, I'm fine, but we should still buy an umbrella, in case it starts to rain harder.

Thomas Oui, tu as raison.
Yes, you're right.

Ils s'arrêtent pour acheter un parapluie dans une petite boutique, sous les arcades de la rue de Rivoli. Sur le parapluie est écrit : « J'AIME PARIS ».

They stop to buy an umbrella in a little shop under the arcades of the rue de Rivoli. On the umbrella is written "I LOVE PARIS".

Thomas Et bien voilà, maintenant on a vraiment l'air de touristes.
Great, now we really look like tourists...

Ils arrivent bientôt à côté du Louvre, passent par la Place carrée, et débouchent sur la Pyramide du Louvre. Des gens font la queue pour entrer au musée. Apparemment, ils ne sont pas les seuls à avoir décidé de visiter le Louvre en ce jour de pluie.

They soon arrive next to the Louvre, go through the square plaza, and arrive at the Louvre's Pyramid. People are waiting in line to get inside the museum. Obviously, they are not the only ones to have decided to visit the Louvre museum on this rainy day.

Angéla Qu'est-ce que tu penses de la Pyramide ?
What do you think of the Pyramid?

Thomas J'aime bien. Je trouve qu'elle est assez discrète. Et toi ?
I like it. I think it's rather discrete. And you?

Angéla Oui, moi aussi. Et pourtant, généralement, je n'aime pas les mélanges de moderne et d'ancien, mais là, je dois dire que ça marche assez bien. Et puis l'intérieur est vraiment beau.
Yes, me too. Although I usually don't like when modern and older styles are mixed, but in this case, I have to admit it works rather well. And the inside is really beautiful.

Ils entrent, et descendent les escaliers roulants. Les voilà dans la cour principale, sous la Pyramide. De là, ils peuvent admirer la perspective, et le magnifique escalier en colimaçon. Ils peuvent également se promener dans toutes les boutiques qui se sont ouvertes en dessous de la Pyramide, aller dans la boutique du musée, et bien sûr, entrer dans le Louvre.

They go in, and climb down the escalators. They are now in the main courtyard, under the pyramid. From there, they can admire the perspective, and the beautiful spiral staircase. They can also enjoy all the shops that opened under the pyramid, go to the museum's shop, and of course, access the Louvre Museum.

Thomas On y va ?
Shall we go?

Angéla Allons-y !
Let's go !

Après s'être promenés pendant trois heures dans le musée, un Thomas et une Angéla épuisés ressortent dans la cour principale.

After having spent three hours in the museum, exhausted, Thomas and Angela come out in the main courtyard.

Thomas C'était vraiment superbe. Quelle collection ! Et bien sûr, je suis content d'avoir vu la Joconde...
It was really beautiful. What a collection! And of course, I'm happy to have seen the Mona Lisa...

Angéla Moi, j'en ai plein les jambes... on s'assied une minute au café ?
I can't feel my legs... shall we sit a minute at the coffee shop?

Thomas Bonne idée.
Good idea.

Ils vont acheter deux cafés dans la petite cafétéria en dessous de la Pyramide, et s'asseyent à une des tables.
They buy 2 cups of coffee, in the small coffee shop under the pyramid, and sit at one of the tables.

Angéla Avant de partir, je voudrais aller voir la boutique du musée, et aussi visiter la boutique Lalique.
Before we leave, I'd like to go to the museum's shop, and also pay a visit to the Lalique shop.

Thomas OK. Et moi, je commence à avoir faim. On peut peut-être sortir et aller manger quelque chose ? Ici, c'est bien pour une boisson, mais c'est un vrai piège à touristes.
OK, And I'm starting to be hungry. Maybe we can go outside and get something to eat? Here is fine for a drink, but it's a real tourist's trap.

Angéla D'accord. Allons au Palais-Royal. Je voudrais te montrer les Colonnes de Buren, pour que tu me dises ce que tu en penses. Et puis c'est ravissant là-bas, c'est dommage qu'il pleuve car c'est vraiment un super endroit pour se promener et manger quelque chose.
OK. Let's go to the Palais Royal. I'd like to show you the Buren sculptures, so you can tell me what you think of it. Plus it's really lovely over there. It's too bad it's raining, because it's a great place to stroll and grab a bite.

Reposés par leur pause-café, Thomas et Angéla vont à la boutique du musée où ils achètent quelques cartes postales et un livre en souvenir, puis ils vont visiter la superbe boutique Lalique. Angéla achèterait bien toute la boutique... mais c'est cher, même en déduisant la TVA (ce qui peut se faire à l'aéroport).

Rested after their coffee break, Thomas and Angela go to the museum's gift shop, and buy a few postcards, and a book as a souvenir, and then they go to visit the superb Lalique boutique. Angela could buy the whole shop... but it's expensive. Even when subtracting the Valued Added Tax (which can be done at the airport).

Ils prennent la sortie rue de Rivoli, et arrivent bientôt au Palais-Royal. Dans la cour intérieure se trouvent des sculptures modernes : des colonnes rayées noir et blanc, de différentes hauteurs. Les touristes s'y promènent, les enfants montent dessus. Plusieurs personnes s'y asseyent un instant.

They leave the museum through the rue de Rivoli exit, and soon arrive at the Palais Royal. In the inside courtyard, are some modern sculptures; black and white stripes pillars of different heights. Tourists walk there, children climb on top, several people sit on them for a moment.

Angéla Alors, qu'est-ce que tu en penses ?
So, what do you think of it?

Thomas Horrible !
Awful!

Angéla Je suis bien d'accord !! Et alors là, ça n'a aucune utilité... Allez, j'ai faim moi aussi, allons manger un morceau.
Yes, I agree!! And in this case, it has no use whatsoever. OK, now I'm hungry too, let's grab a bite to eat.

Ils continuent dans le magnifique jardin du Palais-Royal, passent à côté de la fontaine, et sous les arches des galeries marchandes, ils dénichent bientôt un petit café et s'asseyent à une table à côté de la fenêtre. Le serveur arrive et leur apporte la carte.

They keep walking in the beautiful garden of the Palais Royal, pass the fountain, and under the arches of the galleries, soon they find a little coffee place, and sit at a window table. The waiter arrives and brings them the menu.

Serveur Bonjour. Qu'est-ce que je vous sers à boire ?
Hello. What drinks can I get for you?

Thomas Bonjour. Une Abbaye de Leffe, s'il vous plaît.
Hello. An Abbey of Leffe beer, please.

Angéla Et un Coca pour moi, s'il vous plaît monsieur.
And for me, a Coke, please.

Serveur Merci.
Thanks.

Il revient cinq minutes après et distribue les boissons.
He comes back five minutes later and distributes the drinks.

Serveur Vous avez choisi ?
What can I get you?

Angéla Oui, je vais prendre une omelette jambon fromage, s'il vous plaît.
I'll have a ham and cheese omelet, please.

Questions & Answers

1. Quelle heure est-il quand ils se réveillent ?

What time is it when they wake up ?

Il est dix heures du matin.

It is 10AM.

2. Quel temps fait-il ?

How is the weather ?

Il fait gris et il pleut légèrement.

It is gray and it is raining lightly.

3. Est-ce qu'ils ont emporté un parapluie ?

Did they bring an umbrella ?

Non, ils n'ont pas emporté de parapluie, ils doivent en acheter un.

No, they didn't bring an umbrella, they need to purchase one.

4. Qu'est-ce qu'il a écrit sur le parapluie qu'ils achètent ?

What is written on the umbrella they purchase ?

Il y a écrit : « j'aime Paris. »

It says : « I love Paris. »

5. Qu'est-ce que Thomas fait comme commentaire ?

What comment does Thomas make ?

Il dit qu'ils ont vraiment l'air de touristes.

He says that they really look like tourists.

6. Est-ce qu'il y a beaucoup de monde à la pyramide ?

Are there a lot of people at the pyramid ?

Oui, il y a beaucoup de monde.

Yes, there are a lot of people.

7. Est-ce que Thomas et Angéla aiment la pyramide ?

Do Thomas and Angela like the pyramid ?

Oui, ils l'aiment bien.

Yes, they quite like it.

8. Quel type d'escalier il y a-t-il sous la pyramide ?

What type of stairs are there under the pyramid ?

Il y a des escaliers roulants et aussi un escalier en colimaçon.

There are escalators and a spiral staircase too.

9. Est-ce qu'ils sont contents de leur visite ?

Are they happy with their visit ?

Oui, très.

Yes, very.

10. Est-ce que la cafétéria du musée du Louvre est un bon endroit pour déjeuner ?

Is the cafeteria of Louvre Museum a good place for lunch ?

Non, c'est un vrai piège à touristes.

No, it is a real tourist trap.

11. Qu'est-ce que c'est les colonnes de Buren ?

What are the « colonnes de Buren » ?

Ce sont des colonnes rayées noir et blanc de différentes hauteur, ce sont des sculptures modernes.

They are columns, with black and white stripes, of different heights. They are modern sculptures.

12. Qu'est-ce qu'Angéla va boire ?

What is Angela going to drink ?

Elle va boire un Coca.

She is going to drink a coke.

13. Une omelette baveuse, c'est une omelette très cuite ou pas très cuite.

A « baveuse » omelet, is it a well done or runny (not well done) omelet ?

C'est une omelette pas très cuite.

It is a runny omelet.

14. Est-ce que l'omelette est lourde ?

Is it a dense omelet?

Non, elle est légère.

No, it is light.

15. Qu'est-ce qu'ils veulent faire cet après-midi-là ?

What do they want to do this afternoon ?

Ils sont un peu fatigués donc ils veulent rentrer à l'appartement.

They are a little tired so they want to return to the apartment.



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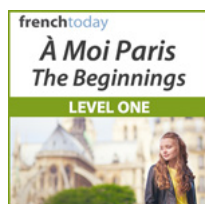
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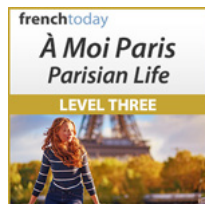
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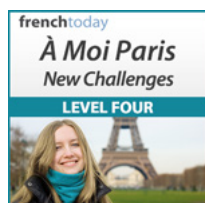
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