

The French Ecole 'French For Beginners' Podcast – Lesson 24

The aim of this podcast is to introduce beginners to the French language in an informal and friendly way. Initially we will cover some basic words and phrases and then move on to different themes that we feel appropriate for adult beginners. If there is something that you particularly wish to learn, we would be happy to hear from you.

Track 1: Introduction

Track 2: 'Adverbs of manners' – revision

More examples: **Concrètement** (concretely), **violemment** (violently), **constamment** (constantly), **brillamment** (brilliantly)

Track 3: Introduction to other types of adverbs

'Adverbs of time' – **Adverbes de temps** (hier, aujourd'hui, demain...); 'Adverbs of place' **Adverbes de lieu** (ici, là, derrière...); 'Adverbs of quantity' - **Adverbes de quantité** (trop, assez, moins, plus...); 'Interrogative adverbs' - **Adverbes interrogatifs** (Combien, pourquoi, comment...); 'Adverbs of opinion' - **Adverbes d'opinion** (oui, non, peut-être, vraiment...); 'Adverbs of negation' **Adverbes de négation** (ne, ne pas, ne plus...)

Track 4: Adverbs of negation

Ne pas: Not

e.g. - Je **ne** mange **pas** de pain. (I am not eating bread)

Track 5: Ne...plus: not anymore

e.g. - Je **ne** mange **plus** de pain (I don't eat bread anymore)

Track 6: Ne...que: only

e.g. - Je **ne** mange **que** du pain (I only eat bread)

Track 7: Ne...jamais: not ever/never

e.g. - Je **ne** mange **jamais** de pain (I never eat bread)

Track 8: Ne...ni...ni: Neither nor

e.g. - Je **ne** mange **ni** de pain **ni** de jambon (I eat neither bread nor ham)

Track 9: Ne...personne: Not anybody

e.g. - Je **n'**aime **personne** (I do not like anybody)

Track 10: Ne...rien: Not anything

e.g. - je **ne** mange **rien** (I do not eat anything)

Track 11: Pourquoi pas (why not); **pas du tout** (not at all); **pas ici** (not here); **pas maintenant** (not now)

Track 12: Question tags in French

N'est-ce pas? (NB: we use **n'est-ce pas** for all question tags in French – much easier!)

Track 13: Correction of Quiz 23 (Gapfill exercise)

Il joue 'gentiment' avec sa sœur. (He plays/is playing nicely with his sister)

Il l'aime 'tendrement'. (He loves her/him tenderly)

John joue 'souvent' au tennis avec Charles. (John often plays tennis with Charles. NB: **souvent** is an adverb of time)

Track 14: Introduction to the use of the imperfect tense (l'imparfait) in French

The imperfect (in French) can be all or any of the points below:

- (1) Imperfect is used when an action was interrupted and remained incomplete (e.g. **Je regardais la télévision quand la sonnette a sonné** - I was watching TV when the door bell rang)
- (2) The imperfect expresses an action of the past in its development - there is no mention of beginning or end. (e.g. **Il jouait dans le jardin** - He was playing in the garden)
- (3) It expresses a continuous fact or action of the past. (e.g. **Je jouais au tennis quand J'étais jeune** - I used to play tennis when I was young)
- (4) It is a tense to express the notion of repetitiveness in the past. (e.g. **J'allais au cinéma tous les lundis** - I used to go to the cinema every Monday)

Verb endings in the imperfect: **Je... -ais, tu... -ais, il/elle/on... -ait, nous... -ions, vous... -iez, ils/elles... -aient**

E.g. **Regarder** (first group verb - to look/watch) Je regard**ais**, tu regard**ais**, il/elle regard**ait**, nous regard**ions**, vous regard**iez**, ils/elles regard**aient**

*****Homework** (optional !): Conjugate the following verbs in the imperfect: **Chanter/marcher/donner/jouer/répéter**

Track 15: Quiz (translation exercise – from English to French)

(1) I do not swim every Saturday, I swim every Tuesday. (2) He did not like the film. (3) Marie doesn't want to eat bread anymore. (4) John has never seen « *Back to the Future* ». (5) He did not say anything to anybody. (6) George only works on Saturday. (7) He never watches TV. (8) He understands neither English nor French.

Track 16: Au revoir & messages

Track 17: Song – Simon (by Lo Polidoro – www.lopolidoro.com)

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