

Elementary French I

In-person

Required texts

Saison 1: Méthode de français

Manuel de classe (textbook) ISBN: 9782278082650

Cahier d'activités (workbook with CD): 9782278082674 (N.B. The audio from the CD contains listening comprehension exercises for the textbook and the workbook. The files will be downloaded from the CD if you do not have a CD player, and will be available to you through Canvas.)

Elementary French I

This course is the first in the elementary sequence and registration is by placement or for students with no experience in French.

The outcomes for the course are listed below, but in effect, the goals are to make you comfortable speaking, listening, reading, and writing in French at the appropriate levels by the end of the semester (novice high to intermediate low on a proficiency scale:

<http://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012/french>), to enable you to narrate in the present and future (futur proche), manage a little past tense (passé composé), to practice asking and answering questions, and to familiarize you with French and francophone cultural elements.

Teaching the material effectively is the instructor's job. Learning the material effectively is the student's job. As the instructor, I will do everything I can to prepare you for success, and I will depend on your 'bonne volonté', your effort in the course and most certainly, your homework preparation.

Outcomes for the Course

In addition to the outcomes below, this course intends to develop student competence at the A1 level according to the CEFR (Common European Framework):

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168045bb52>

Students will...

1. become familiar with French and francophone places
2. become familiar with daily French routines (meals, going out)
3. become familiar with French cultural elements
4. develop listening comprehension skills
5. develop reading comprehension skills
6. develop linguistic control in writing and speaking including accuracy in grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary

Class Participation

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class. Your preparation of homework should be as thorough as possible. Your participation grade includes evidence of homework preparation. The grading criteria are included at the end of the syllabus.

Your class attendance is essential. When you fail to come to class, you miss crucial practice and create difficulties for yourself. Aside from the next day's assignment, you will not be able to get "what you missed" from another student. However, three absences are permitted at student discretion for personal or medical emergency during the semester. After this, because your final grade is based substantially on your demonstration in class of the development of your skills, an unexcused absence will equal 0 for that day. Without notification or an explanation, more than 10 minutes late gives you

half the credit for that day (50). Excused absences include serious illness with health center notification; personal emergency with official notification; or extenuating academic circumstances, for example, required travel for a course or sport, and will receive an automatic participation grade of 50.

If you are insecure about speaking French in class, an easy suggestion is to raise your hand at least once during a class period and answer a question based on your homework (one that you think you have right, if you're worried about making a mistake). Your participation grade is calculated on your performance for each class day. Group work participation will also be noted.

Speaking Assistant

Included in class participation are weekly 15-minute sessions (a total of 10) with the speaking assistant for this course (considered as part of your homework time). The assistant will share your progress with me each week, assessing you on a scale of 0-15. The visits must include at least 10 minutes of speaking in French, on topics of your choice but it will be helpful to practice the grammar and vocabulary of the unités. Also, use the *Production orale* part in the workbook for your meetings with the speaking assistant. The balance of the time can be spent working on listening/reading comprehension, review for/of quizzes, grammar explanations, etc.

We will create a schedule so that you will know the day and time of your standing appointments. The meetings will be held in a place TBD and will start the second week of the course. If you need to reschedule, you must give the assistant 24 hours' notice or you will be penalized with a '0' for that meeting. There are 10 scheduled weeks for meetings, you may also arrange up to two additional meetings with the assistant (on the content at the end of the course) for extra credit. The assistant will be responsible for reporting your work to me based on the following rubric - 5 points for each area (total 15 points per meeting): Punctuality, Preparation/Effort, Pronunciation. All 10 meetings will be averaged for your grade in this portion of the course.

The scale is:

- 5, evidence of learning, studying, improvement, effort, support materials in hand; on time
- 4, some struggles but evidence of ongoing effort is obvious, support materials in hand; on time
- 3, improvements and effort are not consistent from one meeting to the next; using English occasionally during conversation, perhaps no materials in hand; 1-3 minutes late
- 2, the work is obviously not being accomplished perhaps due to time constraints or disinterest; consistent use of English, no materials in hand; 5 minutes late
- 1, minimal work done for the lesson, improvements and effort are not ongoing, still making errors from earlier lessons, no materials in hand; more than 5 minutes late
- 0, absent or no work done for the lesson, no materials in hand

Responsibilities and Grades

In addition to class participation, there will be four sources of grades. Please remember that homework for this course can be expected to be at least 2 hours per class day. Normally, it should not take that long.

1. Textbook/Workbook

For homework, you will be responsible for reading through the assigned pages in the manuel de classe (M) and the cahier (C). You must keep up with the unité preparation. Class time will be spent reviewing what you didn't understand and verifying your work, in addition to discussions, presentations, quizzes, and listening and reading practice, as appropriate.

Manuel de classe: In the textbook, there are different types of exercises-reading, listening, speaking, writing. You do not need to write out answers in the textbook pages but your responsibilities are to:

- Do the listening comprehension
- Check your answers where possible
- Read through the exercises
- Answer out loud to practice pronunciation and speaking

Cahier: The written work will be in the workbook and as assigned in the syllabus/class. Also in the workbook are the answers to the exercises. Your responsibilities are to:

- Do the workbook pages as assigned, legibly; you will tear out the pages from the workbook to hand in – I cannot carry all of the workbooks back and forth to class/home for correcting.
- Compare your work with the answers from the back of the workbook and use a different colored pen or pencil to correct the mistakes (crossing off, X-ing out the wrong answer and filling in the correct answer)
- Bring any questions about the corrections to class
- The last few exercises of the workbook is always a *Production orale* and a *Production écrite*. Use the *Production orale* for your meetings with the speaking assistant. For the *Production écrite*, use a separate sheet of paper, write by hand as much as you can without looking up more than 3 new words, and double space the work to make room for corrections.

2. Presentation

Students will do one five-minute presentation during the semester. Instructions and rubrics for the presentations will be provided in Canvas. Sign-up sheets will be completed in class and posted on Canvas.

3. Quizzes

One quiz each will be given for unités 0-5 and will include grammar and vocabulary. Be aware that past grammar and vocabulary can ‘show up’ on future quizzes, not for assessment purposes, but simply for ease of expression and continued comprehension.

4. Exams: Final written / Final oral

The ‘verification’ of your learning will be done through class participation including homework preparation, workbook pages, an oral presentation, grammar/vocabulary quizzes, and your competencies during the DELF pages of the textbook – which we will discuss in class.

There will be a final writing exam based on the DELF format.

The final oral exam will be a 15-minute individual oral exam using topics, grammar, and vocabulary from the semester. It is permitted that you work with the speaking assistant in preparation for the oral exam using topics from the textbook and workbook. The final oral exam will be held during the last 2 weeks of class. There will be a rubric and a suggested topics list in Canvas.

A Note on Late Work

I make every effort to turn your homework and quizzes around by the next class period so that you can learn from any errors, see your mistakes, and so on. For this reason, I need you to hand in your work during the class period. Please be sure to either staple the workbook pages or put your name on each page. **Homework turned in late will be worth a maximum of 75%.** Homework will not be accepted after one week so homework due Monday can be turned in for partial credit up to and including the following Monday. Accommodations will be made for illness, etc. However, class discussion is going to rely heavily on what you prepare, so I recommend doing your homework as timely as possible. No work will be accepted after the last days of classes.

Grade Breakdown

Your grades will be posted on Canvas regularly. This means that you will be able to keep track of your grade throughout the semester and you will be able to see which assignments, if any, you are missing. Please notice that the grade breakdown is separated almost evenly between oral work (participation, assistant meetings, presentation, final oral exam) and writing (all homework, quizzes, final written exam). Listening and reading are included in all materials for the semester. I am happy to answer questions about your grade.

Final Grade Breakdown (weighted)

Participation in class	15%
Weekly assistant meetings	15%
Presentation	10%
Workbook/Homework	15%
Quizzes (5, grammar and vocabulary)	25%
Final Oral Exam	10%
Final Written Exam	10%