

MY FRENCH ROUTINE



WITH
MP3

Vol 3- Beginners

By Talk in French

My French Routine Volume 3

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Talkinfrench.com

Contents

INTRODUCTION	4
Week 9 Day 1: The Infinitive Mood.....	6
Week 9 Day 2: The Indirect Speech and Food Vocabulary	18
Week 9 Day 3: The Subjunctive Mood	34
Week 9 Day 4: Order of Double Object Pronoun	43
Week 9 Day 5: Placement of Object Pronouns In Negative, Interrogative,	52
and Imperative Sentences.....	52
Week 9 RECAP	69
Week 10 Day 1: Present Participle/Gerund	77
Week 10 Day 2: Irregular Verb –oir	85
Week 10 Day 3: Preposition Par, Pour, and En.....	94
Week 10 Day 4: Present Conditional.....	104
Week 10 Day 5: Indirect Speech - Balancing of Tense	113
Week 10 RECAP	122
Week 11 Day 1: Disjunctive Pronouns	130
Week 11 Day 2: Subjunctive Mood of Irregular Verb.....	139
Week 11 Day 3: Possessive Pronouns.....	148
Week 11 Day 4: The Pluperfect.....	157
Week 11 Day 5: Past Conditional	166
Week 11 RECAP	175
Week 12 Day 1: Subjunctive and Indicative (Part One)	183
Week 12 Day 2: Subjunctive and Indicative (Part Two).....	192
Week 12 Day 3: The Three Forms of “If” in French	201
Week 12 Day 4: The Past Subjunctive	217
Week 12 Day 5: Talking About the Quantity	227
Week 12 RECAP	236
Conclusion.....	245

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the third volume of the “My French Routine” series. Whether you arrived here at this point after going through the first and second books or you jumped to this book because you are already familiar with beginner-level French, let me shake your hand virtually and offer you a warm hello!

This volume picks up where the second book has left off and continues to give you another set of twenty days’ worth of lessons that you can review on your own (or with a group) for the next month. Just like the previous two books, this one strives to teach you all that you need to be able to learn French on your own, a complete step-by-step learning method to have you practicing your French and speaking it fluently.

Here’s a look at how this book works:

This book is divided into twenty lessons and is designed for you to tackle a single lesson each day, five days a week, for four weeks. Each daily lesson consists of the following:

- One to three topics per day
- Sample dialogue to illustrate a grammar point
- Audio recorded by native French speakers for you to listen to and follow along with
- MP3 guides to help you learn proper pronunciation
- Exercises and practice activities
- Vocabulary lists
- And so much more!

The lessons are carefully selected and arranged to not only make learning a breeze, but also to help you grow every day until you have accumulated enough knowledge to speak conversational French confidently.

Aside from that, we have made sure the lessons are short enough to grab your interest yet challenging enough to keep you going.

Why this book?

Let’s face it. There are way too many books promising to teach you French. For intermediate-level French learners who stumbled onto this book before checking out the previous volumes, you might be wondering: why should you pursue learning French using this book? Just what exactly makes this book any different?

For that, I can give you one short answer: the method.

I made use of the most effective lessons and techniques that worked for my students during all of the years I taught French by incorporating them into a method specifically designed for French learners.

This learning method includes:

A STRONG FOCUS ON LISTENING

Regardless of where you are in your French learning journey, listening is a key skill that should be focused on. But you do not want just any kind of listening activity. You want to have audio materials that are specially crafted and inserted in all of the right spots to help boost your learning.

Unlike the other audio books you will find on the market, the listening exercises included in this book have been carefully incorporated into the daily lessons in order to fully maximize your comprehension. As part of the lessons, you can listen and follow along with French conversations that illustrate a grammar topic, as well as practice your pronunciation of the vocabulary. The audio materials are narrated by native French speakers and recorded for you to easily follow along with.

DEVELOP A HEALTHY LEARNING HABIT

Learning French is not easy. But if you break it into small daily doses and build a learning habit as you go along, it will become less difficult and more fun and exciting.

This is the foundation of all of my products at www.talkinfrench.com, and this book builds on that idea. By spending time following a lesson daily, you can learn and progress so much more than if your practice is irregularly. After all, quality beats quantity when it comes to learning French, and this book will help you with that.

So, if you are a beginner or intermediate learner with little-to-no previous knowledge about the French language, you are looking at the book that is specially crafted with you in mind. If you already have a background in French, you may skip the previous two books. However, if you are a complete beginner, I suggest you head over to the previous volumes and start from there.

After completing the twenty lessons in this book and the twenty lessons from the first volume, and second volume, you should be able to:

- Convey your ideas in French and be able to speak it with an admirable level of confidence and skill
- Demonstrate your familiarity with basic French grammar structures
- Have simple yet meaningful conversations in French
- Navigate and discuss different scenarios while using the French language
- Learn a total of 1200 vocabulary words that you can use in your daily conversations

So, without much ado, let's get started with twenty more days of lessons!

Bonne chance, good luck!

Frédéric BIBARD

Founder, Talk in French

Week 9 Day 1: The Infinitive Mood

It's the first day of your four-week lesson plan. I hope you are feeling excited! To start off your lessons, we will be discussing the following topics:

- The infinitive mood
- The important French verbs pouvoir and vouloir

As some of you already know, the participle present in French is not as common as in English. One of the causes is that many “verb+ing” structures in English can be replaced by the infinitive mood in French. Let's discuss this special mood first.

The infinitive has many uses in French:

- When there is already a conjugated verb in the clause. In French, we cannot have two conjugated verbs in one clause. Therefore, the second verb will be infinitive (in English, it could be either infinitive or present participle):

Il veut jouer du piano

He wants to play piano.

Elle a entendu quelqu'un crier

She heard someone screaming out

- After a preposition (à, de, pour). In French, the infinitive is almost the only mood that can directly follow a preposition (except the preposition “en,” in which the gerund will be followed by a present participle):

J'ai travaillé pour réussir l'examen

I worked to pass the exam

Je commence à apprendre le français

I start to learn French

J'ai besoin d'acheter une chemise

I need to buy a shirt

- **Together with the imperative mood, the infinitive mood is also used to give instructions or advice.** The sentence in infinitive is impersonal, neutral, and less prescriptive than the one in imperative. It is, therefore, used more in cooking recipes in newspapers.

Example

Infinitive: À servir chaud To be served when still hot!

Imperative: Conserve-le au frais! Do conserve it at a low temperature!

- **The infinitive mood is also used as a subject of the verb** (yes, I know what you are thinking -- in English we would use the present participle):

Voyager en avion est rapide

Traveling by plane is fast

Manger le petit-déjeuner est très important *Eating breakfast is very important*

- **The infinitive mood also has a past tense, used to mark anteriority.** Its use is very similar to the English equivalent. This is a compound tense, and like many other compound tenses in French, it is formed by the auxiliary (avoir/être) in infinitive followed by the past participle of the main verb.

Il regrette d'avoir oublié l'anniversaire de sa sœur.

He regrets having forgotten his sister's birthday

Now, let's practice:

Translate into French using the infinitive mood (present or past)

- Studying French is difficult.
- Finding a new job is difficult.
- Read the instructions before using.
- He uses all his free time to play football.
- Use capital letters only.
- He thanked you for having helped him study.

Réponses/ Answers:

- Apprendre le français est difficile.
- Trouver un nouveau travail est difficile.
- Lire les instructions avant d'utiliser.
- Il a passé tout son temps libre pour jouer au football.
- Utiliser les lettres majuscules seulement.
- Il t'a remercié de l'avoir aidé avec ses études.

For our second topic, we will learn about two very important verbs in French: pouvoir (can, to be able to) and vouloir (to want). The mastery of these two verbs will definitely help you to express yourself in French.

- These two verbs are part of the third group's verb, which means irregular verbs. But in many tenses in French, these two share the same rules for conjugation.
- The rule for conjugating the simple present tense is given below.

<u>Personal Pronoun</u>	<u>Pouvoir</u>	<u>Vouloir</u>
Je	peux	veux
Tu	peux	veux
Il/Elle	peut	veut
Nous	pouvons	voulons
Vous	pouvez	voulez
Ils/Elles	peuvent	veulent

- The past participle is a bit different:

➤ Pouvoir	→	pu
➤ Vouloir	→	voulu

In French, we have a proverb that says, “Vouloir c’est pouvoir” (*If you want something, you can do it*).

Dialogue:

Anne: Salut Justin. Je vais au cinéma. Tu veux venir avec moi?

Justin: Je veux bien, mais je ne peux pas. Je dois aller au supermarché avec ma sœur pour préparer la fête de demain soir.

Anne: Ah oui! Qu’est-ce que vous voulez préparer?

Justin: Nous voulons faire un dîner mexicain. Qu’est-ce que tu penses?

Anne: Oui, c’est super. Vous voulez que j’apporte quelque chose à la fête?

Justin: Erh, une bouteille de Tequilla peut-être?

Anne: D’accord, pas de souci.

Anne: Hello Justin. I am going to the cinema now. Do you want to join me?

Justin: Yes, I do, but I can’t go with you. I need to go to the supermarket with my sister to prepare for the party tomorrow evening.

Anne: Oh, yeah! What do you want to cook?

Justin: We want to make a Mexican dinner. What do you think?

Anne: Yes, that’s cool. Do you want me to bring something to the party?

Justin: Erh, perhaps a bottle of Tequilla?

Anne: Ok, no problem.

Exercise:

Fill in the gap with *pouvoir/vouloir* in present tense.

1. Vous _____ encore un peu de café? (Do you want some more coffee?)
2. Je ne _____ plus de café. (I don't want more coffee.)
3. Tu _____ me passer le sel, s'il te plaît? (Can you pass me the salt, please?)
4. Vous _____ me contacter quand vous _____. (You can contact me when you want.)
5. Il _____ toujours tout faire. (He always wants to do everything.)
6. Ils _____ des explications. (They want an explanation.)
7. Je ne _____ pas faire cela. (I can't do this.)
8. Je comprends ce que tu _____ dire. (I understand what you want to say.)

Answer: 1/ voulez 2/ veux 3/ peux 4/ pouvez, voulez 5/ veut 6/ veulent 7/ peux 8/ veux

Additional Exercises

Listening corner

Questions about the dialogue:

Qu'est-ce que la fille demande à Julie? (What does the girl ask Julie for?)

- a. l'aider à faire la vaisselle (to help her to do the dishes)
- b. l'aider à faire du jardinage (to help her to do the gardening)
- c. aider à faire un gâteau (to help her to bake a cake)
- d. l'aider à nettoyer la maison (to help her to clean the house)

Que dois faire Julie en premier? (What does Julie have to do first?)

- a. prendre les oeufs (take the eggs)
- b. prendre du lait (take some milk)
- c. prendre la farine (take the flour)
- d. ajouter de l'eau (add water)

Que dit la recette du gâteau? (What does the cake recipe say?)

- a. il faut ajouter des oeufs (add some eggs)
- b. mélanger avec du beurre (mix with butter)
- c. ajouter de l'eau (add water)
- d. faire cuire deux heures (bake for two hours)

Réponses/ Answers:

c – c – a

Transcription

Elsa: Julie, tu veux m'aider à préparer le gâteau?

Julie: Oui, je veux bien. Qu'est-ce que je dois faire?

Elsa: Tu dois prendre la farine et la mélanger avec le lait.

Julie: La recette dit qu'il faut ajouter des oeufs aussi.

Elsa: Tu peux en prendre dans le frigo.

Julie: C'est sympa de t'aider!

Elsa: Et c'est plus rapide de préparer le gâteau à deux!

Julie: Oh moi de toute façon, si je peux donner un coup de main...

Elsa: Julie, do you want to help me to prepare the cake?

Julie: Yes, I want to. What should I do?

Elsa: You must take the flour and mix it with milk.

Julie: The recipe says to add eggs too.

Elsa: You can put it in the fridge.

Julie: It's nice to help you!

Elsa: And it's faster to prepare the cake together!

Julie: Oh, anyway, if I can lend a hand ...

Writing corner

Write five sentences using the following pronouns and verbs with the correct form.

Je + vouloir

Nous + pouvoir

Tu + vouloir aider

Elles + pouvoir apporter

Vous + vouloir

Example:

Je veux un café, s'il-vous-plaît. (I want a coffee, please.)

Nous pouvons faire nos devoirs ce soir. (We can do our homework tonight.)

Tu veux aider ton père dans le jardin. (You want to help your father in the garden.)

Elles peuvent apporter un cadeau à Stéphanie. (They can bring a present to Stephanie.)

Vous voulez jouer avec les enfants? (Do you want to play with the children?)

Grammar Corner

Fill in the gaps by using the correct verb form.

Il ____ (pouvoir) m'aider avec les courses. C'est lourd! (He can help me with the groceries. They're heavy!)

Ma cousine ____ (vouloir) devenir infirmière. (My cousin wants to become a nurse.)

Tu peux ____ (allumer) la radio si tu ____ (vouloir). (You can turn on the radio if you want.)

Nous ____ (vouloir) manger au restaurant ce soir. (We want to eat at the restaurant tonight.)

Je ____ (pouvoir) acheter une nouvelle robe si je dois ____ (aller) à la fête. (I can buy a new dress if I have to go to the party.)

Réponses / Answers:

peut – veut – allumer – veux – voulons – peux – aller

Vocabulary Corner

Make links to build the correct sentences.

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. Apprendre le français (To learn French)
imagination) | e. développe l'imagination. (develops |
| b. Lire un livre (To read a book) | f. me fatigue les yeux. (tires my eyes) |
| c. Jouer à l'ordinateur (To play at the computer) | g. est très gentil de ta part ! (is very nice from you!) |
| d. Vouloir aider (To want to help) | h. est très intéressant (is very interesting) |

Réponses/ Answers:

a – h / b – e / c – f / d – g

Additional Vocabulary:

Les travaux domestiques / les tâches

domestiques / les corvées

Propre

Sale

Faire le ménage

Ranger les vêtements

Faire le lit

Nettoyer le lavabo

Ranger les magazines

Passer l'aspirateur

dépoussiérer / épousseter

Nettoyer les vitres

Laver la voiture

Vider la corbeille

Mettre la table

Mettre le couvert

Débarrasser la table

Couper le pain

Laver les légumes

Éplucher les carottes

Faire la vaisselle

Essuyer les verres

Essuyer la table

Vider les ordures

Household chores

Clean

Dirty

To clean up

To put away the clothes

Make the bed

To clean the sink

To put away the magazines

To vacuum

To dust

To clean the windows

To wash the car

To empty the trash can

To set the table

To set the silverware

To clear the table

To cut the bread

To wash the vegetables

To peel the carrots

To do the dishes

To dry the glasses

To wipe the table

To empty the garbage

Sortir la poubelle

To take out the trash can

Laver le linge

Laundry

Repasser les chemises

To iron the shirts

Un fer à repasser

Iron

A quick recap of this lesson:

- The infinitive mood is used in the following situations:
 - When there is already a conjugated verb in the clause.
 - After a preposition (à, de, pour)
 - Together with the imperative mood, the infinitive mood is also used to give instructions or advice.
 - As a subject of the verb.
 - To mark anteriority (in the past tense).
- **Pouvoir** (can, to be able to) and **vouloir** (to want) are irregular verbs that share the same rules of conjugation