

# MY FRENCH ROUTINE

with audio



By Talk in French

Volume 3: Low intermediate

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## 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](http://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):

### Listen to Track 1

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):

### Listen to Track 2

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.

## Listen to Track 3

### 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):

## Listen to Track 4

**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.

## Listen to Track 5

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:

## Listen to Track 6

- 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.

## Listen to Track 7

Personal Pronoun	Pouvoir	Vouloir
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

### Listen to Track 8

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: Erb, perhaps a bottle of Tequilla?

ANNE: Ok, no problem.

### EXERCISE:

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

### Listen to Track 9

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 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****Listen to Track 10***Questions about the dialogue:*

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

- l'aider à faire la vaisselle (to help her to do the dishes)
- l'aider à faire du jardinage (to help her to do the gardening)
- l'aider à faire un gâteau (to help her to bake a cake)
- 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?)

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

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

- il faut ajouter des oeufs (add some eggs)
- mélanger avec du beurre (mix with butter)
- ajouter de l'eau (add water)
- 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

### Listen to Track 11

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

### Listen to Track 12

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

### Listen to Track 13

*Make links to build the correct sentences.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. Apprendre le français (To learn French)        | e. développe l'imagination. (develops imagination)       |
| 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

### Listen to Track 14

#### 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

#### 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

## Listen to Track 15

Mettre la table	To set the table
Mettre le couvert	To set the silverware
Débarrasser la table	To clear the table
Couper le pain	To cut the bread
Laver les légumes	To wash the vegetables
Éplucher les carottes	To peel the carrots
Faire la vaisselle	To do the dishes
Essuyer les verres	To dry the glasses
Essuyer la table	To wipe the table
Vider les ordures	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.