

# 3. La politesse

Accents / Gender / Definite/Indefinite  
Articles / Useful phrases / greetings

## 1 A QUESTION OF GENDER! A AN SOME

We've already met **THE**. We often don't say **THE** in English, but you have to in French.

Example: Coffee = le café holidays = les vacances

Read and explain the words on the right in English.

- |                 |                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Un croissant | 7. Un hôpital    | 13. Des soirs   |
| 2. Le burger    | 8. Un sandwich   | 14. Des taxis   |
| 3. Un voyage    | 9. Des frites    | 15. Une guide   |
| 4. L'hôpital    | 10. Un chauffeur | 16. Un jour     |
| 5. Des bagages  | 11. Le taxi      | 17. Le vin      |
| 6. Un soir      | 12. Des jours    | 18. Des voyages |

ENGLISH	MASCULINE	FEMININE	BEFORE VOWEL OR H	PLURAL
THE	LE	LA	L'	LES
Example	le café	la femme	l'hôpital (m)	les frites
A, AN, SOME	UN	UNE	UN UNE	DES
Example	un café un bureau un burger	une guide une femme une bière	un hôtel (m) une addition (f) un anniversaire (m)	des hôtels des bagages des bières

## 2 Read & Explain these in English

- |                |                 |              |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| à bientôt.     | bienvenue       | merci        |
| bonsoir        | bonne nuit      | excusez-moi! |
| pas de quoi    | s'il vous plaît | de rien      |
| excusez-moi!   | zut alors!      | pardon       |
| je suis désolé | enchanté        | merci bien   |
| zut!           | au revoir       | bonjour      |

## 3 WISHES

Most of these start with the French for "good". We don't always say "good" in the English phrase. You can't always translate word for word.

Why is "bon" spelled differently in some phrases?

Link the correct expressions.

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. aah, bon         | a. Enjoy your meal     |
| 2. bon voyage       | b. Happy Christmas     |
| 3. bon appétit      | c. All the best        |
| 4. bon Noël         | d. Have a good trip    |
| 5. bon anniversaire | e. Oh yeah, I see., hm |
| 6. bon courage      | f. Happy Birthday      |
| 7. bonne fête       | g. Good luck           |
| 8. bonne chance     | h. Happy holidays      |
| 9. bonne journée    | i. Happy special day   |
| 10. bonnes vacances | j. Cheers!             |
| 11. santé! (f)      | k. Have a good day     |

## 4 Say these phrases -your partner will tell you the meaning.

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Bon courage      | 11. Bon Noël        |
| 2. Bon anniversaire | 12. Bon appétit     |
| 3. Santé !          | 13. Bonnes vacances |
| 4. Bonne chance     | 14. Bon voyage      |
| 5. Bon voyage       | 15. Aah bon         |
| 6. Aah , bon        | 16. Bonne fête      |
| 7. Bon courage      | 17. Bonne chance    |
| 8. Bonne fête       | 18. Bonnes vacances |
| 9. Bon appétit      | 19. Bonne journée   |
| 10. Bonne journée   | 20. Bon voyage      |

## 5 Choose the right phrase!.

- |  |                                   |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Terry is off on a cruise.           | 8. It's Tom's birthday            | 16. Your friend is taking an exam        |
| 2. Mary buys a Lotto ticket            | 9. The mother in law's coming.    | 17. You hope your friend's day goes well |
| 3. Bob is off to Sydney                | 10. It's Christmas eve!           | 18. Raise your glass to your friends     |
| 4. You're having a drink with a friend | 11. Jim is off to Paris           | 19. You've got a meeting with your ex    |
| 5. Your friend is going to lunch       | 12. Kelly is going home to dinner | 20. The family are going to Europe       |
| 6. It's Australia Day                  | 13. I'm marrying a millionaire    | 21. It's Mother's Day                    |
| 7. The Checkout lass wishes you this   | 14. It's your son's birthday      | 22. Your friend's having a picnic        |
|  | 15. Its Bastille Day              | 23. I'm celebrating my divorce           |

## 6 DID YOU KNOW? INVITED OUT.....

Never offer your hostess chrysanthemums. They are the flowers of the dead. Choose other flowers.

Never offer your host a bottle of wine when you go to dinner. It's seen as an insult as it suggests your host can't pick the right wine!

## 7 ACCENTS - SECRET SIGNS!

Here are the little signs you see on letters in French. They all have a job – they are special secret signs—mostly to help pronunciation or to differentiate meaning.

French people write the accent as they write the letter, not at the end of the word.

Accent	Name	Job	Example
ç	cedilla	Makes "c" say "s"	Français, garçon, François
é	E acute	Makes "e" say "ay"	Café, éléphant, thé, enchanté
ë	tréma	e i and u sound each vowel separately.	Noël, Citroën, égoïste, Moët
è	E grave	Makes "e" say "eh"	Crème, bière, mère
à ù	A grave U grave	Used to differentiate meaning	"a" = has "à" = to or at "ou" = or "où" = where.
^	Circumflex	"S" after a vowel in old French not there today. Replace "S" for English.	hâte fête île hôtel honnête hôpital

**8 Put in the correct French word for "the"**

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. .... anniversaire | 7. ....appétit  |
| 2. .... bagages      | 8. ....vacances |
| 3. ....café          | 9. ....bureau   |
| 4. ....bière         | 10.....courage  |
| 5. ....hôpital       | 11.....aéroport |
| 6. ....champagne     | 12. ....fête    |
|                      | 13.....hôtel    |
|                      | 14.....appétit  |

**9 Put in the correct accent.**

- Francis
- cafe
- enchante
- hotel
- voila
- desole
- etes

- supermarche
- S'il vous plait
- Hopital
- Biere

**10 Put in the correct French word for "bon"**

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. ....courage | 3. ....jour         |
| 2. ....appetit | 4. ....vacances     |
|                | 5. ....journée      |
|                | 6. ....voyage       |
|                | 7. ....Noël         |
|                | 8. ....soir         |
|                | 9. ....fête         |
|                | 10.....anniversaire |

**10 ASKING HOW YOU FEEL**

**Comment ça va?** How are you ?




**Ça va?** How's things?

This has multiple meanings. It can mean such things as: *Are you OK? Is it OK? Are you alright? Is it working? How's it going? Is it alright?*

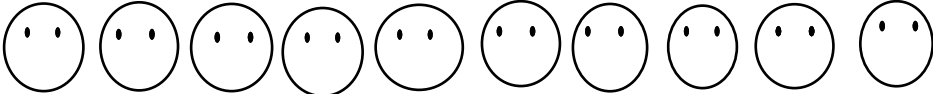
So you can use it to ask about things as well as people .

**Listen carefully—Draw the face matching what you hear.**

**Now tell your partner what each face means in French.**

	Ça va très bien, merci! <i>Very good, thanks</i> Ça va bien merci! <i>Good thanks</i>		Pas mal, merci! <i>Not bad thanks</i> Euh, ça va <i>Oh, alright</i> Comme ci, comme ça <i>So so</i>
	Ça va mal! <i>Bad</i> Ça va très mal! <i>Very bad</i> Bof! ( <i>familiar</i> ) <i>Whatever.</i>	Et vous? <i>And what about you?</i> Moi aussi. <i>Me too!</i>	

1.      2.      3.      4.      5.      6.      7.      8.      9.      10.



**11 You can use "ça va" expressions to ask if things are alright as well as people! Look at the examples.**

Votre femme, ça va? *How's your wife ?*

Le vin, ça va? *Is the wine alright?*

Votre café, ça va? *Is your coffee OK?*


Le gateau, ça va? *Is your cake alright?*

L'hôtel, ça va? *How's the hotel?*

La chambre, ça va? *Is your room OK?*

Votre ami, ça va ? *How's your friend*

**Study the café scene on the left. Look at the answers. A Explain in English the questions below. B Answer them.**



**Pardon madame, la pizza, ça va ?**

**Euh,... je ne sais pas.**

**Bof, comme ci, comme ça**

**Non, ça va mal.**

**Euh, ça va très bien merci.**

**Euh, ça va je suppose.**

**Euh, oui.... ça va bien, merci.**

- Votre partenaire –ça va?
- Votre mari? –ça va?
- Votre burger –ça va?
- Votre voyage –ça va?
- Votre sandwich –ça va?
- Votre journée –ça va?
- Votre hôtel –ça va?
- Votre anniversaire –ça va?
- Les vacances –ça va?

**12 Lisez les dialogues avec votre partenaire.**

<p><b>L</b> Salut Martine! Un café allongé?</p> <p><b>M</b> Salut Luc. Ah oui, s'il vous plait. Comment ça va?</p> <p><b>L</b> Ça va mal. C'est mon ex.</p> <p><b>M</b> Aah bon. Bon courage!</p> <p><b>L</b> Merci bien!</p>	<p><b>A</b> Bonjour madame, comment ça va?</p> <p><b>B</b> Bonjour monsieur. Pas mal merci. Et vous?</p> <p><b>A</b> Euh oui....ça va. Et votre mari, ça va?</p> <p><b>B</b> Très bien, merci, monsieur.</p>	<p><b>A</b> Bonjour Tom. Ça va?</p> <p><b>B</b> Euh - Comme ci, comme ça. Et vous?</p> <p><b>A</b> Oui, moi aussi.</p> <p><b>B</b> Votre voyage en France ... Ça va?</p> <p><b>A</b> Bof!</p> <p><b>B</b> Aah! Les bagages! C'est un très long voyage.</p>	<p><b>A</b> Mon café -Berk! Votre café—Ça va?</p> <p><b>B</b> Non! Ça va mal, très mal!</p> <p><b>A</b> Ooh la la! Et votre sandwich?</p> <p><b>B</b> Bof! Comme ci, comme ça.</p> <p><b>A</b> Monsieur, excusez-moi! Changez les cafés s'il vous plait!</p>
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**13 Translate into English**

- Le café - Ça va? Non, ça va très mal, mademoiselle. Changez-le. S'il vous plait.
- Comment ça va Lisa? Ça va très bien, merci, je suis en Australie!
- Madame, voila le bureau de l'hôtel. Votre passeport, s'il vous plait?
- Je suis en vacances, et vous? Ça va très mal. Je suis en hôpital.

- Moi aussi, je suis en vacances. L'hôtel? Euh bof, ça va, je suppose.
- La pizza, c'est pour vous monsieur? Oui, s'il vous plait.
- Bonnes vacances en France, Mark et bon voyage!
- Votre sandwich, monsieur. Ça va? Oui, merci, ça va bien.

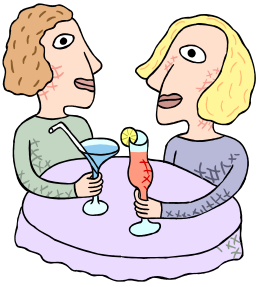
**14 Translate into French**

- How are the holidays going? Really well!

- How's your friend? Not bad.
- What's the coffee like? It's OK I suppose.
- I am in hospital. Things are really bad
- The hotel? I don't know. It's OK I suppose.
- Happy holidays in France! It's a long journey!
- There's the cake. Happy birthday! Enjoy your meal. Cheers!
- The wine, is it OK? It's

- very good, thanks
- I'm very well thank you, and how about you? Me too, I'm OK.
  - There's the Eiffel Tower!
- And the correct "bon"**
- .....chance
  - Un.....café
  - ..... fête
  - Un.....sandwich
  - ..... vacances
  - Un .....hôpital
  - ..... appetit

Imagine a conversation for each picture.



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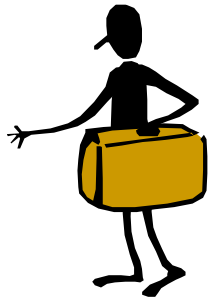
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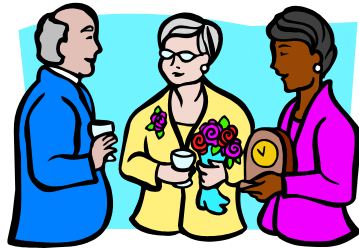
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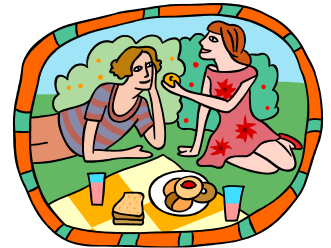
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