



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Department of Engineering

Language Unit

French for Beginners

Prerequisites: No or very little knowledge of the language

Target level¹: CEFR A1/A2

Approach: We follow a task-based, skills-orientated and communicative approach, fostering communicative competence in the target language with an Engineering-flavoured choice of topics to equip students with a basic command of French.

Educational aims:

- To provide an introduction to French Language in the main language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing);
- To cover the basic grammatical structures and lexis;
- To encourage a positive and confident attitude towards language learning;
- To promote cultural awareness.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand short and simple monologues or dialogues on familiar topics immediately related to their personal and/or professional environment and/or interests, as well as other aspects of the target culture(s)
- Take part in simple conversations on familiar topics immediately related to their personal and/or professional environment and/or interests, as well as other aspects of the target culture(s)
- Talk for a few minutes using simple sentences about familiar topics immediately related to their personal and/or professional environment and/or interests, as well as other aspects of the target culture(s)
- Understand short and simple texts on familiar topics immediately related to their personal and/or professional environment and/or interests, as well as other aspects of the target culture(s)
- Write short and simple texts on familiar topics immediately related to their personal and/or professional environment and/or interests, as well as other aspects of the target culture(s)

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¹ For CEFR descriptors, see

<http://to.eng.cam.ac.uk/teaching/language/Courses%20Foreign%20Languages/CEFR%20grid.pdf>

Course content:

Michaelmas term

This course is in alignment with the CEFR Level A1/A2. You can refer to this link below [http://to.eng.cam.ac.uk/teaching/language/Courses/Foreign Languages/CEFR grid.pdf](http://to.eng.cam.ac.uk/teaching/language/Courses/Foreign%20Languages/CEFR%20grid.pdf)

Lessons	Topics	Engineering content	Communication skills	Grammar	Homework
Lesson 1	Moi 1		-Introduction to the course -French alphabet/phonetic -Greetings - Profession -Nationality	-Masculine/feminine -Articles -Verbs: être -Verbs ending in <i>-er</i> (singular forms)	Phonetique.free.fr Read grammar p8 Grammar exercises P9 gender http://lonline.langcen.cam.ac.uk/french/french.php?c=9 Go to French Essentials: practise alphabet go to « first contact “
Lesson 2	Toi 2	Numbers	- Asking/answering personal questions - Where we live	-Asking questions - tu/vous formal and informal -Negative form	Grammar p9 negative and asking question Prepare questions p5 http://lonline.langcen.cam.ac.uk/french/french.php?c=9
Lesson 3	Les autres		-Age -Giving/understanding information about friends and family	Verbs: avoir; verbs ending in <i>-er</i> (plural forms) -Possessive adjectives	Portfolio Write a presentation about yourself and your family/friend (±75w)
Lesson 4	Bon appétit!		-Ordering snacks and drinks -Expressing opinion	Partitive articles Pronoun <i>en</i>	Grammar exercises

Lesson 5	Les loisirs	Numbers	-Talking about everyday activities and leisure - Explain when you do things	Preposition à , de followed by le or les Verbs: aller; verbs ending in <i>-ir</i> and <i>-re</i> ; verbs - using reflexive verbs	- Exercises on the handbook
Lesson 6	La routine		-Asking for time/giving the time -Talking about timetable	Aimer and devoir faire	Portfolio Write" explain your routine (working hours and leisure) with opinion and favourite food" (±100w)
Lesson 7	Oral task Portfolio		Best of mistakes -To perform a role play about all the knowledge learnt this term and recorded	Grammar points	Portfolio : oral Révisions

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Lessons	Topics	Engineering content	Objectives	Grammar	Homework
Lesson 8	En ville	Road words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Revision -Understanding street signs -Asking for and giving the directions 	Verbs: imperative Preposition of location Pronouns <i>le, la les</i>	Exercises on the handbook
Lesson 9	Les formes	Shapes Numbers up 70 Units of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Practicing reading comprehension - Learning about shapes - Describing someone 	Demonstratives adjectives Descriptive adjectives Ce VS il Direct object pronouns	Exercises on the handbook
Lesson 10	Les transports	Mean of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Locating places on a map -Describing locations - Talking about plans - Expressing opinion 	-Preposition before towns and countries Future tense: Verbs: aller + infinitive;	Portfolio Write” a postcard describing your holiday place and say what you would to do” (±150 words)
Lesson 11	Le trajet		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talking about journey to work - Talking about past event 	Past tense: passé composé with ‘avoir’ Pouvoir/vouloir/il faut Pronoun “y”	Online exercises on past tense

Lesson 12	Les bâtiments	Weight/quantities/measurement	- Talking about distance dimension and weight -Talking about buildings	Past tense: passé compose with 'être' Agreement with adjectives	Online exercises on past tense
Lesson 13	La maison	Materials	- Describing building -Comparing buildings	Comparisons (with adjectives) Pronouns	Portfolio Describe your accommodation at the university and compare 2 famous buildings you like" (±150words)
Lesson 14	Révision		-Speaking activity -Listening activity -Reading activity	All grammar	Revise all notes
Lesson 15	Speaking and listening, reading and writing exams				