



INFORMAL AND SPOKEN FRENCH

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing Informal and Spoken French and supporting ielanguages.com!

Part I of this e-book includes examples of informal ways of speaking and writing French as well as common slang and colloquial words. Part II includes the transcriptions of the French Listening Resources with fill-in-the-blank exercises. Part III includes samples of French realia – photos of public signs, menus, brochures, etc. – taken in France, Belgium, and Switzerland over the past ten years.

The accompanying mp3s are included in the original product file as a .rar file which can be easily extracted using WinRAR, 7-Zip, or another program.

You are entitled to free lifetime updates to this e-book. When new editions become available, you will be notified via e-mail.

Online exercises and flashcards to accompany Informal and Spoken French can be found at [French Exercises](#). Please visit the [ielanguages.com Youtube channel](#) for videos of the French Listening Resources.

Please send any comments or corrections to ielanguages@gmail.com

Thank you to the entire Cioni family and the volunteers at Rhinospike for the recordings.

Please visit the [ielanguages.com Store](#) for more language tutorials, including [French Language Tutorial](#) which is an overview of vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and cultural information about France with over 5 hours of recordings by three native speakers.

This book is dedicated to André Cioni, who left us far too soon in 2011. You will hear his voice in the Listening Resources mp3s.

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Part I: Informal French and French Slang

Informal French

Similar to the reduced forms in English (wanna, gonna, doncha, etc.), there are several informal ways of speaking in French. You will hear these forms very often, but you do not have to speak this way if you don't want to. However, you must be able to understand reduced forms in order to understand real spoken French. You may see these forms in informal written French (such as on blogs or in chat rooms), but you should still write the formal way.

1. Tu + verb beginning with a vowel

The most common contractions with tu are **t'as** and **t'es**, which replace **tu as** and **tu es**. You can also contract tu + other verbs that begin with a vowel, such as **t'aimes** or **t'ouvres**, which replace tu aimes and tu ouvres.

T'as fini de manger ? Have you finished eating?

T'es fatigué ou quoi ? Are you tired or what?

T'as beau essayer, t'y arrives pas. No matter how much you try, you won't succeed.

T'as rien compris ! Laisse-moi t'expliquer. You didn't understand! Let me explain it to you.

2. Unstressed e

The letter e is often dropped between two consonants (*e caduc*) if it is unstressed, such as in **samedi**, and also at the end of short words, such as **ce, de, je, le, me, que, se, te**. It's also common in future and conditional tenses of verbs: donnerai = donn'rai; aimerais = aim'rais

Il s'lève de bonne heure. He gets up early.

C'est c'que je veux. That's what I want.

Faut que j'parte maintenant. I have to leave now.

Avec ce travail, je ne manqu'rai pas d'argent. With this job, I won't lack money.

3. Reduced forms: il(s), elle(s), puis, parce que, quelque

The pronouns il and ils reduce to y, while elle and elles reduce to è when followed by a consonant. When followed by a vowel, il and elle reduce to l' whereas ils becomes y z' or just z' and elles becomes è z'. The word puis is more commonly pronounced pis, parce que is pronounced pasque, and quelque is pronounced quèque.

Y pense qu'elle l'aime, mais c'est pas le cas. He thinks that she loves him, but that's not the case.

On va aller au restaurant, et pis après on se fera un ciné. We'll go to the restaurant, and then after we'll go to the movies.

Pourquoi tu dois m'obéir ? Pasque je suis ton père ! Why must you obey me? Because I'm your father!

Y a quèque chose la-dessous ! Regarde voir ! There's something down there! Look!

4. Use **on** instead of **nous**

The pronoun **on** is used much more often to mean *we* than **nous**. It always take the third person *singular* form of the verb even though it's always plural in English.

On peut y aller ? Tout le monde est là ? Can we go ? Is everybody here ?

C'est pasqu'on est frères que je te fais confiance. It's because we are brothers that I trust you.

Pourrait-on accélérer ? On va pas assez vite ! Could we speed it up? We're not going fast enough!

5. Drop **ne** in negatives

Although the **ne** in negatives should always be written, it is very rarely used in informal speech.

Ça va pas ! C'est nul ! That doesn't work! That's stupid!

Si tu veux pas voir ce film, lequel veux-tu voir ? If you don't want to see this movie, which one do you want to see?

Je peux pas m'acheter cette voiture. C'est pas possible. I can't buy myself this car. It's not possible.

6. Drop **-re** at end of words

You usually do not pronounce **-re** at the end of a word, whether it's a verb (**mettre**) or adjective (**notre**).

Allez, à bientôt ! A un de ces quat' ! See you soon one of these days!

C'est pas vot' problème, c'est not' problème. It's not your problem, it's our problem.

Y faut pas êt' si bête. You shouldn't be so stupid.

Part II: French Listening Resources

The first page is a fill-in-the-blank exercise, followed by the full transcript on the next page.

Liliane se présente / Liliane introduces herself

Je m'appelle LYARD Liliane. J'ai _____ ans. J'habite dans une _____ . Je suis l'heureuse maman de deux _____ , grand-mère de _____ petits-enfants, et arrière-grand-mère d'une petite _____ , Mélina, qui est _____ , qui est mon... C'est le sens de ma _____ , quoi. C'est mon bâton vi... vieillesse, si on peut dire. Voilà.

Nos filles et mes frères / Our daughters and my brothers

On va se marier _____ , donc le vingt-deux _____ . Sinon, nous avons deux _____ filles. Donc, une petite fille qui _____ Mélina et qui a quatre ans et _____ , mais qui... là, en ce moment, qui est à Paris. Et notre petite fille qui s'appelle Lola qui va _____ sept _____ bientôt. Sinon, j'ai trois frères. Donc, un frère qui s'appelle David qui a _____ euh.. [six] six ans, un autre frère qui s'appelle Olivier qui a vingt euh... [sept] _____ , et Nicolas qui a vingt-cinq ans.

Liliane se présente / Liliane introduces herself Transcript

Je m'appelle LYARD Liliane. J'ai soixante-dix-huit ans. J'habite dans une maison. Je suis l'heureuse maman de deux enfants, grand-mère de quatre petits-enfants, et arrière-grand-mère d'une petite fille, Mélina, qui est adorable, qui est mon... C'est le sens de ma vie, quoi. C'est mon bâton de vieillesse, si on peut dire. Voilà.

Notes: Sometimes the French will state their last name first. Often in writing, the entire last name is capitalized instead of just the first letter.

Nos filles et mes frères / Our daughters and my brothers Transcript

On va se marier bientôt, donc le vingt-deux juin. Sinon, nous avons deux petites filles. Donc, une petite fille qui s'appelle Mélina et qui a quatre ans et demi, mais qui... là, en ce moment, qui est à Paris. Et notre petite fille qui s'appelle Lola qui va avoir sept mois bientôt. Sinon, j'ai trois frères. Donc, un frère qui s'appelle David qui a trente euh.. [six] six ans, un autre frère qui s'appelle Olivier qui a vingt euh... [sept] vingt-sept, et Nicolas qui a vingt-cinq ans.

Part III: French Realia

The following are photos of public signs taken in France, Belgium, and Switzerland over the past ten years. These realia resources are a great way to learn French as it is actually used in French-speaking countries today. I recommend using a bilingual dictionary and translating the signs in the spaces provided.



Aujourd'hui

Tarte à la
cangette et au chèvre
avec une salade 8 €

Clafoutis de Rata-
touille aux Saucisses
aux herbes avec une
salade Pour 2 pers
16 €

A EMPORTER

• BOISSONS

FRAICHES

• CAFÉ

• GLACES

• GÂTEAUX

A EMPORTER



Other Resources

[French Language Tutorial](#) - A complete overview of French grammar and vocabulary with cultural information about France as well as five hours of audio files so you can read and listen at the same time, also written by Dr. Jennifer Wagner.

[French Today audiobooks](#) – A selection of French audiobooks produced by native speakers that emphasize modern, contemporary language.

[Yabla French](#) and [FluentU](#) – Video immersion websites for watching French-language videos with subtitles in French and translations in English.

[French Courses at Udemy](#) – Video-based online courses that range between \$20 and \$50 USD.

[French Interlinear Book](#) – Learn French by reading books with literal translations in English below the French text.

About the Author

Dr. Jennifer Wagner lived in France for five years before relocating to Australia, where she earned her PhD in Applied Linguistics and taught first and second year French. She is the author of the *Say it in French: New Edition* phrase book and the translator of *Great French Short Stories of the Twentieth Century: A Dual-Language Book*, both published by Dover Publications. She has been the author and web developer of ielanguages.com for nearly two decades.