

# HOW TO PROCEED

## **How to use the courses of:** **« My very first real French conversation »**

*How to prepare for your first real conversation in French*

**C'est fantastique ! It's great !**  
**You have chosen to take your French learning in hand!**  
**I congratulate you on that.**  
**And thank you for choosing an Illustrated French course.**

Below, in this document, I will explain how to proceed in order to benefit 100% from the training "My very first real French conversation". It is therefore useful to read this document carefully to the end.

I will mention:

1. The duration of the course
2. Accompanied progress towards the objective (a conversation in French)
3. The right mindset
4. A favorable context
5. The difference between active and passive knowledge
6. The progressive 3-phase method
7. The worksheets
8. The 12 basic courses
9. The 8 consolidation days
10. The principle of illustrated French
11. The videos in illustrated French
12. The audio files
13. Even more input
14. How to learn words and phrases
15. The videos with the questions
16. How to make an appointment with me for the skype/zoom conversation
17. Basic interactions

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (jerome@lefrancaisillustre.com)

## 1. The duration of the course

The total course is divided into 20 days.

You can therefore in 20 days prepare your conversation by video conference (Skype or Zoom) and on the 21st day have your conversation with me in French

But if you wish - if you have less time to spend each day in the course or if you need a little more time to reassure yourself - you can complete the course in 30 days, for example.

Your only time constraint will be truly effective when you have made an appointment with me for the Skype / Zoom meeting.

Jour zéro = day zero	Introduction – How to proceed – basic interaction
Jour 1	Name
Jour 2	Age
Jour 3	revision
Jour 4	Domicile / Country
Jour 5	Nationality
Jour 6	revision
Jour 7	Marital status
Jour 8	revision
Jour 9	Activity
Jour 10	revision
Jour 11	Sport
Jour 12	Other hobbies
Jour 13	revision
Jour 14	What you like / dislike (food and drink)
Jour 15	Favorite things (color, dish, movie, music, book, etc.)
Jour 16	revision
Jour 17	Foreign languages
Jour 18	revision
Jour 19	Pets
Jour 20 et +	Keep your knowledge warm while waiting for the Zoom / Skype conversation

You have two options:

- the 'I challenge myself' solution: you make an appointment with me right away, and this will motivate you to work hard every day.

- the 'I stay on my guard' solution: you do not make an appointment straight away, you start the training quietly, and, at a certain point, having gained confidence, you make an appointment for the Skype conversation / Zoom (jerome@lefrancaisillustre.com)

## **2. Step by step, hand in hand, from A to Z**

Every day, I take you by the hand and I accompany you step by step towards the acquisition of the French necessary for this first conversation.

If you are really starting from scratch, follow all the steps of the course.

If you already have some knowledge of French, you will be able to go faster for some parts, but I strongly advise you to follow the proposed progression.

## **3. The right mindset**

You already have the right mindset if you have decided to take this course. You need to keep it throughout the preparation period (and afterwards too).

Stay positive.

Don't let yourself be put off by things that are more difficult than others. Persevere

Tell yourself that you can achieve your goal.

Don't compare yourself to others. If you have to compare yourself, it's with yourself: you, before starting this course, and you after a few days of French, and to see that you have learned things.

But above all, have fun. The pleasure of learning is essential to progress well and to achieve your goals.

#### **4. A favorable context**

The goal: to increase the daily input as much as possible, to put your brain on the 'French' mode.

You need to create a context that will encourage your learning. At home, you must reproduce as much as possible a kind of French immersion.

Create an environment where French is present. How can you do this?

- Listen to French songs when you listen to music.
- Watch French films or series.
- Read (or even just flip through if you're new to French) magazines, comics and even books in French.
- Surf the French-speaking internet. Dreaming of a holiday in France? Check out the French tourism websites .... in French of course.
- Try French cooking, even if you can't understand the recipes yet.
- Etc...

For more ideas, you can read the article [« 49 tips for creating French immersion »](#)

#### **5. The difference between active and passive knowledge**

If you go through all the courses, you may be frightened by the number of sentences and words offered for learning. Don't worry! You need to be able to distinguish between active knowledge of a language (what you will use to express yourself) and passive knowledge of the language (what you can know to understand what is being told).

Active knowledge requires more effort: pronunciation, sentence structure, etc.

Passive knowledge requires no effort, except to recognize a word and its meaning.

The volume of active knowledge is less important than the volume of passive knowledge of a language (this is also the case in one's own mother tongue).

In the course I will tell you what is useful to acquire for your active knowledge and what is useful to know for your passive knowledge.

## 6. The progressive 3-phase method

Each course will follow the progressive 3-phase method. These 3 phases are there to help you gain confidence in speaking.

Phase 1: the monologue. You will first of all learn the minimum of French in order to be able to speak about yourself in French.

Phase 2: The one-way dialogue. You will learn to answer simple questions. All you need to do is understand the questions and use the knowledge you acquired in phase 1 to answer them.

Phase 3: dialogue in all directions. You will learn how to ask questions (more or less the same ones you learned in phase 2) to the person you have a conversation with.

## 7. The worksheets

During the training, i.e. during the 20 days of preparation for the Skype/Zoom conversation, you will work with worksheets. One worksheet a day.

Worksheet – Day 4    **THE DOMICILE = LE DOMICILE**  
**THE COUNTRY = LE PAYS**

**Step One / Étape Un**  
Get to know the content of the day (watching, listening, reading) and try to understand French. Read, watch and listen the content several times.

Done

**Step Two / Étape Deux**  
Review the content of the day from the perspective of **Phase 1 (the monologue)**.  
*Remember phase 1: learn the minimum of French in order to be able to speak about yourself in French*  
Write down by level what you can say :

level A:  
... ..

level B:  
... ..

level C:  
... ..

Pay attention to the preposition before the name of a country ...  
and also before the name of a city...

Done

The aim is to follow each worksheet carefully from start to finish, in order to ensure a good learning process.

12 worksheets are based on the twelve content lessons (see next section below), and 8 worksheets are dedicated to consolidating what you have learned previously.

The worksheets of the 12 content courses follow a progression in 12 steps (sometimes a little more). Following each step carefully ensures that you learn the course content more effectively. You start slowly to get to know the vocabulary and phrases, in writing, but also with videos and audio files. Then you follow the learning path which will take you through the three levels of autonomy, the necessary revisions within the same course. And you will finish with the extra content step to better consolidate what you have learned.

The worksheets for the 8 consolidation days (revisions) offer you mainly illustrations boxes of previously learned sentences. It will be up to you to produce orally (aloud) the sentences you have learned. This will also be the time to relearn some forgotten sentences.

## **8. The 12 basic courses**

During these 20 days of learning, 12 days (also called 'basic content') are devoted to learning new words, expressions and phrases according to a useful theme. The organization of these useful words and phrases is done according to the progressive system of the three phases: the monologue (phase 1), the one-way dialogue (phase 2) and the dialogue in all directions (phase 3)

Be careful to make the difference between active and passive knowledge. The worksheets will help you to distinguish between the two. Learning active knowledge will require more effort (as you will have to be able to use it yourself); while learning passive knowledge will be easier (you will only have to understand what you're being told).

**Écoutez les phrases**



avec l'audio et la vidéo de cette leçon.



To properly assimilate the content of these basic courses, it is important 1. to find your own learning system (the most effective for you), but also 2. to use all the different resources available to you: sentences and words written with their illustrations, audio files and videos in illustrated French.

**Lisez, écoutez, regardez... et répétez !**  
*Read, listen, watch... and repeat!*

### 9. The 8 consolidation days

The other 8 days are devoted to revisions, that is, to the consolidation of what you have learned. It is obvious that if you do not review what you have learned, you run the risk of forgetting it. Spaced repetition is a guarantee to remember what you learn.

Each day of revision is a cumulative repetition of what has been seen in the previous days. The system of these revisions is based on the presentation of illustrations of key sentences. All you have to do is say the sentences in French that correspond to the illustrations. If you're not sure about your production, review the relevant content course.

For example, with the following illustration:



you will be able to say: « Vous vous appelez comment ? » (What's your name?)

Once again, you are free to extend these days, or even insert consolidation days between each new course.

## 10. The principle of illustrated French

You are probably familiar with the principle of Illustrated French. If not, here's a few words how it works.

Instead of giving the meaning of a French word or phrase by translating it into your mother tongue, you have one or more illustrations that will indicate the meaning of this word or phrase. This will engage your brain in a different and more direct way. Your learning of French will come closer to an almost natural learning of the language, a bit like a very young child learns his mother tongue.

Therefore, in the courses, the French words and sentences will not be translated into your mother tongue. But they will be illustrated clearly enough to be understood and assimilated. However, you will find in this course a French-English index which will reduce ambiguities and/or reassure some.

For a detailed explanation of how illustrations work in the Illustrated French system, I invite you to discover the complementary document: « Le système du français illustré ». Even if you are already familiar with Illustrated French, this document will undoubtedly clear your mind.

### The illustrated French system



How to learn French ...

... without going through your mother tongue,  
... by going directly to the meaning of things,  
... by acquiring this language in a simple and natural way,  
... almost like children when they learn their first language?

**My answer is: with the Français illustré.**

The Français illustré is a system for learning French where input is made understandable through illustrations.

The system of the Français illustré is therefore based on illustrations. To do this, different kinds of illustrations are used.

#### Direct illustrations

Direct illustrations are the most obvious. The representation of a book to signify the word « livre »



or a strawberry for the word « fraise »



#### Indirect illustrations

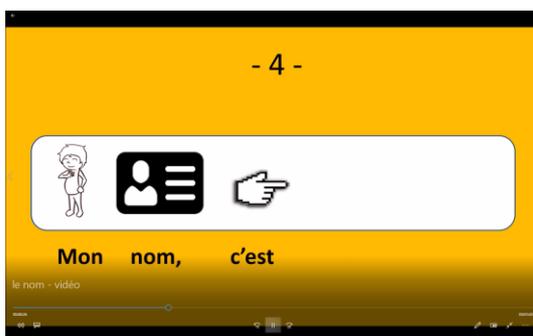
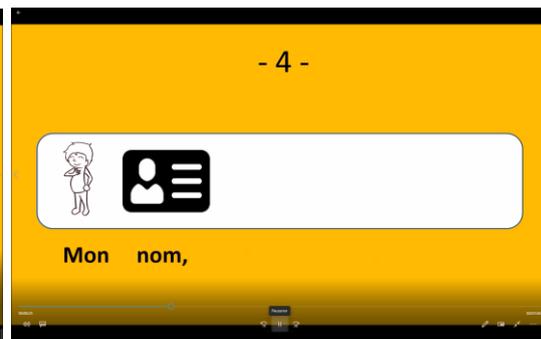
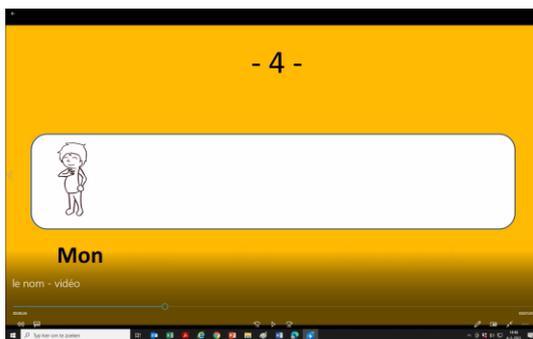
The representation of an object typically linked to a notion:



an identity card for the identity and finally for the name

## 11. The videos in illustrated French

All the sentences presented in each course are included in the animated videos that make the specificity of the Français illustré. Each sentence is written and illustrated, but above all it is pronounced. Each sentence is repeated a second time. During this repetition, the sentence is cut in such a way that the words (said and written) become clearer thanks to the illustrations.



I strongly advise you not to limit yourself to learning the sentences only with the pdf documents of the courses. It is very important to use the videos in illustrated French.

- This allows your brain to naturally associate the French sentences (written and spoken) with their meaning (thanks to the illustrations).
- This allows you to record in your brain the pronunciation of sentences.
- This gives you the necessary variation in learning.
- And you can also use the videos to repeat the sentences.

## 12. The audio files

You certainly have your own way of learning vocabulary and key phrases. If it works, that's fine and keep it up. However, it is also useful (I would say necessary) to vary your sources and ways of learning. If only to stimulate your brain in different ways so that it retains better what you read, listen to, watch, learn.

The audio files contain the vocabulary and phrases from this course, in French only. Listening to these audio files will help you to reinforce your learning of the content, to become even more familiar with vocabulary, sentence structures and their pronunciation. So don't hesitate to repeat out loud what you're hearing.

In addition, you can listen to these audio files on your mobile phone. So, while you're out walking, in your car or on public transport, while you're preparing dinner, you can listen to your French and do other things that don't require too much brain power. It's an easy and smart way to increase your time spent studying French

## 13. Even more input

At the end of each worksheet, you will find an extra section called

### **'Extra step / Étape supplémentaire : EXTRA INPUT**

**Extra step / Étape supplémentaire : EXTRA INPUT**

*the more information you take, the more knowledge you unconsciously acquire*

■ **watch or watch again the following videos:**

[Go to the cinema for your French: Au cinéma - Le français illustré #60](#)

[I'm looking for a French house: une maison pour les vacances - Le français illustré #115](#)

[Sucks up all the problems in French with: L'aspirateur - Le français illustré #182](#)

■ **play the following games:**

[Informations personnelles - Mots mêlés illustrés](#)

[Les nombres de 80 à 99 – dictée](#)

■ **consult the following content:**

[Learn French : Talk about your family - Le frère et la sœur d'Adèle – vidéo 210](#)

Done

*Do you have a question or a problem ? Contact me: [jerome@lefrancaisillustre.com](mailto:jerome@lefrancaisillustre.com)*

In this additional content you will find a choice of

- videos from the Français illustré
  - podcasts from the Français illustré
  - informative content
  - games
- and some articles.

It's up to you to see if you take that extra step. But know one thing:

*the more information you take, the more knowledge you unconsciously acquire*

## **14. How to learn words and phrases**

We all have our own way of learning vocabulary and key phrases. The important thing is to find (if you haven't already) your own way of learning French words and phrases. However, even if you have your own way of learning, I advise you to vary the input as much as possible in order to make your brain more agile in acquiring, and ultimately in the use of words and phrases.

### Acquisition

Do not forget to use not only the pdf content of the courses, but also the audio files and the video in illustrated French.

- read and understand the sentences/vocabulary with the help of the illustrations
- read and listen to the sentences/vocabulary
- read a sentence, understand it, and repeat it aloud
- read a sentence, understand it, and copy it
- listen to a sentence and write it down
- if a sentence or word remains difficult to learn, write it down.

### Check

- hide the text under each illustration, you understand what the meaning of the illustration, say in French the associated sentence and then check if it is correct.
- during the days of revisions, use the illustrations of the sentences to check that you can say the sentences only from the illustrations

### As a last resort

If you don't feel confident with just the French and illustrations, you can use the French-English index to learn the phrases and vocabulary

## Spaced repetition

Depending on your memory, I advise you to practice spaced repetition: regularly review the sentences and vocabulary you have learned. Underline/highlight words or phrases that are still problematic, and give them a little more attention.

## **15. The videos with the questions**

The videos with the questions allow you to prepare your first conversation in French in an almost real way. Once you have learnt the content of a day, a course, a revision, move on to practice by answering the questions I ask you in these videos.

In these videos, you will see me (you will become familiar with my image and voice). I ask you questions and give you time to answer them. Of course, you'll be talking to someone who, at that point, won't be able to really interact with you, but it's an important first step towards the real conversation.

The good thing about these questions-and-answers videos is that they will help you to identify weaknesses in your learning. And without any problem, you can pause the video, and go back to the corresponding course to relearn what you had forgotten.



## **16. How to make an appointment with me for the skype/zoom conversation**

When you have finished the training (after the 20 days or more if necessary), contact me to make an appointment (if you have not already done so at the beginning of the training or during the training). We will have to take into account different time zones (I live on Paris time), but this should not be a problem. You send me an email at [jerome@lefrancaisillustré.com](mailto:jerome@lefrancaisillustré.com) mentioning in the subject of your message 'rendez-vous My very first real French conversation'.

Once we have agreed on a time, the easiest way is that I send you a Zoom internet link. By clicking on this link just before the agreed time, we will be put in contact, by video conference, thanks to Zoom.

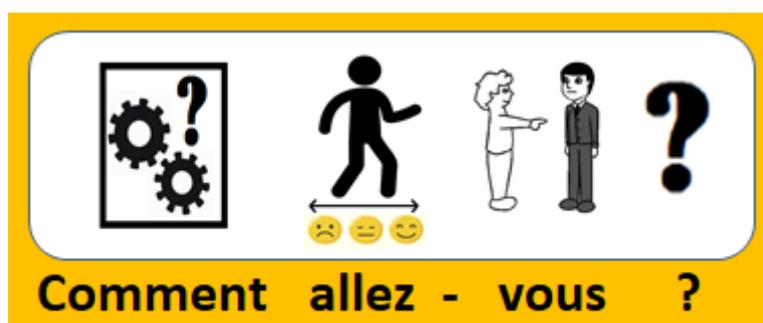
This is convenient, because you don't necessarily need to download the Zoom program to your computer.

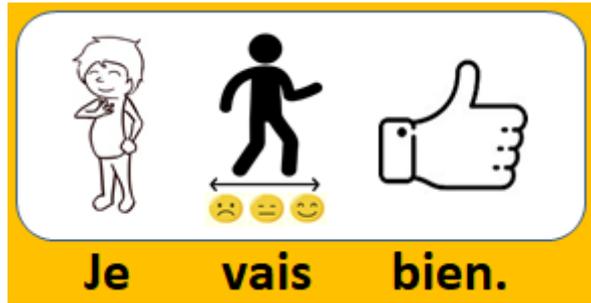
If you prefer to have our conversation with Skype, you probably already have a Skype account. Search for me on Skype as 'Jerome Paul' (Skype name: jeromepaul\_3 or live:jeromepaul\_3) and add me to your contacts [click on contact -> new contact; then click on the new contact that appears in the left sidebar]. Send me a simple message so that I agree to be part of your contacts. Alternatively, email me (jerome@lefrancaisillustre.com) your name and Skype ID and I'll make sure I contact you via Skype. Just in time for the appointment, we will be able to get in touch by clicking on the new contact and on the video call.

## **17. Basic interactions**

Basic interactions are very useful words and phrases for interacting with the other person.

The first type of interaction is - of course - to put the other person in a good disposition for a good dialogue. It's just politeness, but in French.





The second type of interaction allows you to act directly on the other person so that what he or she says is clear to you. Did you not understand what they said? Let it be known. Do you think they speak too fast? Let it be known.





A third type of interaction ensures that the person you are talking to understands what you are saying.



You will find these basic interactions in an illustrated French video. Watch, listen, repeat, learn them. They will be very useful to you.

### **One last word before you start**

Now you can really start the training and have soon your first real conversation in French.

Keep faith in yourself, don't be discouraged! By following this course from the first step to the last, you will achieve your goal, and I am here to help you.

If you have a question, do not hesitate to contact me (jerome@lefrancaisillustre.com)

Good learning, but also (because it is essential to learn well) have fun!

Jérôme

