

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp S1 #1

Self Introduction and Basic Greetings in Formal French

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#1

DIALOGUE - FRENCH

MAIN

1. Réceptionniste : Bonjour, Madame. Je m'appelle Maxime.
2. Mme Lefebvre : Enchantée, Monsieur. Je m'appelle Madame Lefebvre Camille.
3. Réceptionniste : Enchanté Madame.

ENGLISH

1. Receptionist : Hello, madam. I'm Maxime.
2. Mrs. Lefebvre : Nice to meet you, sir. I'm Mrs. Camille Lefebvre.
3. Receptionist : Nice to meet you, Madam.

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
je m'appelle	My name is	phrase	
Enchanté(e).	Pleased to meet you.	adjective	Enchantée (feminine)
bonjour	hello	noun, interjection	masculine
madame	Mrs	noun	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Je m'appelle Nicolas. "My name is Nicolas."	Elle est enchantée de vous voir. "She is pleased to see you."
Il est enchanté de vous rencontrer. "He is pleased to meet you."	Bonjour Madame. "Hello, ma'am."
Bonjour Monsieur. "Hello, sir."	Bonjour Madame. "Hello, ma'am."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Self-Introduction and Basic Greetings in Formal French

Bonjour, Madame.

"Hello, Ma'am."

Bienvenu(e) ("Welcome") to the French language basics. Introducing oneself is inevitable in any situation and is rather easy! Let's start with the word *bonjour*!

Bonjour ("Hello")

For a more classical and frequent greeting, use *bonjour*, meaning "hello." Its literal meaning is "good day."

You can use *bonjour* anytime during the day in any circumstances. If you are speaking to a friend, an elderly person, or an unknown person in an informal or formal situation, use *bonjour*. It the safest and most respectable way of greeting a person while in France or another French-speaking country.

If the evening is falling and night is soon to come, use *bonsoir*, meaning "good evening." Like *bonjour*, *bonsoir* is the most common way to greet someone in a safe manner. The only difference is that you can use *bonsoir* for farewells as well at the end of the day.

Note that a title can follow both *bonjour* and *bonsoir* to be a bit more proper, as with *bienvenu*.

For Example:

Daytime

1. *Bonjour monsieur.*
"Hello, sir."
2. *Bonjour madame.*
"Hello, ma'am."

Evening

1. *Bonsoir monsieur.*
"Hello, sir." or "Good evening, sir."
2. *Bonsoir madame.*
"Hello, ma'am."
"Good evening, ma'am."

Greeting During the Day

French	French Pronunciation	"English"
<i>Bonjour</i>	Bon-juhrr	"Hello"
<i>Bonjour monsieur</i>	Bon-juhrr muh-si-hoe	"Hello, sir"
<i>Bonjour madame</i>	Bon-juhrr ma-dam	"Hello, ma'am"

Greeting or Farewell in the Evening or at Night

French	French Pronunciation	"English"
<i>Bonsoir</i>	Bon-su-ahrr	"Hello/goodbye"
<i>Bonsoir monsieur</i>	Bon-su-ahrr Muh-si-hoe	"Hello/goodbye sir"
<i>Bonsoir madame</i>	Bon-su-ahrr Ma-dam	"Hello/goodbye ma'am"

Stating a Name

After you're formally greeted in your hotel, someone will certainly ask you about your identity.

In many other situations, social or otherwise, to get to know someone or introduce yourself, you will ask or hear the most frequent question: "What is your name?"

To answer it, use:

1. the personal pronoun *je*, meaning "I" in English, and
2. the verb *s'appeler* conjugated at the correct form

Conjugating the Verb *s'appeler* ("to be called")

The verb *s'appeler* means "to be called" and we translate it with the verb "to be" in English when stating a name, as shown in the dialogue translation. Literally, *s'appeler* means "to call oneself." The infinitive verb *s'appeler* ends with the letters *-er*, telling us it is:

1. a regular verb and
2. a verb from the first verb group

Its particularity is the presence at its infinitive form of the letter *-s* followed by an apostrophe. This tells us that this verb (as others with the same feature) is a "reflexive verb," which is also called in French *verbes pronominaux*.

The letter *-s* apostrophe is the reflexive part of the verb. Its function is to refer the information following the verb *s'appeler*-in other words, a name, back to the subject of the sentence.

When conjugating a reflexive verb, you should follow two steps. You need to change the letter *-s* apostrophe and the verb form according to the subject of the sentence, and therefore, the personal pronoun you use.

Changing the Reflexive Part of the Verb *s'appeler*

In the sentence *Je m'appelle Maxime*, the personal pronoun is *je*, which belongs to the first person singular. As the verb *s'appeler* is a "reflexive verb" or *verbe pronominal*, the letter *-s* needs to change to the letter *-m* followed by the apostrophe.

You will have ***m'appeler***.

Be aware that you only change the letter *-m* if the information following the verb *s'appeler* belongs to the person speaking it. If not, if you hear *je t'appelle Laurent*, it would mean "I call you Laurent" (instead of Mrs. Dubois, for example). In other words, the name stated needs to be the one of the person stating it, as in *Je m'appelle Madame Lefebvre Camille*. "I'm Mrs. Camille Lefebvre."

Changing the Ending of the Verb *s'appeler*

To change the ending of the verb form *m'appeler* previously mentioned, eliminate the letters *-er*. You'll end up with: ***m'appel***.

Then, to have the correct spelling for this verb, remember to add an extra letter *-l* to all the forms except for the first and second person plural. You'll have now: ***m'appell***.

Finally, as for any verb ending in *-er* at the infinitive form, add the ending *-e* corresponding to the first person singular. You will have the final conjugated form: ***m'appelle***.

Of course, to get the final sentence, add in front of it the personal pronoun *je* and after it your name: *Je m'appelle*.

French	"English"
<i>Je m'appelle Marie.</i>	"My name is Mary."
<i>Je m'appelle Madame Dupont.</i>	"My name is Mrs. Dupont."
<i>Je m'appelle Madame Dupont Marie.</i>	"My name is Mrs. Mary Dupont."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Most and Least Popular Given First Names

For boys, according to the French magazine *Femme Actuelle*, first names sounding foreign are in regression. They used to be popular, possibly because the names of characters appearing in Hollywood's broadcasted soap operas are dubbed in French. The least popular are Liam and Aaron, as well as Matthieu and Jean, two biblical first names. Another one losing popularity is Loïc, which is short for Alexandre or Alex.

However, the most popular first names in 2008 and 2009, for both boys and girls, will be short ones such as Tom, Zoé, or the traditional Paul and Marie. Another trend is first names ending in the letter *-o* for boys, such as Enzo, Hugo, Léo, Théo, or Mathéo, and *-a* for girls, such as Emma, Clara, and Léa, which are the three most popular names. Some other ever-classic first names are Alexandre, Raphaël, and Gabriel for boys and Marie, Inès, and Camille for girls.

A very popular book is published every mid-September for parents-to-be called *L'Officiel des Prénoms* (*Official First Names*). It is the yearly reference for first names, listing twelve thousand of them with their etymologies and discussing trends in names.