

## Getting started with French 2



This item contains selected online content. It is for use alongside, not as a replacement for the module website, which is the primary study format and contains activities and resources that cannot be replicated in the printed versions.

## About this free course

This free course is an adapted extract from the Open University course developed from extract parts of LXF002 - *Beginners French 2: bien sûr!* - <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/lxf002>.

This version of the content may include video, images and interactive content that may not be optimised for your device.

You can experience this free course as it was originally designed on OpenLearn, the home of free learning from The Open University –

[Getting started with French 2](#)

There you'll also be able to track your progress via your activity record, which you can use to demonstrate your learning.

Copyright © 2021 The Open University

## Intellectual property

Unless otherwise stated, this resource is released under the terms of the Creative Commons Licence v4.0 [http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/deed.en\\_GB](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/deed.en_GB). Within that The Open University interprets this licence in the following way:

[www.open.edu/openlearn/about-openlearn/frequently-asked-questions-on-openlearn](http://www.open.edu/openlearn/about-openlearn/frequently-asked-questions-on-openlearn). Copyright and rights falling outside the terms of the Creative Commons Licence are retained or controlled by The Open University. Please read the full text before using any of the content.

We believe the primary barrier to accessing high-quality educational experiences is cost, which is why we aim to publish as much free content as possible under an open licence. If it proves difficult to release content under our preferred Creative Commons licence (e.g. because we can't afford or gain the clearances or find suitable alternatives), we will still release the materials for free under a personal end-user licence.

This is because the learning experience will always be the same high quality offering and that should always be seen as positive – even if at times the licensing is different to Creative Commons.

When using the content you must attribute us (The Open University) (the OU) and any identified author in accordance with the terms of the Creative Commons Licence.

The Acknowledgements section is used to list, amongst other things, third party (Proprietary), licensed content which is not subject to Creative Commons licensing. Proprietary content must be used (retained) intact and in context to the content at all times.

The Acknowledgements section is also used to bring to your attention any other Special Restrictions which may apply to the content. For example there may be times when the Creative Commons Non-Commercial Sharealike licence does not apply to any of the content even if owned by us (The Open University). In these instances, unless stated otherwise, the content may be used for personal and non-commercial use.

We have also identified as Proprietary other material included in the content which is not subject to Creative Commons Licence. These are OU logos, trading names and may extend to certain photographic and video images and sound recordings and any other material as may be brought to your attention.

Unauthorised use of any of the content may constitute a breach of the terms and conditions and/or intellectual property laws.

We reserve the right to alter, amend or bring to an end any terms and conditions provided here without notice.

All rights falling outside the terms of the Creative Commons licence are retained or controlled by The Open University.

Head of Intellectual Property, The Open University

# Contents

---

Introduction	4
Introduction	4
Open Centre for Languages and Cultures	5
<b>Week 1: Food – saying what you like</b>	<b>7</b>
Introduction	7
1 Food in France	8
2 Discussing what you like to eat or drink	12
3 Definite articles – popular food and drink in France	15
4 The verb <i>aimer</i>	18
5 The verb <i>préférer</i>	20
6 Talking about what you like using <i>aimer, adorer and préférer + le/la/les</i>	21
7 Now it's your turn to speak	23
8 Intonation	25
9 This week's quiz	27
10 Summary of Week 1	28
<b>Week 2: Food - saying what you don't like</b>	<b>31</b>
Introduction	31
1 Saying what you dislike	32
2 Fast food in France	34
3 Expressing the negative	37
4 Now it's your turn to speak!	40
4.1 Speaking about your likes and dislikes	41
5 Writing about food likes and dislikes	43
6 French culture	45
7 This week's quiz	47
8 Summary of Week 2	48
Next steps	49
Acknowledgements	49

# Introduction

## Introduction

---

### *Bonjour.*

This two-week course offers you the opportunity to discuss food, your likes and dislikes as well as to shop or order food. Little by little, you will improve your ability to make more sophisticated conversations and to understand more complex language in a variety of different scenarios. You will also find out facts about France and French habits.

Each week comprises 3–4 hours of interactive activities, explanations, exercises and tips about language-learning. It's a good idea to keep notes, either on paper in a notebook or on your preferred digital device; in any case, each week you'll be encouraged to add to your own personal phrase book and decide how best you can go about memorising and practising key phrases and vocabulary, and there is a weekly quiz for you to practise what you've been learning. At the end of each week, you will have a quiz with 10 questions to revise what you have been learning.

To start with, you might want to consider how you'll organise your studies. Learning languages is a gradual process and, if possible, it is best to spread your 3–4 hours over the week, rather than studying the equivalent of the whole week in one go. You then get the opportunity to revise vocabulary and language structures, to review quickly what you did last time and above all to practise and consolidate. For example, by listening several times to the same recording you will learn vocabulary and perfect your accent for the speaking activities.

You could also benefit from including other people (family or friends) in your discovery of the language. They might be happy to get involved and assist you in your endeavour.

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- discuss food, likes and dislikes, and be able to shop for or order food
- understand more sophisticated conversations and complex language in a variety of different scenarios
- recognise facts about France and French habits
- express likes using *j'aime*, *j'adore*, *je préfère* with the articles *le*, *la*, *l'*, *les*
- express dislikes.

# Open Centre for Languages and Cultures

This course has been developed from extract parts of [LXF002 - Beginners French 2: bien sûr!](#). The Open University has launched a dedicated learning centre called [The Open Centre for Languages and Cultures](#). OpenLearn is supporting this project and is providing extracted units of all courses on The Open Centre in our dedicated [Language and cultures hub](#).

The Open Centre for Languages and Cultures is the exciting new home for non-accredited language and intercultural communication short courses. You can study a wide range of language and language related subjects with us anywhere in the world, in any time zone, whatever your motivation – leisure, professional development or academic.

It's the one stop shop for engaging with languages, professional communication and intercultural dialogue.

Our short courses allow us to be agile and responsive to the needs of learners who want to be part of a global society. We offer non-accredited short courses in a range of subjects including modern languages and languages for business and the workplace. We are also leading the way in developing short courses for academic research methods and pre-sessional English with IELTS, which will be available for registration in due course.

The Open Centre for Languages and Cultures is an international leader in online language learning and intercultural communications, built on our pioneering pedagogy and research.

## What makes the Open Centre different?

- The OU is the leader in online learning and teaching with a heritage of more than 50 years helping students achieve their learning ambitions.
- The short courses are underpinned by academic rigour and designed by native speakers experienced in producing engaging materials for online learning of languages and cultures.
- The graduating nature of the courses means that learners can build up their language and skills over time.
- Learners will also gain a better understanding of the culture(s) associated with the language(s) they study enabling the development of intercultural communication skills.
- Learners can mix and match the short courses and study more than one course at a time.

Once this course is complete you will be directed to OpenLearn's hub for language content where you will be able to build on your newly found language skills.

You are now ready to start [Week 1](#).

*Bonnes études !* (Enjoy your studies!)



# Week 1: Food – saying what you like

## Introduction

---

Many French people place a great deal of importance on food – as the British often resort to talking about the weather, French people will fill the conversation with what they had for dinner the night before or what they are thinking of cooking that evening. Despite the growth in supermarkets, most French people still buy their bread from a local baker, and often visit markets to stock up on fresh, locally produced, fruit, vegetables and meat. Although the pace of modern life has certainly affected how people eat, preparing food and taking time to enjoy it remain important.

This week you'll discuss what you like to eat and drink using the verbs *aimer*, *adorer*, and *préférer*.

This OpenLearn course is an adapted extract from the Open University course [LXF002 \*Beginners French 2: bien sûr!\*](#).



# 1 Food in France

Most regions boast an impressive diversity of dishes. From *bouillabaisse* (a fish soup from Provence) to *choucroute* (a dish of sauerkraut, sausages and pork, popular in Alsace), there are dozens of dishes and drinks to try when visiting a new region. Some regional specialities, such as *foie gras* or *champagne*, have become internationally famous.



**Figure 1** Le foie gras du sud-ouest

## Activity 1

### Part 1

Make a list of French words for food and drinks that you already know. You can also list some of your favourite French dishes.

#### Example:

Croissant, boeuf bourguignon

Provide your answer...



## Discussion

Among others, you may know *petits pois*, *crêpe*, *croque-monsieur*, *foie gras*, *crème brûlée*, *crème fraîche*, *tartiflette*, *brioche*, *baguette*...

Be careful: *couscous* in French usually means the whole dish (a spicy meat and vegetable stew served on steamed couscous grains).

## Part 2

Now study the following shopping list and match each item to its English equivalent. You may need to use a dictionary.

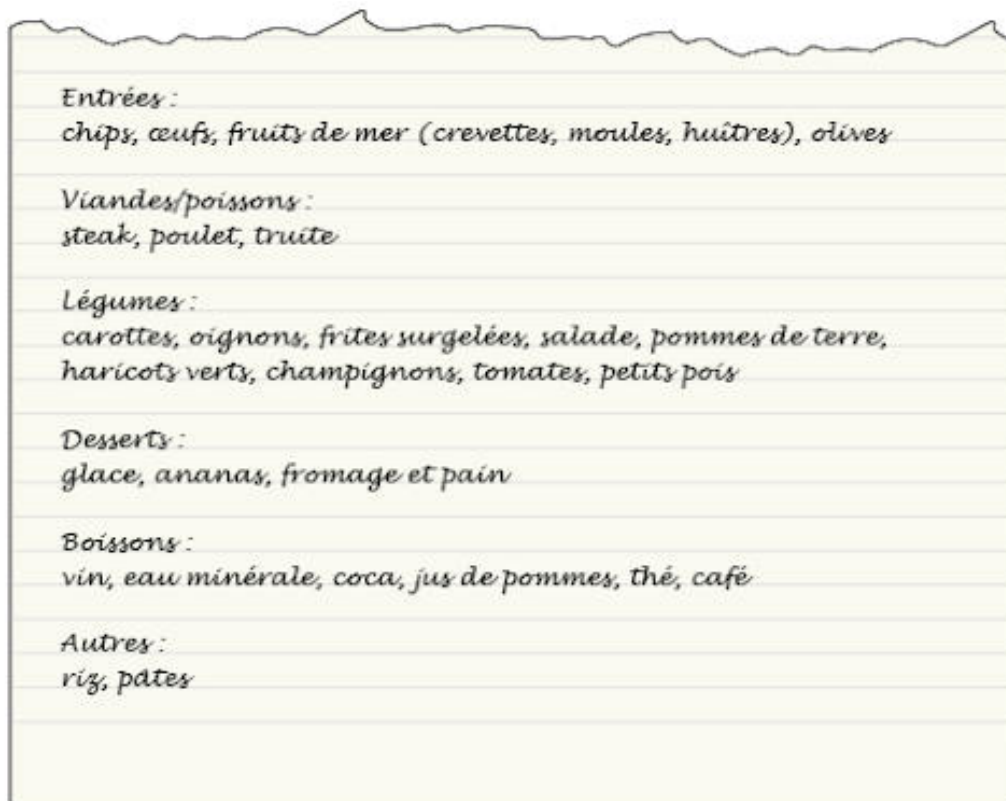


Figure 2 Shopping list

### Entrées:

Entrées

chips

œufs

fruits de mer

crevettes

moules

huîtres

olives

Match each of the items above to an item below.

Starters

crisps

eggs  
seafood  
prawns  
mussels  
oysters  
olives

*Viandes/poissons :*

viandes  
poissons  
steak  
poulet  
truite

Match each of the items above to an item below.

meat  
fish  
steak  
chicken  
trout

*Légumes:*

légumes  
haricots verts  
champignons  
tomates  
petits pois  
carottes  
oignons  
frites surgelées  
salade  
pommes de terre

Match each of the items above to an item below.

vegetables  
green beans  
mushrooms  
tomatoes  
peas  
carrots  
onions  
frozen chips  
salad leaves  
potatoes

*Autres:*

Autres

riz

pâtes

Match each of the items above to an item below.

Others

rice

pasta

*Desserts:*

Desserts

glace

ananas

fromage et pain

Match each of the items above to an item below.

Desserts

ice cream

pineapple

bread and cheese

*Boissons:*

Boissons

vin

eau minérale

coca

jus de pommes

thé

café

Match each of the items above to an item below.

Drinks

wine

mineral water

cola

apple juice

tea

coffee

## 2 Discussing what you like to eat or drink

In this section you will discover more vocabulary related to food.

### Activity 2

Claudette Dupont and her husband, Paul, have invited the Lenoirs and the Khalifes for dinner on Saturday. Claudette has made a list of what her guests and her husband like. Look at her notes and for each name, select the item(s) that person likes in the multiple choice questions below.

*Dîner de samedi 28 février avec les Lenoir et les Khalife*

- *Ahmed aime beaucoup les desserts, et surtout la glace.*
- *Chrystelle est végétarienne, elle adore les légumes, les soupes, les crudités et aussi l'ananas.*
- *Benoît aime le poisson, mais il préfère les fruits de mer (crevettes, moules, huîtres...)*
- *Laura est difficile mais elle aime assez le fromage et la cuisine italienne.*
- *Paul aime bien la viande rouge et le vin blanc.*

Figure 3 Food likes

### Vocabulaire

*aime likes (from aimer)*

*surtout in particular*

*crudités (f.pl.): raw vegetables with French dressing (typically grated carrots, beetroot, tomatoes, cucumber)*

*aussi as well*

*difficile fussy*

Select which item/s Ahmed likes.

- ☐ vegetables
- ☐ ice cream
- ☐ desserts

### Feedback

The correct answers are: ice cream and desserts.

Select which item/s Chrystelle likes.

- ☐ cheese
- ☐ vegetables
- ☐ soup

### Feedback

The correct answers are: vegetables and soup.

Select which item/s Benoît likes.

- ☐ fish
- ☐ seafood
- ☐ white wine

### Feedback

The correct answers are: fish and seafood.

Select which item/s Laura likes.

- ☐ cheese
- ☐ fruit
- ☐ Italian food

### Feedback

The correct answers are: cheese and Italian food.

Select which item/s Paul likes

- ☐ fish
- ☐ white wine
- ☐ red meat

### Feedback

The correct answers are: white wine and red meat.

In the notes Claudette used different ways to express what her guests and her husband like. Identify the words she uses to express liking.

Provide your answer...

### Feedback

Ahmed : *aime*

Chrystelle : *adore*

Benoît : *aime* ; *préfère*

Laure : *aime*

Paul : *aime*

Make a list of the words Claudette uses with the verb *aimer*.

Provide your answer...

### Feedback

*beaucoup; assez; bien.*

These words are adverbs: they tell us something about the verb they are used with. In this case, they tell us how strong the feeling is.



## 3 Definite articles – popular food and drink in France

Now have a go at Activity 3, which will help you to become more familiar with French vocabulary for different food and drinks. You'll then consider definite articles in French.

### Activity 3

Listen to this conversation in which French people discuss what they like to eat.

Audio content is not available in this format.

We asked Colette, Maryse, Philippe and Lionel what they like eating using the question: *Qu'est-ce que vous aimez manger ?*

Listen to what they say and then answer the following questions.

1. Who likes fish?
  - ☐ Colette
  - ☐ Maryse
  - ☐ Philippe
  - ☐ Lionel
2. Who likes meat?
  - ☐ Colette
  - ☐ Maryse
  - ☐ Philippe
  - ☐ Lionel
3. Who likes Italian food?
  - ☐ Colette
  - ☐ Maryse
  - ☐ Philippe
  - ☐ Lionel
4. Who likes seafood?
  - ☐ Colette
  - ☐ Maryse
  - ☐ Philippe
  - ☐ Lionel
5. Who likes cheese?
  - ☐ Colette
  - ☐ Maryse

- ☐ Philippe
- ☐ Lionel

#### Feedback

The correct answers are:

Who likes fish? Colette Maryse Philippe Lionel

Who likes meat? Maryse Philippe Lionel

Who likes Italian food? Colette Maryse Philippe Lionel

Who likes seafood? Colette Lionel

Who likes cheese? Maryse

### Box 1 Understanding the gender of nouns and learning vocabulary

French nouns are either feminine or masculine in gender (shown by the letters 'nf' or 'nm' after entries in the dictionary). They are usually preceded by the definite article *le*, *la* or *les* ('the'). You will have seen some examples of nouns with their articles in the shopping list.

- *Le poisson, le fromage* (masculine)
- *La viande, la cuisine italienne* (feminine)

If the noun starts with a vowel sound, the articles *le* and *la* become *l'*, for example:

- *L'oeuf* (masculine)
- *L'orange, l'eau* (feminine)

Nouns in the plural usually end in an 's':

- *Les entrées*
- *Les poissons, les viandes, les légumes*
- *Les fromages, les desserts*

When you learn a noun, it's always a good idea to learn its gender at the same time: for example, learn *le pain* (masculine) or *la viande* (feminine) instead of *pain* or *viande* on their own.

### Activity 4

#### Part 1

Listen to the conversation from Activity 3 again (repeated below) and fill in the gaps in the following sentences with *le*, *la* or *les*.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

## Part 2

Listen once more to the audio and try to find out how much each person likes the food item they mention. Complete the following sentences with *beaucoup* or *bien*.

Audio content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

## 4 The verb *aimer*

In this section you will study the verb *aimer* in more detail. It might be a good idea to allocate a specific section of your language notebook to verbs.

### Activity 5

Interactive content is not available in this format.

You will have noticed that the verb is pronounced the same for:

- J'aime
- Tu aimes (the final S is not sounded)
- Il / elle aime
- Ils / Elles aiment (the final NT is not sounded)

But the pronunciation is different for:

- Nous aimons
- Vous aimez

**Table 1 Using pronouns with the verb *aimer***

<b>Je</b> (I) to talk about yourself	<b>J'aime</b> les fruits.
<b>Tu</b> (you) to address somebody informally	<b>Tu aimes</b> le fromage ?
<b>Il</b> (he) to replace the name of a man	Alain, <b>il aime</b> les desserts.
<b>Elle</b> (she) to replace the name of a woman	Brigitte, <b>elle aime</b> le fromage.
<b>Nous</b> (we) to replace a group including yourself	<b>Nous aimons</b> les glaces.
<b>Vous</b> (you singular) to address a person formally	Laura, <b>vous aimez</b> le poisson ?
(You plural) to address a group of people	Annie et Paul, <b>vous aimez</b> le vin ?
<b>Ils</b> (they) to talk about a group of males	Marc et Paul, <b>ils aiment</b> le vin.
or mixed group of males and females	Luc et Anne, <b>ils aiment</b> la viande.
<b>Elles</b> (they) to talk about a group of females	Julie et Louise, <b>elles aiment</b> la bière.

### Activity 6

Revise the verb *aimer* with different pronouns. Drag each pronoun to the right sentence.

J' / Il / Elle

Nous

Ils / Elles

Tu

Vous

Match each of the items above to an item below.

aime beaucoup les croissants

aimons surtout les entrées.

aiment beaucoup le fromage.

aimes la bière ?

aimez les desserts.

## 5 The verb *préférer*

You'll now practise using the verb *préférer* (to prefer).

### Activity 7

Revise verb endings with the verb *préférer* (to prefer). Drag each pronoun to the correct verb.

Je/ Il/ Elle

Tu

Nous

Vous

Ils /Elles

Match each of the items above to an item below.

préfère

préfères

préférons

préférez

préfèrent

[Feedback](#)

The correct answers are:

#### **Le verbe *préférer***

Je préfère

Tu préfères

Il / elle préfère

Nous préférons

Vous préférez

Ils / Elles préfèrent

Now practise pronouncing the verb *préférer*. You will notice that the written accents and the pronunciation are different according to the subject of the verb.

- Je préfère - Tu préfères - Il / elle préfère - Ils / Elles préfèrent
- Préférer - Nous préférons - Vous préférez

Interactive content is not available in this format.



## 6 Talking about what you like using *aimer*, *adorer* and *préférer* + *le/la/les*

To express your likes, you can use several verbs: *aimer*, *adorer* or *préférer*.

*Chrystelle adore les légumes.*

*Benoît aime le poisson.*

*Il préfère les fruits de mer.*

Note that you will need a definite article (*le*, *la*, *l'* or *les*) when using the verbs of liking with a noun.

- *Il aime le poisson.* He likes fish.
- *Il aime la viande.* He likes meat.
- *Elle adore l'ananas.* She loves pineapple.
- *J'aime les desserts.* I love dessert.

You may have noticed that the verb endings of '*adorer*' and '*préférer*' when used with different pronouns are the same as for '*aimer*'.



**Figure 4** Un marché en Guadeloupe

*Beaucoup* (a lot), *bien* (rather a lot) and *assez* (quite), placed after the verb *aimer*, are used to say how much you like things. *Surtout* means ‘above all’.

### Activity 8

In this activity, you are going to practise the use of the definite article. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate article: *le*, *la* or *les*.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

## 7 Now it's your turn to speak

You will now have the opportunity to take part in a conversation.

### Activity 9

#### Part 1

You are going to practise saying what you like and how much you like it. Listen to the question and the prompt, record your answer, play back your recording and then listen to a model answer.

For example:

(You hear) *Vous aimez la cuisine italienne ?*

(You hear) *(beaucoup)*

(You say) *Oui, j'aime beaucoup la cuisine italienne.*

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

#### Part 2

Now practise talking about what you like. Listen to the question and the prompt, record your answer, play back your recording and then listen to a model answer given in the feedback.

For example:

(You hear) *Vous aimez les fruits ?*

(You hear) *(aimer – beaucoup – ananas)*

(You say) *Oui, j'aime beaucoup l'ananas.*

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

## 8 Intonation

In conversational French you can ask a simple closed question – one which will lead to the answer *oui* ('yes') or *non* ('no') – by using the basic sentence form but changing your intonation.

*Vous aimez le fromage.* (Statement of fact; intonation goes down at end of sentence).

*Vous aimez le fromage ?* (Question; intonation goes up at end of sentence).

Such sentences have the same grammatical form as a straightforward affirmative statement, but when spoken the last syllable of the utterance is said on a high pitch to convey inconclusiveness, uncertainty or enquiry, thus inviting a response. This can also be heard in unfinished statements, and in exclamations of surprise, but is most frequently used to ask general questions. Only the higher pitch of the final syllable indicates to the listener that a question is being asked.

You can also add an interrogative word at the start of the question:

*Qu'est-ce que vous aimez manger ?* (What do you like to eat?)

The interrogative word makes it clear that the sentence is a question.

### Activity 10

Listen to the recording and read the following dialogue at the same time. Pay particular attention to the intonation.

Audio content is not available in this format.

<b>Speaker 1:</b>	<b>Vous aimez le poisson ?</b>
<b>Speaker 2:</b>	<b>Assez, oui. J'aime bien le saumon.</b>
<b>Speaker 1:</b>	<b>Et les crustacés, vous aimez aussi ?</b>
<b>Speaker 2:</b>	<b>Ah ça, oui ! J'aime beaucoup, surtout le homard. J'adore le homard !</b>



**Figure 5** Un étalage de fruits de mer

Listen to the recording again, pause the recording and repeat each sentence trying to copy the intonation.

#### Vocabulaire

le saumon *salmon*

les crustacés (m.pl.) *shellfish*

le homard *lobster*

#### Feedback

Check your pronunciation by listening to the recording and reading the dialogue out loud until you are confident.



## 9 This week's quiz

---

Check what you've learned this week by taking the end-of-week quiz.

[Week 1 quiz](#)

Open the quiz in a new window or tab (by holding ctrl [or cmd on a Mac] when you click the link), then return here when you have done it.

## 10 Summary of Week 1

At the end of each week we'll suggest activities you can do to consolidate what you've been learning, before you progress to the next week. Remember that you'll build your language skills little by little and it's very important for you to keep returning to vocabulary and structures you've been learning, as well as adding new ones.

You may have worked through the activities with ease, but how well will you remember the answers and vocabulary in two or three weeks time? Now is the time to get organised and start formalising the way you develop your language skills.

### Building a language notebook

This is something you can develop week by week, which is entirely personal to you. You may find that you want to change the way you go about it as the weeks progress; don't worry if that happens. The important thing is that you find a way to note down, each week, new vocabulary and expressions, and also tips about pronunciation, grammar, culture and communication in general that will support you as you start to learn French.

How will you do this? Whether you keep your notes on paper or digitally, it's important to get organised. Building a language notebook using the template below may help.

**Table 2 Language notebook**

<b>Key phrases</b>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
<b>Pronunciation</b>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
<b>Culture</b>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>
<b>Language</b>	<i>Provide your answer...</i>

The best way to remember new vocabulary and key phrases is to practise. What did you score for the Week 1 Quiz? What did you find difficult? How could you manage better next time? In Week 1, you were introduced to an important point of pronunciation which should help with your listening and speaking skills.

Now you have reached the end of Week 1, reflect a little on what you have learnt. In the box below, note down what you have found easy, useful or fun, and what was more difficult.

#### Week 1 Reflection

What was most useful this week? Why?

*Provide your answer...*

What was most difficult this week? Why?

*Provide your answer...*

How am I going to practise what I learned this week?

*Provide your answer...*



# Week 2: Food - saying what you don't like

## Introduction

---

In Week 1 you discovered some food vocabulary and how to express what you like using *j'aime*, *j'adore*, *je préfère* with the articles *le*, *la*, *l'*, *les*. This week you will find out how to express what you dislike.

Last week you also learned that, in French, you need to distinguish between masculine and feminine forms, and that means that you must learn each word with its gender. This week you'll have the chance to practise this, learn more vocabulary and express your dislikes using a wider range of expressions. Finally, you will discover some French expressions related to food.

Have you got a good dictionary? You might need to refer to one for some of the activities this week, so think about how you plan to look words up when you need to. There are many online dictionaries available, or perhaps you prefer to use a printed version. Either way, find one that suits you and is reliable and accurate.

Last week you started to keep your own language notebook; this week you'll be adding to it. In particular, we suggest you make notes on the grammar you'll be studying and how you're going to memorise vocabulary (we give you some tips). We will also give you advice on how to improve your speaking skills.

# 1 Saying what you dislike

In this section you'll start to learn how to express what you dislike.

## Activity 1

### Part 1

In Week 1 you looked at a note Claudette had made with what her guests like to eat and drink. She has now also included her guests dislikes. Read the note in Figure 1 and identify all the words and phrases which express dislike. Write your answers in the box below.

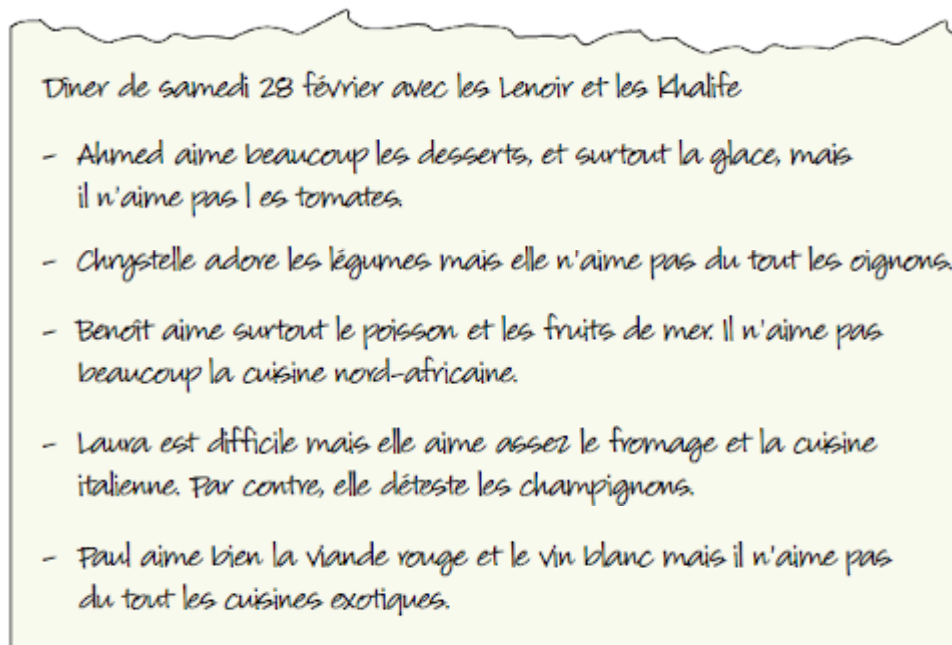


Figure 1 Food likes and dislikes

### Vocabulaire

surtout *in particular*

crudités (f.pl.) *raw vegetables with French dressing (typically grated carrots, beetroot, tomatoes, cucumber)*

aussi *as well*

difficile *fussy*

Provide your answer...

### Feedback

You should have identified:



- Ahmed: n'aime pas
- Chrystelle: n'aime pas du tout
- Benoît: n'aime pas beaucoup
- Laura: déteste
- Paul: n'aime pas du tout.

## Part 2

Now drag and drop the expressions to rank them in order of intensity from 'dislike a little', 'dislike', 'strongly dislike', to 'hate'.

je n'aime pas beaucoup

je n'aime pas

je n'aime pas du tout

je déteste

Match each of the items above to an item below.

Dislike a little

Dislike

strongly dislike

hate

## 2 Fast food in France

In France the word '*fast-food*' can refer to quickly prepared snacks, like burgers and chips, or to the outlets which sell them. Types of '*restauration rapide*' include the '*sandwicherie*' or '*cafétéria*'. While '*les fast-foods*' are increasingly popular in France, particularly with the young, many people disapprove of the food sold in them, describing it as '*la malbouffe*' ('junk food').

Is fast food popular in your country? What are the different attitudes to it?



Figure 2 Fast food

### Activity 2

#### Part 1

We asked six French people if they liked fast food. Listen to the recording and select the right answer.

#### Vocabulaire

J'y vais de temps en temps / I go there from time to time

Audio content is not available in this format.

*Colette*

- ☐ Elle aime.
- ☐ Elle n'aime pas.

*Francis*

- ☐ Il aime.
- ☐ Il n'aime pas.

*Maryse*

- ☐ Elle aime.
- ☐ Elle n'aime pas.

*Philippe*

- ☐ Il aime.
- ☐ Il n'aime pas.

*Pierre*

- ☐ Il aime.
- ☐ Il n'aime pas.

*Lionel*

- ☐ Il aime.
- ☐ Il n'aime pas.

Part 2

Now listen to the recording again and find out who says what. Select the correct phrase from the options given.

Audio content is not available in this format.

*Colette*

- ☐ J'ai horreur des fast-foods.
- ☐ Je déteste les fast-foods.
- ☐ Je n'aime pas les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime assez les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime beaucoup les fast-foods.

*Francis*

- ☐ J'ai horreur des fast-foods.
- ☐ Je déteste les fast-foods.
- ☐ Je n'aime pas les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime assez les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime beaucoup les fast-foods.

*Maryse*

- ☐ J'ai horreur des fast-foods.
- ☐ Je déteste les fast-foods.

- ☐ Je n'aime pas les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime assez les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime beaucoup les fast-foods.

*Philippe*

- ☐ J'ai horreur des fast-foods.
- ☐ Je déteste les fast-foods.
- ☐ Je n'aime pas les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime assez les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime beaucoup les fast-foods.

*Pierre*

- ☐ J'ai horreur des fast-foods.
- ☐ Je déteste les fast-foods.
- ☐ Je n'aime pas les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime assez les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime beaucoup les fast-foods.

*Lionel*

- ☐ J'ai horreur des fast-foods.
- ☐ Je déteste les fast-foods.
- ☐ Je n'aime pas les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime assez les fast-foods.
- ☐ J'aime beaucoup les fast-foods.

## 3 Expressing the negative

Have a go at Activity 3. After, you'll look at how to form the negative in French.

### Activity 3

Look at these three statements from the previous activity:

- Lionel : J'aime beaucoup les fast foods.
- Maryse : Je n'aime pas les fast foods.
- Philippe: J'aime assez les fast-foods.

What is the grammatical clue that tells you that only Maryse doesn't like fast food?

#### Feedback

In Maryse's statement the words '*ne*' and '*pas*' appear on either side of the verb '*aime*'.

To form the negative in French, use *ne* before the verb and *pas* after the verb (*ne* becomes *n'* in front of a verb starting with a vowel sound):

Elle n'aime pas les oignons. *She doesn't like onions.*

Il n'est pas français. *He is not French.*

You can use '*beaucoup*' and '*du tout*' with '*je n'aime pas*' to say how much you dislike something. If you use these words, they go after '*ne ... pas*' in the sentence:

Je n'aime pas du tout la viande. *I don't like meat at all.*

Il n'aime pas beaucoup la cuisine nord-africaine. *He doesn't like North African food very much.*

Note that in informal spoken French, people often omit the *ne*:

Je n'habite pas en France. → J'habite pas en France. *I don't live in France.*

Elle n'aime pas les sardines. → Elle aime pas les sardines. *She does not like sardines.*

To express your dislikes, you can also use the verbs '*détester*' or '*avoir horreur de*':

Elle déteste les champignons. *She hates mushrooms.*

J'ai horreur des fast-foods ! *I can't stand fast food!*

### Activity 4

Answer the following questions in the negative, using whole sentences and *ne/n'... pas*, as shown in the examples.

**For example:**

Il aime beaucoup le poulet ? – Non, il n'aime pas beaucoup le poulet.

Vous adorez la viande ? – Non, je n'adore pas la viande.

---

**Question 1**

Vous détestez les champignons ?

*Provide your answer...*

**Feedback**

Non, je ne déteste pas les champignons.

**Question 2**

Ils préfèrent le poisson ?

*Provide your answer...*

**Feedback**

Non, ils ne préfèrent pas le poisson.

**Question 3**

Tu aimes les huîtres ?

*Provide your answer...*

**Feedback**

Non, je n'aime pas les huîtres.

**Question 4**

Il est végétarien ?

*Provide your answer...*

**Feedback**

Non, il n'est pas végétarien. (He is not vegetarian.)

**Question 5**

Vous aimez la cuisine italienne ?

*Provide your answer...*

**Feedback**

Non, Je n'aime pas la cuisine italienne.

**Question 6**

Le vin est français ?

*Provide your answer...*

**Feedback**

Non, le vin n'est pas français. Il n'est pas français.

## 4 Now it's your turn to speak!

You will now practise what you have learnt so far in Weeks 1 and 2 by saying what you like and dislike.

### Activity 5

Claudette's son, Frédéric, is a very fussy eater (*Il est difficile*). There are many things he won't eat or drink. Listen to the recording and, putting yourself in Frédéric's shoes, answer all the questions in the negative following the prompts you hear.

#### For example:

(You hear) *Tu aimes le café, Fred ?*

(You hear) (Say no, you do not like coffee.)

(You say) *Non, je n'aime pas le café.*

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

### Box 1 Improving your speaking skills

Keep listening out for sounds and imitating them whenever you hear them. Do as much reading out loud as you can: this helps you to memorise language and to become familiar with pronouncing the sounds. Repeat the content as many times as necessary, until you feel confident and comfortable producing the sounds. You can use the transcripts for this purpose, reading out the text while you play the tracks and imitating the speakers' intonation, and the rise and fall in the speakers' voices. Aim for as much exposure to spoken French and as many opportunities to speak as possible.

### Activity 6

Now listen to the recording again while reading the transcript. Remember what you learnt in Week 1: use your intonation when asking questions and imitate the discussion



between Claudette and her son. Try to copy the intonation for each of the questions and answers. Pause the recording as needed to repeat the phrases

Audio content is not available in this format.

#### Feedback

Check your pronunciation by listening again to the recording and repeating the phrases until you feel confident.

## 4.1 Speaking about your likes and dislikes

Now answer some questions about food and drinks based on your own likes and dislikes.

### Activity 7

#### Part 1

First, prepare your own answers to the following questions and note them in your notebook.

- Vous aimez les entrées ?
- Vous aimez le poisson ?
- Et les fruits de mer, Vous aimez ça ?
- Et la viande, vous aimez la viande ?
- Et les légumes ? Vous aimez les légumes ?
- Et les desserts, alors ?

#### Feedback

Here are some possible answers. Of course, your answers will depend on your own likes and dislikes, but you should try to use similar expressions to those in the sample answer.

Vous aimez les entrées ? Ah oui, j'aime beaucoup les entrées surtout les crudités.

Vous aimez le poisson ? Oui, j'aime bien le poisson.

Et les fruits de mer, Vous aimez ça ? Non je n'aime pas beaucoup les fruits de mer et je déteste les huîtres.

Et la viande, vous aimez la viande ? J'adore le rôti de porc.

Et les légumes ? Vous aimez les légumes ? J'aime beaucoup les légumes mais j'ai horreur des épinards.

Et les desserts, alors ? Ça j'adore surtout le gâteau au chocolat.

## Part 2

Now listen to each of the questions and record your own answer.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

Interactive content is not available in this format.

### Feedback

You can do this activity while reading the questions and your answers but when you feel more confident try to answer the questions without looking at your answers.

## 5 Writing about food likes and dislikes

Now you have practised speaking about your likes and dislikes, you will move on to writing about them.

### Activity 8

Claudette would like to invite you to her dinner party. You need to let her know what kinds of food you like and dislike.

#### Part 1

First, look up in your dictionary any words you need that you don't already know, then write them down in your notebook and learn them with their gender *le*, *la*, *l'* or *les*.

#### Discussion

Here is one possible answer.

Les fruits de mer, le poisson, la glace, la truite, la viande rouge, les oignons, les fast-foods

#### Part 2

Using a suitable note form, indicate three things you like and three you dislike, and also how much you like/dislike each one. For example:

- J'aime bien / j'aime assez (✓) J'aime beaucoup (✓✓) J'adore (✓✓✓)
- Je n'aime pas (X) je n'aime pas du tout (XX) Je déteste / j'ai horreur de (XXX).

Provide your answer...

#### Discussion

Here is one possible answer.

- J'aime : fruits de mer (✓✓) ; poisson (!Warning! Segoe UI Symbol not supported✓) ; glace (✓✓✓).
- Je n'aime pas : viande rouge (XX) ; oignons (XXX) ; fast-foods (XXX).

#### Part 3

Now expand these notes into full sentences. Write your answers in the box below:

Provide your answer...

#### Discussion

Here is one possible answer.

- J'aime : fruits de mer (✓✓) ; poisson (✓) ; glace (✓✓✓).
- Je n'aime pas : viande rouge (XX) ; oignons (XXX) ; fast-foods (XXX).

J'aime beaucoup les fruits de mer. J'aime bien aussi le poisson, surtout la truite.  
J'adore la glace. Mais je n'aime pas du tout la viande rouge et je déteste les oignons.  
J'ai horreur des fast foods!

## 6 French culture

Many French people love to entertain and they often invite friends round for a meal. Another opportunity for socialising is the traditional *apéritif*, also referred to as *l'apéro*. *L'apéritif* is a national custom in France. It involves setting aside half an hour or so before a meal to share a drink (usually alcoholic), nibbles (olives, peanuts, savoury snacks, canapés, etc.) and conversation with family, friends, neighbours or colleagues.

*L'apéro* is enjoyed by people of all ages, and forms an important part of home life, public and private celebrations, and café and restaurant culture. The word actually refers to both the drink and the convivial moment before a meal. If you are invited out for *l'apéritif*, don't expect a full meal.



Figure 3 L'apéritif

### Activity 9

Food is a very important part of French culture. As such, there are many French idiomatic expressions referring to food, for example: *J'ai la pêche* (meaning 'I'm on top form', but literally translated to 'I have a peach!'). Below are a few more idiomatic expressions. For each of these well-known French sayings, find the right English equivalent.

C'est pas tes oignons.

- ☐ You're not French
- ☐ It's none of your business.
- ☐ These are not your onions.

Les carottes sont cuites.

- The carrots are cooked.
- You look like a carrot.
- There is nothing that can be done.

Tu racontes des salades.

- You like salad.
- You look green.
- You're telling stories.

C'est du gâteau.

- It's a doddle.
- It's delicious.
- It's a cake.

## 7 This week's quiz

---

Check what you've learned this week by taking the end-of-week quiz.

[Week 2 quiz](#)

Open the quiz in a new window or tab (by holding ctrl [or cmd on a Mac] when you click the link), then return here when you have done it.

## 8 Summary of Week 2

This week, your language notebook will probably contain notes about how to say what you dislike, and you may also have started building up some useful vocabulary with all the new words you've been learning for the different food and drinks. But remember to be a bit selective: you don't need to remember every word you come across, just concentrate on the ones that will be important to you.

Think about the way you might group the words you learn. In your notebook you may prefer to keep verbs (you learned the verbs *aimer* and *préférer* last week), nouns (naming words like *le pain*) and adjectives (like *italienne*, *petit* for example) in separate sections. Or you might have a section for useful phrases (*J'ai horreur des champignons*).

You should now consider how you'll remember vocabulary and find your favorite and most effective way of doing this. It takes practice and repetition to learn a language, and in order to remember vocabulary, French expressions and structures you'll need to revise frequently and regularly.

One good way for you to remember vocabulary is through the listening activities. When you listen, repeat a phrase such as *Je n'aime pas du tout les petits pois*. You are not only remembering the vocabulary but you're also practising the pronunciation, and this is a very good way to build up your vocabulary. By doing the pronunciation activities, you're also adding to your bank of vocabulary and expressions. So, don't just write everything down but record yourself speaking and build your listening skills. You can also improve your intonation by varying your pitch when you imitate the voices of the speakers in the recordings.

Before you move on, take some time to check that your language notebook is up-to-date, and reflect a little on what you've been doing this week.

### Week 2 Reflection

What was most useful this week? Why?

Provide your answer...

What was most difficult this week? Why?

Provide your answer...

How am I going to practise what I learned this week?

Provide your answer...

This OpenLearn course is an adapted extract from the Open University badged course [LXF002 - Beginners French 2: bien sûr!](#).



## Next steps

---

Learning French will take you on a fascinating journey as you learn about the language, and the society and culture of the people who speak it. We hope that you'll continue your French studies with the Open University on our Beginners French courses:

[LXF001 Beginners French 1: eh oui !!](#)

[LXF002 Beginners French 2: Bien sûr!](#)

[LXF003 Beginners French 3: absolument!!](#)

Or continue your learning adventure on OpenLearn with our free courses in our [Language and Cultures Hub](#).

But whatever you decide to do, we wish you *Bonne continuation et bonne chance* !

## Acknowledgements

---

This free course was first published in February 2021.

Except for third party materials and otherwise stated (see [terms and conditions](#)), this content is made available under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 Licence](#).

The material acknowledged below and within the course is Proprietary and used under licence (not subject to Creative Commons Licence). Grateful acknowledgement is made to the following sources for permission to reproduce material in this free course:

### Images

#### Introduction

Course image: Photo by Silvia Trigo from Pexels

#### Week 1

Section 1, Figure 1: GitoTrevisan / iStock / Getty Images Plus

Section 6, Figure 4: Marina113 / iStock Editorial / Getty Images Plus

Section 8, Figure 5: Panama7 / iStock / Getty Images Plus

#### Week 2

Section 2, Figure 2: Rrrainbow / iStock / Getty Images

Section 6, Figure 3: Mathia Coco / iStock / Getty Images Plus

Every effort has been made to contact copyright owners. If any have been inadvertently overlooked, the publishers will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements at the first opportunity.

#### Don't miss out

If reading this text has inspired you to learn more, you may be interested in joining the millions of people who discover our free learning resources and qualifications by visiting The Open University – [www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses](http://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses).