






Key Sounds and Spellings

 accent aigu	The French alphabet has 26 letters, the same as in English. These sound groups should help you with pronouncing the French letters. Remember that accents generally change the way a letter is pronounced.			
 accent grave				
 accent circonflexe	ey sound	eh sound	ah sound	
 tréma	b c d g p t v w	f l m n r s z	a k h	
 cédille	ee sound	oo sound	Halfway between 'box' and 'though'	Halfway between 'up' and 'hurt'
	i j x y	q u	o	e

Key Knowledge and Grammar

Noun	The name of an object, person or place. In French, all nouns are either masculine or feminine .
Adjective	A word that describes an object, person or place. Adjectives in French must agree with the noun they are describing.
Verb	A word that describes an action, how something is or what is happening. When you conjugate a verb in French, you need to use a subject pronoun.
Adverb	A word that adds extra detail to a verb or adjective, e.g. mieux [better], bien [well].
Conjunction	A connecting or linking word, e.g. et [and], mais [but], parce que [because], ou [or].
Preposition	Linking words used for direction, place or time, e.g. à [at/in], en / dans [in], à côté de [next to].

Key Verbs in the Present Tense

je suis	I am	je lis	I read
j'ai	I have	j'écoute	I listen
j'habite	I live	je regarde	I watch
je vais	I go	je joue	I play
je porte	I wear	je mange	I eat
j'écris	I write	j'aime	I like

Key Knowledge and Grammar

- To make things negative in French and say 'not', you use **ne... pas** either side of the verb. Remember that **ne** becomes **n'** before a vowel, e.g. **je n'aime pas** [I don't like], **ce n'est pas...** [it's not...].
- You use **il y a** to say what there is or are, e.g. **il y a** un restaurant [there is a restaurant]. In a negative statement using **il n'y a pas** [there isn't/aren't], the determiner **un / une** is replaced by **de**, e.g. **il n'y a pas de piscine** [there isn't a swimming pool].

Key Knowledge and Grammar

	avoir (to have)	aller (to go)	habiter (to live)
I 1 st person singular	j'ai I have	je vais I have	j'habite I live
you 2 nd person singular	tu as you have	tu vas you go	tu habites you live
he/she/it 3 rd person singular	il / elle a he/she has	il / elle va he/she goes	il / elle habite he/she lives
we 1 st person plural	nous avons we have	nous allons we go	nous habitons we live
you 2 nd person plural	vous avez you have	vous allez you go	vous habitez you live
they 3 rd person plural	ils / elles ont they have	ils / elles vont they go	ils / elles habitent they live

The second person singular of **you** (**tu**) is informal and should only be used to address children, close friends or by an adult to a child. The French use the same word **vous** both for plural **you** and formal **you**. It is very impolite for a younger person to address an adult as **tu** unless they are very close family.

When a noun is plural, we must choose the correct form of the verb. For all-male groups, use **ils**; all-female groups use **elles**; a mixture of male/female or masculine/feminine takes **ils**.

Key Knowledge and Grammar

To talk about the near future and say what you are going to do in French, you use **je vais** (I am going) followed by another verb in the infinitive, e.g. **je vais recycler** (I am going to recycle).

To talk about things that you would like to do in the future, use **je voudrais** (I would like) followed by a verb in the infinitive, e.g. **je voudrais ramasser les déchets**. (I would like to pick up the rubbish.).

To say where you went in the past use **je suis allé(e)**, e.g. **je suis allé(e)** au zoo [I went to the zoo]. The word **allé** is called a **past participle** and it has to agree with the subject. So a boy will write **je suis allé** whereas a girl will write **je suis allée**.



Key Language in Context

Quelle est la date ? What's the date?

Hier, c'était
mardi, treize
décembre.

Yesterday
was Tuesday
13th December.

Aujourd'hui,
c'est mercredi,
quatorze décembre.

Today is
Wednesday
14th December.

Demain, ce
sera jeudi,
quinze décembre.

Tomorrow will
be Thursday
15th December.