

French CONVERSATION MADE NATURAL

Engaging Dialogues to Learn French

Language Guru

FIRST EDITION

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INTRODUCTION

We all know that immersion is the tried and true way to learn a foreign language. After all, it's how we got so good at our first language. The problem is, it's extremely difficult to recreate the same circumstances when we are learning our second language. We come to rely so much on our native language for everything, and it's hard to make enough time to learn the second one.

We aren't surrounded by the foreign language in our home countries. More often than not, our families can't speak this new language we want to learn. Plus, many of us have stressful jobs or classes to attend. Immersion can seem like an impossibility.

What we can do, however, is to gradually work our way up to immersion, no matter where we are in the world. The way we can do this is through extensive reading and listening. If you have ever taken a foreign language class, chances are you are familiar with intensive reading and listening. In intensive reading and listening, a small amount of text or a short audio recording is broken down line by line, and every new word is looked up in the dictionary.

Extensive reading and listening, on the other hand, is quite the opposite. You read a large number of pages or listen to hours and hours of the foreign language without worrying about understanding everything. You look up as few words as possible and try to get through material from

start to finish as quickly as you can. If you ask the most successful language learners, you'll find that the best results are delivered not by intensive reading and listening but, rather, by extensive reading and listening. Volume is exponentially more effective than total comprehension and memorization.

If you cannot understand native French speakers, it is precisely because of a lack of volume. You simply have not read or listened enough to be able to instantly understand people like you can in your native language. This is why it's so important to invest as much time as possible into immersing yourself in native French every single day.

To be able to read extensively, you must practice reading in the foreign language for hours every single day. It takes a massive volume of text before your brain stops intensively reading and shifts into extensive reading. Until that point, be prepared to look up quite a few words in the dictionary.

This book provides a few short French-language dialogues that you can use to practice extensive reading. These conversations were written and edited by native French speakers. They use 100 percent real French as used by native French speakers every single day.

We hope these dialogues help build confidence in your overall reading comprehension skills and encourage you to read more native material. We also hope that you enjoy the book and that it brings you a few steps closer to extensive reading and fluency!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

To better simulate extensive reading, we recommend keeping things simple and using the dialogues in the following manner:

1. Read each conversation just once and no more.
2. Whenever you encounter a word you don't know, first try to guess its meaning by using the surrounding context before going to the dictionary.
3. After completing the reading for each chapter, test your understanding of the dialogue by answering the comprehension questions. Check your answers using the answer key located at the end of the book.

We also recommend that you read each conversation silently. While reading aloud can be somewhat beneficial for pronunciation and intonation, it's a practice aligned more with intensive reading. It will further slow down your reading pace and make it considerably more difficult for you to get into extensive reading. If you want to work on pronunciation and intonation, a better option would be to speak to a tutor in the foreign language so that you can practice what you have learned.

Memorization of any kind is completely unnecessary. Attempting to forcibly push new information into your brain only serves to eat up your time and make it that much

more frustrating when you can't recall the information in the future. The actual language acquisition process occurs subconsciously, and any effort to memorize new vocabulary and grammar structures will store this information only in your short-term memory.

If you wish to review new information that you have learned from the dialogues, several other options would be wiser. Spaced Repetition Systems (SRS) allow you to cut down on your review time by setting specific intervals in which you are tested on information to promote long-term memory storage. Anki and the Goldlist Method are two popular SRS choices that give you the ability to review whatever information you'd like from whatever material you'd like.

Trying to actively review everything you learned through these conversational dialogues will slow you down on your overall path to fluency. While there may be an assortment of things you want to practice and review, the best way to go about internalizing new vocabulary and grammar is to forget it! If it's that important, it will come up through more reading and listening to other sources of French. Languages are more effectively acquired when we allow ourselves to read and listen to them naturally.

With that, it is time to get started with our main character Jules and his story told through 29 dialogues. Good luck, reader!

CHAPITRE 1 : CHANGER DE FILIÈRE

(Jules s'est rendu au service d'information et d'orientation universitaire afin de changer de filière.)

Jules : Je ne sais pas vraiment quel métier choisir.

Conseiller : Et c'est tout à fait normal. Nous sommes nombreux à chercher notre vocation.

Jules : Et bien, je peux vous dire que, dans mon cas, ce n'est certainement pas la chimie. J'avais de très bonnes notes dans cette matière au lycée, mais je ne pense pas pouvoir travailler dans ce domaine toute ma vie.

Conseiller : J'aimerais pouvoir vous aider à identifier votre véritable passion. Si je le pouvais, ce serait beaucoup plus facile pour vous de choisir votre filière et votre carrière, n'est-ce pas ?

Jules : Vous avez vraiment besoin d'une boule de cristal sur votre bureau !

Conseiller : Oui, ce serait pratique, n'est-ce pas ? Je pourrais également venir au travail, vêtu d'une robe et d'un chapeau de sorcier.

Jules : Absolument. Pour le moment, je pense que je vais changer de filière pour étudier l'histoire, et faire un petit travail d'introspection.

Conseiller : C'est très bien. Les études universitaires constituent le moment idéal pour faire ce travail.

Questions de compréhension

1. Quelle était la filière initiale de Jules, avant qu'il décide d'en changer ?

A. Histoire

B. Chimie

C. Conseiller

D. Sorcier

2. Quelle filière Jules a-t-il choisie ?

A. Chimie

B. Conseiller

C. Sorcellerie

D. Histoire

3. Lorsqu'une personne effectue un " travail d'introspection ", que fait-elle réellement ?

A. Elle a perdu son âme et elle la cherche.

B. Elle cherche son âme sœur.

C. Elle prend le temps d'analyser ses émotions et ses motivations.

D. Elle chasse les fantômes.

English Translation

(Jules has come to the University Information and Guidance Service to change his field of study.)

Jules: I'm just not sure what line of work to choose.

Counselor: And that's perfectly normal. Many of us are seeking our calling.

Jules: Well, I can tell you that, in my case, it's certainly not chemistry. I had very good grades for it in high school, but I just don't think I can work in that field for the rest of my life.

Counselor: I wish I could help you identify your true passion. If I could, it would make it a lot easier for you to choose your major and your career, wouldn't it?

Jules: You really need a crystal ball at your desk.

Counselor: Yes, that would come in handy, wouldn't it? I could also come to work wearing a wizard's robe and hat.

Jules: Definitely. For now, I think I'll switch my major to history and do a little soul searching.

Counselor: That's great. University is the perfect time to do that.

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CHAPITRE 2 :

SESSION DE JEUX VIDEO

(Jules se rend chez son meilleur ami Lucas, pour passer du temps avec lui, et jouer à des jeux vidéo.)

Lucas : Pff! Je suis encore mort. Ce niveau est vraiment trop difficile mon pote.

Jules : Écoute, on doit jouer collectivement. On n'arrivera jamais à battre ce boss en jouant individuellement.

Lucas : Nos personnages sont comme l'eau et l'huile. Ils ne se mélangent pas.

Jules : Et si je le distrayais pendant que tu lui fais le plus de dégâts possible ? Lorsqu'il commencera à te cibler, on changera de place.

Lucas : Un peu comme le jeu du chat et de la souris ?

Jules : Oui, mais dans ce cas précis, il y a deux souris. Et elles sont armées.

Lucas : Essayons.

(Ils reprennent leur partie.)

Lucas : Hé, nous avons réussi.

Jules : Youpi !

Lucas : Je n'arrive pas à croire que ça ait vraiment marché. C'était génial ! Yo, on devrait aller s'acheter quelque chose à manger pour fêter ça.

Jules : D'accord. Allons-y.

Questions de compréhension

1. Quelles sont les deux substances qui ne se mélangent pas bien ?

A. L'huile et l'eau

B. Le sel et l'eau

C. Le sucre et l'eau

D. Le feu et l'eau

2. Comment les garçons ont-ils vaincu le boss dans le jeu ?

A. Ils sont allés manger quelque chose pour fêter ça.

B. Ils ont joué collectivement.

C. Ils ont joué individuellement.

D. Ils ont acheté des armes plus puissantes.

3. Comment Jules et Lucas ont-ils fêté leur victoire ?