Introducing yourself
Lesson 01
Level: beginner.
• introducing yourself
• saying where you live
• saying what you do

Hello, and welcome to our series of French classes entitled Learn French by Podcast. My name is Hugh Nagle and here with me is Amélie Verdier. Bonjour, Amélie!

Bonjour!

This first podcast is a very simple one. Amélie is going to introduce herself very briefly. In general, we’ll hear what Amélie has to say 3 times. Then we’ll come back and look more closely at some key points. Ok, Amélie, we’re ready!


Ok. And the 2nd time…

Je m’appelle Amélie […]

And the 3rd time…

Je m’appelle Amélie […]

Ok. Let’s look at the first thing you said: “Je m’appelle Amélie.” Many people will already know this expression. Let’s make just one point about pronunciation – and this applies generally in French – we have je m’appelle. That is, there’s a slight stress on the final syllable.

Ok. Now remember that if you are not sure about the verb appeler – or any other vocabulary in these podcasts – you’ll find it all in our accompanying PDF Guides, downloadable from our website at learnfrenchbypodcast.com.


J’habite. That’s the verb …

habiter

This verb verb starts with the letter “h”: “h-a-b-i-t-e-r”. Listen to the pronunciation of these next examples: Anne lives in Sidney.

Anne habite à Sidney.

Paul lives in Bangkok.

Paul habite à Bangkok.

We cannot hear that “h”. Remember: if a French word begins with “h”, it will be absolutely silent. This “h” is known as a “mute h’. Some other words which begin with this mute “h” are the word “owl”…

un hibou

the verb “to chop”…

hacher

The verb “to boo”…

huer

Ok. And the 2nd time…

Je m’appelle Amélie […]

And the 3rd time…

Je m’appelle Amélie […]

Remember!

“mute h”

The “h” at the start of words like…

• en hiver [winter]
• La Hongrie [Hungary]
• l’homéopathie [homeopathy]
• l’honnête [honest]

… is described as “mute” because it is not pronounced.
Dialogue

“Huer” – that’s an interesting verb. Now, just to see that verb “in action”, so to speak, how would we say “The crowd is booing”?…

La foule huer.

One more time?…

La foule huer.

Ok. So let’s remember not to pronounce that “h muet” – the silent “h”.

Now there’s another point: once again, when you told us where you live, you said:

J’habite à Paris.

If you lived in Toronto, you would say…

J’habite à Toronto.

And, in the case of Shanghai, it would be…

J’habite à Shanghai.

We can see that, in the case of city names, we simply put “à” in front.

• J’habite à Londres
• J’habite à Tokyo
• J’habite à Varsovie.

In the case of countries, things are a little bit more complicated. Amélie, which country do you live in?

J’habite en France.

How about your uncle?

Il habite en Allemagne.

And your friend, Maria?…

Elle est Espagnole; elle habite en Espagne.

How about George Bush?!…

Le Président américain?! Bien sûr, il habite aux États-Unis.

Let’s hear that once more… George Bush, où habite-t-il?

Il habite aux États-Unis.

You can see that “in” has several versions in French: “en France”, “en Allemagne”, “en Espagne” but “aux États-Unis”. For now, let’s just remember these countries.
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Now, finally, you told us about your job. You said…
Je suis professeur d’anglais.

An English teacher. If you were an engineer, you would say…
Je suis ingénieur.

Or a florist…
Je suis fleuriste.

Or a doctor…
Je suis docteur.

In English, we say “I am a teacher”, “He is an engineer”, and so on. In French, though, there is no indefinite article. It’s just simply, “Je suis…”, followed by the profession. “Je suis mécanicien”, “je suis comptable”, and so on.

Amélie, we’ve covered quite a few points in this first lesson. Until next time!…
A la prochaine!

If you understood our lesson, then you should be ready for the following…

1. My name is Stefan.
3. She lives in Berlin.
4. They boo! [In this case, imagine you’re referring to supporters at a football match.*]
4. He is an accountant.
5. They are engineers. [In this case, imagine you’re referring to your aunt and uncle.]
6. They are teachers. [In this case, imagine you’re referring to your two sisters.*]

(*see “Ils or elles…” on the right)

See the answers at http://www.learnfrenchbypodcast.com/FTEW_pages/answers.htm

Remember!
When talking about professions, trades, etc, there is no indefinite article (un, une):
Je suis architecte (= I am an architect.)

‘Ils’ or ‘elles’?
Which pronoun should we use for “they”…?
There are two words (pronouns) for “they” in French – “ils” and “elles”. These are the masculine and feminine plural pronouns, respectively. When we’re talking about more than 1 person, we must use the masculine plural pronoun if any person in the group is male. (“Elles”, on the other hand is used when talking about more than 1 person, all of whom are female.)

Vocab extra!
• À la prochaine! Until next time!
• Allemagne Germany
• Angleterre England
• Bien sûr! Certainly!
• Comptable (an) accountant
• Espagnol (adj.) Spanish
• Foule (f) crowd
• Mécanicien (a) mechanic
• Varsovie Warsaw