

**THE FRENCH LANGUAGE WITH OR  
WITHOUT A TEACHER. PART II:  
CONVERSATION, EXTRACTS FROM  
STANDARD AUTHORS,  
ANECDOTES, PROVERBS, ETC., ETC.**

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The French Language with Or Without a Teacher. Part II: Conversation, Extracts from Standard Authors, Anecdotes, Proverbs, etc., etc. by Alfred Sardou

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## PART II.

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**Conversation, Extracts from Standard Authors,  
Anecdotes, Proverbs, etc., etc.**

## PART II.

### PREMIÈRE CONVERSATION.

*Fruh-meeäyr Kong-väyr-sah-seeong.*

Remember that all final consonants in the English pronunciation given are to be sounded, except *g*, used to designate the nasal sound, and *h*. Remember also that you must lay stress on the end of words and sentences, and not on the beginning. The small arch ( *∩* ) denotes the joining of words.)

1. Parlez-vous (1) français ?  
*Pahr-lay-too frahng-säy ?*
2. Un peu ; très peu.  
*Ung puh ; trây puh.*
3. Que savez-vous ?  
*Kuh sah-vay-too ?*
4. Je sais (2) dire, par\_exemple :  
*Zjuh say deer, pahr-ây-gzahng-pl :*
5. Vous parlez trop vite.  
*Voo pahr-lay tro vest.*
6. Et puis ?  
*Ay plée ?*
7. Voulez-vous passer le sel ?  
*Voo-lay-too pah-say luh säyl ?*
8. L' (3) eau et le vin.  
*Lo ay luh vang.*
9. Un verre et une (4) fourchette.  
*Ung väyr ay ün foer-shäyt.*
10. La crème et les (5) radis.  
*Lah crâyin ay idy rah-dee.*

PART II.

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FIRST CONVERSATION.

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1. Do you speak French ?  
Lit: Speak you French ?
2. A little; very little.
3. What do you know ?  
Lit: What know you ?
4. I can say, for instance:  
Lit: I know to-say, etc.
5. You speak too fast.
6. And what else ?  
Lit: And afterwards ?
7. Will you pass the salt ?  
Lit: Will you to-pass ?
8. The water and (the) wine.
9. A glass and a fork.
10. The cream and (the) radishes.



11. Le couteau et la cuiller.  
*Luh coo-tô ay lah kôlee-ceed'yr.*
12. Excellent; vous êtes fort habile.  
*Ây-ksây-lahng; voo-zed'yt for-tah-beel.*

## NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

(1) The interrogative form is usually formed in French by placing the pronoun subject after the verb; an hyphen is put between them. See also Part III.

(2) Present indicative of *savoir* (*sa-voahr*), to know. This verb must be used instead of *pouvoir* (*poo-voahr*), can, to be able, when *can* means to know how, to have learned. *Elle sait lire et écrire* (*ayl say leer ay ay kreeer*), she can (knows how to) read and write; *elle peut* (*puh*) *lire et écrire*, means: she can (is able to) read and write, in spite, for instance, of her sore eyes, of her sore finger, or hand.

## DEUXIÈME CONVERSATION.

*Duh-zeeed'ym Kong-vây'r-sah-seeong.*

1. Voudriez-vous répéter la leçon d' (1) hier?  
*Voo-dreeay-too ray-pay-tay lah luh-song dee-ây'r ?*
2. Certainement; avec plaisir.  
*Sây'r-tâym-mahng; ah-vâyk plây-zeer.*
3. Quelle heure (2) est-il?  
*Kây'l- uhr ây-teel ?*
4. Il est dix heures précises (3).  
*Eel-ây dee-zuhr pray-seez.*
5. Il est midi.  
*Eel-ây mee-dee.*
6. Il est onze heures vingt.  
*Eel-ây tong-zuhr vang.*
7. Il est six heures et demie (4).  
*Eel-ây see-zuhr ay duh-mee (edd-me).*
8. Cela est bien dit, Madame.  
*Slah ây beeang dee, Mah-dahm.*

11. The knife and (the) spoon.
12. Excellent; you are very clever.

(3) *L'* abbreviation of *le* (used before masculine nouns in the sing.) and *la* (before feminine nouns in the sing.), is used before a vowel or a silent *h*. The article must be repeated in French before every noun. There is no neuter gender in French; therefore, inanimate objects are classified, like persons, as masculine or feminine.

(4) Feminine of *un*.

(5) *Les* is used before all plural nouns. The plural of French nouns and adjectives is generally formed by adding *s* to the singular. For exceptions, see Part III.

## SECOND CONVERSATION.

1. Would you like to repeat yesterday's lesson?  
Lit: Would-like you to-repeat the lesson of yesterday?
2. Certainly; with pleasure.
3. What o'clock is it?  
Lit: What hour is it?
4. It is ten o'clock precisely.  
Lit: It is ten hours precisely.
5. It is noon (midday).
6. It is twenty minutes past eleven.  
Lit: It is eleven hours twenty.
7. It is half-past six.  
Lit: It is six hours and half.
8. That is well said, Madam.

9. Il est sept heures moins un quart.  
*El-ây sây-tuhr moang-zung kahr.*
10. Parlons (5) de la toilette.  
*Pahr-long duh lah toah-lây.*
11. La chemise; le col; les boutons.  
*Lah shmeez; luh kol; lây boo-tong.*
12. La robe; le corsage; les manches.  
*Lah rob; luh kor-sahzj; lây mahng-sh.*
13. Excellent, continuez.  
*Ay-kady-lahng kong-tee-nây.*
14. La ceinture; sa taille; son (6) corset.  
*Lah sang-târ; sah tah-êê; song kor-sây.*
15. Très bien; allons dîner maintenant.  
*Trây beang; ah-long dêe-nay mang-tnahng.*

## NOTES AND EXPLANATIONS.

- (1) *d'* instead of *de* before a vowel or silent *h*.
- (2) *Quelle*, is written here with the feminine ending *e*, because *heure* which it qualifies, is a feminine noun. See Part III.
- (3) *précises*, feminine plural of the adjective *précis*, which agrees in gender and number with the feminine plural noun *heures*, which it qualifies.
- (4) *demi* is an adjective and agrees with the noun it qualifies.

## TROISIÈME CONVERSATION.

*Troah-zeeâyim Kong-vâyr-sah-seeong.*

1. Voulez-vous me (1) donner une tasse de café?  
*Voo-lay-voo muh do-nay ûn tahs duh kah-fay?*
2. Préférez-vous du (2) chocolat?  
*Pray-fay-ray-voo dû sho-ko-lah?*
3. Apportez du lait et une tasse à (3) thé.  
*Ah-por-tay dû lây ay ûn tahs ah tay.*
4. Désirez-vous de la crème? elle(4)est très bonne(5).  
*Day-zee-ray-voo duh lah krâyim? âyl-ây tray bon.*