



Coffee Break French

SAMPLE LESSON GUIDE

Radio Lingua Ltd

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Introduction

Welcome to Season 3 of Coffee Break French. This season is aimed at intermediate learners who have already completed seasons 1 and 2 of our course.

The lessons of Season 3 will continue to present the French language in an engaging way, allowing learners to develop their confidence in the vocabulary, expressions and structures of French through examples written by native speakers.

These lesson notes accompany the audio lessons and focus on the language presented in both the 'public' version of the audio episode and the version for members.

SEASON 3 CONTEXT

The lessons of Season 3 will focus on a series of texts written by our characters Katie, Alf and Veronica, three students who are attending an eight-week French course in a language school in Nice in the south of France. The characters have been asked by their teacher, Mme Soulabaille, to keep a diary of their experiences. These texts will be used as the basis of the learning material for the majority of this season.

Katie

Katie is a young American student from Vermont who is travelling around Europe and is currently spending some time in Nice. It's the first time Katie has been away from home, but she is enjoying her travels and taking advantage of every opportunity to experience new cultures and languages.

Alf

Alf is a retired teacher from England who is renovating a house which he and his wife have bought near Nice. Alf's wife will join him in France towards the end of his course. He learned French at school but is a bit rusty, so is taking the chance to improve his language skills by attending the class in Nice.

Veronica

Veronica is an Australian business woman who runs property development websites. She is looking for a house on the Riviera on behalf of one of her clients.

Lesson 1 Notes

In this lesson we are introduced to the three characters with the first part of their first text. We've provided the transcript of each paragraph of the texts below, followed by language notes and vocabulary.

TEXT: KATIE

Bonjour tout le monde. Je m'appelle Katie et je suis étudiante américaine. Je passe deux mois ici à Nice où je fais un cours de français dans une école de langues. J'apprends le français depuis deux ans, et j'espère améliorer mon français ici.

je passe deux mois ici à Nice

Note the use of the verb **passer** to mean “to spend time”. In English “to pass the time” tends to suggest that you have nothing else to do. However **passer du temps** in French means simply “to spend time”, eg. **j'ai passé le week-end à Dublin**, “I spent the weekend in Dublin”.

un cours de français

A French course.

j'apprends le français depuis deux ans

“I have been learning French for two years”. Remember that you use the present tense with **depuis** if you want to say that you have been doing something for a certain length of time.

j'espère améliorer mon français ici

“I hope to improve my French here”. The word **améliorer** means “to improve”, or “to get better at”. Note that **espérer** (“to hope”) is immediately followed by the infinitive, without a preposition.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS LESSON GUIDE IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY