

Unit 1: Connaissons la France ! (Let us know France!)

Introduction

In this unit, we explore the country of France — its national festival, important monuments, geography, food, fashion, and language. Through this lesson, you'll build basic vocabulary, cultural knowledge, and confidence in understanding French.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Say what France's national festival is and when it is celebrated.
- Recognize French cities, monuments, rivers, and mountains.
- List French-speaking (Francophone) countries.
- Identify famous French products like cheeses and wines.
- Learn key French vocabulary words and their meanings

About France

- **Capital:** Paris – also called la Ville Lumière (The City of Light).
- **National Day:** 14 July (*le 14 juillet*) – celebrated with *des défilés* (parades) on the Champs-Élysées.
- **National Anthem:** *La Marseillaise*

Famous Monuments

- Tour Eiffel (Eiffel Tower)
- Notre-Dame
- Le Louvre
- Le Sacré-Cœur
- Le Panthéon

- Les Invalides
- L'Arc de Triomphe



French Culture: Wine, Cheese & Fashion

- **Famous Cheeses:** camembert, brie, reblochon, roquefort
- **Famous Wines:** bordeaux, beaujolais, champagne
- **Famous Designers** (*Les couturiers*): Chanel, Dior, Yves Saint Laurent
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Currency

- France uses the **euro** (€), the currency of the European Union.



Geography

- **Mountains:** Les Pyrénées, Les Alpes, Le Jura, Les Vosges
- **Rivers** (*Les fleuves*): La Seine, La Loire, La Garonne, Le Rhône, Le Rhin
 - *La Loire* is the longest river in France.
- **Cities** (*Les villes*): Paris, Marseille, Lyon, Nice



French & Francophone World

- **Francophone Countries** (*Les pays francophones*): Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Canada
- **Neighbouring Countries** (*Les pays voisins*): Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Italy, Switzerland, Spain

Did You Know?

- Paris is called *la Ville Lumière* because it was a center of education and ideas during the Age of Enlightenment.
- France is the most visited country in the world!

Lesson Sentences & Translations

 **La fête nationale de la France est le 14 juillet.**

The national day of France is 14th of July

 **Il y a des défilés sur les Champs-Élysées, la plus grande avenue de Paris.**

There are parades on the Champs-Élysées, the biggest avenue in Paris.

 **La capitale de la France est Paris.**

The capital of France is Paris.

 **Cette ville s'appelle aussi la Ville Lumière.**

This city is also called the City of Light.

 **Il y a beaucoup de monuments à Paris comme la tour Eiffel, Notre Dame, le Louvre, le Sacré-Cœur, le Panthéon, les Invalides et l'Arc de Triomphe.**

There are many monuments in Paris like the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Louvre, the Sacré-Cœur, the Pantheon, the Invalides, and the Arc de Triomphe.

 **L'hymne national de la France est la Marseillaise.**

The national anthem of France is Marseillaise.

 **La monnaie unique européenne est l'euro.**

The single European currency is the euro.

 **Le camembert, le brie, le reblochon et le roquefort sont des fromages français connus.**

Camembert, Brie, Reblochon, and Roquefort are well-known French cheeses.

 **Le bordeaux, le beaujolais, le champagne sont des vins français très connus.**

Bordeaux, Beaujolais, and Champagne are very famous French wines.

 **La Belgique, la Suisse, le Luxembourg, le Canada sont des pays francophones.**

Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and Canada are French-speaking countries.

 **La France est entourée de six pays.**

France is surrounded by six countries.

 **Les pays voisins de la France sont la Belgique, l'Allemagne, le Luxembourg, l'Italie, la Suisse et l'Espagne.**

France's neighbouring countries are Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Italy, Switzerland, and Spain.

 **Paris, Marseille, Nice, Lyon sont des villes françaises.**

Paris, Marseille, Nice, and Lyon are French cities.

 **Les Pyrénées, les Alpes, le Jura et les Vosges sont des montagnes françaises.**

The Pyrenees, the Alps, the Jura, and the Vosges are French mountains.

 **La Seine, la Loire, la Garonne, le Rhône et le Rhin sont des fleuves français.**

The Seine, the Loire, the Garonne, the Rhône, and the Rhine are French rivers.

 **La Loire est le fleuve le plus long.**

The Loire is the longest river.

 **Le Chanel, le Dior, le Yves Saint-Laurent sont des couturiers français connus.**

Chanel, Dior, and Yves Saint-Laurent are well-known French fashion designers.



Vocabulary List

défilé	parade
la plus grande	biggest
aussi	also
la Ville Lumière	City of Light
beaucoup	a lot
comme	like/as
l'hymne national	national anthem
la monnaie	currency
le fromage	cheese
le vin	wine
les pays	countries
les pays voisins	neighboring countries
entourée	surrounded
la ville	city
la montagne	mountain
le fleuve	river
le plus long	longest
les couturiers	fashion designers



Grammar & Culture Notes

◆ Use of articles (le, la, les): In French, nouns always have an article. For example, 'la France', 'le fromage'.

◆ Capitalization: Names of people and places are capitalized. Days and months are not (e.g., lundi, janvier).

◆ The circumflex accent (^) often shows a missing 's' from old French: forêt ← forest.

◆ Francophone countries: Countries where French is spoken as an official or common language.

◆ France is rich in cultural symbols like wines, cheeses, monuments, and designers.