

Beginners' French: in at the deep end

Start date 02 September 2016 **End date** 04 September 2016

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Francine Rouanet-
Démocrate **Course code** 1617NRX001

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Francine has over 35 years' experience of teaching languages, using cultural references to bring life and meaning to the learning process. Francine, was until 2008, the Director of the local world renowned non-profit organisation, the *Alliance Française de Cambridge*, consisting of over 30 language and cultural professionals reporting to a committee of trustees.

Francine's life work was recognised in the 1999 by the French Government. She received the award of 'Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques' (similar to MBE) in acknowledgement of her efforts to forge links between France and the United Kingdom.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Presentations. Ice-breakers and “guessing games” to discover how similar the English and the French languages are. Assessing the participants’ aptitudes and existing skills.
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	How the language works: a series of activities introducing basic grammatical structures and useful vocabulary to encourage people to communicate around <u>Topic 1</u> : people: physical appearance / likes and dislikes / family / jobs and hobbies (oral comprehension + oral expression).
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	<u>Topic 2</u> : close environment: house / accommodation / hotel / food / (oral comprehension + oral expression + basic reading comprehension)
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	<u>Topic 3</u> : Thorough preparation of the vocabulary prior to watching the evening film. Presentation of the characters, the relationships, the dialogues and the surroundings.
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Film: “ <i>Fanny</i> ” by Daniel Auteuil remake of Marcel Pagnol’s film. (with French subtitles)
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	<u>Topic 4</u> : travelling to France / discovery of a few regions + Paris / useful vocabulary for situation in shops and restaurants (using direct interactive method as above through word games & role-play)
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Revision of the course – Quiz – Assessment – Person Presentations (optional) and Conclusion
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Aims:

- Show the participants that no matter how limited their knowledge of French is, it is possible to enjoy being surrounded by the language for a whole weekend and communicate with a native French speaker.
- Give them an insight into the similarities between French and English. Learn a few useful sounds and mechanisms to facilitate their oral comprehension and expression.
- Acquire rapidly basic vocabulary, grammatical structures and strategies to make themselves understood.
- Set up role-play exercises to enable them to survive in everyday situations likely to take place on a visit to France.

Content:

This course is aimed at participants with very limited or rusty French (A1, possibly A2, weak oral expression). The initial step will be to assess people's existing knowledge and their aptitude at language learning. Through "accelerated learning" techniques they will acquire the necessary skills to introduce themselves, spell out their name and address, express their likes and dislikes, understand numbers (prices/ measures/ dates and time), ask for and understand directions given to them, solve minor problems. They will either be able to refresh or learn basic vocabulary related to people, food or travel (useful on a short visit to France).

They will be shown how the language works and learn strategies to create their own French.

After a few hours the participants should begin to understand and feel safe in the new language.

Understanding comes first but once enough confidence has been gained they should be ready to speak a little. There will be lots of activities to guide them: games, exercises & drills supported by visual and audio material.

Presentation of the course:

The method is essentially based on a direct, communicative approach. The main objective will be to develop oral comprehension and expression around various topics. There will be limited written work but some reading will be included. The presentation of new topics will be essentially visual and the activities will be practical, creative and include mime, drawing, role-play etc...

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Feel at ease in a French speaking environment.
- Realise that one doesn't need to understand every word to actually understand what is going on.
- Be confident to communicate in everyday life situations.
- Have a better understanding of how French language works.
- Learn a few strategies enabling them to "create" some French on their own.

Reading and resources list

Website addresses

Recommendation: Hear as much French as possible (radio in the background / internet/ TV / DVDs etc...)

www.europe1.fr

www.tv5mmonde.org

or any French films on DVD with French or subtitles

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 13 April 2016