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Une Semaine À Paimpol

Audio Novel & Travel Tips

- SAMPLE -

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Introduction

Many people enjoy France and its language. They have studied French, know the rules of grammar, speak French more or less fluently, and are eager to find good materials to help them improve their conversation and understanding skills.

Unfortunately, if there are a lot of books/ movies available for advanced levels, these tools are too difficult for the beginner and intermediate students, and often end up being more discouraging than helpful.

So I've decided to write this audiobook series. In these realistic and lively dialogues, you'll join Thomas and Angela on their trips to France. You'll learn a ton of helpful, daily, up-to-date vocabulary, learn about France's culture and prepare for likely conversations and situations, as you are discovering a specific region of France.

The style of writing is rather straightforward: I use simple sentence constructions, focus on everyday vocabulary and expressions, favor dialogues and simple tenses, so that the story is reachable – yet entertaining and interesting – to any level of French speaker. Since the story is entirely translated into English, you can easily peek at the translation whenever you need help.

I recorded this audio novel at two different speeds – a slower speed so you can repeat after me or really focus on particular words, and a faster street French speed to prepare you to understand French natives when they speak.

The Question and Answer section that follows each chapter allows you to test your understanding as well as practice your question answering skills.

The amount of work you will put into this book is up to you: you can just listen to the story and have fun along the way, or make a point to memorize all the vocabulary and expressions and really improve your French.

Good luck with your French studies, and remember, repetition is the key!

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How to work with this audiobook

1. The Story

Each chapter of the story is recorded twice:

1. At an almost natural speed but still well enunciated so you can really hear all the French sounds
2. Then at a "street French" speed, respecting the modern glided pronunciation of spoken French, for you to practice on understanding French people when they speak among themselves.

You can either just listen to this audiobook linearly like an audio novel or, if you want, you can use it as study partner. In that case, this is how I recommend you study with it:

1. LISTEN to the recording of the story part. Can you guess what is happening? Stay focused on the context and the storyline. So you didn't understand one word? The worse that can happen is for your brain to freeze - and then you'd miss the rest of the story. What you don't know, you can usually guess: guessing what is logically happening in a given context is very important in language learning. It's essential that you develop this ability in French and force your brain to go with the flow of the story or conversation.
2. If you need to, read the English translation, then read the French at the same time as the recording is playing. Note the glidings, liaisons, intonation and word groupings that happen. Write them down on the print out of this PDF to help you read the story better.
3. REPEAT OUT LOUD - first sentence by sentence with the slower recording, then longer dialogues. You will probably need to use the pause and play buttons. Try to mimic the sing-song and modulation of my voice as if you were an actor: pay close attention to the glidings, the elisions and liaisons, and also to the word grouping: where I pause and breathe within the sentence. Repeat as many times as necessary for you to be able to read comfortably. Once you can read the slower recording with ease, you may want to try reading like I do on the "street French" version, or not! It's up to you to decide if you want to stick with a more "academic" French, or if you want to speak with the modern glidings.
4. Create your own flash cards with the vocabulary and expressions you want to memorize and test your memory.

2. The Questions And Answers

This section is designed to entice you to speak out-loud, and practice what you've learned. I tried to ask pretty straightforward questions, but your answer may vary a bit from mine, and still be correct.

The Questions and Answers are also a great section to train on your pronunciation, since the sentences are quite short. Repeat out loud, or say the sentence before I do and compare your pronunciation to mine. If you want to work on your written French, you can use the audio as a dictation. Play with the pause button as needed so you have time to write the sentences down.

I encourage you to really work with this section, and often repeat these exercises. Understanding questions fast and having the courage to answer them out loud is the key to any successful interaction in French.

Chapitre 13

Une Journée à Bréhat

A Day in Bréhat



Story

La veille, ils ont passé toute l'après-midi à la plage, puis sont allés à la pharmacie acheter de quoi nettoyer la petite blessure de Laura. Comme elle a été très courageuse, Angéla l'a amenée prendre une glace pendant que Thomas prenait des photos des bateaux sur le port. Enfin, le soir, ils sont allés dîner et se sont couchés tôt car aujourd'hui, une grosse journée les attend : Ils vont aller passer la journée sur l'île de Bréhat. C'est encore une belle journée ensoleillée, et donc ils portent leurs maillots de bains en dessous de leurs vêtements.

The day before, they spent all afternoon at the beach, then they went to the pharmacy to buy what was needed to clean Laura's small wound. Since she was very courageous, Angela took her for an ice-cream while Thomas was taking pictures of boats in the harbor. Finally, in the evening they went for dinner and went to bed early because today, a long day awaits them: they are spending the day on the island of Bréhat. It is again another beautiful sunny day, and so they are wearing their bathing suits under their clothes.

Laura Ça va comme ça Maman ?
Is it OK this way Mom?

Angéla Oui, tu es très belle ma chérie. C'est une bonne idée d'avoir mis un caleçon long en dessous de ta robe, comme ça tu seras plus libre pour jouer. Il fait très beau, donc je voudrais que tu mettes une casquette pour protéger un peu ton visage. Tu as pris de bonnes couleurs hier, mais tu n'es pas encore vraiment bronzée, et je ne veux pas que tu attrapes un coup de soleil.
Yes, you are beautiful Sweetie. It's a good idea to wear leggings under your dress, this way you'll be more at ease to play. It's really sunny out, so I'd like you to wear a cap to protect your face a little. You got some nice colors yesterday, but you're not quite tanned yet, and I don't want you to get sunburned.

Laura Est-ce qu'il faut vraiment que je prenne mon manteau ?
Do I really need to take my coat?

Angéla Oui Laura. Il va faire frais sur le bateau. Et en Bretagne, on n'est jamais à l'abri d'un coup de vent. Tu sais, au bord de la mer, le vent se lève très vite, donc il vaut mieux être prévoyant.
Yes Laura, you do. It's going to be cool on the boat. And in Brittany, you're never guaranteed there won't be any wind. You know, by the sea, the wind comes in quickly, so it's better to be prepared.

Laura Ok. Alors je suis prête.
OK. I'm ready then.

Thomas Parfait, en route, mauvaise troupe !
OK, let's go, march on ("en route mauvaise troupe" is a French expression, found in various literary pieces)

Ce matin-là, c'est Cristine qui est à la réception. Ils la saluent, et lui demandent où se trouve la station de bus pour Bréhat.

That morning, Cristine is at the front desk. They say hi to her, and ask her where the bus station for Bréhat is.

Thomas Bonjour Cristine. Vous allez bien ce matin ?
Hi Cristine. How are you this morning?

Cristine Bien, merci. Et vous ? Tout le monde a bien dormi ?
I'm OK, thanks. And you? Did you all sleep well?

Thomas Ah oui. La chambre est très confortable, et on dort très bien. Et puis quel temps ! On a vraiment de la chance !
Oh yes we did. The room is very comfortable, and we sleep very well. And what a weather! We're really lucky!

Cristine Ah, ça, on peut dire que vous nous avez apporté le soleil. Et il fait vraiment chaud pour la saison.
That's right! You could say that you brought the sun with you [French idiom]. And it's really warm for the season.

Angéla C'est vrai. Hier, on a passé toute la journée à la plage. On a fait un pique-nique. C'était super !
True. We spent all day yesterday at the beach. We had a picnic. It was awesome!

Cristine Ah oui ? Vous êtes allés à la Tossen ?
Oh yes? You went to the Tossen beach?

Angéla Non, on a trouvé une toute petite crique de sable tout au bout de la pointe de Guilben. On était tout seuls. C'était notre petite plage privée...
No, we found a tiny sand creek at the very end of the Guilben point. We were all by ourselves. It was our little private beach...

Cristine Je connais bien cette petite crique ; c'est aussi là-bas que je vais quand je vais à la plage. Vous avez trouvé les escaliers, bravo...
I know this little creek well: that's where I go too when I go to the beach. You found the stairs, well done...

Angéla C'est Laura qui les a vus. Elle était toute fière d'avoir trouvé le passage secret !
 Et aujourd'hui, nous allons à Bréhat.
*Laura found them. She was so proud to have found the secret passage!
 And today, we're going to Bréhat.*

Cristine Ah, c'est une journée parfaite pour y aller. Vous prenez le bus ?
Ah, it's a perfect day to go there. Are you taking the bus?

Thomas Oui, et justement, on voulait vous demander où était l'arrêt de bus.
Yes, and actually, we wanted to ask you where the bus stop was.

Cristine Le plus simple, c'est de le prendre en face de la gare. Le bus ici s'appelle "Tibus".
The simplest is to take it (the bus) in front of the train station. Here, the bus is called "Tibus".

Thomas Oui, ils nous l'ont dit à l'office du tourisme. Ok, alors on y va. Bonne journée.
Yes, they told us so at the Tourist Office. OK then we're going. Have a good day.

Cristine Bonne journée à vous aussi. Profitez-en bien.
Have a good day as well. Enjoy.

Au bout de quelques minutes, ils arrivent à l'arrêt, et deux minutes plus tard, le bus arrive. Thomas fait signe au conducteur, qui s'arrête pour les laisser monter.

After a few minutes, they reach the bus stop, and two minutes after, the bus arrives. Thomas waves to the driver, who stops to let them climb in.

Thomas Bonjour monsieur. Je voudrais trois tickets aller et retour pour l'Arcouest s'il vous plaît.
Good morning Sir. I'd like three round-trip tickets to l'Arcouest please.

Conducteur Ça sera douze Euros.
That will be 12 Euros please.

Thomas Voilà l'appoint.
Here's the exact change.

Conducteur Merci, et voilà vos tickets.
Thank you, and here are your tickets.

Thomas Est-ce qu'il faut que je les poinçonne ?
Do I have to punch them?

Conducteur Oui, s'il vous plaît.
Yes please.

Ils s'asseyent et contemplent le paysage. La sortie de Paimpol n'est pas particulièrement jolie, mais dès que l'on arrive à l'Arcouest, la vue est absolument ravissante. La marée monte, et le bleu de la mer contraste avec le rose et le gris des rochers. La mer scintille sous le soleil, c'est tout simplement magnifique.

They sit down and admire the view. Exiting Paimpol is not particularly pretty, but as soon as you reach l'Arcouest, the view is absolutely stunning. The tide is rising and the blue of the sea contrasts with the pink and the gray of the rocks. The sea glistens under the sun, it's just breathtaking.

Thomas Regarde Laura : là-bas, c'est Bréhat !
Look Laura: over there, it's Bréhat!

Angéla Ah, c'est vraiment tout à côté. Tant mieux, on ne sera pas longtemps sur le bateau...
Ah, it's really very close by. That's a good thing, we won't be on the boat for long...

Laura Pourquoi tu dis ça Maman ? Moi j'adore être sur le bateau.
Why do you say that Mom? I love to be on a boat.

Angéla Pas moi. Tu as oublié que j'ai le mal de mer ?
Not me. Did you forget I get seasick?

Laura Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire ?
What does it mean?

Angéla Ça veut dire que j'ai mal au cœur quand je suis sur un bateau.
It means I get nauseous when I'm on a boat.

Laura Ah bon ? Je ne savais pas.
Really? I didn't know.

Angéla Tu ne connais pas encore tous mes secrets !
You don't yet know all my secrets!

Le bus s'arrête. Ils descendent avec d'autres touristes et se dirigent vers les guichets. Ils prennent des billets aller et retour pour Bréhat, et l'employé leur donne également les horaires des navettes. Une fois leurs billets en poche, les touristes forment une queue plus ou moins organisée sur le quai. La navette approche, accoste, des passagers descendent. Un employé demande aux nouveaux passagers leurs billets et les laisse monter à bord.
The bus stops. They get off with other tourists and go to the ticket booths. They buy round-trip tickets for Bréhat, and the employee gives them the ferry schedule too. Once they have their tickets [lit: tickets in the pocket], the tourists form a more or less organized line on the pier. The ferry gets closer, docks and passengers disembark. An employee asks the new passengers for their tickets and lets them climb on board.

Thomas Vous voulez vous asseoir où-ça ? À l'intérieur ou dehors ? Ou sur le pont supérieur ?
Where would you like to sit? Inside or outside? Or on the upper deck?

Laura En haut !
On top!

Angéla Je vous suis, moi, ça m'est complètement égal.
I'll follow you, personally, I really don't have a preference.

Ils montent sur le pont supérieur. La mer est calme et le bateau ne bouge pas beaucoup. Tout d'un coup, un énorme coup de sifflet retentit et fait sursauter Laura, qui se bouche vite les oreilles.
They get up to the upper deck. The sea is calm and the boat doesn't move much. Suddenly, a huge whistle blow startles Laura, and she quickly blocks her ears.

Laura C'est quoi ça ?
What is that?

Thomas Ce n'est rien Laura. Ça veut dire qu'on va partir.
It's nothing Laura. It means we're going to leave.

En effet, le bateau quitte le quai. Dès qu'ils sont en mer, le vent souffle plus fort, et... il fait froid. La casquette de Laura s'envole, mais heureusement un autre passager la rattrape et la lui redonne.
Indeed, the boat leaves the dock. As soon as they are seaborne, the wind blows stronger, and... It's cold. Laura's cap flies off, but fortunately another passenger catches it and gives it back to her.

Laura Merci monsieur.
Thank you sir.

Passager Je t'en prie.
You're welcome.

Laura Brrr, j'ai froid.
Brrr, I'm cold.

- END SAMPLE -

Questions & Answers

1. Pourquoi Angéla a-t-elle emmené Laura manger une glace ?

Why did Angela take Laura for ice cream?

Parce qu'elle a été très courageuse.

Because she was very brave.

2. Que portent-ils en dessous de leurs vêtements ce jour-là ?

What do they wear under their clothes that day?

Ils portent leur maillot de bain.

They are wearing their bathing suit.

3. Pour protéger son visage, Laura va porter quoi ?

To protect her face, what is Laura going to wear?

Elle va porter une casquette.

She is going to wear a cap.

4. Pourquoi le vent se lève-t-il vite en Bretagne ?

Why does the wind come quickly in Brittany?

Parce qu'on est au bord de la mer.

Because we're by the sea.

5. Qui est à la réception de l'hôtel ce jour-là ?

Who is at the hotel front desk that morning?

C'est Cristine.

Cristine is.

6. Est-ce qu'elle connaît la petite crique au bout de Guilben ?

Does she know the small creek at the end of Guilben?

Oui, c'est aussi là-bas qu'elle va à la plage.

Yes, it's also there that she goes to the beach.

7. Est-ce qu'il faut poinçonner les tickets de bus ?

Do you have to punch the bus tickets?

Oui.

Yes, you have to.

8. De quelles couleurs sont les rochers à l'Arcouest ?

What is the color of the rocks at l'Arcouest?

Ils sont roses et gris.

They are pink and grey.

9. Pourquoi Angéla n'aime-t-elle pas être sur un bateau ?

Why doesn't Angela like to be on a boat?

Parce qu'elle a le mal de mer.

Because she gets seasick.

10. Est-ce que Laura le savait ?

Did Laura know that?

Non, elle ne le savait pas.

No, she didn't know it.

11. Est-ce que la queue des touristes est bien organisée ?

Is the tourist line well organized?

Non, pas trop.

No, not quite.

12. Où vont-ils s'asseoir ?

Where are they going to sit?

Ils vont s'asseoir sur le pont supérieur.

They're going to sit on the upper deck.

13. À cause de quoi est-ce que Laura sursaute ?

What makes Laura get startled?

À cause du sifflet qui annonce le départ.

Because of the whistle blow that announces the departure.

14. Qu'est-ce qui se passe avec sa casquette ?

What happens with her cap?

Le vent l'emporte mais heureusement, un autre passager la rattrape.

The wind blows it off, but fortunately, another passenger catches it.

15. Quand ils arrivent, Laura est contente de constater quoi ?

When they arrive, what is Laura happy to notice.

Elle est contente de constater qu'il y a des glaces.

She's happy to notice there are ice creams.

- END SAMPLE -



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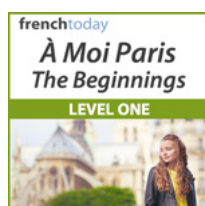
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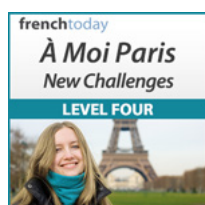
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