

French flair  
French cinema  
French fries  
French legion  
French doctor  
French bread  
French kiss  
French gardens  
French vanilla

Welcome  
Packet  
French 101

French courses at



Alliance Française de Denver

The French Cultural and Language Center in Denver

571 Galapago Street  
Denver, CO 80204  
[www.afdenver.org](http://www.afdenver.org)  
Tel. 303-831-0304

# 5 Reasons to Learn French



## Fun

French is the indisputable language of food, fashion, theater, arts, cinema, literature, and philosophy.

## Culture

French is a beautiful and chic language to learn.

## Travel

French is spoken throughout the world.

## Expanding Horizons

Speaking another language allows you to meet new people and explore diverse cultures.

## Career Development

Speaking French can help you gain a competitive edge professionally.

## Table of contents

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## Our teaching method



The Alliance Française de Denver has more than a century of experience in teaching French in Colorado. It is part of a world-wide network of over 1,000 chapters. In 2008, the organization implemented the AF FRAMES project, which sets clear learning objectives at each stage of the learning process based on a widely understood 'global scale'.

### 1. Immerse yourself

The Alliance Française uses the communicative method of language instruction, engaging every student in speaking French from the start. Using little to no English, you will be immersed in French and your progress will be faster than if you were to rely on English translations.

### 2. Learn with the natives

All our instructors are native French speakers, and they are passionate about sharing their language and culture with you. In a relaxed yet studious atmosphere, you will be able to practice your language skills with confidence and learn about life in France and the French-speaking world.

### 3. Set attainable goals

It is the goal of most of our students to be able to converse in French. While teaching competency in writing and reading, our classes have a strong focus on oral communication. The curriculum and the learning material reflect this goal, with a step-by-step progression of language acquisition that leaves room for practice and the consolidation of knowledge.

### 4. Check your progress

Although there is no formal exam at the end of each term, you can check your progress by taking the self-evaluation test included in your textbook. You can also assess your progress by filling out your 'carnet de route' (road map) and request, at the end of the term, a short evaluation with a member of our teaching team. Finally, your Passeport Pour Le Français will be stamped each time you complete a term and will help you design your own journey through the French language.

### 5. The Alliance Française is more than a French language school

From the moment you walk into our center, you can communicate in French with our staff. Our resource center, consisting of 5,000 items, including books, CDs and DVDs, gives you an opportunity to further your knowledge and bring home a piece of French culture every week. Furthermore, the Alliance Française organizes between 50 and 60 cultural events every year, and each one of them is an opportunity to learn more.



## Your course material

### 1. Textbook (mandatory)

Use your textbook in class with the teacher and to review lessons at home. At the end of each chapter you can self-assess your knowledge. This part is called auto-évaluation. Answers to each auto-évaluation are available at the end of the book (p.139 for Connexions 1).

You will also find a glossary with all the words used in the book (almost 800 words with their translation in several languages including English for Connexions 1). All grammar points studied in this textbook are summarized in the Précis de grammaire and the Conjugaison tables.

In French 101, you will cover the first three units of the Connexions 1 textbook.

### 2. Exercise book (mandatory)

This Cahier d'exercices closely follows each chapter of the textbook. Usually your teacher will give you some homework at the end of each lesson. However, feel free to do more than what is assigned. Transcripts and answers to all exercises are found at the end of the volume. It is accompanied by an audio CD to be used for audio exercises. Note that as little time as possible is spent in class correcting the homework.

### 3. Extra help online

The publishers of Connexions have created a website with extra exercises that are automatically corrected online:  
<http://www.didierconnexions.com/>  
 (see left side of the page-activités en ligne).

From the homepage of our website ([www.afdenver.org](http://www.afdenver.org)) follow the link to the Merlin site, an online source for students learning French.

### 4. Audio CDs

Your teacher will be using an audio CD in class. This CD is copyrighted and very expensive. Since we are not allowed to make copies for you, we created an audio CD entitled *Pratique de l'oral* that is included in this packet for 101 students. Although it does not contain the dialogues or the exercises used in the textbook, it follows the progression of each lesson and should help you with the pronunciation of the most important points (verbs, questions, vocabulary, etc). This CD is intended for students using Connexions 1, covering levels 101, 102 and 103.

### 5. Grammaire progressive du français

If you would like to work more specifically on grammar, use the *Grammaire Progressive* volume that corresponds to your level. These books are available for sale at the reception desk or online. French-English dictionaries for beginning and advanced levels are also available for sale.

### 6. Onsite resources

Feel like watching French TV? Ask at the reception desk to watch TV5, a public station that broadcasts programs in French all over the world.

An Ipod packed with music, news and learning resources is also available to use onsite. Request it at the reception desk.

Finally, our library is rich with audio-visual resources and books that you can check out.



A student in class

## What to expect from French 101

### Talking About Yourself

Connexions 1 - Unités 1-3

#### Communication skills

- Express basic salutations
- Apologize or excuse yourself
- Spell something in French (alphabet)
- Introduce yourself to someone
- Introduce someone else
- Express your likes and dislikes
- Talk about yourself
- Express possession of something

#### Grammar, vocabulary

##### Conjugation

- Present tense irregular verbs
- Present tense regular verbs (-er)

##### Words and phrases:

- French Alphabet
- "Yes" and "no" (oui, non, and si)
- "It is . . ." (C'est, il est)
- Numbers 0-10
- Numbers 1-69
- Numbers 69-1000
- "How old are you?"
- "Which address . . . ?"
- "Which phone number . . . ?"
- Internet vocabulary
- Sports Vocabulary
- Job/Career Vocabulary

##### Grammar:

- Formal / informal
- Masculine / Feminine
- Articles
- Pronouns
- Adjectives
- C'est / Il est
- Possessive
- Negation

## What to expect from French 102

### Exchanges

Connexions 1 - Unités 4-6

#### Communication skills

- Ask someone to do something
- Ask for something politely
- To make, accept, or refuse an invitation
- Time and date
- Give your opinion
- Set up a meeting or date
- Ask the price of something
- Order in a restaurant

#### Grammar, vocabulary

##### Conjugation

- Major irregular and regular verbs. Present tense, near future (aller + vb), introduction to past tense (passé composé)

##### Words and phrases:

- Give orders (impératif)
- Indefinite and definite articles
- Ways to talk about the weather, temperature
- "There is/There are" (il y a)
- We, they (nous, ils, elles)
- "I think that... I hope that..."
- Time and date
- Days of the week, months of the year
- Food/Eating vocabulary
- "A little of . . ." "A lot of . . ."
- "What is . . ." "How much . . ."

##### Grammar:

- How to make a noun plural
- Pronouns that follow prepositions (e.g. *avec lui*)
- Starting a question using « est-ce que »
- Negation
- Direct Object Pronouns (*me, te, le...*)

### Lesson format

Each chapter (Unité) of the book is divided into five segments:

- 1) Introductory document (letter, dialogue, news article, etc)
- 2) Grammar, vocabulary, and practice speaking
- 3) An E-mail (usually a quick, friendly note from a friend)
- 4) Phonetic/Pronunciation Activities
- 5) French culture



## Frequently asked questions about learning French at the Alliance Française

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### I am registered as a beginner and my instructor speaks to me in French only. How am I supposed to understand ?

Most specialists in language acquisition agree with one thing - the more exposed the students are to the language, the quicker their learning process. In avoiding translation, each act of communication is anchored in a French mindset and has a better chance to be learned and used correctly. Through repetition and exposure, you will quickly learn how to identify and understand what the instructor says to you and what is required from you. He or she will use simple French that corresponds to the level of the group.

### The textbook contains very little grammar. How can I learn the rules ?

The Connexions series has been designed as a step-by-step textbook that must be used in a classroom with an instructor. Grammar rules are made clear by the instructor during the lesson after you have been exposed to a specific notion. This approach, which calls for the observation of grammar rules through deduction, allows you to identify a pattern before you have to memorize the rule and use it in another context. This approach, used all around the world, follows the thought process used in real life. Your textbook contains few grammar explanations but many examples, exercises and documents that will be used with the instructor to clearly understand the grammar point covered that day.

Also, keep in mind that French grammar (just like English grammar) can be complex, and that the rules are usually explained in several logical steps throughout the 101 to 305 syllabus. For instance, you learn about ETRE (to be) and AVOIR (to have) in the present tense in 101. In 102, you see how to use these verbs as an auxiliary in the PASSE COMPOSE tense (a tense use to describe things that take place in the past). In 103, you learn how to use this tense for most regular verbs, and in 104 you study the rules of agreement. At each step, a layer of complexity is added, allowing you to practice at your own level while increasing your skills.

The Alliance Française library is rich with reference books, which you can check out anytime. Do not hesitate to ask for recommendations. Should you want to purchase your own grammar book, do not hesitate to ask for recommendations.

### How much homework am I expected to do every week?

At the end of each class, the instructor will give you some homework for the following week. If taken from the Connexions exercise book, the answers are at the end. You should also memorize the vocabulary used in the book and during the class. The teaching staff always welcome requests for extra work, so do not hesitate to ask.

Because there are no exams, we rely on the self-discipline of each student to keep the group progressing at a normal pace.



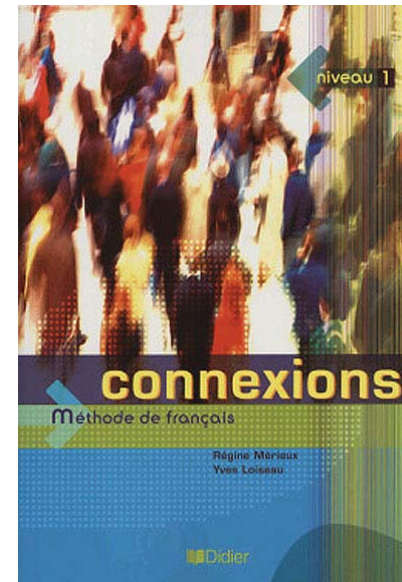
## Frequently asked questions about learning French at the Alliance Française

**After I had my level assessed, I signed up for a course but this is the second week and I feel that it is too hard (or too easy). What can I do ?**

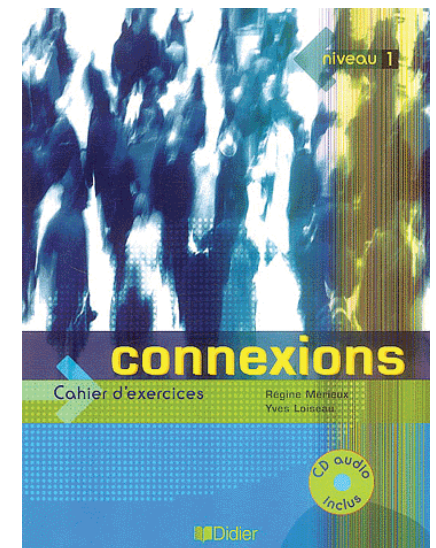
The assessment is a good tool to find out your approximate level, but it is not an exact science. If you feel that you have not been placed correctly, contact the administration and we will put you in a course that is more appropriate to your level and your objectives.

**I have been studying French for several weeks and I am still struggling with the most basic things. Is this normal ?**

Yes. Everything is new to you, and each class is a challenge. So it is perfectly normal that the most simple act of communication (greeting, answering a question) or what we take for granted in our own language (the alphabet, numbers, the connection between a combination of printed letters and a sound) will take a while to be learned in another language. In the process of saying one simple sentence in French, your mind will need to make many decisions. The key to progress is to try to assimilate things step by step, while setting some attainable goals.



Course material



## Common Frame for European Languages

The European Union created a common Framework of Reference for language skills. This framework consists in 6 different levels defined according to communication skills, described as follows.

<i>Common European Framework</i>			<i>Curriculum Layout</i>			
	CEFR Level	Description	ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE DENVER			
			AF Levels	Material/Manual	Number of instruction hours	
Proficient User	C2	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.	Independent User and Higher	Workshops	Teacher provided Materials	....
	C1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.			305	Connexions 3 Module 5
Independent User	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.	Basic User	304	Connexions 3 Module 4	24 + 12 ind. Coursework
					303	Connexions 3 Module 3
	302	Connexions 3 Module 2		24 + 12 ind. Coursework		
	301	Connexions 3 Module 1		24 + 12 ind. Coursework		
B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.	204	Connexions 2 Module 4	24 + 12 ind. Coursework		
		203	Connexions 2 Module 3	24 + 12 ind. Coursework		
Basic User	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.	A2	202	Connexions 2 Module 2	24 + 12 ind. Coursework
				201	Connexions 2 Module 1	24 + 12 ind. Coursework
				104	Connexions 1 Module 4	24 + 12 ind. Coursework
	A1	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.	A1	103	Connexions 1 Module 3	24 + 12 ind. Coursework
				102	Connexions 1 Module 2	24 + 12 ind. Coursework
				101	Connexions 1 Module 1	24 + 12 ind. Coursework



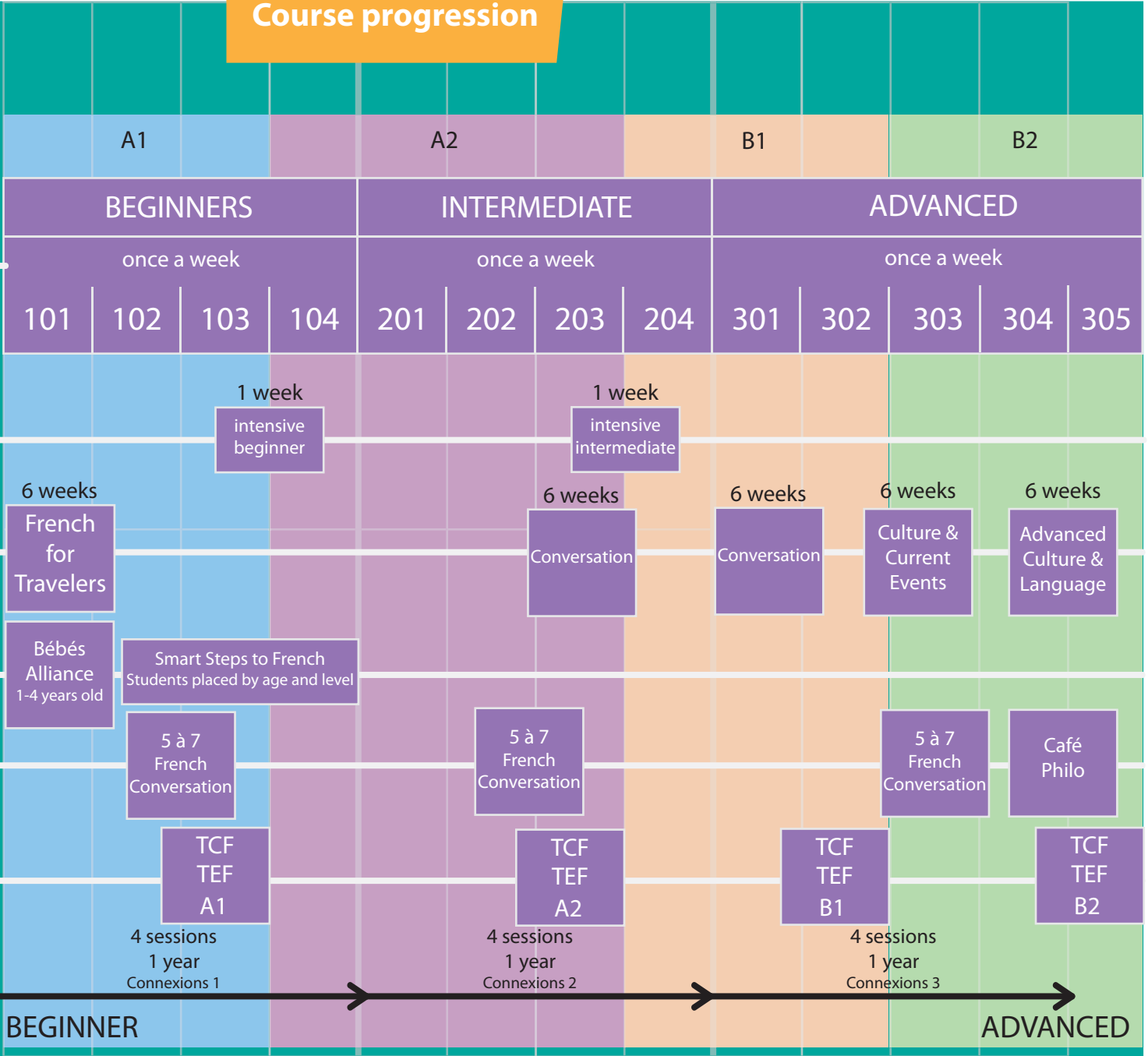
# Course progression

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

General French

Workshop culture

Exam certification on demand



## Passeport pour le français



32,000 copies of the Passeport pour le français are now in circulation in the United States and Canada.

The “**Passeport pour le français**” is a creation of the Alliance Française de Chicago produced with fundings from the Federation of Alliances Françaises USA, the Délégation générale and the Alliance Française Fondation.

The “**Passeport pour le français**”, which looks like a European Community passport, includes an ID page, 6 pages corresponding to all six CEFR levels (from A1 to C2), and a page explaining AF FRAMES standards. Neither a portfolio or an official certificate, it still works as an Alliance Française certificate of completion, offering students a written proof of their level of fluency as well as a quick reference to the progress of their studies in French. As any other “passport”, the “Passeport pour le français” is also a travel document throughout the Alliance Française network.

## French accents - keyboard shortcuts

à		133
â		131
é		132
è		130
è		138
ë		137
ê	ALT +	136
î		140
ï		139
ô		147
Ö		148
ù		151
ü		150
Ç		129
ç		128
€	CTRL + ALT+E	

## Useful websites

Alliance Française de Denver:  
[www.afdenver.org](http://www.afdenver.org)

Alliance Française de Denver on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/afdenver](http://www.facebook.com/afdenver)

Alliance Française USA:  
[www.alliance-us.org](http://www.alliance-us.org)

French American Chamber of Commerce, Rocky-Mountain Chapter:  
[www.rmfac.org](http://www.rmfac.org)

French newspapers online:  
[www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr)  
[www.monde-diplomatique.fr](http://www.monde-diplomatique.fr)  
[www.courrierinternational.com](http://www.courrierinternational.com)  
[www.lefigaro.fr](http://www.lefigaro.fr)  
[www.liberation.fr](http://www.liberation.fr)  
[www.lequipe.fr](http://www.lequipe.fr)

French TV & Radio:  
[www.france24.com](http://www.france24.com)  
[www.rfi.fr](http://www.rfi.fr)  
[www.arte.tv](http://www.arte.tv)  
[www.radiofrance.fr](http://www.radiofrance.fr)

## Important information

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Your teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your teacher's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Alliance Française Hours:

**Monday – Thursday: 9:00am – 6:45pm**

**Friday: 9:00am – 5:00pm**

**Saturday: 9:00am – noon**

### Alliance Française contact information:

**Phone: (303) 831-0304**

**Email: [afd@afdenver.org](mailto:afd@afdenver.org)**

### Alliance Française Staff:

**Jean-François Duclos: Executive Director**

**Jennifer Conder: Office Manager**

**Suzanne Grey: Marketing Director**

**Ariel Lewis: Receptionist**

## Miscellaneous

- Please do not leave any valuables in your car when you are inside for your class. When possible, park in our parking lot rather than street parking. We know that on busy nights it may be impossible to find a spot in the lot. If you do need to park on the street, read the signs carefully for any restrictions.
- Additionally, there is a parking lot located on the northwest corner of Sixth Avenue & Delaware Street. It is \$3 for up to 12 hours – 5pm to 6am – and it's a good two block walk to Alliance Française.
- In case of severe weather, the Alliance Française may close. In such a case, the Alliance Française will contact you as soon as possible.

# MERCI !

