

Berlitz[®]

Advanced French

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ADVANCED FRENCH

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Lesson 1 Making the Right Choice

In a specialty store

Sales associate: Hello, ma'am. What can I do for you?

Raquel: I'd like to buy a cell phone.

Sales associate: OK, do you have a particular brand in mind?

Raquel: Not really, the brand does not matter to me. I'd like a regular, easy-to-use phone.

Sales associate: OK, I'll show you some models. To be honest, today all cell phones that are on the market have easy-to-use standard features.

Raquel: What system do you recommend— a cell phone with a pre-paid card or with a plan? I'd rather use my landline, but it's not really practical for me. I really need a cell phone so that I'm reachable at any time.

Sales associate: Both the card and plan system have advantages and disadvantages. If you don't use your cell phone often, I recommend the pre-paid card solution. On the other hand, if you make a lot of calls and your calls are long, a flat rate plan is more economical. There are different types of flat rate plans, which vary depending on how often you make calls.

Raquel: In this case, I won't hesitate. I prefer the flat fee.

Sales associate: OK, what about the display, do you have a preference?

Raquel: I'd like to be able to write and read messages easily without glasses.

Sales associate: Well, then I'd recommend this model which has a large display. Here are the other advantages: it's light, it has a pretty design, and the keys are convenient to use.

Raquel: That's not bad! Can you tell me how the answering machine works?

Sales associate: This is a very useful function. It records up to 15 messages for up to three minutes each. You have 10 days to listen to your new messages, and messages you have already listened to are automatically saved for 24 hours.

Raquel: Perfect! One last question— is the user manual easy to understand?

Sales associate: Personally, I think it's clear and easy compared to other brands. You'll find the answers to your questions easily.

Raquel: Then I'll take this model, with the flat fee. Let's work on the contract.

Sales associate: Good. We'll fill out the forms together.

Lesson 2 Winter Depression

Léa: Pauline, how is it going? Since you have moved we don't see each other anymore.

Pauline: Let's not talk about that. I'm feeling really down. I don't go out anymore and I'm always tired. Every year, it's the same thing in the winter!

Léa: Don't worry. It's not serious. It's winter depression. I just read an article about it in *Top santé*.

Pauline: Winter depression? I don't know anything about that. Tell me about it.

Léa: It's a temporary depression caused by lack of sunlight. The days are shorter, there's less sunlight and our bodies respond to this change. You get into a bad mood, you become short-tempered and you lack energy, so you don't want to go out, and you hibernate instead.

Pauline: That is exactly it. I do not want to see anyone anymore and I do not jog anymore because it is too cold. It's simple— when I leave work, it's already dark. I take the subway and when I arrive at home, I sit myself in front of the TV and flip channels. What a life!

Léa: Listen, Pauline, do something! You work near a park. At lunchtime, do not always stay inside. Go out! Take a 20-minute walk that exercises your muscles too!

Pauline: That's true. But what about my moods, what do you suggest?

Léa: Start with a good vitamin C regimen. That lifts your spirits. Eat more fruits and vegetables. I don't know, like... grapes, apples, oranges, spinach.

Pauline: I'm OK with the vitamin regimen, that's not complicated. But how do I meet people? Do you have any ideas? Since I moved, I feel lonely.

Léa: I'd like to invite you over to my place. It's your birthday soon and I'll have a party! Invite your friends! Also, if you want to meet cheerful and nice people, come to my Spanish class on Friday. On Christmas, our group goes to the Canary Islands for a week. Do you want to join us?

Pauline: Why not? Vacation in the sun, that's a good idea, but...

Léa: Listen, enroll in the Spanish class right away! And then, treat yourself to a week in the Canary Islands! Come with us!

Pauline: Good, OK. We'll see each other on Friday.

Lesson 3 Change of Plans

Morgane: Hi, Romain! You don't have to hurry. There are no more seats.

Romain: Too bad! I really wanted to see this film in its original version.

Morgane: Our date was for 7:00 in front of the movie theater. It's 7:30. Where were you?

Romain: I'm sorry. I just met a friend on the subway. Do you remember Sylvie?

Morgane: Sylvie Gaumet, my former neighbor? She lived on the second floor in my apartment building.

Romain: No, Sylvie Mornand. She worked in a bookstore next to that travel agency when we were on Market Street in the 6th arrondissement.

Morgane: Ah, I remember, she was a short blonde with long hair and glasses? She acted in the theater?

Romain: Yes, that's her. She organized literary soirees at the bookstore. We often ate together at a local restaurant. We discussed film and theater.

Morgane: How is she? Has she changed?

Romain: Not really, still always talkative. She was with her husband. They went to a great Argentinean nightclub, *les Trottoirs de Buenos Aires*, that's not far from here. If you want, we can go there.

Morgane: Good idea! Let's hurry!

Lesson 4 Summer Sales

In a store

Pauline: Look at this soft green velvet miniskirt. It's beautiful! It's only 29.90 euros.

Léa: It's really pretty and not expensive. Come on, let's go inside!

Pauline: Hi, I'd like to see the green miniskirt for 29.90 euros that's in the window.

Sales associate: Sure.

Pauline: What sizes you have?

Sales associate: I still have it in 36 and 38. What size do you wear?

Pauline: That depends on the cut. Normally I wear a 38.

Sales associate: OK. Here's a 38. You may also want to try on the 36. The changing rooms are in the back of the store on the right.

A little later...

Léa: Great! It fits you perfectly.

Pauline: Do you think so? I don't know. I think it's a little too wide.

Léa: You can wear it with a belt, or you can have it altered.

Pauline: I don't like belts very much. And at that price an alteration isn't worth it. No, I'll try the 36... Here we go. What do you think?

Léa: Not bad at all. It's tighter and it's also shorter!

Pauline: Do you think 38 fits me better?

Léa: Both fit you well.

Pauline: Then I'll take the 36.

Lesson 5 At the Travel Agency

Travel agent: Hi. What can I do for you?

Raquel: I'd like to buy an airline ticket. I'd like to go to Barcelona at the beginning of October.

Travel agent: OK, for what date?

Raquel: Just a moment, I'll check my calendar... I'm off from work on the 22nd. Do you think there are any seats left?

Travel agent: I'm checking. That's for how many people?

Raquel: One.

Travel agent: When are you thinking of coming back?

Raquel: At the end of the month, the 30th or the 31st.

Travel agent: I have a charter flight leaving October 4th, returning November 4th. The dates can't be changed.

Raquel: Ah, that doesn't work for me. I'd like to come back on October 31st, at the latest.

Travel agent: Then I have a regular flight that is a little more expensive at 325 euros plus airport tax, departing on October 2nd and returning on October 31st. But you

have to decide quickly. The plane is almost full. On the departing flight there are only two seats left.

Raquel: Which airline is it?

Travel agent: Air 7.

Raquel: OK, then I'll make reservations right away.

Lesson 6 You Should Get New Glasses

Sandrine: My eyes hurt. I have increasing problems when working on the computer.

Steve: I think that you should get new glasses.

Sandrine: You're right. I'd like you to accompany me when I get new frames.

Steve: Whenever you want, darling.

The next day at the optician's office...

Sandrine: Hi, I'd like to get a pair of eyeglasses. Here is the prescription from my ophthalmologist.

Sales associate: Would you like to look around?

Sandrine: Yes, thank you. Steve, what do you think of that tortoise-shell frame? It looks nice with my red hair.

Steve: That's a matter of taste. I think it looks too severe. Your old glasses were already tortoise shell. You should change your style. If I were you, I'd get a bluish model which would go well with the color of your eyes, or this one here which is completely transparent.

Sandrine: The blue-metallic frame isn't bad, but I'd prefer something more low-profile.

Steve: Well, try on the transparent one. It's very fashionable.

Sandrine: It really suits me. It's very light and very nice to wear, but it feels flimsy.

Steve: I think it totally fits your style... Sir, excuse me, I have a quick question.

Sales associate: Of course, what would you like to know?

Steve: Is this transparent model durable? What kind of metal is the frame made of?

Sales associate: That's a titanium frame, very sturdy. It's excellent quality. You get a two year warranty.

Sandrine: Perfect! I'll take it!

Lesson 7 A Trip to Reims

- Romain:* Our Spanish partners will come to the real estate show in two weeks. Have you already planned an excursion for them?
- Léa:* No, not yet. Last year we spent the weekend in Honfleur. Two years ago, we did the Loire castles... When will they arrive?
- Romain:* This year, they get in at noon on Thursday. I'll pick them up in a taxi at the airport. After that, we'll drop off their luggage at the hotel, and then we'll go directly to the show.
- Léa:* For what day did you plan the business meeting?
- Romain:* Thursday night from 6 to 9, as usual.
- Léa:* What if we changed the schedule? Every year we do the same thing. I would prefer, for example, to have the meeting on Friday. I find it very tiring to have to concentrate after a whole day at the show.
- Romain:* Do you have another idea?
- Léa:* We could either have two meetings of an hour and a half on Thursday and Friday, or have one three-hour meeting on Friday. What do you think?
- Romain:* I prefer one long meeting on Friday. And about the schedule for the excursion, what do you have in mind?
- Léa:* If we rented a minivan, we could take them to Reims. We could organize a working lunch there with a meeting on Friday at noon. The afternoon would be free and in the evening we could invite them to the baroque music festival in Reims.
- Romain:* That's a good idea. And what could we do on Saturday?
- Léa:* Saturday morning we could go on a guided tour of the old town of Reims. In the afternoon, we could visit the *Du Barry Champagne* cellars and in the evening have dinner at an excellent restaurant. Sunday morning we could go back to Paris.
- Romain:* OK, fine with me. That's a very nice plan. Will you make the reservations for Reims?
- Léa:* Yes, I'll take care of it right away.
- Romain:* And I will call the car rental agency, EuropAuto, to reserve a car.

Lesson 8 EuropAuto Car Rentals

Employee: EuropAuto.

Romain: Hi. My name is Giroud from the real estate company Iberpromo. I'd like to reserve a car for five people for next weekend.

Employee: What kind of vehicle would you like?

Romain: A minivan, if possible. Last time I rented a sedan and it was too small.

Employee: We have one available for the weekend. It's a Renox, very comfortable and very well-built. We rent those often to companies who organize trips for their clients.

Romain: Good. What are your rates?

Employee: At the moment we offer a special rate for businesses: 250 euros for three days or 400 euros for one week with unlimited mileage.

Romain: Is that the price without VAT or with VAT?

Employee: No, VAT is included. That's really a promotional discount!

Romain: OK, we will go with the Renox.

Employee: When will you pick it up?

Romain: Friday morning around 10 o'clock.

Employee: OK, let me write down the reservation information. You have to return the vehicle on Sunday at 7 p.m. at our offices.

Romain: No problem.

Lesson 9 A Shared Stand

In the stairway

Morgane: Good evening, René. Good evening, Amélie! Have you read the letter from *Urbanisme et qualité de vie*?

Amélie: Yes, we read that there will be a flea market on our street on Saturday morning. We'd really like to participate, and you?

Morgane: Me too. Good timing. I have to empty out my attic. But I don't want to have a stand by myself.

René: Would you like it better if we shared a stand? That'd be more fun.

Morgane: Great idea! I have mostly old books for sale and some stuff.

Amélie: And I'd like to get rid of the kids' stuff. The kids are grown up now. We have toys and clothes in boxes in the attic. Could you help me to sort it out?

Morgane: Sure. I'd be happy to give you a hand.

René: And I'd like to sell my pocket lighter collection. We have to register for the flea market by tomorrow, at the latest. If you want, I'll take care of that.

Morgane: Great! Would you like to have an aperitif?

Amélie: I'd love to.

Lesson 10 Long Live the Couple!

Having aperitifs at Steve's place, Saturday evening

Sandrine: Dear friends, we have great news to share with you!

Romain: Well, what about? You two are acting so mysteriously.

Steve: Yes, it's a big surprise. We've just decided to get married.

Romain: How about that! I'm very happy for you. Léa, were you in on that?

Léa: No, but I suspected it a little. Congratulations!

Sandrine: Thank you, thank you. I'm quite emotional! We would like to ask you something. Steve... Darling, go on.

Steve: There is something that would really please us. If you agree, we would like the two of you to be our best man and maid of honor.

Romain: I'd love to! It's a great honor for us. What do you think, Léa?

Léa: I agree under the condition that it doesn't coincide with my trip to Vietnam. Which date have you chosen?

Steve: We've chosen the last weekend of the month of August so that my whole family and friends can come.

Léa: Perfect! Is that date convenient for you too, Romain?

Romain: Absolutely! Have you already thought about the preparations?

Sandrine: We've started, but we are so overwhelmed. Léa, if you could take care of the hotel reservations, that'd be great.

Léa: I'd be happy to!

Romain: And I could take care of organizing the party!

Steve: Thank you very much. Sandrine and I will worry about the rest. We'd like to show you the guest list tonight.

Sandrine: I'd also like you to take a look at the wedding announcements, which we've already designed.

Steve: But first, I'd like to drink to that. Here is a good bottle of champagne which I had saved for this occasion.