



# French Greetings

## 1. French Greetings

Let's start by saying a few basic words in French.

French	Pronunciation	English
bonjour	bon-zhoor	Hello
bonsoir	bon-swahr	Good evening
au revoir	oh ruh-vwar	Goodbye
oui	wee	Yes
non	nawn	No

## Basic pronunciation

### Let's start with the consonants

There are many similarities between English and French:

The consonants “b, c, d, f, g, k, l, m, n, p, s, t, v, x, z” are generally pronounced the same way in French and in English.

- “Ch” is generally pronounced [ʃ] like “sh” in English

**Examples** : chocolat, chat

“ph” is generally pronounced [f] like “f” in English

**Examples** : philosophie, éléphant

- Some words are also pronounced [k], they are few in number:

**Examples** : orchestre, technique, charisme

## Now let's look at some vowels

- “i” is pronounced [i] like in “see”, “she”, “me”

**Examples:** ici, merci, île

- “a” is generally pronounced [a] or [ɑ] as in “lie”, “why”, “not”, “on”, “dog”

**Examples:** papa, magique, ami, animal

- “ou” is pronounced [u] like in “blue”, “too”

**Examples:** chou, fou

- “o” is pronounced [o] or [ɔ] like in “go” or “door”

**Examples :** passeport, fort, gros, démographie

Note: The final “e, s, t” are not pronounced.

**Examples :** chat, chocolat, passeport, fort, gros

## 3. Common Phrases

French	Pronunciation	English
s'il vous plaît	see voo play	Please
merci	mair-see	Thank you
désolé	day-soh-lay	Sorry
excusez-moi	ex-kew-zay mwah	Excuse me
à plus tard	ah ploo tar	See you later
Comment allez-vous ?	kohm-mawn tah-lay voo	How are you? (formal)
Ça va ?	sah vah	How are you? (informal)
Ça va bien, merci.	sah vah byan, mair-see	I'm good, thank you
Comme ci, comme ça.	kohm see, kohm sah	I'm so-so
Pas bien.	pah byan	Not good

## Practice Exercise

*Try to use these phrases in a simple conversation.*

*For example:*

*A: Bonjour!*

*B: Bonjour! Comment allez-vous ?*

*A: Ça va bien, merci. Et vous ?*

*B: Ça va bien, merci.*