



Amazing  
**Free French**  
**Lessons** ^ ^  
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## Level 1: Your First French Words

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### Lesson 1: Oui (Yes) & Non (No)

#### Welcoming Remarks

##### **Welcome to your very first Quebec French lesson!**

Feeling ecstatic? Rightfully so.

According to some scientists from a prestigious research institute<sup>1</sup>, French is the best language in the world, particularly French from Quebec.

Have you heard rumours suggesting that French is a pretty hard language to master? Rubbish! It's EXTREMELY difficult. Not the most reassuring words, I know! It's crucial to assimilate the fact that learning a language, any language, is a huge challenge so that you don't feel discouraged if you are progressing very slowly. That's why I strive to concoct concise yet complete lessons that are going to take you, one step at a time, to perfect fluency.

##### **Here's how it works:**

###### (1) Concise Lessons, Easy to Understand

With every lesson, you're going to be taught one (1) or two (2) new vocabulary words along with one (1) or two (2) new language points, whether grammatical or lexical.

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<sup>1</sup> My-Imagination Research Institute, located in MyBrain, Quebec, Canada.

<https://www.facebook.com/LearnQuebecFrench>

YouTube: Learn Quebec French

### (2) Never Feel Confused or Lost

The lessons are structured in such a way that the new material you are studying will always be inserted in grammatical and lexical structures you should already be familiar with. In other words, you should always be able to fully comprehend the meaning of the sentences in French at any time. The content will progressively grow in complexity.

### (3) Dialogues to Contextualize the Language Points and Practise your Listening Skills

In the third section of every lesson, you will encounter dialogue with audio that will only cover material that you have already learnt. In other words, you should always be able to understand everything that is taking place. Therefore, considering that we will slowly be covering new language points, the first dialogues won't be quite *natural*. At any rate, I strongly suggest that you play the dialogue multiple times and repeat it out loud.

### (4) Start Speaking French with the Exercise Section

Last but not least, you will find an "exercise" section at the bottom, mostly translation exercises.

Some extra information can be provided at the very end for your convenience and further understanding. You are not expected to commit to memory any of it as it solely aims to clear out potential doubts.

Alright, let's get started!!!

*C'est parti, mon kiki !*

# 1. New Vocabulary

Words in blue-green: invariable words.

<b>Oui [Interjection]</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Non [Interjection]</b>	<b>No</b>

# 2. Language Point

## Synopsis

The interjections **oui (yes)** and **non (no)** are used the same as their English counterpart.

## Notes

### A. Oui

**Oui** : used to respond affirmatively to a question or statement.

Example:

*My dear son, do you like chocolate?*

—**Yes!** (**Oui!**)

*I wonder if you are sleeping...*

—**Yes** (**Oui**), I am...

### B. Non

**Non** : used to express dissent, disagreement, denial or refusal.

Example:

*My dear dog, do you like chocolate?*

**No!** (**Non!**)

*Are you learning French from France?*

**No** (**Non**), I'm learning French from Quebec which is DEFINITELY superior.

### 3. Dialogue

"Can't agree"

Blue for "male".

Pink for "female".

(Not a political statement. You will understand later why this distinction is important).

[https://youtu.be/6PhU\\_qjbeCI](https://youtu.be/6PhU_qjbeCI) (Audio Recording)

1. **P:** Non.

2. **Raphaël (R):** Oui.

3. **P:** Non !

4. **R:** Oui !

*The dialogue will always be transcribed twice: first, without the English translation and then, right below the middle section that you are reading at this moment, along with the English translation. The purpose is to force you to use your memory to understand the exchange before resorting to the translation. In this middle section, I will also sometimes dispense additional explanations or just ... write silly remarks. In any case, don't overleap it.*

1. **P:** Non.

No.

2. **R:** Oui.

Yes.

3. **P:** Non !

No!

4. **R:** Oui !

Yes!

### 4. Exercises

Exercise 1: Translate from English to French

1. Yes.

2. No.

Exercise 2: Workout

10 push-ups, 20 jumping jacks, 5 pull-ups. [Obviously this is a joke but staying healthy is good for your brain and, as a result, good for learning French.]

## 5. Answers

### Exercise 1

1. Oui.
2. Non.

## Extra: Answering Negative Questions

**Answering negative questions in Quebec French is just as ambiguous as it is in English.**

For instance, take this innocent question (and imagine it being asked in French):

*My dear boyfriend, **don't you think** that girl walking in front of us is ATTRACTIVE?*

Here, in theory, a negative answer would imply that the boyfriend does not think the lady ahead of them is attractive whereas a positive answer would carry the opposite meaning.

- Non.

**No.** *[I do not think she is attractive.]*

- Oui.

**Yes.** *[I think she is attractive.] (RIP)*

## Avoid Ambiguous Answers

However, a mere yes or no answer can be equivocal (and, in this case, potentially deadly) because here, you agree with a negative statement by saying “**no**” and disagree by saying “**yes**”. The reason being that rule is that such a negative question is usually a way to express surprise, doubt, suspicion, and the asker seeks confirmation. It's close to saying, “I believe you think she's attractive, am I right?”

Hence, it is always recommended to complete your response:

*No (non), I don't think she is attractive. [If you care about your life]*

*Yes (yes), I think she is attractive. [Warning: high risks of death or serious injuries]*

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### *What about "si"?*

That being said, in France, they don't have this issue. They use the word *si* to rebut a negative statement or question.

Isn't he usually late?

Yes, he's usually late.

France: *Si*.

Quebec: *Oui, il est généralement en retard [he is late].*