

début

Salut!

explorations

- \* Make some cultural comparisons
- \* See your own culture through new eyes
- \* Learn about comic books in France
- \* Find out about bread and bakeries in France
- \* Reflect on the Oh, là, là ! gesture

interactions

- \* Greet and farewell people appropriately
- \* Ask someone's name and say what yours is
- \* Talk about where you live
- \* Say you are sorry
- \* Use the numbers 0 to 10

Before you start, turn to page 1 of your Activity Book.

# Bande dessinée: Tu habites où ?

Nina is new in the neighbourhood.  
She is returning home from the bakery...

1



2



3



4



5



6





Do you read comic books? In France, comics are very popular and are read by people of all ages. You may have read the adventures of **Astérix**, **Tintin** or **Lucky Luke**, all of which were originally written in French. If you visit a library or bookshop in France, you will find an extensive **bande dessinée** or **BD** section with hundreds of different comic titles.



Clémentine Bouvier, a graphic artist from Lyon in France, has drawn the **BD** for *Quoi de neuf ?*

Simple pages

- Remarquez !**
- Take a closer look at the **BD**. What details can you see that suggest this is not an Australian street scene?
  - Look again at the elderly man in Frame 4. What do you think his body language is saying? You'll learn more about this gesture on the next page.

**Suivez la piste**

With some classmates, you are soon going to choose roles and act out all or part of the **BD** for the class. To ensure you fully understand the **BD** and give your best possible performance, prepare by working through steps 1-4 on the following pages.

# 1 Connexions culturelles



## La boulangerie et la baguette

Nina was on her way back from **la boulangerie** when she ran into Léo. The **boulangerie** is an important part of daily life in France and French bakers bake several times a day to ensure there's always a supply of really fresh bread. In France, most people eat bread with every meal, and you will often see people queued at the **boulangerie** prior to mealtimes. They like their bread fresh and crusty in France, which explains why the long thin loaf, known as a **baguette**, is a favourite – it offers the maximum amount of crust. There are thinner and fatter versions of the **baguette** (each type with its own name), as well as a multitude of other bread shapes and varieties.



## Café ou résidence ?

Léo's mother manages the **Café de la Poste** and the family lives above the café. In the older parts of French cities and towns, it is common for buildings to have a shop or café on the ground floor and apartments above.



## Sans mot dire

Oh là là !

We often use body language to show what we are thinking and feeling, but does the same body language have the same meaning in different countries? Do all cultures have the same gestures? For example, how did you interpret the man's gesture in Frame 4 of the **BD**?

➔ French speakers use this gesture to show alarm, concern or distress. To mean the same thing, younger people may simply put their hand to their mouth with a sharp intake of breath. You can say **Oh là là !** with either gesture, but the gesture alone will convey the meaning.



## Et chez vous ?

Is there a gesture you use when you are alarmed or concerned?

## Réfléchissez !

Do we always need spoken language to communicate? Can you think of any instances when we communicate without words?



# 2 Pronunciation

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Take a look at these French words – you'll find it easy to guess the meanings.

adorable attention chocolat famille grand-parent horrible numéro pardon

Now listen to how your teacher pronounces them in French.

Surprised? Although French and English share the same alphabet and many words look the same, we don't pronounce them the same way. French has its own rules of pronunciation, but at least it *does* follow some rules!

Read this poem and imagine you're a French speaker trying to learn English:

I take it you already know  
Of tough and bough and cough and dough.  
Well done! And now you wish perhaps  
To learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, a dreadful word  
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.  
And dead it's said like bed, not bead;  
For goodness sake, don't call it deed!

Watch out for meat and great and threat;  
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt.)  
A moth is not a moth in mother,  
Not both in bother, broth in brother.

And here is not a match for there,  
And dear and fear for bear and pear.  
And do and go, then thwart and cart –  
Come, come, I've hardly made a start.

A dreadful language? Man alive!  
I'd learned to talk it when I was five,  
And yet to write it the more I tried,  
I hadn't learned it at fifty-five.

Poet Unknown

What point is the poet making about English?

French spelling and pronunciation is quite easy, once you make some basic observations.

- a** For example, how is the letter 'a' pronounced in French?  
Listen to your teacher say these words:

ça ne va pas salut oh là, là je m'appelle là-bas

➔ 'a' is usually pronounced 'ah' as in the English 'rather'. Now you try.

- oi** How are the letters 'oi' pronounced in French? Listen to your teacher again.

quoi (de neuf) moi toi au revoir Boileau

➔ 'oi' is pronounced 'wah'. Now you try the same words.

## Silent last letters

You may have already noticed that the final 's' of some French words is not pronounced, for example: tu t'appelles and tu habites. In French, the final letters of words are often silent.



Learning to speak a new language means *listening* and *imitating* what you hear.

With your teacher's help, try saying these new words and expressions from the **BD**. See if you can find any more examples of silent final letters.

### Greetings

bonjour  
salut  
au revoir  
à bientôt

### Asking and saying how you are

Ça va ?  
ça va  
ça ne va pas

### Talking about yourself

moi  
je suis  
je m'appelle  
j'habite

### Exclamations and expressions

Mince !  
Aïe !  
Oh là, là, (là, là) !  
Idiot(e) !  
Oh pardon !  
Je suis désolé(e) !  
Ah bon ?

### Talking to someone else

toi  
Tu t'appelles comment ?  
Tu habites où ?

### Useful words

madame	où
monsieur	ici
et	là-bas
mais	(au) numéro
oui	(la) rue
non	
merci	
alors	



3

## Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire ?

When you can confidently pronounce these words, do the **Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire ?** task in your Activity Book. You'll remember the meanings better if you work out as many as possible using your powers of deduction.

But first, have a class discussion about what sort of clues there are to help you do this.

As a last resort, you can use the vocabulary section at the back of the book to look up any meanings you can't guess.

4

## Jouez un rôle

Now return to the **BD** and listen several more times, imitating the voices until you are confident. Then choose roles and rehearse with some friends before you perform for the class. Remember to include the gesture.



# Ça, c'est le français

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## ① Greeting people

Would you greet all of these people in exactly the same way? Why?/Why not?

- your school principal
- your best friend
- a high court judge
- your grandmother
- an adult you're meeting for the first time

Howyagoin?

G'day!

Good morning, sir.

Good afternoon, Madam.

Hello.

There is also more than one way to greet people in French.

Look again at the **BD** to see what greetings and farewells you can find.

- **Bonjour** can be used with people you don't know well and with friends. It can mean 'Hello', 'Good morning' or 'Good afternoon'.
- **Salut** is more casual – like 'Hi' – and is used among friends. You can also use **Salut** to say goodbye to friends – a bit like 'See you!' or 'Bye'.
- If you expect to see someone again soon, you can use **À bientôt** to say 'See you soon'.
- **Au revoir** is also used to say 'Goodbye' and can be used in both formal and informal situations.

Why not give yourself a French name? See page 14 for some ideas.

### À vous

With a partner, practise some French greetings.

Then try using your own names instead of those in **bold**.

Change roles. Practise more by changing partners.

**A** Bonjour, **Nina** ! Ça va ?

**B** Salut, **Léo**. Oui, ça va, merci.

**A** Au revoir, **Nina**.

**B** Au revoir, **Léo**. À bientôt.

## ② Forms of address

How would you translate the words **monsieur** and **madame** here?



How would you translate the words **Monsieur** and **Madame** here?



**Monsieur** Lenoir



**Madame** Lenoir

- All these forms of address can be used with or without a surname.
- The capital 'M' and the abbreviations are used only with a surname.

- **Monsieur (M.)** can mean 'Mr' or 'Sir'.
- **Madame (Mme)** can mean 'Ms' or 'Mrs' or 'Madam'.
- **Mademoiselle (Mlle)** is another title like 'Miss', used to address younger females.

The words **monsieur**, **madame** and **mademoiselle** are used far more often in French than 'sir', 'madam' and 'miss' are in English.

### 3 Voice tone

When speaking, your tone of voice can be very important in making your meaning clear. For example, try making 'That's great!' mean different things by changing your tone.

It's the same in French. Take **Ah bon** for instance.

- Said in a questioning tone, it's like saying 'Oh, really?'
- Said with enthusiasm, it can mean 'Oh, I get it!'
- Said with a flat expression, it's like saying 'Whatever'.

**Ça va** can also change meaning with the tone of voice.

- Said with a rising intonation, it is a question meaning 'How are you?' or 'How are things?'
- As a statement, it can mean 'I'm OK' or 'Everything's fine'.

What did you understand it to mean from Nina's tone in Frame 5 of the **BD**?



### 4 Accents

Written French uses a number of extra marks or symbols called accents. There are different types of accents:

- acute accent (**accent aigu**), e.g. **désolé**
- grave accent (**accent grave**), e.g. **oh là, là !**
- circumflex accent (**accent circonflexe**), e.g. **à bientôt**
- cedilla (**cédille**), e.g. **ça va**
- dieresis (**tréma**), e.g. **aïe !**

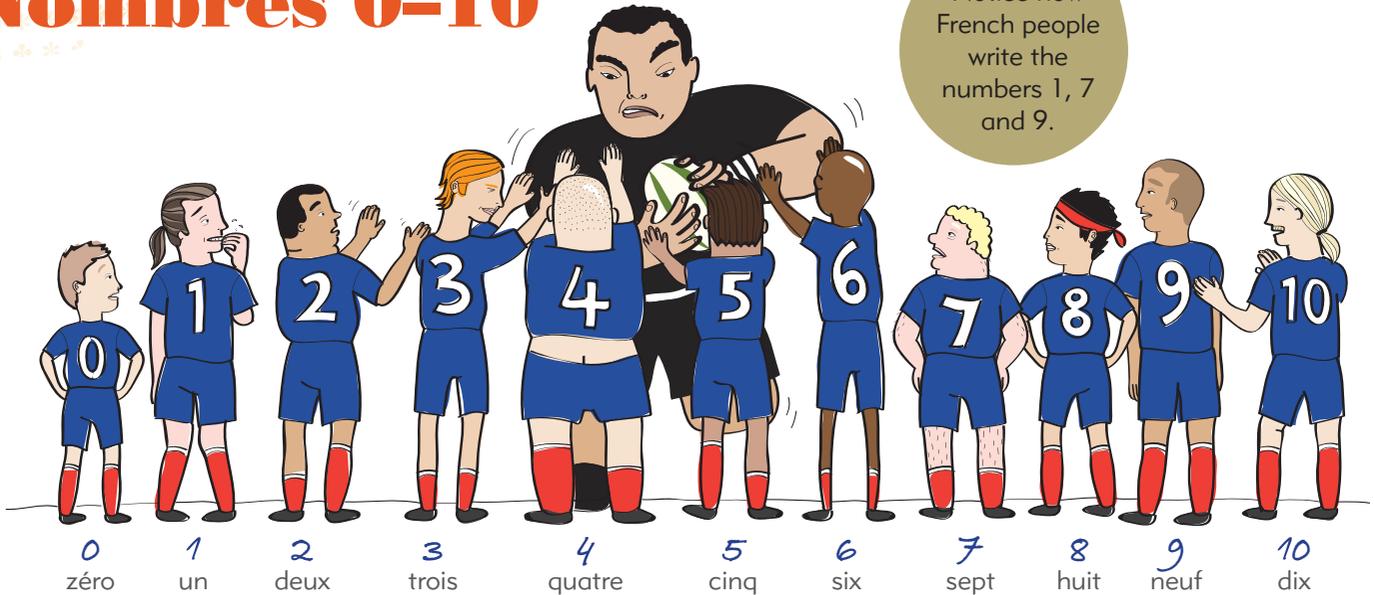
Accents are part of the spelling, so remember to include them. You can discuss with your teacher how to type them on a computer.



# Nombres 0-10

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Notice how French people write the numbers 1, 7 and 9.



When you've learnt how to say the numbers, with your teacher's help, practise saying the names of these people and where they live.



Prénom: **Sarah**

Adresse:  
**10, rue Valoir**



Prénom: **Samuel**

Adresse:  
**7, rue Benoît**



Prénom: **Yasmine**

Adresse:  
**9, rue de l'Abattoir**



Prénom: **Thomas**

Adresse:  
**8, rue du Réservoir**



Prénom: **Alice**

Adresse:  
**6, rue Desmoines**

## À vous

- Now work with a partner, each of you choosing one of the people above.
- Introduce yourselves to one another using this example. →
- Substitute the words in **bold** with the **name** and **address** of the person you've chosen.
- Practise until you can say your part confidently.
- Try different combinations of people. Be sure to change roles.

- A** Salut. Je m'appelle **Léo**. Et toi, tu t'appelles comment ?
- B** Bonjour. Je m'appelle **Nina**.
- A** Tu habites où ?
- B** J'habite ici, au numéro **sept**, rue **Boileau**. Et toi ?
- A** Moi, j'habite là-bas, au numéro **deux**.
- B** Ah bon? Au revoir, **Léo**.
- A** Salut, **Nina**. À bientôt.

## Vous avez la parole!

Work with a partner to create this scenario. You are in France. You meet someone for the first time, as a result of an accident where one of you hurts the other. Introduce yourselves, using the French you've already learnt. But try to rearrange it so that it's different from Léo and Nina's first meeting. Practise together until you're confident, then perform it for the class. **Bon courage!**

