LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #1
Love at First Sight in France

CONTENTS

#1

DIALOGUE - FRENCH

MAIN

1. Jacques :   Marcel, la fille devant est vraiment belle.

2. Marcel :   Ah oui, elle est très belle.

3. Jacques :   Elle est seule aussi.

4. Marcel :   Oui, comme toi.

5. Jacques :   Elle est belle, elle est seule et moi, je suis... je suis... amoureux !

6. Marcel :   Tu es amoureux ?! Déjà ?!

ENGLISH

1. Jacques :   Marcel, the girl in front is really pretty.

2. Marcel :   Oh yes, she's very pretty.

3. Jacques :   She's alone too.

4. Marcel :   Yes, like you.

5. Jacques :   She's pretty, she's single, and I'm... I'm... in love!

6. Marcel :   You're in love? Already?

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
vraiment	really	adverb	
seul	alone, sole, single, lonely, only	adjective	masculine
être	to be	verb	
fille	girl, daughter	noun	feminine
devant	in front, ahead	adverb	
très	very	adverb	
beau (masc.) / belle (fem.)	beautiful, handsome, pretty	adjective	masculine / feminine
aussi	too, also	adverb	
comme	as, like	conjunction	
toi	you	stressed pronoun (pronom tonique) corresponding to the 2nd person singular (Tu)	
et	and	conjunction	
déjà	already	adverb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Il a vraiment dit ça? "He really said that?"	Nous sommes vraiment désolé(e)s mais nous ne pouvons pas sortir ce soir. "We are really sorry, but we cannot go out tonight."
J'aime vraiment ce film! "I really like this movie!"	Je suis vraiment seul. "I am really lonely."
Tu es seul. "You are alone."	Être ou ne pas être. "To be or not to be."
Il est gentil "He is nice."	J'ai deux filles. "I have two daughters. "
Sa fille aide à l'organisation de la réunion, donc vous devriez mettre une chaise supplémentaire. "His daughter is assisting with the reunion's organization, so you should set an extra seat."	Comme toi, la fille est seule. "Like you, the girl is alone."
Jacques est devant moi. "Jacques is in front of me."	Très bien. "Very good."

Elle est vraiment belle. "She is really pretty."	Je suis beau. "I'm handsome."
Nous avons aussi des muffins. "We also have muffins."	Je suis aussi allé(e) chez le dentiste la semaine dernière. "I also went to the dentist last week."
Elle apprend aussi le français. "She also learns French."	Je suis comme toi: j'aime le chocolat. "I'm like you; I like chocolate."
Comme tu vois, ce n'est rien. "As you see, it's nothing."	Tu fais quoi, toi ? "What do you do?"
Toi, tu viens avec moi. "You, you are coming with me."	Elle est belle et elle est seule. "She is pretty and she is single."
Toi et moi. "You and I."	Elle danse et elle chante. "She dances and she sings."
Nous avons déjà mangé. We have already eaten.	déjà manger already eat
Il est déjà amoureux! "He is already in love!"	Il a déjà pris une décision. "He already made a decision."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Seul

Seul (an adjective) has a lot of different meanings in French. *Jacques est seul* can mean that Jacques is "alone," "single," or "lonely. The meaning is usually clear from the context.

Seul is a typical French adjective: to make the feminine form, simply add *-e* at the end of the word. However, we do not pronounce this *-e*; basically, we distinguish the masculine and feminine forms in writing only.

For Example:

1. *Il est seul.*
   "He is single."

2. *Elle est seule.*
   "She is single."

Beau

Beau (an adjective) means "good-looking" or "handsome." *Jacques est beau* means "Jacques is handsome." It has an irregular feminine form, *belle*, which we translate as "pretty" or "beautiful," so "Mireille is beautiful" becomes *Mireille est belle.* English borrowed these words as the nouns "beau" and "belle"; they can be nouns in French too, but they are almost always adjectives.

Vraiment

Vraiment (an adverb) means "really" or "truly." We construct English adverbs by adding "-ly" to adjectives; in French, we add *-ment*. *Vraiment* is built from *vrai*, "true," and *-ment*. You can turn other adjectives into adverbs; for instance, if you take *seul*, you can make *seulement*, meaning "only." Don't forget: adverbs go after the verb in French, not before!

For Example:

1. *Elle est vraiment belle!*
   "She is really pretty!"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Verb "to Be," *Être.*
Tu es amoureux?
"You're in love?"

In French, the verb "to be" is *être*. It's probably the most common French verb, so it's important to learn it right from the beginning; unfortunately, it's also the most irregular. We will look at the present tense conjugation of the verb. Make sure you also learn all of the personal pronouns.

French	**"English"**
je suis	"I am"
tu es	"you are" (informal singular)
il est/ elle est	"he is"/"she is"
nous sommes	"we are"
vous êtes	"you are" (polite or plural)
ils sont/ elles sont	"they are" (*ils* is masculine; *elles* is feminine)

Pronunciation: Although the verb has a different form for every person, *tu es* and *il est* sound the same. Note also how we pronounce the silent *s* of *vous* as a [-z] in front of *êtes*. You may know this phenomenon as liaison, when a silent consonant is pronounced before a vowel.

Usage: We use *être* in pretty much the same way we use "to be" in English. One notable exception is that people don't introduce themselves by saying *je suis* and their name. They use the expression *je m'appelle*, which we will introduce in the next lesson. Following are some examples of how you can use *être*.

For Example:

1. *Jacques est devant moi.*
   "Jacques is in front of me."

2. *Vous êtes belle.*
   "You are beautiful." (formal singular, feminine)

3. *Ils sont seuls.*
   "They are alone."

Pronunciation: Subject pronouns, like *je*, *tu*, and *il*, are stuck to the verb, and there should be no pause between the two. You should pronounce *il est* as if it were a single two-syllable word: *i-lè*.

The adjective that follows the verb "to be" agrees in number and gender with the subject. That's why we have *vous êtes belle*, where *belle* is feminine singular because *vous* refers to a woman. We say *ils sont seuls* where *seuls* is masculine plural like the subject.

Toi, Moi

In the lesson, Marcel says *comme toi*, "like you," and Jacques says *moi, je suis amoureux*, "I'm in love." We call *moi* and *toi* strong pronouns. They have the same meaning as *je* and *tu*, except that we use them away from the verb, such as with a preposition (*devant toi*, "in front of you"). Also, to put emphasis on the subject, English will stress the pronoun ("*I* am alone"); to achieve this in French, we add a strong pronoun: *moi, je suis seul*. That's why you might sometimes hear French speakers say "Me, I'm...".

For Example:

1. *Moi, je suis seul.*
   "I'm alone."

2. *Toi, tu es belle.*
   "*You* are pretty."

3. *Elle est devant moi.*
   "She is in front of me."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cognates

There is no doubt that learning a second language is a difficult endeavor, but English speakers learning French have one major advantage: cognates. These are words that are similar in both languages, either because one language borrowed it from the other or because they both borrowed it from the same source. At the beginning of the previous millennium, a large number of French words entered the English language. Although the words have evolved separately for over 1,000 years, many words are still easily recognizable. In this lesson, we had *seul* ("sole"), *amoureux* ("amorous"), and more recent borrowings like *beau*, *belle* and *déjà* as in *déjà-vu* ("already seen" or "seen before"). While you need to pay attention to the French pronunciation of these words, you should definitely use these cognates to your advantage!