

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Lower Beginner S1 #1

Love at First Sight in France

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#1

INTRODUCTION

Greg: Hello everyone, I'm Greg, and welcome to FrenchPod101.com. Love at First Sight in France. Thanks for joining us for this series!

Maily: Bonjour à tous. This is Maily. In this lesson, you'll learn how to say the verb "to be" in French, 'être'.

Greg: Two guys, Jacques and his friend Marcel, are sitting in a café and noticed a beautiful girl.

Maily: They are good friends, so they will be using informal French.

Greg: Let's listen to the conversation!

DIALOGUE

Jacques: Marcel, la fille devant est vraiment belle.

Marcel: Ah oui, elle est très belle.

Jacques: Elle est seule aussi.

Marcel: Oui, comme toi.

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

Marcel: Tu es amoureux ?! Déjà ?!

Gerg: Let's hear the conversation one time slowly.

Jacques: Marcel, la fille devant est vraiment belle.

Marcel: Ah oui, elle est très belle.

Jacques: Elle est seule aussi.

Marcel: Oui, comme toi.

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

Marcel: Tu es amoureux ?! Déjà ?!

Gerg: Now let's hear it with the English translation.

Jacques: Marcel, la fille devant est vraiment belle.

Greg: Marcel, the girl in front is really pretty.

Marcel: Ah oui, elle est très belle.

Greg: Oh yes, she's very pretty.

Jacques: Elle est seule aussi.

Greg: She's alone, too.

Marcel: Oui, comme toi.

Greg: Yes, like you.

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

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

Marcel: Tu es amoureux ?! Déjà ?!

Greg: You're in love?! Already?!

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Greg: So, Mailys... learning a second language takes a lot of time and effort, but English speakers learning French have one major advantage - cognates.

Mailys: Definitely! These are words that are similar in both languages.

Greg: Right. Over 1000 years ago, a large number of French words entered the English language. Although these words have evolved separately for a long time, many words are still easily recognizable.

Mailys: For example, in this lesson, we had 'seul'

Greg: which means "sole", as in "single"

Mailys: 'amoureux'

Greg: meaning "amorous"

Greg: or more recent borrowings like 'beau', 'belle' and 'déjà' as in déjà-vu

Mailys: which means "already seen" or "seen before".

Greg: While you need to pay attention to the French pronunciation of these words, you should definitely use these cognates to your advantage! Ok, let's move on to the vocabulary.

VOCAB LIST

Greg: Let's take a look at the vocabulary for this lesson.

The first word we shall see is:

Mailys: fille [natural native speed]

Greg: girl, daughter

Mailys: fille [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: fille [natural native speed]

Next:

Mailys: devant [natural native speed]

Greg: in front, ahead

Mailys: devant [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: devant [natural native speed]

Next:

Mailys: vraiment [natural native speed]

Greg: really

Mailys: vraiment [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: vraiment [natural native speed]

Next:

Mailys: être [natural native speed]

Greg: to be

Mailys: être [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: être [natural native speed]

Next:

Mailys: très [natural native speed]

Greg: very

Mailys: très [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: très [natural native speed]

Next:

Mailys: beau, belle [natural native speed]

Greg: beautiful, handsome, pretty

Mailys: beau, belle [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: beau, belle [natural native speed]

Next:

Mailys: seul [natural native speed]

Greg: alone, sole, single, lonely, only

Mailys: seul [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: seul [natural native speed]

Next:

Mailys: aussi [natural native speed]

Greg: too, also

Mailys: aussi [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: aussi [natural native speed]

Next:

Mailys: comme [natural native speed]

Greg: as, like

Mailys: comme [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: comme [natural native speed]

Next:

Mailys: toi [natural native speed]

Greg: you

Mailys: toi [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: toi [natural native speed]

Next:

Mailys: et [natural native speed]

Greg: and

Mailys: et [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: et [natural native speed]

Last:

Mailys: déjà [natural native speed]

Greg: already

Mailys: déjà [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Mailys: déjà [natural native speed]

VOCAB AND PHRASE USAGE

Greg: Let's take a closer look at the usage of some of the words and phrases from this lesson. Let's start with 'seul'.

Mailys: 'Seul' has a lot of meanings in French.

Greg: It does, but they all revolve around the concept of "only one".

Mailys: Yes, 'Jacques est seul' can mean that Jacques is "alone", "single" or "lonely".

Greg: This may seem confusing, but the meaning is usually clear from the context.

Mailys: In the dialogue, when Jacques and Marcel say about the girl “elle est seule”, they don’t know if she is single or lonely, so they mean that she is alone.

Greg: ‘Seul’ is a typical French adjective - to make it feminine, simply add ‘-e’ at the end of the word. However, this ‘-e’ is not pronounced. We distinguish the masculine and feminine forms in writing, but spoken, they sound the same

Mailys: ‘il est seul,’

Greg: “He is single”

Mailys: ‘elle est seule’

Greg: “she is single”

Greg: Let’s now look at another adjective, ‘beau’, which means good-looking.

Mailys: ‘Jacques est beau’ means “Jacques is handsome.” You have the word ‘beau’ in English so it’s easy to remember. What about the feminine form?

Greg: Beau has an irregular feminine form, ‘belle’, meaning “pretty” or “beautiful”. So “Mireille is beautiful” becomes...

Mailys: ‘Mireille est belle.’

Greg: Exactly. So if I want to say “I’m handsome”, I’d say ‘je suis beau’.

Mailys: And I’d say ‘je suis belle!’

Greg: Let’s now look at the adverb ‘vraiment’, meaning “really” or “truly”.

Mailys: In English, adverbs are constructed by adding “-ly” to adjectives, but in French, we add ‘ment’.

Greg: ‘Vraiment’ is made from ‘vrai’, meaning “true”, and “you” ‘-ment’.

Mailys: ‘Elle est vraiment belle ...’

Greg: means “she is really pretty.” You can also turn other adjectives into adverbs.

Mailys: If you take ‘seul’ and you add ‘ment’ you get ‘seulement’, meaning “only”.

Greg: And don’t forget - French adverbs go after the verb! Ok, let’s move on to the grammar.

LESSON FOCUS

Greg: In this lesson, you’ll learn about the verb “to be” in French.

Mailys: ‘être’.

Greg: It’s probably the most common verb in French, so it’s really important to learn it right from the beginning. Let’s look at the present tense conjugation.

Mailys: je suis

Greg: I am

Mailys: tu es

Greg: you are (informal singular)

Mailys: il est /elle est

Greg: he is / she is

Mailys: nous sommes

Greg: we are

Mailys: vous êtes

Greg: you are (polite or plural)

Mailys: ils sont / elles sont

Greg: they are (ils is masculine, elles is feminine)

Mailys: Since 'être' is an irregular verb, in writing, every person has a different form.

Greg: But spoken, 'tu es' and 'il est' sound the same.

Mailys: Can you explain what happens with 'vous'?

Greg: The final 's' in 'vous' is silent, but before a vowel, it sounds like a 'z', so we get...

Mailys: 'vous êtes..... 'vous êtes' [once separating syllables, then once normally]. This process is called liaison.

Greg: A lot of French words end in a consonant that isn't pronounced. But when the next word starts with a vowel, that consonant can surface again.

Mailys: If you think of 'vous êtes' as a single unit, you won't forget liaison. Just remember this compliment - 'vous êtes belle!' or 'vous êtes beau!'

Greg: Merci, Mailys!

Mailys: 'De rien,' "you're welcome."

Greg: Here are some other examples of how you can use 'être'

Mailys: Jacques est devant moi

Greg: Jacques is in front of me.

Mailys: Vous êtes belle

Greg: You are beautiful.

Mailys: Ils sont seuls

Greg: They are alone.

Greg: The adjective that follows the verb to be agrees in number and gender with the subject.

Mailys: That's why we have 'vous êtes belle'...

Greg: where 'belle' is feminine singular because 'vous' refers to a woman in this example,

Mailys: and 'ils sont seuls'...

Greg: where 'seuls' is masculine plural, like the subject.

Mailys: A, in the dialogue, Marcel says 'comme toi', meaning "like you", and Jacques says 'moi, je suis amoureux,' meaning "I'm in love." Can you tell us about 'moi' and 'toi'?

Greg: 'Moi' and 'toi' are called strong pronouns. They have the same meaning as 'je' and 'tu', but they are used away from the verb.

Mailys: 'Je' and 'tu' are always stuck to the verb, but 'moi' and 'toi' can be alone or with a preposition.

Greg: For instance, if I ask ... "who wants pizza?"

Mailys: 'Moi!'

Greg: And to say "in front of you", what would you say?

Mailys: Devant toi.

Greg: In English, we can emphasize the subject and say You're not alone, but not in French.

Mailys: Instead, we add a strong pronoun -- "moi, je suis seul".

Greg: That's why we sometimes hear French speakers say things like "Me, I'm hungry". Here are some more examples

Mailys: Moi, je suis seul

Greg: I'm alone

Mailys: Toi, tu es belle

Greg: You are pretty

OUTRO

Greg: Ok, that's it for this lesson! Join us for the next lesson to find out if Jacques will talk to Mireille!

Mailys: I can't wait! À bientôt!

Greg: See you soon!