

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Basic Bootcamp S1 #1

Self Introduction and Basic Greetings in Formal French

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INTRODUCTION

Virginie: Bonjour!

Eric: Eric here. Basic Bootcamp Season 1, lesson 1 - Self Introduction and Basic Greetings in Formal French.

Eric: Hello, and welcome to the Basic Bootcamp S1 at FrenchPod101.com, where we study modern French in a fun, educational format!

Virginie: So, brush up on the French that you started learning long ago, or start learning today.

Eric: Thank you for being here with us for this lesson. Virginie, how are you today?

Virginie: I'm good, Eric, thank you. OK, now you probably think, Bootcamp, this is going to be painful.

Eric: No, in our bootcamp, There's no suffering here.

Virginie: We'll be slow, we promise.

Eric: We should have called it BootSpa, actually.

Eric: In this lesson, you will learn how to initiate the first contact with a person in French and how to introduce yourself.

Virginie: This conversation takes place at the reception lobby of a hotel in France.

Eric: And it's between a receptionist and a tourist.

Virginie: The speakers will be speaking formally.

Eric: OK, so now let's listen to the conversation.

LESSON CONVERSATION

Réceptionniste: Bonjour, Madame. Je m'appelle Maxime.

Mme Lefebvre: Enchantée, Monsieur. Je m'appelle Madame Lefebvre Camille.

Réceptionniste: Enchanté Madame.

Eric: One more time, a little more slowly.

Virginie: Encore une fois, plus lentement.

Réceptionniste: Bonjour, Madame. Je m'appelle Maxime.

Mme Lefebvre: Enchantée, Monsieur. Je m'appelle Madame Lefebvre Camille.

Réceptionniste: Enchanté Madame.

Eric: How about in English.

Réceptionniste: Bonjour, Madame. Je m'appelle Maxime.

Eric: Hello, madam. I'm Maxime.

Mme Lefebvre: Enchantée, Monsieur. Je m'appelle Madame Lefebvre Camille.

Eric: Nice to meet you, sir. I'm Mrs. Camille Lefebvre.

Réceptionniste: Enchanté Madame.

Eric: Nice to meet you, Miss.

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Eric: Now I noticed that she introduced her name starting with her last name first. Is this normal in French?

Virginie: No, actually, here she gives her last name first because she's talking to a receptionist in a hotel, and he needs to check her reservation, so he needs her last name.

Eric: Ah, I see, so it's only the formal context, then.

Virginie: Right.

Eric: But sometimes you only just introduce yourself with your first name, right?

Virginie: Actually, most of the time, pretty much all the time you give your first name first. Like, « Bonjour, je m'appelle Virginie Mariès ». Hi, my name's Virginie Mariès.

Eric: So you're doing the normal order like the one we do in English.

Virginie: Right.

Eric: How do people actually greet each other ? Do they shake hands when they meet for the first time?

Virginie: You shake hands the first time, the very first time you meet someone. Especially at work, but usually, you kiss each other in France.

Eric: You kiss each other. Yeah, I've noticed people were kissing each other all the time in France.

Virginie: Yes, they do kiss each other. They kiss on each cheek.

Eric. Interesting, and so that's just the normal greeting that takes the place of shaking somebody's hand.

Virginie: Yes, exactly. Women and women, and women with men.

Eric: But not with men?

Virginie: Men with men, not really. Men usually shake hands all the time.

Eric: Men usually shake hands, okay. So, would this be done in a business context, or with personal friends?

Virginie: Well, once you know your coworkers pretty well, you can start kissing. But don't kiss on the first day, just shake hands.

Eric: Okay, see I hope you got that out there – on the first day at a French job, don't go in the office and kiss everyone.

Virginie: No, don't do that. Do it later, it's really fun.

Eric: Okay, great! So let's take a look at the vocabulary for this lesson.

VOCAB LIST

Eric: The first word we shall see is...

Virginie: bonjour [natural native speed]

Eric: hello

Virginie: bonjour [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Virginie: bonjour [natural native speed]

: Next:

Virginie: madame [natural native speed]

Eric: Mrs

Virginie: madame [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Virginie: madame [natural native speed]

: Next:

Virginie: je m'appelle [natural native speed]

Eric: My name is

Virginie: je m'appelle [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Virginie: je m'appelle [natural native speed]

: Next:

Virginie: Enchanté(e). [natural native speed]

Eric: Pleased to meet you.

Virginie: Enchanté(e). [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Virginie: Enchanté(e). [natural native speed]

KEY VOCABULARY AND PHRASES

Eric: Okay so let's take a closer look at some of the uses of the words and phrases from this lesson.

Virginie: The first word we'll look at is... Bonjour Madame

Eric: This is Hello Miss.

Virginie: Yes, and Bonjour/Hello is used in the day. It means literally Good Day.

Eric: Right and later at night, you'd be saying Good evening or « Bonsoir ».

Virginie: Exactly.

Eric: Okay, what else do we have to say?

Virginie: We have Bonjour Monsieur.

Eric: And that means Hello Sir.

Virginie: Yes. One thing I want you to know is that you won't say bonjour monsieur all the time when you meet someone, you can just say bonjour, that's fine.

Eric: I assume I would say it if I met President Obama.

Virginie: Yeah, Eric, if you meet President Obama, maybe you should say Bonjour, Obama, instead of bonjour. But that's pretty much the only situation when you have to say that.

Eric: If you want to speak to Obama in French, that is.

Eric: OK what do we have next?

Virginie: We have Enchantee.

Eric: Which means "Nice to meet you". What would it be literally? Enchanted?

Virginie: Exactly. I know it's a little over the top. I know.

Eric: It's really nice. And next, we have...

Virginie: Je m'appelle -

Eric: That means my name is...

Virginie: Yes, Je m'appelle Virginie. My name is Virginie.

Eric: Or je m'appelle Eric. What is this verb?

Virginie: It is the verb s'appeler, and it's spelled appeler.

Eric: Why don't we introduce ourselves to each other.

Virginie: That's a good idea.

Eric: Bonjour.

Virginie: Bonjour.

Eric: Je m'appelle Eric.

Virginie: Enchantee, Eric. Je m'appelle Virginie.

Eric: Enchante.

Virginie: Now, you can all introduce yourself in French.

Eric: What if I don't know the other person's name. How do I ask someone what his name is?

Virginie: Well, you can ask "Comment vous vous appelez?"

Eric: One more time slowly.

Virginie: Comment vous vous appelez? Literally, how is it that you are name?

Eric: So that's in formal context, right?

Virginie: Yes, actually, if it's a friend of a friend, you would say Comment tu t'appelles?

Eric: The use of "vous" and "tu" in French are actually pretty hard to get.

Virginie: It is hard to get, because in English, for example, you only have "you." And in French, you have "tu" when you speak with a friend or a friend of a friend, or someone of same age. But you have "vous" whenever you speak to someone you don't know, or someone more important in the company you work in.

Eric: So it's a little bit more of a hierarchy when you're using "vous" you're addressing someone more formally.

Virginie: Yes, exactly.

Eric: OK, now let's move on to the focus of this lesson.

LESSON FOCUS

Virginie: Now, you know how to say "je m'appelle" with your name, which means "my name is". But there are other ways.

Eric: Just to review, je means "I," and m'appelle means "am called". So literally, you are saying, "I am called".

Virginie: Yes. That's what it means literally.

Eric: And what other ways do you have of saying my name is?

Virginie: Well, you can use the verb être "to be," and say Je suis Virginie. Je being "I" and suis being "am."

Eric: Say it one more time for us.

Virginie: Je suis Virginie.

Eric: Okay, and that's pretty much the same as we would commonly say in English, I am Eric.

Virginie: Absolutely. Just a quick note about the verb s'appeler. S'appeler is the infinitive form of the verb, to be called and it ends with -er. You know, in French, there are three groups of verbs?

Eric: Right.

Virginie: And s'appeler belongs to the first one, the ER verbs but we will see that later on.

Eric: Okay, and there is a whole section of verbs that are going to end in ER.

Virginie: Yes, absolutely.

Eric: Great. Okay, great. So I think that's enough grammar for today then?

Virginie: Yes I think that's enough.

OUTRO

Eric: Then that just about does it for us today. Some of our users already know that the most powerful tool on FrenchPod101.com

Virginie: Is the line by line audio.

Eric: It is the perfect tool for rapidly improving listening comprehension.

Virginie: By listening to lines of the conversation again and again,

Eric: Listen till every word and syllable becomes clear. Basically, we break down the dialogue into comprehensible bitesize sentences.

Virginie: So, you can try the line by line audio in the premium learning center at FrenchPod101.com

Eric: Please take a look. Take care, everyone.

Virginie: Au revoir

Eric: Bye!