

LESSON NOTES

Upper Intermediate S1 #1

Is That French Person Famous?

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FRENCH

1. (at the bottom of the Eiffel Tower)
2. Jack: Excusez-moi, monsieur. Savez-vous combien elle mesure, la tour Eiffel?
3. Jean : Attendez, laissez-moi vérifier sur mon téléphone.... Voilà, elle fait 327 mètres exactement.
4. Jack: Seulement 327? Elle avait l'air plus grande que ça. Elle est assez petite alors...
5. Jean : Vous savez, cette tour a été construite il y a plus d'un siècle. A la date de son inauguration , c'était la plus grande structure du monde!
6. Jack: C'est vrai qu'elle fait vieille. Mais vous me paraissez un peu pâle, monsieur. Ça va bien?
7. Jean : C'est parce que je suis monté en haut, et j'ai un peu eu le vertige. Je vous assure qu'elle paraît très grande au sommet.
8. Jack: Je vois... Vous savez, vous me faites vraiment penser au célèbre acteur, Jean Reno. On dirait une copie!
9. Jean : On me le dit souvent.
10. Jack: Mais avec vos lunettes de soleil, vous avez l'air d'un criminel. Vous pouvez les enlever une seconde?
11. Jean : Ah, ça va comme ça, merci. Je dois partir.
12. Jack: Il avait l'air pressé, ce monsieur...

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. (at the bottom of the Eiffel Tower)
2. Jack: Excuse me, sir. Do you know how tall the Eiffel Tower measures?
3. Jean: Wait, let me check on my phone... Right, it's 327 meters tall exactly.
4. Jack: Only 327? It looked taller than that. It's quite small then...
5. Jean: You know, this tower was built more than a century ago. At the time of its inauguration, it was the tallest structure in the world!
6. Jack: It does look old. But you know, sir, you seem kind of pale. Are you all right?
7. Jean: That's because I went up, and I got a little height sick. I can assure you it looks tall at the summit.
8. Jack: I see... You know, you really remind me of that famous actor, Jean Reno. You look like a copy!
9. Jean: People often tell me so.
10. Jack: But with your sunglasses, you look like a criminal. Can you take them off for a second?
11. Jean: Ah, I'm fine like this, thanks. I have to go.
12. Jack: That man looked to be in a hurry...

VOCABULARY

French	English	Class	Gender
pressé	in a hurry	adjective	

vertige	height sickness, fear of heights	noun	
monter	to go up	verb	
Me faire penser à	to make me think of	Expression	
célèbre	famous	adjective	feminine or masculine
lunettes de soleil	sunglasses	noun	
faire + adjective or noun	to look like	Expression	
paraître	to appear	verb	
vérifier	to check	verb	
enlever	to take off, to remove	verb	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Pourquoi es-tu pressé, il te reste du temps non?</p> <p>"Why are you in a hurry, you have time left, right?"</p>	<p>Il a le vertige quand il se met debout sur une chaise.</p> <p>"He gets height sick when he stands on a chair."</p>
<p>Il a monté les escaliers deux par deux.</p> <p>"He went up the stairs two at a time."</p>	<p>Vous me faites penser à ... quand j'avais votre âge.</p> <p>"You make me think of when I was your age."</p>
<p>Si tu veux devenir célèbre, il faut travailler plus dur que ça.</p> <p>"If you want to become famous you have to work harder than that."</p>	<p>Un célèbre général français est le général De Gaulle.</p> <p>"A famous French general is General De Gaulle."</p>
<p>Les gens qui portent des lunettes de soleil en hiver m'énervent.</p> <p>"People who wear sunglasses in winter anger me."</p>	<p>Malgre son âge, il fait encore assez jeune.</p> <p>"Despite his age, he still looks quite young."</p>

<p>Elle m'a paru énervée quand je l'ai vue ce matin</p> <p>"She looked angry when I saw her this morning."</p>	<p>Cette ombre paraît être un visage.</p> <p>"This shadow seems to be a face."</p>
<p>Je vais vérifier votre ticket, Monsieur</p> <p>"I'm going to check your ticket, Sir."</p>	<p>Je vais enlever mon pull, il fait trop chaud</p> <p>"I'm going to take off my sweater, it's too hot."</p>
<p>L'avocat enlevait ses vêtements.</p> <p>"The lawyer took off his clothes."</p>	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

faire + [adjective/noun]

We can use this expression in objective and subjective situations producing different meanings.

monter

This word's original meaning is "to go up," but it can also mean "to start up" a business, a restaurant, etc.

célèbre

The word comes from "celebrated," and one can thus remember its meaning as "famous" in the sense of being celebrated.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Expressing an Opinion of a Visual Element.

Elle avait l'air plus grande que ça...

"It looked taller than that."

There are many expressions to express a subjective opinion based on visual information. *Avoir l'air* is one of these. The other examples in this lesson for subjective analysis are *fait* + [adjective/noun], *paraît* + [adjective], *me faire penser à* + [noun], and *on dirait* + [noun]. These are roughly the English equivalent of "it seems" or "it looks." *Me faire penser à* + [noun] translates literally to "makes me think of."

The Grammatical Usage of *Avoir L'Air*

avoir l'air + [adjective]

avoir l'air de + [noun, verb]

Avoir l'air contains the verb *avoir*, which means you can conjugate this expression to all tenses, including the past, future, and conditional: *tu as l'air...*, *il aura l'air...*, *ça avait l'air...*, *j'aurais l'air...*

For Example:

1. *Le restaurant a l'air fermé.*
"The restaurant looks closed."
2. *La lumière a l'air d'être éteinte.*
"The light looks like it's off."

Examples From This Dialogue

1. *Elle avait l'air plus grande que ça.*
"It looked taller than that."
2. *Mais avec vos lunettes de soleil vous avez l'air d'un criminel.*
"But with your sunglasses you look like a criminal."

Sample Sentences

1. *Il a l'air fatigué aujourd'hui!*
"He looks tired today!"
2. *Il avait l'air de vouloir partir.*
"He looked like he wanted to leave."

Language Tip

In grammatical usage, *avoir l'air* is the most versatile of the expressions presented in this lesson, but it is also the most flexible in tone, and we can use it in almost any situation translating to "it looks," regardless of whether it is formal. On the other hand, the other terms we discussed can be a little more specific. *Parait* is a little bit more stiff and formal than *avoir l'air*. *On dirait* is similar in that sense to *parait* and can have a bit of a dramatic effect. *Faire* + [adjective/noun] is a very difficult expression to use, in that depending on the word following it, it will not translate to "looks like" but something else entirely.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How Many Times Has the Eiffel Tower Been Destroyed?

The Eiffel Tower, built in 1889 for the World's Fair in Paris, consequently appeared in many films, but it took a long time for a director to consider destroying it. The first occurrence was in 1965's *The Great Race*, and most recently, it was laid to waste by machines in the *GI Joe* franchise big screen adaptation in 2009.