



Introduction Greetings

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* Audio Conversation



Formal French

Céline Bonjour, je suis Céline. Enchantée.
 Sam Bonjour, je suis Sylvain. Enchanté Céline.

Formal English

Céline Hello, I am Céline. Nice to meet you.
 Sam Hi, I am Sylvain. Nice to meet you Céline.

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
Bonjour	Hello	noun	
être	to be	verb	
suis	am	conjugated form of the verb être	
je	I	personal pronoun	
enchanté(e)	nice to meet you, pleased to meet you.	adjective	feminine

Sample Sentences

Bonjour Monsieur. Hello Sir.

Bonjour Madame. Hello Ma'am.

Il vaut mieux être seul que mal accompagné. It is more worth it to be alone than badly accompanied.

Il semble être heureux. He seems to be happy.

Être ou ne pas être.

Je suis dans le jardin. I am in the yard.

Je suis né en juin. I was born in June.

Je dîne tous les soirs vers 19 heures. I eat diner every evening around 7 pm.

Je vais bien. I am well.

Enchanté Mademoiselle. Nice to meet you Miss. (said by a man) (said by a woman)

Enchantée Monsieur. Nice to meet you Sir.

Il est enchanté de vous rencontrer. He is pleased to meet you.

Elle est enchantée de vous voir. She is pleased to see you.

Grammar Points



INTRODUCING ONESELF.

While in France or any French speaking country, you will be in direct contact with the locals. When doing so, you probably will find yourself wishing to socialize with them and be able to introduce yourself in a polite, simple and friendly manner.

▷ Greeting

Before introducing yourself, a good way to initiate a conversation is first to greet them by saying "Hi" or "Hello." It will also help you to break the ice or to overcome your shy side!

****Bonjour****

Hi, hello.

Saying "*bonjour*" or "Hello" is a must! When breaking the word "*bonjour*" apart, one realizes that "Bon" translated as good and "Jour" meaning day to literally mean "Good day." In other words, by saying "*bonjour*," you are wishing the other speaker a good day. Even though it might seem weird or unnatural to say "*bonjour*" when starting a conversation, it is the most common greeting you can use all day, morning or afternoon. If it is evening or night time, you would use "*bonsoir*" meaning good evening to either greet or give your farewell.

Examples:

Situation 1: It's day time. You are initiating a Skype call with your French language exchange partner Maurice.

=> *Bonjour, Maurice.* / Hello, Maurice.

Situation 2: It's 8 am. You just arrived at work and are walking by in the hallway of your office. You see your French colleague Mr. Dupont. You would greet him with:

=> *Bonjour, Monsieur Dupont.* / Hello, Sir Dupont.

Situation 3: It's Saturday afternoon, you are at the local pharmacy and address the young pharmacist to fill your prescription.

=> *Bonjour, Mademoiselle.* / Hi, Miss.

Situation 4: You are invited to a painter exhibit at the artist's reception in



the evening. You have the chance to talk the painter.

=> *Bonsoir.* / Good evening.

Situation 5: You're arriving late at night at the airport. You're passing the French custom. Because you're polite, you'd say:

=> *Bonsoir, Madame.* / Good evening, Ma'am.

▷ Indicating your name

When the desire tickles you to socialize with French native speakers, after greeting them with a polite "*bonjour*" or "*bonsoir*" you will certainly tell your name.

****Bonjour, je suis Céline. - Bonjour, je suis Sylvain.****

Hi, I am Céline. - Hello, I am Sylvain.

In the conversation *Céline* and *Sylvain* are meeting in the recording studio for the first time. In order to welcome the French learners and each other, they first greet the listeners and one another with a "*Bonjour*" as they certainly recorded during day time. Following, each of the host says their own first name preceded with "*Je suis*".

"*Je*" designates the person speaking it and corresponds to the personal pronoun "I." "*Suis*" meaning "am," is a conjugated form of the verb "*être*", which means "to be." "*Suis*" is "*être*" conjugated into the first person singular.

"*Je suis*" meaning "I am," can also be used in other contexts as when giving nationality or how you feel (see Situation 4 and 5 below).

Examples:

Situation 1: Your friend Carine introduces herself to your sister.

=> *Je suis Carine.* / I am Carine.

Situation 2: You are at a car convention and listen to a speech for the French car manufacturer "Renault." The lecturer presents himself.

=> *Je suis Monsieur Renault Alfred.* / I am Mr. Renault Alfred.

Situation 3: You are walking in a hotel which you reserved a room for. You are talking to the receptionist to check in:

=> *Je suis Madame Smith Jane.* / I am Mrs Smith Jane.

Situation 4: The hotel receptionist noticing Smith Jane's accent, asks her nationality. She'd answer:





=> *Je suis anglaise.* / I am English.

Situation 5: You are so happy to be in France and practicing your French with the hotel receptionist that you express your happiness.

=> *Je suis contente.* / I am happy. (said by a woman) => *Je suis content.* / I am happy. (said by a man)

Language Tip: "*content*" and "*contente*" spelling and pronunciation.

Note the difference between "*Je suis contente.*" said by a woman and "*Je suis content*" said by a man both translated as "I am happy". The adjective "*content*" meaning happy, takes the letter -e in the feminine form. The pronunciation differs as well. Pronounce the 2nd -t in feminine adjective "*contente*" without saying the last letter -e. You'd say [khon-taent]. However in the masculine form "*content*", do not pronounce the 2nd -t. You'd say [khon-taon].

▷ First encounter: Be appreciative!

Once you've greeted someone and introduced yourself, be kind and express your appreciation of meeting a new person. This can be done with only one word "enchanté," which is equivalent to the phrase "Nice to meet you." Try not to say it as a dull phrase that everybody has been trained to use as an automatic reflex. Add some intent and feeling to it, by either using proper intonation or look into the eyes of the other speaker to captivate his/her attention.

****Enchanté / enchantée.****

Nice to meet you.

The word "enchanté" literally means "pleased." It is used to let the other person know that you're pleased to have met him/her usually for the first time in a formal situation. *Céline* tells *Sylvain* "*enchantée*" to let Sylvain know she's happy to have met him. Sylvain does the same by using "enchanté". The complete phrase is in French "*Je suis enchantée,*" or "*Je suis enchanté,*" which best matches the English "I am pleased to meet you." It can be translated as "Nice to meet you." as well. Note in *Céline*'s phrase "*Enchantée*" has the last letter -e. "*Enchanté*" being an adjective in the masculine form takes an -e at the feminine form because it is said by *Céline* (a woman) who is pleased to meet Sylvain. (You can find the feminine mark -e with "*content*" in the language tip above.) On the contrary if a man says "enchanté" the last -e mark of the feminine gender is not added to leave the adjective in the masculine form.

Language Note: pronunciation of "Enchanté" and "enchantée"



Even though the spelling is different for the masculine and feminine forms, the pronunciation of both words are identical [haon-chaon-te].

Examples:

Situation 1: Your son introduces his new French girlfriend Sandrine to you. You'd hear:

=> *Enchantée*. / Nice to meet you.

Situation 2: Mary is renting a small mansion in the French countryside for the weekend. She is introduced to her new landlord Mrs Dubois. Mary would say:

=> *Enchantée, Madame Dubois*. / Nice to meet you, Mrs Dubois.

Situation 3: Anthony is meeting his French teacher for the first time. Anthony would say:

=> *Enchanté, professeur*. / Nice to meet you teacher.

Situation 4: Jane is seating in a theater near a French man. They introduce themselves and she says

=> *Enchantée, Monsieur*. / Nice to meet you sir.

Situation 5: Tom is at a youth hostel and wants to be really polite to represent his native country. He makes sure to practice his French and be appreciative by saying to everyone he meets:

=> *Enchanté* / Nice to mmet you.

Cultural Insight

When meeting someone in France, one of the first questions a traveler asks him or herself is "do I shake hands or do I do the French *bisous* (kiss hello)?" This is an awkward spot for many newcomers, so don't feel bad if you don't figure it out right away. Here are some guidelines to help you.

Traditionally, the *bisous*, or kiss hello, is reserved only for social situations:

- in which you are introduced to someone by a third person - in which you already know the other person, such as a friend, and you are seeing them for the first time that day.

The *bisous* is performed like this: you and the other person touch cheek to cheek, usually starting on the left, and kiss the air. Then again on the other side. The number of kisses depends on the region, but most often its just two, one for each side.

While women kiss each other hello, there is no strict rule between men, though when they meet for



the first time, they often shake hands. If you're not sure what to do, follow the other person's lead. If you are not comfortable with a kiss hello, a handshake always works, especially if you are foreign. The French are quite used to travelers in their country (it's the number one tourist destination in the world!) and adapt this customary greeting easily to newcomers. Lastly, in a professional setting, everyone shakes hands.