



### Language Placement Matters

To ensure the best possible learning experience for everyone, proper placement in our language classes is essential. During the first two weeks of class, instructors may recommend a level change based on your speaking and comprehension skills. These adjustments help create the most effective and engaging class environment for all students. This guide will help you determine the right level.

## French Classes

### Beginning French for True Beginners

Just like it sounds- no previous knowledge required.

### French for Travelers

This class will be taught in English, no previous French required.

### French I Continuing

Students enrolling in French I Continuing should be comfortable with most of the following skills:

Prerequisite Checklist for French I Continuing

This course is designed for students who have had limited but consistent exposure to French. By the end of French I, students should be able to:

#### Vocabulary & Grammar

- Greet others and introduce themselves using simple phrases (e.g., *Bonjour, Je m'appelle...*)
- Ask and answer very basic personal questions (e.g., *Où habites-tu ? Tu as quel âge ?*)
- Recognize and use a few essential verbs in the present tense: être, avoir, aller, and a couple of common -ER verbs like *parler* or *aimer*
- Understand basic sentence structure: subject + verb + complement
- Begin using gender and number agreement with simple nouns and adjectives (e.g., *un garçon français, une fille américaine*)
- Recognize question words such as *où, quand, comment*

#### Speaking & Listening

- Participate in short, memorized exchanges and classroom dialogues
- Understand very simple spoken French when it's slow and clearly articulated
- Respond appropriately to basic classroom instructions in French

### Reading & Writing

- Read short, familiar phrases or sentences, such as introductions or labeled visuals
- Write simple sentences about themselves using practiced vocabulary (e.g., name, age, favorite color or food)

### Cultural Awareness

- Understand French greetings and basic etiquette (e.g., saying *bonjour*, *merci*, *au revoir*)
- Be familiar with the concept of *tu* vs. *vous*, even if not fully confident using them

## Prerequisite Checklist for French II – Part I

This course builds on the basics introduced in French I. Students should be able to:

### Vocabulary & Grammar

- Greet others, introduce themselves, and share simple personal details
- Ask and answer basic questions using familiar vocabulary
- Use present tense of **être**, **avoir**, **aller**, **faire**, and a few regular **-ER** verbs (like *parler*, *jouer*, *écouter*)
- Recognize and apply gender and number agreement with nouns and adjectives (e.g., *une grande maison*)
- Understand and use simple sentence patterns, including **negatives** (e.g., *je ne comprends pas*)
- Recognize basic question words: *où*, *quand*, *comment*, *pourquoi*, *combien*

### Speaking & Listening

- Participate in short, guided conversations or role-plays
- Understand slow, clearly spoken French in familiar situations (greetings, classroom instructions, basic descriptions)
- Ask for repetition or clarification in French (e.g., *Répétez, s'il vous plaît.*)

### Reading & Writing

- Read short, simple texts such as brief dialogues or labeled visuals
- Write short sentences about familiar topics (e.g., likes/dislikes, family, daily routine)
- Recognize some commonly used classroom and everyday vocabulary in writing

### Cultural Awareness

- Understand the difference between formal and informal speech (*tu* vs. *vous*)
- Have basic exposure to Francophone cultures, including greetings, food, or holidays

## Prerequisite Checklist for Intermediate French Conversation: Building Confidence and Fluency

This course is for students who want to **strengthen their spoken French**, increase **comfort with conversation**, and **build fluency**. It is not a beginner course. Students should already be able to:

### Speaking & Listening

- Participate in basic conversations on familiar topics (e.g., hobbies, family, travel, school/work)
- Ask and answer questions with some spontaneity, even if vocabulary is limited
- Express opinions or preferences using complete sentences
- Understand spoken French at a moderate pace when spoken clearly and in context
- Use polite conversational cues (e.g., *je pense que...*, *à mon avis*, *c'est une bonne idée*)

### **Grammar & Vocabulary**

- Confidently use **present tense** for common regular and irregular verbs (e.g., *je vais*, *il fait*, *nous prenons*)
- Have some experience using **passé composé** to talk about past events
- Understand basic use of **futur proche** (*je vais manger*) and **imperatives**
- Know how to form simple **questions**, **negatives**, and use **gender and adjective agreement**
- Be open to self-correcting or trying out more complex sentence structures

### **Reading & Writing (supportive, not the focus)**

- Read and understand short articles, dialogues, or informal emails
- Write simple responses or summaries to support oral discussion

### **FR Cultural Awareness**

- Be familiar with conversational norms in French-speaking cultures, including formality, gestures, and filler phrases
- Recognize regional differences in pronunciation, expressions, or customs

## **Prerequisite Checklist for Advanced French Conversation and Expression**

This class is intended for learners who are already **comfortable communicating in French** and are ready to refine their speaking, listening, and expressive skills in more complex, nuanced conversations.

### **Speaking & Listening**

- Can sustain spontaneous conversations on a wide range of everyday and abstract topics (e.g., culture, current events, personal opinions, travel, work)
- Able to express and support opinions, ask clarifying questions, and engage in back-and-forth dialogue with ease
- Understands spoken French at a natural pace, including a variety of accents or colloquial expressions
- Comfortable using conversational strategies like paraphrasing, summarizing, and expressing disagreement tactfully

### **Grammar & Vocabulary**

- Confident with **present**, **past** (passé composé, imparfait), and **future** (futur proche and futur simple) tenses
- Familiar with **conditional**, **subjunctive** mood (even if not fully mastered), and relative clauses
- Able to use linking words and expressions to structure speech (e.g., *cependant*, *en revanche*, *donc*, *par conséquent*)

- Expanding vocabulary to include idiomatic expressions, descriptive language, and informal or formal registers

### **Reading & Writing (to support expression)**

- Can read and discuss more complex texts: short articles, literary excerpts, opinion pieces
- Comfortable summarizing or reacting to a text or video clip in spoken or written French

### **FR Cultural and Social Fluency**

- Aware of cultural nuances, tones of formality, and conversational etiquette in different Francophone settings
- Open to discussing cultural differences, social issues, humor, and wordplay in French

## **Prerequisite Checklist for Conversation Française – Intermédiaire Niveau I** **Instructor: Mary Ellen McGoe**

This course is intended for students who have completed multiple sessions of beginning French and are ready to **develop greater fluency and confidence speaking entirely in French**. It is a good fit for learners who are comfortable operating without English support in the classroom. Students should already be able to:

### **Speaking & Listening**

- Participate in short, spontaneous conversations on familiar topics such as daily routines, travel, family, and hobbies
- Ask and respond to open-ended questions in complete sentences, even if some hesitation or errors occur
- Follow classroom instructions and discussions entirely in French, even when spoken at a moderate pace
- Use common conversational expressions to keep a conversation going (e.g., *I think that...*, *I'm not sure*, *How do you say...?*)

### **Grammar & Vocabulary**

- Confidently use the **present tense** of regular verbs and frequently used irregular verbs (*être, avoir, aller, faire, venir, vouloir*)
- Begin using or recognizing the **passé composé** (past tense) in familiar contexts (e.g., *I visited Paris last year*)
- Form a variety of question types: rising intonation, *est-ce que*, and simple inversion
- Use negative constructions, basic prepositions, articles, adjectives, and subject/object pronouns with fair accuracy
- Rephrase or simplify ideas when vocabulary is limited

### **Reading & Writing (to support conversation)**

- Read and understand short texts such as brief articles, announcements, or descriptive passages

- Write short summaries, responses, or personal statements to support speaking activities

#### FR Cultural and Social Awareness

- Understand how to use *tu* vs. *vous* appropriately and follow conversational etiquette in French
- Comfortable with common French greetings, polite phrases, and cultural references used in day-to-day interactions

---

## Spanish Classes

### Beginning Spanish for True Beginners

Just like it sounds- no previous knowledge required.

### Spanish I Continuing Class – Prerequisite Checklist

Students enrolling in **Spanish I Continuing** should be comfortable with the following:

#### Vocabulary

- Basic greetings and introductions (e.g., *Hola, ¿cómo estás?, Me llamo...*)
- Numbers 1–100
- Days of the week, months, and seasons, and expressing dates
- Classroom objects and basic commands
- Colors and simple adjectives
- Family members
- Common foods and meals
- Basic clothing and weather terms

#### Grammar & Usage

- Definite and indefinite articles (*el, la, un, una*)
- Subject pronouns (*yo, tú, él, ella, etc.*)
- Present tense of regular –AR, –ER, and –IR verbs
- Commonly used irregular verbs in present tense (e.g., *ser, estar, ir, tener*)
- Gender and number agreement (e.g., *niño alto, niñas altas*)
- Basic sentence structure (Subject + Verb + Object)
- Simple negation (e.g., *No me gusta...*)
- Question words (interrogatives)

#### Communication Skills

- Can introduce themselves and others
- Can ask and answer simple questions about self and familiar topics
- Can describe themselves and others using simple adjectives
- Can talk about daily routines and activities in the present tense
- Can express likes and dislikes
- Telling time

#### Cultural Awareness (Basic)

- Awareness of a few Spanish-speaking countries

- Familiarity with basic cultural customs (e.g., greetings, mealtimes)

### ✓ **Spanish I Advanced Class – Prerequisite Checklist**

Students enrolling in **Spanish I Advanced** should be able to demonstrate confidence in the following areas:

#### **Vocabulary**

- All foundational Spanish I vocabulary (see "Continuing" checklist)
- Expanded vocabulary in these areas:
  - House and home (rooms, furniture, chores)
  - Community and places in town
  - Hobbies and free time activities
  - Travel and transportation
  - Describing people and personalities
  - School subjects and schedules

#### **Grammar & Usage**

- Mastery of:
  - Subject pronouns and present tense conjugations (regular and key irregulars)
  - Gender and number agreement with nouns and adjectives
  - Articles, possessive adjectives (*mi, tu, su, nuestro...*)
  - Using *gustar* and similar verbs (e.g., *encantar, interesar*)
- Familiarity with:
  - Stem-changing verbs (e.g., *querer, dormir, jugar*)
  - Reflexive verbs in the present tense (e.g., *levantarse, ducharse*)
  - Ir + a + infinitive (talking about the near future)
  - Basic question formation and interrogatives (*qué, quién, cuándo, por qué, etc.*)

#### **Communication Skills**

- Can hold simple conversations beyond basic introductions
- Can describe daily routines using reflexive verbs
- Can express preferences, feelings, and basic opinions
- Can ask and answer questions about activities, places, and people
- Can give and follow simple directions

#### **Reading & Writing**

- Can read short passages and identify main ideas and key details
- Can write short paragraphs about familiar topics (e.g., family, routines, hobbies)
- Can use transition words like *también, pero, porque, entonces*

#### **Cultural Knowledge**

- Awareness of cultural traditions from at least 2–3 Spanish-speaking countries
- Familiarity with cultural practices around food, holidays, or schools
- Can identify and describe some cultural differences (e.g., greeting styles, meal times)

### ✓ **Spanish II – Prerequisite Checklist**

Students enrolling in **Spanish II** should confidently demonstrate the following skills from Spanish I:

### **Vocabulary Mastery**

- All vocabulary from Spanish I, including:
  - Greetings, family, classroom objects, food, clothing
  - House and home, town/community, weather, time, hobbies
  - Basic travel and school-related terms

### **Grammar & Structure**

- Confident use of:
  - Present tense of **regular and irregular verbs**
  - **Stem-changing verbs** (e.g., *jugar, querer, dormir*)
  - **Reflexive verbs** in present tense (e.g., *lavarse, despertarse*)
  - **Gustar** and similar constructions (*encantar, interesar*)
  - Subject pronouns, articles, possessive adjectives
  - **Ir + a + infinitive** (e.g., *Voy a estudiar*)
  - Basic sentence structure and negation

### **Speaking & Listening**

- Able to:
  - Participate in short conversations about familiar topics
  - Describe daily routines, family, school, and hobbies
  - Ask and answer questions in the present tense
  - Respond to oral directions and classroom interactions

### **Reading & Writing**

- Can read short texts for comprehension
- Can write **short paragraphs** using complete sentences
- Can describe people, routines, and preferences in writing
- Understands when to use gender and number agreement

### **Cultural Awareness**

- Familiar with cultural practices in at least 2–3 Spanish-speaking countries
- Aware of major holidays, family structures, food traditions, and formal/informal interactions

### **Goal Readiness**

- Ready to expand into **past tense (preterite)** and more complex grammar structures
- Interested in building on foundational skills for more fluent communication

## **Spanish II Advanced – Prerequisite Checklist**

Students enrolling in Spanish II Advanced should be confident in all Spanish II skills and ready to expand their abilities into more complex structures.

### **Vocabulary**

Mastery of all Spanish I and Spanish II vocabulary, including:

- Daily routines, hobbies, school, travel, community, and home
- Expanded vocabulary in areas such as:
  - Health and body parts
  - Shopping and money

- Leisure and entertainment
- Technology and social media
- Weather, seasons, and natural surroundings
- Professions and workplaces

## **Grammar & Structure**

Proficient in:

- Present tense (regular, irregular, and stem-changing verbs)
- Reflexive verbs and daily routine expressions
- Gustar and similar constructions (encantar, interesar, faltar)
- Ir + a + infinitive, and simple future expressions
- Past tense: preterite and imperfect
- Comparatives and superlatives (más... que, el/la más...)
- Direct and indirect object pronouns
- Complex sentence structures with conjunctions (porque, aunque, mientras, cuando)
- Commands (affirmative and negative tú forms)

## **Speaking & Listening**

Able to:

- Participate confidently in conversations on familiar and less familiar topics
- Describe past events and experiences using preterite and imperfect
- Give instructions and explain processes clearly
- Express opinions, preferences, and hypothetical situations
- Understand and respond to spoken Spanish in classroom and social settings

## **Reading & Writing**

Can:

- Read longer texts (articles, stories, letters) and summarize key points
- Write coherent paragraphs and short essays with proper tense usage
- Express past, present, and near-future events accurately
- Use connectors to make writing flow (sin embargo, por lo tanto, además)
- Apply correct gender, number, and agreement in writing

## **Cultural Awareness**

- Knowledge of cultural practices, holidays, and traditions in multiple Spanish-speaking countries
- Understanding of regional variations in language and customs
- Ability to compare and contrast cultural perspectives and daily life
- Appreciation for cultural expressions through music, literature, and media

## **Goal Readiness**

- Prepared to advance toward Spanish III or AP-level coursework
- Interested in building fluency for extended conversations, writing, and comprehension
- Ready to explore more nuanced grammar and vocabulary to support advanced communication
- 

## **Spanish III – Prerequisite Checklist**

Students enrolling in Spanish III should be confident in Spanish II Advanced skills and ready to engage with more complex language structures.

## **Vocabulary**

- Mastery of all Spanish I and II (including Advanced) vocabulary
- Expanded vocabulary in:
  - Environment and nature
  - Health, illness, and medical situations
  - Careers, professions, and workplaces
  - Technology, social media, and communication
  - Politics, government, and current events
  - Literature, arts, and entertainment

## **Grammar & Structure**

- Proficient in:
  - Present, preterite, and imperfect tenses
  - Future and conditional tenses
  - Subjunctive in present tense (expressing wishes, doubts, emotions)
  - Comparatives, superlatives, and idiomatic expressions
  - Object pronouns (direct, indirect, double pronouns)
  - Commands (affirmative and negative, formal and informal)
  - Complex sentence structures with multiple clauses
  - Por vs. para, ser vs. estar, and other nuanced distinctions

## **Speaking & Listening**

- Able to:
  - Engage in extended conversations on familiar and abstract topics
  - Narrate and describe experiences using multiple tenses
  - Express opinions, give advice, and hypothesize
  - Interpret spoken Spanish in authentic contexts, including audio and video sources

## **Reading & Writing**

- Can:
  - Read authentic texts such as articles, short stories, and essays
  - Write multi-paragraph compositions with coherent ideas
  - Use a variety of tenses and moods appropriately
  - Support opinions with reasoning and evidence
  - Incorporate cultural references and idiomatic expressions in writing

## **Cultural Awareness**

- Knowledge of cultural, historical, and social practices in Spanish-speaking countries
- Ability to analyze and compare cultural norms and perspectives
- Awareness of literature, music, media, and arts in Hispanic cultures

## **Goal Readiness**

- Ready to engage with authentic Spanish materials and more nuanced communication

---

## **Spanish IV – Prerequisite Checklist**

Students enrolling in Spanish IV should have mastered Spanish III skills and be ready

for advanced study, including preparation for AP-level coursework or fluency development.

### **Vocabulary**

- Mastery of all Spanish I–III vocabulary
- Expanded vocabulary in:
  - Academic and professional topics
  - Advanced literature and literary analysis
  - Science, technology, and global issues
  - Art, music, and theater
  - Politics, government, and social issues
  - Idiomatic and figurative expressions

### **Grammar & Structure**

- Proficient in:
  - All major tenses: present, preterite, imperfect, future, conditional
  - Subjunctive in present and past tenses
  - Compound and complex sentences
  - Passive voice and impersonal expressions
  - Advanced uses of *por/para*, *ser/estar*, and other nuanced grammar distinctions
  - Idiomatic and figurative language usage

### **Speaking & Listening**

- Able to:
  - Discuss abstract topics, current events, and hypothetical situations fluently
  - Debate, give presentations, and narrate complex experiences
  - Understand authentic Spanish in multiple accents and registers
  - Communicate effectively in professional, academic, and social contexts

### **Reading & Writing**

- Can:
  - Read and analyze authentic literary and informational texts
  - Write essays, reports, and creative works with advanced grammar and style
  - Express nuanced opinions and arguments with clarity
  - Incorporate cultural references and idioms appropriately
  - Demonstrate stylistic sophistication and accuracy in written Spanish

### **Cultural Awareness**

- Deep understanding of cultural, historical, and social issues in Spanish-speaking countries
- Ability to critically analyze literature, media, and arts from diverse Spanish-speaking regions
- Awareness of linguistic variations and cultural perspectives across countries

### **Goal Readiness**

- Ready to engage in professional and academic Spanish contexts
- Capable of fluent, nuanced communication in both spoken and written forms

