



MFL Sunderland Primary French Podcasts

lesson

15

Welcome to the MFL Sunderland Primary French podcast. Lesson 15 - Colours

In this lesson you'll learn how to say the colours in French and how to sing some French songs about colours. You'll also find out about cognates and false friends.

Colours

First of all, here are the eleven colours that we are going to use in this lesson.

rouge	<i>red</i>
bleu	<i>blue</i>
jaune	<i>yellow</i>
vert	<i>green</i>
noir	<i>black</i>
blanc	<i>white</i>
marron	<i>brown</i>
rose	<i>pink</i>
violet	<i>purple</i>
gris	<i>grey</i>
orange	<i>orange</i>

Maintenant, à toi. Ecoutez, répétez:

rouge	(pause)	rouge	(pause)
bleu	(pause)	bleu	(pause)
jaune	(pause)	jaune	(pause)
vert	(pause)	vert	(pause)
noir	(pause)	noir	(pause)
blanc	(pause)	blanc	(pause)
marron	(pause)	marron	(pause)
rose	(pause)	rose	(pause)
violet	(pause)	violet	(pause)
gris	(pause)	gris	(pause)
orange	(pause)	orange	(pause)

There are lots of games and activities that you can use to practise the colours. Here are some examples.

- *Give the children sets of colour cards each or in pairs and ask them to show you the right colour by saying “Montrez-moi le rouge” (or any other colour).*
- *Alternatively, to get them out of their seats, give them the instruction “Trouvez quelque chose de bleu” – Find something blue.*
- *“Je pense à une couleur” – I’m thinking of a colour. You think of a colour and the children have to try to work out which one it is.*
- *Kim’s game – make coloured squares on the whiteboard disappear one at a time and ask the question “Qu’est-ce qui manque?” – What’s missing?*
- *Have a go at a bit of colour mixing. You can use the mathematical terms that we learned in lesson 5B – “plus”, “moins” and “égale”. For example, can you supply the answer to this colour sum – “rouge plus blanc égale...”?*
- *Try a “Stroop” activity. Show the children the word “jaune” written in blue. The challenge is to say the colour of the word – “bleu” – and not the word itself – “jaune”.*

Let’s practise that key vocabulary. Ecoutez, répétez.

Montrez-moi le rouge	(pause)	Montrez-moi le rouge	(pause)
Trouvez quelque chose de bleu	(pause)	Trouvez quelque chose de bleu	(pause)
Je pense à une couleur	(pause)	Je pense à une couleur	(pause)
Qu’est-ce qui manque?	(pause)	Qu’est-ce qui manque?	(pause)
plus moins égale	(pause)	plus moins égale	(pause)

You will have noticed, especially if you are following the transcript of this lesson, that some of the colours in French are very similar to their counterparts in English. It's easy, for example, to remember what colour "orange" is because it looks and sounds like orange. This is because the two words are cognates.

Cognates are two words in two different languages which have a common origin or root, and so are similar or even identical. They will also have a very similar meaning. French and English share many cognates because of their common history as products of the Roman Empire, and of course because of the Norman invasion in 1066. This makes learning and remembering vocabulary easier to a certain extent for English-speaking people who are learning French.

Here are some examples of cognates:

machine *machine*

silence *silence*

recycler *to recycle*

Alongside cognates is another group of words called false friends. False friends also look similar but have different meanings. Here are some examples:

un crayon *a pencil, not a crayon*

un collègue *a school, not necessarily what we think of as a college*

une librairie *a book shop, not a library.*

To finish with, here are the songs. The first uses the familiar tune of "I can sing a rainbow". Listen and then see if you can join in.

Rouge et orange et jaune et bleu,
Violet, rose et vert.
Je connais les couleurs,
Toutes les couleurs,
De mon arc-en-ciel.*

The second song uses the familiar tune of "Frère Jacques":

Rouge, jaune, vert, bleu,
Rouge, jaune, vert, bleu,
Rose, noir, blanc,
Rose, noir, blanc,
Violet, orange,
Violet, orange,
Marron, gris,
Marron, gris.

That's the end of this podcast. If you think you need a bit more practice, go back to the beginning and work through the activities again.

Au revoir!

**Red and orange and yellow and blue,
Purple, pink and green.
I know the colours,
All the colours,
Of my rainbow.*