



MFL Sunderland Primary French Podcasts

lesson

20

Welcome to the MFL Sunderland Primary French podcast. Lesson 20 – On the way to school (2)

In this lesson you'll be able to take part in a survey and so ask and answer questions about how you get to school. You'll also find out about subject pronouns in French and the verb "to go".

Taking part in a survey

A survey about transport to school is an ideal opportunity to get some cross-curricular maths into your French lessons. In order to be able to carry out the survey and report on the findings in French, you will need to learn some key questions and statements.

Comment vas-tu à l'école ? *How do you go to school ?*

Je vais en bus *I go by bus*

Combien d'enfants vont à l'école en bus ? *How many children go to school by bus ?*

Sept enfants vont en bus. *Seven children go by bus.*

Lucy va en bus. *Lucy goes by bus.*

Maintenant, à toi. Écoutez, répétez.

Comment vas-tu à l'école ? (pause)

Comment vas-tu à l'école ? (pause)

Je vais en bus (pause)

Je vais en bus (pause)

Combien d'enfants vont à l'école en bus ? (pause)

Combien d'enfants vont à l'école en bus ? (pause)

Sept enfants vont en bus (pause)

Sept enfants vont en bus (pause)

Lucy va en bus. (pause)

Lucy va en bus. (pause)

You'll notice that there are several different ways of saying "go" in French. The form that you use depends on the subject of the sentence. We are lucky that there is little variation in this verb in English. We use the form "go" for everyone except "he" and "she", when we use "goes".

If you look for a French verb in a bilingual dictionary, you will find it listed in the infinitive form. In this case, you would find "aller", which means "to go". This form is called the infinitive because it is not attached to any particular person or any particular time – the possibilities are infinite. If we want it to fit a certain person or a certain time, or tense, we have to make some changes.

It's worth noting here that "aller" is an irregular verb. In other words, it doesn't follow a set pattern, as most verbs in French do.

Let's practise the subject pronouns first. They will stick in your head better if you learn them to a rhythm or rap. *Ecoutez, répétez !*

(one, two, three, four)

I

I, you

I, you, he, she

We

We, you

We, you, they

I, you, he, she, we, you, they

Now let's do the same thing in French. *Ecoutez, répétez !*

(un, deux, trois, quatre)

Je

Je, tu

Je, tu, il, elle

Nous

Nous, Vous

Nous, vous, ils, elles

Je, tu, il, elle, nous, vous, ils, elles

You'll have seen that in English we use the pronoun "you" in two different situations. We can use it with both a singular meaning and a plural meaning. French has two separate pronouns to deal with this, "tu" and "vous". You will also note that French has two pronouns – "ils" and "elles" – for our one "they". "Ils" is used for masculine and mixed "theys", and "elles" for feminine ones.

Now let's put these subject pronouns with their parts of the verb "aller".

je vais *I go*

tu vas *you (singular) go*

il va *he goes*

elle va *she goes*

nous allons *we go*

vous allez *you (plural) go*

ils vont *they (masculine or mixed) go*

elles vont *they (feminine) go*

*We'll make a rhythm by hitting the table twice with our hands and then clapping twice.
Listen and join in.*

je vais *I go*

tu vas *you go*

il va *he goes*

elle va *she goes*

nous allons *we go*

vous allez *you go*

ils vont *they go*

elles vont *they go*

You could adapt this for use in the classroom, with you saying the French and the children the English or vice versa, or the boys saying the French and the girls the English.

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!