



MFL Sunderland Primary French Podcasts

lesson
37A

Welcome to the MFL Sunderland Primary French podcast. Lesson 37A – Les quatre amis

In this lesson you will learn some of the language that is key to understanding and joining in with the story of “Les quatre amis”.

“Les quatre amis” is a short story which, at first listen, may seem impenetrable for the non-specialist teacher. However there are a considerable number of repeated elements which, once practised, can make the story easier to understand and to take part in.

Here are some of those repeated elements:

le cheval	the horse
le mouton	the sheep
le lapin	the rabbit
la souris	the mouse
la belle pomme rouge	the lovely red apple
je vais chercher mon ami	I'm going to get my friend
toc-toc-toc	knock-knock
c'est qui ?	who is it?
c'est moi	it's me
viens m'aider, s'il te plaît	come and help me, please

Maintenant, à toi. Ecoutez, répétez.

Les quatre amis

le cheval	(pause)	le cheval	(pause)
le mouton	(pause)	le mouton	(pause)
le lapin	(pause)	le lapin	(pause)
la souris	(pause)	la souris	(pause)
la belle pomme rouge	(pause)	la belle pomme rouge	(pause)
je vais chercher mon ami	(pause)	je vais chercher mon ami	(pause)
toc-toc-toc	(pause)	toc-toc-toc	(pause)
c'est qui ?	(pause)	c'est qui?	(pause)
c'est moi	(pause)	c'est moi	(pause)
viens m'aider, s'il te plaît	(pause)	viens m'aider, s'il te plaît	(pause)

We can add verbs and adjectives to the names of the animals to build sentences. First, the verbs.

Le cheval galope *The horse gallops*
 Le mouton court *The sheep runs*
 Le lapin sautille *The rabbit jumps*
 La souris trotte *The mouse scurries*

Maintenant, à toi. Ecoutez, répétez.

Le cheval galope	(pause)	Le cheval galope	(pause)
Le mouton court	(pause)	Le mouton court	(pause)
Le lapin sautille	(pause)	Le lapin sautille	(pause)
La souris trotte	(pause)	La souris trotte	(pause)

And now the adjectives.

le cheval noir *the black horse*
 le mouton blanc *the white sheep*
 le lapin gris *the grey rabbit*
 la souris marron *the brown mouse*

Maintenant, à toi. Ecoutez, répétez.

le cheval noir	(pause)	le cheval noir	(pause)
le mouton blanc	(pause)	le mouton blanc	(pause)
le lapin gris	(pause)	le lapin gris	(pause)
la souris marron	(pause)	la souris marron	(pause)

We can then combine the adjectival and the verb phrases thus:

Le mouton blanc court. *The white sheep runs.*

There are some questions that you can ask the children to elicit the adjectival and verb phrases as a response:

Qu'est-ce qu'il fait, le lapin ? *What does the rabbit do ?*
il sautille *it jumps*

Qu'est-ce qu'elle fait, la souris ? *What does the mouse do ?*
elle trotte *it scurries*

You will notice that there are two different words for "it". In French, "il" means "he" and "elle" means "she". They both also mean "it"; "il" is used for masculine nouns and "elle" for the feminine ones. "La souris" is a feminine word, and so we have to use "elle", even though the mouse itself may be physically male.

The same thing happens with these questions and answers:

Il est de quelle couleur, le lapin? *What colour is the rabbit ?*
il est gris *it is grey*

Elle est de quelle couleur, la souris ? *What colour is the mouse ?*
elle est marron *it is brown*

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.

A bientôt !