



MFL Sunderland Primary French Podcasts

lesson

43

Welcome to the MFL Sunderland Primary French podcast. Lesson 43 – Animal habitats

In this lesson you'll learn how to talk about where the Carnival animals live. You'll also learn how to say where you live.

Habitats

First of all, listen to the five habitats that you will need for this lesson.

la savane *the savanna*

la forêt *the forest*

la mer *the sea*

la campagne *the countryside*

une ferme *a farm*

Maintenant, à toi. Écoutez, répétez.

la savane (pause) la savane (pause)

la forêt (pause) la forêt (pause)

la mer (pause) la mer (pause)

la campagne (pause) la campagne (pause)

une ferme (pause) une ferme (pause)

What we want to do now is to combine the animals that we learned in Lesson 40 with the habitats to make simple sentences. This is moving our language work on from word level to sentence level, keeping it straightforward by sticking to a set structure each time.

Let's work on the question form first.

Qui habite dans la savane ? *Who lives in the savanna ?*

Qui habite dans la forêt ? *Who lives in the forest ?*

Maintenant, à toi. Écoutez, répétez.

Qui habite dans la savane ? (pause) Qui habite dans la savane ? (pause)

Qui habite dans la forêt ? (pause) Qui habite dans la forêt ? (pause)

In each of these sentences, the interrogative Qui? means "who?", habite is "lives" and the preposition dans is "in". You form the questions for the other three habitats in exactly the same way.

Here is a sample answer for each habitat. Ecoutez, répétez.

Le lion habite dans la savane. (pause) Le lion habite dans la savane. (pause)

L'oiseau habite dans la forêt. (pause) L'oiseau habite dans la forêt. (pause)

Le poisson habite dans la mer. (pause) Le poisson habite dans la mer. (pause)

Le coucou habite dans la campagne. (pause) Le coucou habite dans la campagne. (pause)

L'âne habite dans une ferme. (pause) L'âne habite dans une ferme. (pause)

It's also possible to make these sentences plural. Here is an example.

Qui habitent dans la savane ? Les lions habitent dans la savane.

You'll notice that the plural form "habitent" sounds identical to the singular "habite", although you'll see (if you are following the transcript to this lesson) that they look different. This is another example of French having silent letters at the end of words.

Lion is made plural by adding an –s, though this –s is silent as it is at the end of the word. The definite article les is the plural form of "the", and is the same for masculine and feminine. It's worth pointing out at this stage that the plural form of oiseau ends with an –x and not an –s. This –x, like the –s, is silent – les oiseaux. You can hear too that the final –s on les is pronounced here as it is followed by a vowel. The same thing would happen with les éléphants.

We can adapt the previous questions about the animals to ask where a person lives.

Où habites-tu ? *Where do you live ?*

J'habite à Sunderland en Angleterre. *I live in Sunderland in England.*

Maintenant, à toi. Écoutez, répétez.

Où habites-tu ? (pause) Où habites-tu ? (pause)

J'habite à Sunderland en Angleterre. (pause) J'habite à Sunderland en Angleterre. (pause)

Notice that there are two different ways of saying "in" in this last sentence. If you want to say "in" a village, town or city, you use à. If you want to say "in" a country, you use en (though there is a bit more to it than that with the countries – refer back to Lesson 21 where it was explained in more detail.)

Your students will be able to adapt this sentence to say where they live. British towns and cities rarely change in French. Notable exceptions to this are Londres, Edimbourg and Douvres.

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!