

He can't come

SCENE 1: The advertising agency

At the beginning of the scene, Didier, the boss of the agency, is listening to some jingles which are destined to be used in a series of ads for tourism in Tunisia. His assistant, Odile, arrives and is asked to give her opinion. She thinks the second jingle is best, but Didier prefers the third one. Didier finally decides to use the third one for the ad but asks the musician to keep the others, too, in case they want to use them for something else. Didier then asks Odile if she would mind staying a little longer, because he has one or two things he wants to check with her. Odile protests that she has some shopping to do, but Didier promises she won't need to stay more than half an hour.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 3 **C'est pas mal**
In spoken French the **ne** of the negative form is very often dropped when the conversation is informal, familiar.
- 11 **On est en train d'écouter**
An example of how, in everyday conversation, **on** is very often used instead of **nous**. Also, **en train de** is the phrase indicating that something is *in the course of* taking place.
- 35 **Et je m'y connais, moi**
S'y connaître is the French expression which means *to be a connoisseur of something, to know what one is talking about*.
- 43 **Au cas où nous en aurions besoin ...**
Au cas où *in case* is followed by a verb in the Conditional.

VOCABULARY

la publicité	advertising
une agence	agency
un musicien	musician
penser	to think
le premier(-ère)	first
les autres	others
le second	second one
le troisième	third one
savoir	to know
une bande sonore	sound track
une pub (= une publicité)	ad, advertising spot
réécouter	to listen again
un numéro	number
le deuxième	second one
subtil	subtle
ressembler	to sound like
une annonce publicitaire	advertising spot (radio)
évoquer	to call to mind, to conjure up
exotique	exotic
tout à fait	absolutely, completely
idéal	ideal
là-bas	there, over there
terne	dull
rythmé	nice and rhythmic
le flair	an ear (for something)
marcher	to work
la modestie	modesty
au cas où	in case
un morceau	piece (of music)
régler	to sort out, to settle
(c'est) promis	promised/I promise
sinon	otherwise

EXERCISE 1: Ordinal numbers

Knowing numbers well and accurately is obviously essential when learning a language; this exercise provides you with practice in using ordinal numbers. Refer to the Appendix at the back of the book for guidance on these.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 14 **Nous en prendrons trois chacun**
Note the use of **en** here in French.

VOCABULARY

ordinal	ordinal
soyez les bienvenus!	welcome!
tout au long de	throughout
la langue maternelle	native language
en même temps	at the same time, together
ensemble	together
un nombre	number
partager	to share
le quatrième	fourth (one)
le cinquième	fifth (one)
le sixième	sixth (one)
le septième	seventh (one)
le huitième	eighth (one)
le neuvième	ninth (one)
le dixième	tenth (one)
le onzième	eleventh (one)
le douzième	twelfth (one)
le treizième	thirteenth (one)
le quatorzième	fourteenth (one)
le quinzième	fifteenth (one)
le seizième	sixteenth (one)
le dix-septième	seventeenth (one)
le dix-huitième	eighteenth (one)
le dix-neuvième	nineteenth (one)
le vingtième	twentieth (one)
le vingt et unième	twenty-first (one)
le vingt-deuxième	twenty-second (one)
le vingt-troisième	twenty-third (one)
le vingt-quatrième	twenty-fourth (one)

SCENE 2: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Odile comes home. Delphine, her roommate, asks her if she has done the shopping. Odile has forgotten, having worked late. Odile suggests they go to a restaurant, but Delphine hasn't got enough money. Odile offers to pay, but Delphine points out that in any case there is nothing for breakfast, either. Odile decides to think about the situation while she has a shower. When Odile comes out of the shower Delphine asks her about her day at the office. Odile begins to tell her about the ads for Tunisia when the phone rings. Odile answers: Delphine's boyfriend, Karim, is calling. Delphine takes the call in the next room, while Odile checks the fridge: nothing, not even lemon or milk for the cup of tea she wanted to make. She blames Didier for keeping her at the office. Delphine then comes back in the room with her news: Karim, who is a student (and not a very rich one, at that), is coming to Paris to study. He is hoping to get a grant to continue his studies, and should be in France for at least two years. Their conversation is interrupted by a cry of horror from Delphine: there is no sugar in her tea!

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 41 **Tu ne voudrais pas me faire un petit café?**
Note this way of asking someone to do something for you, using the verb **vouloir** in the Conditional tense.
- 45 **J'ai une soif!**
The use of **une** and the intonation indicate that this is an exclamatory sentence. Similarly, one would say: **J'ai une faim!**, **Elle a une peur!** ...
- 68 **Et de quoi manger ...**
De quoi + Infinitive is the French construction corresponding to the English phrase *something to* + verb in the Infinitive: **de quoi boire**, **de quoi lire**, etc.

VOCABULARY

c'était ton tour	it was your turn
flûte!	darn!
même	even
se changer	to get changed
une douche	shower
fascinant	fascinating
culturel	cultural
un appel international	international call
mince!	damn!
un frigidaire	fridge
amoureux(se)	in love
une bourse	grant
être désolé	to be sorry

SCENE 3: The advertising agency

In this scene we find Odile and Didier at the agency. Didier is saying goodbye to Odile: he is on his way to a business lunch. When he has gone, Odile phones Delphine to offer to do the shopping. Delphine tells her what to buy and suggests spaghetti bolognese for dinner, but Odile's reaction is "not again!" Once they have sorted out what they need, Odile tells Delphine that the series of ads which she is doing at the moment is for the Tunisian Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Delphine thinks they are supposed to pay for part of Karim's studies in France and Odile promises to do her best with the ads. They say goodbye and hang up. At the end of the scene, Delphine is at the agency. Didier tells her that Odile has gone shopping. Delphine's message is that she won't be eating at home: she is going to a medieval music concert. Didier knows the group she is going to hear and they have a chat ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 8 **Eh bien, j'espère**
Note this way of saying *I hope so* in French: **j'espère**.
- 43 **A moins que tu ne penses à quelque chose d'autre**
The Subjunctive is used with many phrases in French. **A moins que** is one of them. Also note the use of **ne** before the verb here.
- 57 **C'est eux qui vont payer ...**
Notice that in everyday conversation, **c'est** replaces **ce sont** most of time in front of names/pronouns in the plural.
- 97 **Attendez, je réponds au téléphone**
The Present tense is often used to refer to something which one is *just about to do*.
- 98 **Il faut que je m'en aille**
Notice this expression: **il faut que** is followed by the Subjunctive.

VOCABULARY

présentable	presentable
un déjeuner d'affaires	business (working) lunch
la ligne	figure
des courses (f.)	shopping
à la sortie du bureau	when I leave the office
la lessive	laundry detergent
à moins que (ne)	unless
au fait	by the way
une série (de)	series (of)
tâcher (de faire quelque chose)	to try (to do something)
ça a quelque chose à voir (avec)	it's got something to do (with)
le Moyen-Age	Middle Ages
les Ménétriers	Minstrels
par hasard	by any chance
ce genre de (musique)	this kind of (music)
un disque	(a) record

EXERCISE 2: Shops

An exercise which enables you to revise the names of all the shops and shopkeepers, and the prepositions used with them: **chez, au, à la**. It also offers you an opportunity to check on some tricky French sounds:

eur in **primeurs, coiffeur**;

eu in **cheveux**;

ier in **papier, cordonnier, bijoutier**;

Nasal sounds (n silent), as in:

médicaments, pharmacien, montres,

marchand, viande, on, annonce;

o sounds:

1) **Odile, horloge, prononcer, cordonnier**;

2) **journaux, chaussures, choses**.

LANGUAGE NOTES

Chez le pharmacien/A la papeterie

Chez is the preposition used before the name of a person, i.e. the person who owns/runs the shop: **boucher, bijoutier, cordonnier, coiffeur**, etc. When the name of the shop is mentioned, the preposition **à** is used: **à la** when the name of the shop is feminine (**la papeterie: à la papeterie; la boucherie: à la boucherie**); **au** when the name is masculine (**le supermarché: au supermarché**).

14 Et où fait-on réparer les chaussures?

The verb **faire** followed by another verb in the Infinitive indicates that someone is *having something done*. For example: **Je vais faire laver ma voiture**.

20 Et où se fait-on couper les cheveux?

Note this construction, which means *to have something done (to oneself)*: **se faire** + verb in the Infinitive + **le/la/les** + noun.

VOCABULARY

un magasin	shop, store
un journal	newspaper
un marchand de journaux	newsagent
un boulanger	baker
le pain	bread
le dentifrice	toothpaste
un médicament	medicine
un pharmacien	pharmacist
une papeterie	stationer's
réparer	to mend, to repair
un cordonnier	shoe repairman
une montre	watch
une horloge	clock
un bijou	jewel
un bijoutier	jeweller
un coiffeur	hairdresser
un marchand de primeurs	greengrocer
la viande	meat
un boucher	butcher
la plupart (des)	most (of)
prononcer	to pronounce
un étranger	foreigner

SCENE 4: The advertising agency

Didier and Odile are at the office, waiting for their ad to be broadcast on the radio. Didier checks with Odile that there is a blank cassette in the tape recorder and that everything is ready, which annoys her somewhat! We then hear the traffic report, and after that the advertisement prepared by Didier and Odile. Both of them are pleased with the result. We also hear the end of a conversation with a Professor Merle about cultural exchanges, and in the course of this we learn that grants for Tunisian students have been cut for economic reasons. Could this have some bearing on our story ...?

LANGUAGE NOTES

5 ... à n'importe quel moment

N'importe quel is one of several French equivalents for *any*. Here it is *any* in the sense of *no matter which*.

22 Soyez prudents!

The Present Subjunctive is used to give an order in the second person plural or polite form.

54 ... nous parlions des difficultés ...

Note the use of the Imperfect: *we were talking ...*, it refers to an action which was in the course of taking place when it was interrupted.

VOCABULARY

les informations (f.)	news
la circulation	traffic
un magnétophone	tape-recorder
vierge	blank (cassette, etc.)
ralenti	slow-moving
un niveau	level
emprunter (un itinéraire)	to take, follow (a route)
l'itinéraire bis	alternative route
fléché	arrowed, signposted
un flash	news summary
universitaire (adj.)	academic

à l'écoute de
une radio libre
l'énergie (f.)
les Grandes Ondes (f.)
un intermède (publicitaire)
se faire plaisir
découvrir
en découvrant
le calme
un paysage
sommptueux(se)
chaleureux(se)
inoubliable
bronzer
une foule (de)
dans l'ensemble
un domaine
actuellement
en ce qui concerne
pas plus tard qu'hier
supprimer
d'un seul coup
du jour au lendemain
soi-disant
valable
des frais (m.)
minime
gaspiller
l'économie (f.)
des économies (f.)
une façade
coûteux(se)
fructueux(se)

tuned into
private, independent radio
energy
Long Wave
(commercial) break
to give oneself a treat
to discover
by discovering
calm
landscape, scenery
magnificent
warm (welcome)
unforgettable
to get sun-tanned
a mass (of)
generally speaking
sector
at present
regarding
only yesterday
to cut, axe (grants, etc.)
all at once
overnight
or so they say, supposedly
valid
costs
insignificant
to waste
economics
savings
front, pretense
costly, expensive
profitable, beneficial

EXERCISE 3: Intonation (1)

Intonation is all-important when learning a language, as is the stress on syllables. It is also probably the most difficult thing to get right and "natural". So this exercise will provide you with very useful practice.

13 Ça vous rend triste

The verb **rendre** + adjective is the expression used in French to mean *to make someone something (sad, happy, etc.)*.

15 Ça vous fait plaisir

The verb is **faire plaisir à (quelqu'un)**. When a pronoun is used, it is the indirect form of the personal pronoun, meaning *à moi, à toi, etc.*:

VOCABULARY

un sens

une intonation

ça vous est égal

surprendre

ça vous surprend

indigné

mettre en colère

rendre

triste

faire plaisir

la surprise

la colère

la tristesse

la joie

s'exercer

rentrer (chez soi)

elle rentre chez elle

(a) meaning

intonation

it doesn't matter to you

to surprise

it surprises you

indignant

to anger

to make

sad

to please

surprise

anger

sadness

joy

to practise

to go home

she goes home

SCENE 5: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Odile comes home to find Delphine in tears. She has had a phone call from Karim: he can't come to France to study – apparently all overseas student grants have been stopped. Karim has not been able to give much explanation and said he would write. Odile is trying to think of ways to help him, and contacting the Tunisian Tourist Office seems a possibility. Moreover, Odile suddenly remembers hearing something about this problem on the radio during the day, on the program with Professor Merle which was recorded with the ad. She promises Delphine to bring her a copy of the recording the following day.

LANGUAGE NOTES

Ça a l'air grave./Ça va passer./C'est tellement idiot./C'est à cause de Karim.

Note how often **ça** and **c'est** are used in conversations in French, to refer to a situation, a state of mind, a series of events, etc.

15 Il devait bien faire des études ici, non?

Devoir is used here to mean *to be supposed to*. **Bien**, as we have seen several times previously, is included in a question when confirmation is wanted, when one wishes to elicit a positive answer. In English: *He WAS supposed to come here to study, wasn't he?*

Il n'a pas pu me le dire./... on pourrait leur demander de nous aider

See the Appendix for information about pronouns in French.

26 Tiens, l'eau bout pour le thé

Tiens is the French equivalent here of *Look!* It is used when one wishes to attract someone's attention to something. It is also used when one is handing something over to somebody; in that case it means *Here you are*.

On devrait quand même pouvoir faire quelque chose./

... on pourrait contacter ...

On meaning **nous** again. This happens all the time in everyday conversation in French.

VOCABULARY

faire attention	to pay attention
ne fais pas attention	take no notice
qu'est-ce qu'il t'arrive?	what's the matter? what's happening?
idiot	stupid
qu'est-ce qu'il y a?	what's wrong?
grave	serious
à cause de	because of
d'un seul coup	all of a sudden, all at once
à ses frais	at his own expense
bouillir	to boil
(elle) bout	(it) is boiling
le thé	tea
sûrement	certainly
une question d'argent	a matter of money
(le professeur) je ne sais plus	(professor) somebody
quoi	
enregistrer	to record
une copie	a copy (of a tape)
la bande	the tape
ça vaut la peine (d'essayer)	it is worth (trying)

EXERCISE 4: Consoling and comforting

This is an interesting exercise: it helps you practise expressions of sympathy and comfort in French and to use the Imperative in the affirmative and negative forms.

LANGUAGE NOTES

Ne t'inquiète pas./Ne t'en fais pas

Imperative forms of reflexive verbs: the reflexive pronoun is used before the verb. Note also the use of **en** in the verb **s'en faire**, which means *to worry about something*.

Je vais lui dire de ne pas s'en faire./Je vais lui dire que ce n'est pas un problème

Two different constructions after **dire**: **de** + Infinitive and **que** + clause. Remember that **que** cannot be omitted in a French sentence.

VOCABULARY

le réconfort	comfort(ing)
bouleversé	distraught, distressed, shattered
démarrer	to start (a car)
s'inquiéter	to worry
emmener	to take (someone somewhere)
prêt	ready
rater	to fail (exam)
s'en faire	to worry
réviser	to revise
ennuyé	in a spot
garder	to look after

SCENE 6: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Odile and Delphine are in the flat, listening to the recording of the conversation with Professor Merle. When they have finished, Odile decides to get in touch with the Professor through the radio station, which gives her his telephone number. She rings him up, and tells him she would like his help.

LANGUAGE NOTES

33 Et tout cela à des prix très raisonnables

Note the use of the preposition *à* to talk about prices: *à (un) bon prix, à bas prix*, etc.

35 votre agence de voyage la plus proche

In some instances, the superlative adjective is placed, as here, after the noun it refers to.

Non, c'est une manœuvre politique, tout simplement. / Odile est vraiment pleine de bonnes idées, en ce moment.

Stressed words are sometimes placed at the end of a sentence, to give them more importance: *tout simplement* and *en ce moment* are stressed in this way here. In the same way, *soi-disant* is placed at the end of the sentence, earlier on: *Raisons économiques, soi-disant.*

85 Je voulais vous demander quelque chose

The Imperfect tense is used here, in the same way as one says in English *I wanted to ask you something*. The Present tense *Je veux vous demander quelque chose* could have been used as well, but it would be more abrupt.

VOCABULARY

l'Office du Tourisme
normalement
un merle
par l'intermédiaire de
plein(e), (de)

Tourist Office
normally, as a rule
blackbird
through, via
full (of)

Cassette 1 Side 2

I'm calling about a study program

SCENE 1: In Professor Merle's office

In this scene Odile pays a visit to Professor Merle to ask him if he can help with Karim's problem. Merle explains how the study programs for foreign students work and the conditions of employment, pay, etc. He tells Odile that getting rid of these exchanges won't save any money in real terms, and will damage good relations between countries. Odile asks Merle whether he thinks such an exchange could be organized by her and her friends: administrative expenses would be minimal, and all one would have to do would be to solve the travel problem. Merle thinks it should be possible, but when Odile asks him if he could help, he shies away and explains that he can't commit himself on a personal basis or get directly involved.

LANGUAGE NOTES

5 Nous nous sommes parlé

Nous here does not mean *ourselves*, it means *to each other*. In such a case the Past Participle is not made to agree with the subject of the verb as usually happens with reflexive verbs.

Croyez-le bien ... / Ne croyez pas ...

The Subjunctive is used here for the Imperative form, in the same way as it is used for the verb *vouloir*, for example: *Veuillez fermer la fenêtre.*

84 Je n'y vois pas d'objection

Y is the pronoun used with verbs taking the preposition *à*. The verb here is *voir une objection à (quelque chose)*, so *y* replaces *à* + what has been mentioned previously.

VOCABULARY

appeler	to call, phone
à propos de	about, concerning
un programme d'échanges	exchange program
saisir	to understand
si je saisis bien	if I understand you right
un petit ami	boyfriend
une victime	victim
un changement	change
intervenu dans	(change) made to
en question	in question
d'après	from
c'est le cas	it is the case
(le domaine) clef	key (area)
l'ingénierie (f.)	engineering
le tourisme	tourism
l'administration (f.)	administration
l'électronique (f.)	electronics
pas du tout	not at all
en tout	in all
un ministère	ministry, government dept.
un stage	training period
toucher	to receive (money)
une rémunération	payment
des dépenses	expenses, outgoings
dépenser	to spend
faux (fausse)	false
une entente	understanding
résoudre	to solve
exercer une influence	to put on some pressure
en sa faveur	in his favour
intervenir	to intervene
lutter	to fight
sur le plan politique	on a political level, politically
personnel (adj.)	personal
un principe	principle
s'adresser à	to go and see
des études de spécialité	specialist studies
s'engager (dans)	to involve oneself (in)
de ce genre	of this kind

EXERCISE 1: Understanding official language

This exercise makes you aware of different levels of language as expressed through different vocabulary, different constructions, different tenses. Practise saying the alternative sentences, including using the correct intonation. You probably already know all the grammatical patterns used in this exercise, so just concentrate on getting the answers right and saying them correctly.

VOCABULARY

abstrait	abstract, formal
officiel	official
un fonctionnaire	civil servant
tout(e) fait(e)	ready made
une fonctionnaire des impôts	tax official
les impôts (m.)	(income) taxes
en principe	in principle
théoriquement	theoretically

SCENE 2: In Odile and Delphine's flat

At the beginning of the scene Odile and Delphine are on the phone. Delphine is anxious to know how things went with Merle, and whether he has agreed to help. Odile says he hasn't but that he has given her an address and a phone number which will enable them to get more information. Odile then rings the Personnel Officer of the firm Karim is supposed to work for during his stay to ask him whether it would be possible for him to come as previously planned, but on an unofficial, individual basis. Monsieur Moreau replies that he can't decide himself, but that Odile should refer to the Head of the Personnel Department, a Madame Berthelot ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

29 Pourrais-je parler ...?

The Conditional form is used to formulate a polite request. Also, the most formal form of questioning is used, to reinforce the formality of the circumstances.

55 Et vous, vous souhaiteriez que le programme se poursuive?

The Subjunctive is used after the verb *souhaiter*, as it is after *il faut que*: *il faut que vous vous adressiez*.

57 J'en serais très heureux

Note the use of *en*, meaning here *of it, about it*.

VOCABULARY

salut!	hi!
se décourager	to get discouraged
raccrocher	to hang up, to put the phone down
sympa	nice, friendly
remercier	to thank
se tromper	to make a mistake
un stagiaire	trainee
séparément	separately, independently
le directeur du personnel	personnel manager, director
noter	to note

EXERCISE 2: Listening and understanding

This is a comprehension practice set against a realistic background of everyday sounds. These are the circumstances in which you are most likely to hear the language spoken when you go to the country in which it is used, so doing this exercise will give you an idea of what it is really like!

LANGUAGE NOTES

1 C'est très difficile de comprendre cet homme .../Ce n'est pas facile de bien comprendre

A familiar pattern: adjective + *de* + Infinitive.

Remember that you will find a list of all these constructions, with *à/de* + Infinitive, in the Appendix.

23 Je prends quelle direction?

Note the word order for this question, in which the group of words on which the question bears is placed at the end of the sentence. This happens very often in spoken French.

VOCABULARY

d'ailleurs	besides
une interruption	interruption
un bruit	noise
de fond	background
un métro	subway
une ligne	(subway) line
une station	subway station
bon (bonne)	right, correct
éliminer	to get rid of
éliminons	let's get rid of
une moitié	half
faciliter	to make (things) easier
un enregistrement	recording
retrouver	to find/meet again

SCENE 3: The advertising agency

Odile continues with her phone calls: at the beginning of the scene we find her talking to Mme Berthelot. As she fails to get help from her, she phones M. Moreau back. She asks him if there might be a private company organizing the same sort of program. M. Moreau is very cooperative and agrees to give Odile several names and phone numbers.

LANGUAGE NOTES

13 Comme vous le savez ...

This is the French formula corresponding to the English sentence *As you know* ... Note the use of **le** here.

13 Il vient d'être supprimé

You will remember that **venir de** in the Present tense + verb in the Infinitive indicates that one has *just done something*.

Etre supprimé is the Passive Infinitive of the verb **supprimer**: *to be cut, phased out*.

VOCABULARY

une agence de publicité	advertising agency
de la part de	on behalf of
poursuivre	to continue
d'ordre (politique)	of a (political) nature
diriger	to run (a business)
c'est lui-même	speaking!
une politique	policy
rien de plus	anything more
privé	private
dépendre de	to be dependent on
(elle) ne dépendrait pas autant (de)	(it) wouldn't be so dependent (on)
plusieurs	several
joindre	to contact
merci infiniment	thanks a lot
noter	to write down
je note	I'll jot them down

EXERCISE 3: How to address someone politely

As in all languages, there are several "levels" of language in French, different ways of being polite and different levels of formality. It is important to be aware of this and this exercise gives you an opportunity of doing just that – of saying the same thing in different ways.

LANGUAGE NOTES

Est-ce que c'est bien à vous que je dois m'adresser?/

C'est un ami qui m'a dit de téléphoner.

Examples of the emphatic form, used here to insist on the words **vous** (in the first sentence) and **ami** (in the second sentence).

22 Vous voulez qu'il vous aide

Note the use of the Subjunctive after **Vous voulez que**.

VOCABULARY

poli	polite
poliment	politely
un service	department, section
qui convient	appropriate, relevant

SCENE 4: The advertising agency

More phone calls from Odile to various people whose numbers M. Moreau has given her. She explains Karim's problem to them and asks them if they can help by giving him a job in their company. One of them, M. Guérard, sounds interested; Odile asks if she can call back the following day as she has to phone Tunisia first to check on some details.

LANGUAGE NOTES

14 Son programme a été supprimé

The verb **supprimer** is in the Passive form here: *has been cut*, in the Past tense:
Present Perfect of **être** + Past Participle of the main verb.

19 Non, non, je ne quitte pas

The verb **quitter** is used in the negative to mean *to hold on*, on the phone. For instance, you will often be told: **Ne quittez pas** *hold on*.

23 ... il pourra vous rembourser ..., ... quand il aura terminé son stage

In French the Future Perfect is the tense used in the second verb, where in English the Present Perfect would be used: *when he has finished his course*.

VOCABULARY

communiquer	to give, pass on
(il) m'a communiqué	he gave me
je ne quitte pas	I'll hold (on)
s'intégrer (à)	to fit in (with)
rembourser	to repay, to pay back
tout au long (de ces deux ans)	over (these two years)
une retenue (sur)	deduction (from)
rappeler	to call, phone back
je vous rappellerai	I'll phone you back
de préférence	preferably

EXERCISE 4: Listening and understanding (2)

Another comprehension exercise. This time a telephone conversation, first with poor, then with good reception. It is quite difficult to understand a telephone conversation in a foreign language at first, and to think immediately of what to say, so this should be very good practice for you.

LANGUAGE NOTES

13 J'y suis pour deux semaines

Y meaning *there*, replacing **à Athènes**. In English the person phoning would have said *I'm here* ...

19 Je m'en doute

This is the French expression meaning *I can imagine!* The pronoun **en** is used here, as the verb is **se douter de**: literally: *I have a suspicion about it/of it*.

VOCABULARY

avoir un peu de mal à (faire quelque chose)	to have a little difficulty in (doing something)
la communication est mauvaise	the line is bad
la voix	voice
rendre un service à quelqu'un	to do somebody a favour
je m'en doute!	I bet it is!
pas avant mercredi	not until Wednesday

SCENE 5: The advertising agency

In this scene Didier loses his temper somewhat and tells Odile in no uncertain terms that he can no longer let her make phone calls from the office which have nothing to do with her work. Odile promises to stop. However, Didier tells her that someone from the Tourist Office has phoned and left his name and phone number for Odile to ring him back. Didier insists that it **MUST** be the last personal call she makes. Odile assures him that it is ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

6 Qu'est-ce que c'est que tout ça?

The choice of this turn of phrase: **qu'est-ce que c'est que ...?** together with **tout ça** betrays the intention of being derogatory on the part of the speaker. It indicates that the person speaking is annoyed, impatient.

18 Depuis quelques jours, tu gaspilles ton temps et mon argent

The notion that something has been happening over a given period of time is translated into French through the use of **depuis** + the Present tense.

27 Regarde-moi tout ce travail

The use of the pronoun after a verb in the Imperative is very common in French. It is a familiar way of talking, and often indicates a feeling of indignation, as here, or of surprise or admiration – the intonation makes it clear which.

VOCABULARY

fichu	damn
des histoires personnelles (f.)	private business
écoeurant	sickening
changer d'avis	to change one's mind
gaspiller	to waste
se remettre au travail	to get back to work
toucher (à)	to touch
quelque chose dans ce genre-là	something of that sort
un petit coup de fil	a quick phone call

EXERCISE 5: Telephone messages

This exercise gives you several examples of the sort of questions to ask when you wish to obtain some information from someone. Remember, as usual in these exercises, to pay attention to the intonation.

LANGUAGE NOTES

5 Elle devait me laisser un message

The verb **devoir** here has the meaning of *to be supposed to*.

8 C'est bien vous qui répondez au téléphone?/Oui, c'est moi.

Once again, the presence of **bien** in the question suggests that one is expecting a positive answer.

22 Elle n'a pas parlé d'heure?

The use of a negative turn of phrase in the question suggests, again, that the person asking the question is expecting to receive an affirmative answer.

VOCABULARY

patient (adj.)	patient
à propos de	about
d'accord pour mercredi	all right for Wednesday
content de	happy with
une bonne nouvelle	good news

SCENE 6: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Delphine has got some sensational news for her friend Odile: Karim has phoned to say he is arriving in Paris on Saturday evening. Delphine is going to go and fetch him at the airport. Delphine is very grateful to Odile for her help, and both of them drink to the good news, and to Karim's arrival.

LANGUAGE NOTES

Sans toi, Karim n'aurait jamais réussi/Je n'aurais rien pu faire toute seule

The verbs **réussir** and **pouvoir** are in the Past Conditional tense here. It is formed as follows:

avoir/être in	+	Past Participle of
Present Conditional		main verb
il aurait		réussi
j'aurais		pu
elle serait		arrivée
il serait		entré, etc.

VOCABULARY

ça y est!	that's it!
formidable	great! fabulous!
aller chercher	to fetch
je vais le chercher	I'm going to fetch him
grâce à (toi)	thanks to (you)
des démarches (f.)	procedures, steps taken (to take)
à ta santé!	cheers!
vivement samedi!	roll on Saturday!

Cassette 2 Side 1

If I don't help them, who will?

SCENE 1: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Karim has arrived! He is in the flat with Odile and Delphine, and Delphine introduces him to her friend. She asks him whether he had a good journey, and shows him to the bathroom where he washes his hands and freshens up. Meanwhile, Odile and Delphine chat and Odile wonders where Karim is going to stay. According to Delphine, he has no family in Paris and not enough money to stay in a hotel. So Odile decides that he should stay with them, at least until he finds something else, and she offers to share her room with Delphine, so that Karim may have Delphine's room. Karim comes back in the lounge and thanks Odile for all her help. The only thing worrying him is the thought of all his friends who have not had his luck and haven't been able to come. He would like to help them. Odile makes a face and wishes him good luck. She leaves Karim and Delphine to have a talk and goes away to make the beds and prepare the bedrooms. Left with Delphine, Karim remarks on Odile's kindness and declares her to be very pretty, beautiful in fact ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

Il n'y a plus qu'une solution/Il n'y a qu'une chose que je regrette

Ne ... que is the French equivalent of *only*. **Ne** is placed before the verb, and **que** is placed directly in front of the word which it refers to.

Il n'a qu'à rester ici./Tu n'as qu'à m'offrir un verre

Note this construction, which is quite widely used in French, and which is the equivalent of the English expression: *You'll just have to ...*

- 31 **En tout cas jusqu'à ce qu'il trouve autre chose**
Jusqu'à ce que is another phrase which is followed by the Subjunctive.

61 La pauvre ...!

Note this very simple way of referring to someone with pity, or admiration, or anger: it is enough just to use the definite article, **le/la/les** and the adjective. Sometimes both adjective and noun are used.

VOCABULARY

présenter	to introduce
incroyable	unbelievable
un monde fou	an amazing number of people
se rafraîchir	to freshen up
se loger	to stay (accommodation)
ça m'étonnerait	it would surprise me
mirobolant	fantastic
s'arranger	to manage
un canapé	sofa
partager	to share
on partage	we('ll) share
par-terre	on the floor
s'empêcher	to prevent (oneself)
si	as

EXERCISE 1: Explaining facts

Another exercise which teaches you how to ask precise questions in order to have something explained to you. As usual, listen carefully then give your answers. Once you are satisfied that the word order and grammatical content in your replies are correct, you could do the practice again, concentrating on intonation and pronunciation.

LANGUAGE NOTES

8 Il ne connaît personne

Note the word order with **personne**, which is the same as with the other negative words:

ne	+	verb	+	personne
ne	+	verb	+	jamais
ne	+	verb	+	rien
ne	+	verb	+	pas/plus

Pourquoi est-ce qu'il ne peut pas habiter chez des amis?/
Pourquoi est-ce qu'il n'a pas d'argent?/Et alors, il ne peut pas prendre des leçons?

All these are questions in the negative form. With an interrogative word like **pourquoi, est-ce que** is used to form the question. When there is no interrogative word, the question can be formulated simply by keeping the normal word order and adding a question mark/raising one's voice at the end of the sentence, as in the third example above.

VOCABULARY

un fait	fact
se faire (des amis)	to make (oneself) some friends
à peine	hardly
admettre	to accept
je n'admets pas ça	I don't accept that
de retour (à)	back (at)

SCENE 2: The advertising agency

Didier and Odile are talking, mainly about work, although Didier starts the conversation by asking Odile how her "friend" is. Didier would like to hear from Odile that she has finished making all those phone calls and that she is not going to start to try and help Karim's friends and colleagues. Having been somewhat reassured by Odile, Didier starts talking about his new project: to prepare an advertising campaign for a charity which raises funds for the poor. Didier wants Odile to prepare a really solid and convincing campaign around the theme: Poverty is OUR problem, not someone else's; if we don't help, nobody will...

LANGUAGE NOTES

10 Tu as fait une bonne action, maintenant.

Note how the adverb is given importance by being placed at the end of the sentence.

Ça m'intéresse, ça./Je suis pauvre, moi.

Further examples of stressing a word in a sentence by putting the word to be stressed at the end.

53 Il faut les convaincre que c'est nous qui sommes les meilleurs

Once again, notice this construction: *c'est ... qui ...*. It is interesting to compare the French way of stressing with the English way: in English, it would again be sufficient to stress the word with one's voice when speaking: *We must convince them that WE are the best.*

73 ... pour nous aider les uns les autres

Note this way of saying *one another*.

VOCABULARY

tant mieux	good, so much the better
une bonne action	a good deed
pourtant	however, nevertheless
d'un autre côté	on the other hand
là-dessus	on that
plutôt	rather
un organisme	organization, body
un particulier	private individual
une pub(licité)	commercial, ad
de ce côté-là	in that respect
éventuel	potential, possible
une œuvre	organization
la bienfaisance	charity
en retraite	retired
un sauvetage	rescue, preservation
la cuisine	cooking
la cuisine bourgeoise	good, plain home-cooking
surdoué	exceptionally gifted
aisé	comfortably off
la vie	life
protégé	sheltered, protected
un pauvre	poor person
la pauvreté	poverty
vivant	alive
une planète	planet
un droit	(the) right
une aide	help
s'entraider	to help one another
un homme politique	politician
justement	precisely
fort	strong
frappant	striking
le goût	style
dans ce goût-là	of that sort

EXERCISE 2: Saying you don't understand something

This exercise enables you to tell someone that you do not understand them, that you do not know what they mean. As usual, pay attention to the intonation and try to reproduce it.

LANGUAGE NOTES

25 Vous allez mettre quoi sur sa chaise?

This word order is the one which is constantly used in French for a question in everyday spoken French. The more conventional, grammatical alternatives are:

Qu'est-ce que vous allez mettre sur sa chaise?
and

Qu'allez-vous mettre sur sa chaise?
(very rarely used in spoken French)

35 Je ne sais pas si le patron trouvera ça très drôle, lui

Lui is used to stress the word **patron** and placed at the end of the sentence for more emphasis.

VOCABULARY

exprimer	to express
l'incompréhension (f.)	incomprehension
avoir du mal à	to find it difficult to
s'ennuyer	to be bored
fou (folle)	wild, mad
mettre un peu d'ambiance	to liven things up a bit
farfelu	zany, wild
idiot	silly
jouer un tour (à quelqu'un)	to play a trick (on someone)
une blague	(practical) joke
la colle	glue
collé	glued

SCENE 3: In Odile and Delphine's flat

It seems that Odile has finally agreed to help Karim's friends to come to Paris to study as he has done. She stresses that she does not intend to do everything herself this time, but that she will help. They decide the best plan is to find out the names of the other students and of the firms which had agreed to take them on. Odile phones the operator and asks to make a person-to-person call to a Mr. Habib ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

13 Je sais un peu quoi faire

Note this construction using just **quoi** + verb in the Infinitive: *what to do*. Another way of saying this would be: **Je sais ce que je dois faire**, or **Je sais ce que j'ai à faire**.

VOCABULARY

s'occuper de	to take care of
quand même	even so
délaissé	to neglect
de temps en temps	from time to time
le monde	the world
une étape	stage
un avis d'appel	person-to-person call

EXERCISE 3: Understanding other people's problems

This exercise teaches you how to make a lot of French friends, by showing that you are sympathetic to their problems and know how to listen. Listen through and then practise being sympathetic in the pauses provided.

LANGUAGE NOTES

22 **Ça coûte une fortune d'entretenir cette maison**

Note this turn of phrase which is very common in spoken French:

Ça + verb + **de** + verb in the Infinitive.

26 **Je ne sais vraiment pas comment on va s'en sortir**

We have seen some adverbs placed at the beginning of the sentence, others placed at the end. A number of adverbs come after the verb. This is the case for **vraiment**. Also in this category are some very common adverbs, such as **bien** and **toujours**, for instance.

30 **C'est gentil à vous de m'écouter**

Note this construction. It is used very often in conversation to thank someone for something they have done for you.

VOCABULARY

le chômage	unemployment
au chômage	unemployed
compatir	to sympathise
jusqu'au dernier centime	down to the last penny
entretenir	to maintain
je n'en doute pas	I don't doubt it
s'en sortir	to pull through
compréhensif	understanding

SCENE 4: The advertising agency

At the beginning of the scene, Didier congratulates Odile on the presentation she did for the new project. He even tells her it is probably the best thing she has ever done. Emboldened by these compliments, she asks him if she could have the next day off to see a few people about helping the Tunisian students again. Didier agrees and wishes her good luck, but expresses a few doubts as to Odile's future in charity work. According to him advertising is her true vocation.

LANGUAGE NOTES

9 **C'est ce que tu as fait de mieux jusqu'à présent**

Note this interesting turn of phrase: **ce que tu as fait de mieux**. Similarly, one would say: **C'est ce qu'il a dit de plus intelligent**, **C'est ce que j'ai lu de plus intéressant**.

29 **... quand j'étais représentant**

Remember that no article is necessary when stating someone's profession in French.

VOCABULARY

se fâcher	to get annoyed, cross
un bureau	desk
mes compliments	congratulations
les bonnes œuvres (f.)	good works, deeds
en détresse	in distress
une ambassade	embassy
un représentant	salesman
le grand maximum	the absolute maximum
à mon avis	in my opinion, to my mind

EXERCICE 4: Vague answers

How to say no ... without ever saying it! A very precious skill in any language! The intonation is very important here.

LANGUAGE NOTES

Le prix ... est de trois mille cinq cents francs/... nous pouvons baisser de cinq cents francs

Note the use of **de** to indicate a price, a quantity of money.

Qu'est-ce que vous en dites?/Qu'est-ce que vous en pensez?

Two expressions used to ask someone their opinion; note the use of **en** here.

15 Moins c'est cher, mieux c'est

There are several such expressions of comparison **plus ... plus, moins ... moins, moins/plus ... mieux**, for instance:

Plus c'est beau, plus c'est cher.

Moins c'est beau, moins c'est cher.

Moins/Plus c'est cher, mieux c'est.

28 Une fois que j'aurai fait ça ...

A use of tenses worth noting, as it differs so much from English: in French the Anterior Future tense is used, whereas in English one would use the Perfect tense: *Once I have done that ...*

VOCABULARY

vague	vague
clairement	clearly
courant	normal, going (price)
article	article
baisser	to lower
mettre	to spend (on a particular article)
ça demande réflexion	it needs thinking about
tenir compte de (quelque chose)	to take (something) into account
en mesure de (faire quelque chose)	in a position (to do something)
précis	precise

SCENE 5: Bureau of International Relations

Odile and Karim have arrived at the **Section des Relations Internationales** to see a Mr Leclerc. They are met by a porter who asks them for a green pass, and is not really satisfied when they produce one for the two of them. He points out that they need one per person, and Karim and Odile have got to show him their letter of authorization. The porter tells them to make sure Mr Leclerc gives them a pass to go out of the building: they can't come out if they don't have one. Mr Leclerc is not exactly encouraging either: he makes it clear to Odile and Karim that they cannot expect any money, at any rate not this year, or any form of administrative help or official recognition. Odile and Karim come out of Leclerc's office somewhat downcast, only to face the porter once again. He refuses to let Odile out because she doesn't have a green pass; only Karim has one. Since they have another appointment right after this one, Odile suggests that Karim go on to meet Mr Chedid, and she will join him there as soon as she has managed to get a pass from Mr Leclerc, whom she is going back to see. She does so, and Mr Leclerc gives her the pass, at the same time apologizing for giving her and Karim only one pass instead of two.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 25 **Il me semble qu'il y avait quelque chose dans la lettre**
Il (me) semble is the French equivalent of *(I've) got the impression that .../It looks (to me) as if ...*
- 30 **Alors, ça va maintenant, on peut y aller?**
 Make a note of these expressions, which are used very frequently in French.
- 88 **Je ne demande qu'à vous aider**
 This is an expression indicating one's willingness and enthusiasm to help someone.
ne + verb + qu'à + verb in Infinitive
- 103 **Ah, le voilà**
Le/la/les voilà, as well as **me/te/nous/vous voilà**: *here (there) he is (I am, you are, etc.).*

VOCABULARY

la ventilation
une mesure
envisager
un formulaire
un laissez-passer
un ascenseur
navré
à (notre) disposition
un statut
un soutien
reconnu
accommodant
se dépêcher
la barbe!

break-down (of costs)
measure
to consider, contemplate
form
pass
elevator
very sorry, so sorry
at (our) disposal
official recognition
support
recognized
accommodating
to hurry
shoot!

EXERCISE 5: Guessing (1)

While you listen to the incomplete passage, try to fill in the gaps in the text, so as to be readier to answer when it is your turn to speak.

LANGUAGE NOTES

3 ... c'est de savoir deviner

Note the presence of **de** before the Infinitive in this construction.

4 Commençons par écouter

Commencer par + Infinitive: *to start by doing something.*

23 ... toutes les personnes qui ont travaillé dur pour faire de cette soirée une réussite

faire + de + noun/pronoun + noun

For example, one will say:

Ils ont fait de leur maison un véritable paradis.

(They have turned their house into a real paradise.)

Ses parents font d'elle une enfant gâtée.

(Her parents are turning her into a spoilt child.)

VOCABULARY

deviner	to guess, guessing
s'efforcer de (faire quelque chose)	to try hard to (do something)
un discours	speech
un visage	face
longuement	for long, at length
diligemment	speedily and conscientiously
une réussite	success
autant de (monde)	so many (people)
concis	brief

SCENE 6: The advertising agency

At the beginning of the scene Odile is phoning a firm to try and find vacant posts for two Tunisian students. The lady at the other end asks Odile to send her all the relevant details in writing, and Odile can then ring her back on Friday. Didier comes into the room as the conversation comes to an end. He enquires about Odile's efforts on behalf of the students: whether she has succeeded in obtaining some help from ministries and embassies, what she intends to do next ... Having listened to Odile's answers, Didier makes it plain to her that he does not intend all this to go on any longer, and that she is going to have to choose between working for him and helping foreign students. Odile obviously understands what he means ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 18 **On a à parler, tous les deux**
Avoir à + Infinitive indicates an obligation – it is the equivalent of **devoir**: **Nous devons parler, tous les deux**, but is used more in spoken French.
- 21 **Où en est cette affaire des étudiants tunisiens?**
 This expression, with **où en + être**, is used very frequently in French to enquire about a project, something under way, something which someone said they were planning to do.
- 52 **Quand même pas**
 This is the equivalent of the English phrase *Oh, let's not exaggerate!*
- 56 **Rien n'est en retard**
 You already know the meaning of **rien**. Here it is placed at the beginning of the sentence and followed by **ne**:
Rien ne va en ce moment.
Rien n'est facile.
 Similarly:
Personne ne parle anglais ici.
Personne n'est venu.

73 C'est à toi de choisir

à + pronoun/noun + de + Infinitive

This construction indicates that it is up to someone to do something.

VOCABULARY

le cadre	framework
par écrit	in writing
où en est (quelque chose)?	how is (something) going? how far have you got with (something)?
loin	far
plus avancé(e)	further
une carte de travail	work permit
rembourser	repay
à plein temps	full-time (job)
quand même pas	let's not exaggerate
absorber	to absorb, to take up someone's time
où veux-tu en venir?	what are you getting at?
empirer	to get worse
javanais	Javanese (here: "or whatever nationality")

Radio "Energy"

SCENE 1: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Odile comes back home at the end of the day and complains about her feet aching. Delphine is dying to know the latest news regarding the Tunisian students' fate. Odile reports on her relative lack of success. Delphine for her part has been doing some thinking. She has come to the conclusion that Odile has already spent enough time and effort on trying to solve this problem, without much result. She feels they ought to cut their losses and call it a day. Odile expresses regret at giving up now, but agrees it might be wiser. Delphine suggests they go for a drink together. Odile enquires after Karim, who is apparently attending an evening class. Just as they are going out, the phone rings. It is Radio NRJ, for Odile. They want to interview her, and during the telephone conversation they fix a time and date for the interview. In fact it is due to take place the day after next. Delphine and Odile rejoice over the publicity they are going to get for their campaign, and they start dreaming up all sorts of ways of getting help from people ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

1 Il y a du nouveau?

Note this unusual construction, with the adjective preceded by an article, like a noun.

2 J'ai horriblement mal aux pieds

Mal à (au/à la/aux) + noun: this is the expression used in French to indicate that some part of one's body is aching.

Pas beaucoup, non./Jusqu'à maintenant, rien.

Notice these short, colloquial ways of replying to questions.

50 On est le combien, aujourd'hui?

This is the construction used to ask what the day's date is. In more formal circumstances, one would say: *Nous sommes le combien?*

52 Après-demain

Note this simple and easy way of saying *the day after tomorrow*. Similarly, *the day before yesterday* is *avant-hier*.

57 Tu imagines la publicité que ça va nous faire!

The tone is exclamatory. The idea is: *Can you imagine the publicity ...!*

VOCABULARY

l'énergie (f.) (NRJ)

du nouveau

quant à

placer

le pharmacien

résulter

s'enfoncer

au fait

le cours du soir

passer

je vous la passe

c'est elle-même, lui-même

(f.m.)

en direct

un enregistrement

une entrée (f.)

entendu

supplier (quelqu'un de faire

quelque chose)

energy

something new

as to, as for

to place

pharmacist

to result

to sink deeper

by the way

evening class

to hand the phone to

here she is

speaking

live (broadcast)

recording

entrance

OK, all right

to beg (somebody to do

something)

EXERCISE 1: Dates

This is a straightforward exercise, which gives you plenty of practice in getting dates right and pronouncing them correctly. As usual, work on both accuracy and pronunciation. You should already know all the words in this section.

LANGUAGE NOTES

7 Le 22 octobre

Note how the **t** in **vingt-deux** is sounded. Also remember that the article (**le**) is always placed before the date in French: **le 3 mars** (*March the third*).

9 Le 3 mars

Exceptionally, the last consonant in the word **mars**, is sounded, whereas most ending consonants in French are silent.

21 Le 7 août

Another final consonant being sounded: here the **t** in **août**.

23 Le 5 juin

Note how the two sounds in **juin** are very distinct: **u** and then **in**.

SCENE 2: In the Radio NRJ studios

Odile meets Julien Fauré for the first time. He is in charge of organizing the interview. He takes Odile to the recording studio upstairs, and while they are going up they chat about their jobs. They arrive in the studio, and Julien asks Odile to be quiet – there is a recording in progress. He offers her a coffee and introduces her to Michel Sabatier, who is going to interview her. He explains how the interview is going to be conducted; while they are waiting for the producer, Nadine, they rehearse the interview and test Odile's voice level. Michel explains that in the first part of the interview they will talk about the scheme in general and what prompted Odile to get involved; in the second part they will talk about the ways in which people can help with the project. Now they are ready for a trial run ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

9 Les ascenseurs sont d'une lenteur!

Remember this exclamatory turn of phrase using **de** + noun.

93 Je me place à quelle distance?

Once again, you can see that the word order for a question in conversational French is different from the conventional interrogative word order, which here would be: **A quelle distance est-ce que je me place?**

95 Une fois que vous êtes bien installés ...

Une fois que is the French phrase for *once* when it is followed by a whole clause. (The Future tense could also have been used here: **Une fois que vous serez bien installés ...**)

114 Eh bien, c'était une des nôtres

One of ours (feminine plural). You will find the possessive pronouns (**le/la/les nôtre(s)**, etc.) listed in the Appendix, along with possessive adjectives.

VOCABULARY

un réalisateur, une réalisatrice	producer
un assistant réalisateur	assistant producer
la lenteur	slowness
d'une lenteur	so slow
en tout cas	at any rate
un café au lait	white coffee
un café noir	black coffee
infect	disgusting
se passer	to take place
une vitre	glass (screen)
être servi en (quelque chose)	to be served with (something)
vous êtes servie en café?	are you all right for coffee?
une antenne	(radio) station
une coupure	break
couper	to cut, make a break
en une seule fois	in one take
rectifier	to rectify
destiné à	intended for, aimed at
récolter	to collect
charitable	charitable
défavorisé	poor, underprivileged
fort	loud(ly)
se reculer	to move back
pour ce qui est (de l'interview)	as far as (the interview) is concerned
elle-même	itself
dans son ensemble	in general
pousser	to prompt
un but	aim, goal

EXERCISE 2: Starting a conversation

What you need to watch out for here are all the expressions used to start the conversational ball rolling, for instance: **paraît-il, il paraît que, c'est bien vous qui, c'est vrai que, ce n'est pas ... qui ...?** Use the cues to respond in the pauses.

LANGUAGE NOTES

Il aime beaucoup les échecs./C'est bien vous qui jouez aux échecs?

In French, when one is referring to something in general, to a category of things or people, the definite article (*le/la/les*) is used. For example: **Il adore les enfants, Elle n'aime pas les pommes, Il connaît très bien la cuisine française,** etc.

VOCABULARY

entamer la conversation	to start a conversation
l'habileté (f.)	skill
un animateur de radio	radio presenter
engager (une conversation)	to start/open (a conversation)
un ingénieur commercial	commercial engineer
les échecs	chess
cultiver	to grow
une orchidée	orchid
progresser	to progress

SCENE 3: In the Radio NRJ studios

This is the Odile's interview, "live"! Michel introduces her to the listeners, and explains briefly what she does. Then he asks Odile to explain what the exchange program consists of and the history of her own involvement. Michel ends the interview by asking Odile what people could do in order to help them. She answers that they are looking for families who would agree to take in students, in return for some help from them with the children, gardening, or house repairs.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 6 ... et ce grâce à une émission
Ce refers to the whole of the previous sentence: Odile s'occupe d'un programme d'études destiné à de jeunes Tunisiens: *and this thanks to ...*
- 15 ... pourquoi est-ce qu'on ne s'en occuperait pas nous-mêmes?
Note how *on* is used together with *nous-mêmes* (*ourselves*). This is very common in French.
- 27 ... avant c'était le gouvernement qui s'occupait de tout ça
The Imperfect tense in French can correspond to the English phrase *used to* + verb in the Infinitive. This is the case here: *The government used to look after all that.*
- 53 ... à prendre des étudiants comme stagiaires
Comme, you will remember, can have the meaning of *as, in the way of*.
- Il nous faut des logements/des familles qui pourraient leur fournir un lit/leur permettre d'utiliser la cuisine et la salle de bains
Nous and leur are indirect pronouns in these examples. They replace *à* + a noun with verbs taking the preposition *à*: *il faut (à), fournir (à), permettre (à).*

VOCABULARY

à mes côtés	next to me
récemment	recently
poursuivre	to continue
le pouvoir	power
les ondes (f.)	air-waves, broadcasting
les cours du soir (m.)	evening classes
divers	varied
prendre le relais	to take over
vous avez pris le relais	you've taken over
(qu'il ne soit pas) des nôtres	(he isn't) with us today
compréhensif	understanding, sympathetic
pratiquement	in practice
une société d'accueil	host company
héberger	to put up, accommodate
fournir	to provide
une contribution	contribution
le jardinage	gardening
un hôte	host

SCENE 4: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Karim and Delphine congratulate Odile when she comes home after the interview. Odile then announces that she is going to have a bath and to go to bed. Before she goes, Delphine tells her that she will have the flat all to herself at the week-end; Delphine is going home to her parents to celebrate her father's birthday and is taking Karim with her. However, Karim interrupts her to break the news that he will not be going with her to see her parents: he has too much work to do. Delphine is obviously disappointed, but Karim is intractable: he can't go – work comes first, or so it seems ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

12 **Pourtant ça ne s'entendait pas du tout**

Note this impersonal expression: *ça s'entend*: *it can be heard, one can hear ...*

Il est temps que je prenne un bain et que j'aie me coucher/Tu veux que je te fasse un café?

Subjunctive after *il est temps que* and *vouloir que*. Remember that the Appendix contains a list of verbs which take the Subjunctive.

VOCABULARY

avoir le trac	to be nervous, have stage-fright
tu avais le trac?	were you nervous?
mettre (les gens) à l'aise	to put (people) at ease
chaleureux	warm
se coucher	to go to bed
pratique	convenient
déranger	to inconvenience
faire la connaissance (de)	to make the acquaintance (of)
discuter	to talk, to have a talk, to discuss
terminer	to complete

EXERCISE 3: Asking someone to repeat something

When one is in the process of learning a foreign language, there are many occasions when one has to ask people to repeat what they said. So this exercise should be very useful to you, especially when you wish someone to repeat a precise piece of information: date, time, price, telephone number, etc.

LANGUAGE NOTES

8 **La date, c'est le 31 octobre**

You know by now that there are several ways of saying the date:

La date, c'est le 31 octobre;

Nous sommes le 31 octobre;

Aujourd'hui, c'est le 31 octobre.

20 **Vous voulez que je répète? Oui, je veux bien.**

Je veux bien is the French way of saying *Yes, please; If you would; If you wouldn't mind*. It is often used in answer to an invitation to do something; for instance: **Tu veux venir au cinéma avec moi ce soir? Oui, je veux bien.**

VOCABULARY

faire répéter	to ask (someone) to repeat
avoir l'air	to look, to seem
une assistante	assistant
le chef du personnel	Head of Personnel
le service du personnel	Personnel Department
redonner (un nom, une date, une heure)	to repeat

SCENE 5: The advertising agency

Didier asks Odile how the radio program went, and whether she is now ready to get down to some work. She answers that she is, and that she has thought about what he said to her the other day. She suggests that while she is looking after the Tunisian students' exchange scheme Didier pay her for only four days a week. At first he refuses, but in the end says he will see. At that moment the phone rings: it is for Odile . . . a Mehdi Oufkir, who heard the program and was given Odile's number at work by Michel Sabatier. Odile says she is very busy and Mehdi gives her his number for her to call back later. Didier rebukes Odile for getting rid of Mehdi so quickly; then they start talking business. Apparently the charity people like the ads Odile prepared, and it is very likely that Didier and Odile will be chosen for the campaign. Odile is very pleased.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 23 **Quelqu'un sur qui je puisse compter**
We have seen many times by now that the Subjunctive is used after a number of expressions including **que**. But the Subjunctive is also sometimes used to refer to something which is still only a supposition, or which is doubtful, as here: *someone on whom I may be able to rely*.
- 31 **On verra bien!**
Another instance of **on** meaning **nous**, in this very popular and frequently used expression meaning *We'll see!*
- 50 **Ce n'était pas la peine de l'expédier si vite!**
Again, a widely used expression: **ce n'est pas la peine de ...** *it's not worth (doing something)*.
- 53 **Si on se mettait au travail?**
Another way of making a suggestion, using **si** followed by the Imperfect tense. Again, note the use of **on** for **nous**, which is a sign of the familiarity existing between Didier and Odile.

VOCABULARY

être en forme	to be fit
au programme	on the agenda, planned
compter (sur quelqu'un)	to depend (on somebody)
sans délai	without delay, immediately
faire passer le travail avant (tout)	to put work first, before (everything else)
faire confiance (à quelqu'un)	to trust (somebody)
expédier (quelqu'un)	to get rid of (somebody), to be short with somebody
tomber mal	to come at a bad time
se mettre au travail	to set to work, to get down to work
les œuvres de bienfaisance (f.)	charity

EXERCISE 4: Learning how to make a phone call (1)

Some useful expressions here. Listen through to the whole exercise first. Then rewind and respond in the pauses.

LANGUAGE NOTES**2 Je m'exercerais bien un peu à téléphoner**

This expression is used all the time in spoken French when one wishes to indicate that one *wouldn't mind, would like, doing/to do something*. For instance, you might say: **J'irais bien au cinéma cet après-midi.**

Pourrais-je parler ...?/A qui voulez-vous parler?

You will have noticed that the verb/subject inversion, very seldom used in conversation, is used a lot in these telephone conversations when one is talking to someone one does not know and trying to get through to someone else.

24 J'aurais voulu parler à Monsieur Mercadier

The use of the Past Conditional here does not mean that it is necessarily too late to talk to the person, that you have no hope left; it is purely a polite formula, another way of saying *I would like to ...*

VOCABULARY

vous êtes bien ...?	is that ...?
un poste (téléphonique)	extension
occupé	busy
patienter	to hold on (phone)
ne quittez pas	hold the line
passer	to put (someone) through
être coupé	to be cut off
j'ai été coupé	I've been cut off
rappeler	to call back

SCENE 6: In Odile and Delphine's flat; then in a café

Odile rings Mehdi back from the flat. She apologizes for not ringing earlier, and he thanks her for calling him back. Mehdi explains that he is in charge of the Moroccan Students' Joint Committee and that he would like to meet Odile: she could help them, and they could probably help Odile and her friends as well. When they meet Mehdi asks about Karim. He invites them both to come and see him and his friends at his flat on Sunday. Odile says Karim is busy this week-end but she will ask him. Mehdi points out that they could help Odile by finding cheap accommodation for the students, by finding firms where they could work, and they could even offer financial help. In return, Mehdi suggests that Odile has got many contacts in governmental and diplomatic circles, and that she could help him and his friends too ...

LANGUAGE NOTES**6 Je suis désolée de ne pas vous avoir appelé**

Note the use of the Past Infinitive here, which is more frequent in French than in English; *not to have called you*. (Similarly in a later sentence: **C'est gentil à vous d'avoir rappelé.**)

19 Oui, j'aimerais beaucoup

Just the verb is sufficient to say: *I would like to.*

VOCABULARY

un responsable (de)	organiser, leader
rassembler	to gather, to bring together
le Comité de Rassemblement	Joint Committee
de notre côté	for our part
rendre service (à)	to help, to do a favor service (to)
(vous) faciliter les choses	to make things easier (for you)
(être) très pris	(to be) very busy
prendre contact (avec)	to make contact (with)
une association	association
comme son nom l'indique	as its name indicates
vous êtes nombreux?	are there many of you?
mutuellement	one another, each other, mutually
les milieux gouvernementaux	government circles
une ambassade	embassy
passer à la radio	to be on the radio

Cassette 3 Side 1

I'm going with you

SCENE 1: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Odile and Karim meet in the morning. Delphine has gone and they are alone in the flat. They have a cup of coffee together and talk about what they are going to do. They both agree that they should go and see Mehdi on Sunday. Karim then suggests that they go for a walk and perhaps have a picnic in the park, followed by dinner in the evening. Odile thinks all these are excellent ideas but wonders how Karim is going to fit in all the work he has got to do this weekend. Karim, however, does not seem too worried ... He even insists on going to the supermarket with Odile, to help her carry her bags ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 7 Tu en reprends, toi? Oui, j'en veux bien un peu, merci.
Remember to use **en**, as here, with verbs like **vouloir**, **prendre**, **reprendre**, **manger**, etc.

Du comité des étudiants, tu sais?/... un tour de bateau sur le lac, quelque chose comme ça.

The expressions: **tu sais?** and **quelque chose comme ça**, are useful phrases, frequently heard in conversational French.

- 49 Laisse-le sonner!

Laisser + verb in the Infinitive is the French equivalent of the construction with *let* + Infinitive in English.

VOCABULARY

accompagner	to go (somewhere) with (somebody)
un nouveau-né	newborn baby
frais, fraîche (m.f.)	fresh, freshly made
reprendre (de quelque chose)	to have more of something
des tas de	loads of
un type	man, guy
faire un tour de bateau	to go boating
repérer	to discover, to locate, to track down
(un travail) monstre	an enormous amount (of work)
un panier	basket

EXERCISE 1: Making suggestions

So far you have come across quite a few expressions used to make suggestions in French: this exercise gives you a chance to put them into practice in the course of a conversation. Make your suggestions in the pauses.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 3 ... les expressions qui servent à suggérer
servir + à + Infinitive: *to be used to (do something)*
A common question is: *Ça sert à quoi?/A quoi ça sert?*
(*What is that used for?/What use is that?*)

VOCABULARY

avoir des projets	to have plans
servir à	to be used for
en personne	in person
sur place	on the spot

SCENE 2: In the park

Odile and Karim are in the park. They have just had their picnic. Karim is already wondering about the restaurant in the evening and Odile agrees they should give that idea a try too. Karim confesses that he hasn't got a lot of work to do this weekend: that was just a pretext to spend some time with Odile. Odile is rather surprised on hearing this declaration, and protests that Delphine is her best friend. But Karim goes on to say that Delphine no longer counts for him. He thinks it is much better to tell her now: she will probably be sad but she will soon recover and find someone else. Odile feels sorry for her friend, but Karim changes the subject: he only wants to know if they will be going to a restaurant tonight. Odile says yes, they should go!

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 14 **Alors autant essayer celle-là aussi!**
This is the equivalent of the English expression *You might as well* + Infinitive: *You might as well try that one too!*
- 26 **J'étais même à cent lieux de m'en douter**
à ... **de** is used to indicate the distance from one point to the next. This expression would be rendered in English as *I was miles away from suspecting it.*
- 40 **C'est mieux qu'elle le sache maintenant**
Another expression which is followed by the Subjunctive: **sache** is the Present Subjunctive of the verb **savoir**.
- 50 **Je n'aime pas l'hypocrisie**
We have seen earlier on that in French the definite (**le/la/les**) article is used in cases where in English it would not be. Here is a further example of this: in French the definite article is used in front of names of psychological characteristics, qualities or defects. Compare the above sentence with its English equivalent: *I don't like hypocrisy.*

An article is also used in front of all abstract nouns. For instance: **la beauté** *beauty*, **les affaires** *business*, **le malheur** *unhappiness*, etc.

56 On rentre?

Another way of making a suggestion: using **on** + Present tense. For example, one will say:

On y va?	<i>Shall we go?</i>
On mange?	<i>Shall we eat?</i>

VOCABULARY

autant (essayer)	we might as well (try)
d'un seul coup	suddenly
deviner	to guess
tu n'avais pas deviné?	didn't you guess?
à cent lieux de	miles from
s'en douter	to suspect
j'étais même à cent lieux de	I didn't even suspect it for a
m'en douter	moment
ressentir	to feel
une amitié	friendship
sur le coup	at the time, at first
au début	at first
avoir du chagrin	to be upset, hurt
elle aura du chagrin	she will be upset
au lieu de (faire quelque chose)	instead of (doing something)
jouer la comédie (à quelqu'un)	to put on an act (for someone)
l'hypocrisie (f.)	hypocrisy
avoir envie de (parler)	to feel like (talking)
qu'est-ce que tu en penses?	what do you think?
il faut bien (manger quelque chose)	one has to (eat something)

EXERCISE 2: Expressing doubt and uncertainty

No doubt there will be times when you will be uncertain about things in French so this exercise will provide you with several words and phrases to express what you feel! Listen carefully when the characters are speaking and then try to repeat your doubts in the pauses.

LANGUAGE NOTES

2 Je crois qu'elle ne sait pas trop quoi faire

Notice the use of **quoi** + Infinitive here – *what to do*.

11 Sans doute, oui

It is easy for English-speaking students to confuse the French adverb **sans doute** with the English expression *without a doubt*. Remember that **sans doute** means *probably, possibly*. *Without a doubt* is **sans aucun doute** in French.

25 Il y a quelque temps

Il y a is used here in its sense of *ago*: *some time ago*.

VOCABULARY

un doute	doubt
l'incertitude (f.)	uncertainty
elle ne sait pas trop quoi faire	she's not quite sure what to do
à nouveau	once again
en principe	theoretically

SCENE 3: In town

Odile and Karim are now ready to go to Mehdi's. Before they set off, Karim tells Odile how much he enjoyed their day together. Odile enjoyed it very much too, but still feels uneasy about Delphine ... However, for the moment what worries her most is the question of what to take to Mehdi: flowers or chocolates? Karim thinks she should just be natural and there is no need to take anything at all. They then talk about the way to get there and Odile discovers, to her horror, that Karim intends to walk there. After all, it is only 2 kilometres, a mere mile and a half ...!

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 9 **Et toi, ça t'a plu? Oui, bien sûr. Ça m'a beaucoup plu.**
Plaire is one of the French verbs which corresponds to the English verb *to enjoy*. The English equivalent would be: *Did you enjoy it? Yes, of course. I enjoyed it very much.*
- 17 **Des fleurs? Des chocolats?**
Des is always expressed in French. It can't be left out, as *some* can be in English.
- 29 **Surtout qu'il fait tellement beau**
 Note this expression: **surtout que**, the French equivalent of *especially as* ...

VOCABULARY

plaire (à quelqu'un)	to please (somebody)
ça t'a plu?	did you enjoy it?
au moins	at least
mettre quelqu'un mal à l'aise	to put somebody ill at ease
vis-à-vis de	with regard to
faire un faux pas	to make a silly, embarrassing mistake
repérer	to work out the way, route
tu as repéré ...?	did you work out ...?
à pied	on foot
paresseux, paresseuse (m.f.)	lazy
surtout	especially since/as

EXERCISE 3: Guessing (2)

This exercise is a kind of test for you, of your comprehension of the language and your feel for it. Respond in the pauses according to the cues. You can compare your responses later when you hear the complete conversation.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 31 **Je suis dans la politique**
 Note the use of **dans** here to state one's occupation. Similarly, one will say, for instance: **Je suis dans l'informatique. Elle est dans l'enseignement. Ils sont dans le commerce, dans les affaires.**
- 54 **Oui, un garçon et une fille. Et ... quel âge ont-ils?**
 Note that the masculine plural pronoun (**ils**) is used to refer to a boy and a girl. This is because in French grammar, masculine always takes precedence over feminine ...!

VOCABULARY

la moitié (de)	half (of)
debout	standing
peu importe	it doesn't really matter
ça ne vous regarde pas	it's none of your business
supplémentaire	extra
au chômage	unemployed
un expert-comptable	certified public accountant
un(e) informaticien(ne)	computer scientist
en entier	in its entirety
un veuf, une veuve (n.)	a widower
veuf, veuve (m.f.)	widowed

SCENE 4: In Mehdi's flat

Odile and Karim are being introduced to Mehdi and his friends. Some of them seem very old to be studying still ... Mehdi asks Odile questions about the student scheme and advises her to give it a name, which he feels will make people take it seriously. Odile also asks Mehdi to give her a list of the names and addresses of all the students, but he says rather evasively that if she contacts him, he will deal with it all. Odile then sets off to look for Karim: it is time to go home. Mehdi tries to persuade her to stay for a meal, but she stands firm. They thank Mehdi and go.

LANGUAGE NOTES

Salut./Bonjour, Mehdi./Enchanté. Heureux de faire ta connaissance.

Salut is a common form of greeting between young French people, and the **tu** form is usually adopted straight away, as it is here. However, Odile is more formal than Mehdi: she says **bonjour** to him, not **salut**.

4 Qui est-ce, tout ce monde?

Tout ce monde, although it has a plural meaning, is accompanied by a verb in the singular.

24 Il n'a pas l'air tout jeune

This is the French equivalent of the verb *to look*:
He doesn't look all that young.

29 Comment ça se fait que vous vous intéressez aux étudiants ...?

This is the French equivalent of the English expression *How come ...?* and is used in informal, everyday conversation. The more grammatical, formal version would be: **Comment se fait-il?**

41 Vous pourriez l'appeler ...? Non?

In English one would add: *couldn't you?* In French it is enough to just say **non?**

60 J'ai pas mal de choses à faire

Pas mal de ... is used constantly in spoken French to mean *quite a lot of*.

62 Restez manger avec nous

It is enough to just use the two verbs next to one another here: **Restez manger**.

VOCABULARY

prendre (quelqu'un) au sérieux	to take (somebody) seriously
l'entraide (f.)	mutual aid
un comité de rassemblement	joint committee
pas mal de	quite a lot of
comme vous voudrez	as you wish, please yourself

EXERCISE 4: Stating one's objectives

Nothing vague or doubtful about what you learn to say in this exercise: this is precise and practical language. The sentences are quite long, so you might like to repeat the cues first of all and then go through again adding **Notre ... objectif est de ...**

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 13 **Notre premier objectif est d'ouvrir un magasin ici**
With this construction and after the verb **être**, **de** is used in front of the Infinitive. Similarly, one will say: **Le mieux, c'est de partir maintenant.**
- 15 **Et, vous pensez vous faire connaître rapidement?**
Note this use of **penser** + verb in the Infinitive. Another way of saying this would be: **Et, vous pensez que vous allez vous faire connaître.**

VOCABULARY

énoncer	to state, stating
un objectif	an objective
mystérieux	mysterious
s'établir	to establish oneself, to set up (a business)
s'agrandir	to expand (in business)
le point de vente	sales outlet
mettre au point	to set up
un réseau (de distribution)	(distribution) network
efficace	efficient
se faire connaître	to get oneself known

SCENE 5: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Odile and Karim are back in the flat, full of their news about the meeting with the Moroccan students. In the middle of all these explanations Delphine manages to ask Karim whether he managed to do all his work ... Odile goes to make some coffee, but before that Delphine gives her a message: Michel Sabatier phoned. He said he tried to phone twice the day before but there was nobody in. This is the point in the conversation when it becomes clear to Delphine that Odile and Karim went out rather a lot while she was away ... Delphine adds that from what she understood the phone call from Michel was to do with someone called Mehdi. Odile is immediately intrigued and decides to call Michel right away. While she is out of the room phoning, Delphine questions Karim about his weekend activities. She wants to know where he went with Odile, and why there was no answer when she tried to phone him. While they are arguing, Odile phones Michel and subsequently goes out, saying that she won't be long, she just has to meet "someone".

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 42 **Comment ça**
This expression is often tinged with slight annoyance/indignation. It is the case here, especially as Karim is probably doubly annoyed by Delphine's questioning, since he feels guilty towards her!
- 46 **Je ne pouvais pas rester ... à travailler**
à + Infinitive indicates what one is/was doing during a certain period of time. Similarly, one will say: **J'ai passé des heures à étudier** *I spent hours studying.*
- 56 **... enfin, ce n'est pas le moment idéal pour recevoir quelqu'un, quoi**
Quoi here means something like *shall we say*, or *let's just say*, or *in short*. In this sense, it is placed, as here, at the end of the sentence.

68 Je n'en ai pas pour longtemps

En avoir pour + expression of time is the set way of saying how long it is going to take you to do something: **J'en ai pour une heure, Elle en a pour cinq minutes**, etc.

VOCABULARY

extra	fantastic
un bloc-notes	note pad
ailleurs	elsewhere
recevoir	to entertain
rendre compte (de quelque chose) à quelqu'un	to give somebody an account (of something)
je n'ai pas à te rendre compte minute par minute	I don't have to give you a minute by minute account
un emploi du temps	schedule

EXERCISE 5: How to make an appointment and organize a meeting

How to be precise with dates and times in order to organize something, and at the same time how to be flexible and conciliatory in order to come to a compromise which will suit all concerned: this is what this exercise helps you to do. Note in particular the way of stating the date and the time of day and the phrases used to show agreement (**c'est d'accord/ça devrait coller**) or difference of opinion (**ce sera plus difficile/je préférerais/j'aimerais mieux**).

LANGUAGE NOTES

pour 9h30/pour le mardi 23

Notice the use of **pour** to indicate a fixed date or time.

11 le 30

Note this way of indicating the date with just the definite article **le**. Obviously, it is possible to do this only if it is absolutely clear which month one is talking about.

16 Je crois, oui

The French way of saying *Yes, I think so*.

Le matin/dans la matinée

Le matin is a simple indication of time, to situate the action in the day: **la matinée** refers to the whole morning, including its contents, what happened during that time. Similarly, **dans l'après-midi, dans la soirée**.

23 Vers une heure et demie, deux heures?

Vers is used all the time with indications of time or date, to mean *at about, on the or thereabouts*: **vers huit heures, vers le 20 mars, vers la fin du mois**, etc.

VOCABULARY

ça devrait aller	that should be OK
ça devrait coller	that should be fine
récapituler	to recapitulate, to sum up

SCENE 6: In a café

In which we learn there is more to Mehdi than meets the eye ... Odile is talking to Michel Sabatier. They begin by talking about the program they did together, and Michel says he has received many phone calls after the interview, and there should also be many letters by now. He invites Odile to come to the studio for lunch the following day. Odile accepts, and mentions the phone call she got. Michel tells her that is precisely why he got in touch. He didn't want to be too explicit on the phone as it is a slightly delicate matter. As Michel talks it becomes evident that Mehdi is not a very reputable character: in fact, he means trouble, and the less Odile has to do with him, the better for her and her friends ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

Assieds-toi/Ecoute/Passe

Imperatives in the familiar form: the -s at the end is dropped for verbs in -er only.

29 Qu'est-ce qu'il t'a dit, Mehdi, exactement?

A very common way of insisting on the subject of a sentence, with the name of the person being put at the end having been announced in the previous part of the sentence by a pronoun.

39 A les voir l'autre jour, et à les entendre parler

Note this construction with à + verb in the Infinitive/ à + pronoun + Infinitive, which is the equivalent of the English expression: *Judging by what I saw the other day ...*

44 Une sorte de façade derrière laquelle

Lequel/laquelle is the French equivalent of *which/whom* used after a preposition, for example: à côté desquels, sous lequel, devant lesquelles, etc.

57 Certains de ses amis

Certains is one of the French words for *some* (plural). De here has the meaning of *of, among*.

- 64 N'importe quel ministère, n'importe quelle entreprise
You may remember that *n'importe quel* means *any (of several)*, and is used in front of a noun, with which it agrees.

VOCABULARY

encourageant

encouraging

au courant

in the know, up-to-date

un militant

(political) activist

un opposant

opponent

le régime

regime, government

un exilé

exile

en place

in power

une couverture

cover, front

en tout cas

at least

la drogue

drugs

un casier judiciaire

criminal record

remplir

to fill

bien rempli

substantial, 'fat'

ce genre de truc

this kind of thing

anéantir

to wipe out

fréquenter (quelqu'un)

to see someone (frequently, regularly)

ils ne voudront plus

they won't want to have

entendre parler de toi

anything further to do with you

Cassette 3 Side 2

A fund-raising concert

SCENE 1: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Odile has come back from seeing Michel. She finds Delphine in an apologetic mood: she asks Odile to forgive her for not being very friendly earlier on: she wasn't getting along very well with her parents so she came back early and was rather depressed at finding the flat empty. Odile confesses she has some bad news too – regarding the students' program. Delphine suggests they seek solace together in a nearby restaurant. Odile is very tired, but her friend is so insistent that she finally agrees to go. They ask for Karim to join them: apparently he is getting changed and making himself irresistible, so they leave and decide he'll just have to catch up. Who said women were vain? ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

2 Dis, Odile

Dis, used in this way, is the French equivalent of *listen*, *look*, ...

4 N'en parlons plus

Note the position of **en** here, and the word order with the verb in the negative Imperative:

ne (n') + en + verb + plus

20 Soyons tristes en chœur

The Imperative form for the verb **être** is based on the Subjunctive. **Soyons** is the first person plural of the Present Subjunctive, and of the Imperative as well.

38 Quel play-boy!

Quel + noun corresponds to the English construction using *what a* + noun, followed by an exclamation point. Like all adjectives, **quel** agrees with the noun it is used with.

VOCABULARY

des fonds (*m.*)

tout à l'heure

je suis calmée

avoir le moral

je n'avais pas tellement le moral

pénible

prévoir

prévu

si ça peut te consoler

en chœur

une grillade

se changer

largement (le temps)

vite fait

on mange un plat vite fait

coquet, coquette

funds

just now

I have calmed down

to be in good spirits

I was feeling rather down

difficult

to intend

intended

if it's any consolation

together

grill (steak)

to get changed

plenty (of time)

quickly

let's grab a quick snack

concerned about one's appearance

EXERCISE 1: Guessing (3)

This exercise allows you to revise the meaning of a number of words which you have come across in the course. Listen carefully to all the choices suggested to you before making your mind up and giving your answer.

LANGUAGE NOTES

1 Laissons-les aller diner

You remember the construction with the verb **laisser** + verb in the Infinitive. This is another instance of it, only **laisser** is here followed by a double Infinitive, since the verb following it is **aller diner** *go and dine*.

4 Le mot le plus juste

Le plus/la plus/les plus + adjective is used to mean *the most ...*

VOCABULARY

juste	suitable, appropriate
déprimé	depressed
mélancolique	melancholy
un toit	roof
la Côte d'Azur	the French Riviera
une injure	insult
sale	dirty
affreux, affreuse	horrible, ugly
luxueux, luxueuse	luxurious
isolé	lonely
être à sa place	to be in her shoes
mouvementé	eventful

SCENE 2: The advertising agency

At the office Didier asks Odile about her weekend. Was it pleasant? Relaxing? Odile has got to admit that it was anything but restful, and when pressed explains briefly what happened and how she was disappointed with the group of people she had just met. Didier asks her how she got to know about the group's reputation and Odile explains it was through Michel Sabatier; she adds that she is having lunch with him today. Didier remarks on how busy and complicated Odile's social life has become. Odile agrees, and asks Didier whether he hasn't got some pleasant and relaxing job to give her, to soothe her nerves. Didier has got just that, and presents her with a practical problem which immediately captures her attention and makes her forget her other problems ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

12 Ce que c'est compliqué!

Another construction for an exclamatory sentence: **ce que** + normal word order of the affirmative sentence. Similarly, someone might say to you: **Ce que vous parlez bien français!**

Also, notice again how **les jeunes** are referred to as **c'est** – the use of **c'est** instead of **ce sont** is very common in colloquial French.

13 Quelque chose n'allait pas?

Note this use of **aller** in the negative to mean *something is wrong, is not going right*. In the Present tense, you will also hear quite often: **Quelque chose ne va pas?** *Is something wrong?*

25 Au lieu de nous aider

Au lieu de + verb in the Infinitive translates the English expression *instead of* + form of the verb in -ing.

30 Il n'y a pas de quoi en faire un drame

Note this construction, which is used all the time in spoken French, and which means: *there is nothing to* + Infinitive (*about*).

30 **en faire un drame**

Note the use of **en** here meaning *about it, of it, out of it*.
Literally, the sentence means: *There is not enough to make a drama of it.*

51 **Ce qu'il me faudrait**

This is a very common way of saying *What I need*.

Dix centimètres de largeur/vingt centimètres de profondeur

Note the use of **de** to give a measurement.

VOCABULARY

reposant	restful
se remettre en forme	to get back into shape
agité	hectic
avoir mauvaise réputation	to have a bad reputation
il n'y a pas de quoi en faire un drame	it's not that serious
mener	to lead
une vie bien mondaine	a very busy social life
(dix centimètres) de largeur	(10 cm) wide, across
(vingt centimètres) de profondeur	(20 cm) deep
la largeur	width
la profondeur	depth
rehausser	to move (something) up, higher

EXERCISE 2: Numbers and dimensions

Another thing which is quite important in a foreign language: to be able to count, measure and add correctly. Listen through first, then do the exercise yourself, paying attention to the pronunciation as well as to the answers themselves.

LANGUAGE NOTES9 **Ça fait quatre virgule cinq**

Ça fait is the expression used to give a total, the result of an addition, a conversion, etc.

VOCABULARY

une dimension	dimension
dès que	as soon as
deux virgule cinq	two point five
un demi	half
un quart	quarter
un tiers	third
penché sur (un problème)	busy with (a problem)

SCENE 3: The advertising agency, then in a restaurant

Didier and Odile are still trying to solve their problem when Didier suddenly remembers Odile was supposed to go out for lunch: it is nearly one o'clock, time for Odile to leave. We find her next in a restaurant with Michel. He has reserved a table upstairs: Odile is impressed by the decor. While they consult the menu they talk: Michel is very pleased with the letters he has received following the program. They go on talking about what Odile is going to do next, and both agree that her organization needs funds. Michel comes up with a new idea: why not organize a concert to raise some money? It would, of course, be organized and sponsored by Radio NRJ; Michel already knows some singers and musicians who would agree to take part ... It all sounds very simple! Odile goes along with the idea, and doesn't think it will be a problem for her to go down to Lyon, where the concert is supposed to take place. After lunch, they go to have a look at the letters Michel has received after Odile's interview.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 6 **Au fait, tu ne devais pas aller déjeuner? Si.**
Remember that when you wish to give an affirmative answer to a negative question, you should use **si**, not **oui**.
Tu ne devais pas ...? here means: *Weren't you supposed to ...?*
- 12 **Tu ferais mieux de te préparer maintenant.**
Faire mieux de, in the Conditional, followed by the Infinitive, is the French way of saying *had better* + Infinitive.
- 25 **Je n'ai pas vu le temps passer.**
Voir + direct object + Infinitive: *to see something happening*.
- 44 **Il y en avait une partie adressée à toi.**
Literally, this sentence means *there was a part of them/ some of them addressed to you*. This kind of construction is used all the time in French.

VOCABULARY

garder	to keep
gâter	to spoil
flatté	flattered
en haut	upstairs
chic	fashionable
(c'est) chouette	(it's) neat, great
jeter un coup d'œil	to glance, to have a quick look at
dans la journée	during the day
faire exception	to be different, be an exception to the rule
au contraire	not at all, quite the opposite
parrainé	sponsored
la note	bill
assister à	to be (present) at
patronné	sponsored, promoted
gratuitement	for nothing, free
faire une tournée	to go on tour
en province	in the provinces

EXERCISE 3: About money

More useful information: this time to do with money and how to acquire some – by legal means! Listen to the whole exercise and practise giving your answers until you know what to say and you are satisfied with your pronunciation. This is quite a “meaty” exercise, so take your time: leave it and come back to it if necessary.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 14 **Je sais parler arabe, taper à la machine**
Je sais + Infinitive is the French expression used to indicate that *you are able to, you know how to, do something*. For instance: **Je sais nager, Elles savent bien faire la cuisine**, etc.
- 22 **J'ai quelques objets de valeur dont je ne me sers pas**
Dont, which you have come across before, is a relative pronoun which is used with verbs governed by the preposition **de**, and meaning *of whom, of which, whose*.
- 23 **Je pourrais en vendre quelques uns**
 Once again, notice the pronoun **quelques uns** – referring back to **objets**.

Vendez-les/Empruntez-en *Sell them/Borrow some*
 Note the place of the pronoun, after the verb in the Imperative. **Empruntez** takes an -s at the end, for euphonic reasons.

VOCABULARY

ça tombe bien	that's lucky, that's fortunate
se faire du souci	to worry
obtenir	to obtain
économiser (de l'argent)	to save (money)
tirer un bon prix (de quelque chose)	to get a good price (for something)
des intérêts (m.)	interest
fournir	to produce, to give
une garantie	guarantee
pour une bouchée de pain dessus	for a song, for next to nothing on them, on it
un prêt	loan
un bijou, des bijoux	jewel(s)
une société de prêt	loan company
exiger	to require, insist on
ils exigent	they require
dans le fond	basically, really
un directeur	manager

SCENE 4: The advertising agency

Odile is back at the agency with Didier, who asks her if she enjoyed her lunch. Odile is very enthusiastic about it all, and describes the restaurant to Didier in lyrical terms ... until she realizes from something he says that he has been there before! Didier leads her gently back to earth by asking her if Michel Sabatier was helpful. Odile takes her cue and tells him about the concert, asking him at the same time if she can have two days off to attend it. Didier agrees, but makes it clear it has to be the last time: in future, Odile will have to choose between working for him normally, on a regular basis, or looking for work elsewhere. But Didier's tough manner doesn't last long: he ends up offering Odile his car to drive to the concert. She promises to take good care of it ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 1 **Alors c'était bon, ce déjeuner?**
 Another very, very common sentence pattern in everyday conversation, to ask someone how things went, if something went well. For example, one might say: **Alors, ça s'est bien passé, ces vacances en Italie?** (*So ... was it all right, your holiday in Italy?*) etc.
- 15 **Quand je pense que j'y étais moi aussi!**
 Note this exclamatory turn of phrase, which is quite common in conversation; one would say in English: *And to think I was there too!*
- 15 **Tout en mangeant**
Tout does not add anything to the meaning of **en** + Present Participle, it just reinforces the idea of simultaneity.
- 46 **J'en ai déjà dépensé pas mal!**
En means *some* here – this construction with **pas mal** is probably as near to the English understatement as anything in French will ever get: this is in fact just another way of saying **J'en ai déjà dépensé beaucoup**.

- 50 **C'est la dernière fois que ça se produit**
Another frequently used expression. In the same way,
one might say:
C'est la première fois que je viens en France.

- 69 **C'est une voiture qui vaut cher**
A useful expression to remember: **ça vaut cher** means
it costs a lot of money. The opposite would be **c'est**
bon marché/ça ne coûte pas cher.

VOCABULARY

ultra-chic	very classy
une célébrité	celebrity
doux, douce	soft (lighting)
un palmier	palm tree
une baie vitrée	picture window
un publiciste	advertiser
parfois	occasionally
la gloire	glory, fame
une bonne action	good deed
se produire	to happen
un permis	(driver's) license
tenir à	to be fond of
j'y tiens	I'm very fond of it
valoir cher	to be worth a lot of money
qui vaut cher	which is worth a lot of money
abimer	to damage
je ne l'abîmerai pas	I won't damage it

EXERCISE 4: Asking permission

This exercise helps you revise the various ways of asking permission to do something in French. Listen to the exercise and practise giving your answers, paying attention also to the intonation of the questions.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 2 **J'aimerais entendre à nouveau comment on demande la permission en français**
Note the use of indirect speech, with normal word order, after **entendre**:
Comment est-ce qu'on demande la permission en français?
J'aimerais entendre comment on demande ...
- 8 **Il n'a pas le téléphone chez lui**
Avoir le téléphone is the French expression used to mean *to have a phone* in one's house.
- 10 **Ça vous dérangerait que je me serve de votre téléphone?**
Note the use of the Subjunctive after **ça vous dérangerait que ...**. The same applies to **permettre**: **Vous permettez que je ferme un peu la fenêtre?**

VOCABULARY

utiliser	to use
se servir de	to use
emprunter	to borrow
un compartiment	compartment

SCENE 5: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Odile is back in the flat and calls out to Karim and Delphine to ask them if they are interested in coming to a concert. Only Delphine seems to be at home, and she claims she hasn't the time to take two days off. She suggests to Odile that she take Karim instead: it transpires that she knows about their romantic weekend together and about Karim's feelings towards Odile ... and herself. Odile enquires about Karim: it seems Delphine has told him to go and find somewhere else to live. He has left, saying he would phone Odile. Odile tries to persuade Delphine to come to the concert with her, but to no avail. She is just in the middle of explaining that she is not responsible for Karim's change of feelings, when the phone rings. Delphine picks it up ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

Qui est-ce qui veut aller à un concert pop?/Qui est-ce que ça intéresse?

Another way of asking questions with *qui*: **Qui est-ce qui ...?/Qui est-ce que ...?**

16 **Tu n'as qu'à emmener Karim**

N'avoir qu'à + Infinitive. Remember this way of making a suggestion in French: it is the equivalent of the English phrase *Why don't you ...?*

Si on oubliait tout ça?/Si on allait au concert ensemble?

Another turn of phrase to suggest something to do: **si + verb in the Perfect tense.**

44 **Je n'en sais rien**

An alternative way of saying *I don't know*, a variation on **Je ne sais pas.**

44 **J'ai les programmes à écrire**

Notice this useful construction: *I have to do ...*

VOCABULARY

réunir

to gather, to collect

prêter

to lend

loger

to stay

s'absenter

to go away, to leave

un choc

shock

ça m'a fait un choc

it gave me a shock

déménager

to move (out)

se débrouiller

to manage

ruminer

to think things over, to ponder things

EXERCISE 5: Intonation (2)

Intonation is very important, as it can completely modify the meaning of something one says and the spirit in which one says it. Listen to the whole exercise first; then try to reproduce the sound contours you hear for the different questions.

LANGUAGE NOTES

1 Odile doit en avoir assez de tout ça

Another expression to remember, as it is useful and very common in conversation: **en avoir assez** (de quelque chose).

16 Depuis combien de temps est-ce que tu ne l'as pas vu?

Depuis, of course, corresponds to both *for* and *since* in English.

Je ne l'ai pas vue depuis trois mois.

(*I haven't seen her for three months.*)

J'apprends le français depuis le mois de juin.

(*I have been learning French since June.*)

Notice that the Perfect tense is used when the action is finished. Unlike English, however, the Present tense is used to refer to an action that is still continuing.

22 Ça a coûté combien?

We have seen this kind of question several times before: in everyday conversations, very often, the interrogative word is placed at the end of the sentence: **Vous pensez à quoi? Tu y vas comment? Ils partent quand?**, etc.

VOCABULARY

une phrase	sentence
neutre	neutral
choqué	shocked

SCENE 6: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Back at the office, Odile answers the phone: Mehdi is at the other end, asking why she hasn't contacted him. Odile apologizes and says she has been very busy but Mehdi does not sound convinced. Pressed further, Odile tells him what she has heard about him and his friends. Mehdi does not deny that they are politically committed, and accuses Odile of being a "bourgeoise" and of not understanding what their struggle is all about. According to him, she is only helping to perpetuate a system which is rotten. Odile takes the view that the system is there and they have got to work within its limits. Mehdi then mentions the forthcoming concert, making threatening noises about coming along with his friends and causing trouble. Odile protests gently, and Mehdi decides to give up and to leave her to her mistaken bourgeois ways. Before hanging up, however, Mehdi drops some more dark hints.

LANGUAGE NOTES

3 Alors, on ne donne plus de nouvelles?

This is a very special use of **on**. It is ironic and refers to the person one is addressing. Instead of using **vous** or **tu**, **on** is used, and the effect is to make the address sound familiar, ironic, and even, as here, somewhat aggressive.

4 C'est Mehdi? Oui, c'est moi.

Note this way of confirming one's identity. This is what you will answer, for instance, when you knock on a door and the person behind asks: **Qui est là?** *Who's there?* – the answer will be: **C'est moi**, **Anne** or **C'est Michael**, etc.

13 Vous n'êtes pas si débordée que ça

Pas si + adjective + que ça. This is the French phrase equivalent to the English: *not that + adjective*.

14 On n'est pas assez bien pour vous/Il faut qu'on parle, tous les deux

On here means **nous**. Mehdi's way of talking is very informal and familiar, more so than Odile's, and always uses **on** for **nous**.

- 18 Eh bien, c'est quoi, alors?
Another instance of Mehdi's "familiar" style: *c'est quoi?* instead of *qu'est-ce que c'est?*

- 59 Il faut bien faire avec
Faire avec to *make do with* is a set phrase in spoken French only. There is no need for a pronoun after the preposition *here*.

- 80 Salut. A la prochaine.
This way of taking leave of someone is familiar, very informal. It is the way in which young people in particular say goodbye to each other. *Salut* is widely used to say *hello* as well, especially among the young.

VOCABULARY

débordé	to be snowed under (with work)
raconter des histoires	to pull someone's leg
laisser tomber (quelqu'un)	to drop, to desert (someone)
typiquement	typically
bourgeois	middle-class, bourgeois
collaborer	to collaborate, to work with
être recherché (par la police)	to be wanted by the police
durer	to last
faire durer	to perpetuate, to make (something) last
pourri	rotten
faire avec	to make do (with something)
(être) bien renseigné	(to be) well informed
amener	to bring along
exploiter	to exploit
un camp	side, camp
prévenir	to warn
là-dedans	in that, with that
qu'est-ce qu'il a à voir là-dedans?	what has he got to do with that?
réserver	to have in store, to reserve
se préparer	to prepare oneself
rejoindre (quelqu'un)	to join (somebody)

Cassette 4 Side 1

The band is tuning up

SCENE 1: In Odile and Delphine's flat, then on the motorway

Odile tries for the last time to persuade Delphine to come with her to the concert, but Delphine won't change her mind. The bell rings: Didier has arrived. He reminds Odile to take good care of his car and gives her the keys. Once she has gone, Delphine and Didier have a chat. The phone rings while they are talking: it is Odile, calling from a phone-booth on the motorway. In answer to Delphine's questions, Odile starts by saying that everything is fine, that she is just calling to say hello. Then she mentions something which is worrying her a little: a red light on the dashboard which keeps flickering. Delphine calls Didier to the phone; he talks to Odile and tells her to check the oil: she will probably need to add some. Odile is going to do just that, and says she might ring Didier back if she needs to. When she asks where she can contact him, it becomes obvious that he will spend most of the evening with Delphine: some time at her flat, then in a restaurant. . .

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 1 **Oh, allez, Delphine**
Allez used in this way is the equivalent of the English expression: *Oh, come on!* It is used to urge someone to do something.
- 12 **Ne vas pas me l'abîmer**
This is a turn of phrase which is very frequently used in conversation. It is slightly familiar, and would only be used with people one knows well. The nearest English equivalent would be: *Don't go and damage it.*

15 J'ai beau essayer ...

This expression **J'ai beau** is the French equivalent of the English phrase *However much ...*. The above sentence means therefore *However much I try*.

66 J'attends que Delphine ait fini de se préparer

Subjunctive **ait fini** after **attendre que**.

VOCABULARY

s'amuser	to have a good time, to have fun
amuse-toi bien!	have a good time! enjoy yourself!
être pressé	to be in a hurry
supplier	to beg
je t'en supplie	I beg you
tenir à (quelque chose)	to be fond of (something)
j'y tiens	I'm fond of it, it's precious to me
faire attention	to be careful
avoir beau (essayer)	however much (one tries)
libéré	liberated
les assurances	insurance
ne pas arrêter de (s'allumer)	to keep (lighting up)
s'allumer	to light up
s'éteindre	to go off
(son) numéro personnel	(his) private, home number
le compteur	speedometer
l'huile (f.)	oil
(en) rajouter	to add (some)
le siège	seat
une poignée	handle
le capot	hood
vérifier	to check
le niveau	level
le niveau d'huile	oil level
joindre (quelqu'un)	to reach (someone)

EXERCISE 1: Learning how to make a phone call (2)

This exercise helps you check that you can express yourself clearly and efficiently on the telephone, and that you know how to ask someone to spell a word, repeat something, etc. Respond in the pauses.

LANGUAGE NOTES

11 Il ne sera pas là avant quatre heures

Note the use of **avant** often where in English *until* would be used: **pas ... avant quatre heures** *not until four o'clock*.

15 ... jusqu'à midi, jusqu'à six heures

In order to indicate that something is taking place *until a certain time*, the word used in French is **jusqu'à**.

35 De deux heures à six heures

From ... to ..., the French equivalent of this is a phrase using the words **de ... à**. Again, this is used also when talking about dates: **de lundi à vendredi, de juin à septembre, de 1970 à 1980**, etc.

VOCABULARY

faire répéter	to ask (someone) to repeat (something)
absolument	absolutely, imperatively
un laboratoire	laboratory
redire	to say again, to repeat
clignoter	to keep going on and off
se faire du souci	to worry

SCENE 2: At the garage

Odile has gone to a garage on the motorway to ask for help. She explains what is wrong with the car and the mechanic checks the oil level: Odile tried, it would seem, but could not open the hood. Having checked the oil, the mechanic declares that there is plenty of oil, and that he can always add a little, but not much. Odile would rather he put some oil in, as she wants to give Didier his car back in a decent state. The mechanic can't see anything wrong with the car at all and suggests that Odile perhaps wasn't changing gears often enough. At the end of their conversation, he sounds very optimistic as to Odile's chances getting to her destination without further problems.

LANGUAGE NOTES

6 **Faites tourner le moteur**

Note again this construction with **faire** + Infinitive, to indicate that one is *making someone do something*.

19 **Il y en a, de l'huile**

An emphatic turn of phrase using **en** and putting the key word at the end.

25 **Il vaut mieux en mettre**

A useful phrase: *It's best to ...*

27 **Il faut que je la rende en bon état**

Rende is, of course, the Subjunctive form of the verb **rendre**.

42 **Ça s'échauffe vite, ce genre de moteur**

Another of the many examples of a sentence where the most important word or expression is at the end for emphasis.

47 **Je vous dis, vraiment, je ne trouve rien**

The English equivalent would be: *I tell you, I really can't find anything.*

Vous avez loin à aller?/J'ai encore quelques kilomètres à faire.

Note this construction with **avoir à** + Infinitive, to indicate something which you have to do, or which remains to be done.

VOCABULARY

mettre en marche	to start the engine
faire tourner le moteur	to run the engine
un volant	steering wheel
couper le contact	to switch off (the engine)
largement assez	plenty, more than enough
en bon état	intact, in good condition
apparaître	to appear
(elle) est apparue	(it) appeared
au bout de (d'une demi-heure)	after (half-an-hour)
anormal	abnormal
en sur-régime	to be over-revving it
changer de vitesse	to change gears
passer à la vitesse supérieure	to change up (gears)
un moteur	engine
chauffer	to heat up
s'échauffer	to overheat
je vous dis	I tell you
y arriver	to manage
vous y arriverez	you'll manage, you'll get there

EXERCISE 2: Breaking down

A straightforward vocabulary exercise. Listen as many times as necessary, then try to fill in the gaps by using all the expressions yourself.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 8 **Le pot d'échappement a besoin d'être remplacé**
Etre remplacé is the Passive Infinitive, meaning *to be replaced*. It is formed thus:
 Infinitive of **être** + Past Participle of main verb.
- 11 **Je n'arrive pas à passer les vitesses**
Arriver à + Infinitive is the phrase used to say that one *manages to do something*.
- 12 **Et elle vient de caler**
Venir de in the Present tense + Infinitive; you probably remember this expression, which indicates that someone *has just done something*, or that something *has just happened*.
- 13 **Vous pouvez y jeter un coup d'œil?**
 The verb is **jeter un coup d'œil à**, so the pronoun used to replace **à** + the complement is **y**.

VOCABULARY

un ennui de voiture	a problem with the car, car trouble
une panne	breakdown
démarrer	to start
un pot d'échappement	exhaust pipe
remplacer	to replace
un drôle de bruit	a funny noise
avoir des ratés	to be "missing" (of an engine)
passer les vitesses	to run through the gears
caler	to stall
jeter un coup d'œil (à)	to glance (at)
finalelement	finally, at last

SCENE 3: In the concert hall

Odile has arrived at her destination and is welcomed by Michel. They are in the concert hall, where the orchestra is having a last rehearsal: rehearsing in the morning would have meant getting up before lunchtime! Odile thinks their music is excellent. Before they go and find somewhere to eat, Odile asks Michel if she could park the car in a safe place. He suggests she put it in the parking lot outside the hotel where he has booked rooms for them both. Odile agrees. Michel admires her car and is impressed when Odile tells him that it has been lent to her by a friend. Odile returns the compliment and remarks that his car does not look too bad, either ... Michel asks her to follow him: he will show her the way. Odile begs him not to go too fast!

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 2 **Ça a été**
 A useful expression: *It was OK, alright* – the past equivalent of **Ça va**.
- 19 **Je me suis arrêtée au garage**
 All reflexive verbs are conjugated with **être**, and therefore in the Past tense the Past Participle agrees with the subject of the verb – hence, here, **arrêtée**, which agrees with **je** (Odile) and is therefore in the feminine singular.
- 28 **Il faudrait qu'ils se lèvent ...**
 Remember that you can check on verb endings for the Conditional in the Appendix.
- 29 **Comment tu les trouves?**
 A further example of how the word order in colloquial questions remains the same as in a statement. *What do you think of them?*
- 49 **Je te montre le chemin de l'hôtel**
 In English, one would use the Future tense to indicate what one is just about to do: *I'll show you the way to the hotel*. In French, the Present tense is used.

VOCABULARY

de toute façon
prévoir

anyway, in any case
to foresee, to anticipate,
to expect

prévu
le jour prévu

expected, planned
when they're expected to be
there, on the appointed day

un public
sûr

audience
safe

un endroit sûr
l'esprit (m.)

a safe place
(the) mind

j'aurais l'esprit plus
tranquille

my mind would be more at
ease, I'd feel easier about it
to be worth

valoir
une fortune

fortune
it's worth a fortune

ça vaut une fortune

EXERCISE 3: Confirming something

Listen through to this exercise and then practise using some of the common expressions for showing that you have understood or that you agree with what someone has told you.

LANGUAGE NOTES

5 Du vendredi soir au mardi matin

Remember that when you wish to give the beginning and the end of a period of time or event, the prepositions used are **de** and **à**. In the masculine **de** becomes **du** (**de** + **le**) and **à** becomes **au** (**à** + **le**): **de juin à septembre**, but **du mois de juin au mois de septembre**.

9 L'avion pour Londres

Pour is the preposition used to give the destination of a train, a plane, etc.: **le train pour Paris**, **le bateau pour l'Angleterre**.

15 Je vous ai réservé ...

Vous, the indirect pronoun, is enough here to indicate that something is done *for somebody*.

VOCABULARY

une confirmation

confirmation

confirmer

to confirm

un emploi du temps

schedule

clair

clear

SCENE 4: At the hotel

Michel and Odile are back at the hotel after their meal. Odile thanks Michel for a delicious meal. It is very late and the night porter is fast asleep. Michel suggests they go straight to their rooms without waking him up. He invites Odile to have a last drink with him in his room but she is too tired. However, after listening to Michel describing his lonely life, she changes her mind and decides she will have that drink after all – but just the one!

LANGUAGE NOTES

8 Comment est-ce qu'on fait pour avoir nos clés?

The possessive adjective corresponding to **nous** is used with **on** when it stands for **nous**.

23 Pour se souhaiter bonne nuit?

Se indicates reciprocity, meaning *each other, to each other*.

44 A condition que tu arrêtes de gémir

Arrêtes is the Subjunctive of the verb; **à condition que** is another of those expressions which are followed by a verb in the Subjunctive.

VOCABULARY

un repas	meal
un endroit	place
un portier de nuit	night porter
dormir à poings fermés	to be fast asleep, to be dead to the world
marcher	to be on (of a radio)
réveiller	to wake up
apparemment	apparently
un rêve	a dream
faire de mauvais rêves	to have bad dreams
rassurer	to reassure
se rassurer mutuellement	to reassure each other mutually
étonner	to surprise

ça m'étonnerait
un nouveau-né
offrir
un verre
n'en plus pouvoir

je n'en peux plus
le luxe
bouger
la vie
la grande vie
enfermé (dans ta chambre)
à condition que
gémir
gai

I would be very surprised
newborn baby
to offer
drink
to be exhausted, all-in, tired out
I'm exhausted
luxury
to move around
life
the good life
shut up (in your room)
provided that
to moan
cheerful

EXERCISE 4: Correcting someone

How to disagree politely but firmly. Pay particular attention to the expressions practised (**Tu plaisantes? Pas du tout**, etc.) and to the intonation used with them.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 10 **Je te dis que j'en ai plus qu'assez**
A reminder that this expression is used when one wishes to make a point forcefully, to impress an idea upon someone.
- 14 **Mais tu dois bien rencontrer ... quand même**
Bien, in conjunction with **quand même**, emphasizes the verb: *But you must meet some interesting people, though* would be the English equivalent.
- 19 **Une fois tous les trois mois**
Tous/Toutes les + noun indicates the frequency with which something recurs: *Once every three months*.
- 28 **C'est quand même un travail très créatif, non?**
As you can see, **quand même** can be placed after the verb as well as at the end of the sentence. When placed after the verb as here, it is reinforced by **non?** at the end.
- 30 **On me demande toujours de faire la même chose**
On is often used in French where in English the Passive form would be. Here, for instance: *I'm always asked to do the same thing*.

VOCABULARY

(être) en sécurité	(to be) safe
reprendre (quelqu'un)	to correct (someone)
à chaque fois que	every time
exagérer	to exaggerate
en fait	in fact
plaisanter	to joke
en avoir plus qu'assez (de quelque chose)	to have more than enough (of something)

pourant
penses-tu!
rire
tu veux rire!
toujours les mêmes têtes
tout autour de
le monde
en tout cas
gagner sa vie
bien gagner sa vie
avoir du mal à (s'en sortir)

une voiture de fonction
jamais de la vie!
créatif
absolument pas!
au moins
un horaire
sûrement pas!
confondre

but, yet
you must be joking!
to laugh
you're joking!
always the same faces
all around
world
in any case, at any rate
to earn a living
to earn a good living
to find it hard to manage
(financially)
company car
never! not on your life!
creative
no way! certainly not!
at least
timetable
certainly not!
to confuse

SCENE 5: In the concert hall

The concert is about to begin. Michel, who is introducing the show, praises the group who have just played, and goes on to talk about Odile, who is due to say a few words next. He asks the audience to give a round of applause for the musicians and singers taking part in the concert and then leaves the stage to Odile. She thanks the audience, the musicians and Michel for organizing everything ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

2 D'une qualité exceptionnelle

De + noun + adjective (or adjective + noun) is a turn of phrase often used to qualify something or someone. For instance: **un homme d'une intelligence exceptionnelle.**

8 Le plus de gens possible

Le plus de + noun + possible: *as much/as many as possible.*

VOCABULARY

sous le patronnage de	sponsored by
une bonne cause	good cause
grâce à	thanks to
tout mettre en œuvre	to do everything possible, to take every possible step
un instant	moment
applaudir	to applaud, to give a round of applause
laisser la parole à	to leave the floor to

EXERCISE 5: Thanking and congratulating people

The expressions in this exercise are very straightforward. When you practise them in the pauses, try to get your pronunciation and intonation as accurate as possible.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 13 **Vous m'aviez aussi demandé de taper toutes les enveloppes**
Note the use of the Pluperfect here in French to refer to a request made a short time previously, and which has been acted upon.

- 28 **Je viens d'être reçue à mon examen**

You already know that **je viens de + Infinitive** indicates that someone has *just done something*. Here the Infinitive is in the Passive form: Infinitive of **être** + Past Participle of main verb. Similarly, for example, one will say:

Elle vient d'être renversée par une voiture.

(*She has just been run over by a car.*)

Ils viennent d'être renvoyés de leur école.

(*They have just been expelled from their school.*)

The Past Participle agrees with the subject, as usual when **être** is used.

VOCABULARY

un remerciement	a thank you
des félicitations (f.)	congratulations
se dérouler	to go off, happen
classer	to file
l'ordre alphabétique (m.)	alphabetical order
merci infiniment	thanks a million
un permis (de conduire)	driver's license
du premier coup	the first time
doué	gifted
économiser	to save (money)

SCENE 6: In the concert hall

After the concert, Michel and Odile are having a chat. Odile agrees that it all went very well and that the groups were excellent. Michel adds that there should be plenty of money for Odile's students. She thanks him for everything he has done. Michel asks her whether she will stay another night at the hotel but Odile wants to leave straight away, although it means driving all night. She won't be persuaded – she thanks Michel again and tells him she will call him. He tells her not to forget to do so: he will have some money for her!

LANGUAGE NOTES

10 Ça fait connaître Radio NRJ

Again, this construction with **faire** + verb in the Infinitive *to make something happen, to get something done.*

12 On y a tous gagné quelque chose

The verb here is **gagner à**, so the pronoun used to replace the complement (= **au concert, à tout ça**) is **y**. The meaning is *We all gain something from that.*

VOCABULARY

sensationnel	terrific; sensational
une recette	receipts
récolter	to get, to collect
un bon coup	a stroke of luck, a good thing
faire connaître (quelque chose, quelqu'un)	to get (something/somebody) known
tenir à	to be anxious to
rouler	to drive
insister	to insist

EXERCISE 6: Resisting persuasion

Or how to avoid doing what you don't want to do, even in French! Again, intonation is important, as well as polite formulae such as **Je sais, mais, mais quand même; Non, vraiment, c'est gentil de ta part, mais ...**

LANGUAGE NOTES

7 Oh, tu peux bien rester

This is the turn of phrase used when trying to persuade someone to do something. The English equivalent would be *Oh, surely you can stay!*

23 vraiment, il faut que je m'en aille/Il faut absolument que je parte

As you can see, adverbs in French can be placed at the beginning or at the end of the sentence, or after the verb. Some have a fixed place, some can be placed in any of these locations, such as **vraiment**; one can say just as well: **Il faut vraiment que je m'en aille.**

VOCABULARY

résister à	to resist
la persuasion	persuasion
persuader (quelqu'un) de (faire quelque chose)	to persuade (somebody) to (do something)
convaincre	to convince
un trajet	journey
faire à diner	to make dinner
en route	on the way

SCENE 7: In the car

Odile is driving home and counting how many kilometres she has yet to cover. She calculates that she will be there in three hours' time. She switches the radio on: it is one o'clock in the morning, the programs are coming to an end and will start again at five o'clock ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 2 **A quatre-vingt-dix kilomètres heure**
Note this way of indicating speed, by just putting two words next to each other, without any preposition: **kilomètres heure**.
- 7 **Nous allons quand même devoir nous séparer**
Rather a lot of verbs in this sentence! Its meaning is quite simple: *We are still going to have to part company*.
- 11 **Faites de beaux rêves!**
The Imperative form is used when wishing someone good night, or a good holiday, or a pleasant afternoon, etc.

VOCABULARY

une chanson	song
se lasser de	to grow tired of
se séparer	to part, to leave each other
s'achever	to come to an end, to draw to a close
reprandre	to resume

SCENE 8: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Odile is back in the flat. It is after four o'clock in the morning. Odile is surprised to find Delphine still awake, reading. She tells Odile she can't sleep. In answer to Odile's questions, she explains that Didier has just left her. Odile is astonished; Delphine says she called Didier and asked him to come and help her. It becomes clear that rather a lot happened during Odile's absence: the police came to the flat and wanted to question her, Odile. Delphine is not sure why they wished to see her, but it is obvious that it had something to do with Karim ... Odile asks Delphine to sit next to her and start again right from the beginning ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 4 **Je suis là**
Là is used all the time in spoken French instead of *ici*. *I am here Je suis là*.
- 7 **Tu as eu de la visite?**
Note this way of asking if someone has had visitors: **de la visite**.
- 18 **La police est venue**
Collective nouns, which are singular but have a plural meaning (such as **la famille**, **la police**), are followed by a verb in the singular in French.
- 24 **Sois gentille**
The Subjunctive (of *être*: **sois**) is used to formulate a polite request.

VOCABULARY

être couché	to be in bed
s'adresser à	to turn to
la police	police
vouloir quelque chose à	to want something with
quelqu'un	somebody
qu'est-ce qu'ils me	what did they want with me?
voulaient?	
au juste	exactly
depuis le début	from the beginning

Cassette 4 Side 2

All's well that ends well

SCENE 1: In the flat

Delphine tells all ... We learn, with Odile, that two policemen were waiting on the doorstep when Delphine came home at 11 pm. They wanted to know if her name was Odile Vallier. As they wanted to ask Delphine more questions, she asked them in and they questioned her for a whole hour. They wanted to know where Odile was; they also asked Delphine to tell them all she knew about Karim but wouldn't explain why they needed to know. In desperation Delphine decided to phone Didier, who was very helpful. This does not seem to please Odile very much. . . The policemen left a message for Odile: she must ring them as soon as she gets back, no matter what time it is. Delphine is worried, but Odile's conscience is clear. . . She picks up the phone. . .

LANGUAGE NOTES

Tout est bien qui finit bien

The French version of this cliché.

I Tu recommences tout depuis le début

Note this way of asking somebody to do something: using **tu** or **vous** + verb in the Present tense.

Depuis is here used to mean *from*, *since* to indicate the start, the beginning of something.

Il était onze heures/Je rentrais .../il y avait deux policiers qui attendaient ...

Note how the Imperfect tense is used here, to describe a situation and to refer to an action which was on-going in the past, which lasted in the past: *It was eleven o'clock, I was coming home, two policemen were waiting.*

Je rentrais à la maison et j'ai vu une voiture de police dehors/Je suis montée à l'appartement et il y avait deux policiers qui attendaient

These sentences offer a clear example of the respective uses of the Imperfect and the Perfect tense in French. Note the contrast in the same sentence between a continuous action (**rentrais**) and the series of short actions which did not last: (**j'ai vu, je suis montée**).

Ils m'ont aussi demandé de leur dire ... comment on l'avait connu/S'il avait habité .../Quand il était parti

This scene is very useful for illustrating the way you relate events and what people said. You will notice how verbs in the Perfect tense in direct speech go into the Pluperfect tense in reported speech.

43. **Qu'est-ce qu'il a bien pu lui arriver?**

The use of **bien** here serves to emphasize the feeling of surprise: *What on earth can have happened to him?* would be the English equivalent.

44. **Ça, je me le demande!**

Another emphatic turn of phrase, meaning: *That's what I ask myself!* Literally: *That, I ask myself it!*

Ils m'ont demandé de les appeler quand tu rentrerais/Ils m'ont dit de les appeler dès que je te verrais

Another example of the change of tenses from direct to reported speech. The Future tense becomes the Conditional.

VOCABULARY

un policier
le pas de la porte
un uniforme
en uniforme
civil
en civil

policeman
the doorstep
uniform
in uniform
civilian
in civilian clothes

un accident
questionner

accident
to ask a question, to
question, to interrogate

joindre (quelqu'un)

to reach (somebody)

remarque, ...

mind you, ...

(donner) un coup de fil

(to give) a ring

un carnet

notebook

faire des ennuis (à quelqu'un)

to make trouble (for
someone)

la conscience

conscience

avoir la conscience tranquille

to have a clear conscience

EXERCISE 1: Relaying information

This exercise helps you practise reported speech, as illustrated in the previous scene. Pay particular attention to the change in tenses and in pronouns when conversation is reported.

LANGUAGE NOTES

Below is a list of all the sentences used in the exercise, first in direct speech (on the left), and then as reported by somebody else (on the right). Notice the change in the verb tense.

Direct speech	Reported speech
Où est-elle?	Il voulait savoir où tu étais.
Quand est-ce qu'elle est sortie?	Il voulait savoir quand tu étais sortie.
Quand est-ce qu'elle reviendra?	Il m'a demandé quand tu reviendrais.
Je l'appellerai.	Il a dit qu'il t'appellerait.
J'essaierai demain matin.	Il a dit qu'il essaierait demain.

6 Elle est allée dîner

This construction **aller** (Past tense) + Infinitive is used very often in French to indicate that somebody has gone out to do something specific.

VOCABULARY

transmettre	to pass on
un détail	detail
rapporter (une conversation)	to tell, to repeat, to report
renseigner (quelqu'un)	to give (someone) some information
un message	message

SCENE 2: The advertising agency

Odile and Didier meet again. He asks her about the concert; she makes sarcastic remarks how well he looked after Delphine ... Odile then explains briefly about the episode with the police and about Karim ... Just as Didier is asking her to have dinner with him that evening the phone rings. It is Michel, asking Odile whether she wants to have dinner with HIM ... Odile declines, saying she is too tired and she is going to go to bed early. She puts the phone down, and proceeds to get a somewhat surprised but obviously happy Didier to repeat his invitation. She accepts gratefully ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

14 Elle est jolie, hein, mon amie Delphine?

Note once again this way of emphasizing a word, by using the pronoun and placing the stressed word at the end.

73 Tu ne m'as pas parlé d'aller dîner ce soir?

The negative turn of phrase is used here to re-engage conversation and to seek confirmation of something mentioned previously.

VOCABULARY

prêter	to lend
rapporter (de l'argent)	to bring in (money)
pas mal (d'argent)	quite a lot of (money)
au fait	by the way
se faire du souci	to worry
un commissariat (de police)	police station
retrouver (quelqu'un)	to find, to track down
la vérité	truth
dire la vérité	to tell the truth
rechercher (un suspect, un criminel)	to look for, to be after (a suspect, a criminal)
des relations (f.)	acquaintances
douteux(se)	doubtful
épuisé	exhausted
se sentir	to feel
frais (fraîche)	fresh
ça suffit	that's enough
normalement	normally
avoir envie de (faire quelque chose)	to feel like (doing something)
je vous la passe	I'll put her through
ça prend du temps	it takes time
complètement	completely
de bonne heure	early
à plus tard	see you later
ravi	delighted

EXERCISE 2: Evading a question

Once again, the intonation used is very important here: listen to it carefully and do your best to reproduce it.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 10 **Qui c'était**
Another instance of informal questioning in conversation.
- 12 **Comment ça, personne?**
The use of **comment ça?** indicates a certain impatience, annoyance at the answer one has received to a question. It invites further explanation from the other person.
- 27 **Vous ne deviez pas aller au cinéma?**
The meaning here is *Weren't you supposed to go to the movies?*

VOCABULARY

éluder (une question)	to evade (a question)
la manière (dont)	the way (in which)
éviter	to avoid
comment ça?	what do you mean? in what way?
secret (adj.)	secret
assurer	to assure
je t'assure	I assure you, honestly
une sortie	outing
nulle part	nowhere
quelque part	somewhere
peu importe	never mind
d'ailleurs	anyway, in any case
l'importance (f.)	importance
ça n'a pas d'importance	it doesn't matter
bon, bon	all right, all right
(être) de retour	(to be) back
en détail	in detail
un document	document

SCENE 3: In Odile and Delphine's flat

Odile and Delphine are in the flat, sorting out students' files. They are just finishing the job and are glad it is all done, although they both enjoyed doing it. In the course of the conversation, just after they have finished their work, Delphine mentions a letter addressed to Odile. It is Karim's handwriting. Odile reads it, to herself: in it Karim explains that he has to leave as quickly as possible as the police are after him. He probably will not see Odile again. He admits having used her and Delphine to start with, in order to have somewhere to live. But he insists that on that Saturday when they went out together, and during the weekend he spent with her, Odile, he was being sincere all the time. He ends by expressing the hope that Odile will think of him with a little affection and wishes her better luck with the people she will meet in future. Delphine asks what is in the letter and Odile answers that Karim apologizes for the trouble they have had because of him, nothing more. Both agree philosophically that men are not worth bothering about and resume their work ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

25 On dirait l'écriture de Karim

On dirait is the French phrase corresponding to the English expressions *it looks like, it sounds like*.

26 C'est bien de lui

Bien serves here to confirm what has been suggested before.

De lui: *de* indicates the origin of the letter: *from him*.

59 ... on le confie à quelqu'un d'autre. Et après ça, on se repose!

More examples of how the Present tense can be used to refer to something which is going to take place very soon, which is being planned.

64 Il faut tout régler avec la banque, quoi!

Quoi!, placed in this way after a comma at the end of the sentence, has the same meaning as the English expression *in other words, in short*.

VOCABULARY

fourni	provided
un ministère	ministry
l'agriculture	agriculture
prévu	planned
tant mieux!	good!
une limite	(a) limit
il y a des limites!	there are limits!
une écriture	handwriting
au plus vite	as soon as possible
sûrement pas	probably not
à cause de	because of
reconnaître	to admit
se servir	to use
mentir	to lie
la comédie	playacting
jouer la comédie	to put on an act
à mon sujet	about me
désagréable	unpleasant
sur mon compte	about me
une amitié	friendship
la sympathie	liking
la chance	luck
pas grand'chose	not much
dégoûter	to disgust
pour le moment	for the time being
oublier	to forget
confier	to entrust
quelqu'un d'autre	somebody else
se reposer	to rest
la partie financière	the financial side
régler	to settle

EXERCISE 3: At the bank

This exercise is primarily a vocabulary exercise. Listen and practise defining the different financial terms and transactions accurately.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 2 **de la comptabilité**
Note the necessity of using an article here in French.
- 27 **Vous remplissez un formulaire. Vous devez ...**
As in English, the Present tense is used to give a list of instructions: *You fill in a form. You must ...*
- 32 **Dès que vous aurez mis les milles francs sur votre compte, on vous donnera un chéquier.**
Note the sequence of tenses in the Future: where in English the Perfect tense would be used, in French the verb is in the Future Perfect.

VOCABULARY

la comptabilité	accounts
un terme de banque	banking terms
ouvrir un compte	to open an account
une sorte (de)	a kind (of)
une formalité (à remplir)	formality (to complete)
un compte courant	checking account
un chéquier	checkbook
également	too, as well
un compte de dépôt	deposit account
les intérêts (m.)	interest
un compte d'épargne	savings account
régulièrement	regularly
déposer (de l'argent sur un compte)	to deposit (money in an account)
un compte de chèques	checking account
toucher des intérêts	to get, to earn interest
passer (une bonne soirée)	to spend (a good evening)

SCENE 4: In a restaurant

Odile and Didier are talking over dinner. Didier warns Odile that the tax authorities might be very curious about the money her group made from the concert. Odile begs him to be a little more romantic, so the conversation moves on to Delphine and how nice she is. Odile is rather annoyed by this and says so quite clearly. This is when Didier finds the ideal way of bringing a smile to her lips, even if it means breaking a glass first ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 4 **... un endroit où faire leur stage**
This construction with *où* + Infinitive instead of a whole clause is quite frequent in French.
- 29 **C'est très agréable, comme sensation**
Note this alternative to the normal sentence pattern, which of course would be: *C'est une sensation très agréable.*
- 51 **Si on se mariait?**
Another instance of *si* + Imperfect tense to invite someone to do something, to suggest something to do.
- 62 **Même pour y gagner une femme**
This is a set phrase: *y gagner*. *Y* here has the meaning *from that*.

VOCABULARY

caser	to fix up
casé	fixed up
agréable	pleasant
une sensation	feeling, sensation
sûrement pas	certainly not
à ma place	instead of me
riche	rich
les impôts (m.)	tax
exciter	to excite
la curiosité	curiosity
un percepteur	tax collector, tax man
les comptes (m.)	the accounts
romantique	romantic
ce n'est pas mon fort	it's not my strong point
fréquenter (les concerts)	to go regularly (to concerts), to be a regular concertgoer
en tête-à-tête	alone together
un dîner en tête-à-tête	an intimate dinner for two
la solution idéale	the ideal solution
se marier	to get married
économique	economical
tout bien réfléchi	after careful consideration
à une condition	with one condition
se permettre de (perdre)	to afford (to lose)

EXERCISE 4: Insisting

We have seen many instances throughout the course of how to stress a word or group of words in French. This is one theme of this practice. It shows you how to stress a particular element in the sentence through the construction used, or the choice of a certain adverb or adjective. Listen first to the whole exercise. Then wind back and respond to the accusations.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 20 **C'est bien quelqu'un qui les a fumées**
Bien is frequently used to insist on an idea, on an argument developed before. In English, of course, it would be enough to just stress the word when speaking it: *But SOMEONE must have smoked them.*
- 30 **Pas la moindre**
Moindre is the superlative of inferiority: **le/la/les moindre(s)** *the least, the slightest.*
- 32 **Je ne vois absolument pas qui ça peut être**
 Note the meaning of **voir** here. In English, the sentence means: *I have absolutely no idea who it can be.*

VOCABULARY

de nouveau	once again
mettre l'accent (sur)	to stress
toucher (à quelque chose)	to touch (something)
fumer	to smoke
plus du tout	no longer at all
disparaître	to disappear
une chose pareille	such a thing
venir à l'esprit (de quelqu'un)	to occur (to someone)
le/la/les moindre(s)	the least, the slightest
pas la moindre idée	not the slightest idea
vague (adj.)	vague
la perception	tax office
régler (la comptabilité)	to settle (the accounts)

SCENE 5: In a government office

Odile is sorting out all the accounts of her organization and has come to ask for a form to fill in, in which she has to declare all income and expenditure. She finally manages to get the right form and information, although she also discovers that she has been waiting in line at the wrong place for an hour. In the end everything is in order, and Odile phones Professor Merle to let him know how things have been going. She also tells him that she would like someone else to take over and asks him if he knows anybody who would like to. It sounds as if Professor Merle is willing to do so himself. Odile promises to mail him all the papers and puts the phone down. At long last she can devote herself to her "real" work.

LANGUAGE NOTES

- 11 ... **seulement si vous êtes un comptable qualifié**
There are usually no articles in French before names of professions. However, the article is used if the name of the profession is qualified by an adjective.
- 15 **Il m'en faut un aussi?**
Compare **Il me la faut** (*I need it*, definite article) and **Il m'en faut un?** (*Do I need one?*). Remember that **en** is necessary with **un/une** when you want to render in French the English *one*, as in this example. (Two lines down, similarly. Odile says: **Vous pourriez m'en donner un, s'il vous plaît?**)
- 56 **Je n'aurai plus le temps de m'en occuper moi-même**
Moi-même is, of course, a reflexive pronoun, referring back to the subject of the verb, meaning *myself*, *by myself*, *on my own*.

VOCABULARY

l'administration (f.)	administration
un formulaire	form
le revenu total	total income
des dépenses (f.)	expenditure
la vérification comptable	audited accounts
signer	to sign
un comptable	accountant
qualifié	qualified
des fonds (m.)	funds
un bureau d'enregistrement	registry
rouvrir	to reopen
faire la queue	to wait in line
pour rien	for nothing
rendre service (à quelqu'un)	to be of help, to help someone, to do someone a favour
un exemplaire	(a) copy
en question	in question
quitter	to leave
un service	department, section
(être) désolé	(to be) very sorry
tant pis	too bad, never mind
un paragraphe	paragraph
en ordre	in order
s'occuper (de)	to look after, to deal with
des papiers (m.)	papers, documents
formidable	great, fantastic
par la poste	by mail

EXERCISE 5: Asking one's way

A functional exercise that should come in very useful when you visit a French-speaking country. The trick is, of course, to remember the directions as well as ask the questions! But the rest of of this course should have prepared you to do a good job of that.

LANGUAGE NOTES

1 Odile a l'air d'avoir tout réglé

Avoir réglé is the Past Infinitive of **régler**, meaning *to have settled, sorted out*.

VOCABULARY

demander son chemin	to ask one's way
une dame	lady
un bureau	department
une salle	room
indiquer le chemin	to tell, to show the way
une annexe	annex
traverser	to cross
une cour	courtyard
retrouver	to meet again

SCENE 6: The advertising agency

Odile and Didier are having a chat at the office. She reassures him that from now on she is a retired do-gooder: Professor Merle is taking over the exchange program. At the mention of the name, Didier remembers that Merle phoned: he wants Odile to ring him back. Before she calls Merle, Didier asks Odile if she can finish the work she is doing in time for the meeting on Friday. She promises she will. Didier mentions that she may have to do some overtime as well: he wants her to go to a concert and on to dinner. Odile can only obey orders! She then phones Merle. We gather that she is again being asked to do something. Could this be the end of the romance? ...

LANGUAGE NOTES

24 C'est comme si c'était fait!

This is a set phrase, used to mean that one is going to do something for someone immediately, as quickly as one can. It means *It's as if it was done*.

25 Mademoiselle Vallier verrait-elle un inconvénient à faire quelques heures supplémentaires ce soir?

Didier uses a very formal turn of phrase, with the third person, to address Odile jokingly. She answers in the same fashion, using *vous*.

67 Evidemment, que je suis fâché

When **évidemment** is placed, as here, at the beginning of the sentence, it is followed by **que**. The same applies to **bien sûr**: **Bien sûr, que je suis content!**

Les affaires sont les affaires/La musique adoucit les mœurs

These are popular sayings: *business is business, music has a civilizing influence*. Similarly, **si tu n'existais pas, il faudrait t'inventer** are clichés familiar to English ears.

74 Et le concert non plus?

Non plus *neither* can be used in this way after a noun. The verb, **n'est pas annulé**, is understood.

VOCABULARY

ça devrait aller	it should be all right
ça me laisse	it leaves me
ça fait plaisir (de)	it's good, it's a pleasure to
négliger	to neglect
prendre toute la place	to take up all of someone's time
prendre la relève	to take over
une dame de charité	woman philanthropist
en retraite	retired
au fait	by the way
ça me fait penser	it reminds me
pas tellement	not much
à temps	in time
voir un inconvénient (à)	to have an objection (to)
des heures supplémentaires	overtime
quelques	a few
(être) dévouée à	(to be) dedicated to
le devoir	duty
professionnel	professional
obéir	to obey
bien entendu	of course
compter sur (quelqu'un)	to count on (somebody)
passer (chez soi)	to stop in (at home)
se changer	to get changed
passer prendre quelqu'un	to pick up someone
promettre	to promise
obtenir	to obtain
incroyable	incredible
exister	to exist
inventer	to invent
être fâché	to be angry, cross
étouffer (de colère)	to choke (with anger)
l'Afrique du Nord (f.)	North Africa
l'Amérique du Sud (f.)	South America
passer à	to move on to
annuler	to cancel
adoucir	to soothe, to soften
les mœurs	manners, behavior
calmer	to calm
les nerfs (m.)	nerves