

ERASMUS+ French and “Speak Easy”

Tools for Teaching Oral Communication Skills in French

Course Ref: EPFR 17.2

Entry Level:

Minimum Level French CEFR A1

Language of tuition:

French

30 lessons per week

Total course contact hours:

1 week: 25 hours

Optional extra language activities available

Maximum class size 15

Course Provider:

French In Normandy

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ERASMUS+

This course is of significant benefit to teachers who are non-native speakers of French and other professionals who wish to:

- **Need to deepen their own knowledge of the French language**
- **Develop their confidence to teach an oral French language course.**
- **Use new tools to facilitate work on the students’ oral expression**
- **Share ideas of best-practice methodologies with colleagues from across Europe, improving teaching in their school and their learners’ outcomes**
- **Achieve greater student engagement in learning in and out of school**

Objectives

- To develop and consolidate participants’ own language skills by enhancing competency in French language usage in a multi-national environment
- To help teachers to use tools to reduce the difference or gap between the written competence and the oral competence of the students
- To encourage students to open their mouth without fear and have fun to speak
- To show that a lesson can be managed in a different and interactive way with moving and laughing students
- To use techniques of the theatre with a range of oral expression exercises that have been especially designed for foreign students and adapted for each language level
- To examine the intonations and rhythms of the French language.
- To use a range of improvisation exercises related to the on-going difficulties by language level, reconciling the desire for the spontaneity of the dialogue and the need to correct grammatical constructions or semantic errors
- To show that an oral course can be an introduction to the French way of life (language levels, social category...)

Preparation

- Pre-course, arrival and cultural information from French in Normandy
- Online language level assessment from French in Normandy
- Familiarity with the techniques of communication as they are defined by the European common framework of reference for languages and the guidelines of the various tests of the D.E.L.F.
- To be open minded for using non-usual teaching methods
- To be ready to move and to adapt

Practical Arrangements

- Course tutor - Setting of learning objectives
- Pedagogic learning materials included
- Ongoing assessment and evaluation including feedback on progress
- Accommodation service and pastoral care: 24hr emergency contact
- Optional additional language workshop every day
- City orientation tour and welcome activity
- Access to school study and media centre

TOPICS

French Language

The overall approach in the language development classes is communicative with students encouraged and facilitated to use the language learned on the course. This covers all aspects of French language skills - speaking, listening, reading and writing as well as pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar activities. Class work includes individual, pair and group work, discussions, debates, roleplays, presentations, written tasks and listening exercises.

“Speak Easy”

Breathing techniques and voice projection. Progressive abdominal breathing exercises allowing participants to better control the tone of their voice.

Specific articulation exercises addressing participants’ linguistic difficulties

Reading and interpretation of short texts chosen for their particular use of sounds. Focus on the physical aspect of voice projection.

Supplementary exercises that examine the intonations and rhythms of the French language

Participants, in class, create then interpret texts that imitate those previously presented (tautograms). Creation of texts based on specific themes and subject to a possible montage at a later point.

Semiotic elements: importance of nonverbal communication, confirming or contradicting the messages expressed by oral communication. The “micro gestures” in support of argumentation. Gestures and cultural differences.

Introduction and practice of a range of improvisation exercises related to the on-going difficulties at the student’s language level (from A1 to B2)

Application on stage of voice projection exercises. Preliminary staging of texts studied in the morning. Research the mood in contemporary texts not written for the theatre. Techniques of segmenting to present the texts in several voices. Work to interpret simple dialogues, text in hand, applying all the stage directions. Presentation of different works on the actor’s role (practical exercises).

Work on awareness of the dramatic. Rules of movement and placement on stage. Notions of choreography and dramatic progression. Use of simple props. Importance of secondary actions. How to interpret differently the same dialogue. Technique of sequencing and researching the coherence of texts. the presentation and “la chute” (the ending).

Follow up provided

- A Certificate of Attendance and Achievement
- Europass Mobility if required
- End of course test and programme evaluation
- Post-course forum

Course Format

One week 30 lessons Intensive French Language which precedes...
 ...One week “Speak Easy” (timetable below)

“Speak Easy” Sample Programme (Week Two)

	Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Day Four	Day Five
09.30-11.00	Exercises in class	Exercises in class	Exercises in class	Exercises in class	Exercises in class
11.30-13.00	Exercises in class	Exercises in class	Exercises in class	Exercises in class	Final project presentation
Lunch Break					
14.00-16.00	Exercises on stage	Exercises on stage	Exercises on stage	Exercises on stage	Exercises on stage
16.15 – 17.15	City orientation (16.15 – 18.30)	workshop			

This is a sample of a schedule which can be adapted to suit the participants’ needs

Two-Week Course Outcomes

- Improved French language skills: reading, writing, speaking, listening, fluency and accuracy
- To help the participants with communicating in French more efficiently and successfully
- Increased confidence in using different techniques
- Integrate new strategies for successful classroom practice
- Greater understanding of students’ needs and behaviour in class
- Techniques to improve student motivation
- Increased confidence in personal lesson delivery
- Sharing of experience with fellow professionals from other countries
- Knowledge of Erasmus+ potential for professional development
- Greater sensitivity to cultural diversity

