



MFL Sunderland Primary French Podcasts

lesson

14

Welcome to the MFL Sunderland Primary French podcast. Lesson 14 – Body parts

In this lesson you'll learn how to say eight parts of the body in French and how to sing a French song about the parts of the body. You'll also learn about plural forms in French.

Parts of the body

Here are the parts of the body that we are going to use in this lesson.

le nez	<i>the nose</i>
la tête	<i>the head</i>
la bouche	<i>the mouth</i>
les épaules	<i>the shoulders</i>
les genoux	<i>the knees</i>
les pieds	<i>the feet</i>
les oreilles	<i>the ears</i>
les yeux	<i>the eyes</i>

Maintenant, à toi. Ecoutez, répétez:

le nez	(pause)	le nez	(pause)
la tête	(pause)	la tête	(pause)
la bouche	(pause)	la bouche	(pause)
les épaules	(pause)	les épaules	(pause)
les genoux	(pause)	les genoux	(pause)
les pieds	(pause)	les pieds	(pause)
les oreilles	(pause)	les oreilles	(pause)
les yeux	(pause)	les yeux	(pause)

Plurals

In Lesson 7A we found out that “le” and “la” both mean “the”, and that the former is masculine and the latter feminine. In Lesson 7C we found out that “l’” also means “the”, and that it is used before masculine or feminine nouns that begin with a vowel or an h.

If you are following the transcript for this podcast, you will have noticed that five of the parts of the body nouns that you have just been practising with Pierre have “les” before them. “Les” also means “the”, and it is used for all plural nouns, whether they are masculine or feminine.

The rules for making nouns plural in French are pretty straightforward. For most nouns, all you need to do is put an –s on the end. But this –s is not pronounced! You only know it is plural when you are listening because of the “les” on the front. For example:

le chien the dog les chiens the dogs

Most of the exceptions to this rule are nouns which end in the clusters of vowels “au”, “eau”, “eu” and “ou”. In these cases we have to put an –x on the end and not an s. Again, the –x is not pronounced. For example:

le genou the knee les genoux the knees

“Les yeux” looks like it belongs to this rule, but it is in fact very irregular, as the singular “the eye” is “l’oeil”!

If a singular noun ends in –s, -x or –z then we don’t have to add anything. For example:

le fils the son les fils the sons

Tête, épaules, genoux, pieds

Now it’s time for the song. You may well have guessed by now which one it is, and you’ll certainly already know the tune. The actions are the same as the English version, although some of the body parts are in a slightly different order, and you sing it the same way, missing out one body part each time. Have a listen and sing along.

Tête, épaules, genoux, pieds
 Genoux, pieds
 Tête, épaules, genoux, pieds
 Genoux, pieds
 Les yeux, le nez, la bouche et les oreilles,
 Tête, épaules, genoux, pieds
 Genoux, pieds

That’s the end of this podcast. If you think you need a bit more practice, go back to the beginning and work through the activities again.

A bientôt !

	<i>masculine singular</i>	<i>feminine singular</i>	<i>before a vowel or an h</i>	<i>plural</i>
<i>a / some</i>	un	une	un/une	des
<i>the</i>	le	la	l’	les

*Please note that there is no podcast for Lesson 13 “Party Games”