

ALVIN ET MIMI
French Short Stories
Beginner Level

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Before you start

This book is aimed at beginning students of French. The sentences are simple, using everyday vocabulary. Each chapter is accompanied by a list of the harder words and expressions to help you understand the text without the use of a dictionary. The complete English translation is included, so that you can double-check your understanding.

Always learn new words in a sentence, preferably in a sentence that relates to your experience, as it is a lot easier to commit them to memory that way.

The short stories are written in present tense, with some past tense where needed for the story to flow naturally.

When reading, be aware of *liaison*, the pronunciation of a final consonant that is normally silent because the word that follows begins with a vowel. The final consonant of the first word phonetically becomes a part of the first syllable of the second word (les_amis, *lay-za-mee*). *Liaison*, which beginning students often find challenging, will be marked with an undertie sign _ (for example, en_avril).

ALVIN ET MIMI (ALVIN AND MIMI)

Le petit écureuil s'installe

1

Un petit écureuil cherche° un arbre. Il veut construire° son premier nid°. Derrière une vieille maison jaune s'élève° un olivier. Le petit écureuil choisit° cet arbre. Il travaille toute la matinée. Il est fatigué, mais il s'encourage° :

—Encore une brindille° et c'est fini !

l'écureuil (m.) = the squirrel
s'installer = to settle down
chercher = to look for
construire = to build
le nid = the nest
s'élever = to stand
choisir = to choose
s'encourager = to encourage oneself
la brindille = the twig

The little squirrel settles down

A small squirrel is looking for a tree. He wants to build his first nest. Behind an old yellow house stands an olive tree. The small squirrel chooses that tree. He works all morning long. He is tired, but he encourages himself, "One more twig and it's done!"

2

Il finit son travail. Il observe la cour, perché° sur la branche°. Il a une faim de loup°. Son regard s'arrête sur un grand amandier°. L'arbre est plein de noix°. Le mur en brique° entoure° la maison jaune. L'amandier est de l'autre côté du mur.

Le petit écureuil remue° la queue°. Il commence sa descente°. Il saute° de l'olivier au mur. Il saute du mur sur un rocher° énorme. Il saute du rocher au sol°.

percher = to perch
la branche = the branch
avoir une faim de loup = to be famished
l'amandier (m.) = the almond tree
la noix = the nut
en brique = brick
entourer = to surround
remuer = to wiggle
la queue = tail
la descente = the descent
sauter = to jump
le rocher = the rock
le sol = the ground

He finishes his job. He observes the yard, perching on his branch. He is famished. His eyes stop on a tall almond tree. The tree is full of nuts. A brick wall is surrounding the yellow house. The almond tree is on the other side of the wall.

The little squirrel wiggles his tail. He starts down the olive tree. He jumps from the olive tree to the wall. He jumps from the wall to an enormous rock. He jumps from the rock to the ground.