

LEARN FRENCH WITH STORIES

Intermediate Level
(with audio)

SOUS LE SOLEIL DU MIDI

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Before you start

This book is aimed at intermediate students to help you deepen your knowledge 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 past tense, helping you practice the *passé composé*, the *imparfait*, and the *plus-que-parfait* in an easy way. You will also practice future, conditional and subjunctive forms, as well as the relative pronouns that link complex sentences.

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).

SOUS LE SOLEIL DU MIDI
(UNDER THE SOUTHERN SUN)

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La canicule de juillet est arrivée sur la côte sans prévenir. La température était déjà très élevée et il n'était que dix heures du matin. Sous le soleil de plomb Lucas marchait à grands pas vers la plage publique du centre-ville en attendant avec impatience la baignade. Son short et son tee-shirt bleus lui collaient à la peau. Il s'est arrêté un instant à l'ombre d'un bâtiment pour consulter de nouveau l'application météo sur son téléphone portable qui indiquait 35° C.

July's heat wave arrived at the coast without notice. The temperature was already very elevated and it was only 10am. Under the blazing sun, Lucas marched quickly towards the downtown public beach looking forward to a swim. His shorts and his T-shirt were sticking to his skin. He stopped for a moment in the shadow of a building to recheck the weather app on his cell phone that was showing 35° C.

Adossé contre le mur du bâtiment, Lucas a enlevé sa casquette blanche et sorti un mouchoir en papier de sa poche pour essuyer la sueur de son front et son cou. À ce moment précis, il a vu de l'autre côté de la rue une blonde aux cheveux longs et lisses qui lui rappelait quelqu'un. Elle s'est arrêtée devant un tourniquet à cartes postales, jetant des coups d'œil discrets dans sa direction. Il l'avait déjà

aperçue plus tôt en s'éloignant du distributeur après avoir retiré de l'argent. Est-ce qu'elle le suivait ? Il ne pouvait pas imaginer pourquoi. Était-elle une voleuse ? Il a quand même pressé le pas.

Leaning on the wall of the building, Lucas removed his white cap and took a paper tissue out of his pocket to wipe sweat off his forehead and neck. At that moment, he saw a familiar blonde with long straight hair on the other side of the street. She stopped in front of a postcard stand, glancing discreetly in his direction. He had already spotted her earlier leaving the ATM after having taken some money out. Was she following him? He couldn't imagine why. Was she a thief? He picked up his pace anyway.