

LE SAC À DOS OUBLIÉ

French for Beginners



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Before you start

This book is aimed at beginning students of French. The story is written mostly in present tense, with some past tense where needed for the story to flow naturally. The sentences are relatively 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.

The audio recordings will help you practice listening comprehension and pronunciation. The link to download the MP3 files can be found at the end of the book.

When listening, 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 students often find challenging in the beginning, will be marked with an undertie sign _ (for example, en_avril).

LE SAC À DOS OUBLIÉ

1

Juliette regarde sa montre. Il est deux heures de l'après-midi. Le départ du train est prévu pour trois heures dix. Elle frappe à la porte.

—Je suis prête. Et toi ?

—Non, je ne suis pas encore prêt, s'écrie son frère Martin.

—Qu'est-ce que tu fais ? Dépêche-toi ! On va être en retard. On va manquer notre train, s'énerve Juliette.

—Ne t'inquiète pas. On a encore du temps, la calme-t-il.

La voix impatiente de leur père les appelle du rez-de-chaussée

:

—Alors, vous deux, vous allez chez papy ou pas ? Il faut se dépêcher. La gare n'est pas au coin de la rue.

le départ = departure

prévu = scheduled

s'écrier = to yell

se dépêcher = to hurry

manquer = to miss

s'inquiéter = to worry

le rez-de-chaussée = ground floor

papy = Grandpa

au coin de la rue = around the corner

Juliette looks at her watch. It's two o'clock in the afternoon. The train departure is scheduled for ten past three. She knocks at the door.

"I'm ready. And you?"

"No, I'm not ready yet," her brother Martin yells.

"What are you doing? Hurry up! We are going to be late. We are going to miss our train," Juliette gets angry.

"Don't worry. We still have time," he calms her.

Their father's impatient voice calls them from the ground floor, "So, you two, are you going to Grandpa's or not? You have to hurry. The train station is not around the corner."

2

Juliette descend° tout de suite. Sa main droite serre° son grand sac de voyage, sa main gauche son petit sac à dos noir. Elle met ses bagages par terre° et vérifie l'heure. Deux heures dix. Son frère aîné° prend son temps. *J'en ai vraiment marre° de toi. Descends immédiatement.* À ce moment précis, un miracle se produit : Martin apparaît° en haut° de l'escalier°.

Ils mettent leurs bagages dans le coffre°. Ensuite, ils montent dans la voiture où leur père attend au volant.

—Ce matin deux malfaiteurs° ont braqué° la Banque Nationale à Paris et emporté 100.000 euros ...

On n'entend pas la suite car leur père éteint° la radio et démarre la voiture.

descendre = to come down

serrer = to hold

par terre = on the floor

aîné, aînée = older

en avoir marre de = to be fed up with

en haut de = at the top of

l'escalier (m.) = stairs

apparaître = to appear

le coffre = car trunk

le malfaiteur = culprit

braquer = to rob

éteindre = to turn off

Juliette comes down immediately. Her right hand is holding her big travel bag, her left hand her small black backpack. She puts her luggage on the floor and checks the time. Two ten. Her older brother is really taking his time. *I am really fed up with you. Come down immediately.* At that exact moment a miracle happens: Martin appears at the top of the stairs.

They put their luggage in the trunk. Then they get into the car where their father is waiting behind the wheel.

"This morning two culprits robbed the National Bank in Paris and took 100.000 euros..."

They don't hear the rest because their father turns the radio off and starts the car.