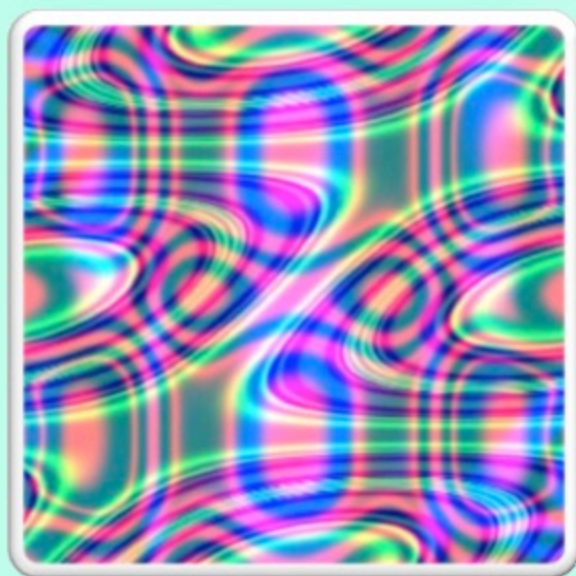


# **LEARN FRENCH WITH STORIES**

**BEGINNER LEVEL**



**LE SECRET DE PHILIPPE**

Snežana Stone

**LE SECRET DE PHILIPPE  
(PHILLIPE'S SECRET)**

## Before you start

This book is aimed at beginner students with some basic knowledge of French and at low intermediate students. The story is written mostly in present tense, with some past and future tenses where needed for the story to flow naturally. It will help you expand your vocabulary and reinforce some elements of grammar (regular and irregular verbs in the present tense, some verbs in the passé composé, imperfect and future tenses, direct and indirect objects, possessive adjectives, and agreement of adjectives with nouns).

The sentences are relatively simple, using everyday vocabulary. Each short section 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.

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 students often find challenging in the beginning, will be marked with an undertie sign \_ (for example, en\_avril).

Philippe se penche° vers le colis. Il le soulève°. Le colis n'est pas trop lourd°. Il rentre° le colis dans l'appartement. Il le met sur la table de la cuisine. Il le regarde d'un air curieux° et inquiet° à la fois°. L'ouvrir° ou pas ? Il décide de l'ouvrir. Il est nerveux. Ses mains tremblent° un peu.

se pencher - to lean  
soulever - to lift up  
lourd, lourde - heavy  
rentrer - to bring in  
d'un air curieux - with curiosity  
d'un air inquiet - with worry  
à la fois - at the same time  
ouvrir - to open  
trembler - to shake

Philippe leans towards the package. He lifts it up. The package isn't too heavy. He brings the package into the apartment. He puts it on the kitchen table. He looks at it with curiosity and worry at the same time. To open it or not? He decides to open it. He is nervous. His hands shake a bit.

4.

Il entend° les pieds traînants° de sa femme Joséphine. Un moment plus tard, il entend sa voix° joyeuse° :

—Bonjour mon chéri.

Elle entre dans la cuisine.

—Bonjour Joséphine, dit Philippe. Il tourne la tête vers elle.

entendre - to hear

les pieds traînants - shuffling feet

la voix - voice

joyeux, joyeuse - cheerful

He hears the shuffling feet of his wife Joséphine. A moment later, he hears her cheerful voice, "Good morning, my dear."

She enters the kitchen.

"Good morning, Joséphine," Philippe says. He turns his head toward her.

Elle voit° le colis sur la table.

-Qu'est-ce que tu as là ? demande-t\_elle avec curiosité.

-Quelqu'un° a laissé un colis pour moi, dit Philippe.

-Qui ça ? est curieuse° Joséphine.

-Je ne sais° pas. On va voir dans\_un\_instant°.

voir - to see

quelqu'un - somebody

curieux, curieuse - curious

savoir - to know (a fact)

l'instant (m.) - moment

She sees the package on the table.

"What do you have here?" she asks with curiosity.

"Someone left a package for me," Philippe says.

"Who?" Joséphine is curious.

"I don't know. We will see in a moment."

Il ouvre le colis. Dedans, il y a une enveloppe blanche. Philippe voit de nouveau° son nom. Il ouvre l'enveloppe. Il tire° un papier de l'enveloppe et lit à haute voix° :

JE CONNAIS° TON PETIT SECRET.

dedans - inside  
de nouveau - again  
tirer - to pull  
à haute voix - loudly  
connaître - to know, to be familiar with

He opens the package. Inside, there is a white envelope. Philippe sees his name again. He pulls a paper out of the envelope and reads out loud:

I KNOW YOUR LITTLE SECRET.