

LE NOUVEAU VOISIN

French for Beginners

WITH MP3



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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 NOUVEAU VOISIN

1

C'est mercredi. Il n'y a pas classe cette après-midi. Il fait très beau dehors°. Le soleil brille°. Le ciel est bleu. Les oiseaux chantent dans les arbres. C'est une belle journée automnale°.

Juliette et Martin, appuyés° contre le mur du jardin, examinent l'arrière-cour° de leurs nouveaux voisins. Au milieu du jardin négligé°, ils voient un grand trou, une chaise en plastique blanc et une pelle° posée sur le sol°.

dehors = outside

briller = to shine

automnal, automnale = autumn (adjective)

appuyer = to lean

l'arrière-cour (f.) = backyard

négligé, négligée = neglected

la pelle = shovel

le sol = ground

It's Wednesday. There is no school this afternoon. It's nice outside. The sun is shining. The sky is blue. The birds are singing in the trees. It's a beautiful autumn day.

Juliette and Martin, leaning on the garden wall, are examining their new neighbors' backyard. In the middle of a neglected garden they see a big hole, a white plastic chair, and a shovel lying on the ground.

2

La famille a déménagé° à la fin du mois d'août. Quelques jours après leur retour de chez le grand-père, Juliette et Martin ont aidé leurs parents à faire des cartons°.

Le matin du dernier jour d'août, tout le monde° s'est levé° de bonne heure. Le ciel était gris et pluvieux°. À huit heures pile°, un grand camion s'est arrêté devant leur ancienne° maison. Trois déménageurs° ont porté toutes les affaires° de la famille dans le camion. Le travail terminé, les trois hommes sont montés dans la cabine. Le camion a démarré. Juliette, Martin et leurs parents se sont installés dans leur voiture et dirigés° vers leur nouvelle maison.

déménager = to move
 faire les cartons = to pack
 tout le monde = everybody, everyone
 se lever = to get up
 pluvieux, pluvieuse = rainy
 à huit heures pile = at 8 o'clock sharp
 ancien, ancienne = old, former
 le déménageur = mover
 les affaires (f.) = things, belongings
 se diriger = to head to

The family moved at the end of the month of August. A few days after their return from the grandfather's, Juliette and Martin helped their parents pack.

The morning of the last day in August, everyone got up early. The sky was gray and rainy. At eight o'clock sharp, a big truck stopped in front of their old house. Three movers carried all the family's things into the truck. With the work done, the three men climbed into the cabin. The truck started. Juliette, Martin, and their parents got into their car and headed to their new home.