

Saying who you are in French

French A1 (beginner) · Lesson

Quick answer: To introduce yourself in French, say your name with *Je m'appelle...*, your job or nationality with *Je suis...*, and your town with *J'habite à...*. With a stranger, a colleague or a customer, use *vous* by default and add *Enchanté(e)* at the end.

Level: French A1 (CEFR beginner) · **Standards:** CEFR A1, Spoken interaction

How do you say your name, job and city in French?

On your first day in a new job in Lyon, at a language school in Montréal or at a neighborhood meeting in Bordeaux, you will need the same three sentences. Learn them as a block.

The three core sentences

- Je m'appelle Awa Diallo. — My name is Awa Diallo.
- Je suis infirmière. — I am a nurse.
- J'habite à Dakar. — I live in Dakar.

Bonjour !

Je m'appelle Awa Diallo.

Je suis infirmière.

J'habite à Dakar.

A name badge with the three core sentences.

Which verbs do you need?

Pronoun	être	habiter	s'appeler
je	suis	habite	m'appelle
vous	êtes	habitez	vous appelez
il / elle	est	habite	s'appelle

Je becomes j' before a vowel or a silent h: j'habite, j'ai.

How do you ask the other person?

Formal questions with vous

- Comment vous appelez-vous ? — What is your name?
- Quelle est votre profession ? — What is your job?
- Où habitez-vous ? — Where do you live?
- Vous êtes de quelle ville ? — Which city are you from?

Où habitez-vous ?

J'habite à Annecy.

Question with vous, answer with je.

Watch out

English needs "a" before a job: "I am a nurse." French leaves it out: Je suis infirmière, not Je suis une infirmière. Also, remember that à goes before a town: J'habite à Lyon, not J'habite Lyon.

How do you add your nationality and origin?

Nationality works like a job: no article, and the ending changes for a woman. Add an -e in writing for a feminine speaker; the sound often changes too.

Man	Woman	Meaning
Je suis canadien.	Je suis canadienne.	I am Canadian.
Je suis sénégalais.	Je suis sénégalaise.	I am Senegalese.
Je suis américain.	Je suis américaine.	I am American.

To say where you are from, use Je suis de Québec. — I am from Québec. Then add your current town: Je suis de Québec, mais j'habite à Paris. — I am from Québec, but I live in Paris.

Vous or tu?

In France and Québec, adults who do not know each other say vous. Colleagues often move to tu after a few days, but wait until the other person suggests it.

Zoé's tip

Finish with Enchanté (man) or Enchantée (woman) while you shake hands. It sounds warm and it buys you a second to breathe.

Key points to remember

- Je m'appelle gives your name; Je suis gives job, nationality or feeling.
- J'habite à + city tells where you live.
- Jobs and nationalities after je suis take no article: Je suis ingénieur.
- Use vous with strangers and at work until the other person offers tu.

Saying Who You Are in French: frequently asked questions

How do I say my name in French?

Say Je m'appelle followed by your name, for example Je m'appelle Karim. You can also say Moi, c'est Karim in a relaxed setting.

Why is there no article before a job in French?

After être, a job behaves like an adjective. So French says Je suis cuisinier and not "Je suis un cuisinier" when you simply state your profession.

Should I use tu or vous when I introduce myself?

Use vous with anyone you do not know, with older people and in professional settings. Switch to tu only when the other person does.

When do I write j' instead of je?

Write j' when the next word starts with a vowel or a silent h, as in j'habite. The two words are pronounced as one.

How do I say where I am from?

Use Je suis de + city or country: Je suis de Montréal. It tells where you come from, while j'habite à tells where you live now.