

Judy's LanguageBites



5 top tips for Beginners of French

Bite two

“C’est si bon....”

Yes this time it’s as simple as the Yves Montand song, making the adjective **Bon** a priority in your speech will endear you to the French and is something you will hear them saying to you and each other all day every day. So let’s take a look at how this simple addition to your vocabulary will give you endless expressions that you can put into immediate use. Remember it will be **Bon** if the noun that follows is masculine and **Bonne** if it is feminine

1. **Bonne journée** (have a nice day) said on leaving shops, offices, restaurants, home, friends – in fact anywhere. The reply is the same. It’s a game of ping –pong. **Bon après-midi** (have a nice afternoon) said just after lunch. This becomes **Bonne soirée** (have a nice evening) and finally **Bonne nuit** (good night only when you are literally off to bed).
2. **Bonne continuation**: an interesting one with no real translation in English. It really means enjoy finishing whatever you are currently doing and can be said when taking leave of someone who is engaged in an activity (at the gym, swimming pool, decorating, working etc). **Bon appétit** (enjoy your meal), **Bon week-end** (enjoy your weekend), **Bon anniversaire** (Happy birthday).
3. **Bon voyage** (have a good trip) has other variants: **Bonne route** (have a good trip by road), **Bonne promenade** (have a nice walk or boat trip), **Bon vol** (have a good flight), **Bon séjour** (have a nice stay), **Bonnes vacances** (have a nice holiday).
4. **Bonne chance** (good luck) or for occasions where both luck and strength of character are needed **Bon Courage!**
5. You can make plenty of your own expressions by experimenting with **Bon** and **Bonne**.

Bon courage et à bientôt.

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