



Introduction Farewell

3

*Formal French	2
Formal English	2
Vocabulary	2
Grammar Points	2
Cultural Insight	4

* Audio Conversation



Formal French

Friend 1 Au revoir ! À Bientôt !
 Friend 2 Oui, à bientôt ! Salut !

Formal English

Friend 1 Bye! See you soon.
 Friend 2 Yes, see you soon! Bye!

Vocabulary

French	English	Class	Gender
Au revoir.	Good Bye.	phrase	
À bientôt.	See you soon.	interjection	
Salut.	Hi, Bye. (informal)	noun	masculine
Adieu	Bye (literally to God)	interjection	
oui	yes	adverb	

Sample Sentences

Au revoir, à demain. Bye, see you tomorrow.
 Au revoir, et à bientôt. Bye, and see you soon.
 Salut Pierre! Hi, Peter!
 Salut, Estelle. Bye, Estelle.
 À bientôt, adieu! See you soon, bye!
 Oui, c'est certain. Yes, it's certain.

Grammar Points

GIVE FAREWELL IN FRENCH!

There are different ways to say goodbye in French. Depending on the situation you're in, you will either use a formal, standard or informal one.

▷ Formal farewell





****Au revoir****

This is a very common way to conclude a conversation and give a farewell to someone. It is used in formal contexts, such as in business meetings, while leaving a store and saying goodbye to the staff or when saying goodbye to a person you've met for the first time.

=> Examples of formal farewells with "*Au revoir*."

- 1 - In a store to the cashier: *Au revoir Mademoiselle*. / Bye Miss.
- 2 - At the end of a business meeting: *Au revoir, Monsieur Le Président Directeur Général*. / Bye Sir CEO.
- 3 - In an upper class social event: *Au revoir, Madame La Baronne*. / Bye, Miss Baronne.

▷ Standard farewell

****Au revoir****

This is translated as "bye." This is also widely used in everyday more informal situations which could be classified as "standard," being neither too formal nor informal. This expression can show respect while still keeping a bit of distance to the person you're talking with. Let's say you've been seeing a person for a few minutes everyday for a year in the same context. You would use "*Au revoir*" to be polite and respect your well-mannered short daily interaction. It could be the driver of the bus you're taking to your job everyday for example, or the guard at the parking you go to regularly. You could also use it with newly made friends you're in the process of knowing and building trust with.

=> Examples of standard farewells with "*Au revoir*".

- 1 - To the bus driver or parking guard: *Au revoir*. / Bye. or *Au revoir, Monsieur*. / Bye, Sir. (adding "*Monsieur*" keeps a certain distance between the two speakers)
- 2 - Newly made friends: *Au revoir, Marie ! Au revoir, Paul !* / Bye, Marie! Bye, Paul!

****À Bientôt****

This expression means "see you soon." It is slightly more friendly than "*Au revoir*" and it tends to be seen as more standard or even informal according to the context and tone used. Once trust is granted between two people, a friendship is born and "*À Bientôt*" is usually more popularly used than "*Au revoir*." Also, at a first meeting, if a mutual agreement on referring to each other with the informal



"you" in French, being "tu," it would implied that you could use "À Bientôt" (even though "Au revoir" would be easily acceptable). "See you soon" or "À Bientôt" is of course also said among old friends or coworkers and associates of long business relationship and evidently to family members!

=> Examples of standard farewells with "À Bientôt".

1 - Young or old friends: *À Bientôt!* / See you soon! 2 - Your coworker Robert: *À Bientôt Robert.* / See you soon Robert. 3 - Your husband: *À Bientôt, chéri.* / See you soon darling. 4 - To your wife: *À Bientôt, chérie.* / See you soon darling. 5 - To your cousin Marc: *À Bientôt Marc.* / See you soon Marc.

 ▷ Informal farewell

****Salut****

This word's is translated as "bye." This farewell (and greeting too) differentiates itself from the other farewells above by its informality. "*Salut*" is only used in informal or familiar situation. It is common to hear it in schools or university among teenagers and young adults. More mature adults use it as well when they've know each other for a while and have been friends or comfortable with each other for quite some time. It wouldn't be used in a formal situation as in a business interview, meeting or a doctor appointment (except of course if any of the people present is a long dated friend).

Another example of a familiar or informal farewell is "*À plus,*" which is short for "*À plus tard.*" These two can be used to substitute the farewell "*Salut.*" This last full phrase, "*À plus tard,*" is equivalent in usage and meaning to "*À Bientôt!*"

=> Examples of informal farewells with "*Salut*".

1 - To your high school classmate Jean-Christophe: *Salut JC!* / Bye JC! 2 - To your university study partner Maurice: *Salut Momo!* / Bye Momo! 3 - To your friend of 50 years: *Salut Christiane.* / Bye Christiane.

Cultural Insight

French formal farewell: the handshake.

When departing, the easiest and most polite way to give a farewell to someone you've met for the first time, or in a business situation is to do the farewell handshake. The handshake is the safest way





to depart. Associates and newly acquainted people shake hands each time they see each other (except if they do so, many many times a day or are friendly or young enough to give the farewell kisses). The French hand shake is moderately firm without being too soft and is short. Most "French" handshakes aren't extremely strong and doesn't include the wide up and down movement. My best advice, at first offer your hand for the shake and let the French native grab it and guide you through it. Doing so we'll allow you to get a feel from it and not appear as a person who is too "soft." Even though a hand shake might appear to be of low importance at the time of an important meeting, it will give unconsciously a first impression.