

Ma France en classe

Unité 12 : Une maison à vendre

Activities based on this unit will help your learners to:

- *Talk about the rooms and features of a house*
- *Discuss their needs with an estate agent*
- *Read and understand the key features in property adverts*
- *Gain some small insight into the property market in France*

Here are some suggestions for using the films and activities in the classroom. There are so many ways of exploiting the material; don't forget to let us know if you think of more.

Setting the scene

- Set the context by putting a sign on the board:

Agence Immobilière

Ask the whole group, to predict vocabulary that might be used in this context.

- Watch Video A without subtitles. Which of the predicted expressions were heard?
- In groups, choose 3 words likely to occur most often. Listen again and count them. Read the transcript to check. Which group made the best predictions?

Invite questions

- Another way of setting the scene and exploiting already known vocabulary would be to invite questions. Explain that you have details of a fabulous house for sale and invite the learners to quiz you about it, using *Il y a ?* and *C'est ... ?* Use the transcript to answer truthfully and where the information isn't given, just say « *Je ne sais pas. On va visiter.* » Show the video to confirm the information you've given.

Showing prospective buyers

- Show the house visit again as a silent movie. Pause regularly and ask learners to take Pascale's role: « *Voici l'entrée et ici, la cuisine,* » etc.
- Put members of the class into small groups and give a copy of the Quiz questions to each group. They collaborate to pick the right answers; they'll be found as much from careful observation as from listening/remembering. Which group have the keenest observation skills?
- After answering the Quiz questions, learners can stay in groups and compose other questions about the property, to be passed to another group to answer, or addressed orally to the whole class.
- The Grammar notes focus on the use of « *On peut* » + infinitive, to make a question or a statement. Ask learners to work in pairs or small groups and, using the verbs they feel appropriate in this context, make requests or statements, e.g. *On peut négocier ? On peut visiter. On peut changer la cuisine. On peut convertir le garage ? On peut voir toute la ville.*

Estate agent speak

- As preparation for the recorded interview, use the transcript of Video B as a listening activity even before showing the film. Print it and cut into question and answer strips. In the short conversation with Pascale, there are 9 key

questions about house buying/selling and abbreviations that Nathalie asks. Give everyone in the group one question and one answer (not matching). Learners take turns to read their question and the person with the appropriate answer must reply. Matching replies to question in this way encourages gist comprehension even when the learners don't understand all the detail.

- Go on to show Video B as confirmation of the question/answer session. Pause before one or two of Pascale's replies, to see if anyone can remember what SdB means, for example.
- The Quiz culturel introduces more key expressions used in the house buying process. Some of the vocabulary will be new to many learners, but starting with the simpler questions and finding the answers by a process of elimination will encourage everyone to believe that educated guesses are a valuable aid to understanding and thus to learning new vocabulary.
- The Challenge in Video C gives an opportunity to assess understanding. Play it (making sure the English subtitles are turned off) and pause after Pascale has read each key element of the advert. Ask each learner in turn to interpret a phrase or section. It's just the sort of task they would have to do for real when visiting the estate agent: interpreting for a non French-speaking partner. Ask everyone to guess the selling price of the house and write it down. Does anyone get closer to the market price than Pascale?

Consolidation

- The Dictée features some of the key vocabulary from this and the previous unit. For fun, organise a running dictation by posting copies of the paragraph around the room and asking everyone to work in small groups, choosing a scribe who never sees the text. The others take turns to run and bring back a section at a time, dictating it to their scribe. Stop when the first group finishes, but deduct penalties for each error in their version.

For more support

All the activities are available online:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/housebuying/activity.shtml>

All transcripts are available online:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/housebuying/summary.shtml>