

Grammaire-ama!

Level 5

Carlo Di Saverio



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GRAMMAIRE-AMA !

LEVEL 5

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INTRODUCTION

Grammaire-ama! 5 is the last in the series of our valuable resource packages. *Level 5* contains grammar structures of French that are usually studied by high school students in their final year. As with previous levels, level 5 can easily be adapted to supplement any French program.

In *Grammaire-ama! 5*, each seemingly challenging topic is explained in easy to understand English while emphasizing interlinguistic differences when possible. Following each explanation, students are able to practice the grammar structure in question through a variety of exercises. In addition, an answer key is provided at the end of the volume.

Teachers and students will find *Grammaire-ama! 5* to be a very practical and useful resource in the French language classroom.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carlo Di Saverio graduated from McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario) with a B.A. in French, and from the University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario) with an M.A. in Italian Studies. He taught Modern Languages for 35 years at the secondary level with the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board, serving as Head of Modern Languages for 17 of those years. Following retirement, he continues to be active as an occasional teacher.

THE USE OF THE PRONOUN "ON"
(l'emploi du pronom "on")

In French, "on" is an *indefinite pronoun* which is always followed by a singular verb in the 3rd person.

USES

1. **On** replaces an indefinite or undetermined subject. The English equivalent is "one" which is less frequently used. The more frequent translations are **we, you, someone, they** and **people** (in general).

e.g. **On va (= nous allons) au cinéma ce soir.**

We are going to the cinema this evening.

Donc les enfants, où veut-on (= voulez-vous) aller?

So children where do you want to go?

On dit (= ils disent) qu'il n'y aura pas de classes demain.

They say that there will be no classes tomorrow.

On (= quelqu'un) a trouvé mes lunettes.

Someone found my glasses.

En France, on aime (les gens aiment) boire du café au lait.

In France, people like to drink coffee with milk.

2. In informal speech, "on" frequently replaces "nous", otherwise nous is used.

e.g. **Marie et moi, on est allés (= nous sommes allés) à la plage.**

Mary and I went to the beach.

Nous autres, on va (= nous allons) fréquenter l'université.

We are going to attend university.

Mes amis et moi, on parle (= nous parlons) bien le français.

My friends and I speak French well.

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3. **On** can be used to replace a verb in the passive voice if the agent (the performer of the action) is not mentioned.

e.g. **On parle italien (= *l'italien est parlé*) en Italie.**

Italian is spoken in Italy.

On fermera les portes (= *les portes seront fermées*) à 17:00 heures.

The doors shall be closed at 5:00 p.m.

Note: When “**on**” *does not refer to anyone in particular*, any adjective or past participle (of verbs conjugated with être) describing “on” will be masculine singular.

e.g. **On est *actif* quand on est *jeune*.**

On devient *fatigué* en travaillant fort.

On s'est *amusé* au concert, n'est-ce pas?

BUT...

If “**on**” *does refer to someone in particular*, then there is agreement.

e.g. **On était bien *habillées*, nous les filles.**

Alors les enfants, on s'est *amusés* en jouant au baseball?

Paul et moi, on est *rentré(e)s* à minuit.

Marcel et moi, on est *content(e)s* de vous voir.

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Practice exercise on the PRONOUN “ON” (1)

A. Replace the following italicized subjects + verb with the pronoun “on” + verb.

1. *Tout le monde parle* (= _____) français dans la classe de français.
2. *Quelqu’un frappe* (= _____) à la porte.
3. *Les gens disent* (= _____) que la France est très belle au printemps.
4. Ce soir *nous allons* (= _____) dîner au restaurant.
5. *Vous êtes-vous amusés* (= _____), les gars?
6. En général, *les gens ne fument pas* (= _____) dans un hôpital.
7. Est-ce que *quelqu’un peut* (= _____) m’aider?
8. *Que ferons-nous* (= _____) ce week-end?
9. Mes amis et moi, *nous voulons* (= _____) être bilingues.
10. *Nous habitons* (= _____) à Toronto maintenant.

B. Replace “on” with alternate subjects.

1. *On dit* (= _____) que c’est utile de savoir une langue seconde.
2. *On n’en vend plus.* (= _____.)
3. *On m’a volé* (= _____) mon portefeuille.
4. C’est un pays où *on vit* (= _____) bien.
5. Madame, avec ces souliers, *on peut* (= _____) mieux marcher.
6. Pierre, comment savoir si *on est* (= _____) doué pour les sciences?
7. Mes amis et moi, *on attend* (= _____) le train depuis longtemps.
8. Pourquoi *rentre-t-on* (= _____) si tôt à la maison, les gars?
9. *On y va?* (= _____?)
10. *On est fou* (= _____), n’est-ce pas?