



DELFB2

**HOW TO
SUCCEED**

SPEAKING TEST



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Foreword

Dear French learners,

Since I teach French I would say that more than 40% of my students are in the process of taking the exam. I lead students from beginners to advanced and DELF B2 is a big step for every French learner. As you know DELF B2 is really useful not only to improve your French but also to give credit to your skills when you apply for job or French University. I helped many students to achieve this goal and I realized that most of them had the same problems.

1. A lack of self-confidence. Speaking a foreign language is tricky, we make many mistakes and it doesn't feel good. Moreover, because we are afraid of making mistake we often choose to not speak. That's most learners problem, whatever the language is. If we avoid facing reality we will stay dumb.

2. No clue about what to expect. Most students take this exam for the first time and sometimes it's their first French exam. We don't really know what to expect.

3. Speaking practice. They are good methods to practice for the exam but the speaking part is always the hardest. I would first say that most of the time students don't organize enough their presentation. They don't take all chances to get extra point whereas it's easier than they think.

That's why I decided to gather all my knowledge about this exam and I built a process to understand what to do for the Speaking part. This method covers also the other skills like Listening, Writing and Reading test but mostly focuses on the Speaking Test because I found students need it.

I'm confident this will help you to save a lot of time and energy. My goal is that students can take the DELF B2 exam and be confident they can succeed. If you have any question or want to have an exam simulation with me, send me an email at jean@itsfrenchjuice.com.

Jean



About Me

Teaching French is my job, and I specialized in pronunciation and exam/interview preparation.

For several years, I have helped French learners to **achieve their goal, succeed the DELF B2**, pass interviews with French recruiters or universities, and help French learners to travel in France with more confidence.

My only concern is to be the most effective **for you** and that's why I focus only on **your** goal. The most important for me is that you can actually **receive something more** than just French language knowledge. Since language always implies a communication situation ; I have this in mind when I teach you.

Introduction

Knowing a lot of French **doesn't mean** that you will succeed this exam. You need to **be prepared** for the DELF B2. You need to understand what the examiners expect from you. They don't expect you to be fluent, but they do expect you to **match the criteria** of this level. The good news is that there is a **list** of what you should know ([cf. 3.6 CECR Grammar Structures to master for B2 level](#)).

But succeeding at the DELF B2 exam is **not only a matter of language skills**. As teachers, we want our students to succeed, but language skills are not enough if you want to pass the DELF B2. We expect students to be highly structured in their thoughts. That's why this course focuses on **method and strategy**.

I often give my students these tips so that they can pass the exam and have higher scores.

Your job: You need to understand the requirements of the exam and also what the examiners expect from you.

I suggest also using other textbooks and preparation manuals for DELF B2, along with the advice you will find here ([all resources and manuals references in the part 3. Resources and training techniques for B2](#)).

Why take a DELF exam?

Today French is the official language in almost 50 countries, including Canada. It is spoken by more than 200 million people across five continents. It is also an official language of the United Nations, the Red Cross and many other international organizations.

DELF B2 is the most well known and the best French language test around the world. It allows you to:

- Work in France
- Enter French University
- Get a scholarship
- Get a Visa

The DELF diploma

- is an internationally recognized proof of French proficiency
- is a lifelong certification, whether obtained in the student's home country or another country
- is based on the same international standard used in 164 countries (CEFR)
- facilitates interprovincial dialogue across Canada
- demonstrates a student's success in learning French: it recognizes the student's accomplishments in French proficiency
- is an internationally recognized official document that enriches the student's school or professional portfolio
- offers advantages in gaining access to Higher education: it is recognized internationally by Francophone Higher education institutions, including a growing number in Canada
- is accepted in universities in France (B2 or higher level)
- enhances a student's resumé: it demonstrates what the student is capable of doing in French
- opens doors to a wide range of career and recreational opportunities throughout Canada and around the world and
- supports career advancement.

Taking the DELF B2 not only allows you to assess your French language skills but is very good for:

- motivation
- learning
- improving
- practicing
- balancing all your skills

About this course

This course shows you my method for success in the DELF B2 but it's also valuable for other DELF/DALF exams.

It will also help you to understand how French people think. French have a different approach towards thoughts and philosophy. There a distinctive way in which we think and **expose ideas**. It's important to acquire that. I'm going to tell you what to do with all the resources you can find on the Internet.

I think the most important part of this course is the **part about the plan**. Read it several times. What you need to understand is that B2 is about both ideas and structure.

> You need to build a **cohesive structure** and fill it with your **ideas**.

About DELF B2 Writing and Speaking Test

The main skills we expect from students about oral and writing skills are:

- set out arguments (in a specific structure)
- give your opinion/argue your idea
- organize ideas (coherence)

Look at the appendix, there is a very clear list about what structures you are supposed to know for this level ([see part 3.6 CECR Grammar structures to master for B2 exam](#)).

DELF B2 Speaking Test How To Succeed

Listening Test (Compréhension orale)

Be smart when you read the questions. Most answers are **in the questions themselves** or in another question. Sometimes you can almost answer before hearing the audio recording.

The first part is easier but played only once.

In the second part you can usually hear two different voices and the questions follow the audio recording in chronological order.

They are no negative scores so if you really don't know the answer, **don't leave it blank**, take a guess.

Take notes as much as possible, **to leave your memory free** to hear the other elements.

TIPS:

Whisper while reading the questions or at least move your lips. Sometimes it's good to give remind yourself of the real sound of words and not what you expect to hear. The sound is different when you just imagine it or if you actually hear it.

Practicing these techniques will improve your listening skills:

- listen to different accents
- do dictation
- shadowing
- work on past papers

All resources in the part 3. How to practice - Resources and training techniques for B2.

Reading Test (Compréhension écrite)

Most of the time the document is taken from a French newspaper: **Le Monde, Libération, Le Figaro, Le Nouvel Observateur, Le Point, Marianne.**

Typically the questions follow the chronological order of the text.

Read the questions first **then** read the text. **It will save you a lot of time.**

Read a lot, to get used to the vocabulary used in the media.

Most students tend to prioritize the **quality of their reading**. It means they stop every time they don't know a word and they look up in the dictionary. That's useful but you waste a lot of energy by doing that. I suggest prioritizing the **quantity of your reading**. Read a lot every day, consistently 3 or 4 different newspapers, without looking in the dictionary. The meaning words will become clearer with time. Remember that for 99% of the words you know in your native language, you never looked them up in a dictionary. You learned them **through the context**. This method needs time, but is far more effective. You need to develop this habit because in the exam **no dictionary is allowed**.

Practicing:

- read a lot
- don't focus on words you don't know

In the exam:

- read the questions first then read the text
- don't focus on the word you don't understand but on its context.
- write notes while you are reading, especially the first time.
- answer all the questions; don't leave any blank.

Writing Test (Production écrite)