

Les pronoms « tu » et « vous » / tutoyer et vouvoyer

Personal pronoun You (tu & vous) formal and informal form

Introduction

Salut, Paul ! **Tu** veux un café ?

Hi Paul, do you want a cup of coffee? (informal)

Paul, Marc, **vous** voulez un café ? Paul, Marc, do you want a cup of coffee? (informal)

Bonjour Monsieur le Directeur ! **Vous** voulez un café ?

Hello Mr. President! Would you like a cup of coffee? (formal)

Utilisation

« tu » and « vous » are subject personal pronouns.

Use « tu » with parents, friends, children (informal)

- Bonjour Maman ! Comment vas-tu ?
- *Hi Mom, how are you?*
- Paul, tu fais un tennis ?
- *Paul, do you want to play tennis?*

It is called the « tutoiement » in other words informal situation

Use « vous » :

- When speaking to several people:

- Bonjour les amis ! Vous allez bien ?
- *Hi friends! How are you doing?*

- When speaking to one person, showing formality, respect or distance:

- Monsieur le Directeur, vous avez une minute ?
- *Mr. President, Would you have a minute?*

It is called the «vouvoiement » in other words formal situation

Note

Use the vouvoiement (formal form)

- *When you meet a person for the first time*
- *In shops, with the sales force*
- *In restaurants*
- *With elderly people*



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