

Module 7: Bon Appétit
Topic 1 Content: Application of Vouloir and Pouvoir

Instructions



**APPLICATION OF
VOULOIR AND POUVOIR**

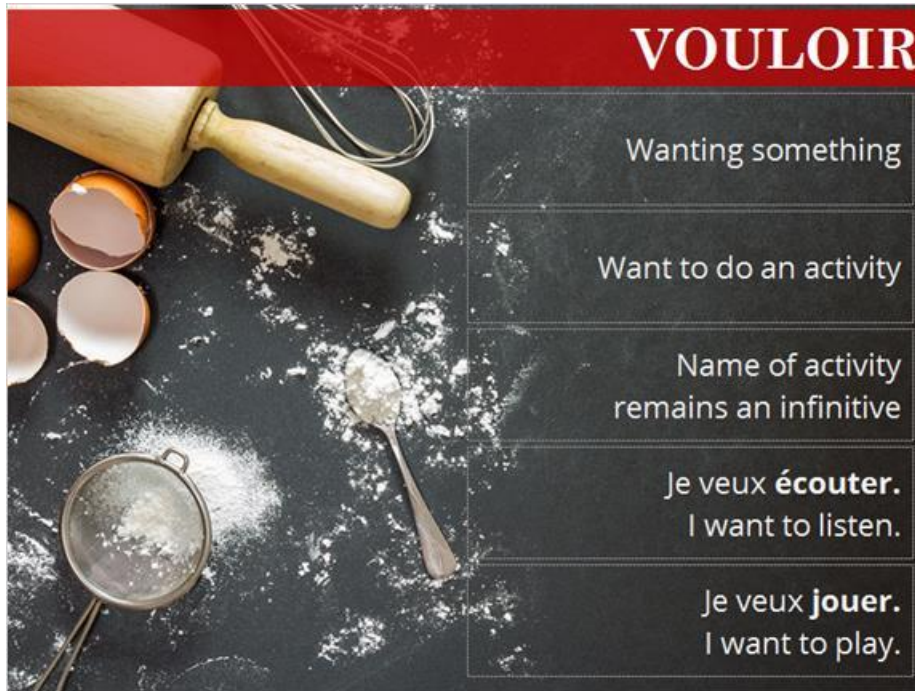
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EDUCATION**

In this interactivity, you will discover ways to express what you want and what you are able to do. Click the *NEXT* button to begin.

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Vouloir



VOULOIR

Wanting something

Want to do an activity

Name of activity
remains an infinitive

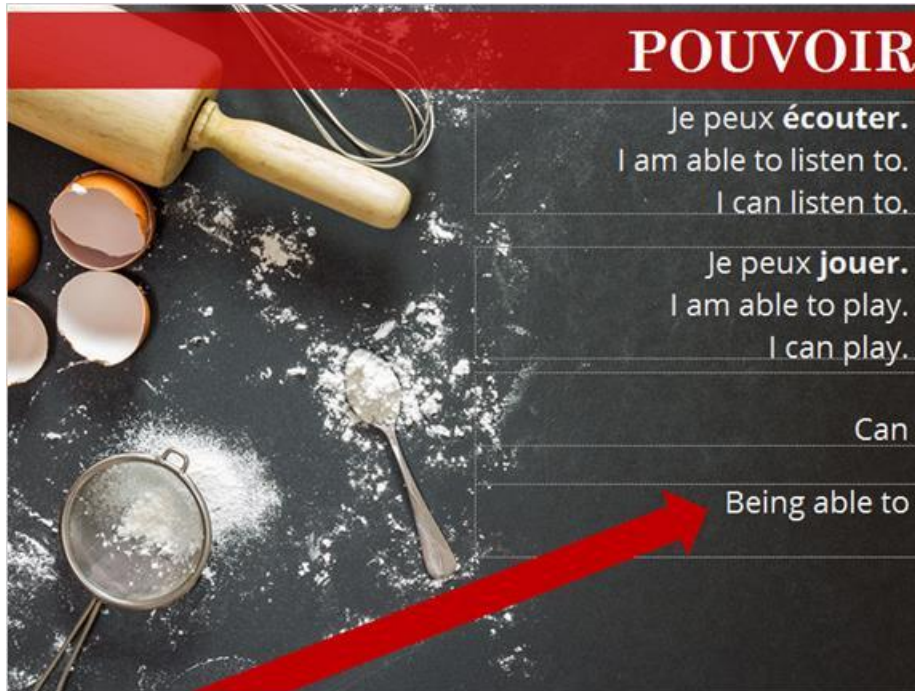
Je veux **écouter**.
I want to listen.

Je veux **jouer**.
I want to play.

The verb *vouloir* is used as a way to express wanting something, and also as a way of expressing wanting to do an activity. When you construct a sentence with *vouloir*, make sure to keep the name of the activity in the infinitive verb form. For example, “*Je veux écouter*,” means, “*I want to listen to*.” In another example, “*Je veux jouer*,” means, “*I want to play*.”

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Pouvoir



POUVOIR	
Je peux écouter .	I am able to listen to. I can listen to.
Je peux jouer .	I am able to play. I can play.
	Can
	Being able to

The verb *pouvoir* works in the same way as *vouloir*. For example, “Je peux **écouter**,” means, “I am able **to listen to**,” or “I can **listen to**.” In another example, “Je peux jouer,” means “I am able **to play**,” or “I can **play**.”

Notice that you can translate *pouvoir* as “can” or “being able to.” It may be easier to use the translation, “being able to,” so you remember to use the infinitive form of the verb after it.

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Speaking Politely



SPEAKING POLITELY

Speak politely when you want something

Waiters, sales people, family members

I would like.
Je voudrais.

It is important to be polite when expressing that you want something. This is particularly true when talking to waiters, sales people, and even family members. In this instance, you want to say, "I would like," or "Je voudrais."

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Do You Want Something?



DO YOU WANT SOMETHING?

Use *vouloir* to offer food

Use *vouloir* to accept food

Tu veux...

Vous voulez...

Tu veux une banane?
Do you want a banana?

When you are at the table, use *vouloir* to offer food to someone, or accept it when it is offered to you. For example, if you want to offer food to someone, you can start your question with, *tu veux*, when speaking to someone familiar, or *vous voulez*, when speaking to someone formal or a group of people. For example, you can say, “Tu veux une banane?” This means, “Do you want a banana?”

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Would You Like More?



Use *encore* when asking someone if they want more. For example, “Encore des pâtes?” means “Would you like more pasta?”

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Accepting Food from Someone



ACCEPTING FOOD

Je veux bien. I would like some.
Oui, merci! Yes, thank you!
Yes, please. (Americans) Yes, thank you. (French)
Merci. Thank you.

In order to accept food from someone, say, “*Je veux bien.*” This means, “*I would like some.*” You can also say, “*Oui, merci!*” This means, “*Yes, thank you!*” You may notice that Americans are more likely to say, “Yes, please” instead of “Yes, thank you,” however the meaning is similar. In addition, if someone in a French speaking country responds with “*Merci,*” or “*Thank you,*” it implies they want more of something.

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Refusing Food from Someone



At times when you do not want food, say, “Non, merci.” This means, “No, thank you.” Similarly, if you want to express, “Thank you, I am no longer hungry,” say, “Merci, je n'ai plus faim.” In fact, in francophone countries, eating until you are stuffed is considered rude. Therefore, avoid saying, “I'm full” or “I'm stuffed.”