

## Lesson 2

In this video we're going to look at names, introductions and where we live.

Keywords: je (I); je sis (I am); mon (my); mon naom (my name); je d'meure (I live); je creis (I think); etout (also, too); et (and); que (that)

*Alan:* Mon naom est Alan (My name is Alan)

Or we could also say:

Je sis Alan (I am Alan)

Je d'meure a St. Pierre (I live in St. Peter's)

*Julie:* Mon naom est Julie (My name is Julie)

Je sis Julie (I am Julie)

Je d'meure a St. Pierre etout (I live in St. Peter's too)

*Alan:* Je creis que l'Alex d'meure au Caste (I think that Alex lives in the Castel)

*Alex:* Nen-nin, je sis Alex et je d'meure à St Martin (No, I am Alex, and I live in St Martins)

Things to point out:

1) We say we live "at" parishes, rather than "in" parishes: a St. Pierre or a St. Martin (a is "at") or au Vale or au Caste (au means "at the").

2) When we refer to people we do not simply say "Alex", but "la Alex" which literally means "the Alex".

3) Nen-nin means "no". Oui means "yes", but often people say "oue", which is like saying "yea".

Now let's continue with the introductions....

Keywords: fut nai (was born); Guernesî (Guernsey); Anglletterre (England); ichin (here)

*Alan:* Je fut nai en Guernesî (I was born in Guernsey)

*Alex:* Je fut nai ichin etout (I was born here too)

*Alan:* Je creis que la Julie fut nai en Anglletterre (I think that Julie was born in England)

*Julie:* Oue, je fut nai en Anglletterre (Yes, I was born in England)

Things to point out:

For islands or countries like England or France we use the word "en" for "at" or "in". This applies for being "in" a place or coming from a place. So one can say "Je sis en Jerri" for "I am in Jersey".

## CULTURAL CHAT ABOUT GUERNSEY PLACE NAMES

We can learn a lot of words in Guernsey French from place names on the island --- and in the process find out what place names mean and how to pronounce them as they were meant to be said.

Most people know "rue" is a road, so let's try out some commonly used terms on the others [this is the form of a quiz]

Courtil = ??? (the final l is not pronounced)

Douit = ????

Grand or Grande = ????

Rocque = ????? (hence Les Grandes Rocques)

Bas = ??? (hence Les Bas Courtils)

Banque = ????

Val or Vau = ???

There are many others, for instance

"Cache" is driveway or track; "Hougue" is a mound; "Houquette" is a small mound ("ette" ending frequently means "small"); "Camps" are strips of farming land (presumably dating to before land was enclosed into fields); "Moulin" is a (wind)mill;...

So can you guess what these names mean:

Les Beaucamps = ????

Le Camp du Roi = ????

Road names in Guernsey are typically not that old; in the past places were given the names of the families who lived there. Examples are:

Les Gallognes [The Galliennes]; Les J'hans [The Jehans]; and so on. But, like everywhere else, many family names have died out, and so we are left with places names which many would not recognise as family names: Les Coutanchez (the Coutanches); Les Eturs (the Eturs); Les Sages (the Sages); Les Canichers (the Canichers), and there are many more.

Of course, part of the problem with pronouncing the names as they were originally, is that the person you're taking to may not understand you. For example "Whitewoods" is sometimes written as Les Blancs Bois, which does mean "the whitewoods", but the pronunciation [...] is very different what one might guess from the spelling.