

Make a Crepe

French Gouin Series

At the novice level, a Gouin Series can be a straight forward, first person description of a process with gestures & props. For example, this GS describes the process of preparing and eating a chocolate-banana crepe--or any other flavor you and your students desire! There are several grammatical concepts that may be pulled out of a simple GS such as this: conjugations of *prendre* & *mettre*, partitive, or even direct object pronouns if the students are ready. Please note: it is perfectly acceptable to present and use the object pronouns orally *before* tackling them grammatically. In fact, when students have language chunks in their "arsenal", the grammar will be much easier to teach later on. The actions can be performed with paper props, imaginary props, and (hopefully) the real thing as a finale!

Je prends une crêpe.

Je mets du chocolat sur la crêpe.

Je mets de la banane sur la crêpe.

Je roule la crêpe.

Je la mange.

Miam! Miam!

Bon appétit!

I take a crepe.

I put some chocolate on the crepe.

I put some banana on the crepe.

I roll the crepe.

I eat it.

Yum! Yum!

Enjoy!



GOUIN SERIES HOW-TO

A **Gouin series** is a set of contextualized sentences. Traditionally, a Gouin series is presented in the first person, but it can also be used as a storytelling device in the 3rd person. Follow these steps to teach a Gouin series:

1. **Present the series with props and gestures** as students watch and listen. Use *dramatic gestures or charades* for each verb and *visuals or realia* when you can.
2. **Repeat** the series, but have **students gesture along w/you**.
3. **Orally drill each line of the series with gestures.**
 - Have students **repeat chorally, review sentences from memory w/a partner**, etc. until they can say the entire series with you.
 - **Do frequent checks** to make sure students are acquiring and retaining the chunks of language.
 - **Try doing gestures out of order** to see if students can remember the corresponding sentence.
4. **Ask students to perform the Gouin series**, either alone or alternating lines w/a partner. *The Gouin Girls* recommend making this step optional—volunteers only! Encourage students by offering bonus points or even a piece of candy.
5. **Follow-up the oral practice with some written work.** Students can sequence sentence strips, fill in a CLOZE exercise, copy the sentences, and/or illustrate them, and if with enough age and language proficiency, they can write the series down from memory.
6. **Verbs & Grammar.** Given enough age and language proficiency, the Gouin series can be changed and manipulated by changing the subject pronouns, therefore changing the verb conjugation. This is where students see the link between the two. The more advanced students can even use the series for the past tenses and subjunctive and conditional modals.
 - **Teacher changes subject pronoun** for a few sentences and the students need to do the remaining sentences.
 - **Pairs or trios of students** are assigned a subject pronoun. They then have to change the verb conjugations and/or other grammatical components.
 - **Contests** for both remembering the series and changing it to match the subject pronouns correctly.
 - **Use different Gouin series for the same subject or theme.** Assign each Group a different series with a set of tasks.

Cut the sentence strips, mix them up, and reassemble them in the correct order.

Je prends une crêpe.

Je mets du chocolat sur la crêpe.

Je mets de la banane sur la crêpe.

Je roule la crêpe.

Je la mange.

Miam! Miam!

Bon appétit!

Nom: _____

Fill in the missing verbs.

**Je prends une crêpe.
Je mets du chocolat sur la crêpe.
Je mets de la banane sur la crêpe.
Je roule la crêpe.
Je la mange.
Miam! Miam!
Bon appétit!**



Write the verbs in the following series of sentences:

Je _____ une crêpe.
Je _____ du chocolat sur la crêpe.
Je _____ de la banane sur la crêpe.
Je _____ la crêpe.
Je la _____.
Miam! Miam!
Bon appétit!

Tu _____ une crêpe.
Tu _____ du chocolat sur la crêpe.
Tu _____ de la banane sur la crêpe.
Tu _____ la crêpe.
Tu la _____.
Miam! Miam!
Bon appétit!

Il _____ une crêpe.
Il _____ du chocolat sur la crêpe.
Il _____ de la banane sur la crêpe.
Il _____ la crêpe.
Il la _____.
Miam! Miam!
Bon appétit!

Nous _____ une crêpe.
Nous _____ du chocolat sur la crêpe.
Nous _____ de la banane sur la crêpe.
Nous _____ la crêpe.
Nous la _____.
Miam! Miam!
Bon appétit!

Vous _____ une crêpe.
Vous _____ du chocolat sur la crêpe.
Vous _____ de la banane sur la crêpe.
Vous _____ la crêpe.
Vous la _____.
Miam! Miam!
Bon appétit!

Elles _____ une crêpe.
Elles _____ du chocolat sur la crêpe.
Elles _____ de la banane sur la crêpe.
Elles _____ la crêpe.
Elles la _____.
Miam! Miam!
Bon appétit!

