

## Act 4: Low-fat croissants

### Expressions: Ça va

**Valérie:** Now, let's work on our new expression. Let's see, how many have we learned so far, Michelle?

**Michelle:** We've learned ah bon, il y a, voilà, voici.

**Valérie:** That's great! All are very useful and common in French. Il y a beaucoup de petites expressions en français Michelle.

**Michelle:** Petites expressions... Small expressions?

**Valérie:** Exactement. Voici une nouvelle expression, vous êtes prête ?

**Michelle:** Oui, allez-y.

**Valérie:** Aujourd'hui, l'expression est **ça va**.

**Michelle:** **Ça va**. Aujourd'hui, l'expression est petite.

**Valérie:** Oui. Those are two words that can say a lot.

**Michelle:** J'aime les petites expressions. J'aime les petits cafés. J'aime everything that's petite. Vous êtes petite Valérie.

**Valérie:** Oui, je suis petite. En français, petit is masculine and petite is feminine. It means short in size when describing a person.

**Michelle:** Oh pardon, that's not what I meant at all. I meant you're small.

**Valérie:** Pas de problème Michelle, I am short. Je suis petite.

**Michelle:** ... no, I meant you have a small build, and it's cute... mignon. So sorry.

**Valérie:** **Ça va** Michelle, **ça va**. You see how I just used **ça va** ? What does it mean in this context?

**Michelle:** Oui, it means... "don't worry about it". J'ai raison ?

**Valérie:** Oui, vous avez raison. You'll hear '**ça va**', mostly used to ask someone how he or she is doing. It's the most common greeting.

**Michelle:** Ah bon ?

**Valérie:** Oui. Let's remember that it is an informal expression, so you wouldn't normally ask your boss: "**ça va** aujourd'hui ?"

**Michelle:** It would be impolite?

**Valérie:** Unless you are friends with him. So how would you greet him?

**Michelle:** Bonjour, comment allez-vous aujourd'hui ?

**Valérie:** Très bien. But you could use **ça va** with your colleagues and your peers.

**Michelle:** D'accord. Can I ask you: **ça va** Valérie ?

**Valérie:** Hmm, I guess you could. "Comment **ça va**" is slightly less informal than **ça va** so let's use this one with each other.

**Michelle:** Ok. But I still have to use 'vous' when I address you.

**Valérie:** Oui, exactement.

**Michelle:** So "comment allez-vous ?" et "comment **ça va** ?" are my options.

**Valérie:** Oui Michelle.

**Michelle:** How would I ask my husband this: “how are you, my darling?”

**Valérie:** Euh, my darling... I would probably say “**ça va** mon chéri ?”

**Michelle:** Mon chéri ? I love mon chéri. J’aime mon chéri... Mon chéri... hmmm.

**Valérie:** **Ça va** Michelle ?

**Michelle:** Oui, **ça va**. I’m just thinking of the chocolates Mon Chéri. I ate so many when I was in France. Hmm, a heart of cherry, floating in liqueur in a chocolate shell.

**Valérie:** Vous aimez le chocolat ?

**Michelle:** Oui, j’aime les Mon Chéri... Ils sont très delicious. And only 46 calories each.

**Valérie:** Ah bon ? How do you know that?

**Michelle:** I did my research. I wanted to know how many a day I could eat. 46 calories, **ça va**.

**Valérie:** Oui, **ça va**.

**Michelle:** Did you know that the Mon Chéri here are filled with hazelnuts instead of liqueur?

**Valérie:** You mean, for the American market?

**Michelle:** Oui.

**Valérie:** You did do some research.

**Michelle:** **Ça ne va pas** Valérie!

**Valérie:** Pourquoi **ça ne va pas** ?

**Michelle:** They are 65 calories each. 19 calories more! Non Valérie, **ça ne va pas** bien ! Another reason to live in France! Low-calorie chocolates!

**Valérie:** Ok Michelle, **ça va** pour aujourd’hui. I’ll see you next week.

**Michelle:** D’accord. Au revoir.

**Valérie:** Au revoir ! And make sure you eat before next week’s lesson.

**Michelle:** Oui, au revoir !