

The 100 Most Common French Words



INTRODUCTION

Have you ever heard of the Pareto Law? This principle states that 20% of the efforts produce 80% of the results.

Applied to language learning, this rule means that people use 20% of the words they know 80% of the time.

This is not a perfectly accurate number, of course, but it highlights an essential fact: you don't need to know lots of vocabulary to quickly speak and understand French.

You need to learn the 20% of words you'll find in 80% of conversations and the 20% of grammar rules that'll help you understand how 80% of sentences work.

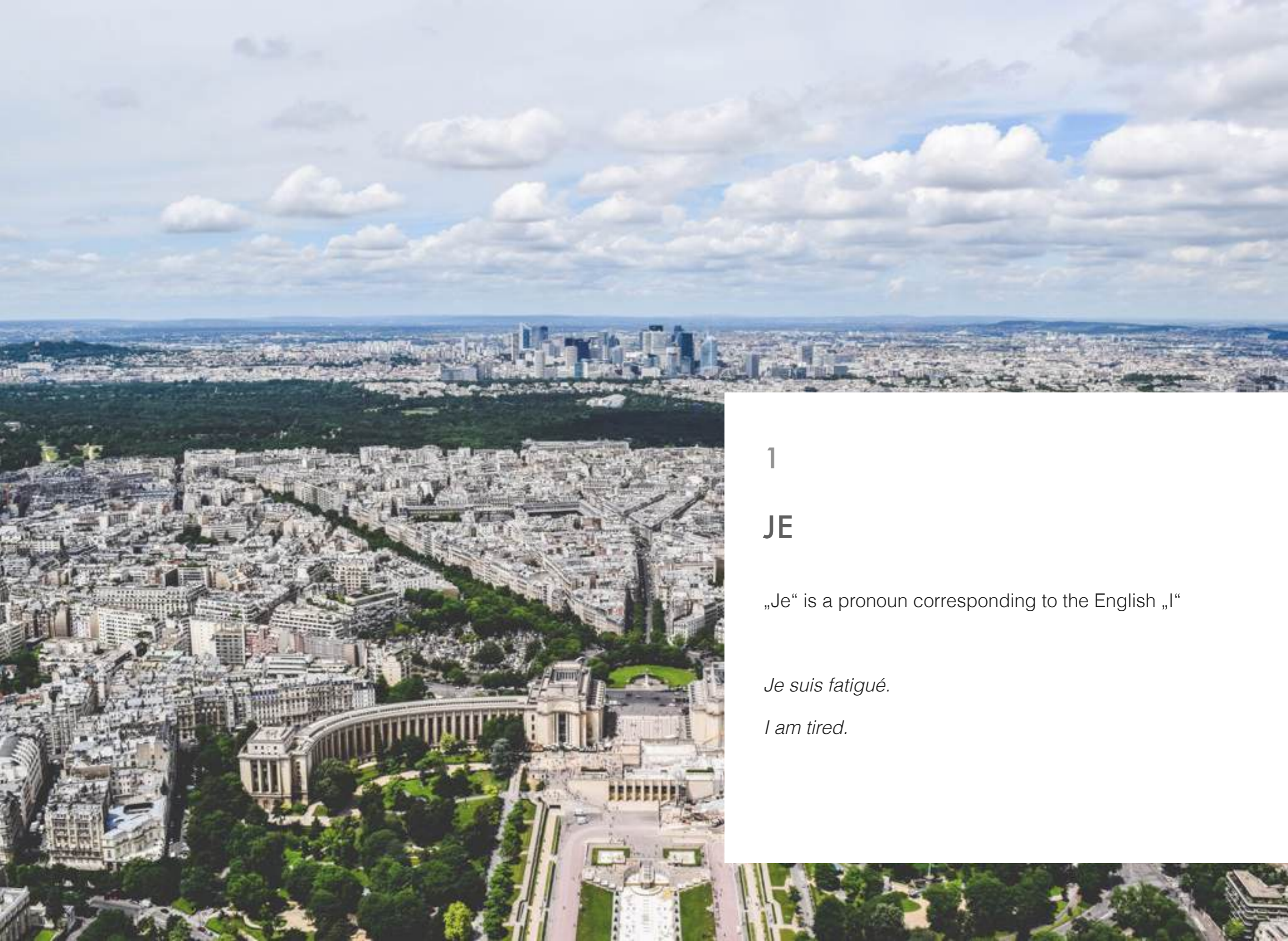
This ebook helps you do that by teaching you the 100 most common French words with example sentences from everyday life.

Enjoy!

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It's based on the top French words list from www.opensubtitles.org.



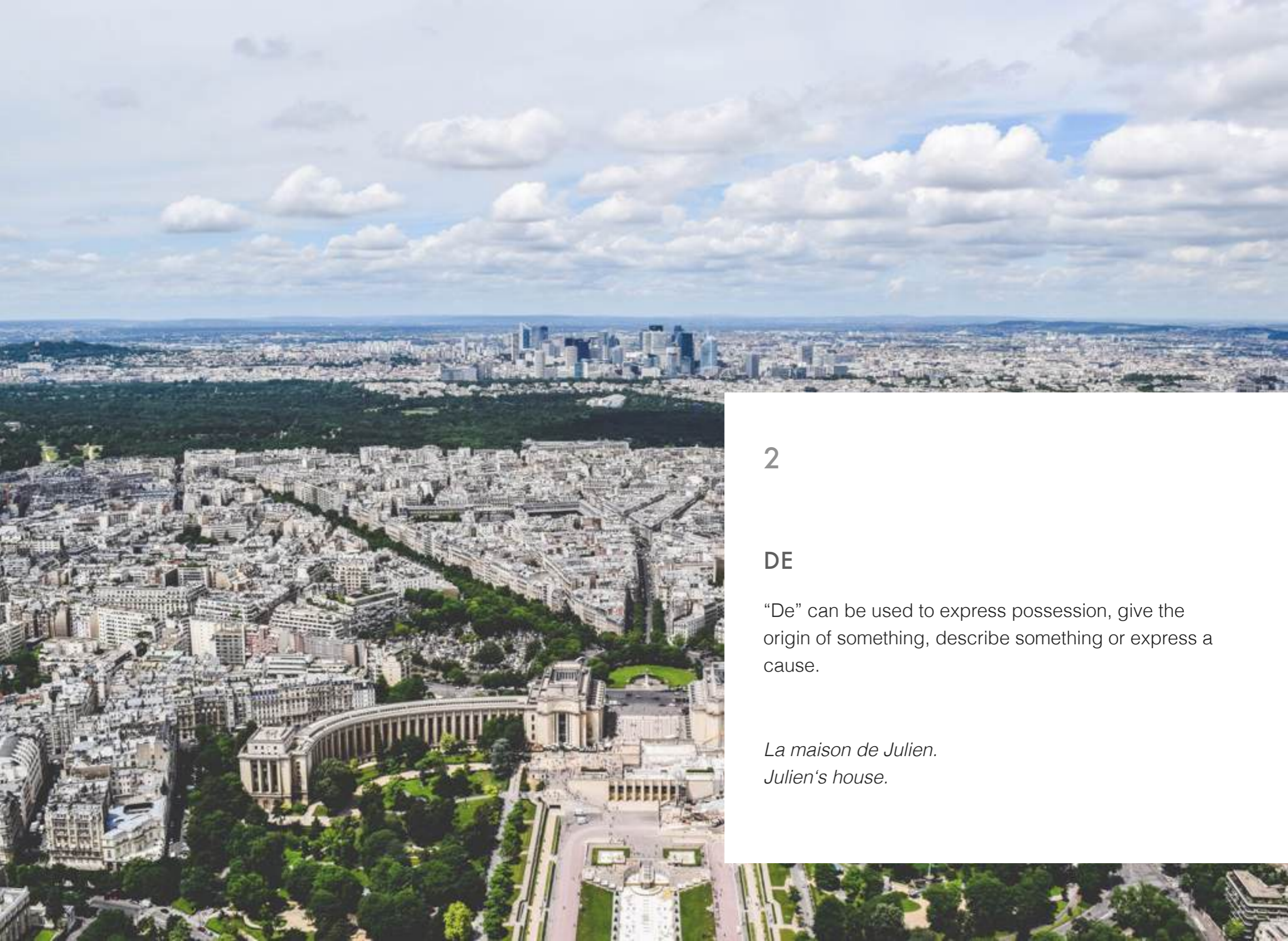
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JE

„Je“ is a pronoun corresponding to the English „I“

Je suis fatigué.

I am tired.

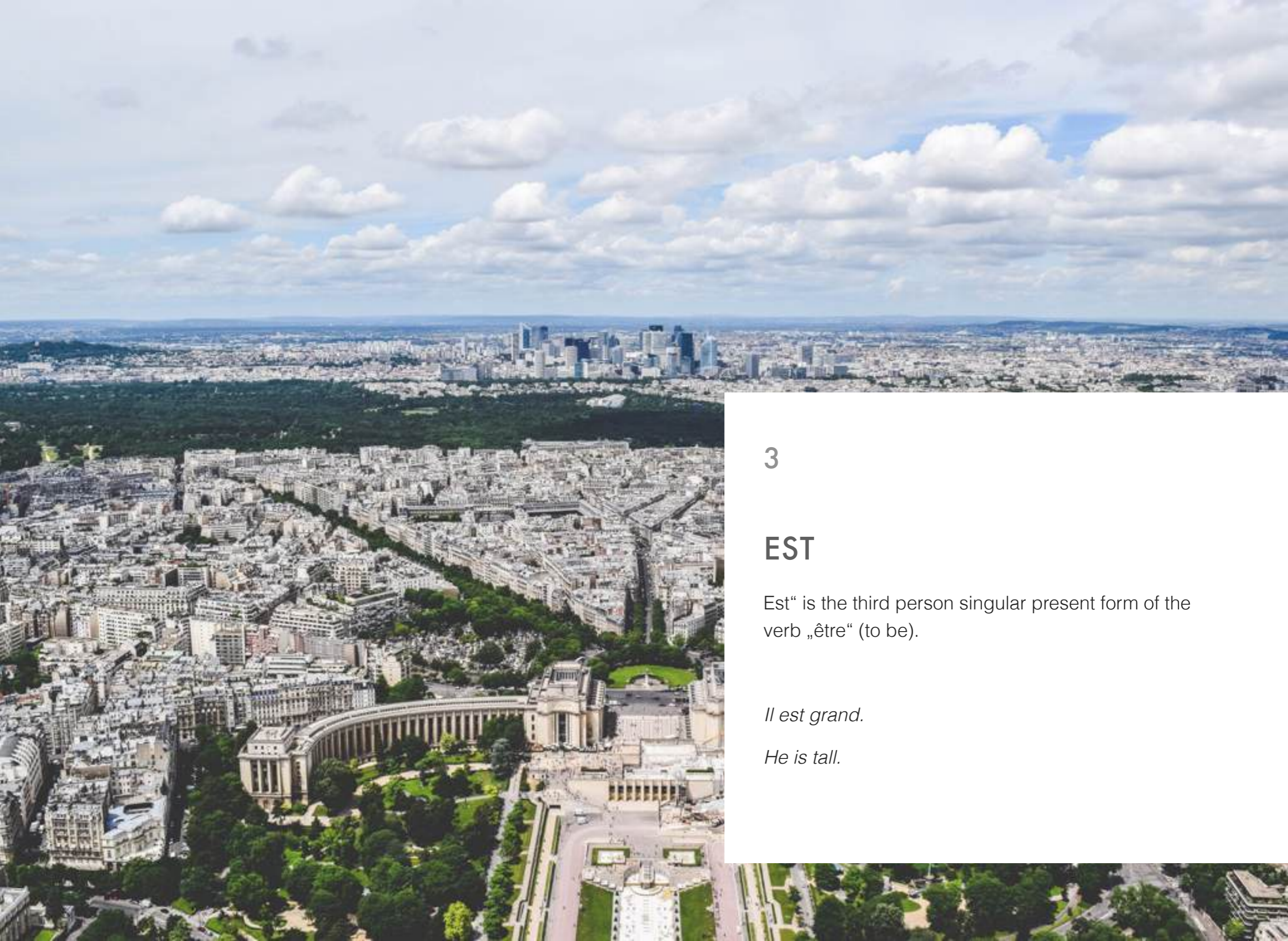


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DE

“De” can be used to express possession, give the origin of something, describe something or express a cause.

La maison de Julien.
Julien's house.



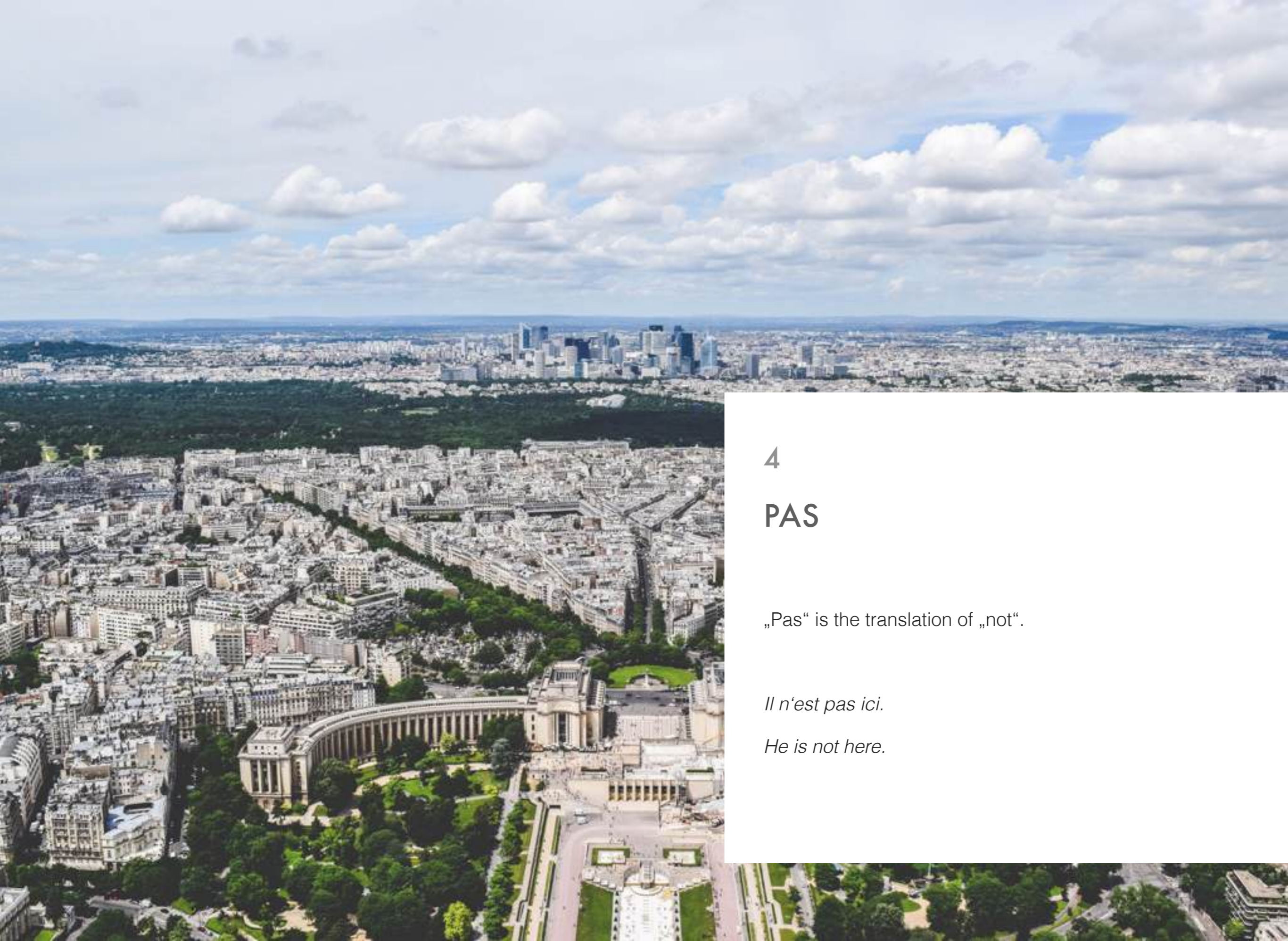
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EST

Est“ is the third person singular present form of the verb „être“ (to be).

Il est grand.

He is tall.



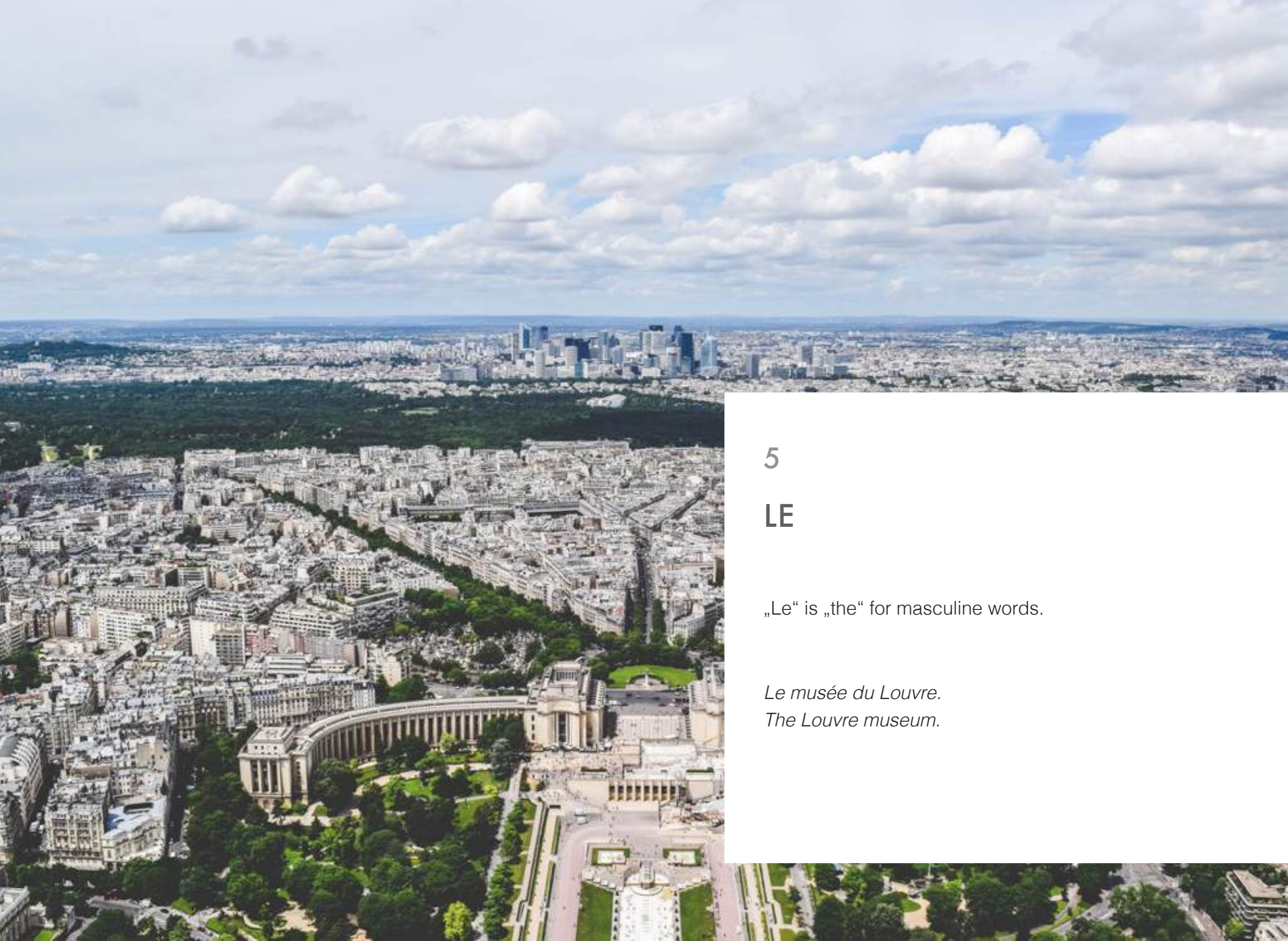
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PAS

„Pas“ is the translation of „not“.

Il n'est pas ici.

He is not here.



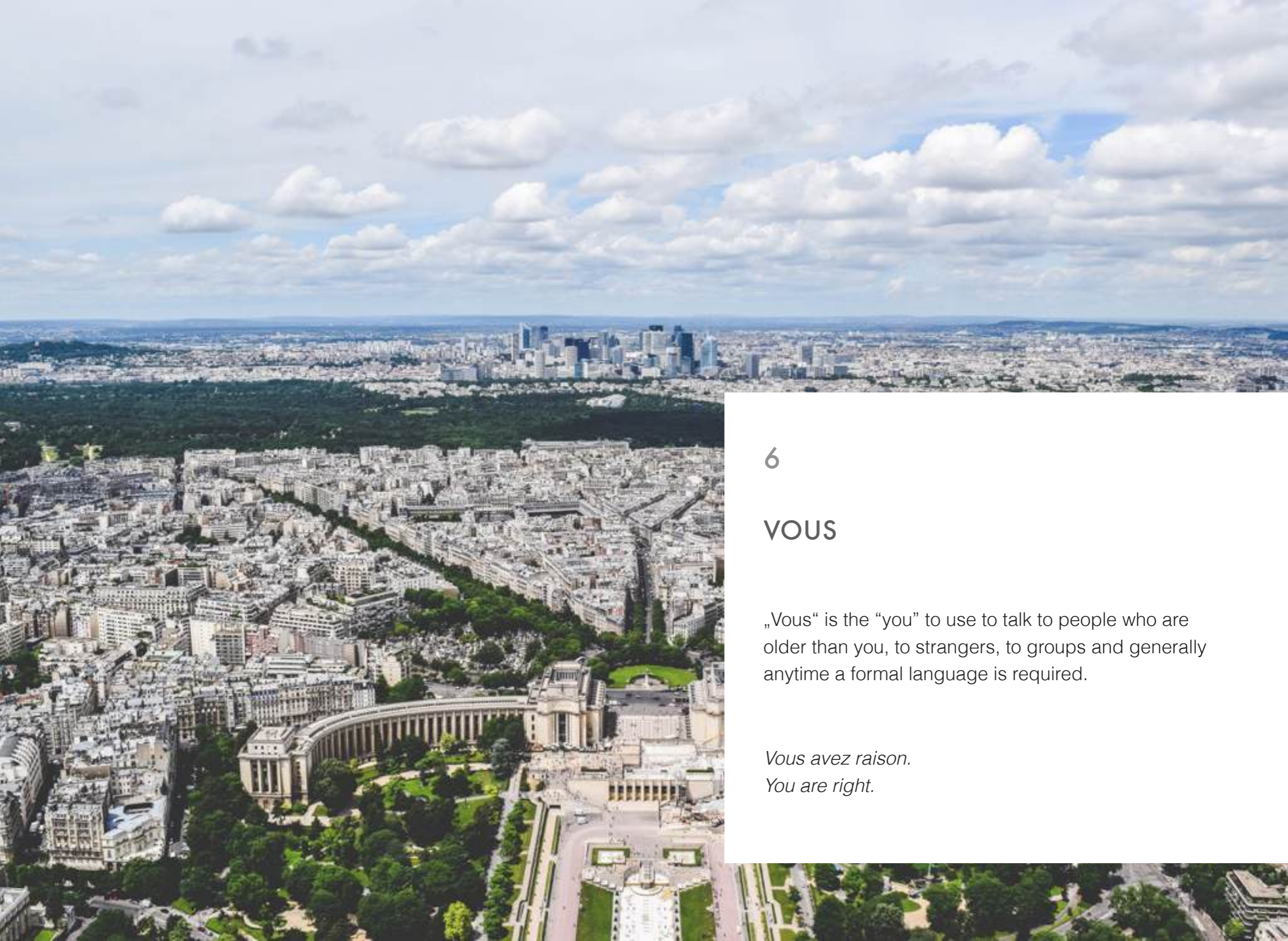
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LE

„Le“ is „the“ for masculine words.

Le musée du Louvre.

The Louvre museum.

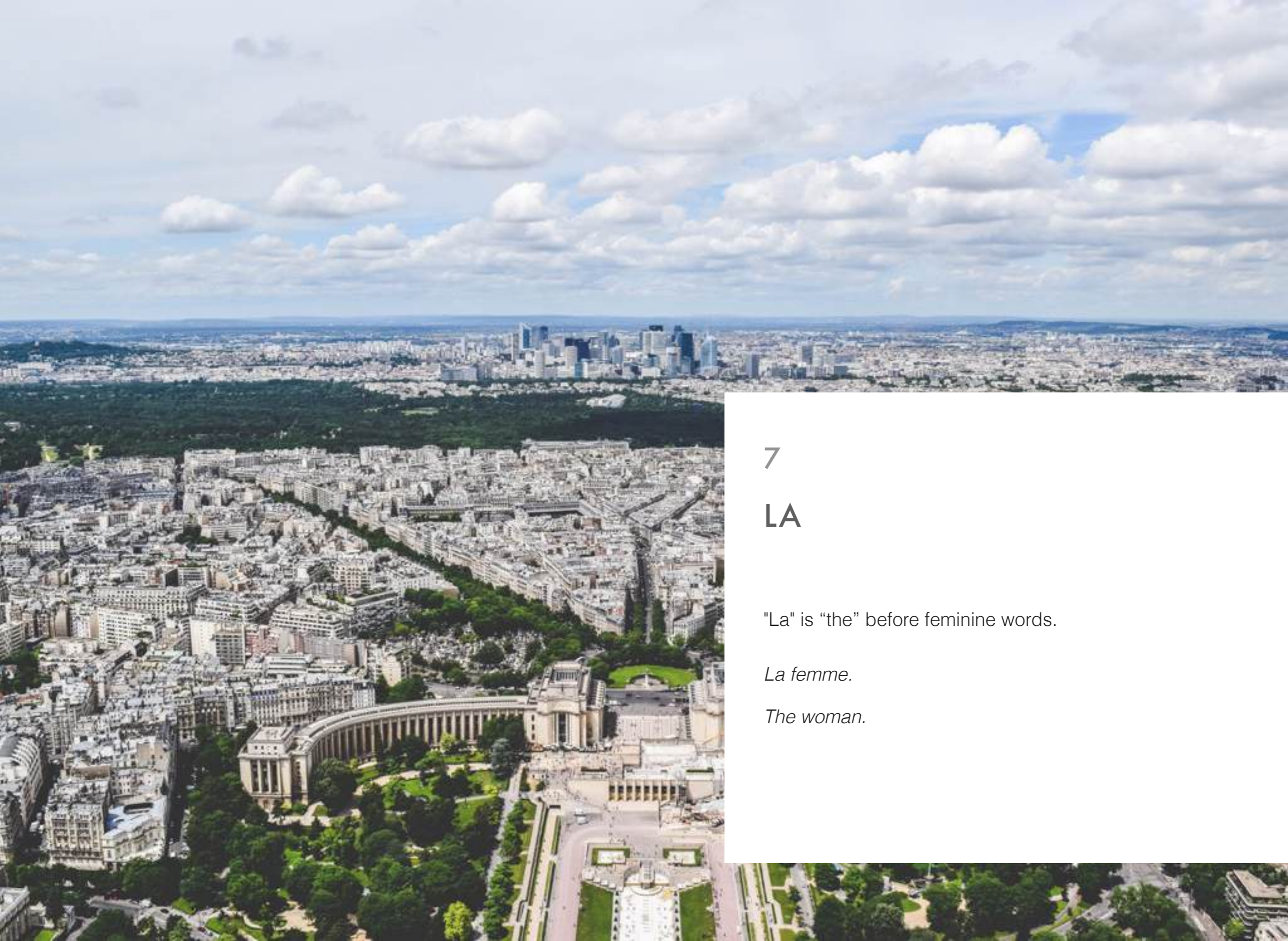


6

VOUS

„Vous“ is the “you” to use to talk to people who are older than you, to strangers, to groups and generally anytime a formal language is required.

*Vous avez raison.
You are right.*



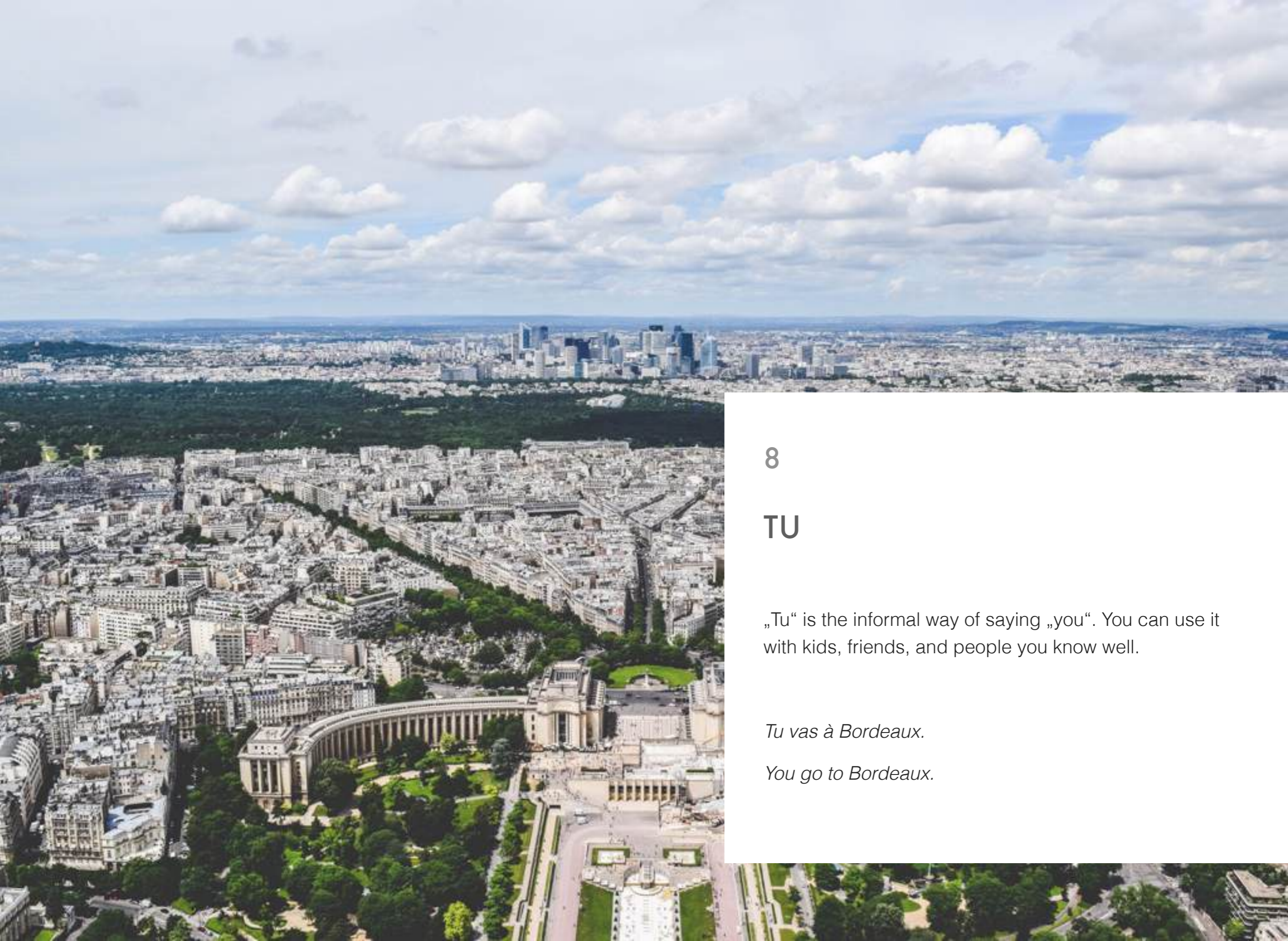
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LA

"La" is "the" before feminine words.

La femme.

The woman.



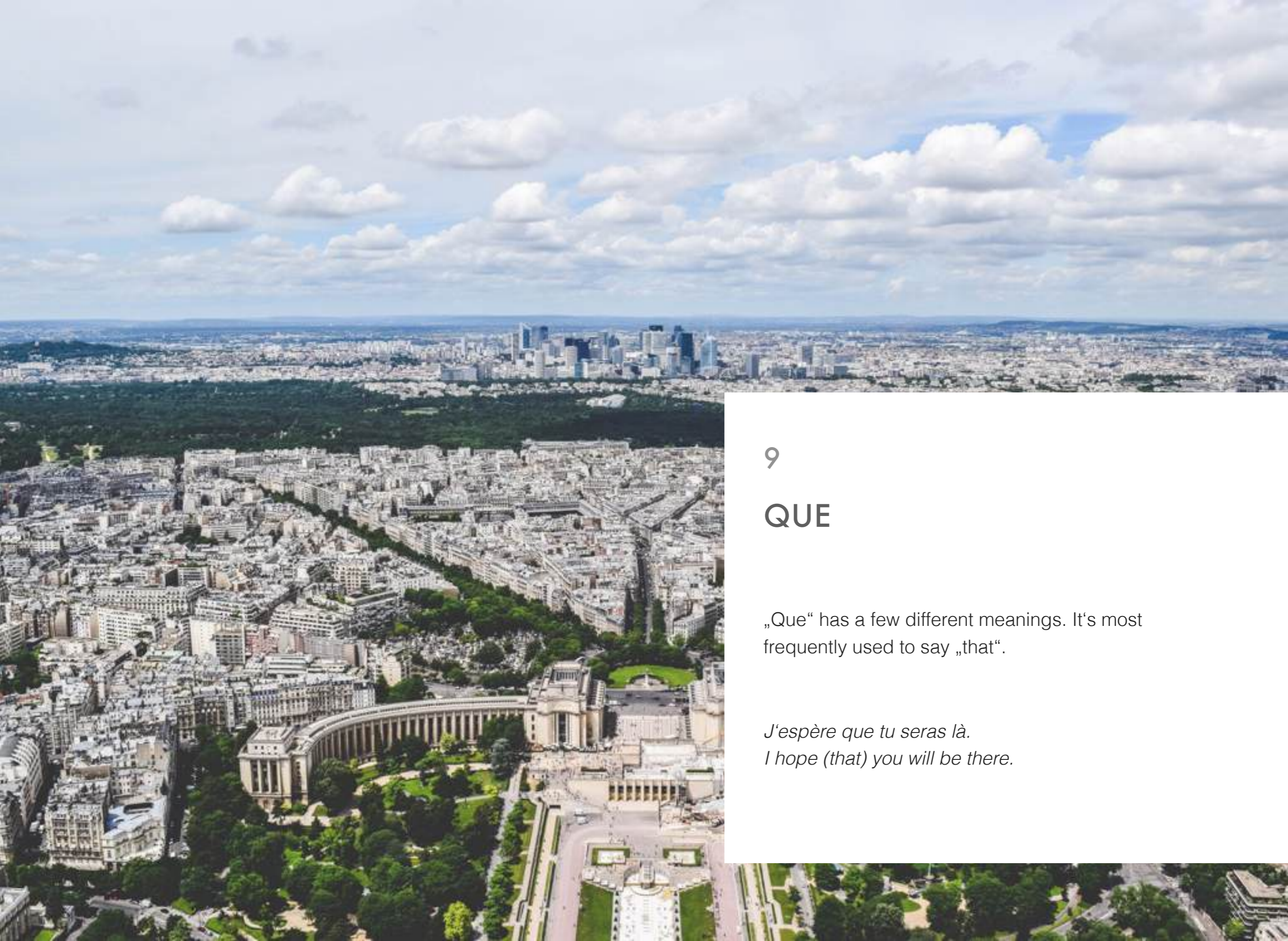
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TU

„Tu“ is the informal way of saying „you“. You can use it with kids, friends, and people you know well.

Tu vas à Bordeaux.

You go to Bordeaux.



9

QUE

„Que“ has a few different meanings. It's most frequently used to say „that“.

*J'espère que tu seras là.
I hope (that) you will be there.*



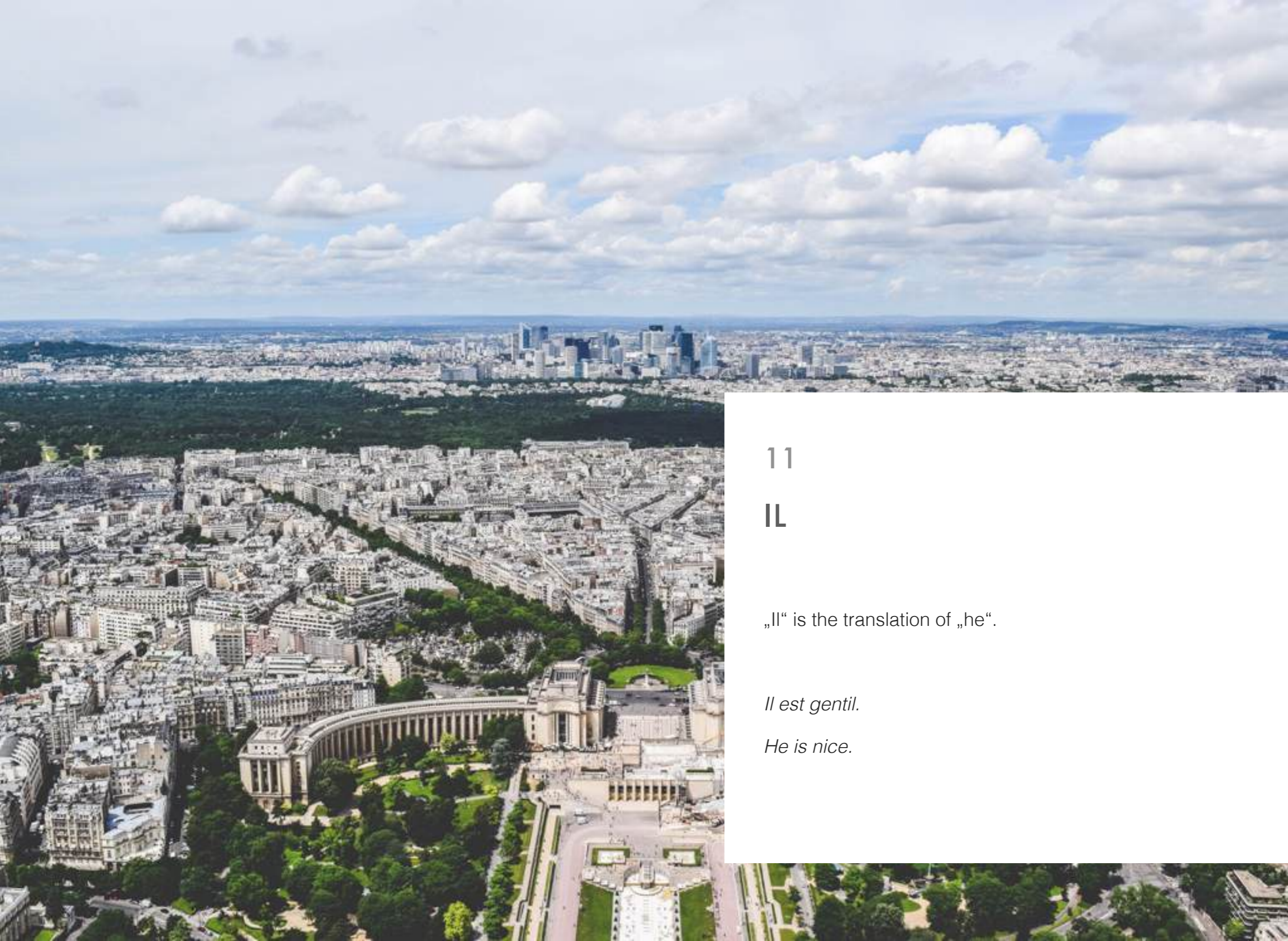
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UN

„Un“ means both „one“ and „a“.

Un café s'il-vous-plaît.

A cofee please.



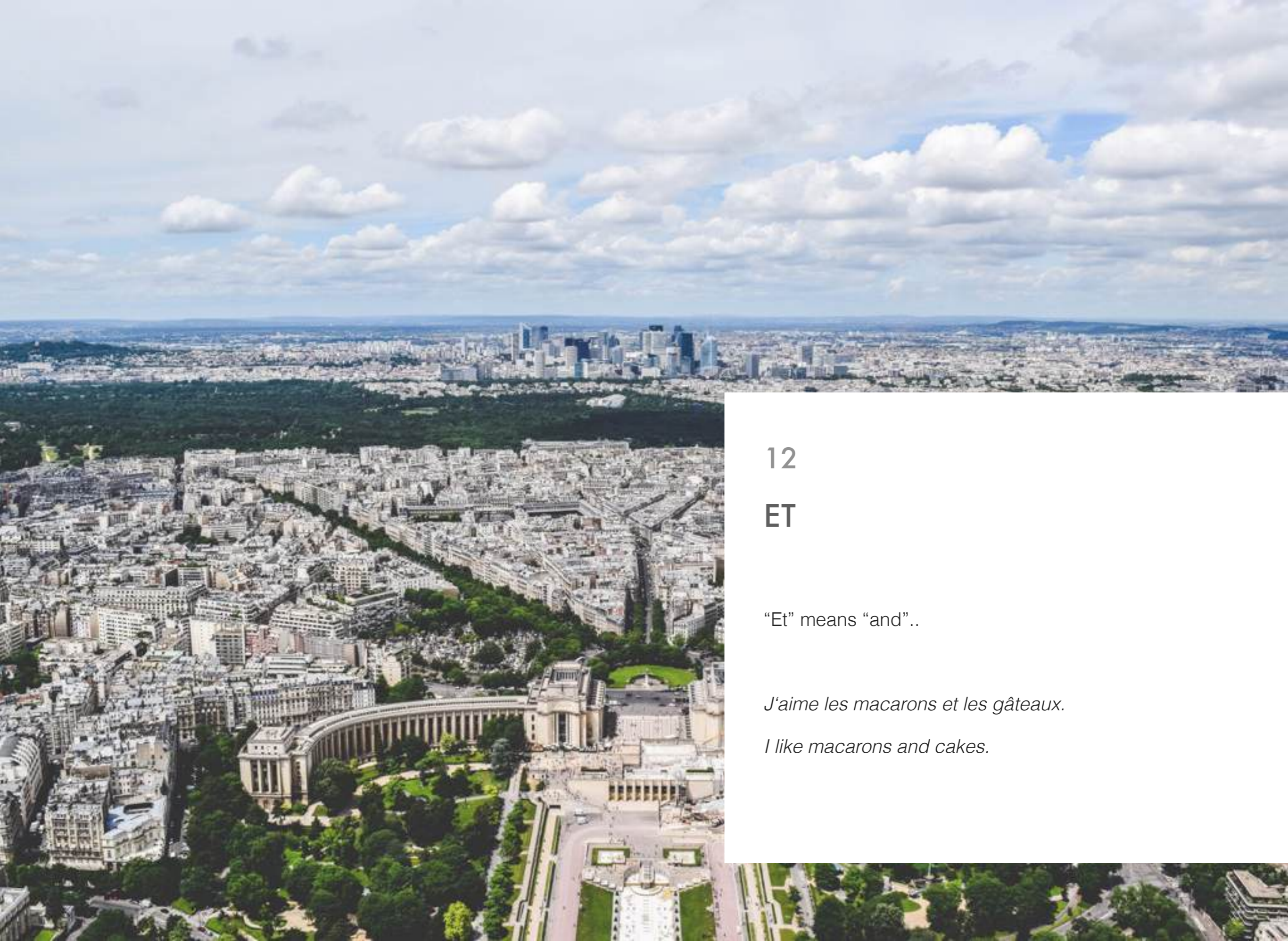
Il

IL

„Il“ is the translation of „he“.

Il est gentil.

He is nice.



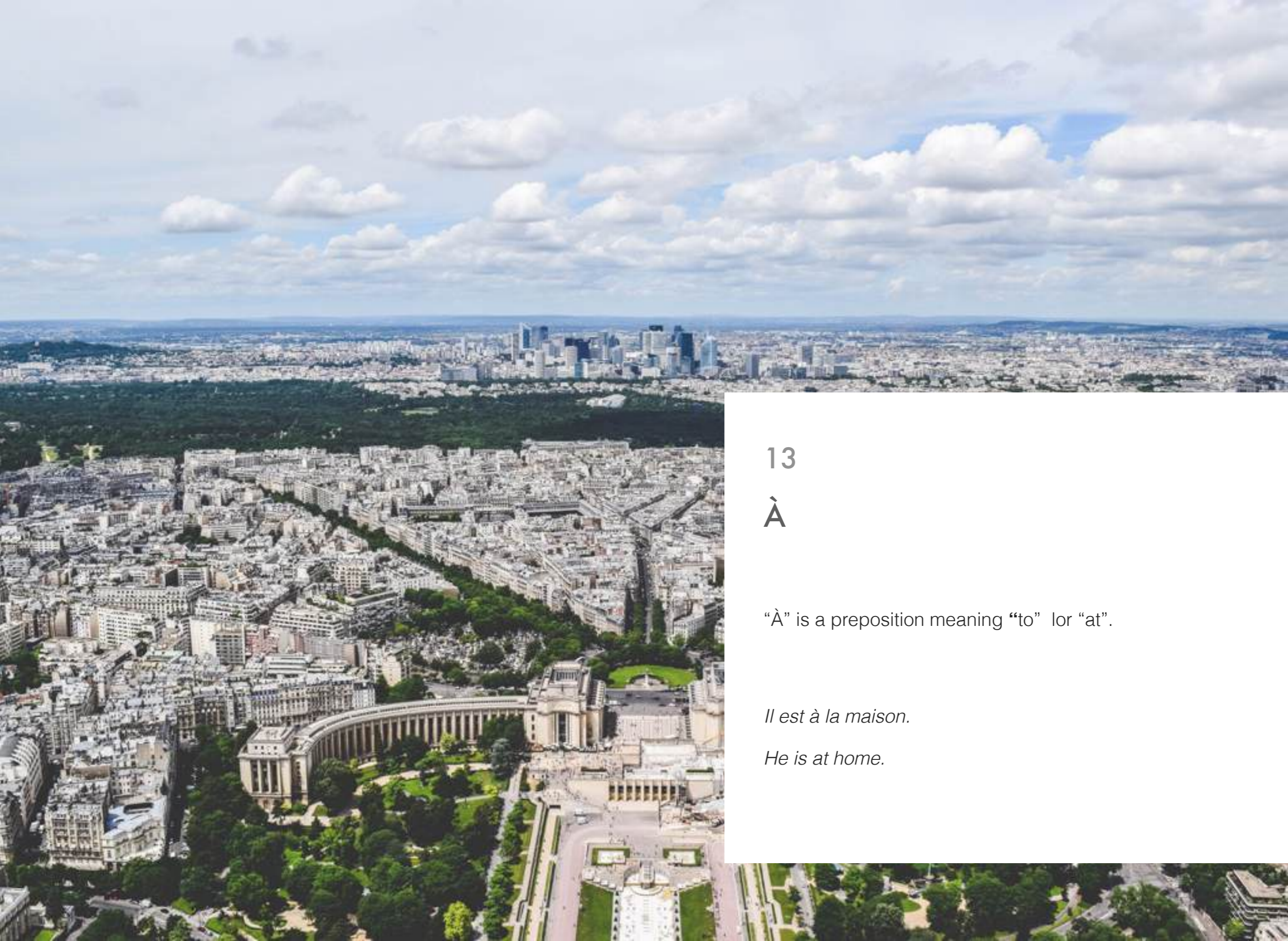
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ET

“Et” means “and”..

J'aime les macarons et les gâteaux.

I like macarons and cakes.



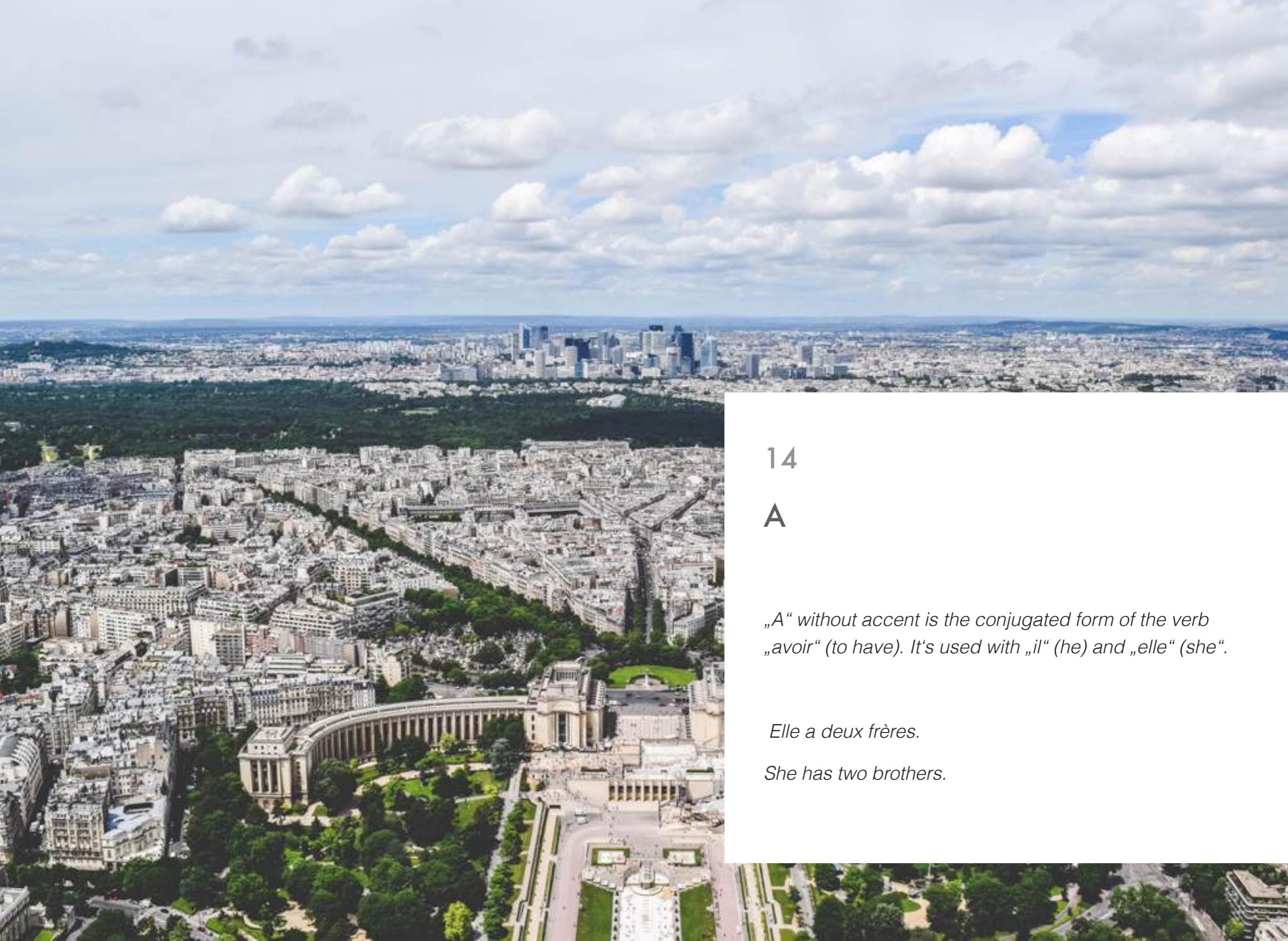
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À

“À” is a preposition meaning “to” or “at”.

Il est à la maison.

He is at home.



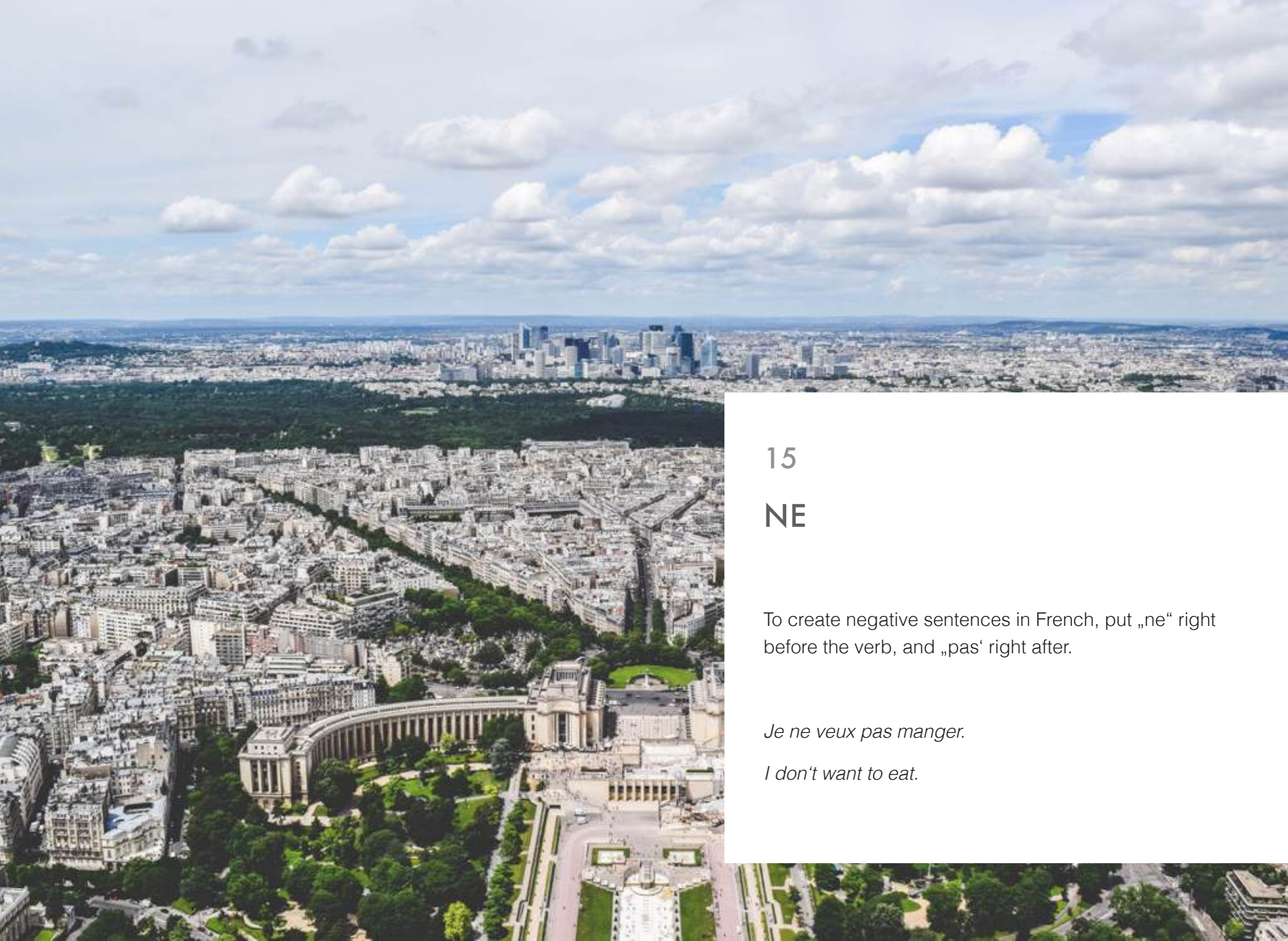
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A

„A“ without accent is the conjugated form of the verb „avoir“ (to have). It's used with „il“ (he) and „elle“ (she“.

Elle a deux frères.

She has two brothers.



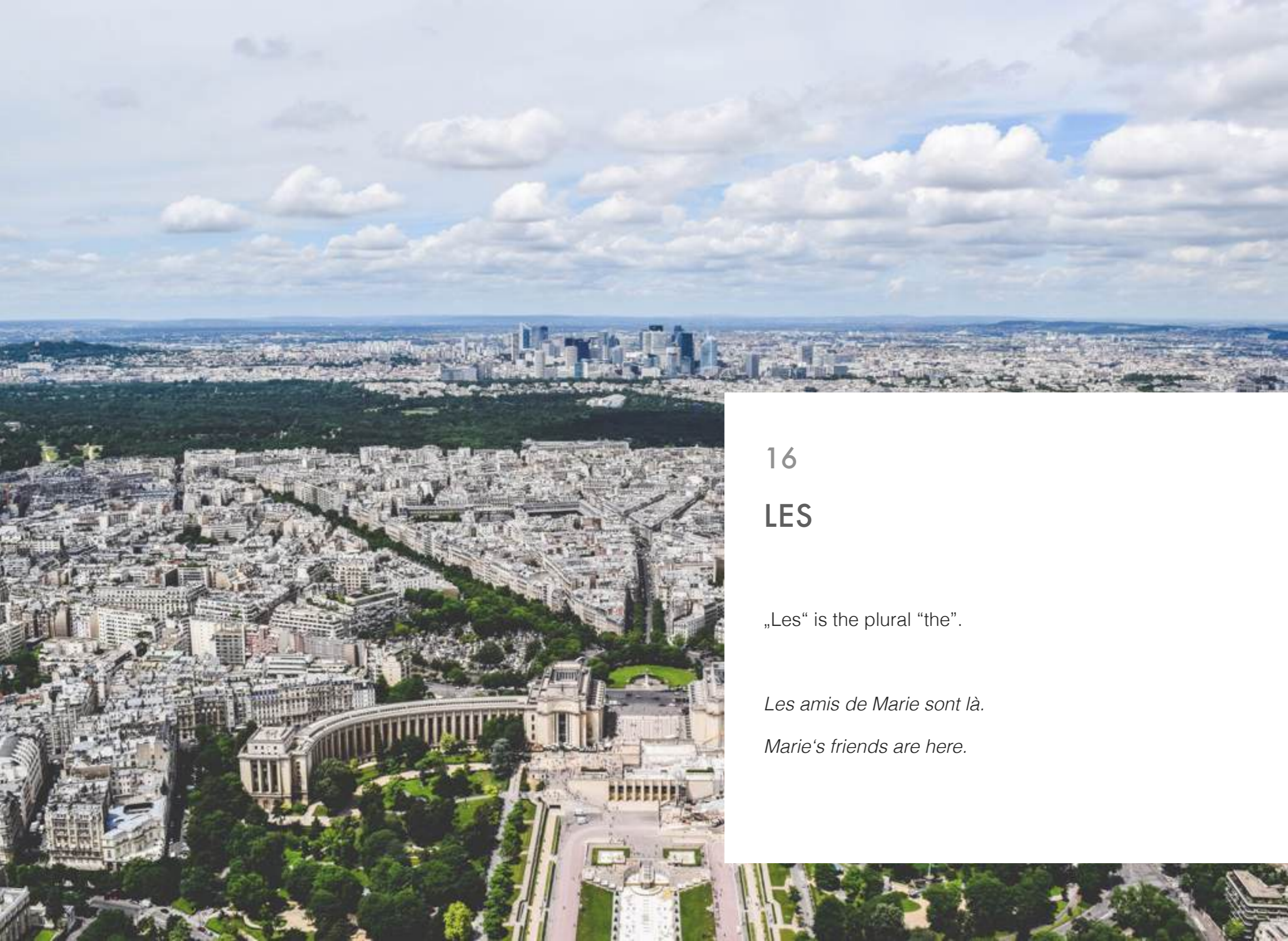
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NE

To create negative sentences in French, put „ne“ right before the verb, and „pas“ right after.

Je ne veux pas manger.

I don't want to eat.



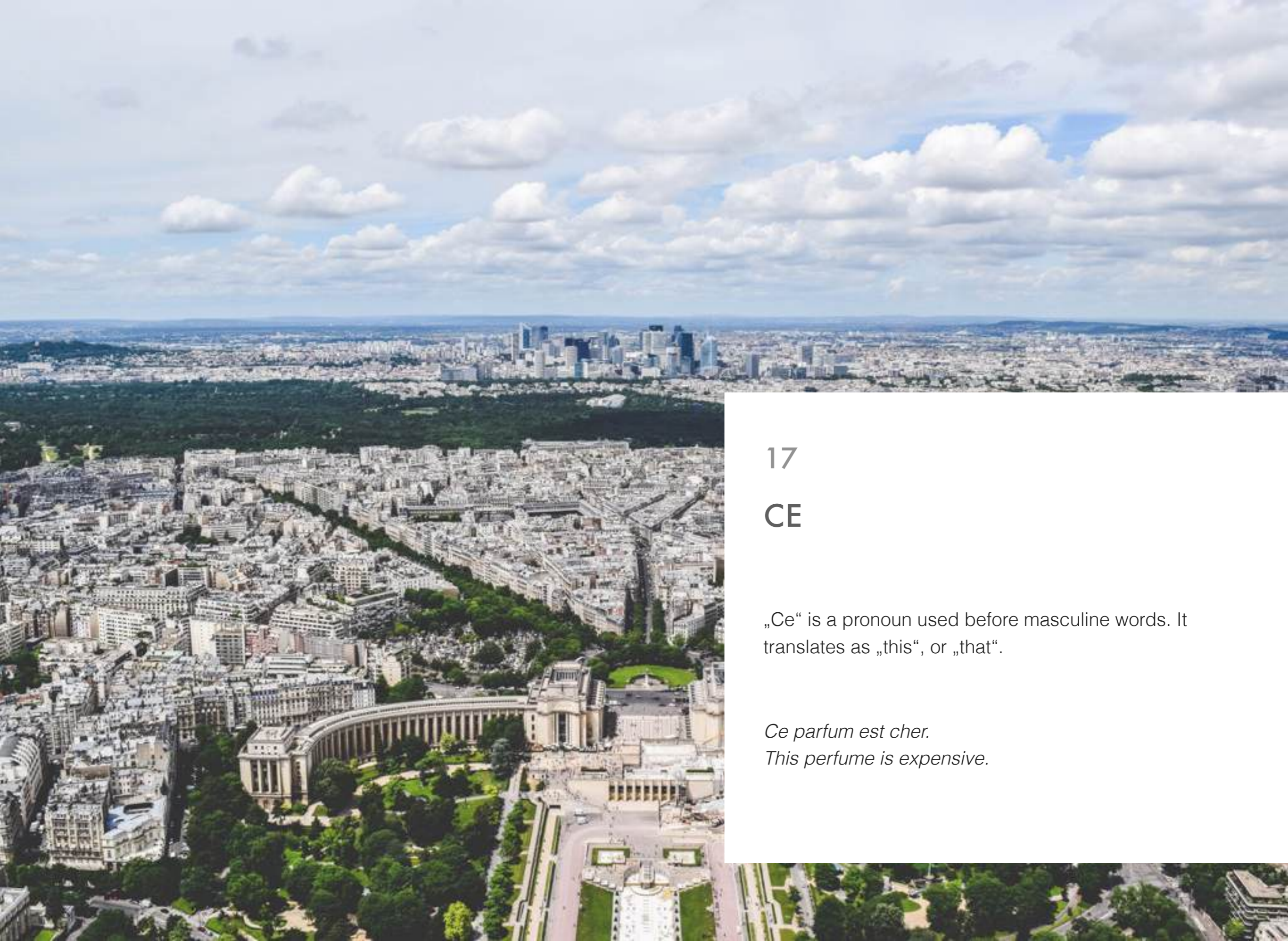
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LES

„Les“ is the plural “the”.

Les amis de Marie sont là.

Marie's friends are here.

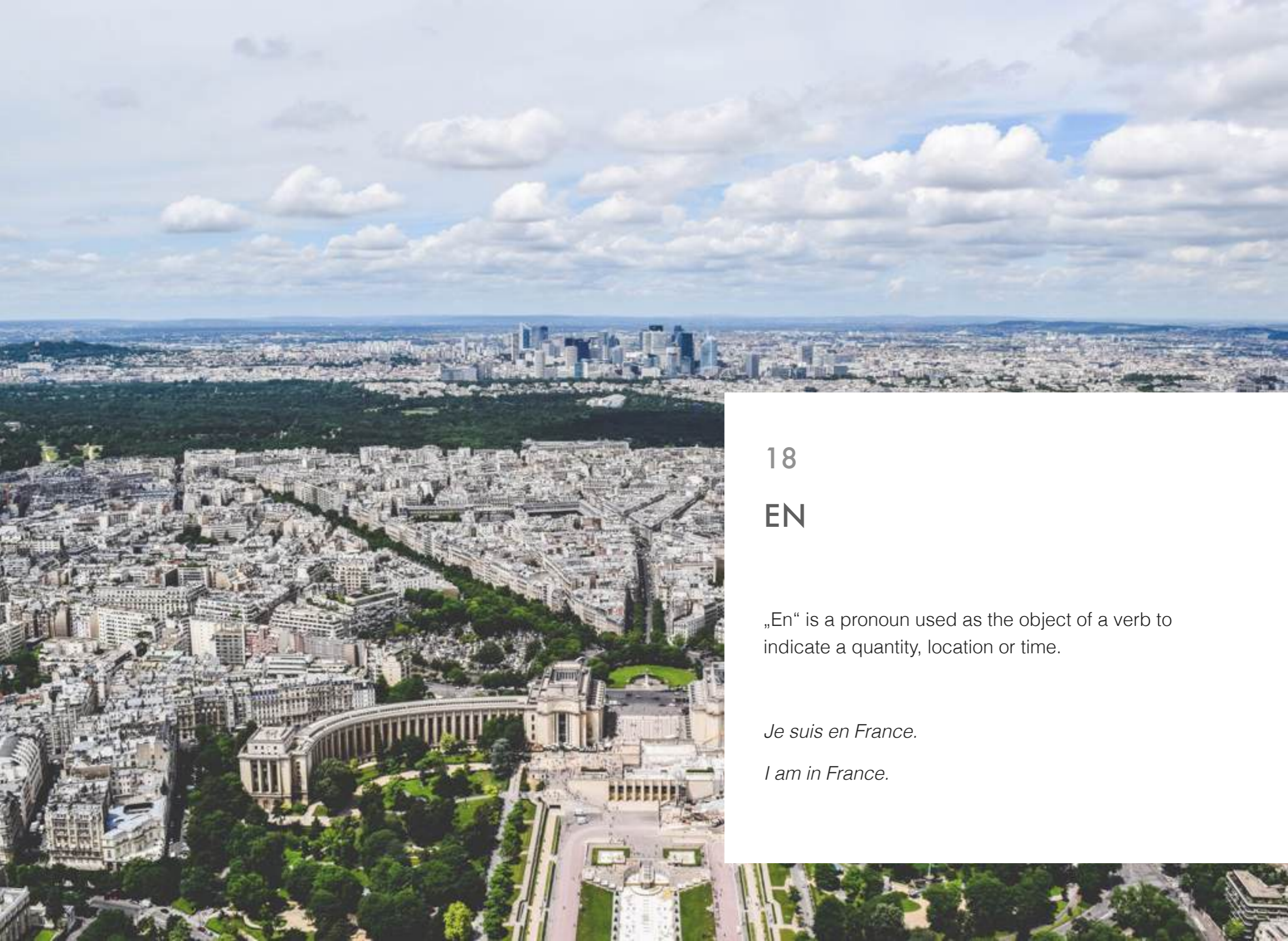


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CE

„Ce“ is a pronoun used before masculine words. It translates as „this“, or „that“.

Ce parfum est cher.
This perfume is expensive.



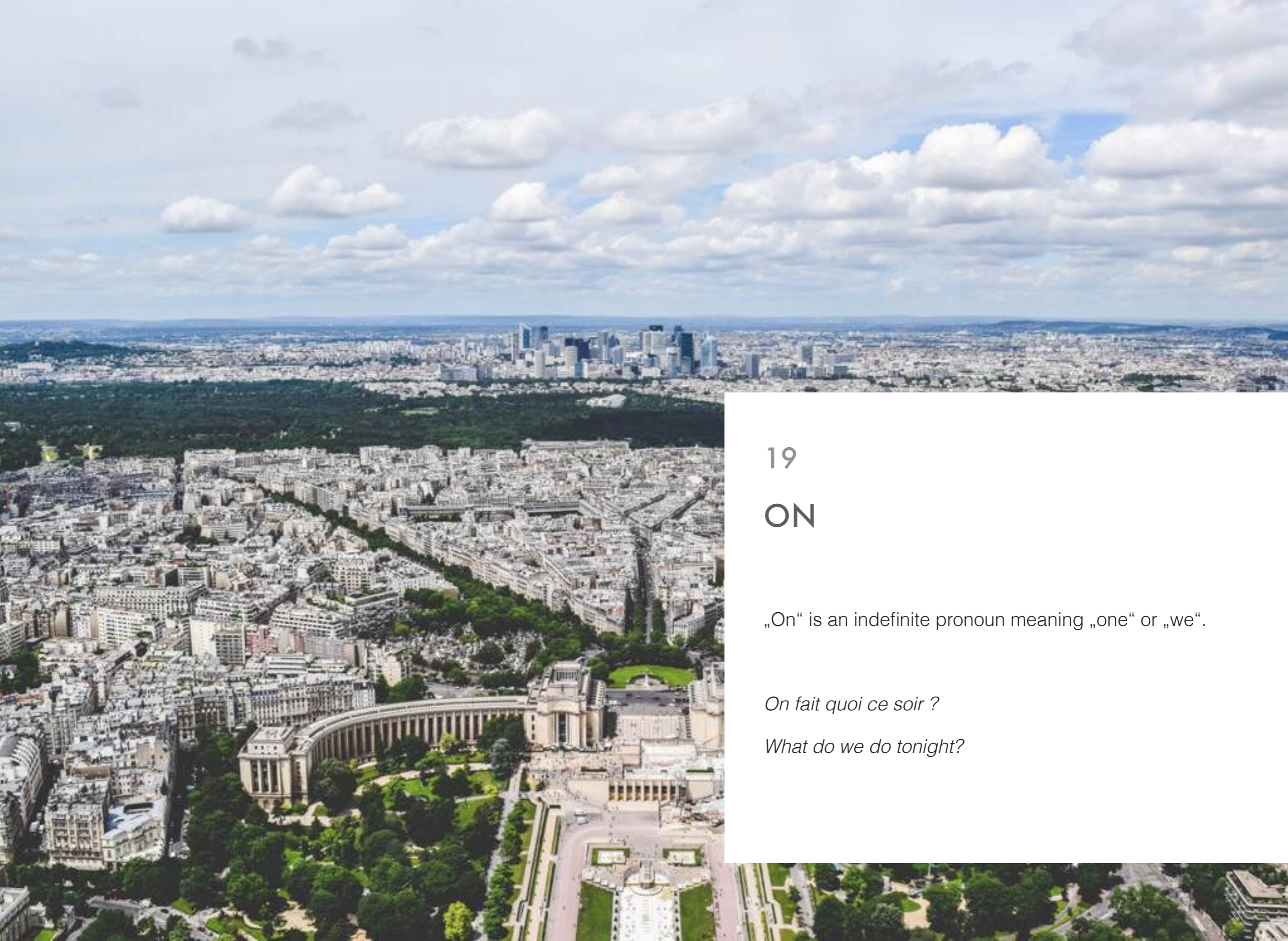
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EN

„En“ is a pronoun used as the object of a verb to indicate a quantity, location or time.

Je suis en France.

I am in France.



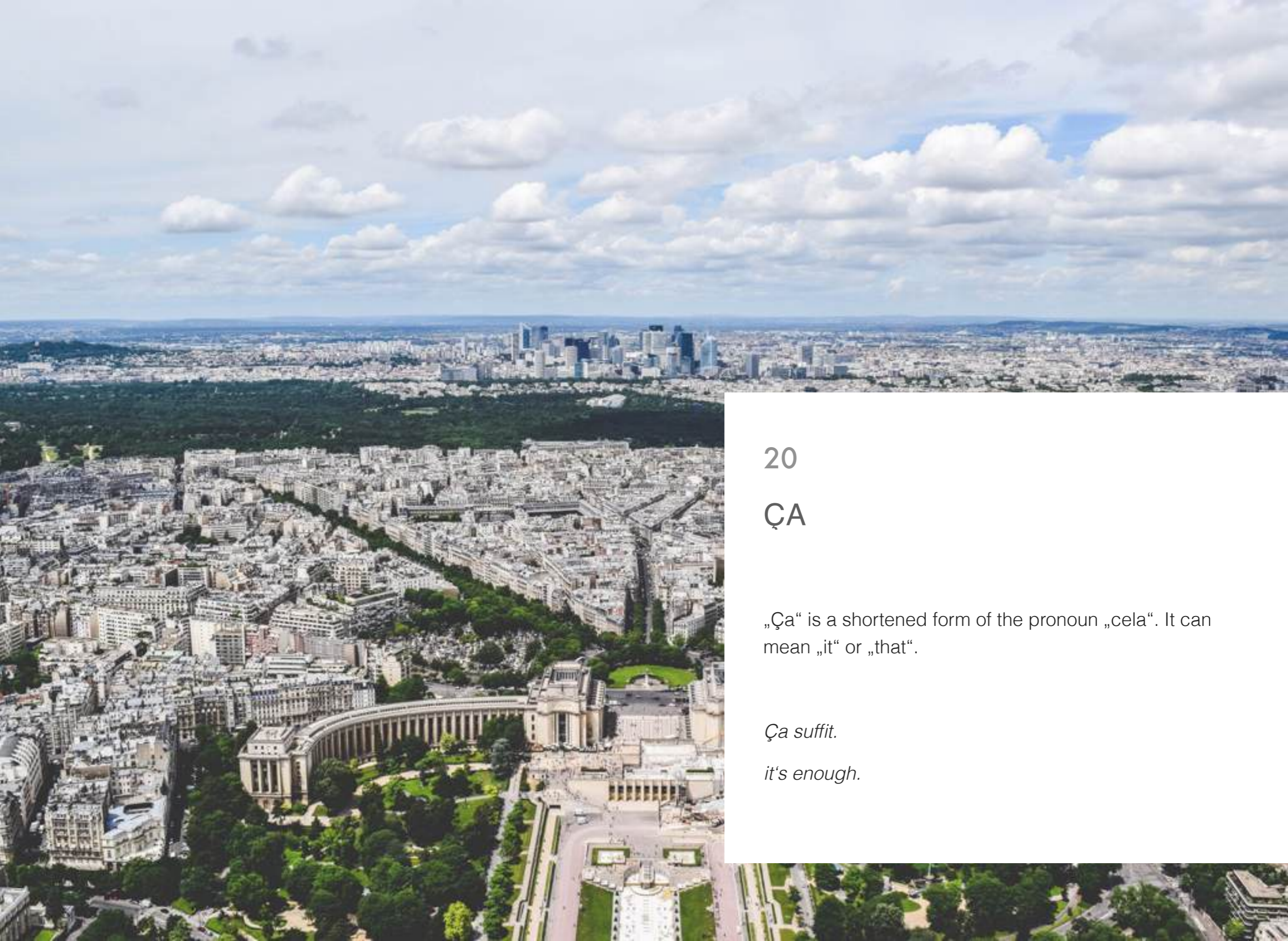
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ON

„On“ is an indefinite pronoun meaning „one“ or „we“.

On fait quoi ce soir ?

What do we do tonight?



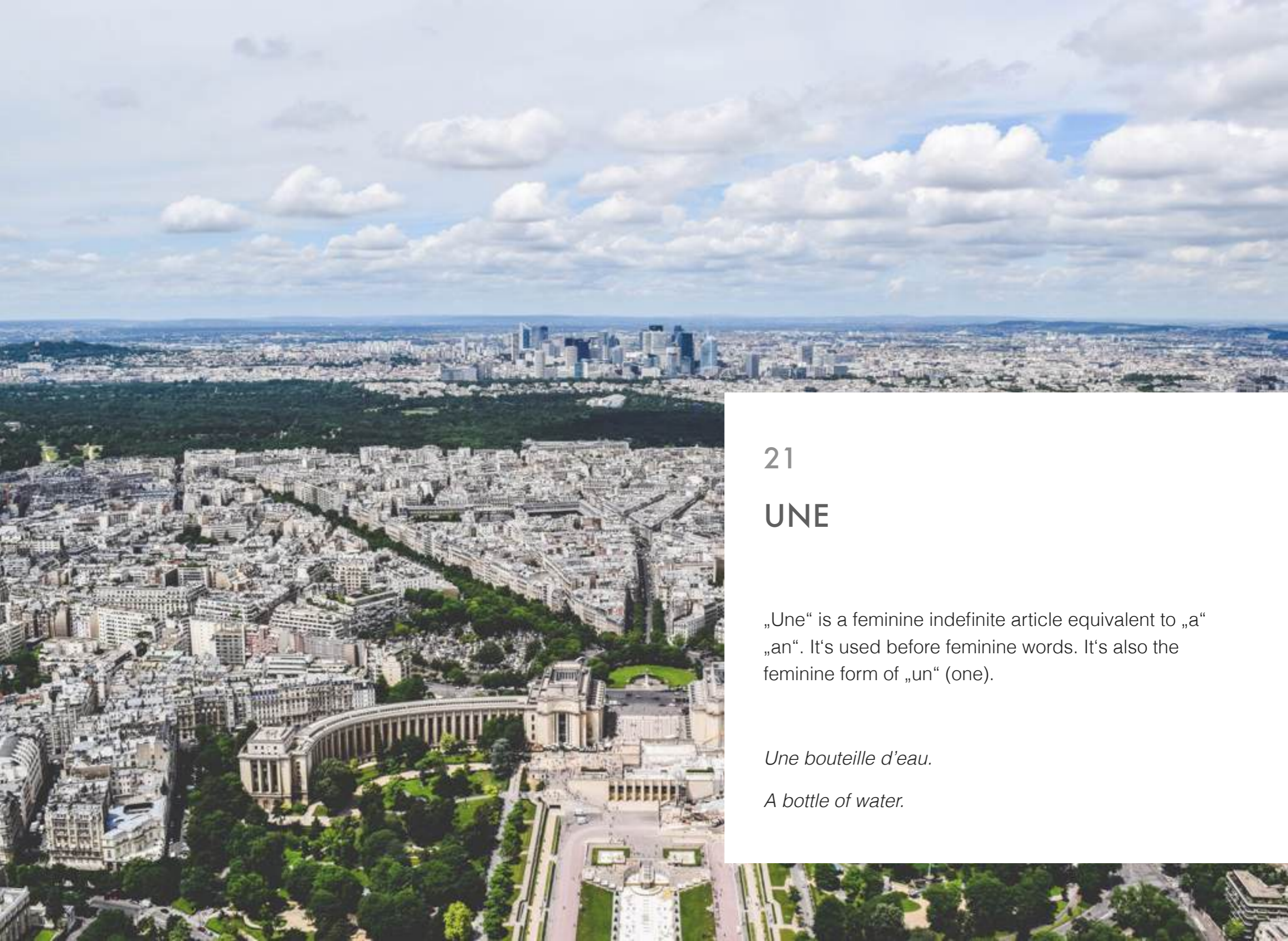
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ÇA

„Ça“ is a shortened form of the pronoun „cela“. It can mean „it“ or „that“.

Ça suffit.

it's enough.



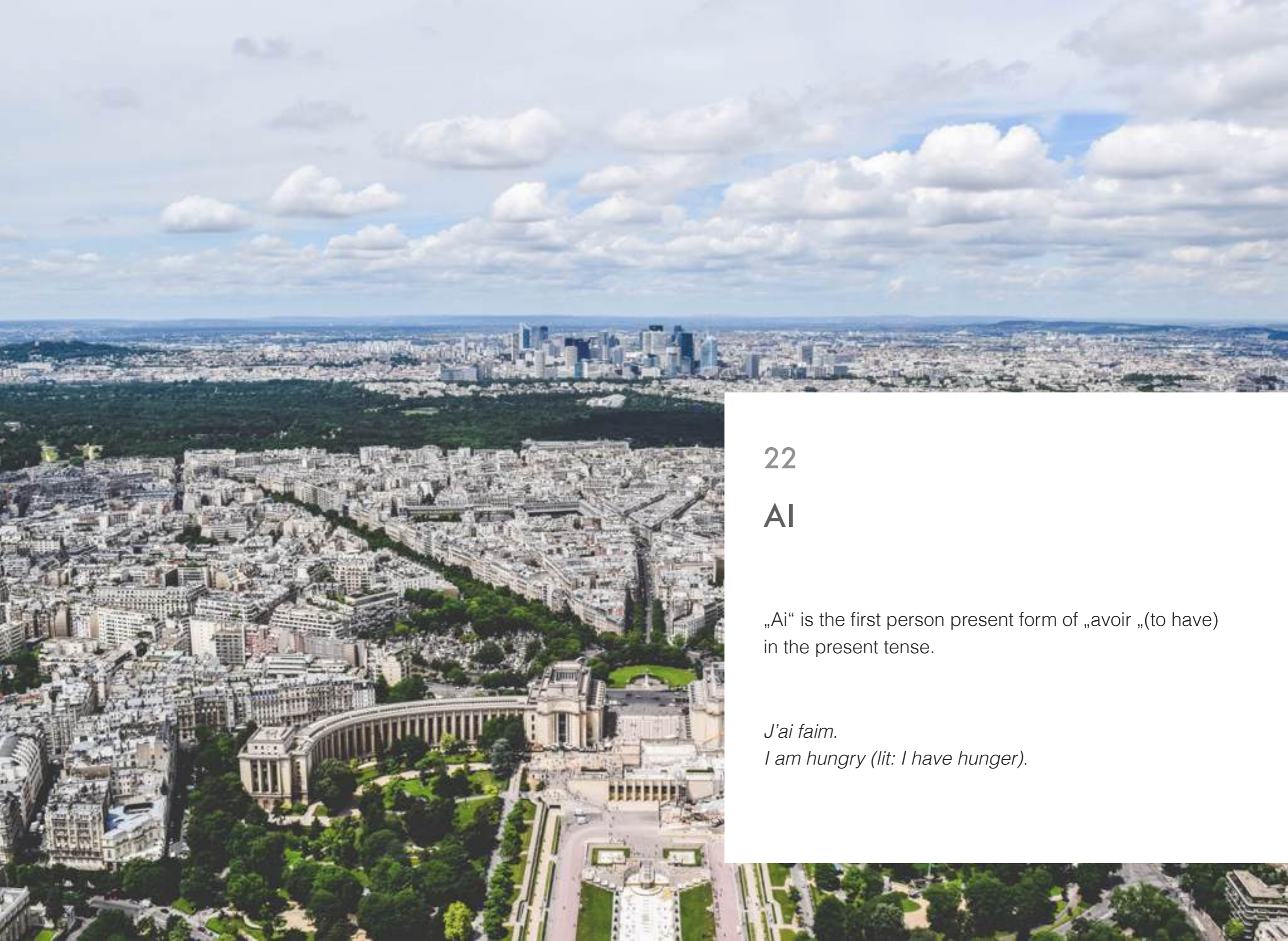
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UNE

„Une“ is a feminine indefinite article equivalent to „a“ „an“. It's used before feminine words. It's also the feminine form of „un“ (one).

Une bouteille d'eau.

A bottle of water.



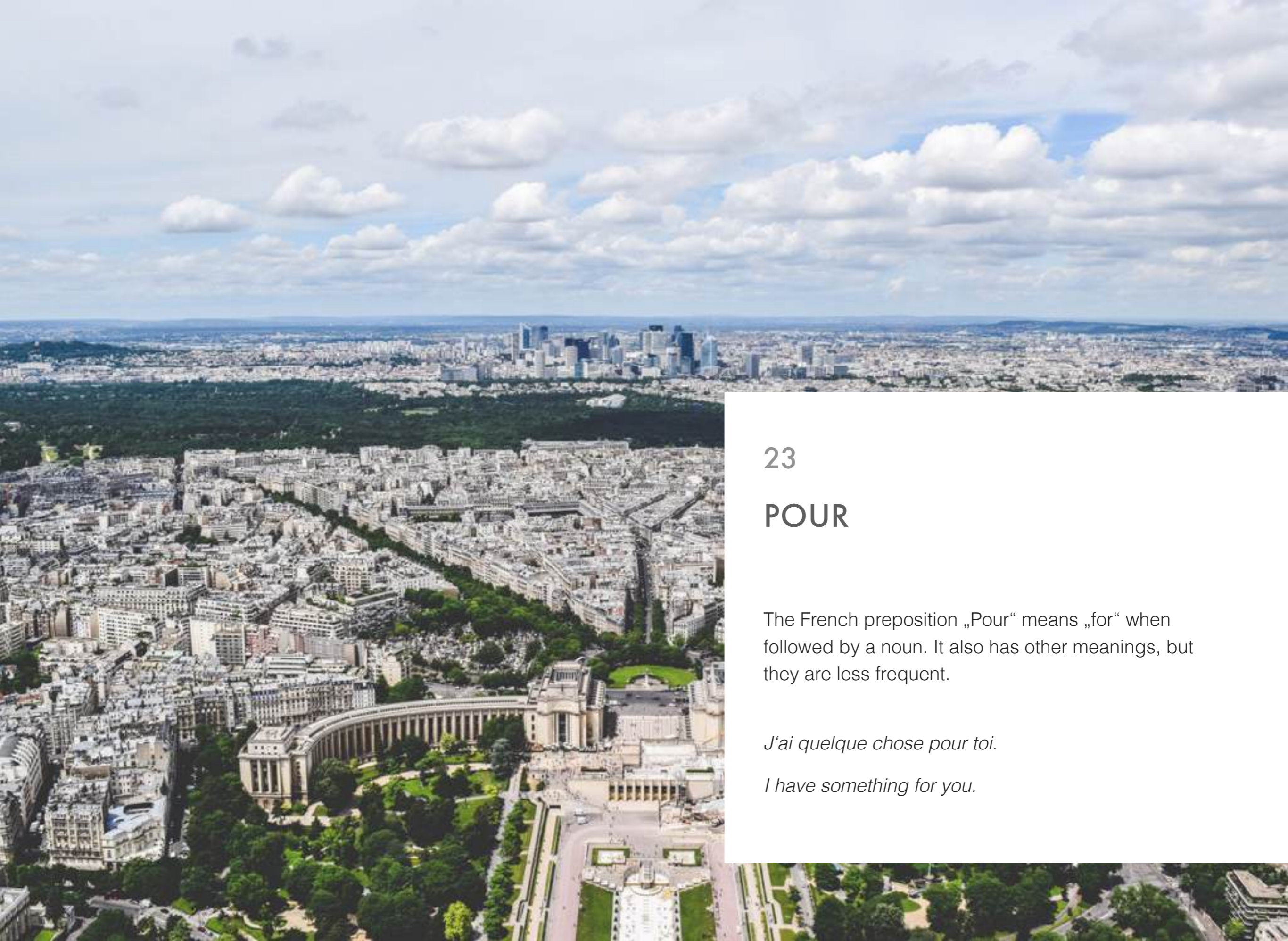
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AI

„Ai“ is the first person present form of „avoir „(to have) in the present tense.

J'ai faim.

I am hungry (lit: I have hunger).



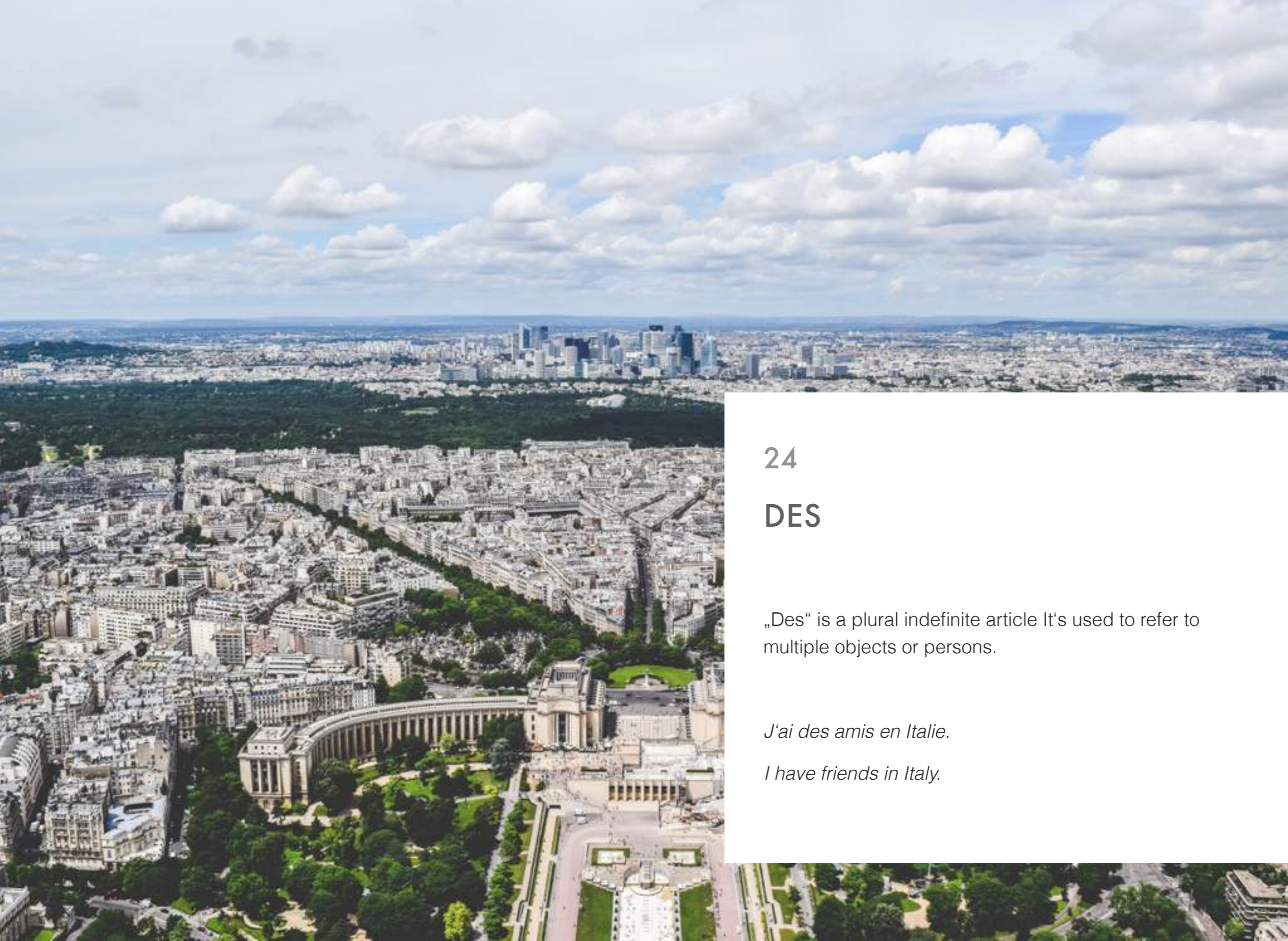
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POUR

The French preposition „Pour“ means „for“ when followed by a noun. It also has other meanings, but they are less frequent.

J'ai quelque chose pour toi.

I have something for you.



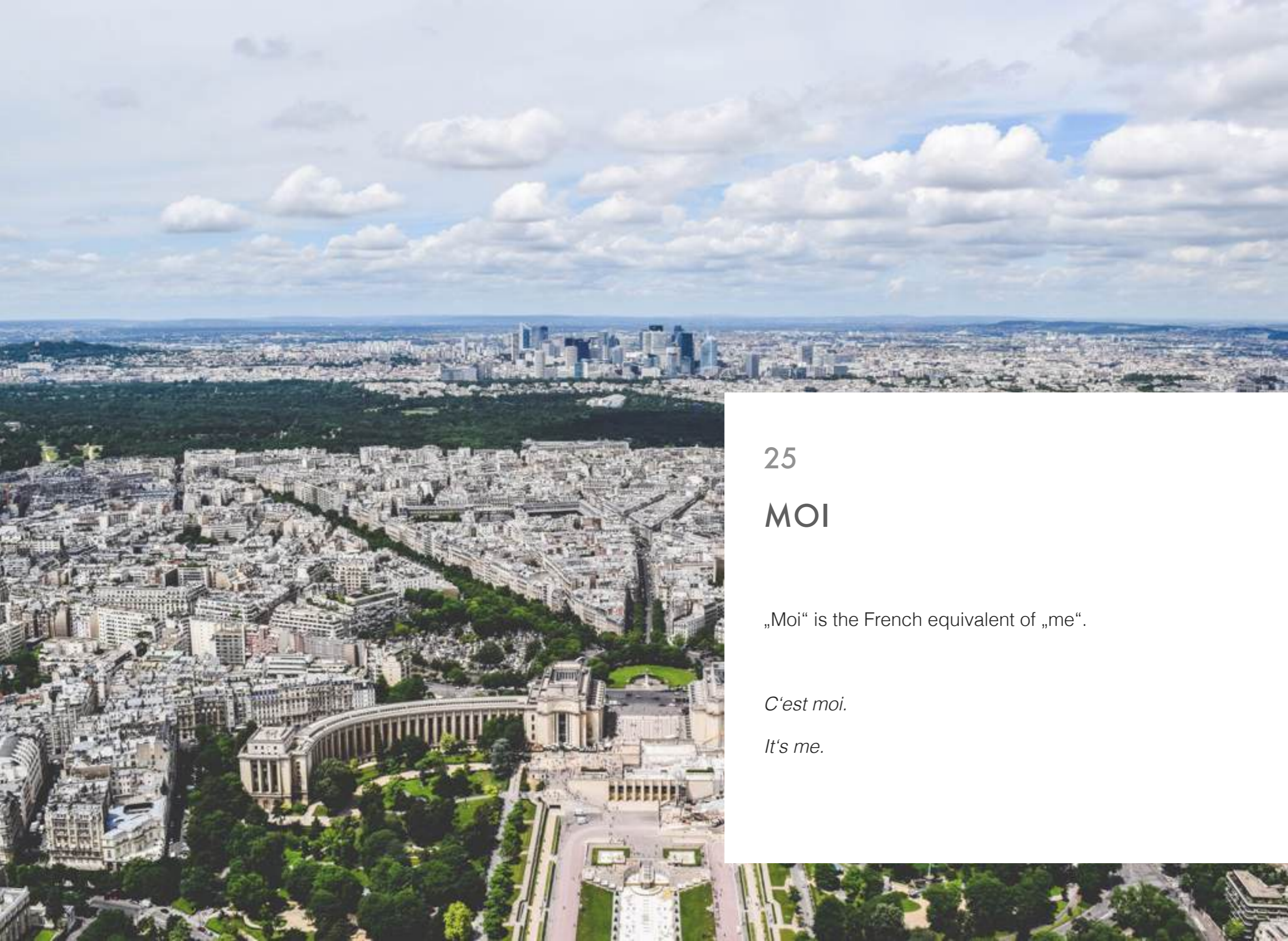
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DES

„Des“ is a plural indefinite article It's used to refer to multiple objects or persons.

J'ai des amis en Italie.

I have friends in Italy.



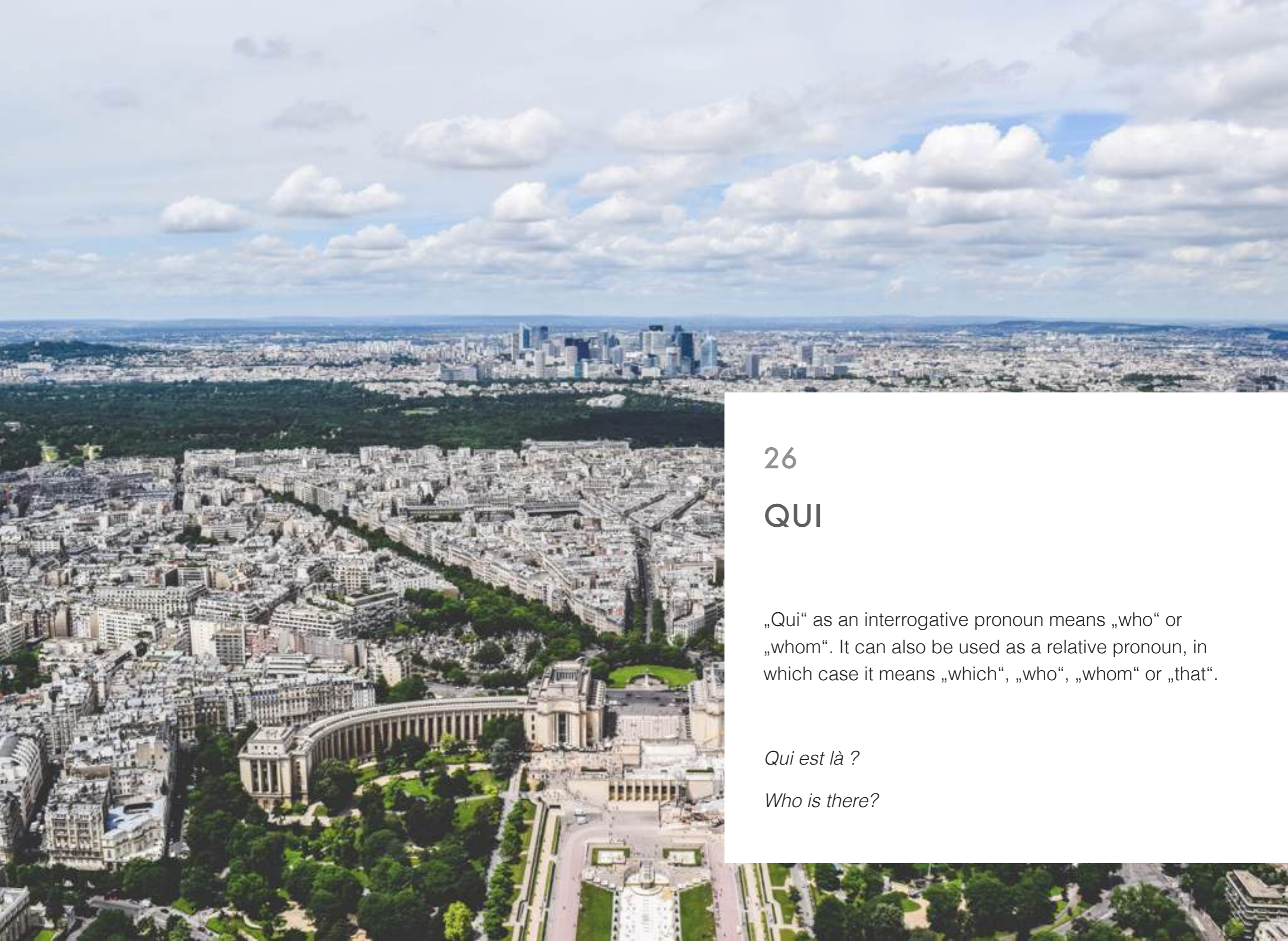
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MOI

„Moi“ is the French equivalent of „me“.

C'est moi.

It's me.



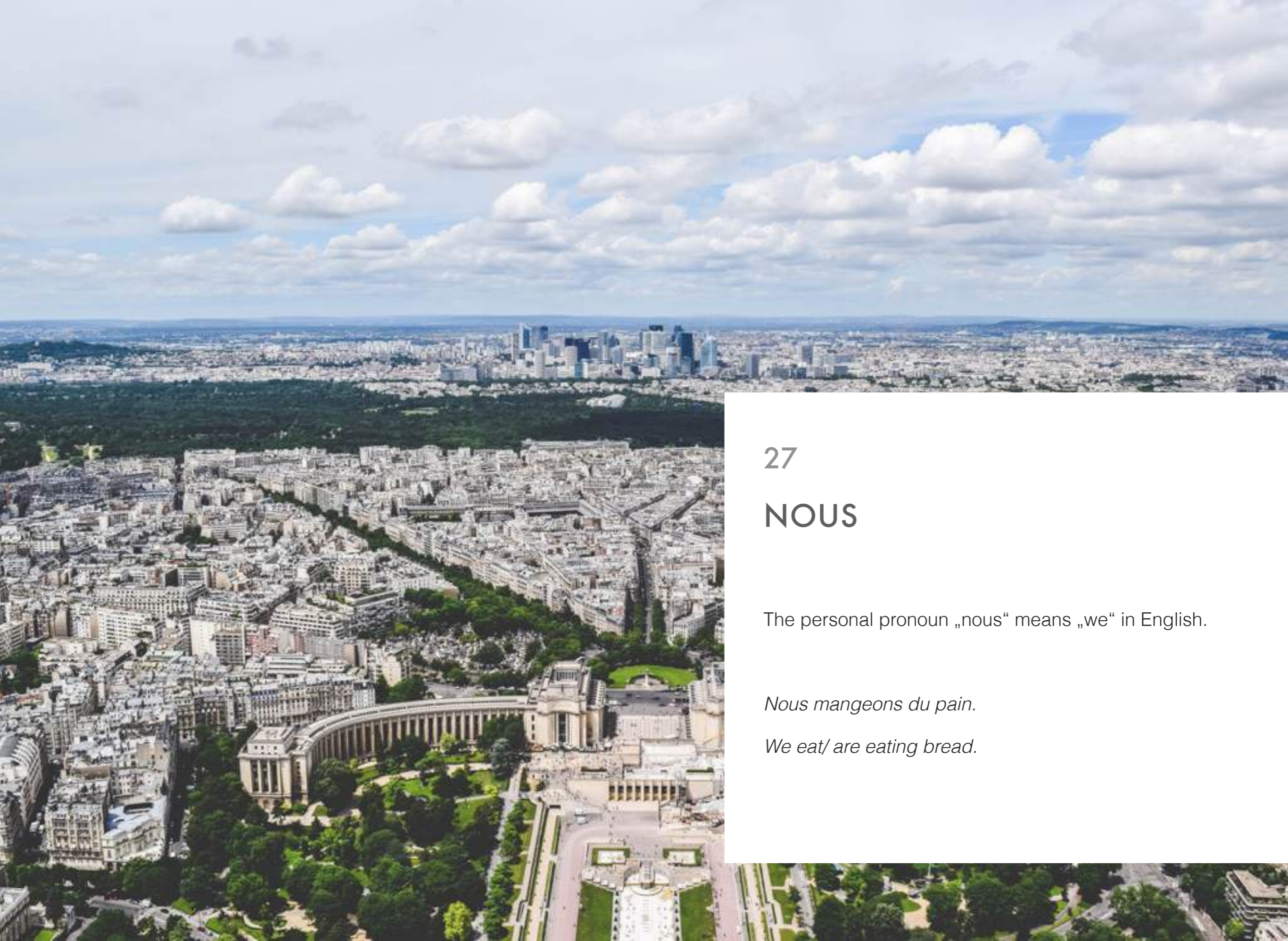
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QUI

„Qui“ as an interrogative pronoun means „who“ or „whom“. It can also be used as a relative pronoun, in which case it means „which“, „who“, „whom“ or „that“.

Qui est là ?

Who is there?



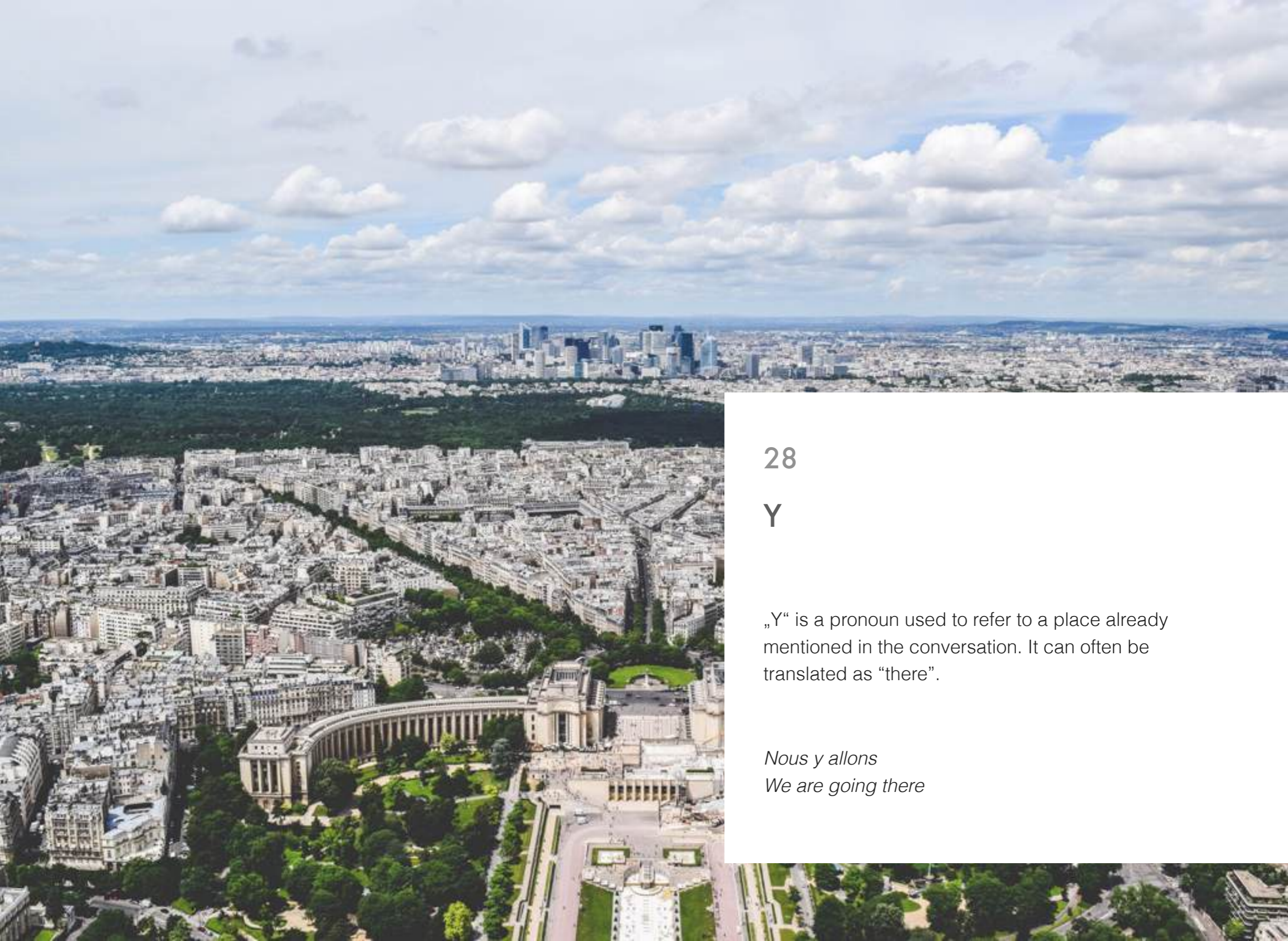
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NOUS

The personal pronoun „nous“ means „we“ in English.

Nous mangeons du pain.

We eat/ are eating bread.

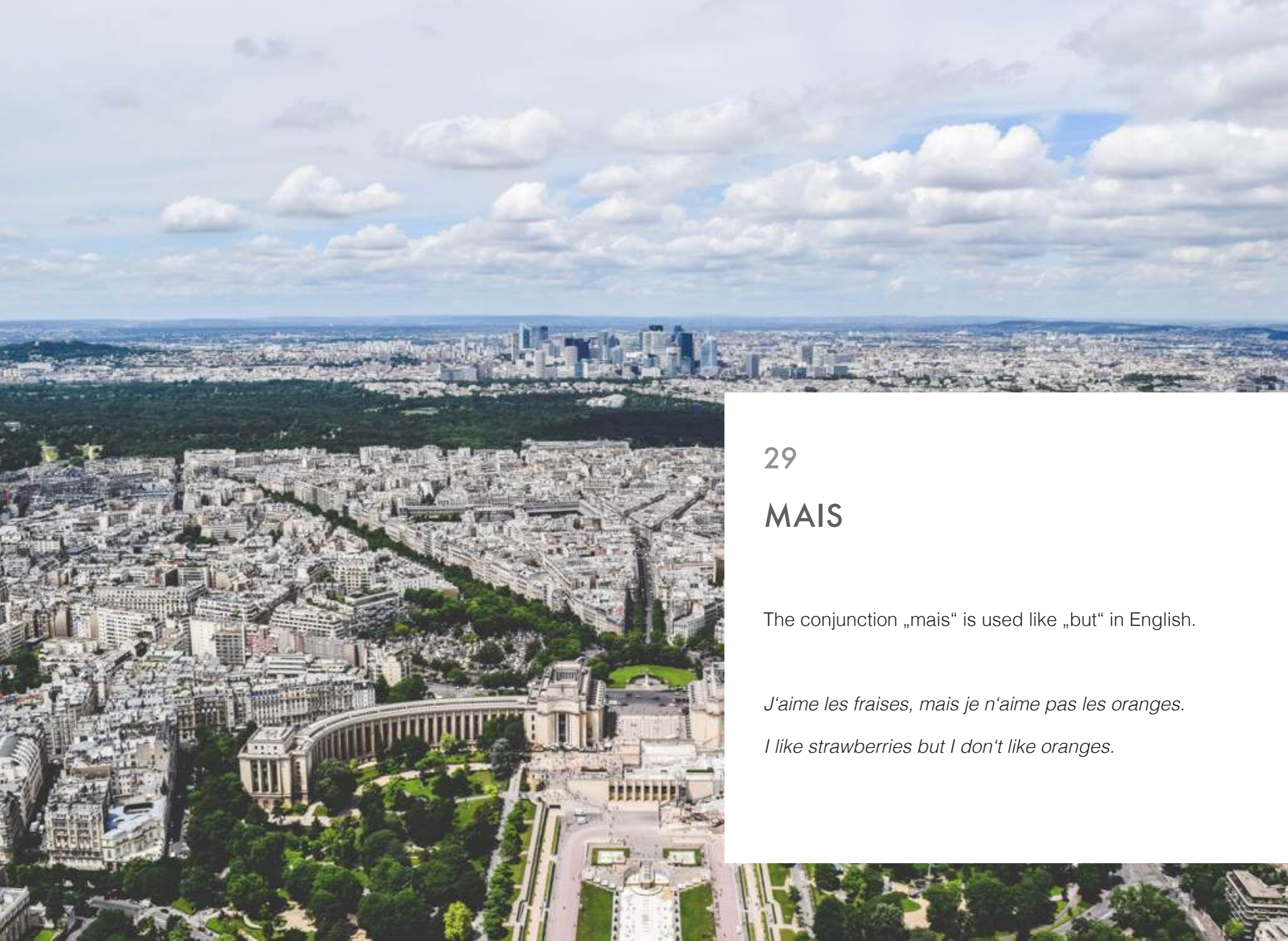


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Y

„Y“ is a pronoun used to refer to a place already mentioned in the conversation. It can often be translated as “there”.

Nous y allons
We are going there



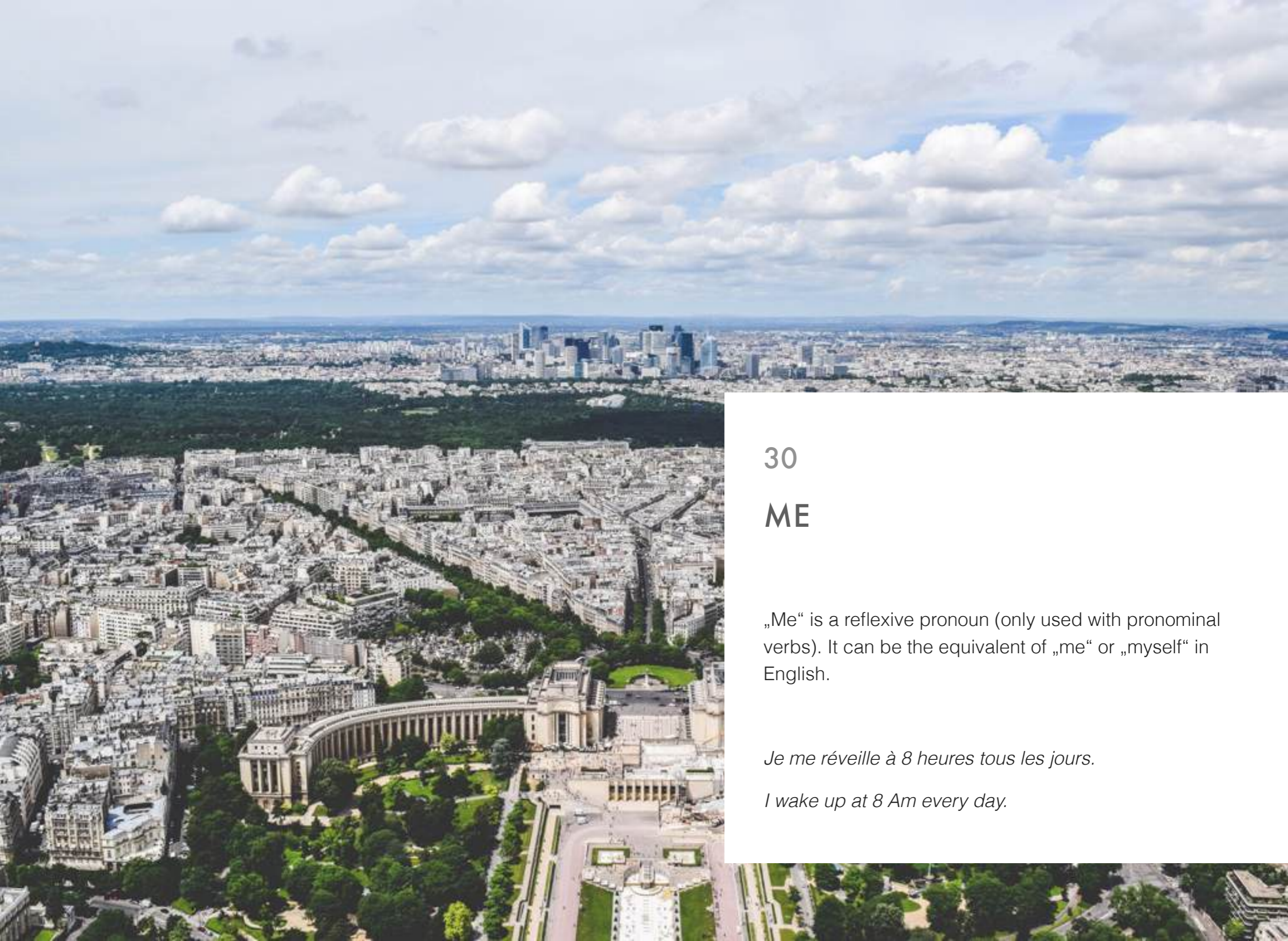
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MAIS

The conjunction „mais“ is used like „but“ in English.

J'aime les fraises, mais je n'aime pas les oranges.

I like strawberries but I don't like oranges.



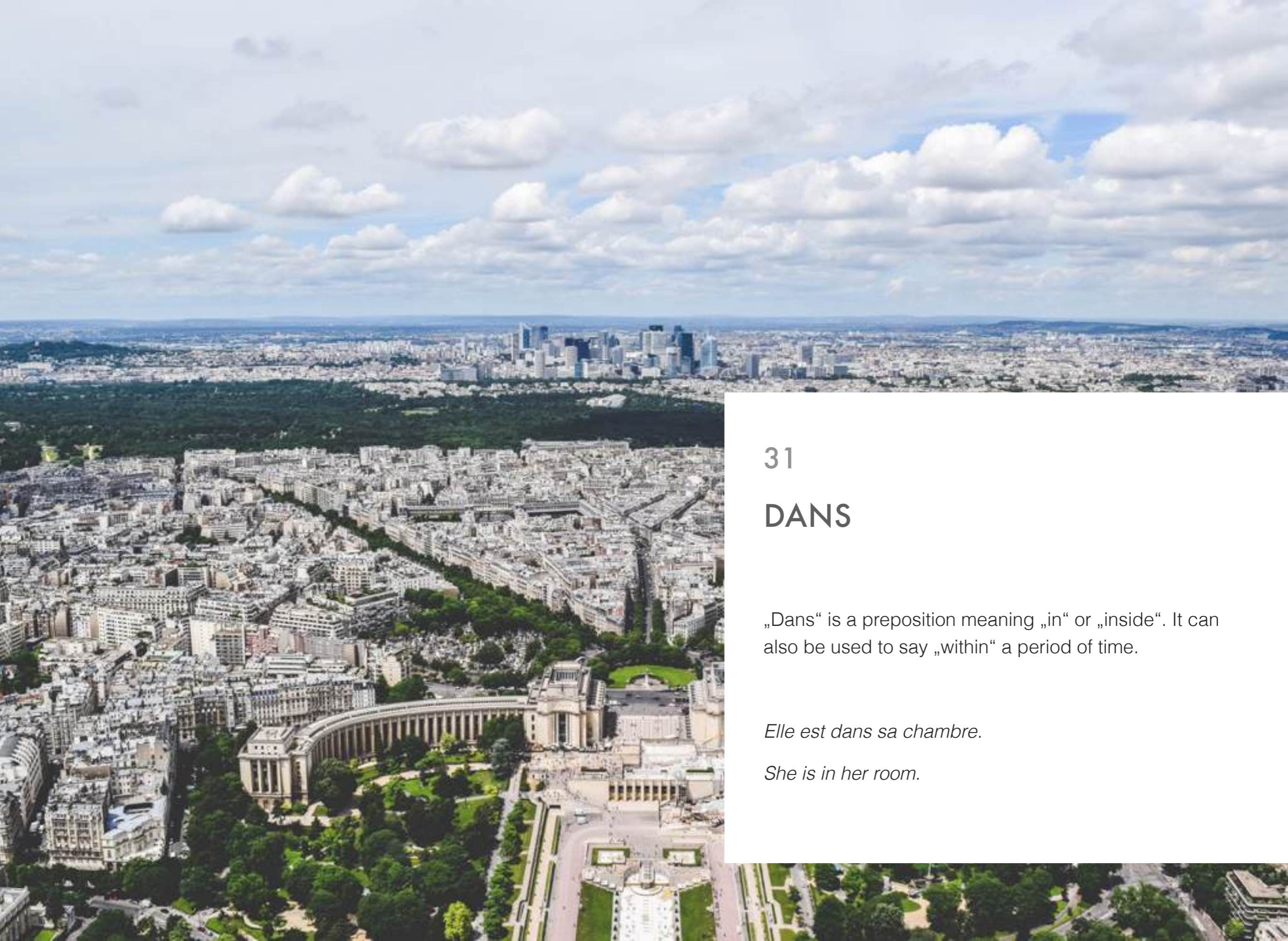
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ME

„Me“ is a reflexive pronoun (only used with pronominal verbs). It can be the equivalent of „me“ or „myself“ in English.

Je me réveille à 8 heures tous les jours.

I wake up at 8 Am every day.



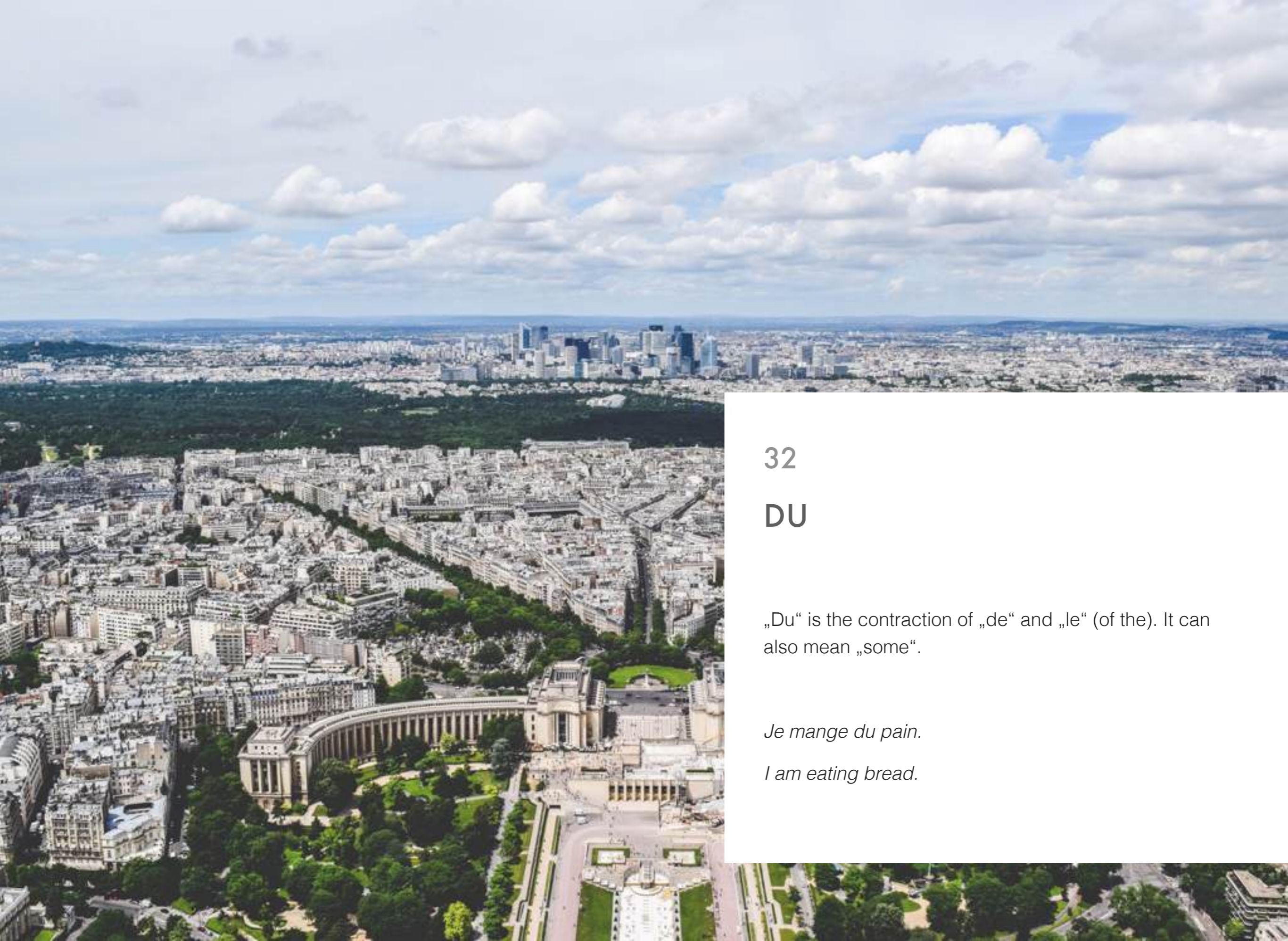
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DANS

„Dans“ is a preposition meaning „in“ or „inside“. It can also be used to say „within“ a period of time.

Elle est dans sa chambre.

She is in her room.



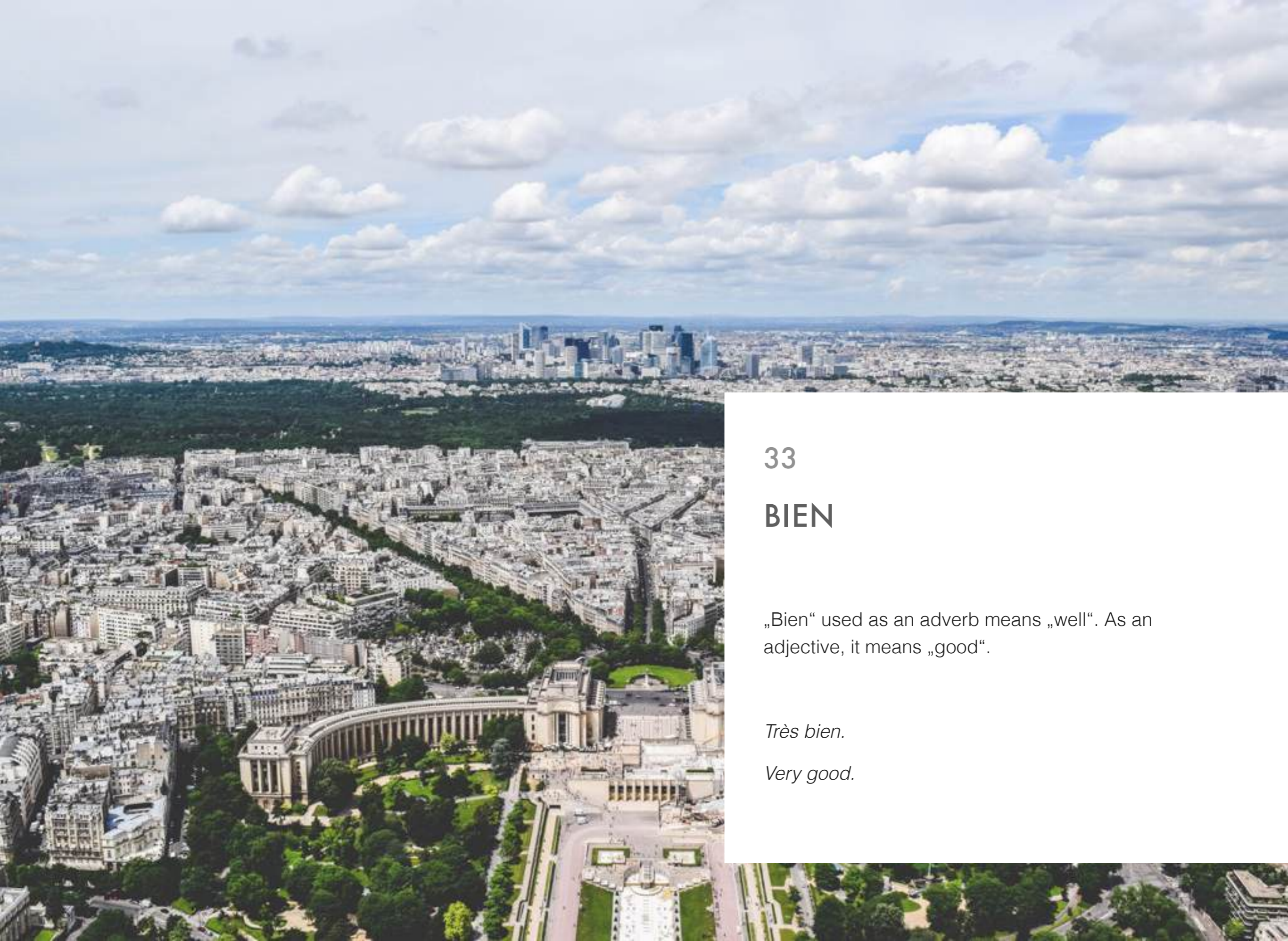
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DU

„Du“ is the contraction of „de“ and „le“ (of the). It can also mean „some“.

Je mange du pain.

I am eating bread.



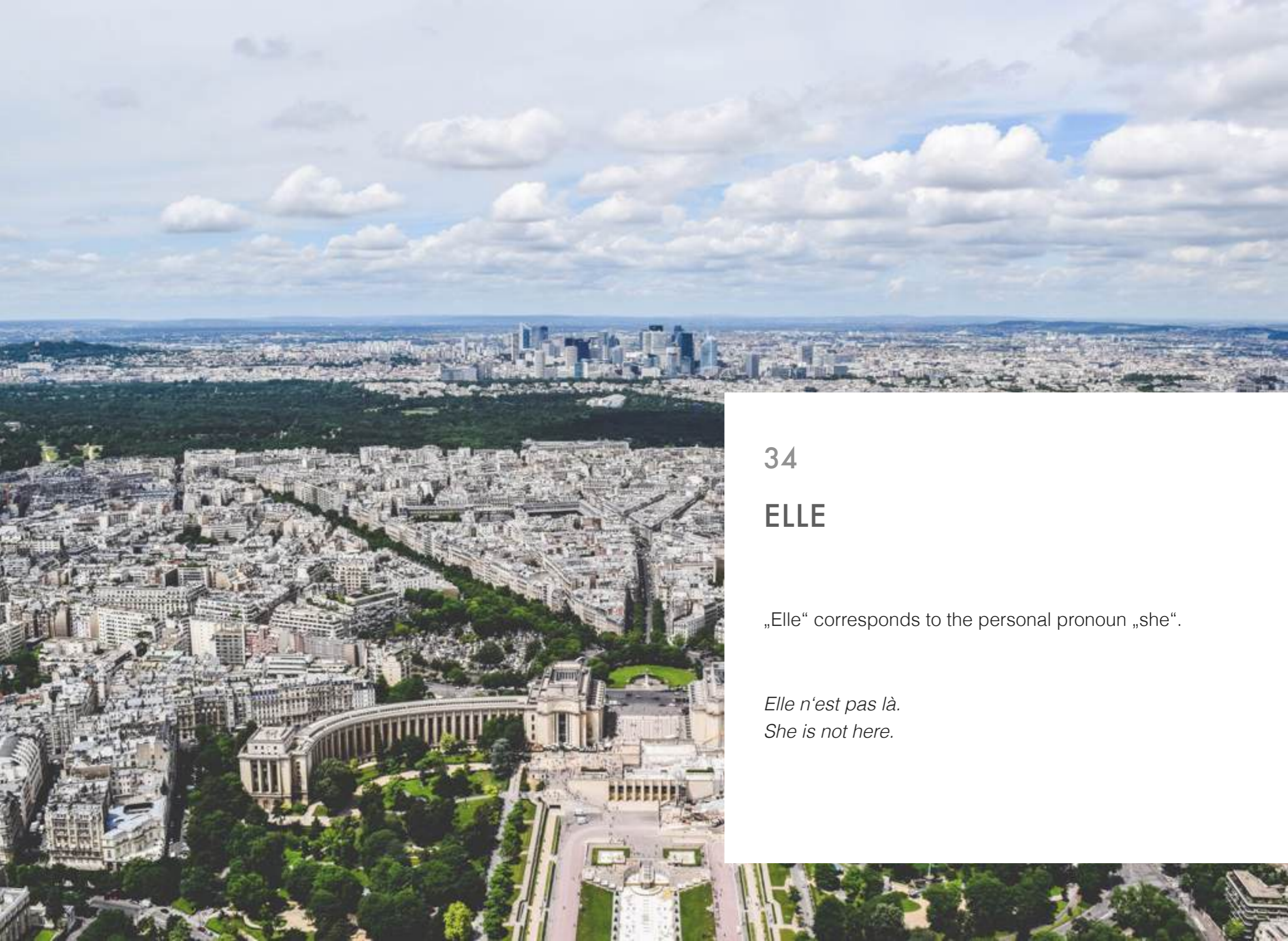
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BIEN

„Bien“ used as an adverb means „well“. As an adjective, it means „good“.

Très bien.

Very good.

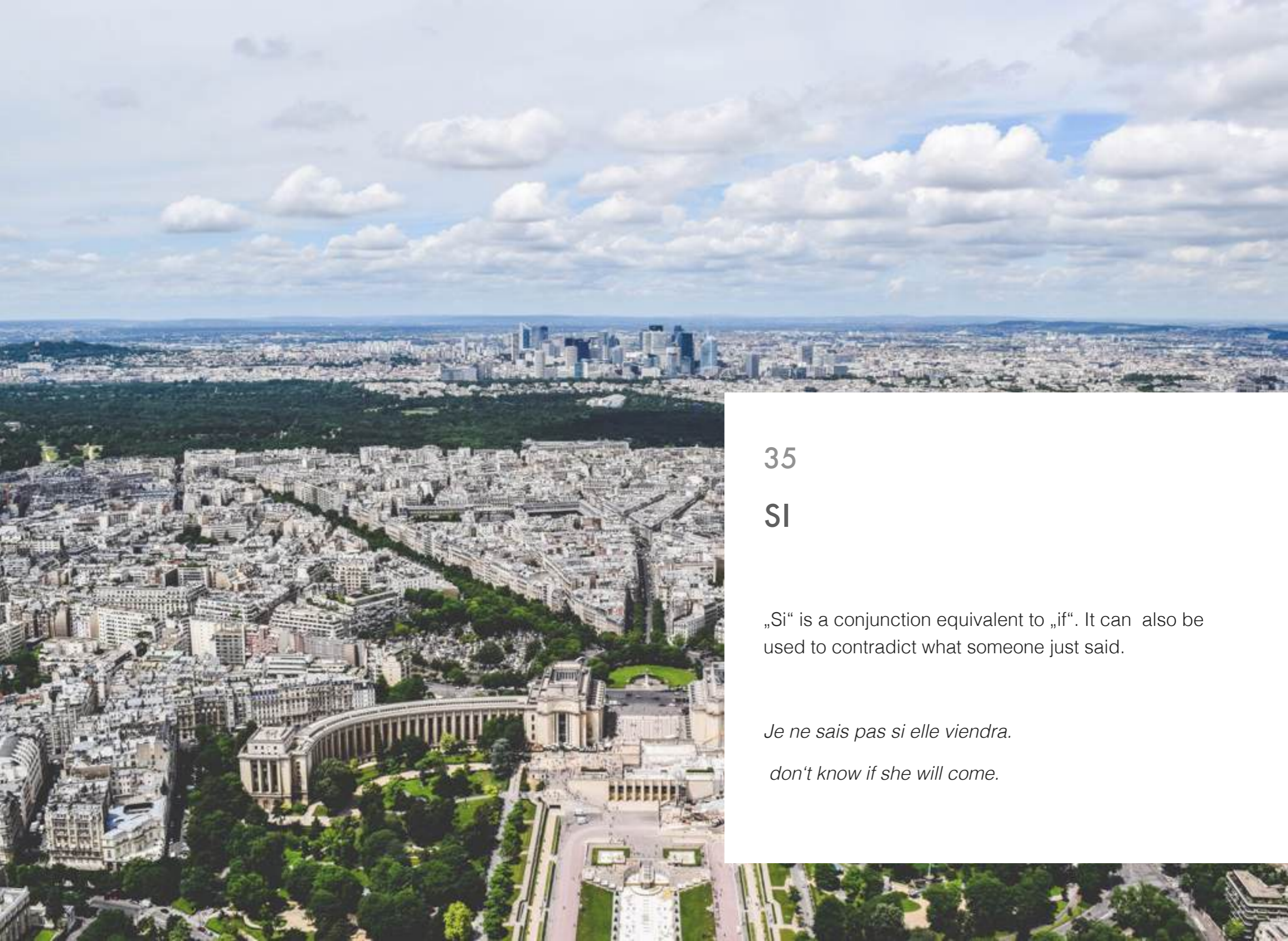


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ELLE

„Elle“ corresponds to the personal pronoun „she“.

*Elle n'est pas là.
She is not here.*



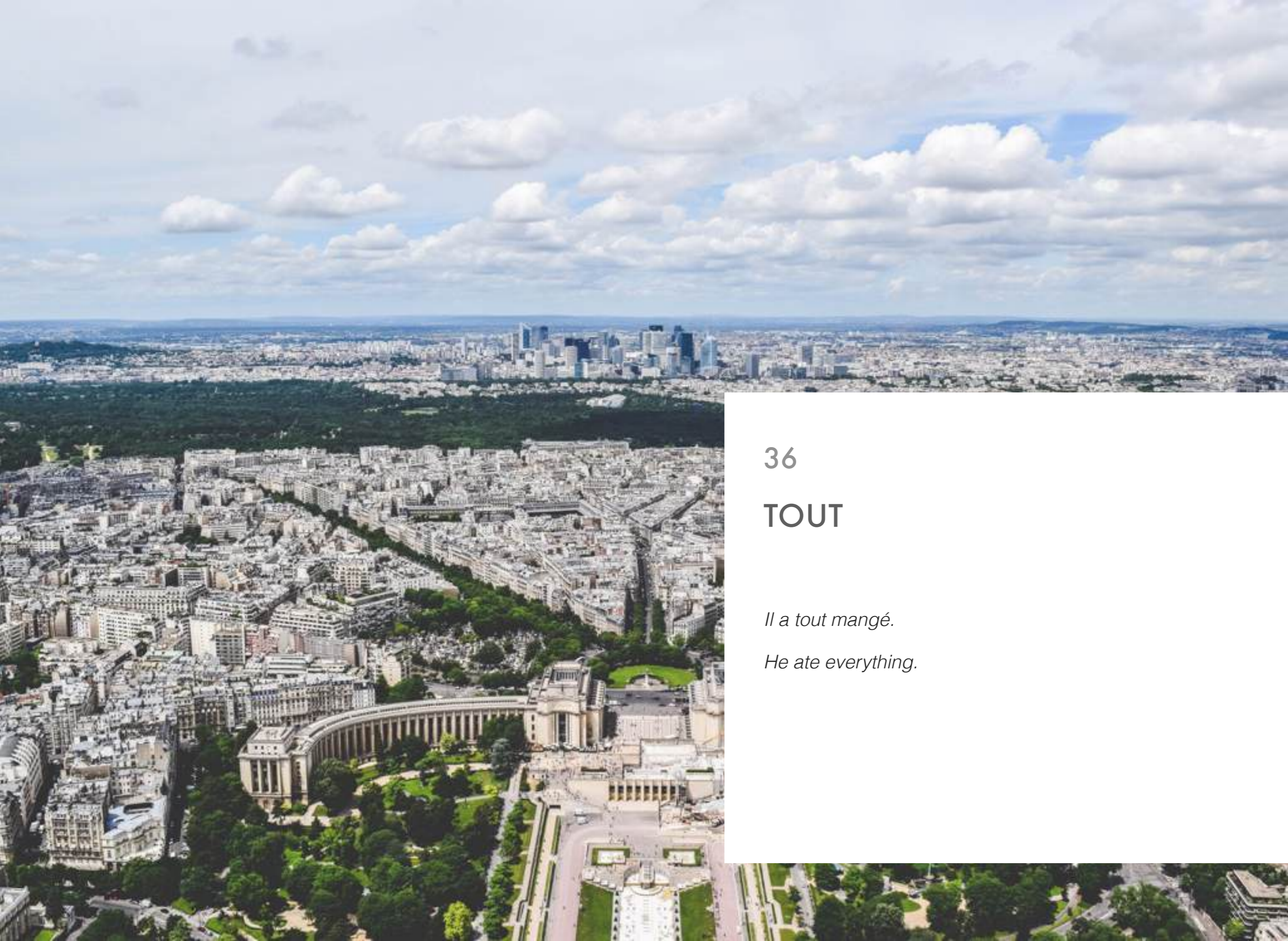
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SI

„Si“ is a conjunction equivalent to „if“. It can also be used to contradict what someone just said.

Je ne sais pas si elle viendra.

don't know if she will come.

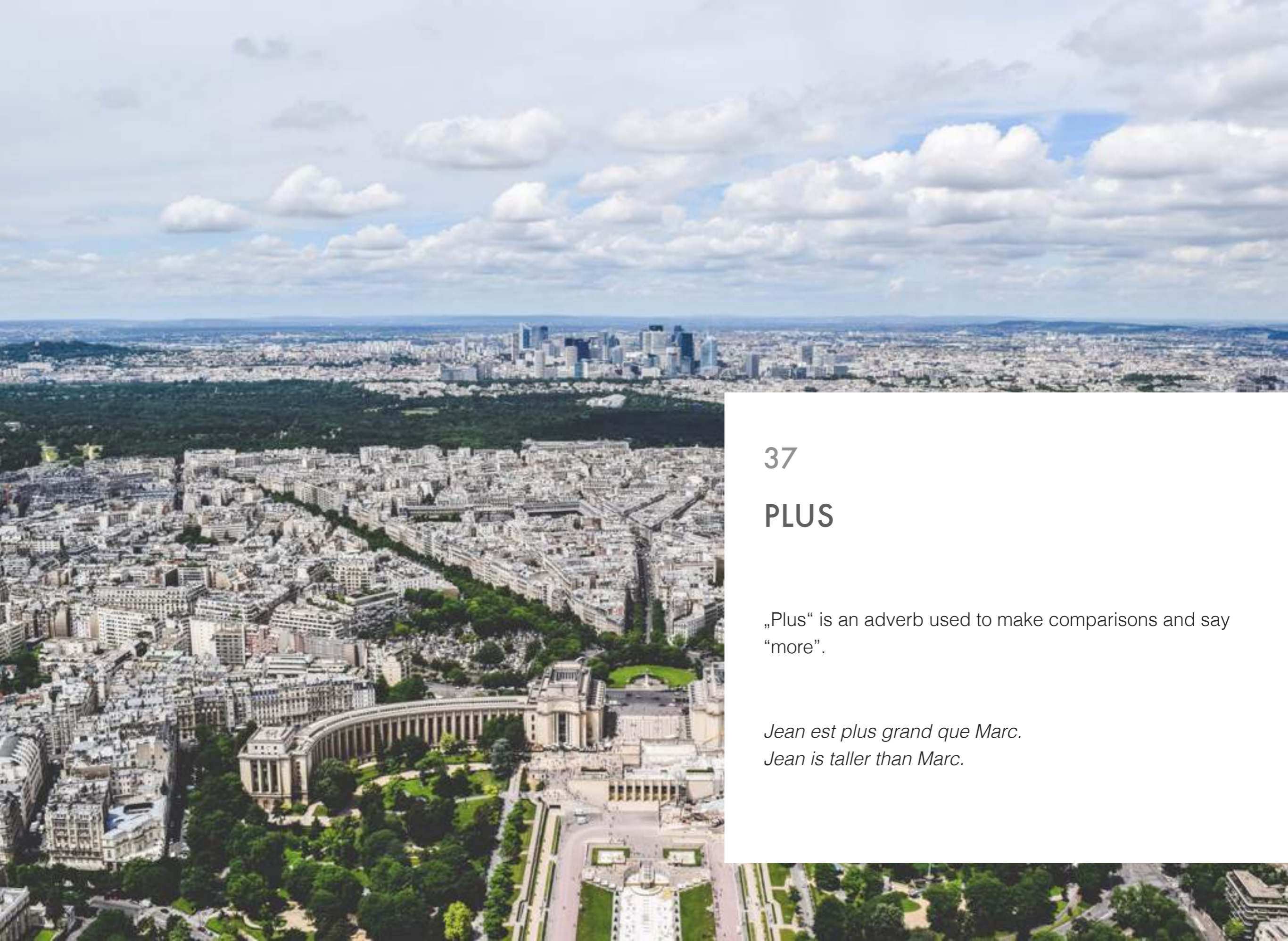


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TOUT

Il a tout mangé.

He ate everything.

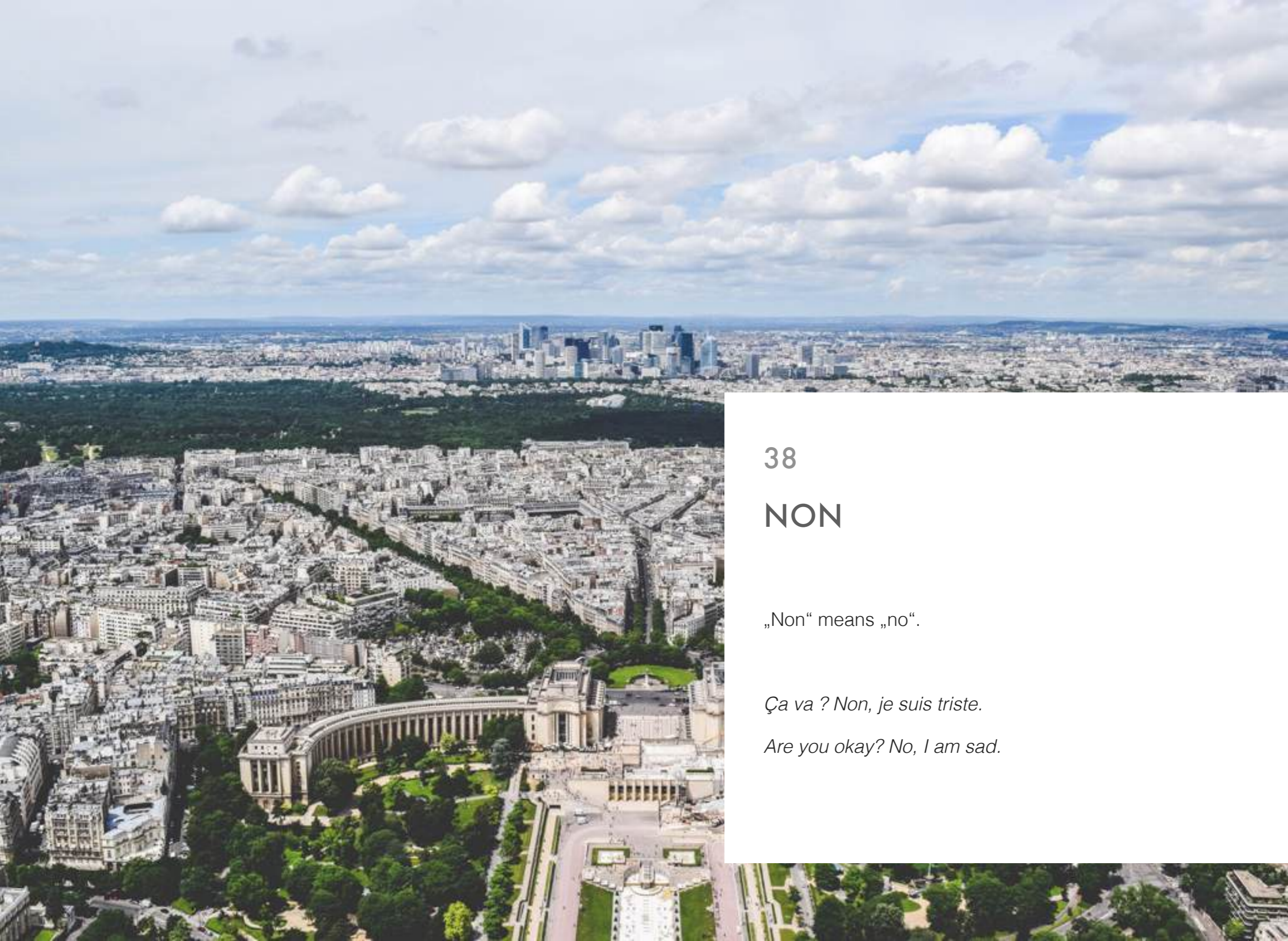


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PLUS

„Plus“ is an adverb used to make comparisons and say “more”.

*Jean est plus grand que Marc.
Jean is taller than Marc.*



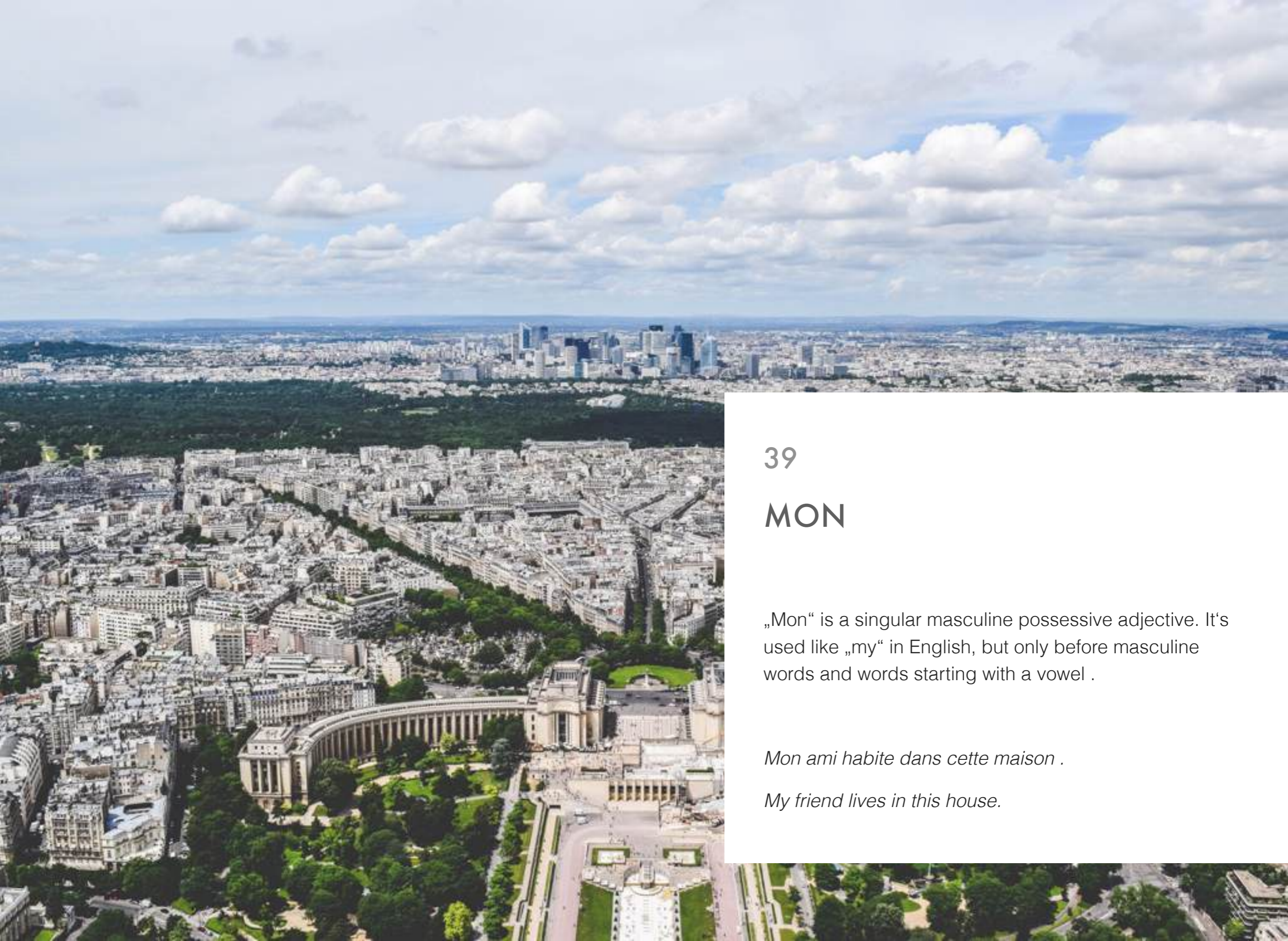
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NON

„Non“ means „no“.

Ça va ? Non, je suis triste.

Are you okay? No, I am sad.



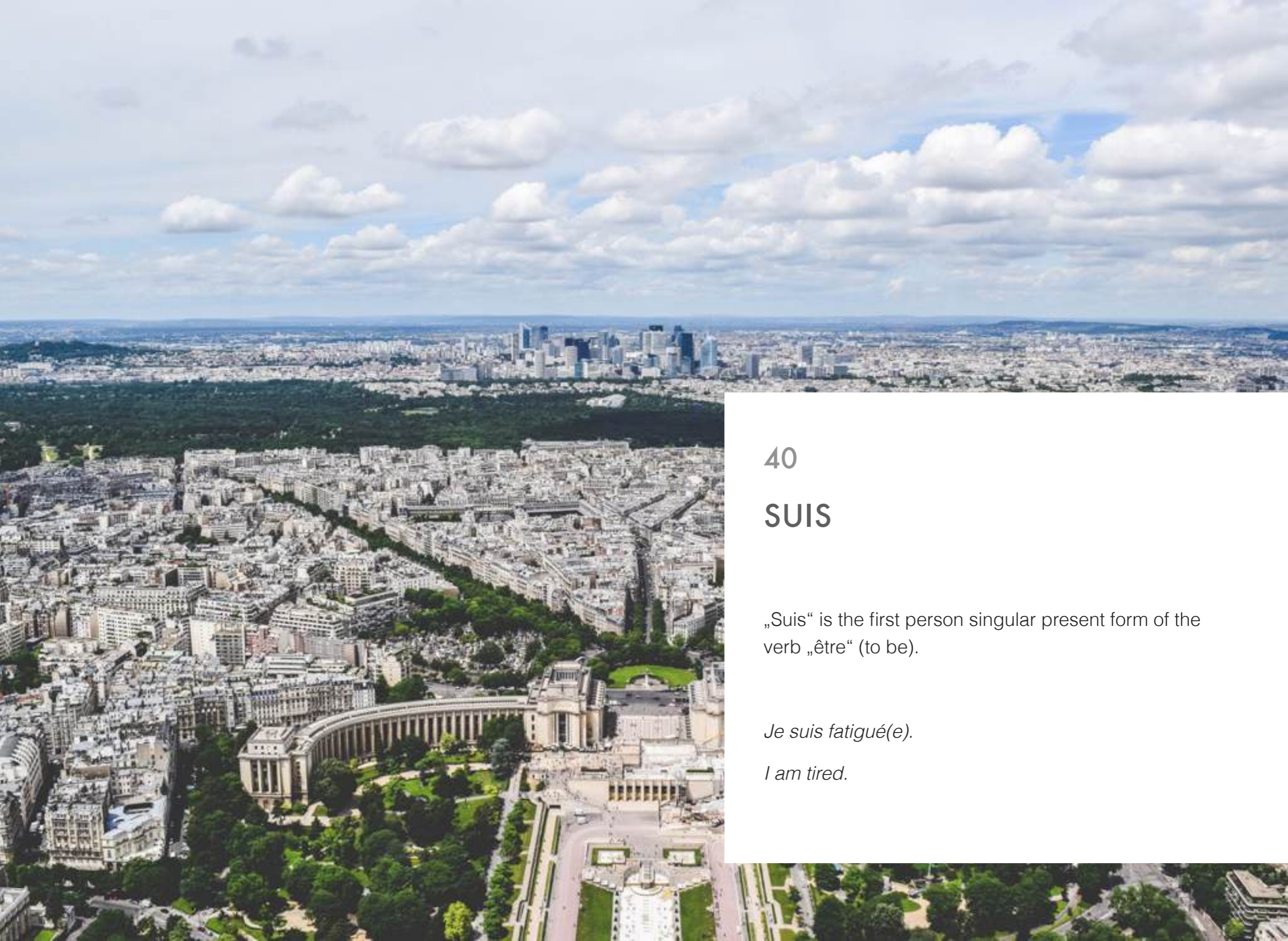
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MON

„Mon“ is a singular masculine possessive adjective. It's used like „my“ in English, but only before masculine words and words starting with a vowel .

Mon ami habite dans cette maison .

My friend lives in this house.



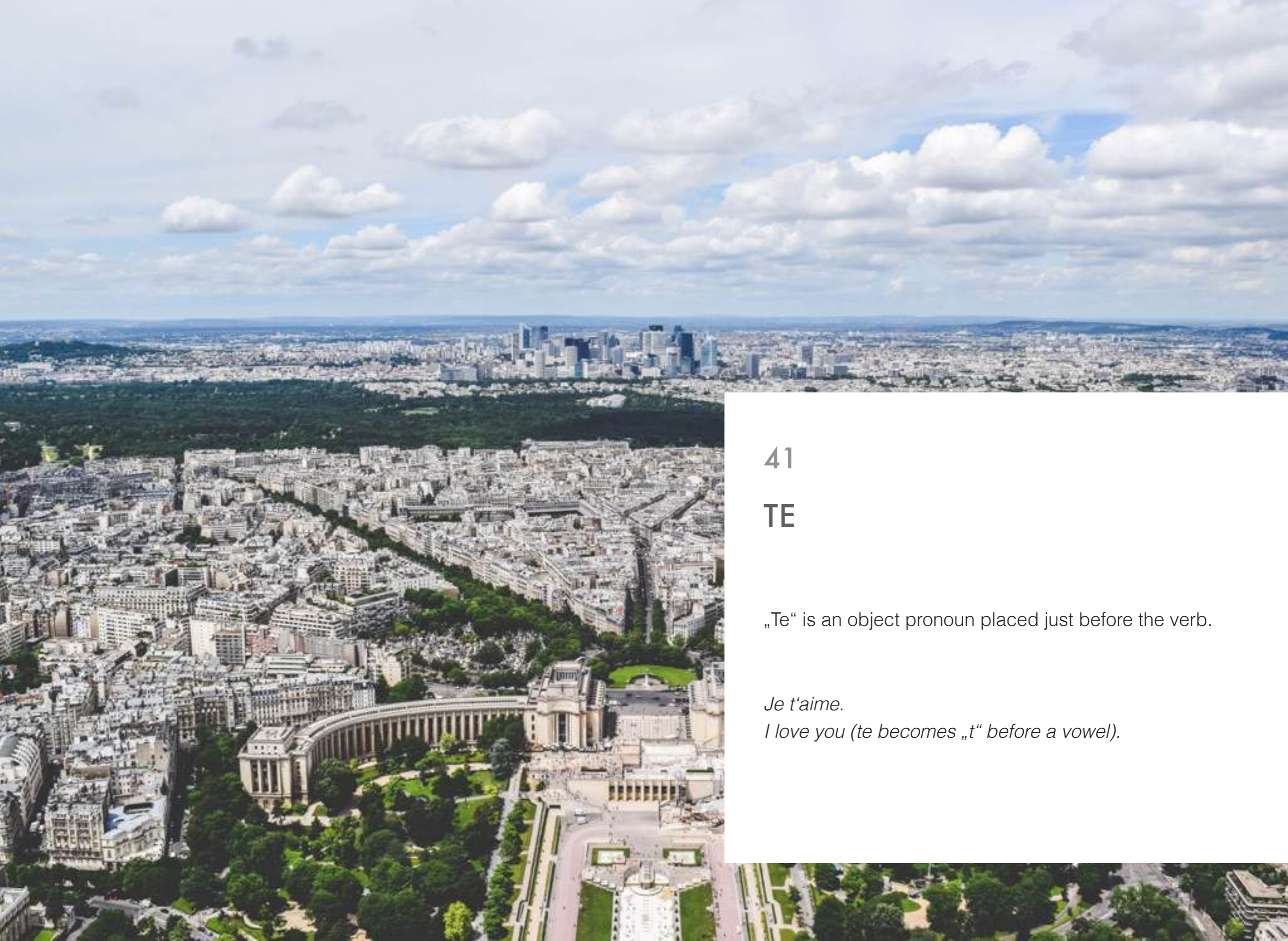
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SUIS

„Suis“ is the first person singular present form of the verb „être“ (to be).

Je suis fatigué(e).

I am tired.



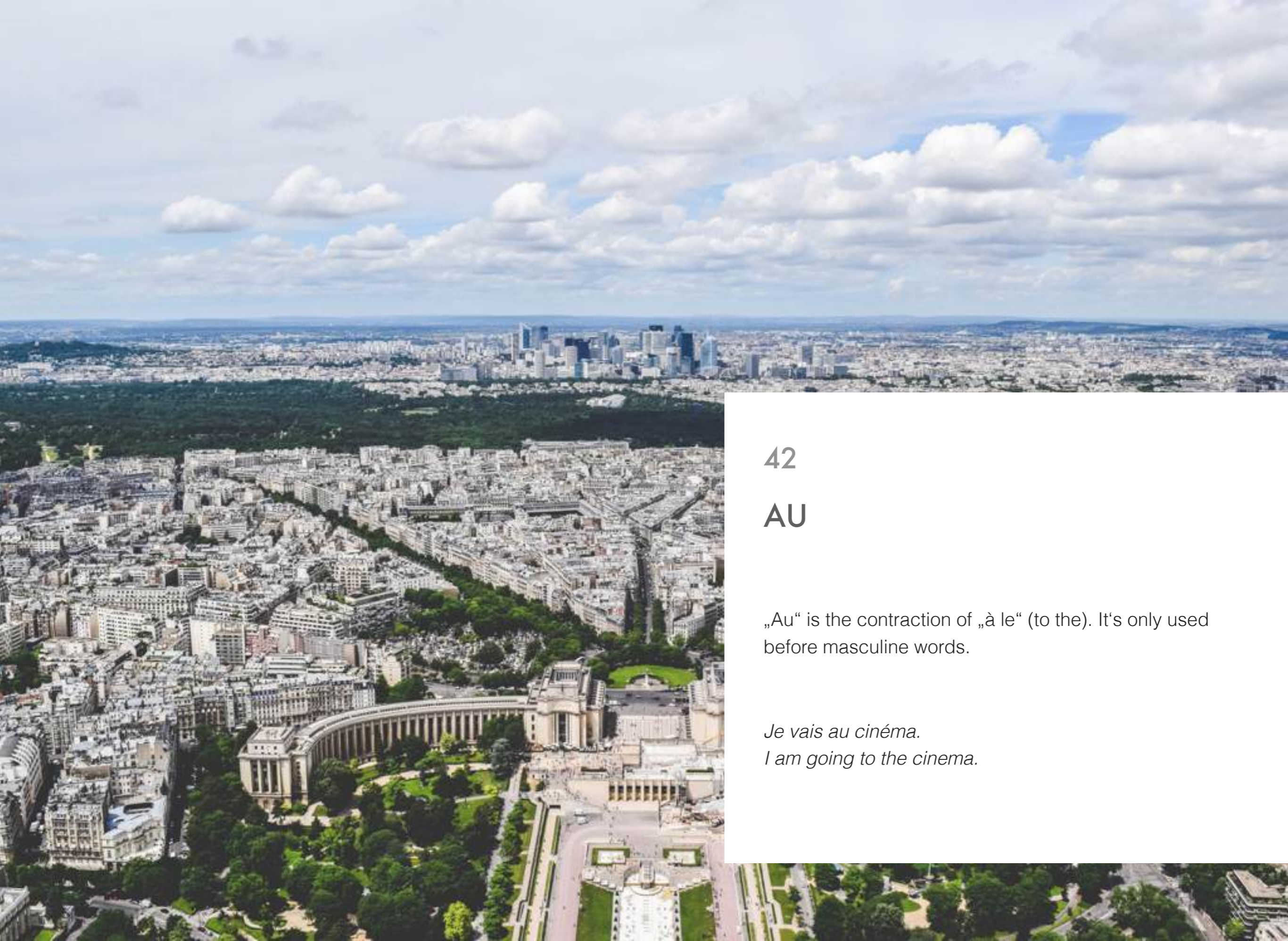
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TE

„Te“ is an object pronoun placed just before the verb.

Je t'aime.

I love you (te becomes „t“ before a vowel).

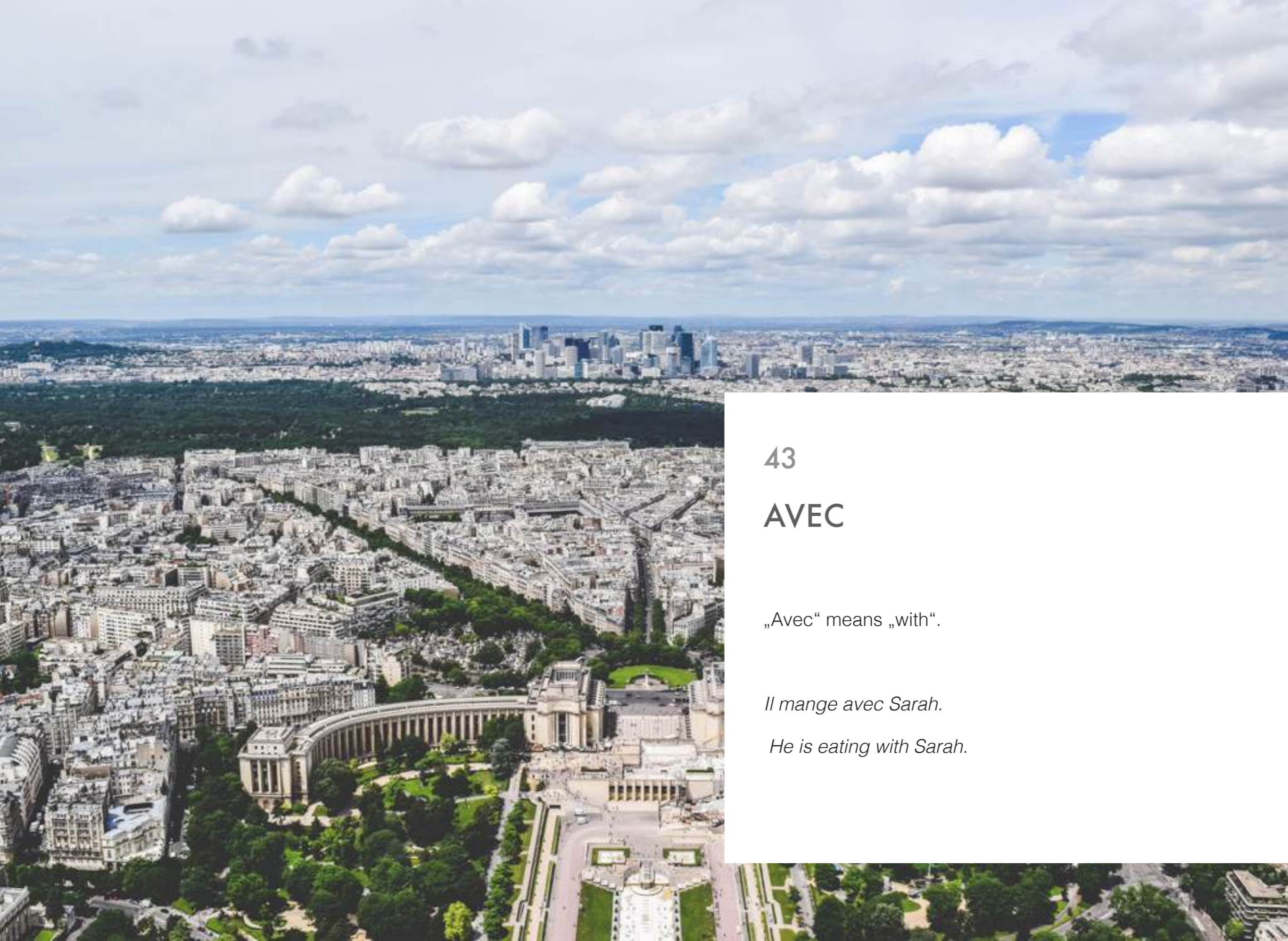


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AU

„Au“ is the contraction of „à le“ (to the). It's only used before masculine words.

*Je vais au cinéma.
I am going to the cinema.*



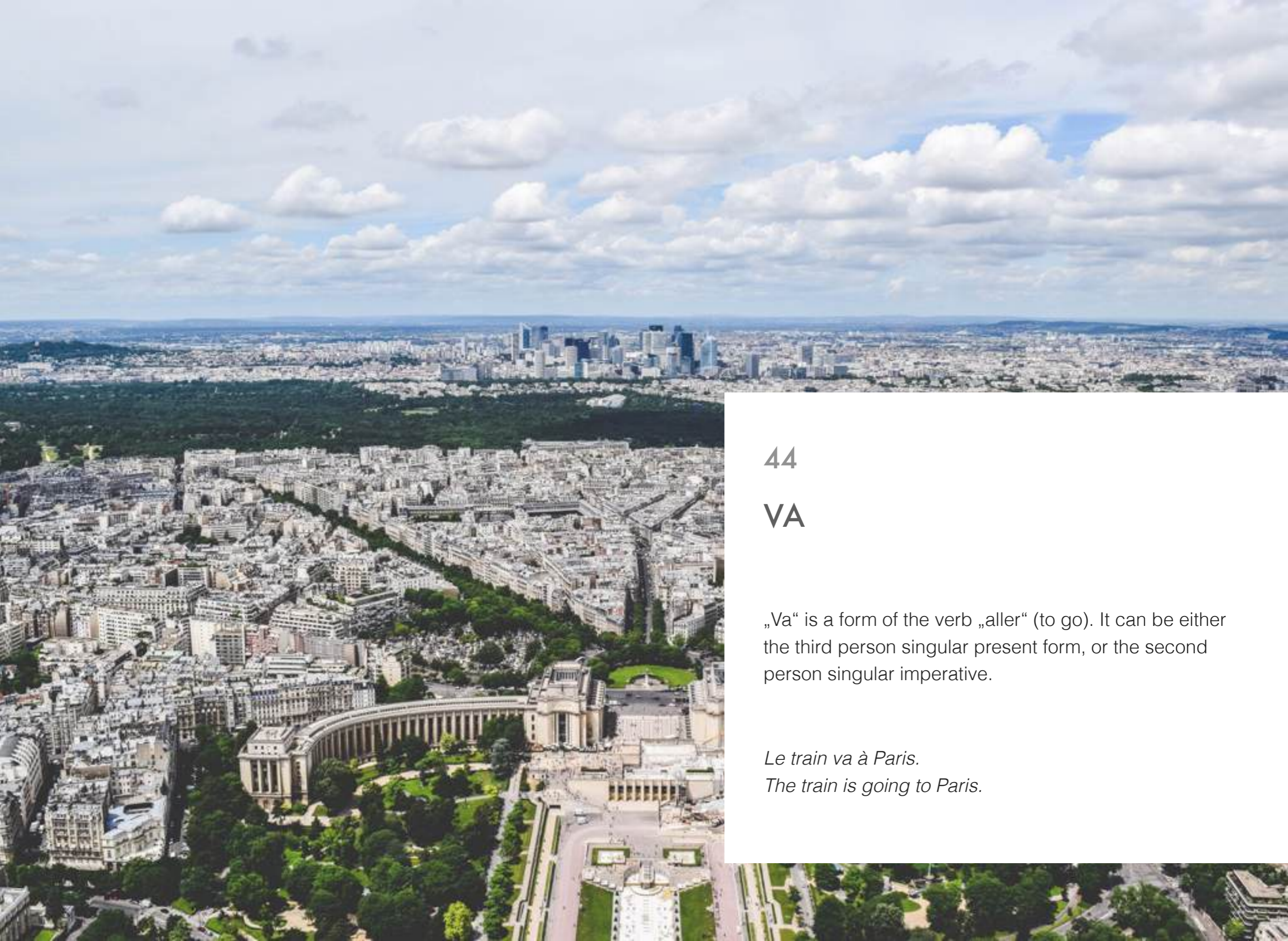
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AVEC

„Avec“ means „with“.

Il mange avec Sarah.

He is eating with Sarah.



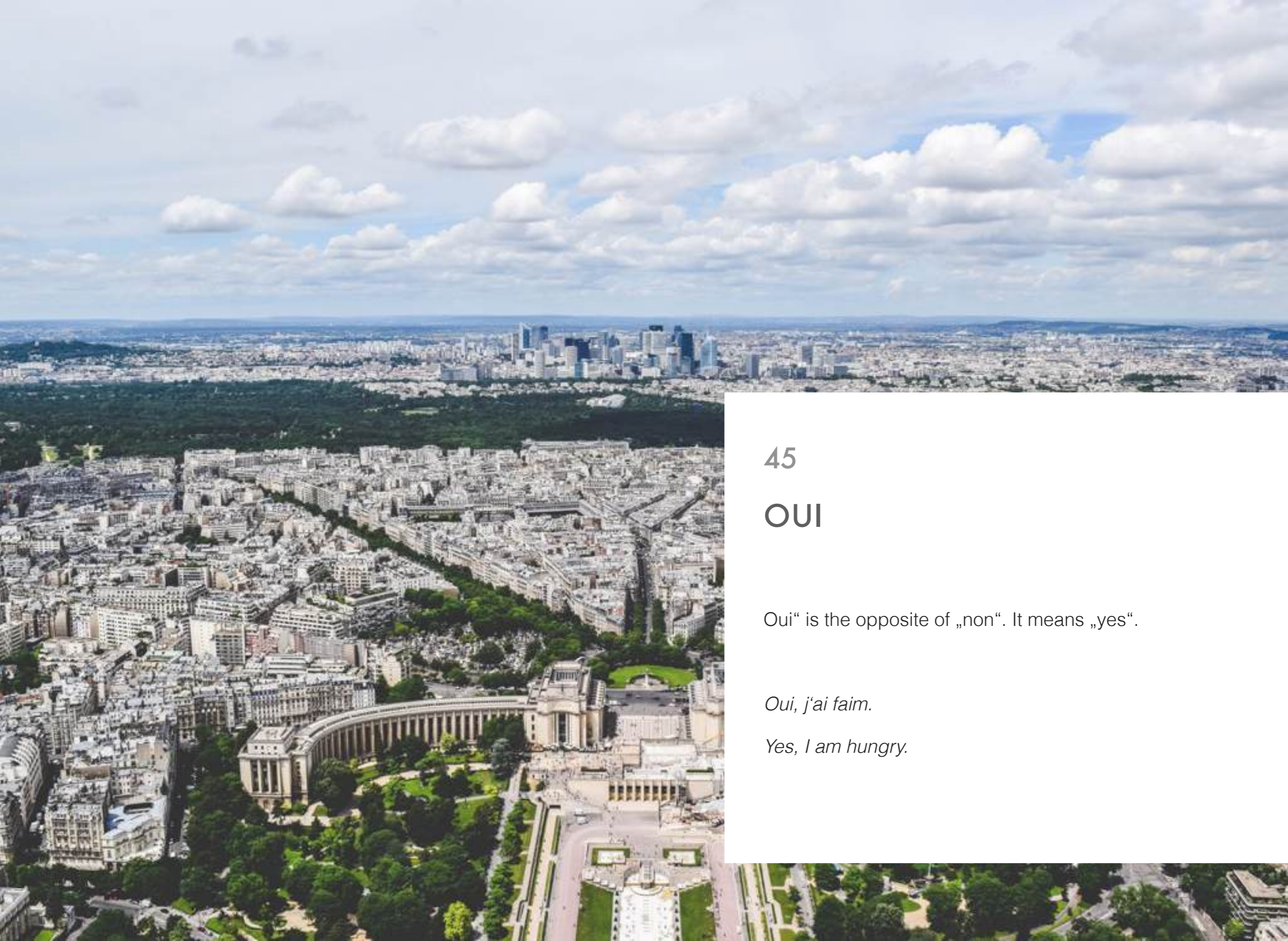
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VA

„Va“ is a form of the verb „aller“ (to go). It can be either the third person singular present form, or the second person singular imperative.

Le train va à Paris.

The train is going to Paris.



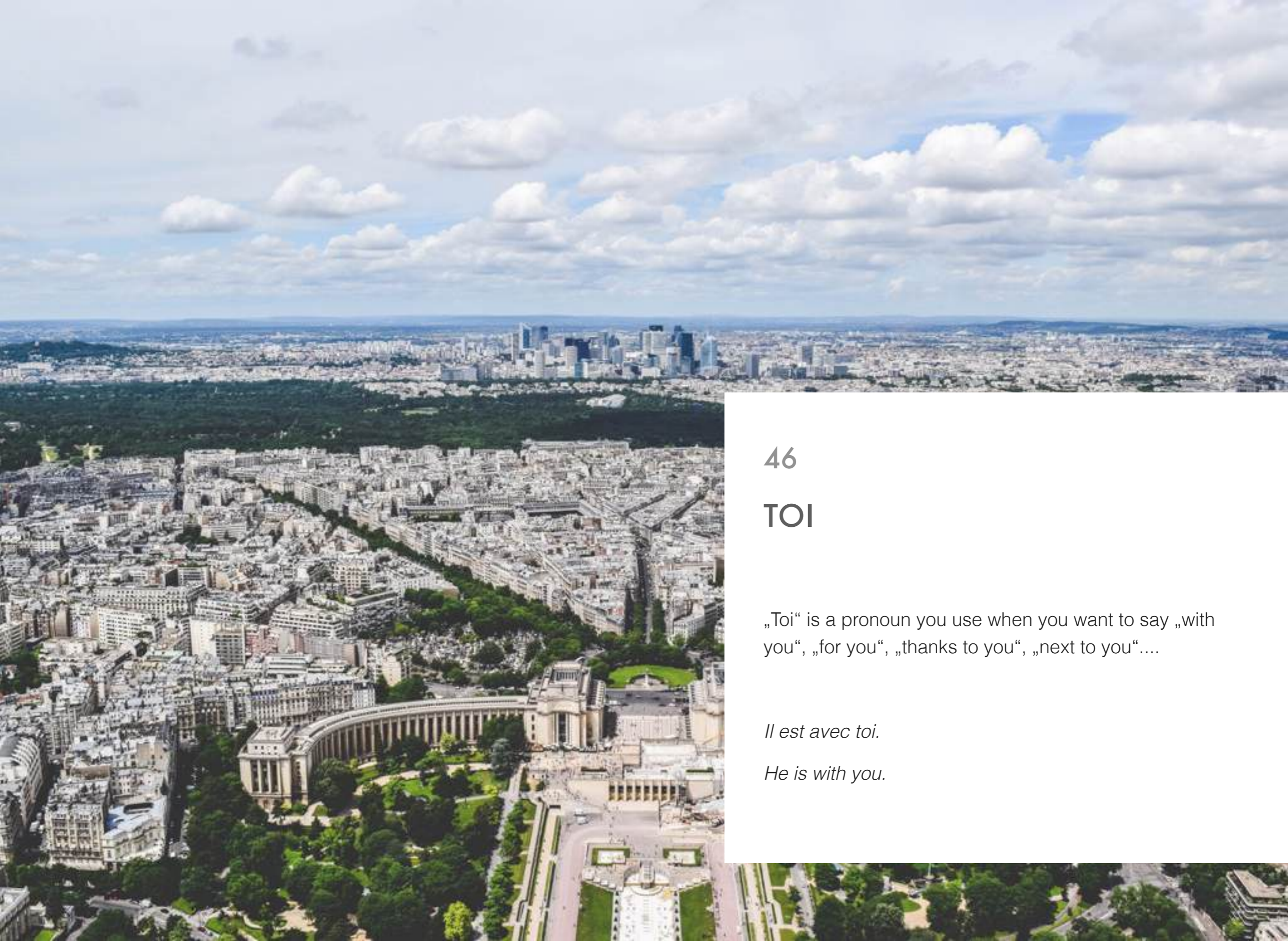
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OUI

Oui“ is the opposite of „non“. It means „yes“.

Oui, j'ai faim.

Yes, I am hungry.



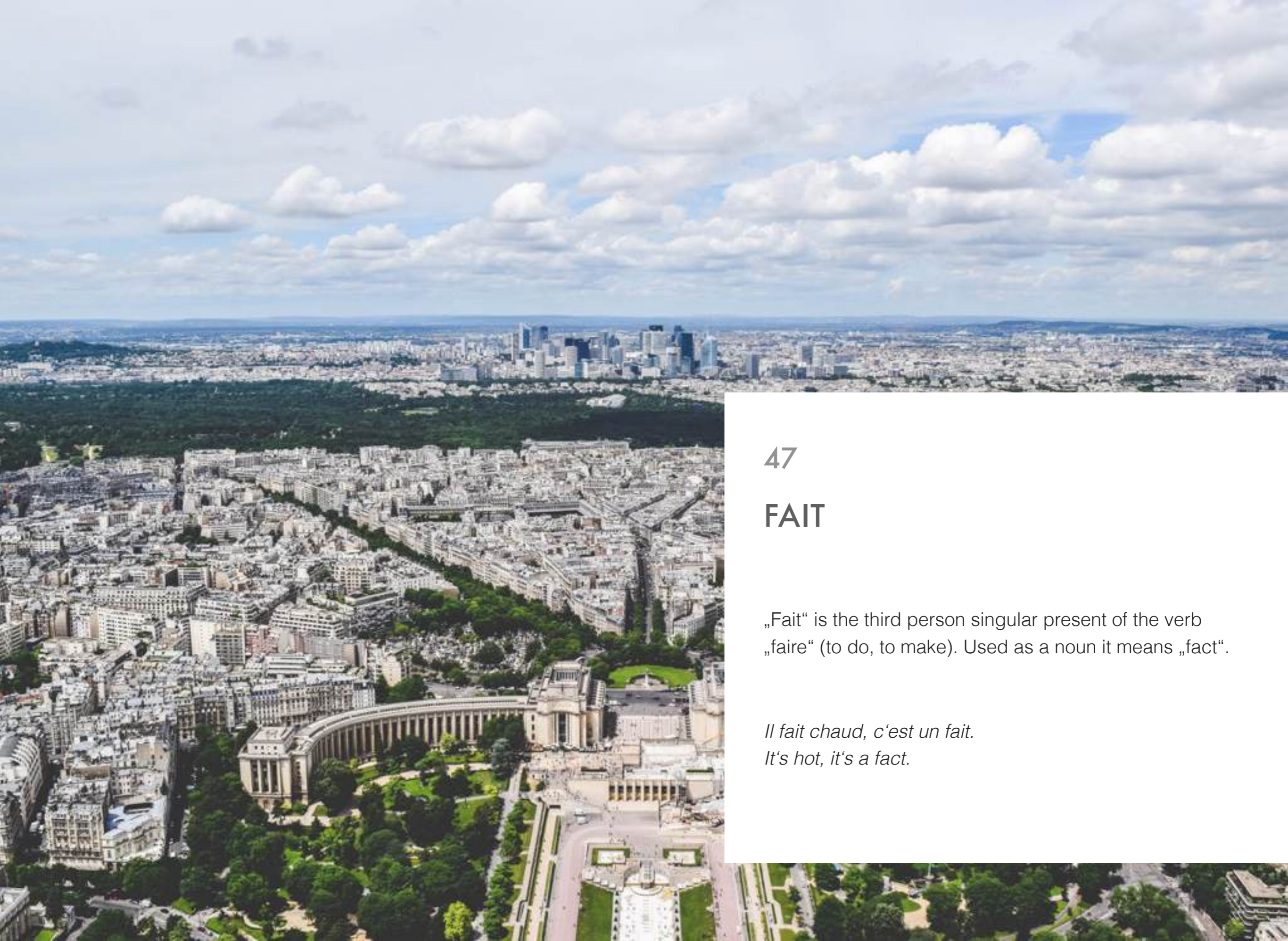
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TOI

„Toi“ is a pronoun you use when you want to say „with you“, „for you“, „thanks to you“, „next to you“....

Il est avec toi.

He is with you.



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FAIT

„Fait“ is the third person singular present of the verb „faire“ (to do, to make). Used as a noun it means „fact“.

*Il fait chaud, c'est un fait.
It's hot, it's a fact.*



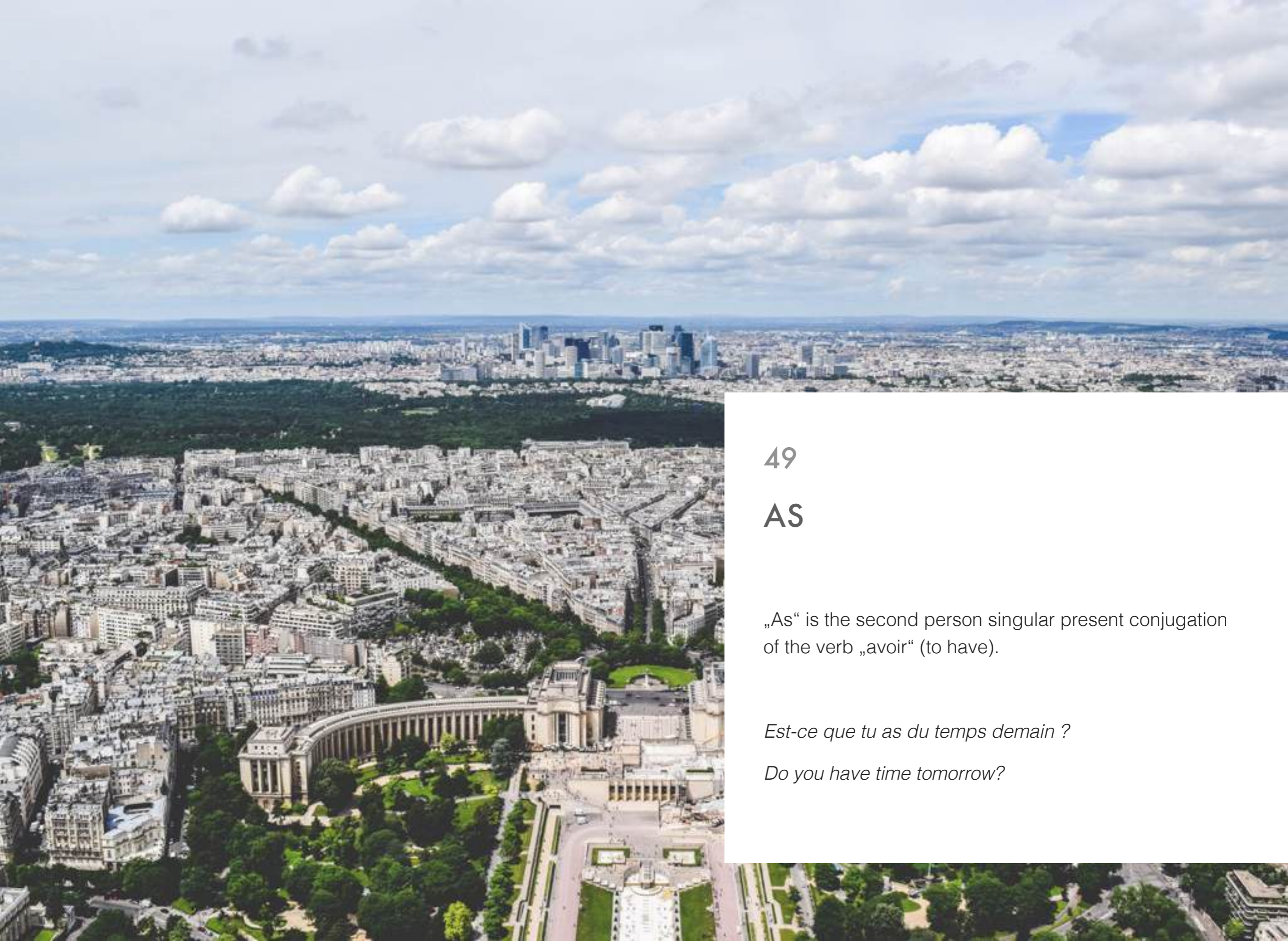
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ILS

„Ils“ is the equivalent of „they“. However, if you are talking about women only, you need to use „elles“ instead.

Ils sont partis.

They are gone.



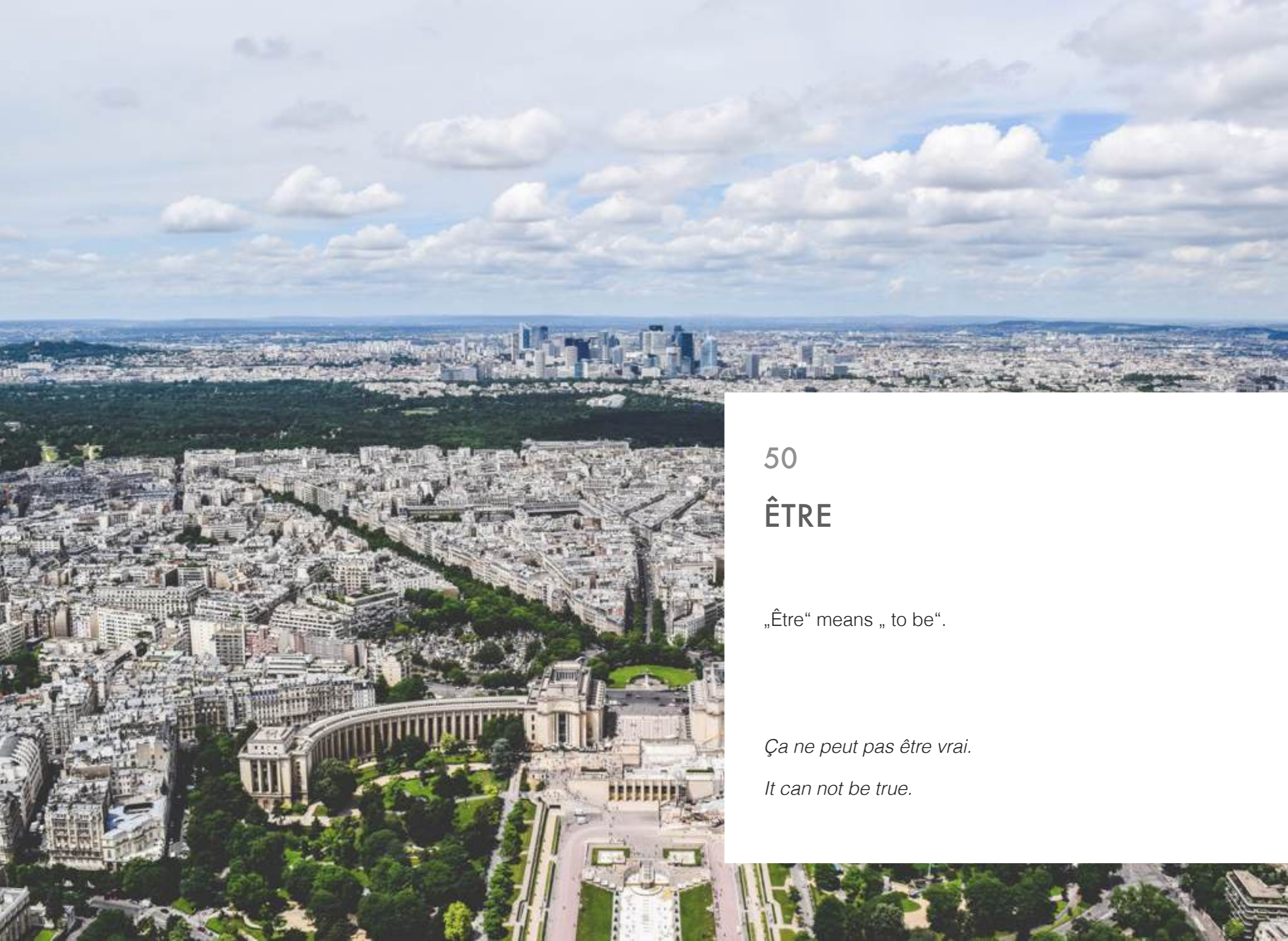
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AS

„As“ is the second person singular present conjugation of the verb „avoir“ (to have).

Est-ce que tu as du temps demain ?

Do you have time tomorrow?



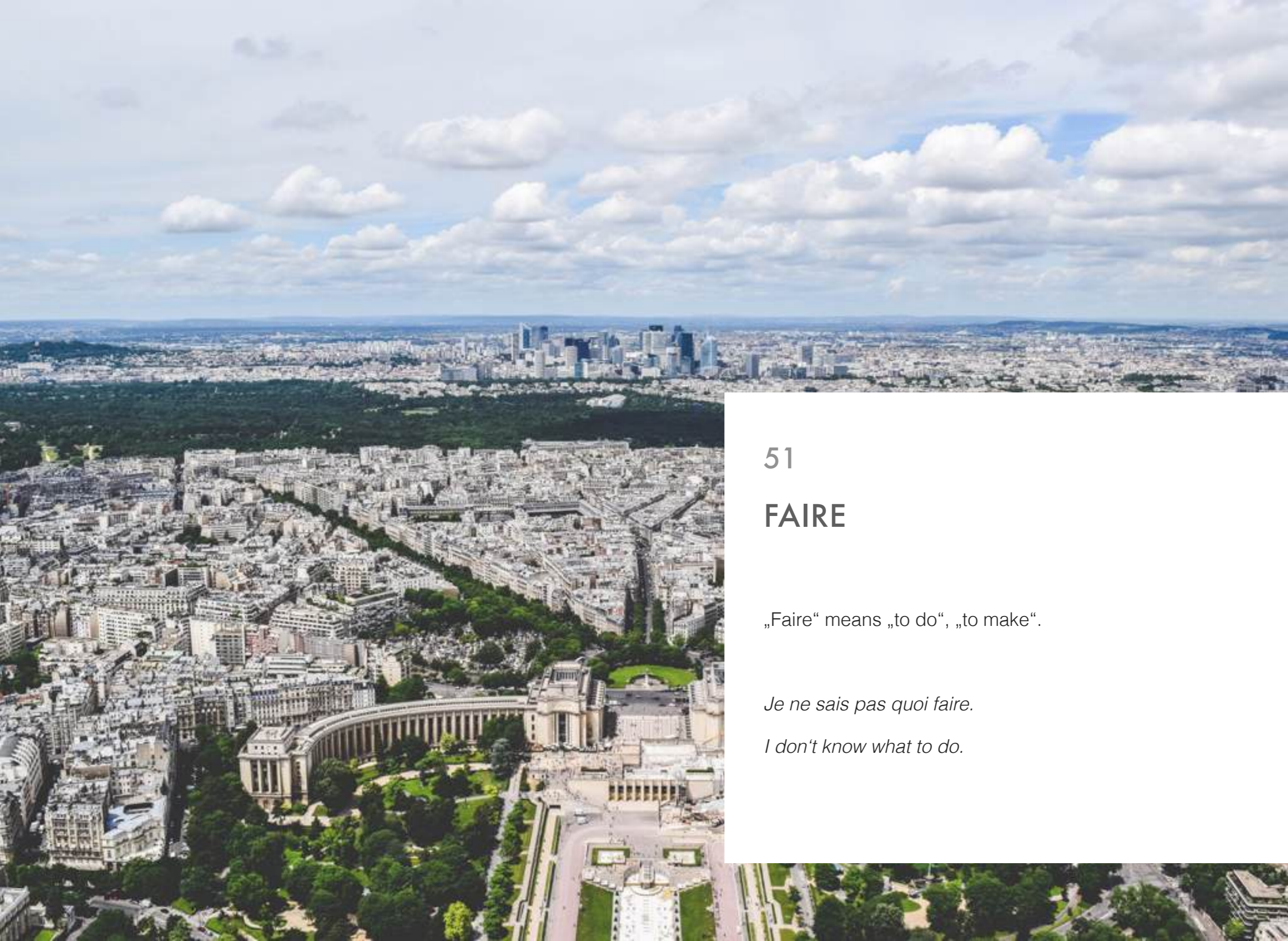
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ÊTRE

„Être“ means „to be“.

Ça ne peut pas être vrai.

It can not be true.



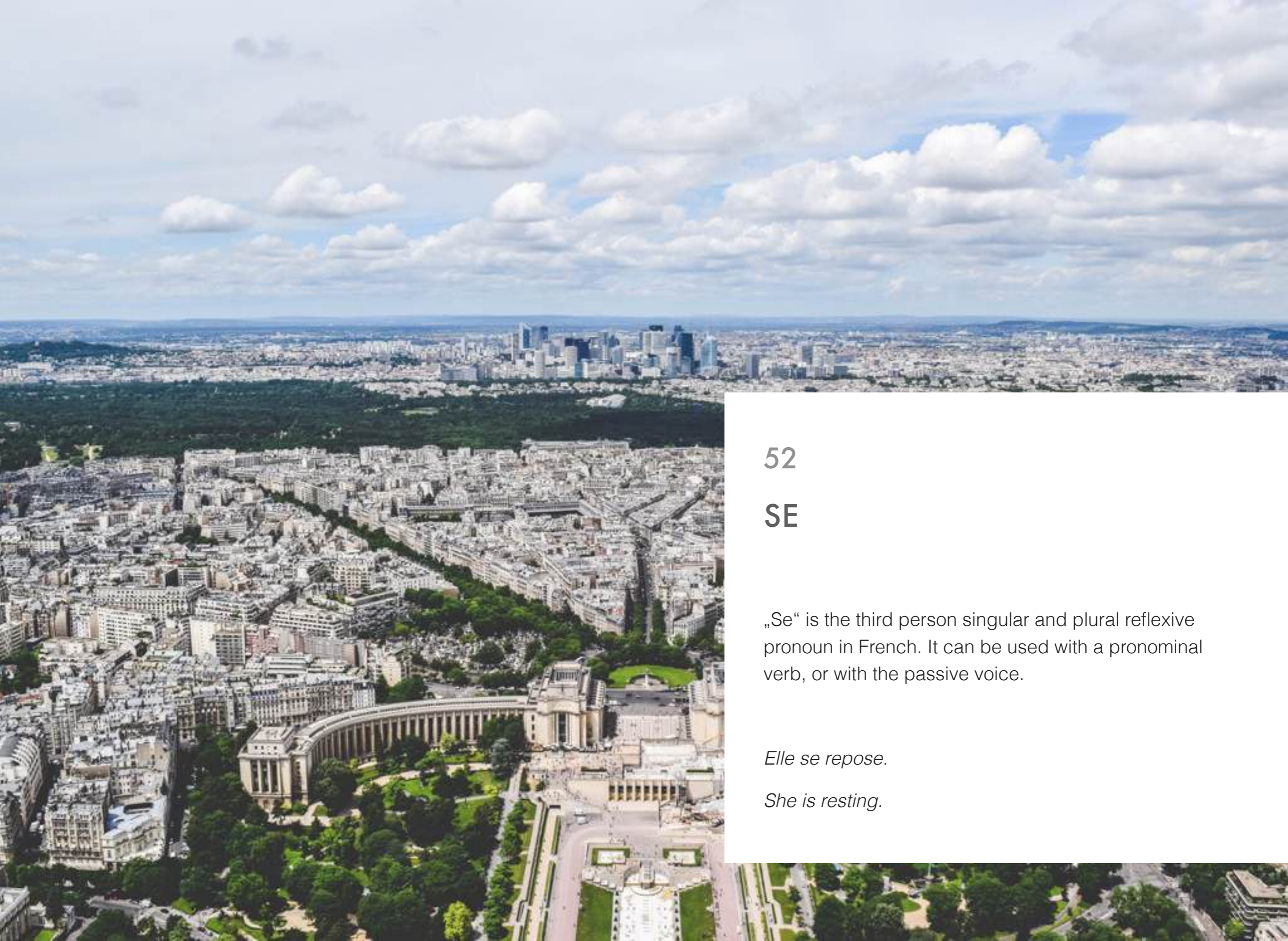
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FAIRE

„Faire“ means „to do“, „to make“.

Je ne sais pas quoi faire.

I don't know what to do.



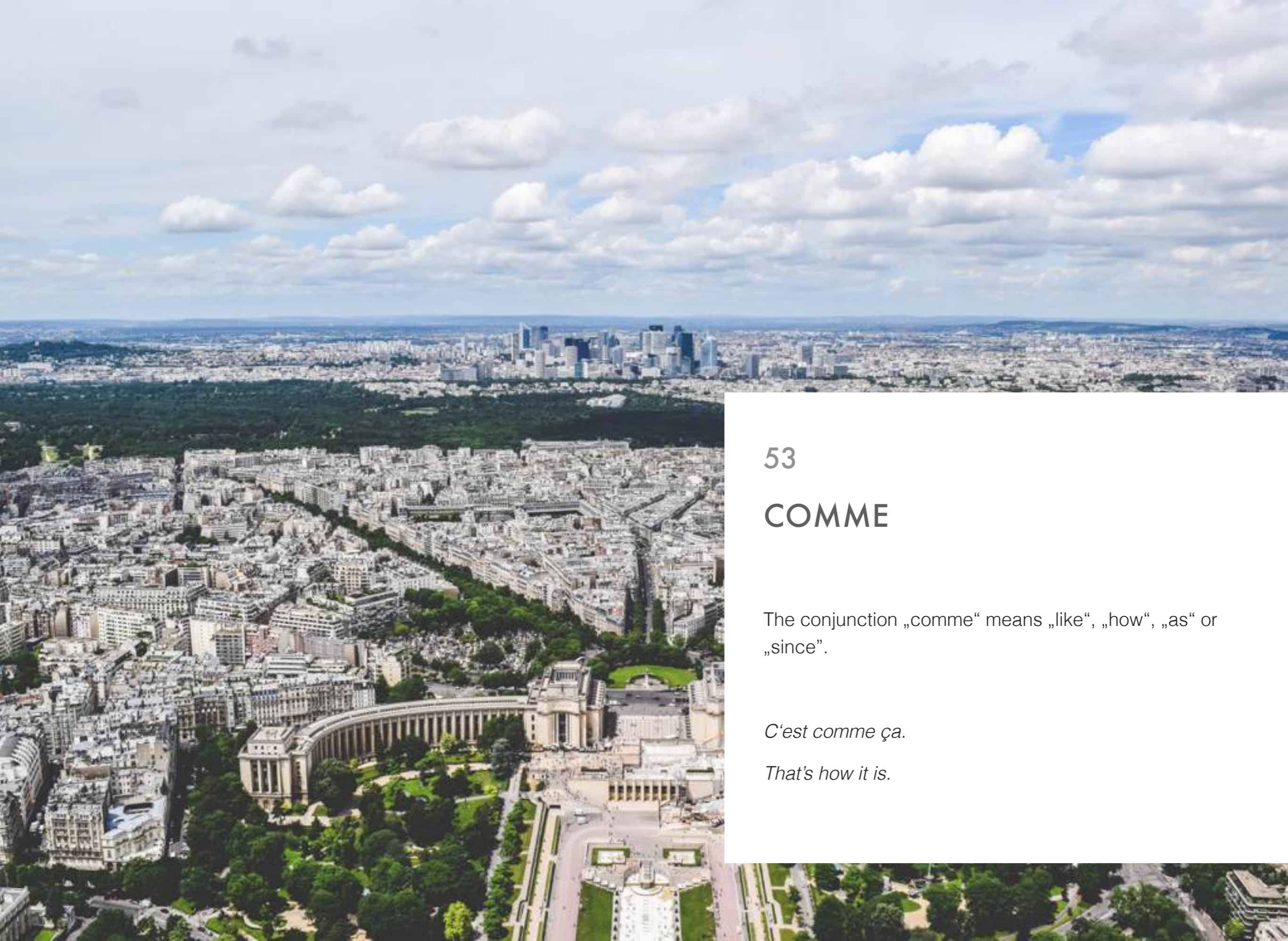
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SE

„Se“ is the third person singular and plural reflexive pronoun in French. It can be used with a pronominal verb, or with the passive voice.

Elle se repose.

She is resting.



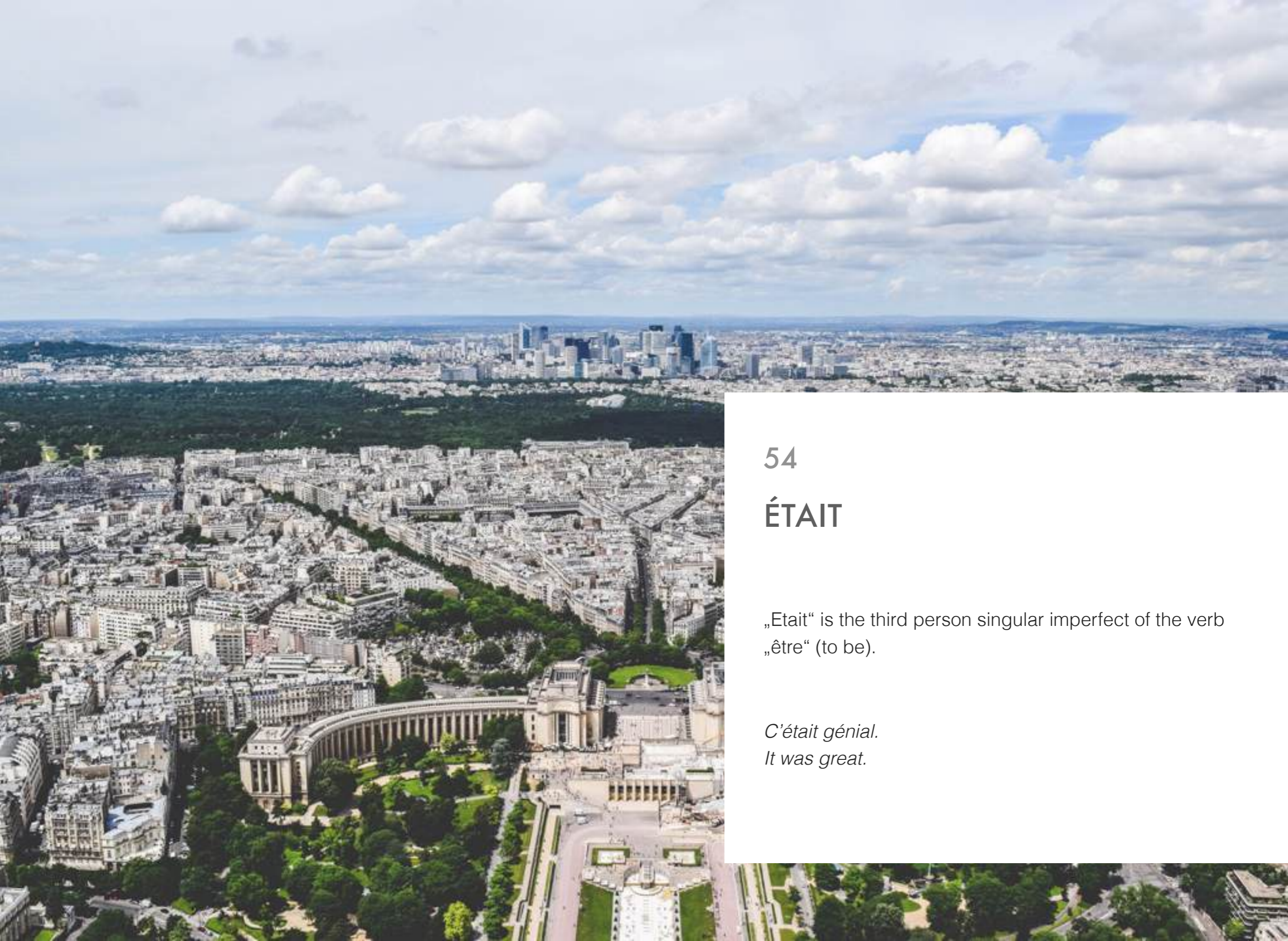
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COMME

The conjunction „comme“ means „like“, „how“, „as“ or „since“.

C'est comme ça.

That's how it is.

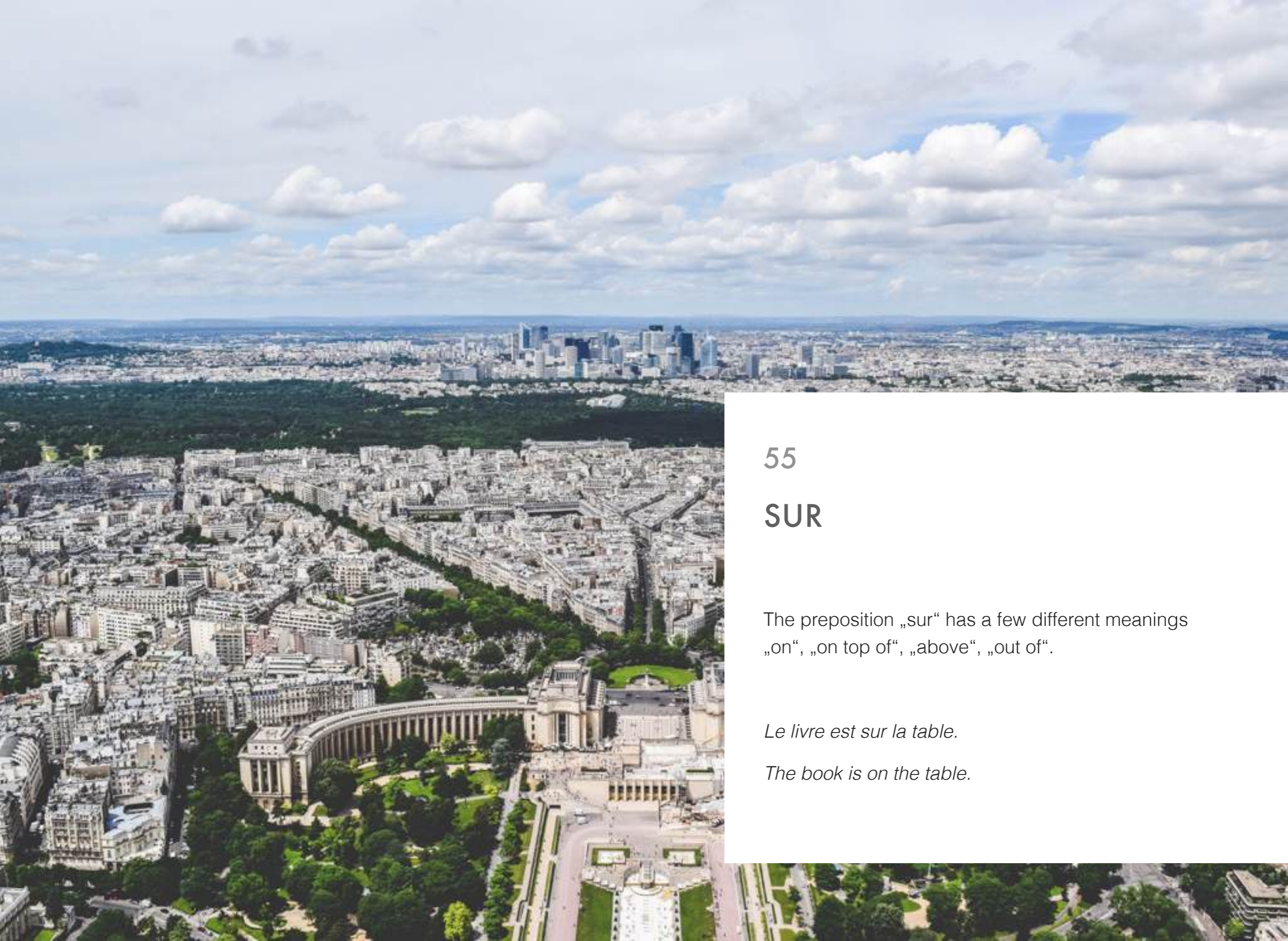


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ÉTAIT

„Était“ is the third person singular imperfect of the verb „être“ (to be).

*C'était génial.
It was great.*



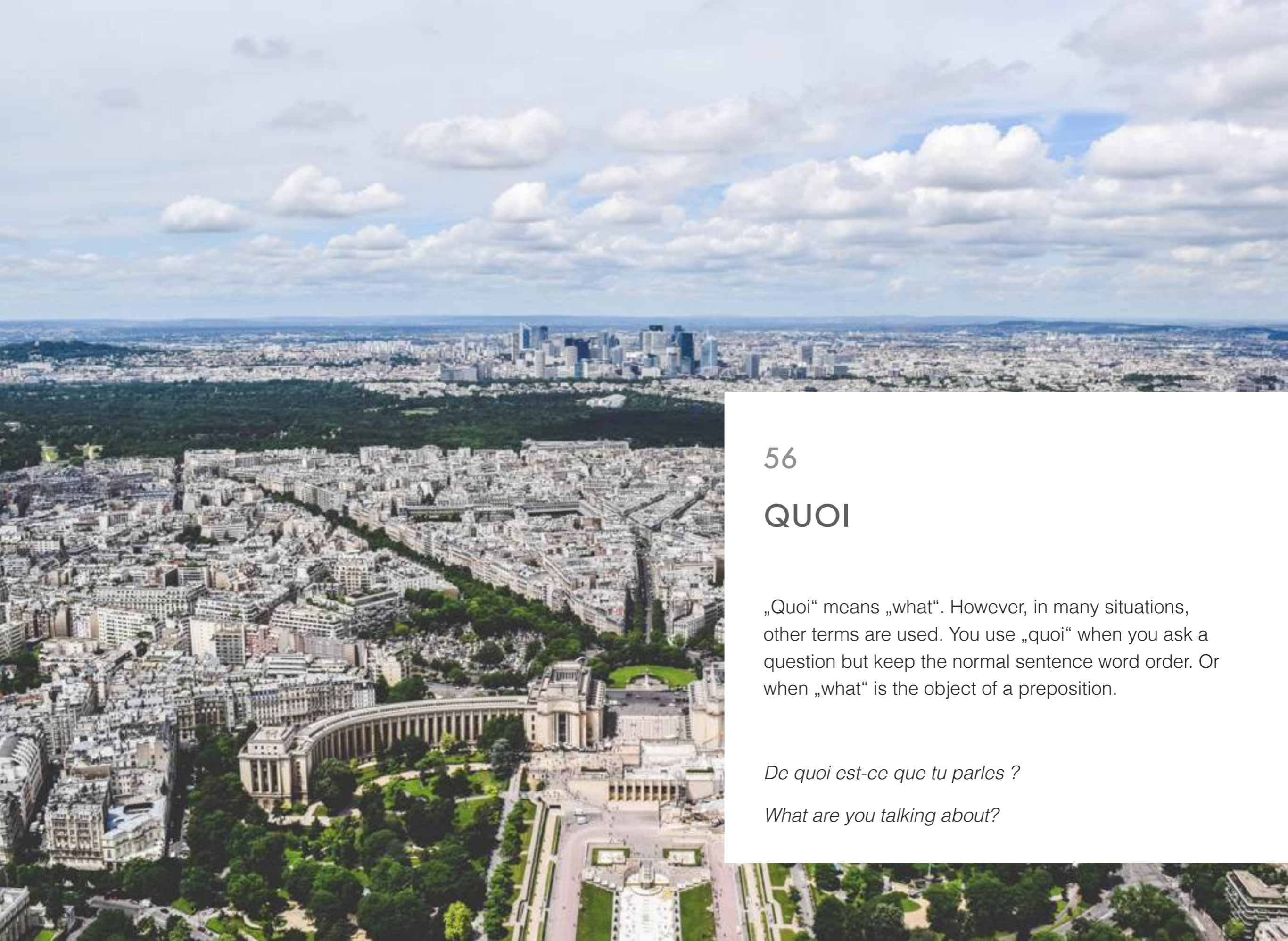
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SUR

The preposition „sur“ has a few different meanings „on“, „on top of“, „above“, „out of“.

Le livre est sur la table.

The book is on the table.



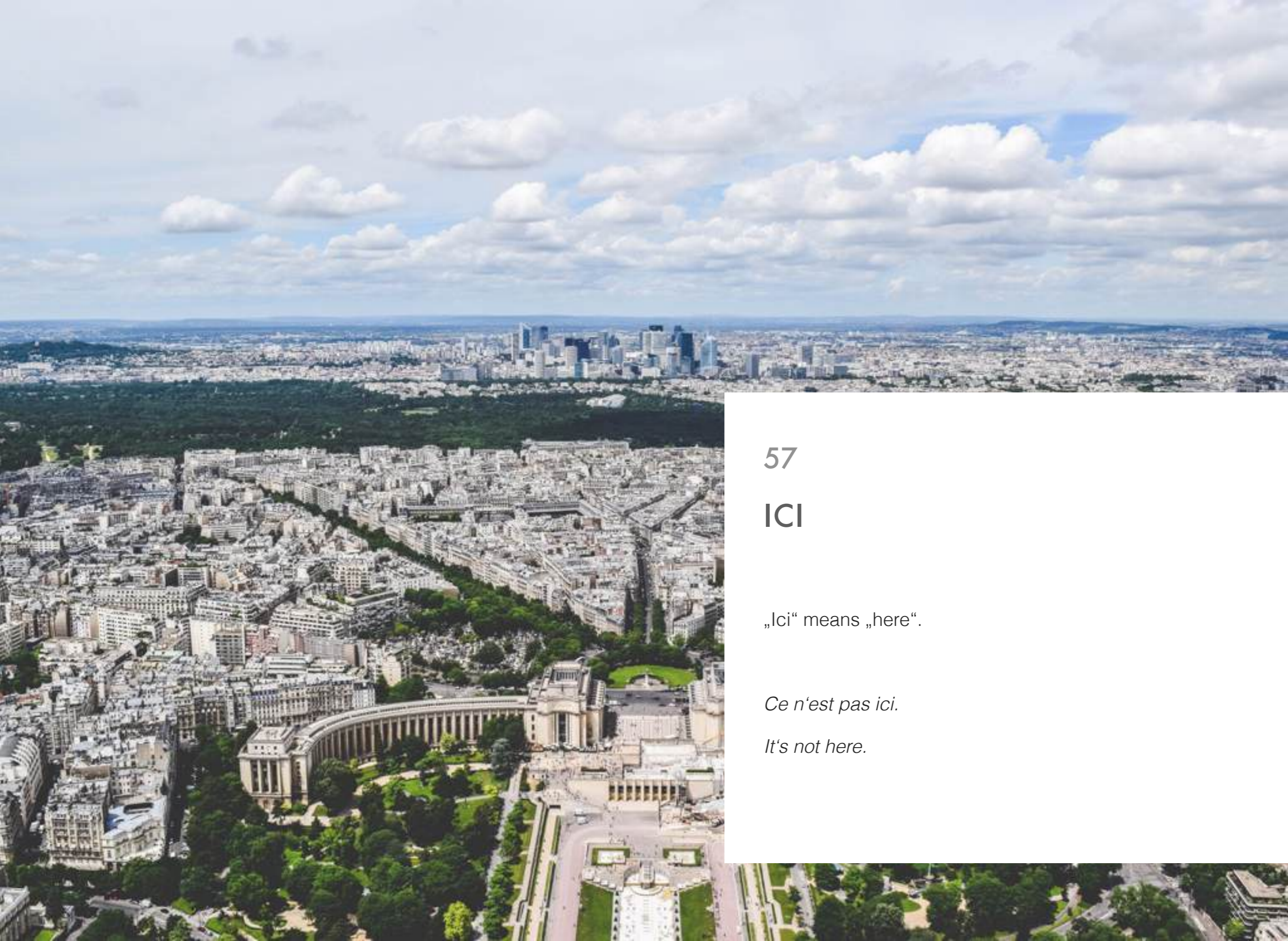
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QUOI

„Quoi“ means „what“. However, in many situations, other terms are used. You use „quoi“ when you ask a question but keep the normal sentence word order. Or when „what“ is the object of a preposition.

De quoi est-ce que tu parles ?

What are you talking about?



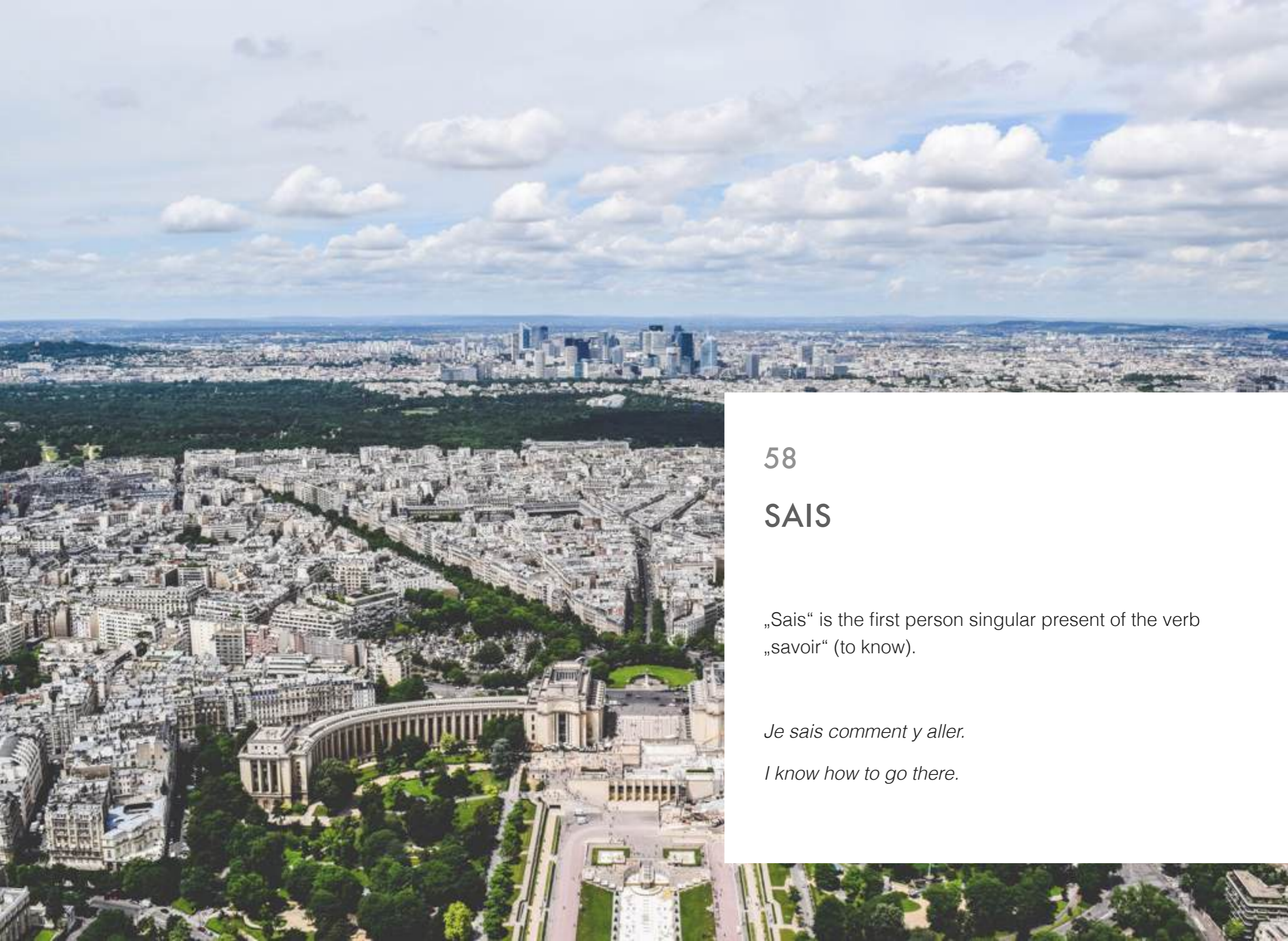
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ICI

„Ici“ means „here“.

Ce n'est pas ici.

It's not here.



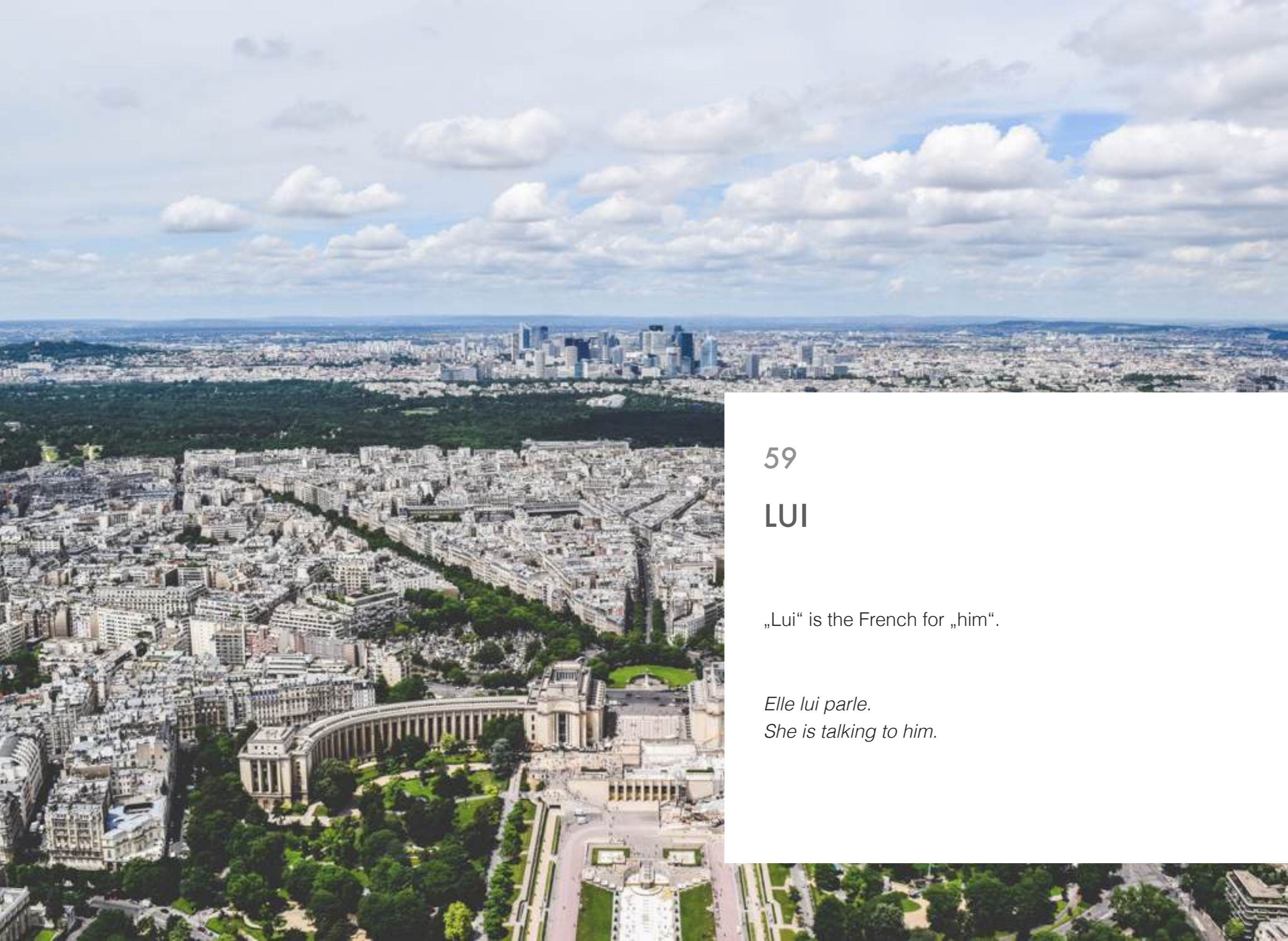
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SAIS

„Sais“ is the first person singular present of the verb „savoir“ (to know).

Je sais comment y aller.

I know how to go there.



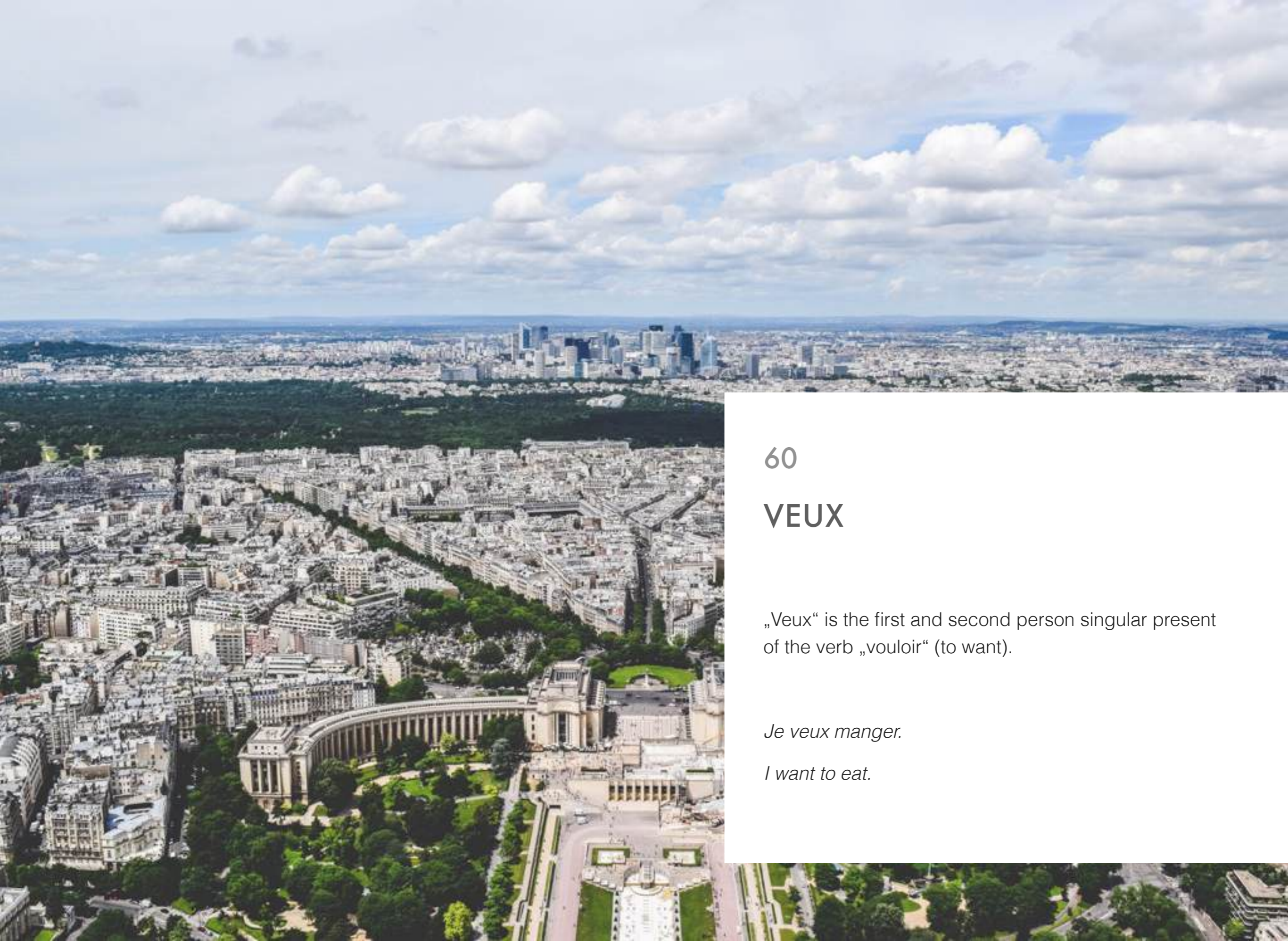
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LUI

„Lui“ is the French for „him“.

Elle lui parle.

She is talking to him.



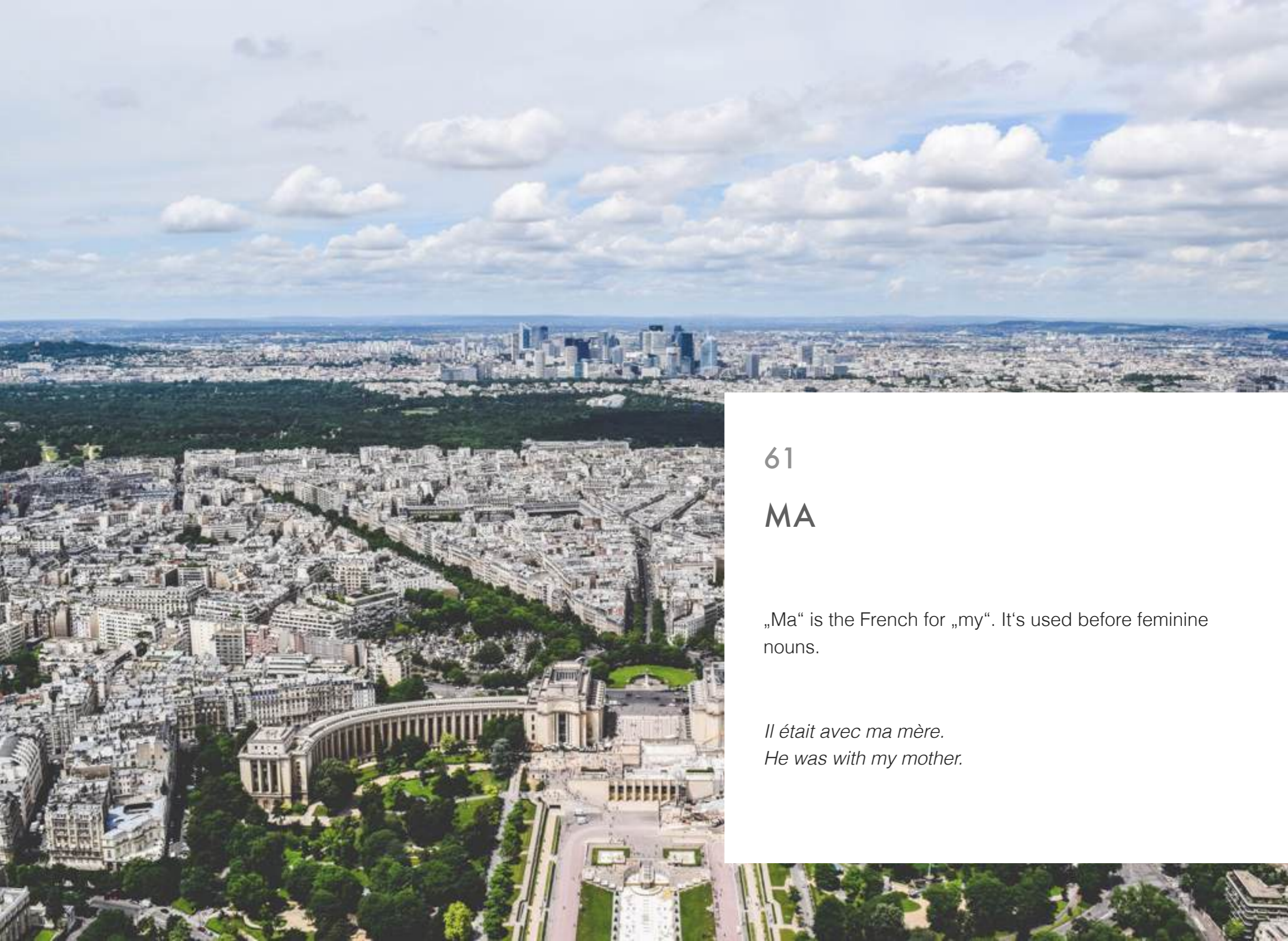
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VEUX

„Veux“ is the first and second person singular present of the verb „vouloir“ (to want).

Je veux manger.

I want to eat.

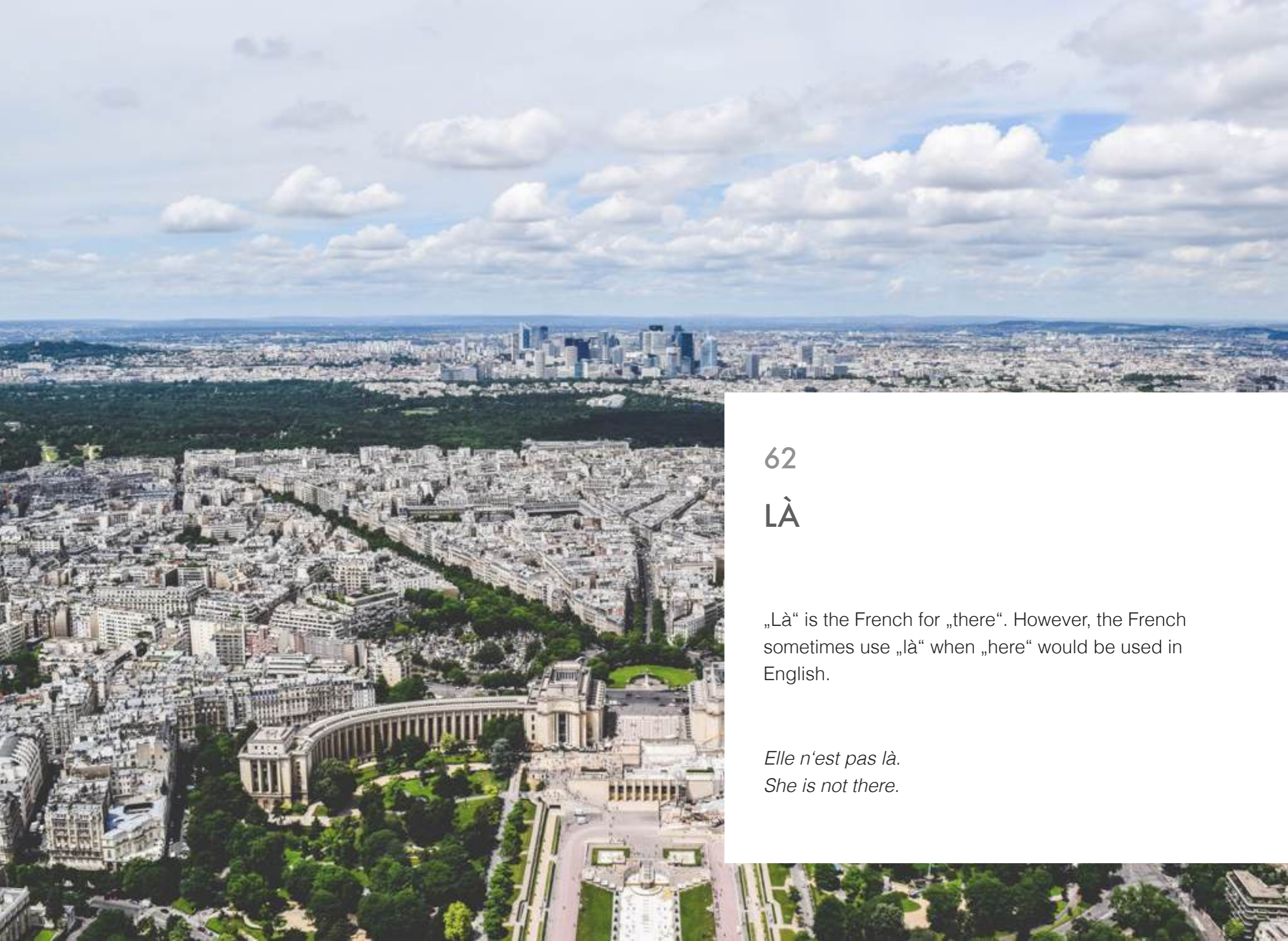


61

MA

„Ma“ is the French for „my“. It's used before feminine nouns.

*Il était avec ma mère.
He was with my mother.*

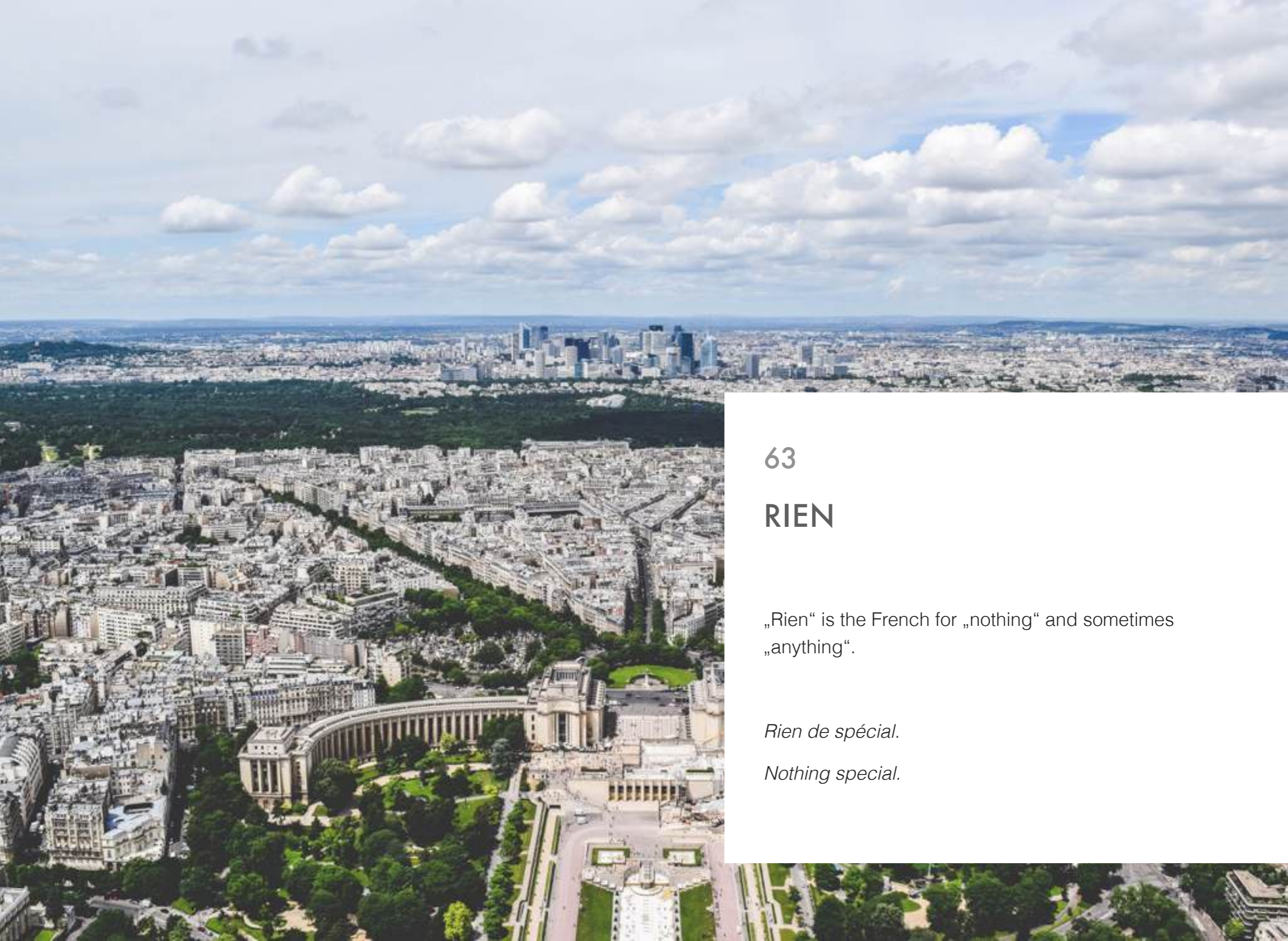


62

LÀ

„Là“ is the French for „there“. However, the French sometimes use „là“ when „here“ would be used in English.

*Elle n'est pas là.
She is not there.*



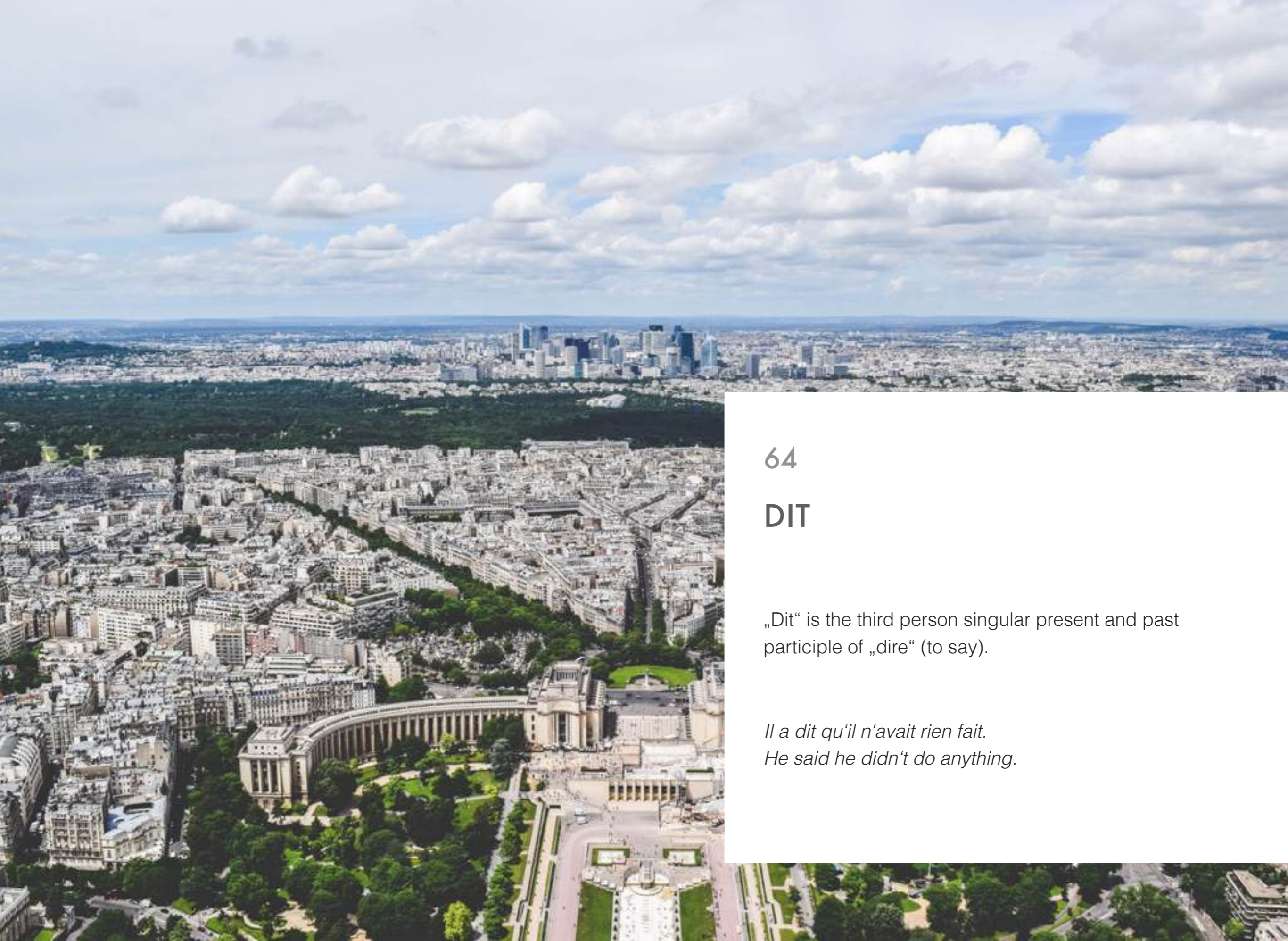
63

RIEN

„Rien“ is the French for „nothing“ and sometimes „anything“.

Rien de spécial.

Nothing special.

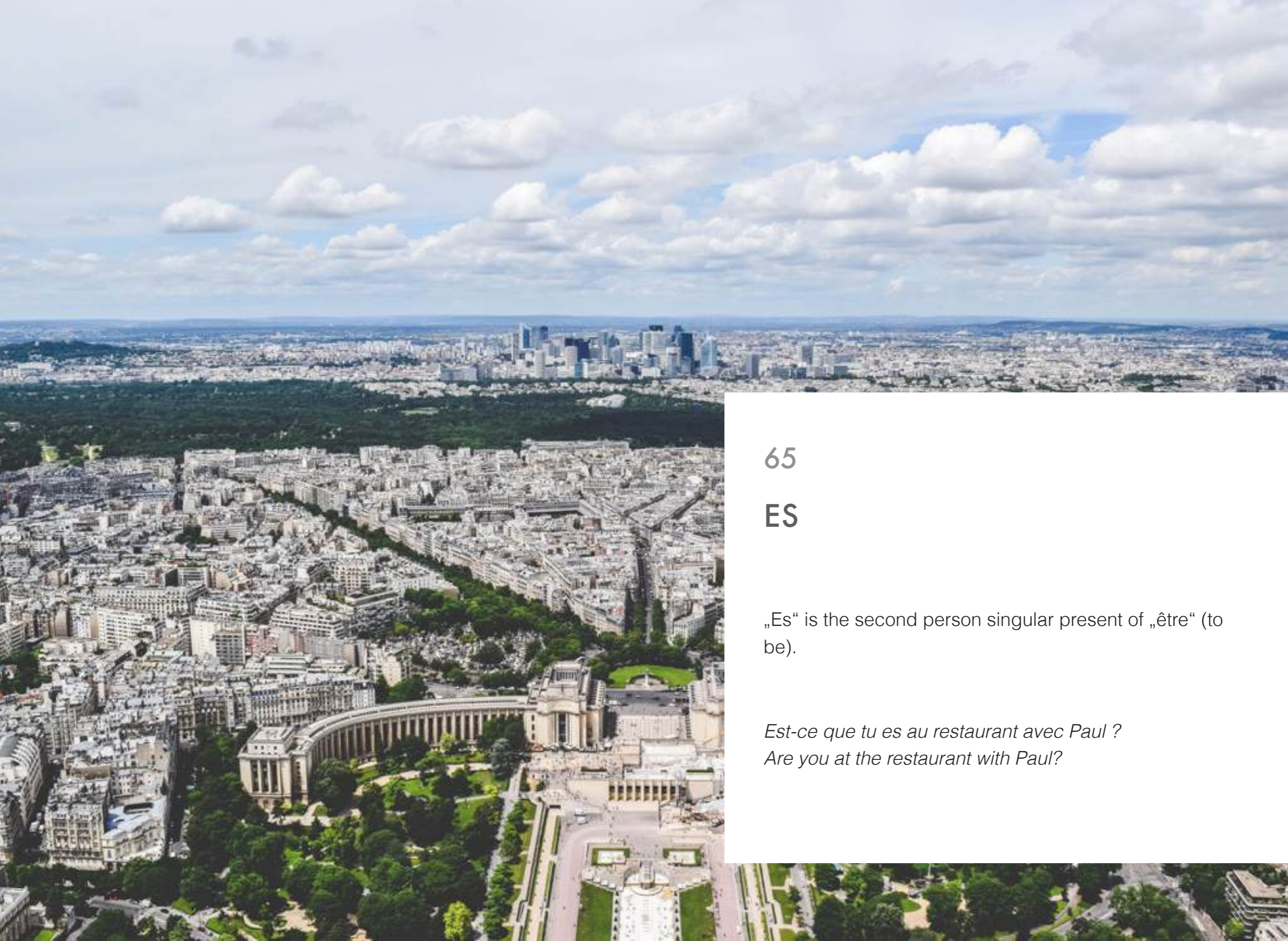


64

DIT

„Dit“ is the third person singular present and past participle of „dire“ (to say).

*Il a dit qu'il n'avait rien fait.
He said he didn't do anything.*

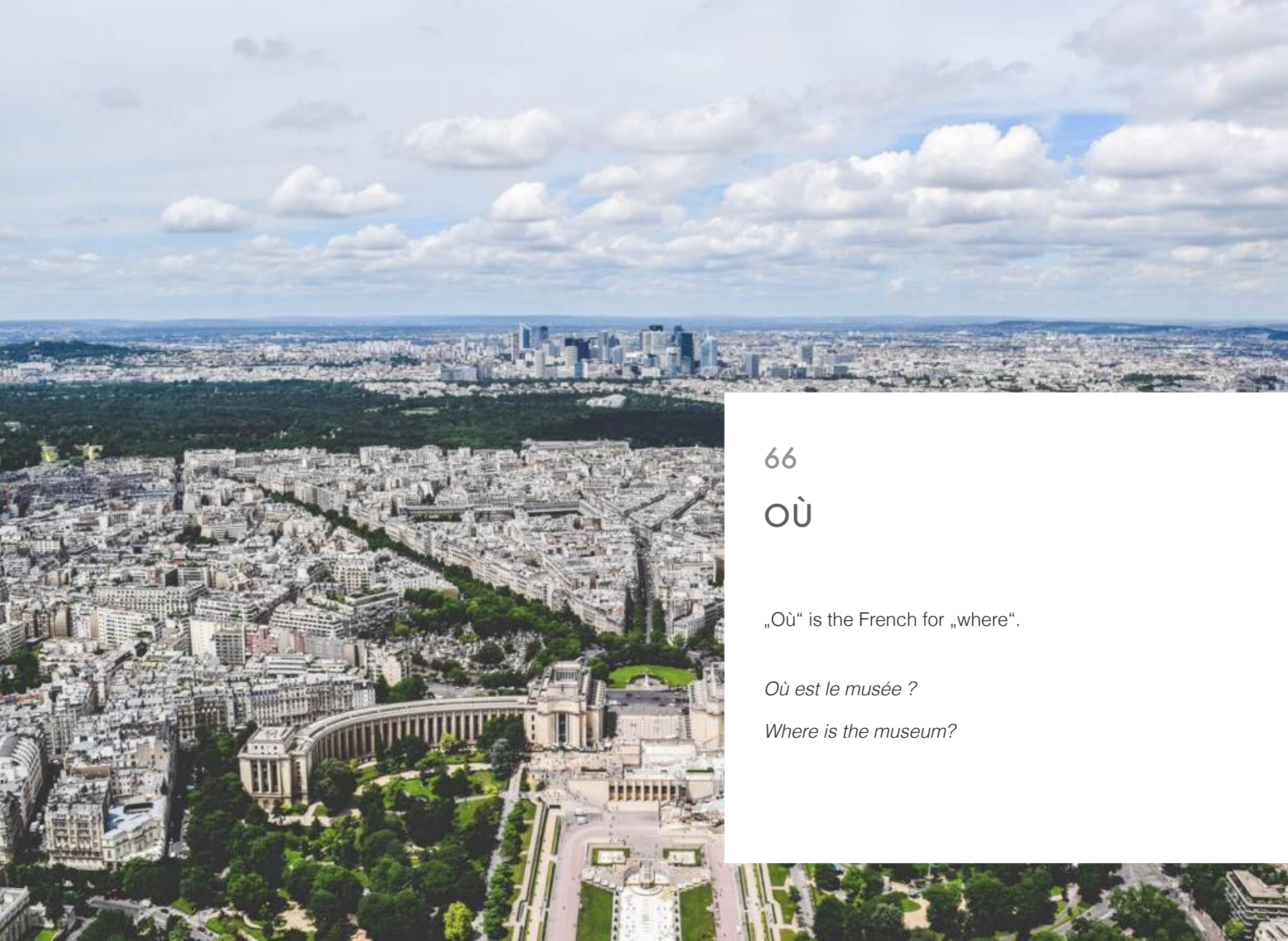


65

ES

„Es“ is the second person singular present of „être“ (to be).

*Est-ce que tu es au restaurant avec Paul ?
Are you at the restaurant with Paul?*



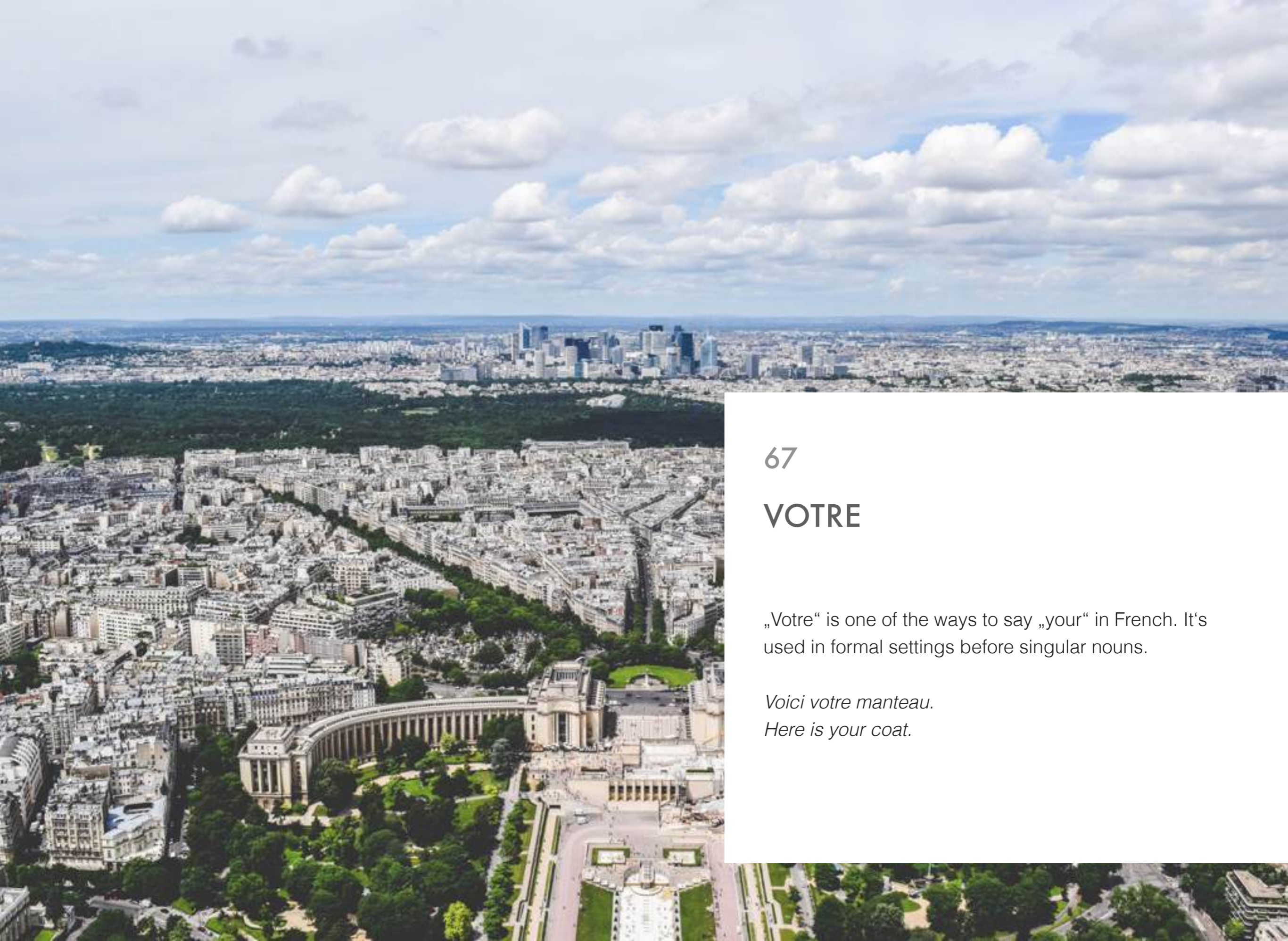
66

où

„Où“ is the French for „where“.

Où est le musée ?

Where is the museum?



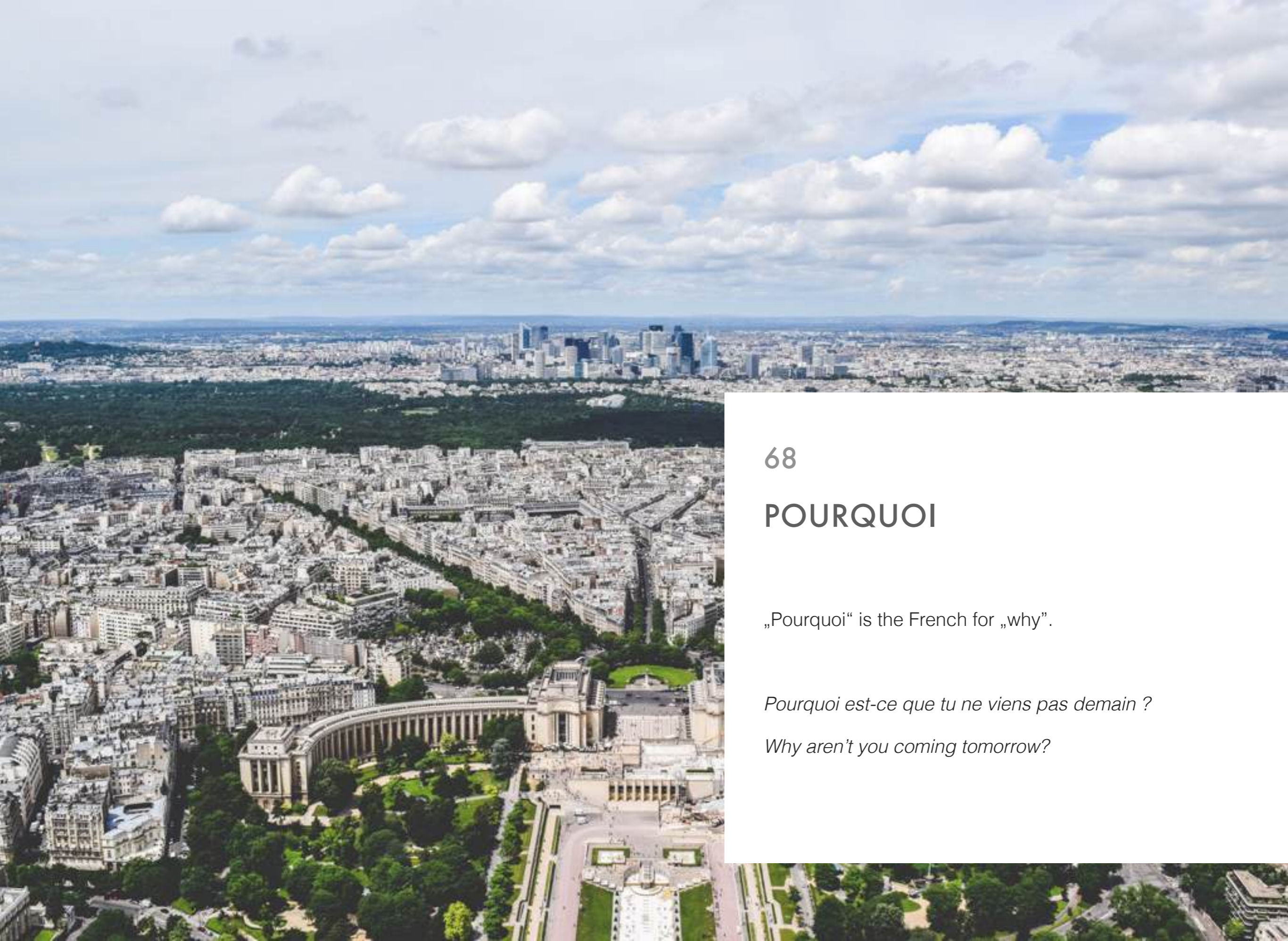
67

VOTRE

„Votre“ is one of the ways to say „your“ in French. It's used in formal settings before singular nouns.

Voici votre manteau.

Here is your coat.



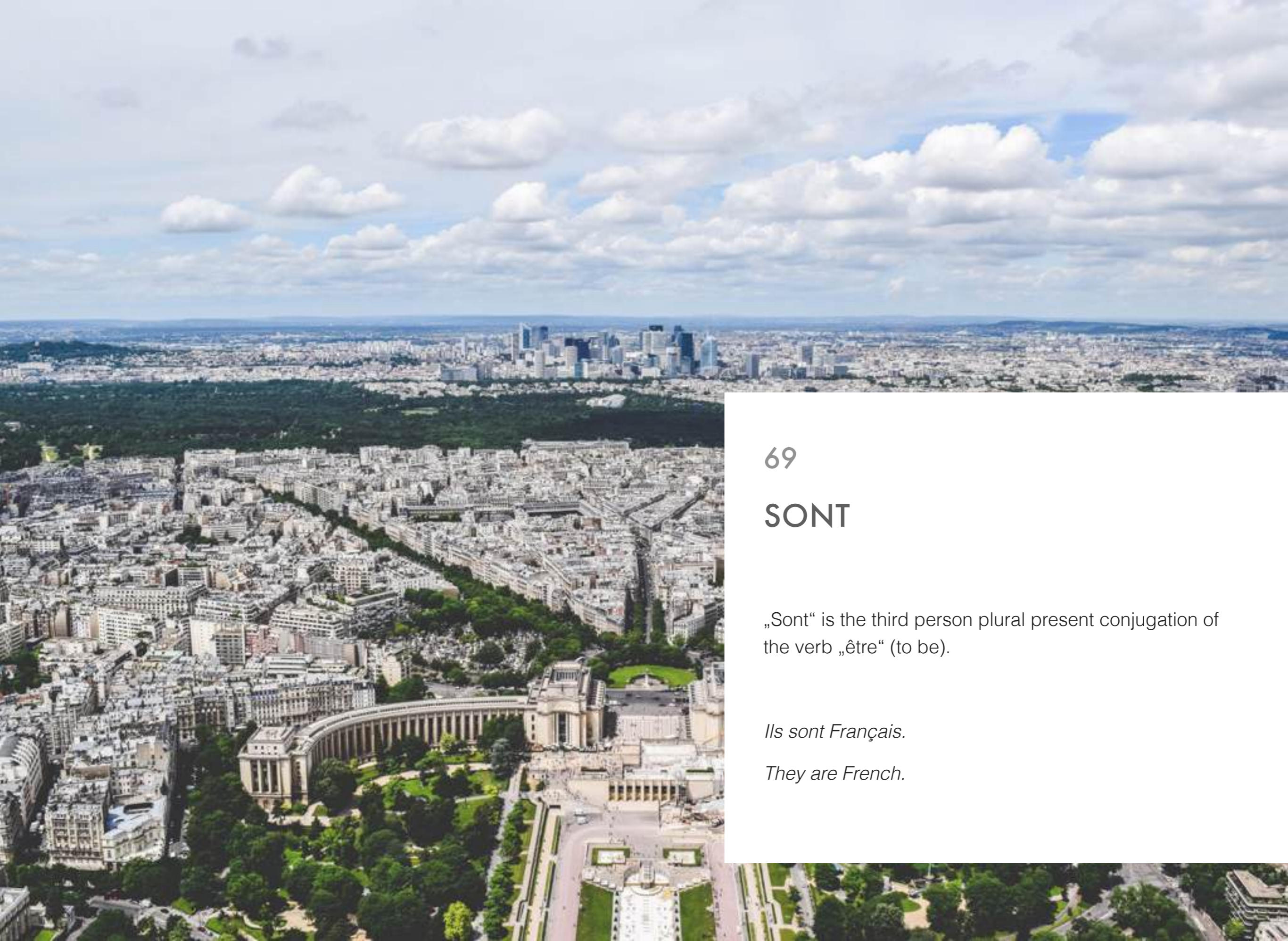
68

POURQUOI

„Pourquoi“ is the French for „why“.

Pourquoi est-ce que tu ne viens pas demain ?

Why aren't you coming tomorrow?



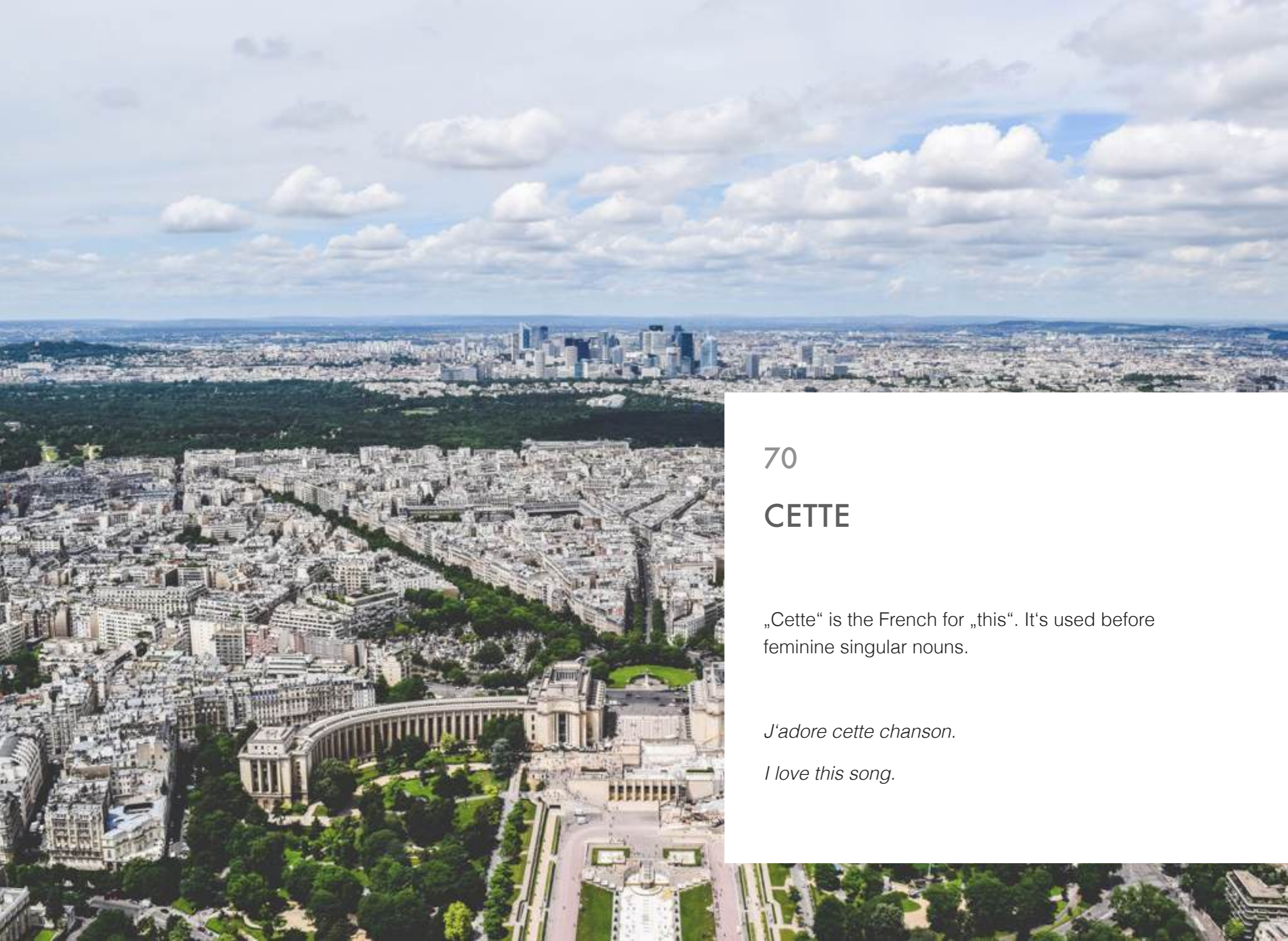
69

SONT

„Sont“ is the third person plural present conjugation of the verb „être“ (to be).

Ils sont Français.

They are French.



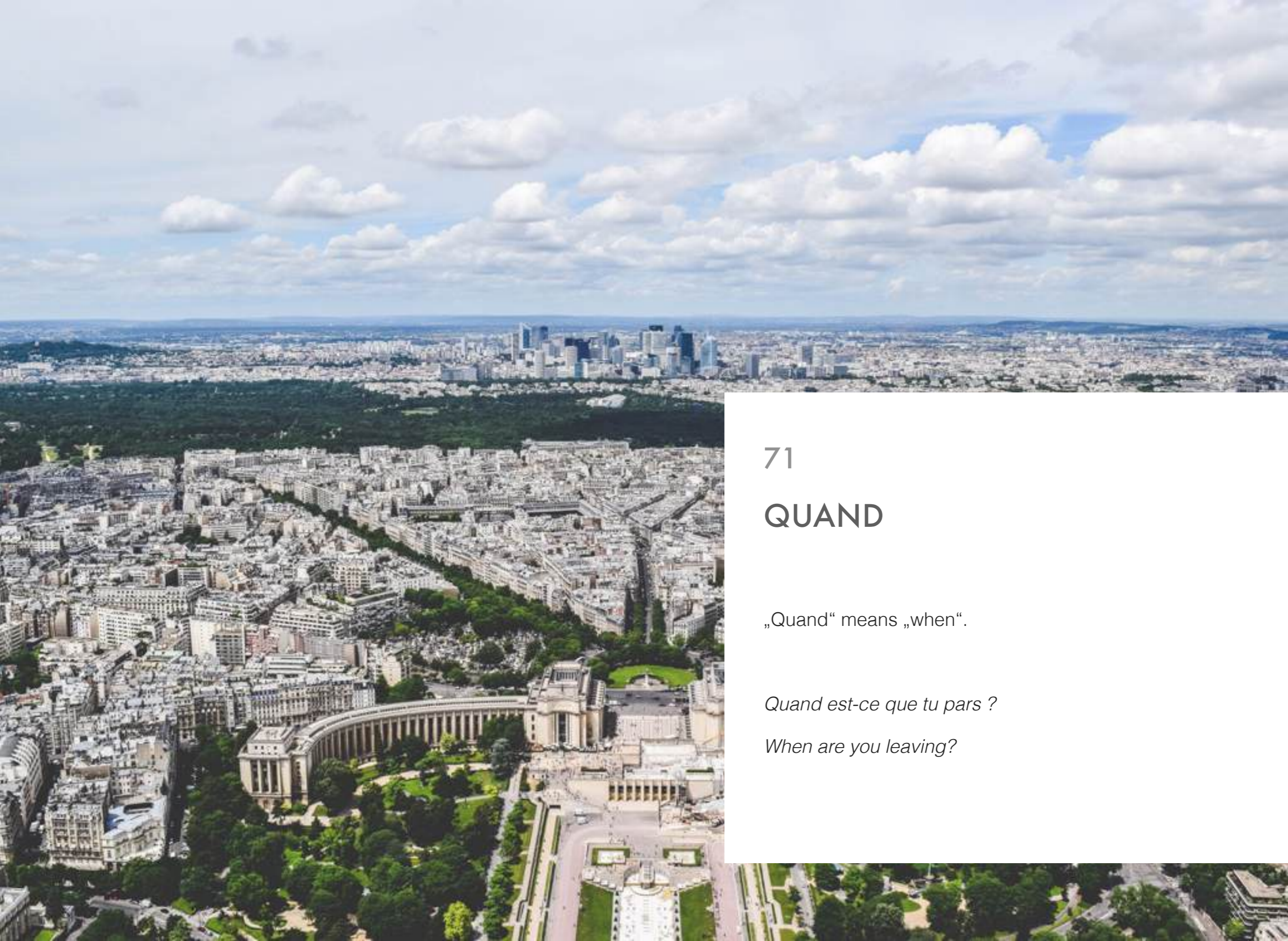
70

CETTE

„Cette“ is the French for „this“. It's used before feminine singular nouns.

J'adore cette chanson.

I love this song.



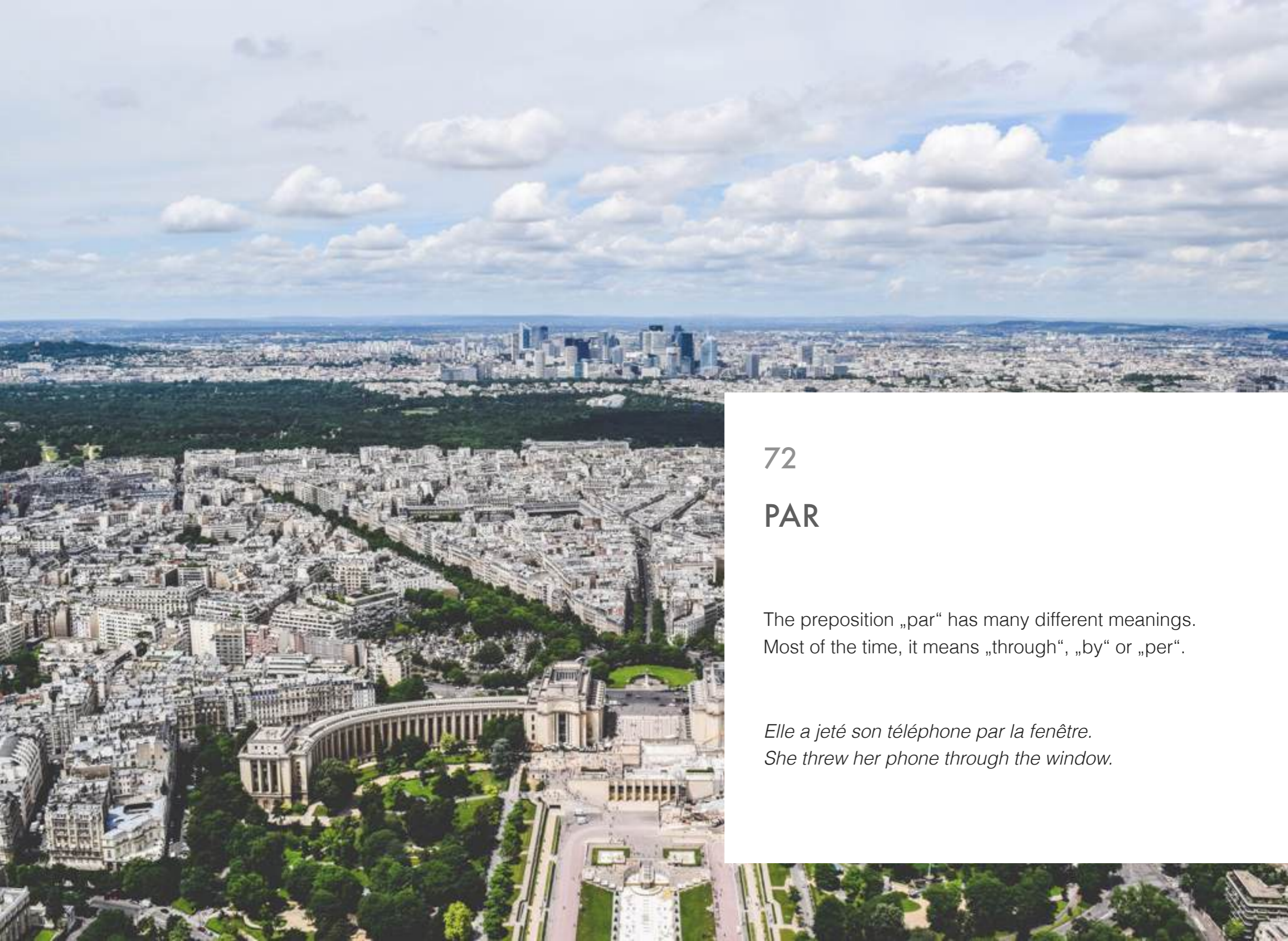
71

QUAND

„Quand“ means „when“.

Quand est-ce que tu pars ?

When are you leaving?

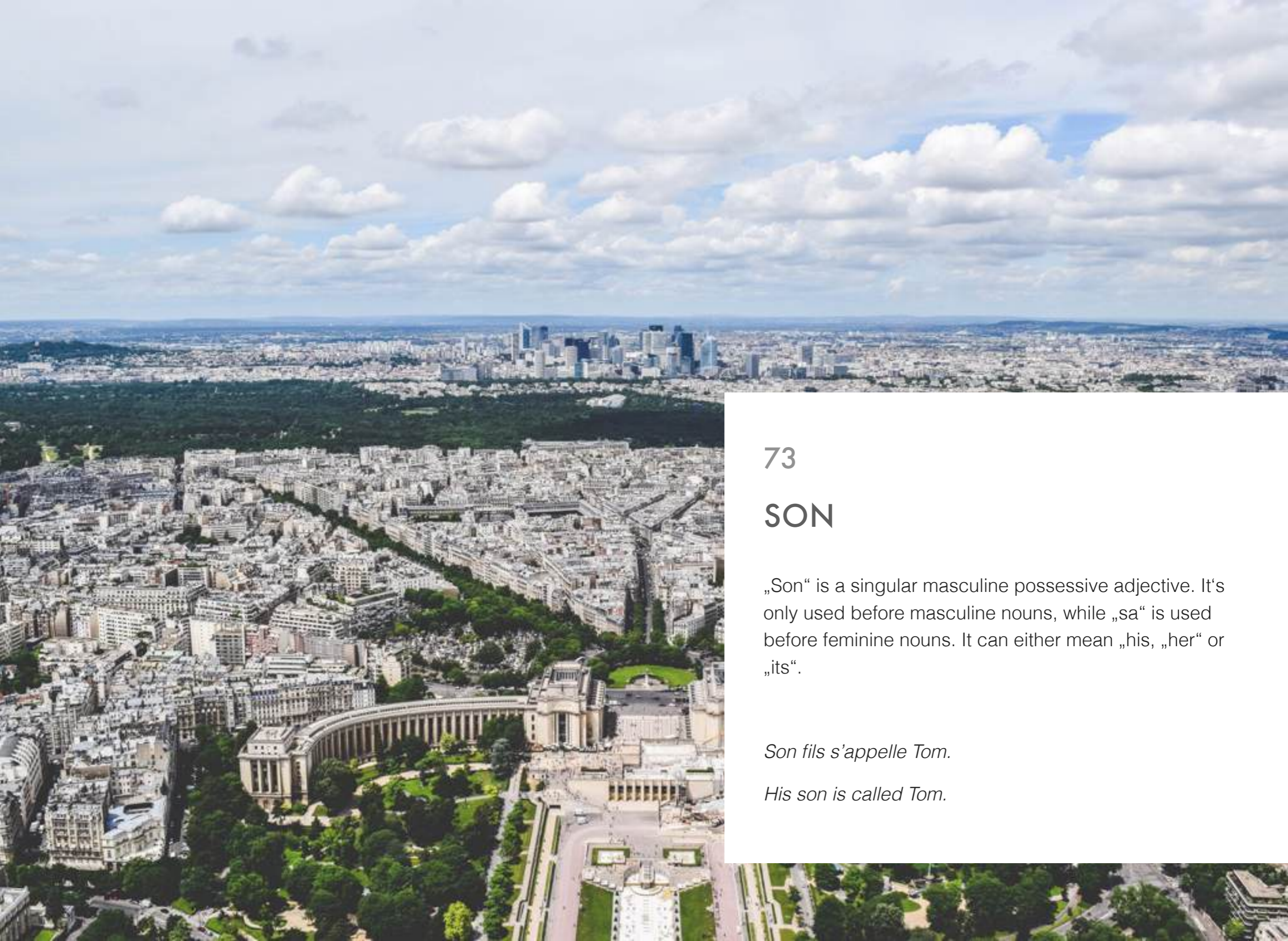


72

PAR

The preposition „par“ has many different meanings. Most of the time, it means „through“, „by“ or „per“.

*Elle a jeté son téléphone par la fenêtre.
She threw her phone through the window.*



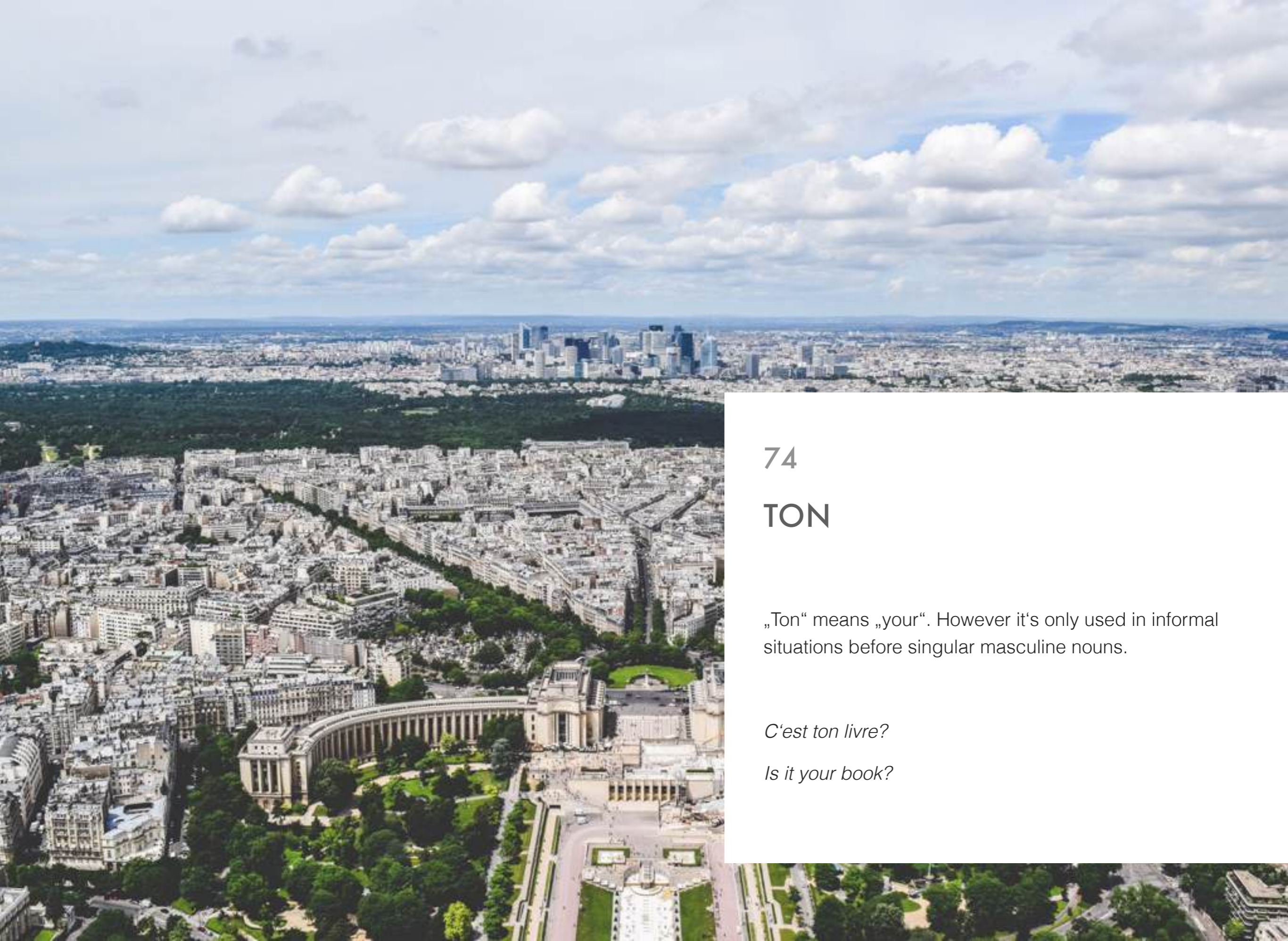
73

SON

„Son“ is a singular masculine possessive adjective. It's only used before masculine nouns, while „sa“ is used before feminine nouns. It can either mean „his, „her“ or „its“.

Son fils s'appelle Tom.

His son is called Tom.



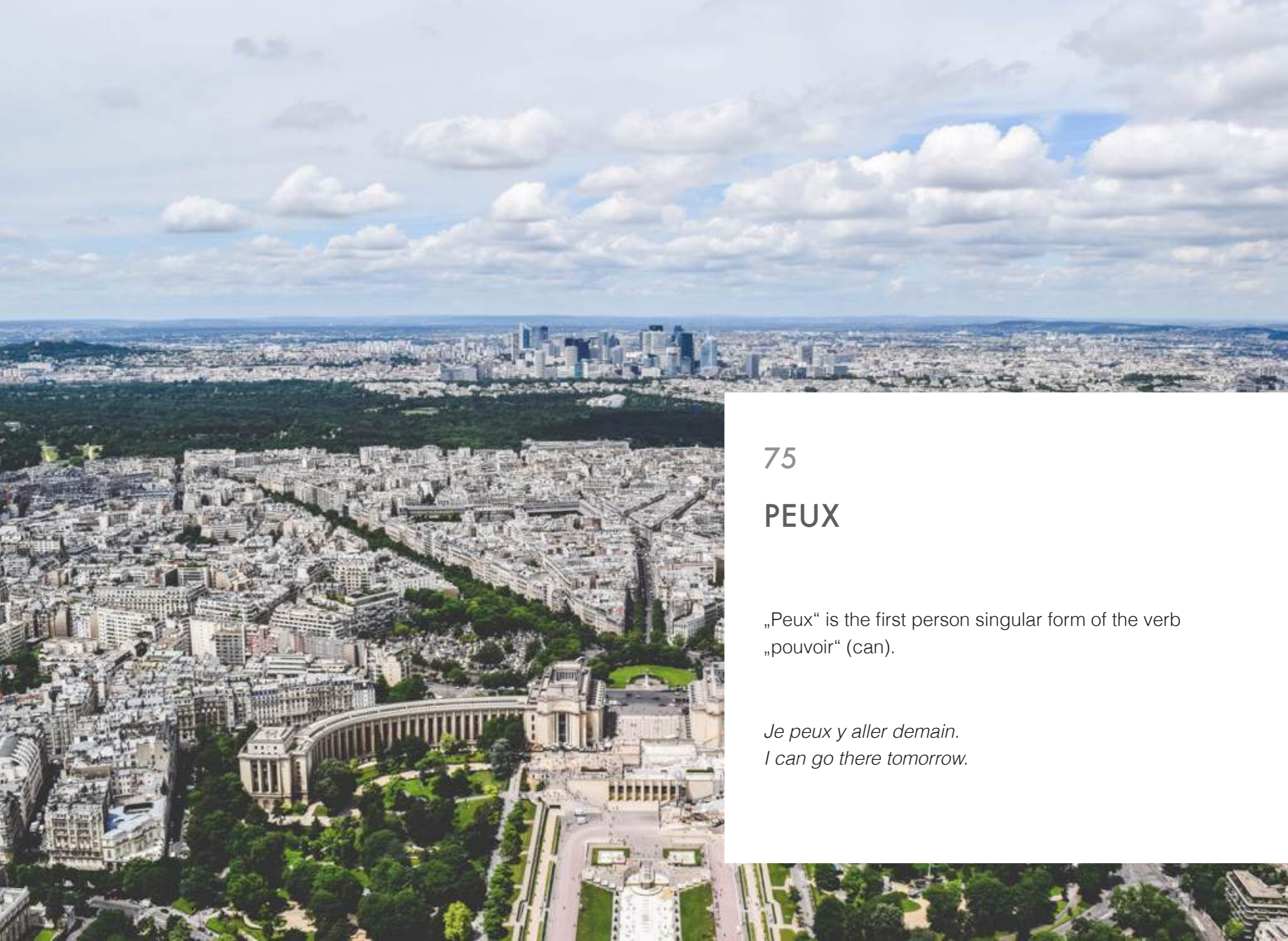
74

TON

„Ton“ means „your“. However it's only used in informal situations before singular masculine nouns.

C'est ton livre?

Is it your book?

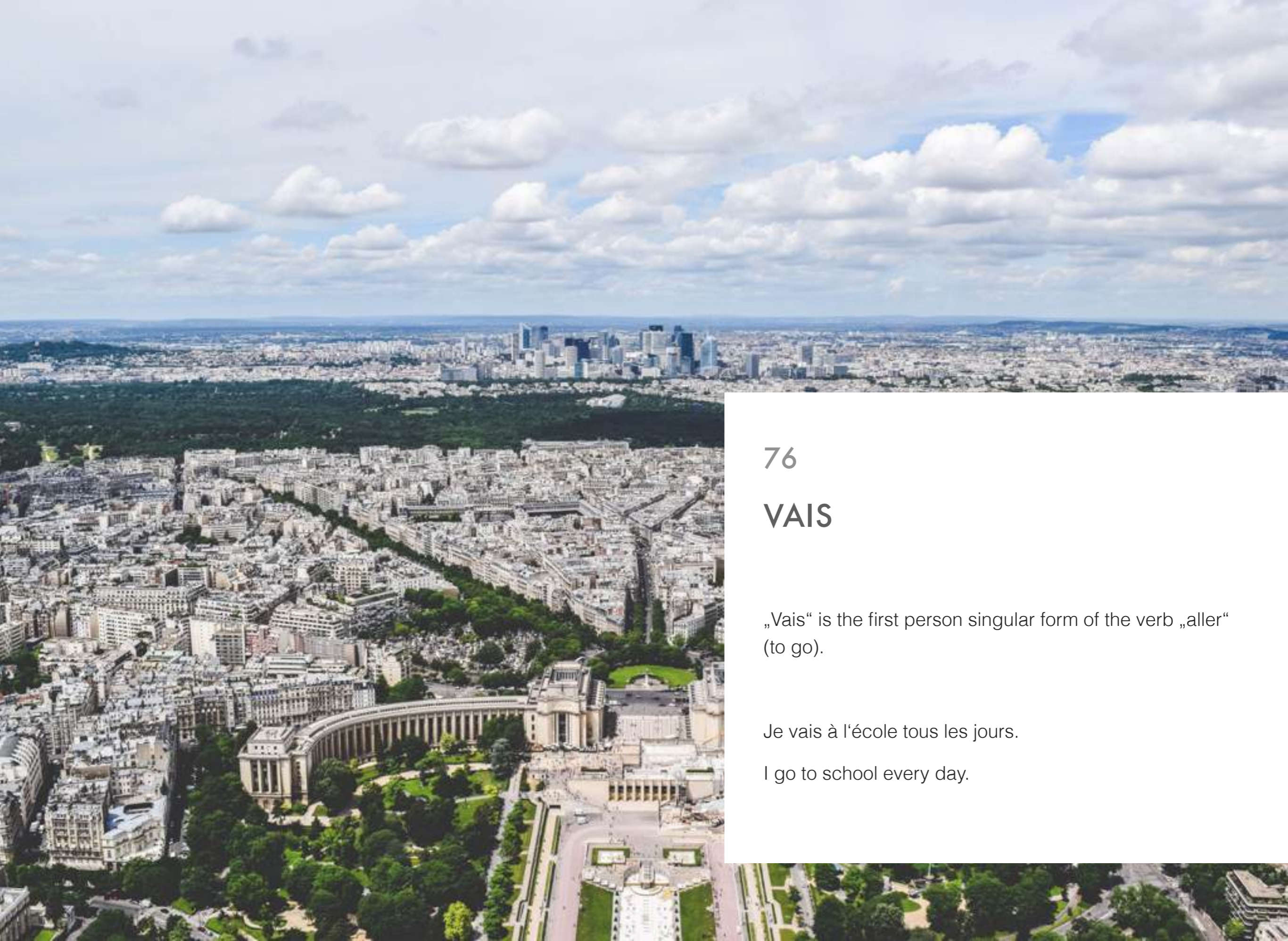


75

PEUX

„Peux“ is the first person singular form of the verb „pouvoir“ (can).

*Je peux y aller demain.
I can go there tomorrow.*



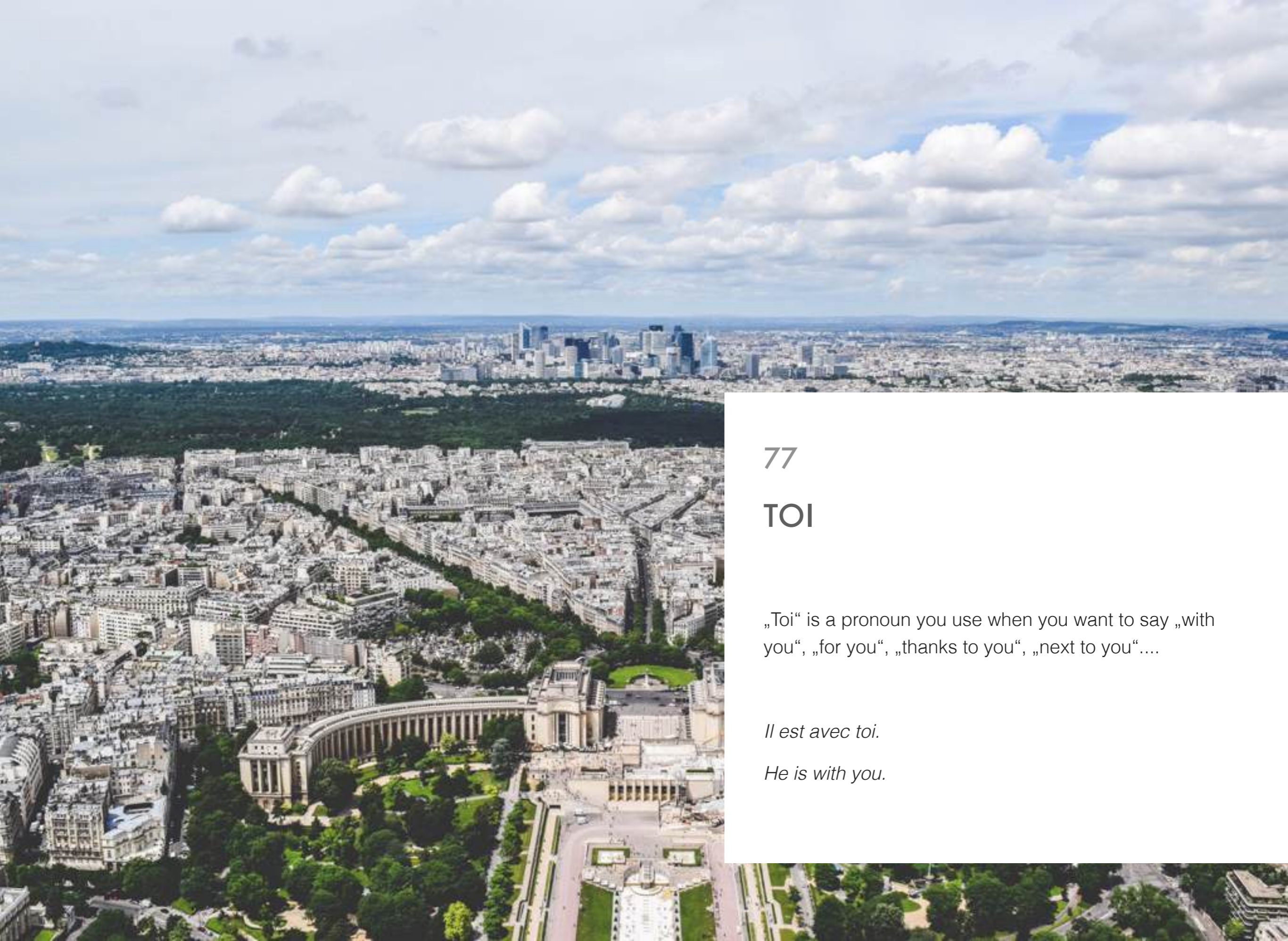
76

VAIS

„Vais“ is the first person singular form of the verb „aller“ (to go).

Je vais à l'école tous les jours.

I go to school every day.



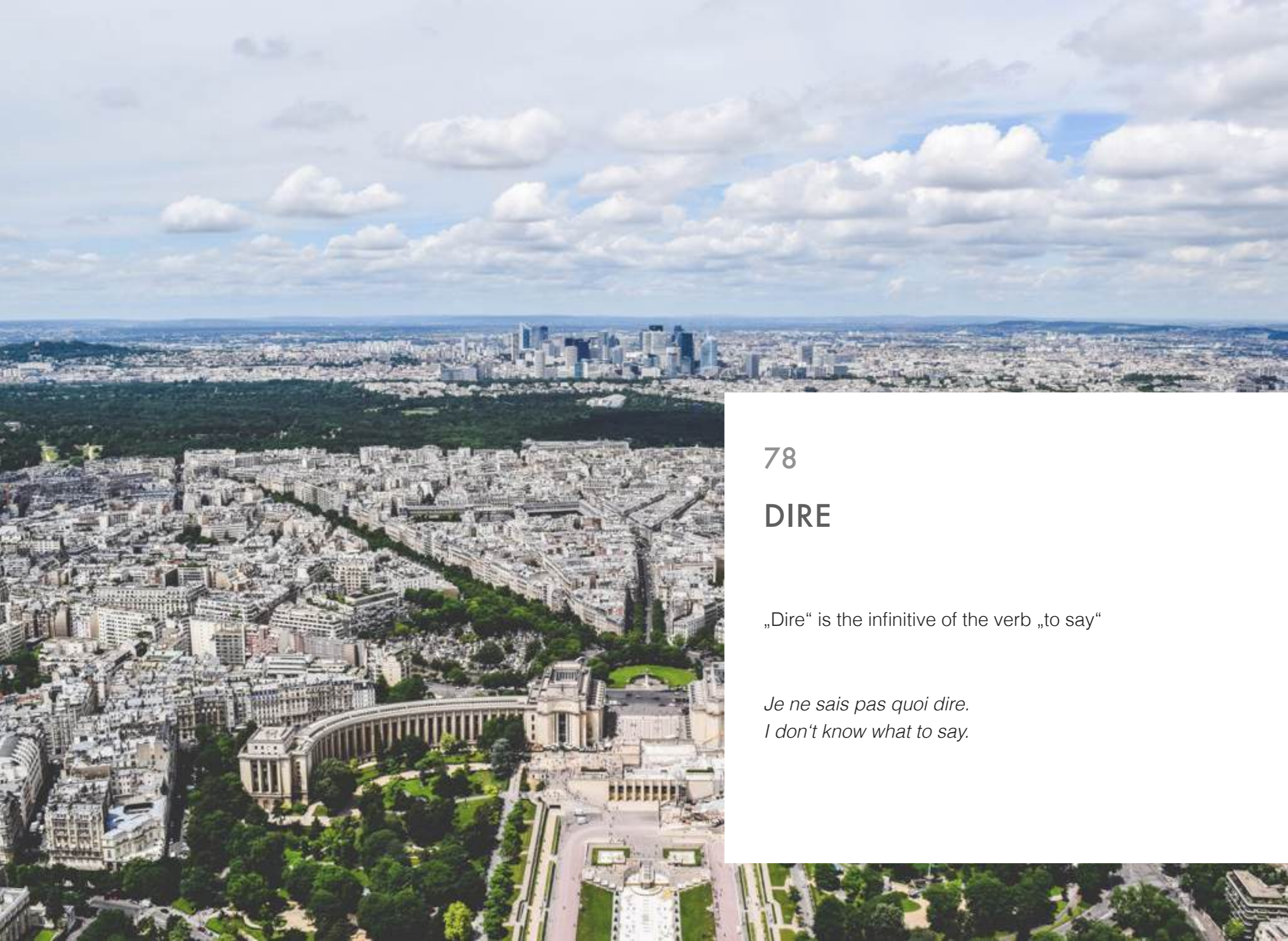
77

TOI

„Toi“ is a pronoun you use when you want to say „with you“, „for you“, „thanks to you“, „next to you“....

Il est avec toi.

He is with you.

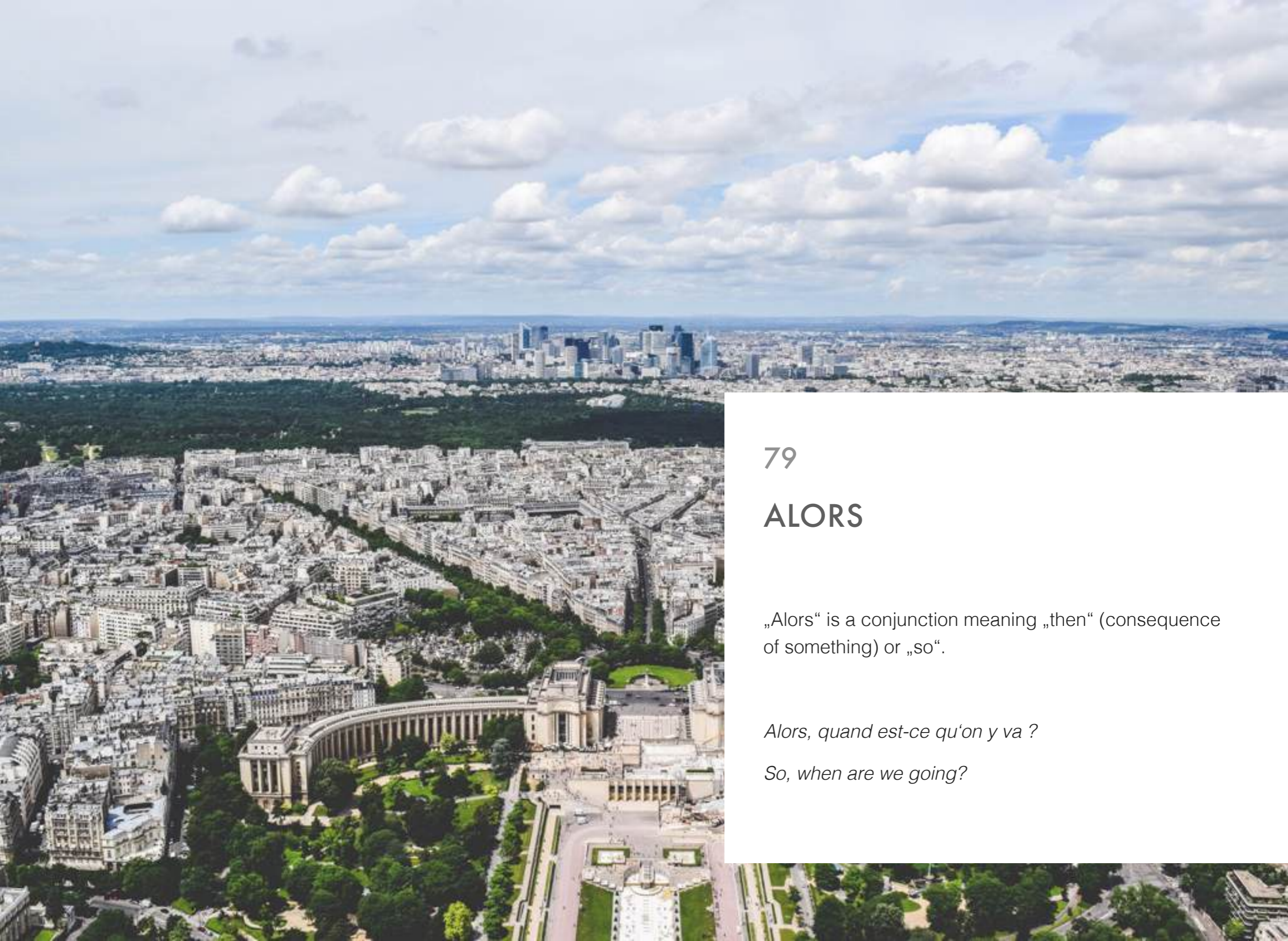


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DIRE

„Dire“ is the infinitive of the verb „to say“

*Je ne sais pas quoi dire.
I don't know what to say.*



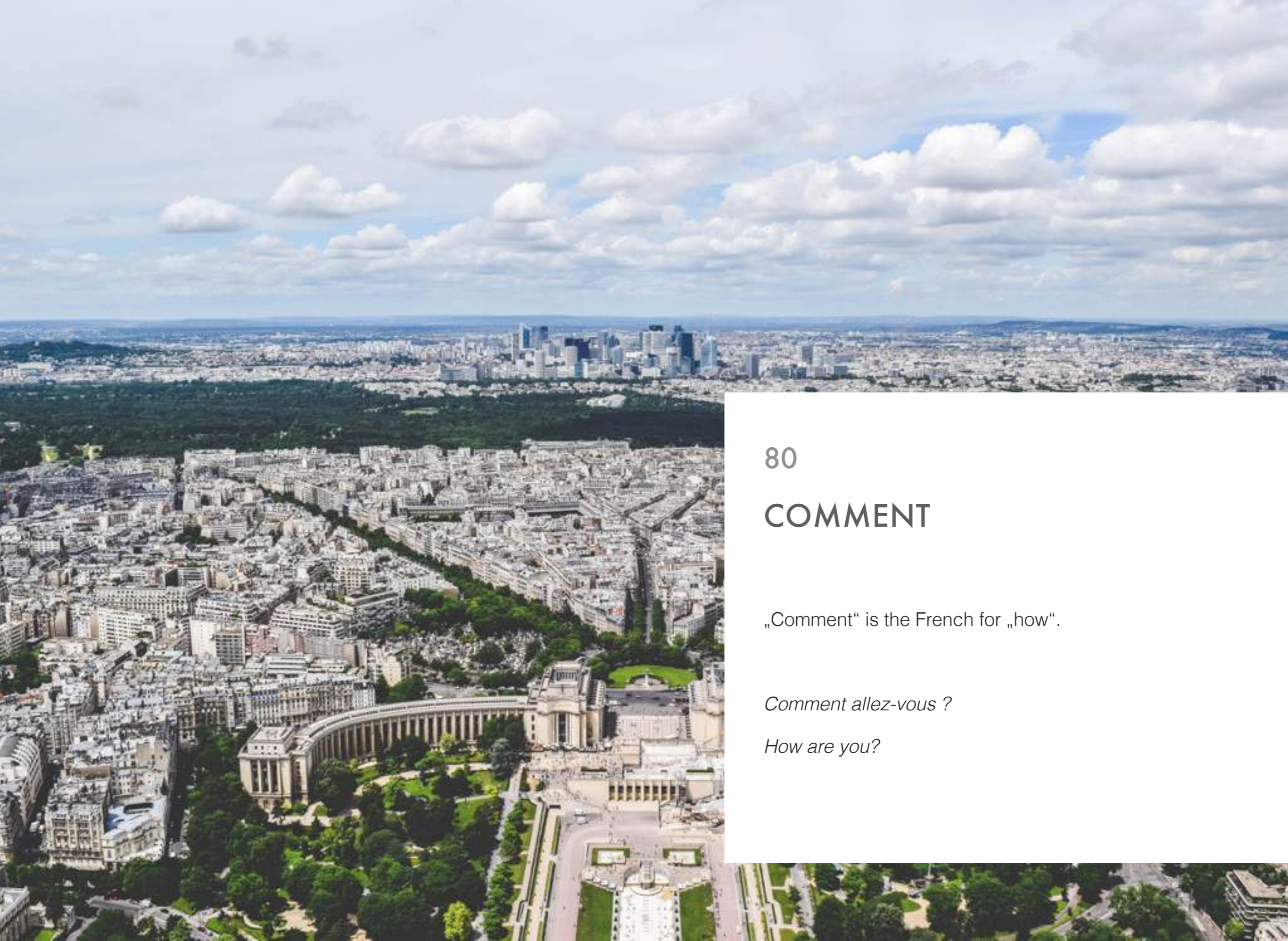
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ALORS

„Alors“ is a conjunction meaning „then“ (consequence of something) or „so“.

Alors, quand est-ce qu'on y va ?

So, when are we going?



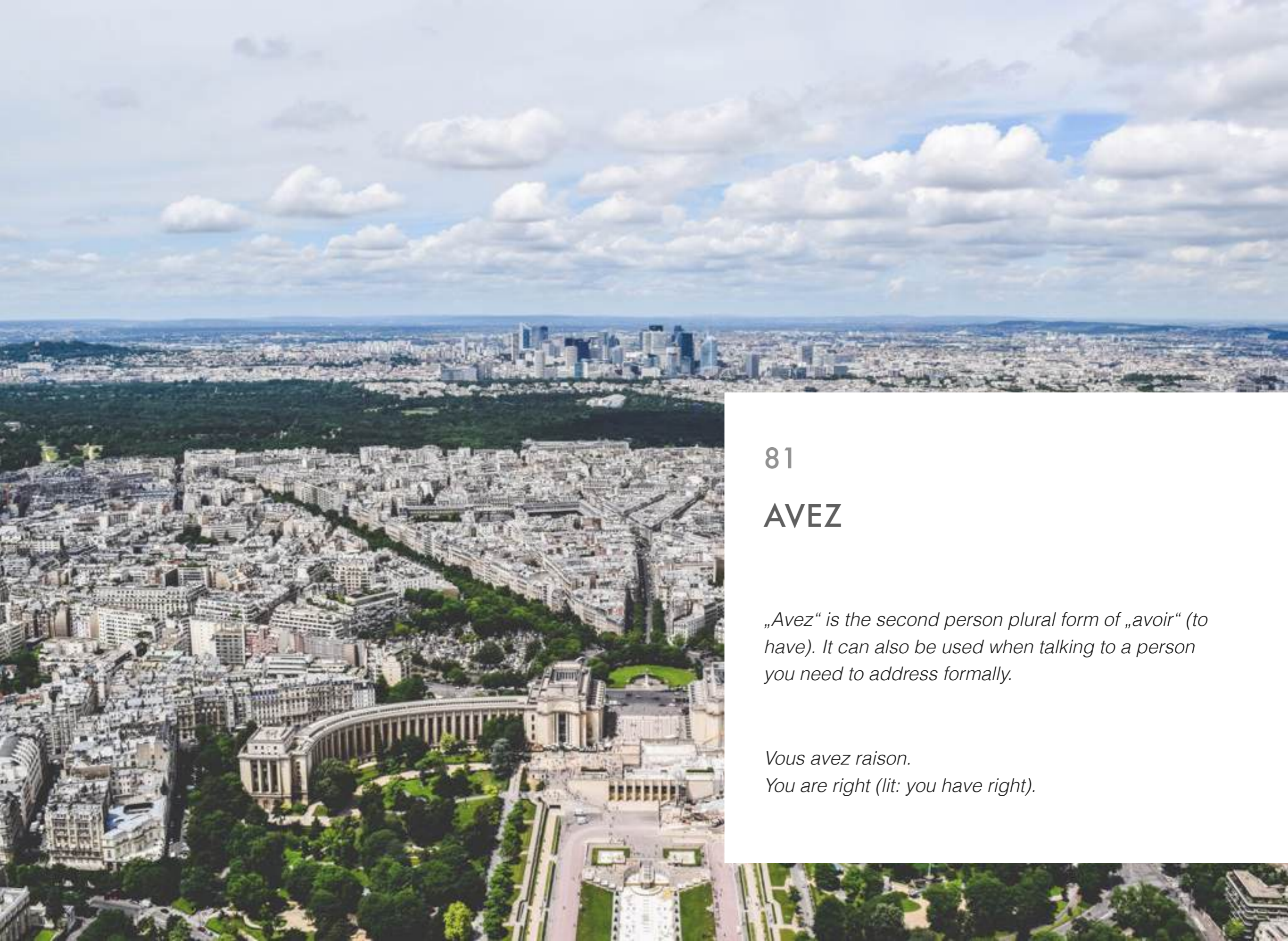
80

COMMENT

„Comment“ is the French for „how“.

Comment allez-vous ?

How are you?



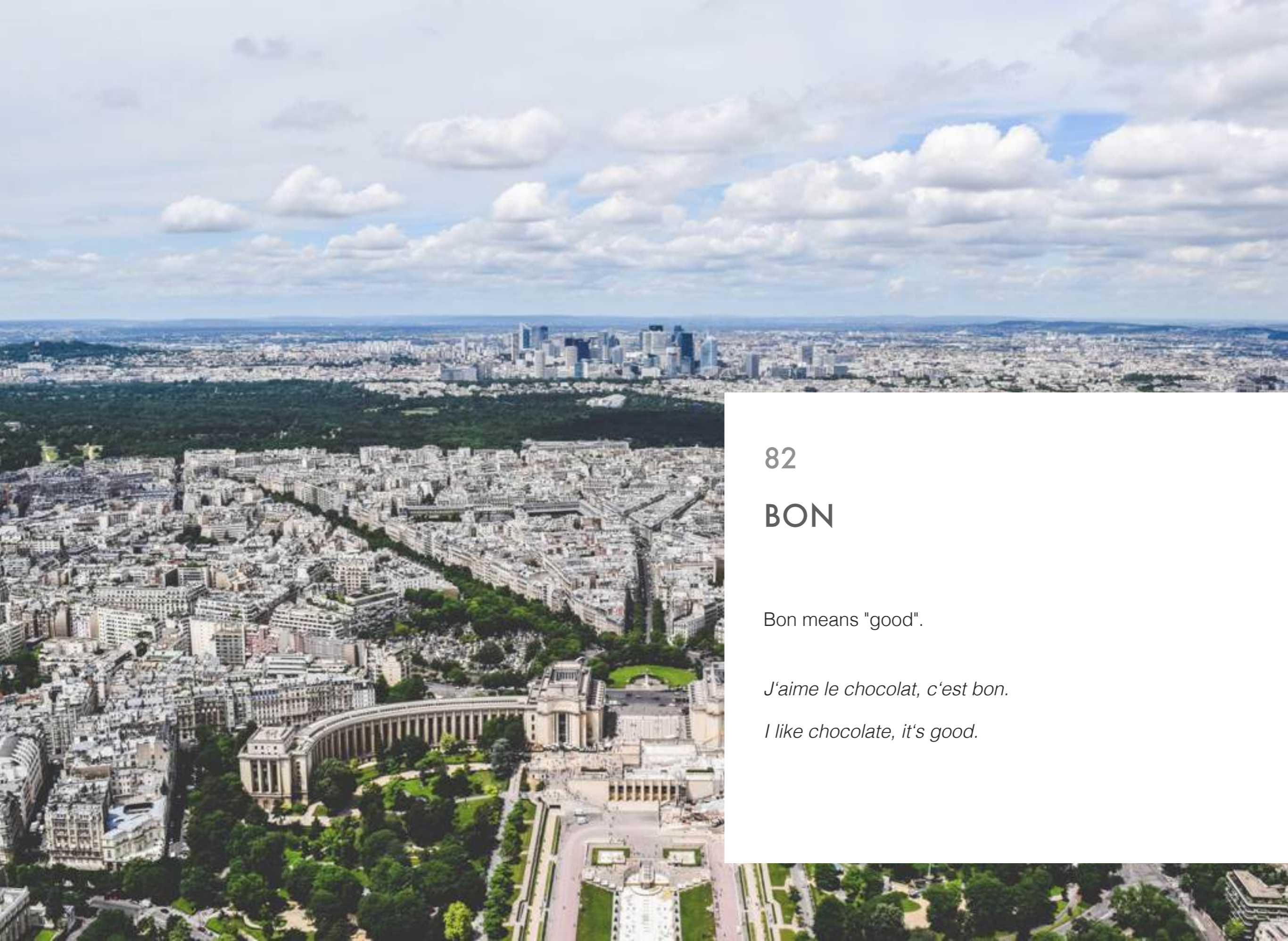
81

AVEZ

„Avez“ is the second person plural form of „avoir“ (to have). It can also be used when talking to a person you need to address formally.

Vous avez raison.

You are right (lit: you have right).



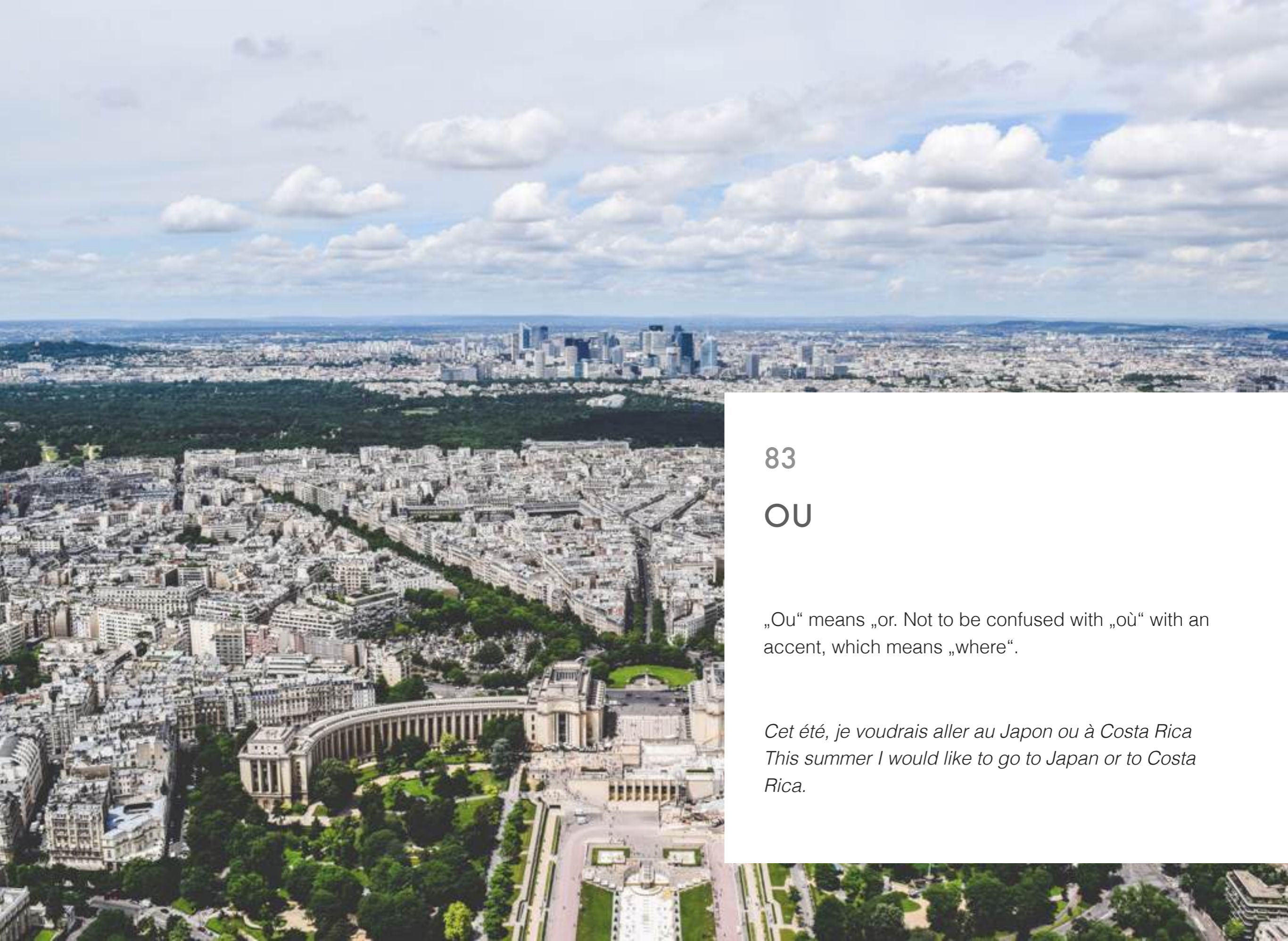
82

BON

Bon means "good".

J'aime le chocolat, c'est bon.

I like chocolate, it's good.

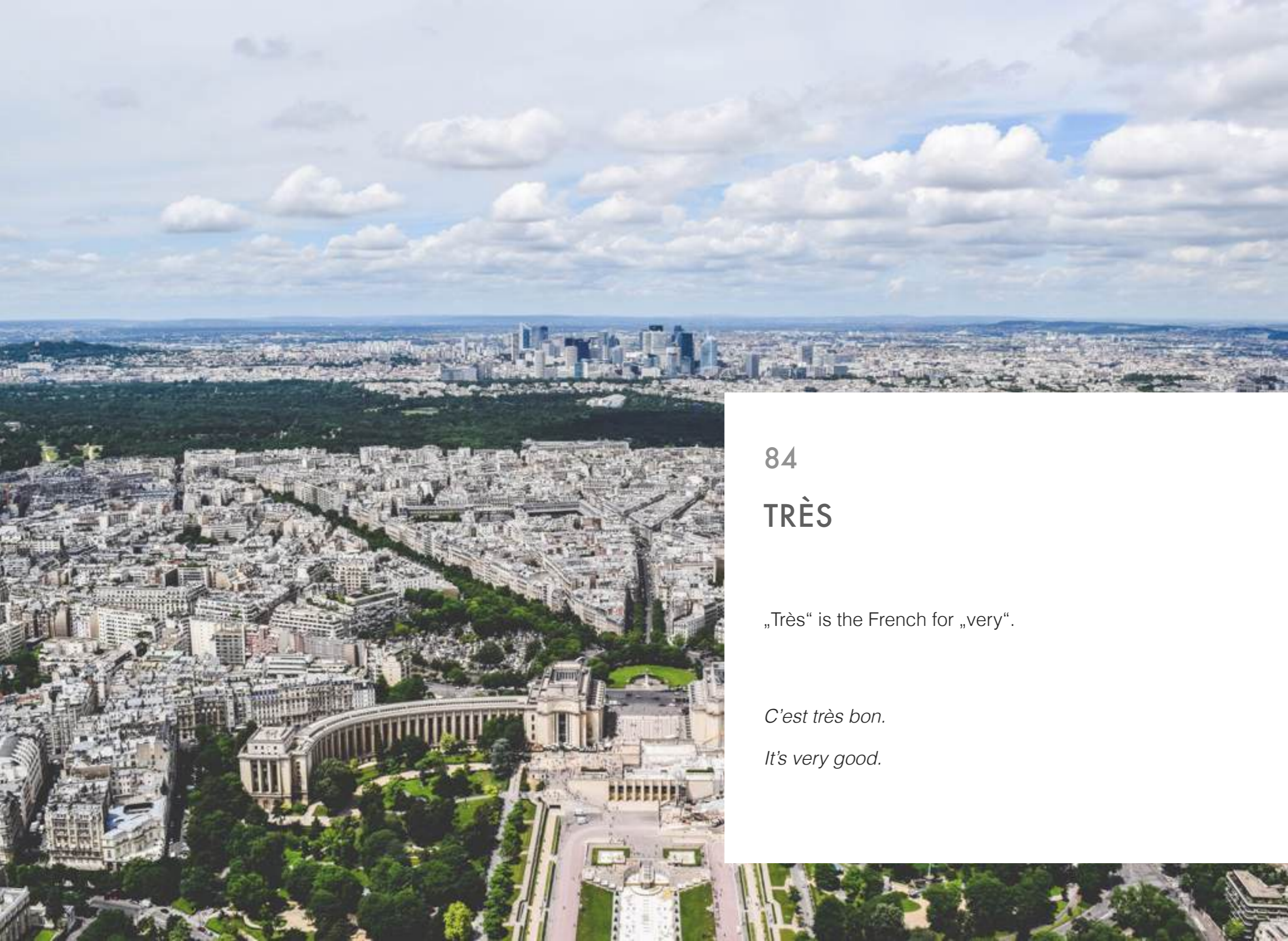


83

OU

„Ou“ means „or. Not to be confused with „où“ with an accent, which means „where“.

*Cet été, je voudrais aller au Japon ou à Costa Rica
This summer I would like to go to Japan or to Costa
Rica.*



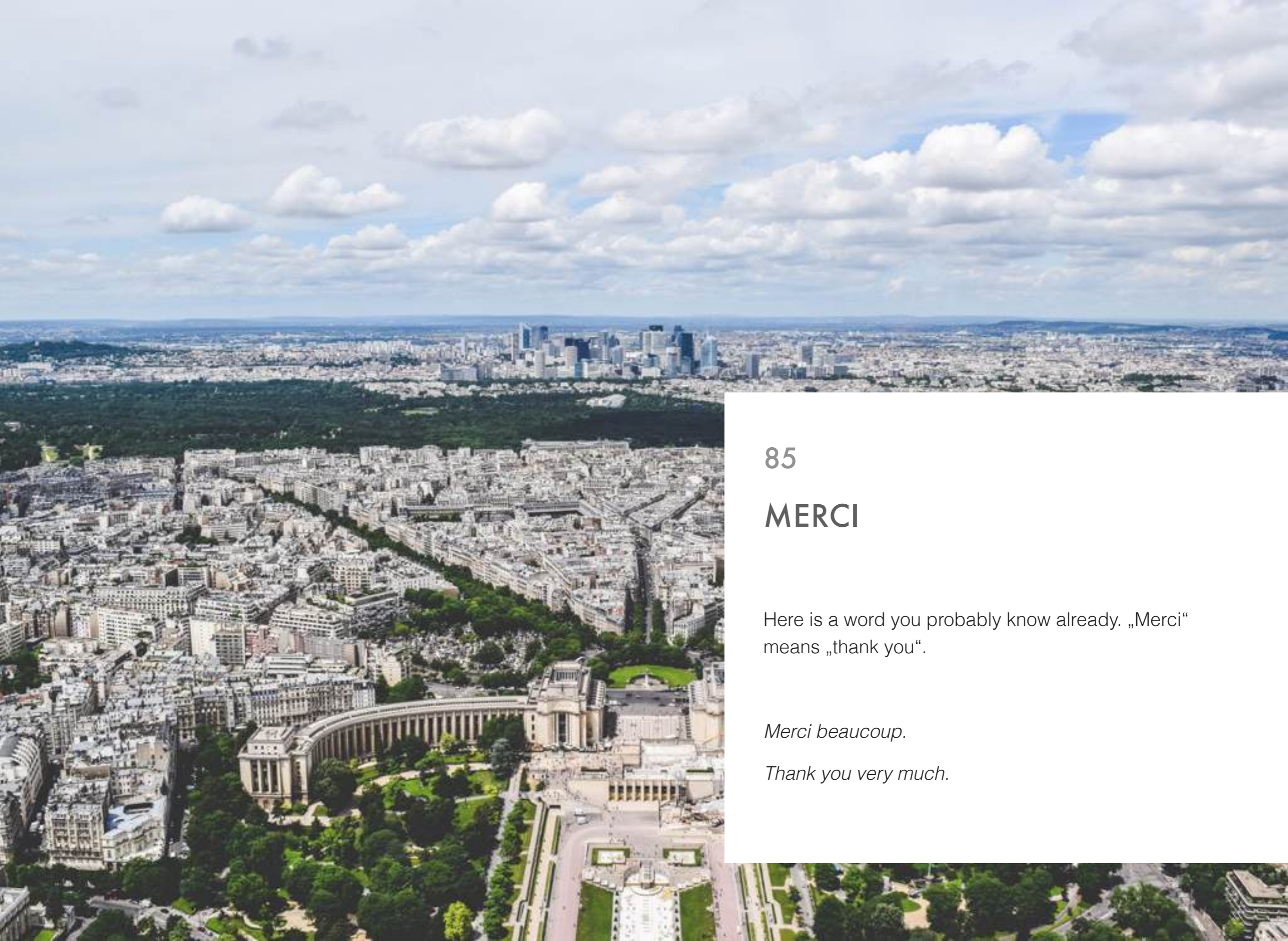
84

TRÈS

„Très“ is the French for „very“.

C'est très bon.

It's very good.



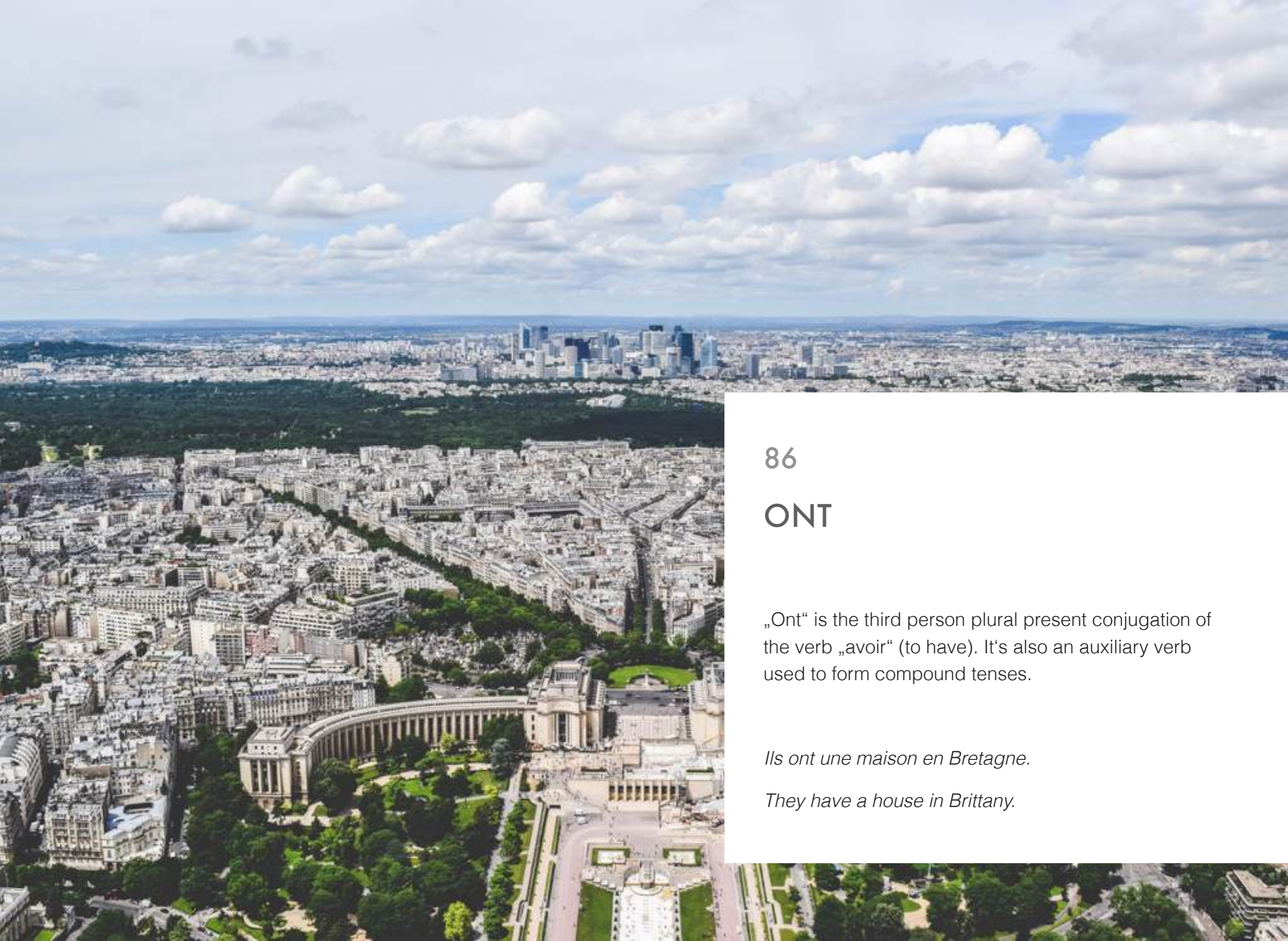
85

MERCI

Here is a word you probably know already. „Merci“ means „thank you“.

Merci beaucoup.

Thank you very much.



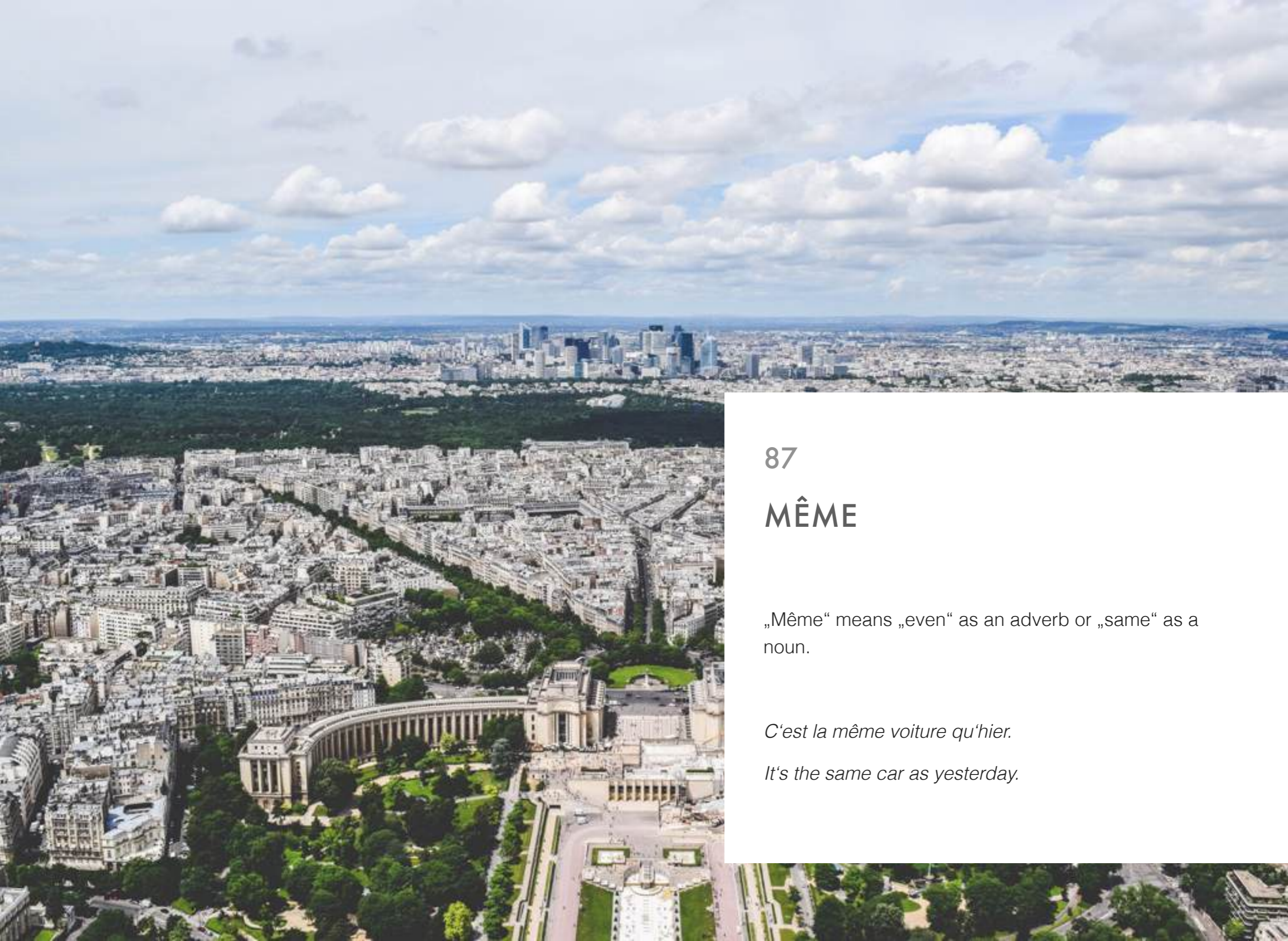
86

ONT

„Ont“ is the third person plural present conjugation of the verb „avoir“ (to have). It's also an auxiliary verb used to form compound tenses.

Ils ont une maison en Bretagne.

They have a house in Brittany.



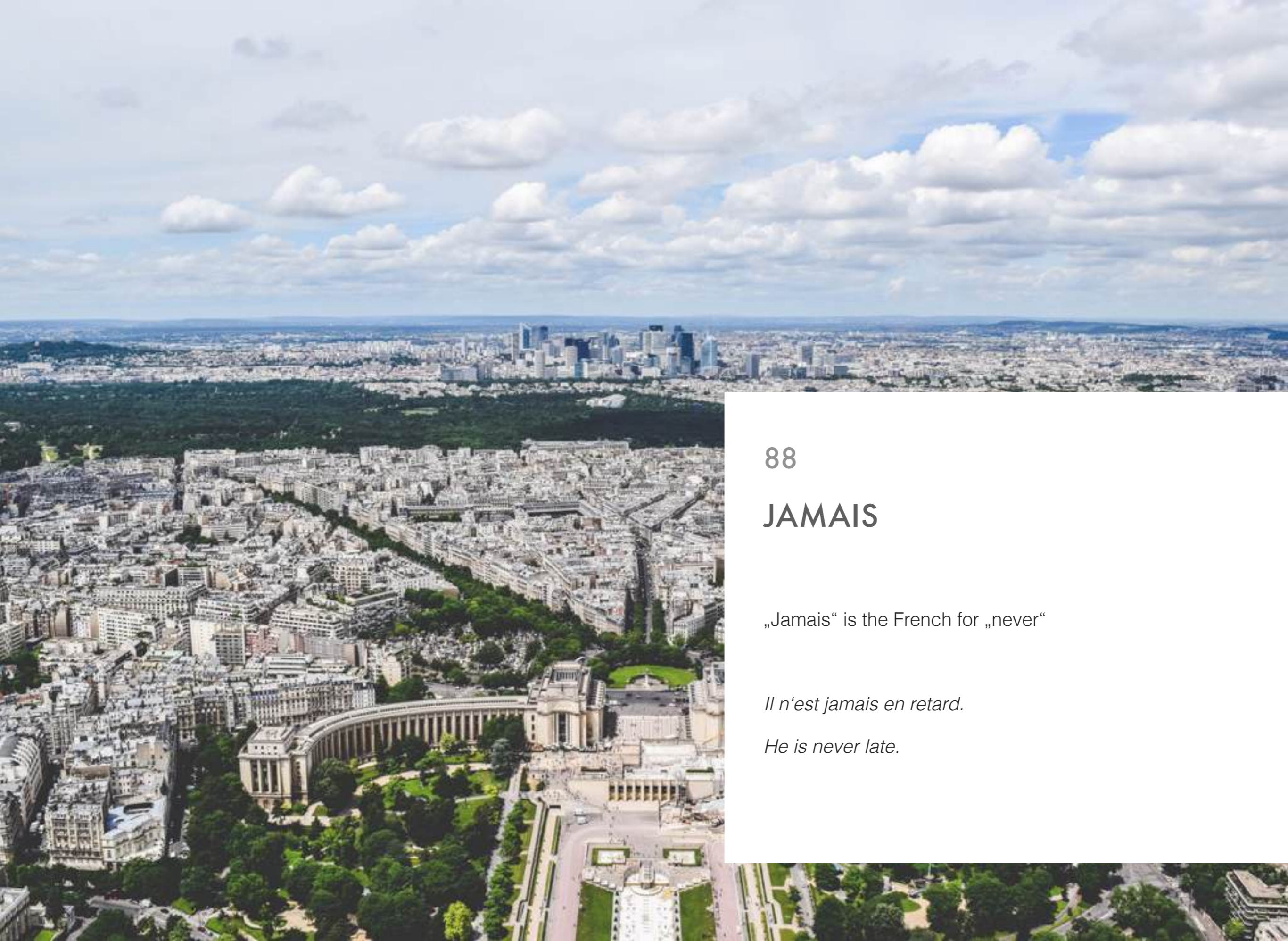
87

MÊME

„Même“ means „even“ as an adverb or „same“ as a noun.

C'est la même voiture qu'hier.

It's the same car as yesterday.



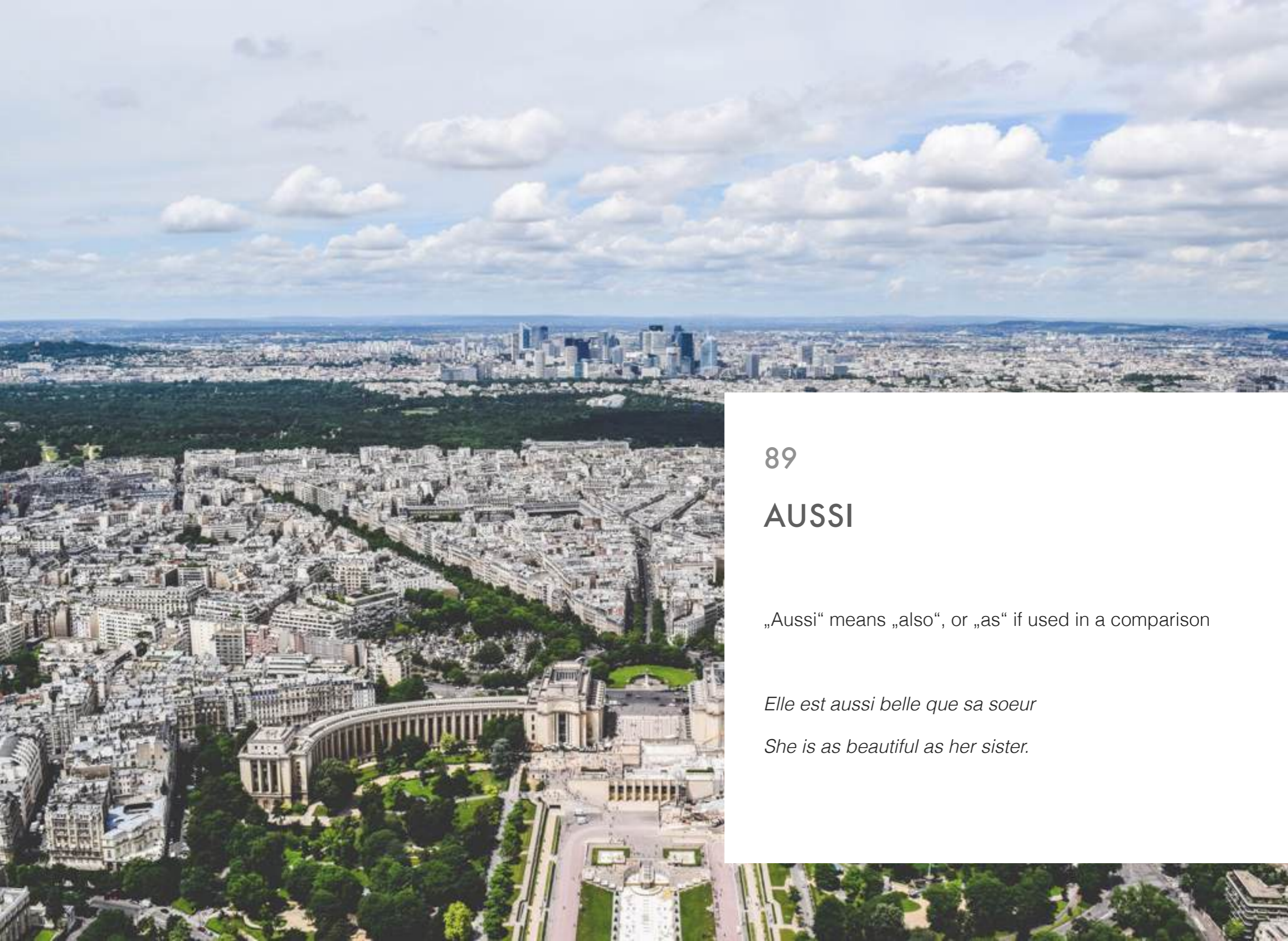
88

JAMAIS

„Jamais“ is the French for „never“

Il n'est jamais en retard.

He is never late.



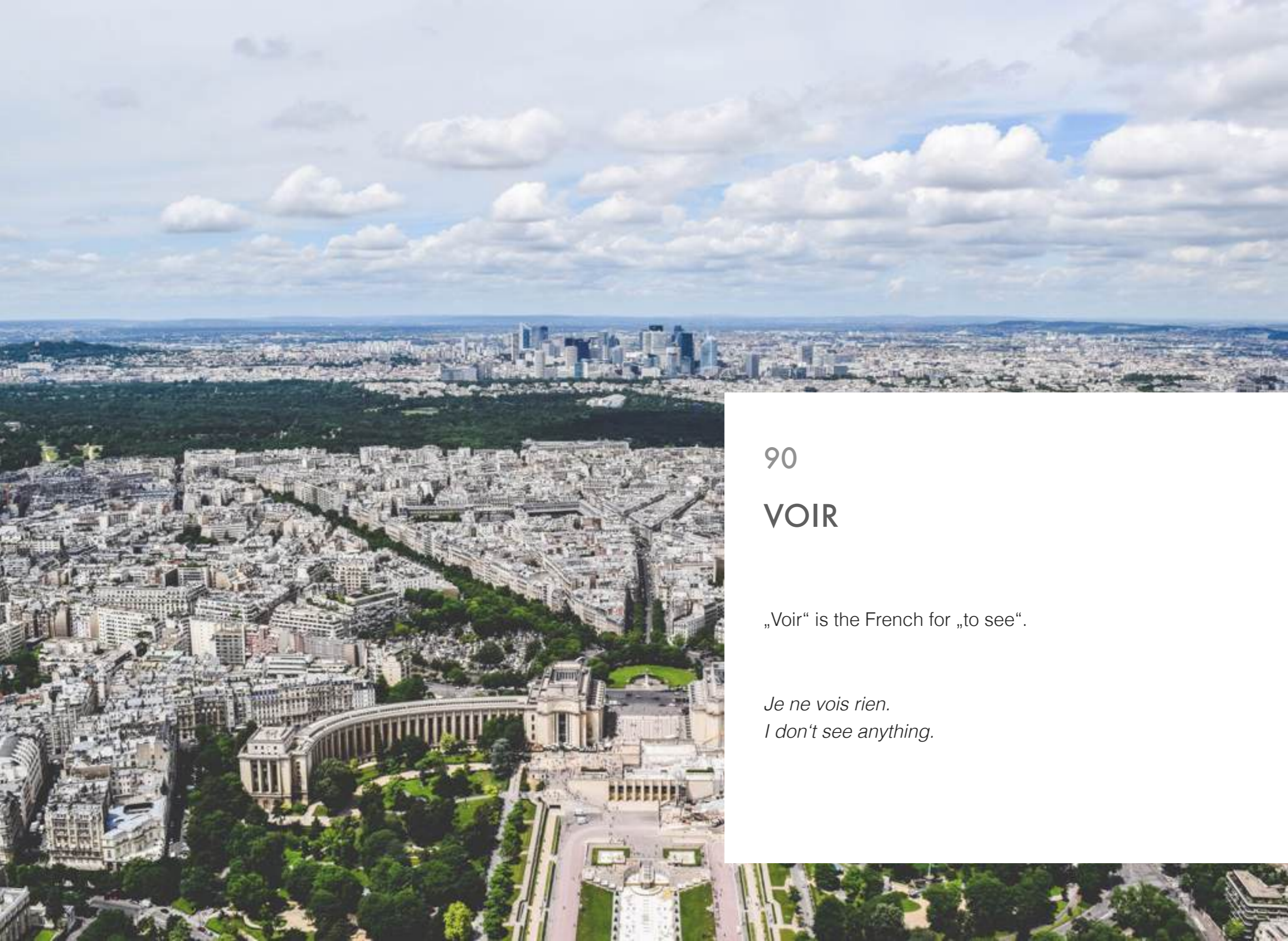
89

AUSSI

„Aussi“ means „also“, or „as“ if used in a comparison

Elle est aussi belle que sa soeur

She is as beautiful as her sister.



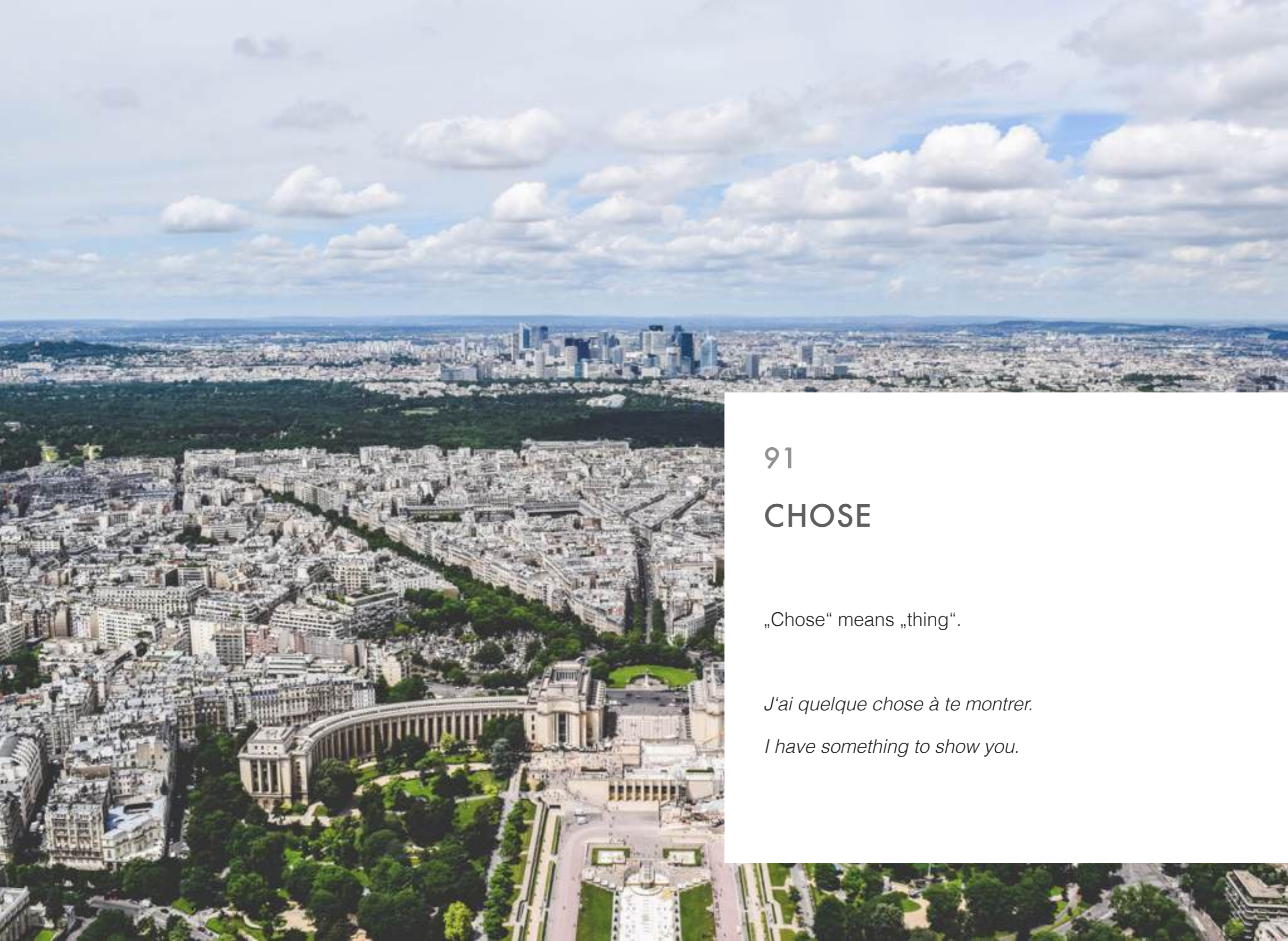
90

VOIR

„Voir“ is the French for „to see“.

Je ne vois rien.

I don't see anything.



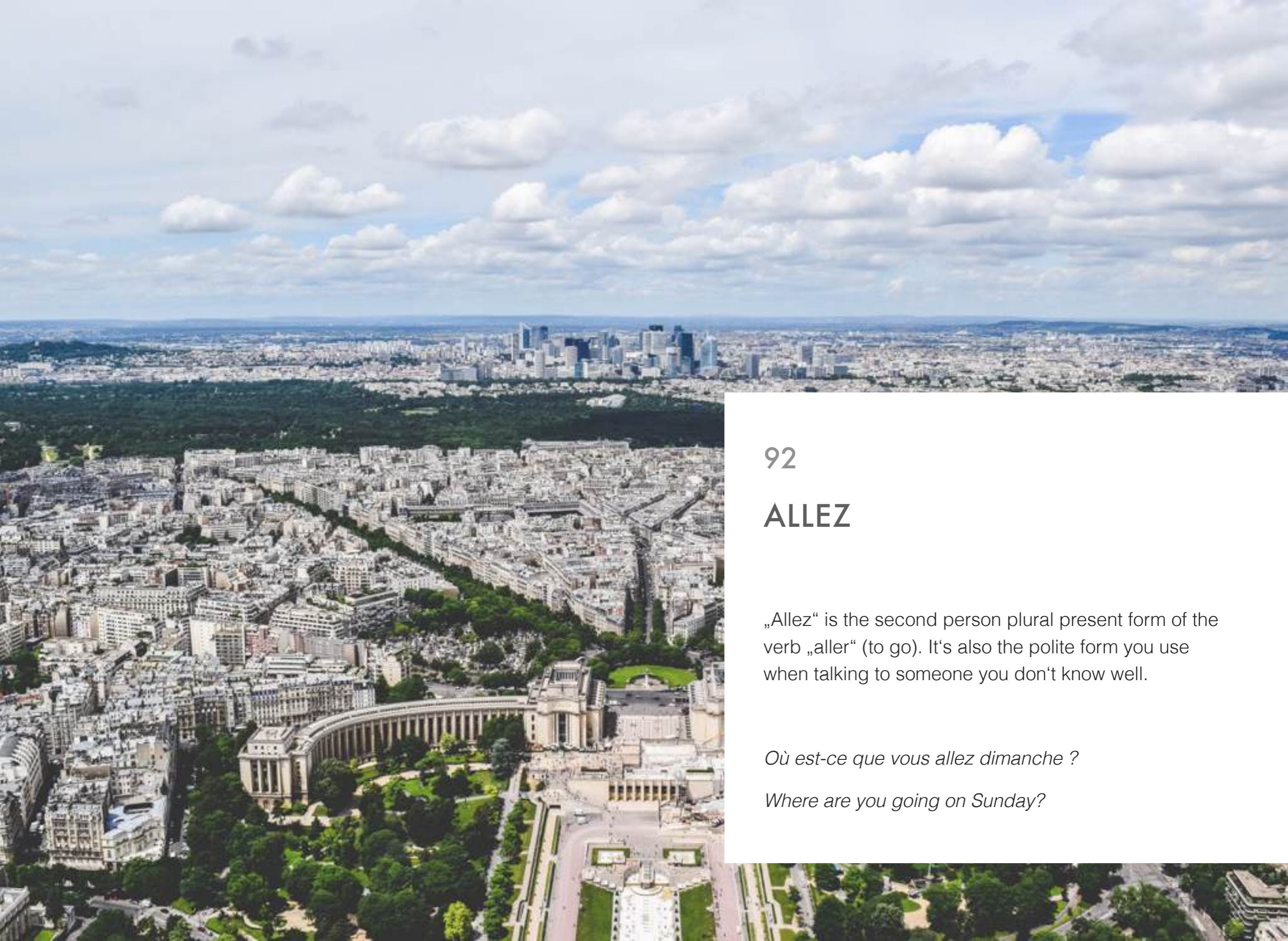
91

CHOSE

„Chose“ means „thing“.

J'ai quelque chose à te montrer.

I have something to show you.



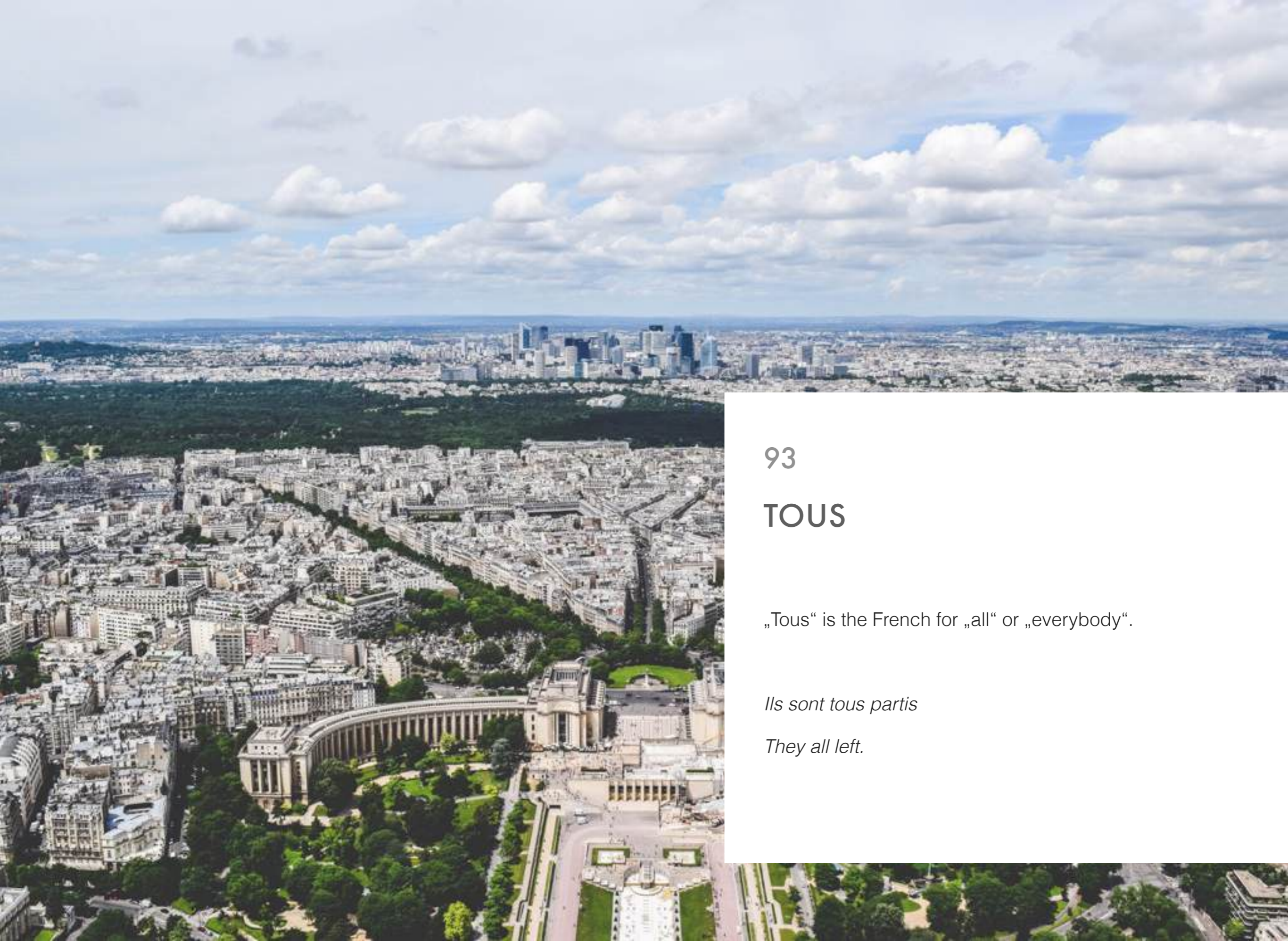
92

ALLEZ

„Allez“ is the second person plural present form of the verb „aller“ (to go). It's also the polite form you use when talking to someone you don't know well.

Où est-ce que vous allez dimanche ?

Where are you going on Sunday?



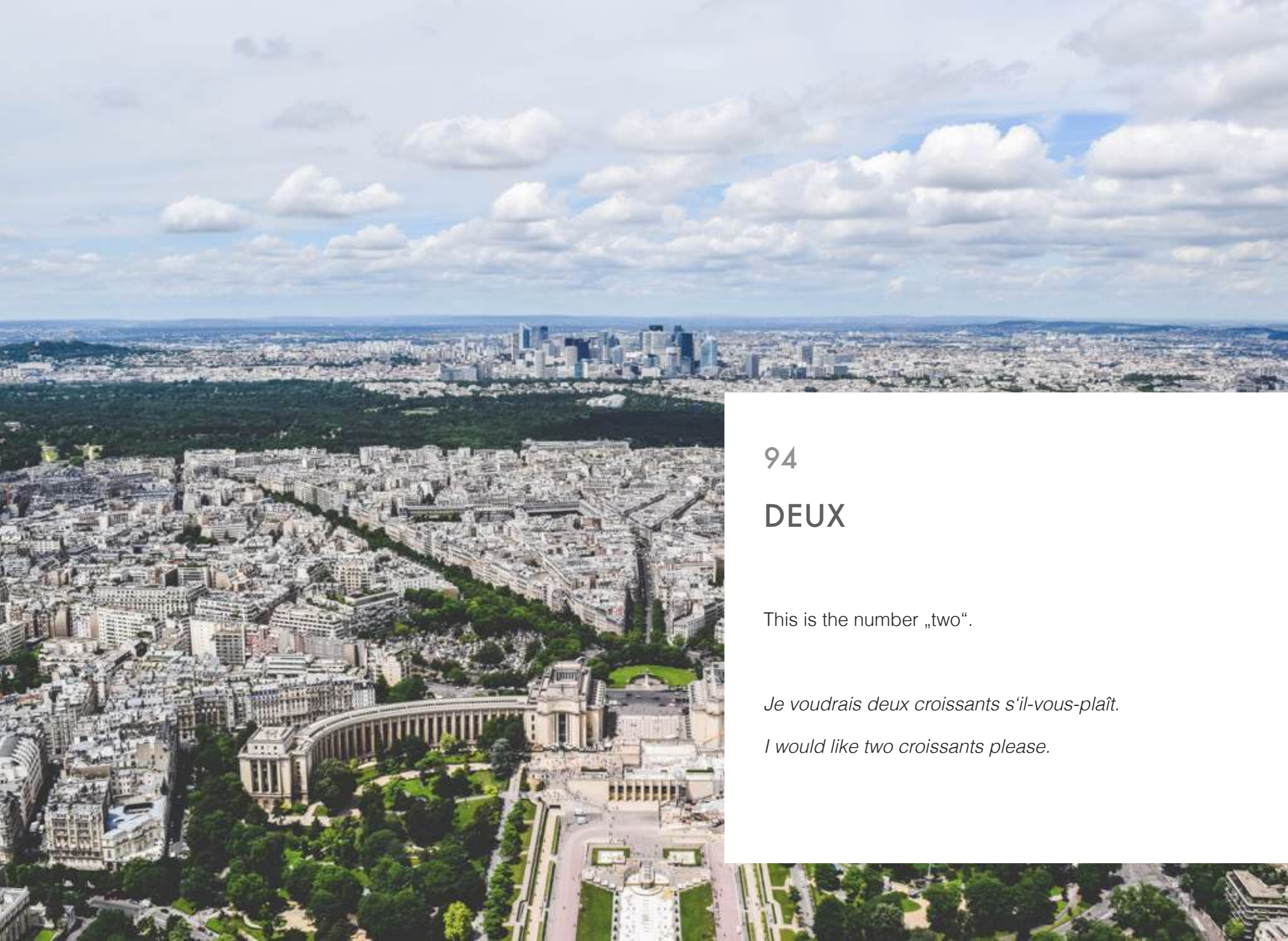
93

TOUS

„Tous“ is the French for „all“ or „everybody“.

Ils sont tous partis

They all left.



94

DEUX

This is the number „two“.

Je voudrais deux croissants s'il-vous-plaît.

I would like two croissants please.



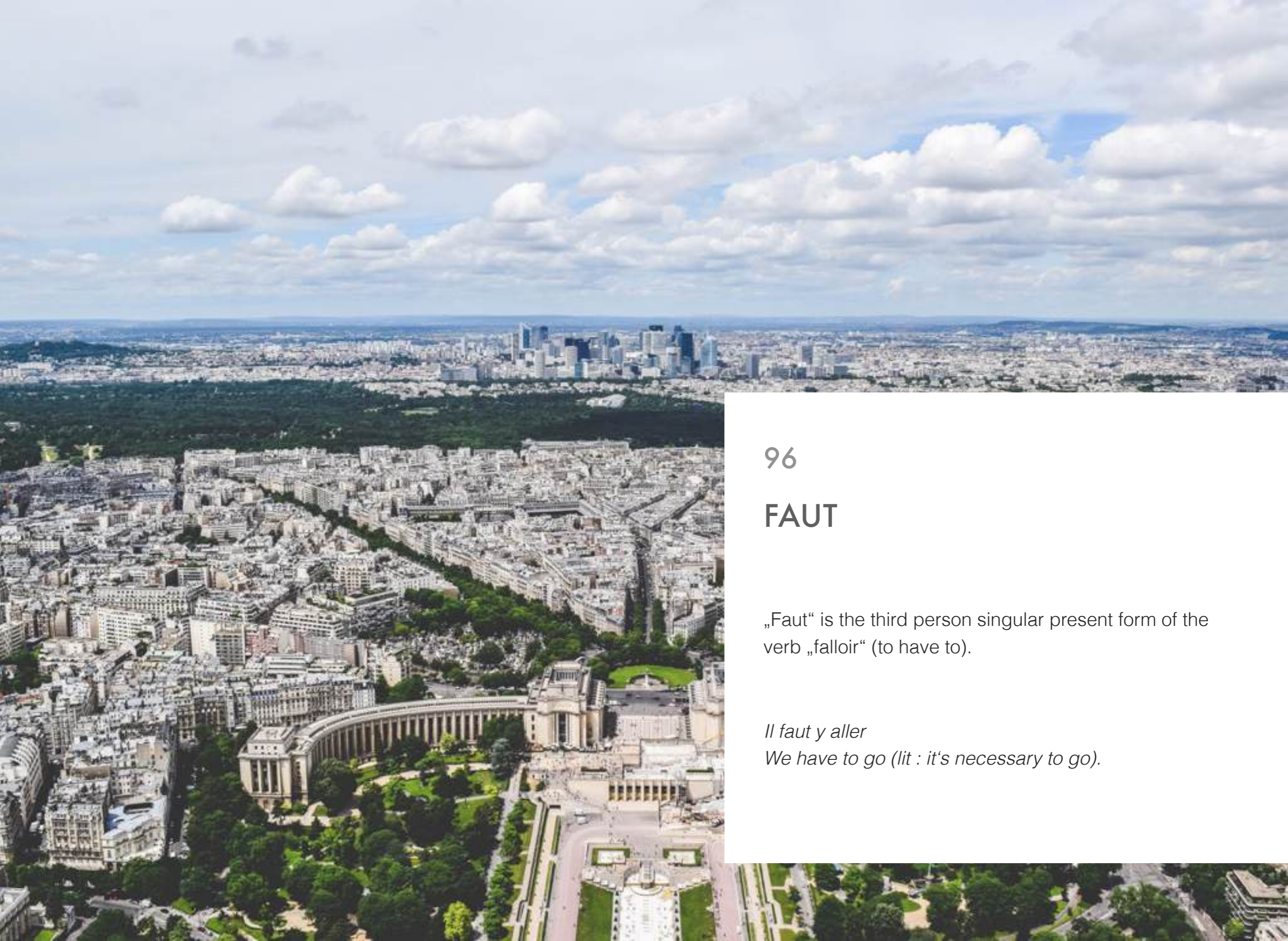
95

CES

„Ces“ is the French for „these“ and „those“. There is actually no distinction between „these“ and „those“ in French.

J'aime beaucoup ces chaussures.

I really like these shoes.



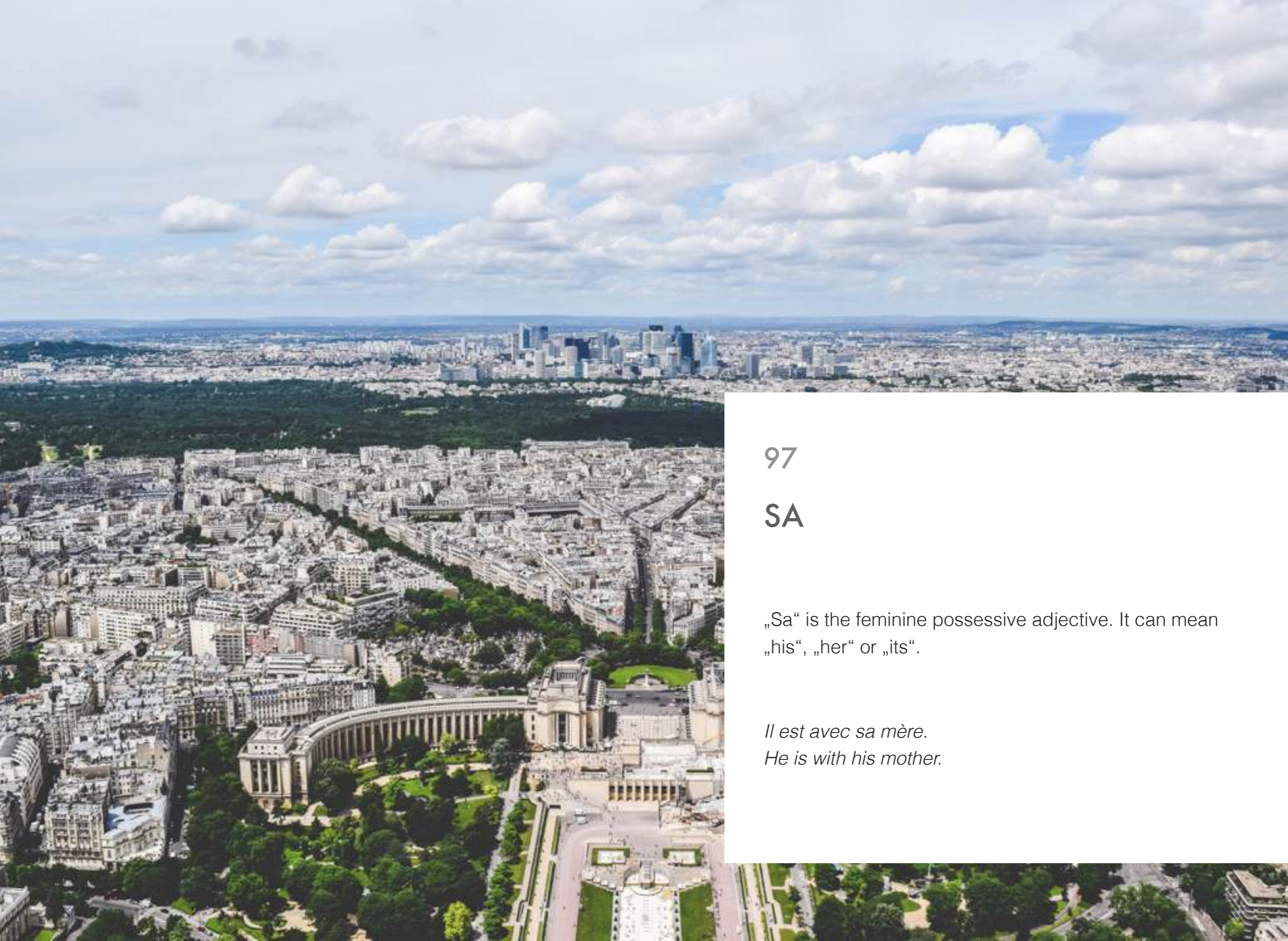
96

FAUT

„Faut“ is the third person singular present form of the verb „falloir“ (to have to).

Il faut y aller

We have to go (lit : it's necessary to go).

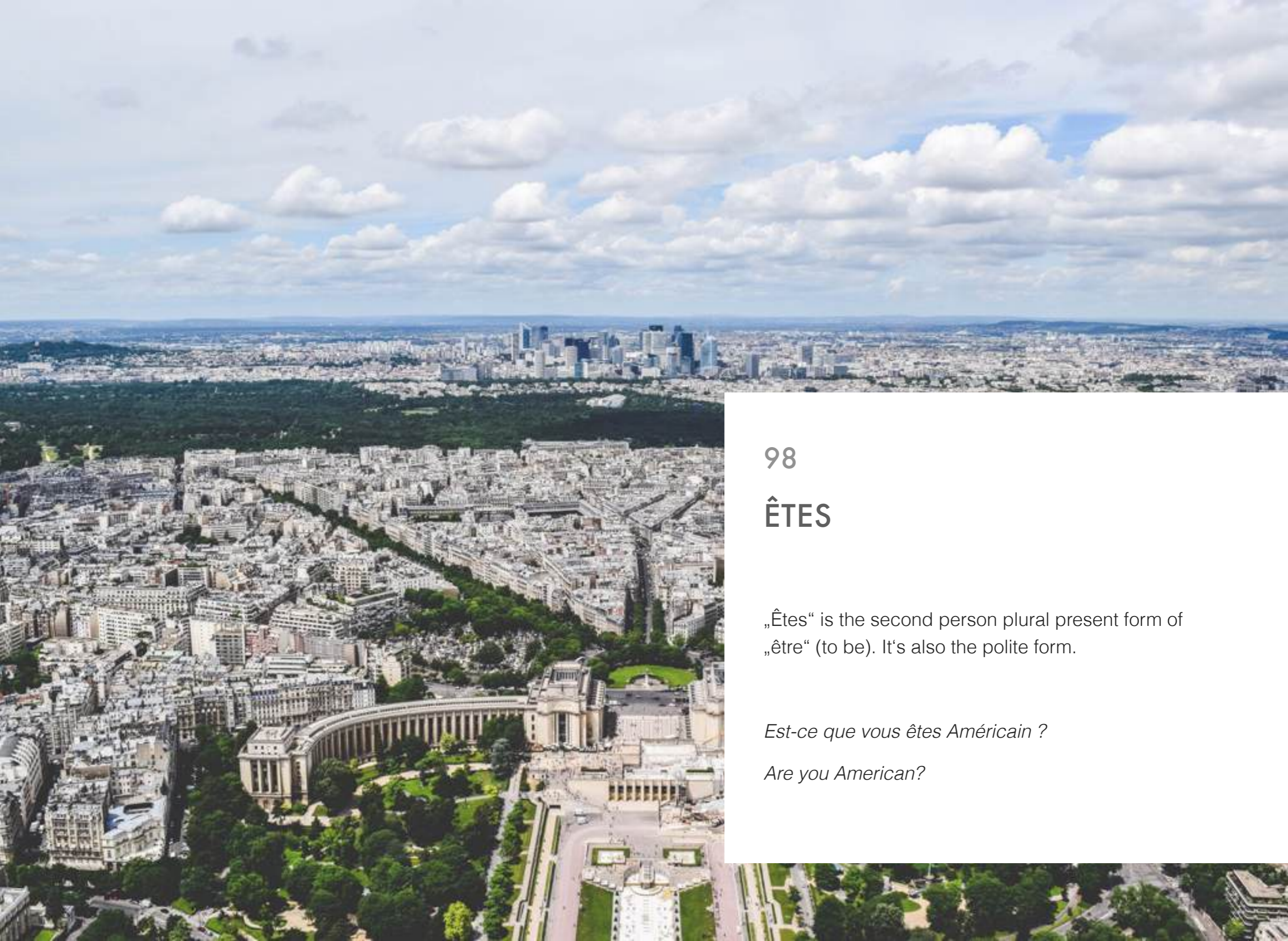


97

SA

„Sa“ is the feminine possessive adjective. It can mean „his“, „her“ or „its“.

*Il est avec sa mère.
He is with his mother.*



98

ÊTES

„Êtes“ is the second person plural present form of „être“ (to be). It's also the polite form.

Est-ce que vous êtes Américain ?

Are you American?



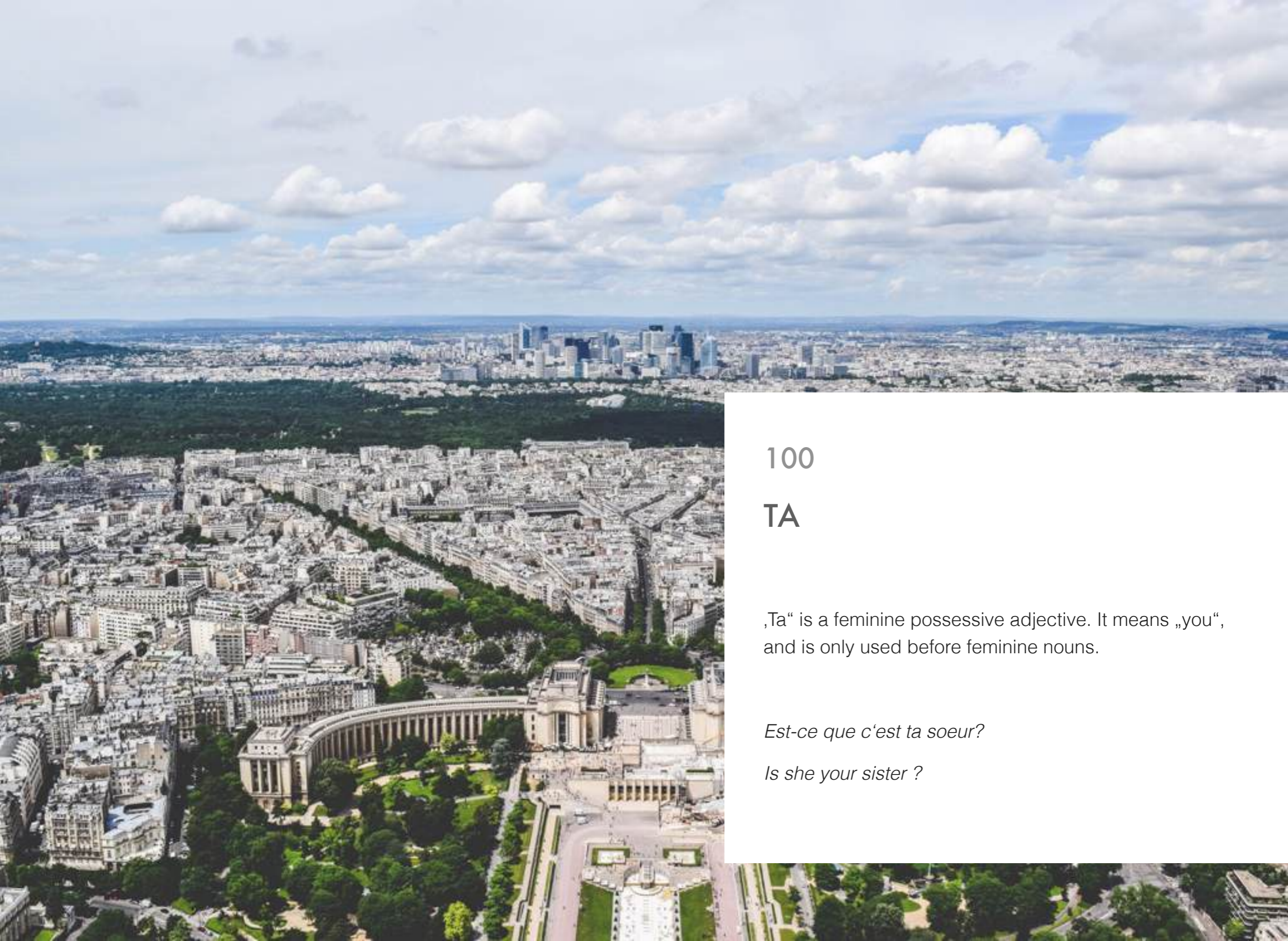
99

ÉTÉ

„Été“ is the past participle of „être“ (to be) and also mean „summer“

Qu'est-ce que tu fais cet été ?

What are you doing this summer?



100

TA

„Ta“ is a feminine possessive adjective. It means „you“, and is only used before feminine nouns.

Est-ce que c'est ta soeur?

Is she your sister ?