

Dans la forêt lointaine,
On entend le coucou.
Du haut de son grand chêne
Il répond au hibou :
« Coucou hibou, coucou hibou,
Coucou hibou, coucou.
Coucou hibou, coucou hibou,
Coucou hibou, coucou. »

English

*In the faraway forest,
We can hear the cuckoo.
From the top of its big oak tree
It is replying to the owl.
“Hello owl, hello owl,
Hello owl, hello.
Hello owl, hello owl,
Hello owl, hello.”*

This is another traditional French song that I have loved since being a child!

I have used it in many schools before to teach French too – it is simple, short and fun!

Did you know that the cuckoo steals other birds' nests for its own eggs?? Mmmm...

You and your child(ren) can come up with your own actions for this song, of course, as ever.

This one is great to practise the “ou” sound in French and make children realise that it is different from even a “oo” in English – just have fun with it, repeating “coucou hibou” over and over again!

You can also point out to the children, if they can read, that the “h” is silent at the beginning of “hibou”.

The words “forêt” and “chêne” can be a way into noticing and practising writing the “accent circonflexe” (replacing a “s” in forêt, from forest).

If you like this song, you will probably like [“Dans sa maison un grand cerf” – click here to access it!](#)

All in all, this is a great and fun song that you and your child(ren) will love, I know it, and you will be singing “coucou hibou” forever more! Do use “coucou” to say “hi” to your child(ren) too, I do, it is a lovely word!

[Click here to go back to the article and the video.](#)



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