



What "Je crois" *really* means in everyday French

Bonjour 🙌

This week, let's look at a short, simple expression that French speakers use all the time, but that often misleads learners:

→ **je crois**

Yes, it can mean "I believe" (like in "*je te crois*", or "*je crois en Dieu*"), but in real life, it's more often used like "I think." Let me show you how.

📌 ***Je crois* = I think**

In everyday French, ***je crois*** is used to express an **opinion**, or **assumption** just like "I think" in English.

Examples:

- ***Je crois qu'il est déjà parti*** : I think he already left
- ***Je crois que j'ai oublié mes clés*** : I think I forgot my keys
- ***Je (ne)crois pas*** : I don't think so

🤔 ***Je crois* vs *Je pense* : is there a difference?**

Yes. Both can mean "I think", but:

- ***Je pense*** feels a bit **stronger or more rational**, it sounds like you've thought it through

- **Je crois** sounds more **instinctive**, it's **softer**, and more common in everyday conversation, it's what you feel or assume

Examples:

- **Je pense que c'est une erreur**: I think it's a mistake
- **Je crois que c'est une erreur**: I think it might be a mistake

How to use *je crois*

Just like **penser** and other verbs of opinion, **croire** follows a simple rule:

- In the **affirmative**, use the **indicatif** → You believe it's true
 - *Je crois qu'il est là*: I think he's here
- In the **negative**, use the **subjonctif** → There's doubt:
 - Je (ne) crois pas qu'il **soit** là: I don't think he's here

👉 In French, you **must include "que"** to introduce the second part of the sentence. Unlike English, where "that" is often optional, in French it's **never dropped**:



- *Je crois tu as raison* (incorrect) ❌ I think you're right
- *Je crois que tu as raison* ✅: I think that you're right

Audio practice: slow first, then real speed

Want to hear what these sentences sound like in real spoken French?

I recorded a short audio where I say each example **slowly**, then again at **natural speed**, so you can **listen, repeat and feel the difference**.

▶ Click below to listen

  Listen to the audio

P.S: If you found this helpful or have questions, feel free to hit reply; I always love hearing from you. And just so you know: **Je crois que tu**

progresses, même si tu ne t'en rends pas toujours compte.

Keep going, your French is growing, step by step 🌱

À très bientôt,

Marie

The Studie Club

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