

Rosa's French Adventure: A Day in the Park

Learning objective: To understand and identify simple French verb structures and tenses within a short narrative.

Read the story about Rosa the parrot carefully. Pay attention to the French verbs in italics. Then, answer the questions that follow using your knowledge of language and grammar.

Rosa the parrot loves to visit the local park to practise her languages. Today, the sun is shining brightly. Rosa perches on a wooden bench and looks at a group of children. 'Bonjour!' she squawks cheerfully. She tells them, 'Aujourd'hui, je joue au ballon,' which means 'Today, I am playing with a ball.' The children smile because they know this is the present tense. Rosa remembers her time in the park yesterday. 'Hier, je mangeais une pomme,' she says, explaining that she was eating an apple. She points to the verb 'mangeais' to show the imperfect tense, which describes an action that was happening in the past. Rosa loves to teach her friends that French verbs change their endings depending on when the action happens. By changing the end of the word, she can tell a story about now, or a story about yesterday. The children practise repeating the phrases back to her, feeling very clever as they learn new words. They all agree that learning French with a friendly parrot is the best way to spend a sunny afternoon.

Word bank: le parc (the park) · je joue (I play) · je mangeais (I was eating) · le soleil (the sun) · apprendre (to learn)

1. Identify the two French phrases Rosa uses in the story and explain what each one means in English. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what does Rosa use to show that an action happened in the past? (1 mark)

3. Why do the children feel 'very clever' by the end of the story? (2 marks)

4. How does the author show that Rosa is an effective teacher for the children? (2 marks)

5. Do you think learning a language is easier when you use it to describe what you are doing in real-time? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Rosa the parrot sitting on a park bench with a group of children, holding a sign that shows a French verb and its English translation.



Extension challenge: Try to write three sentences in French about your own day, using the structure 'Je [verb]' for things you are doing now, such as 'Je marche' (I walk) or 'Je regarde' (I look).