

Rosa's Rainbow Palette: A French Colour Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and use French vocabulary for colours to describe objects, and to understand how these adjectives agree with the gender of nouns.

Join Rosa the parrot on a linguistic adventure! Use this fact-file to categorise colours in French. Remember that in French, adjectives often change depending on whether the object is masculine or feminine. Complete the sections below to build your own colourful reference guide.

Word bank: rouge · bleu · vert · jaune · orange · violet · rose · noir · blanc · masculin · féminin · adjectif

1. The Primary Colours: List three French colours that you consider 'primary'. Write the French word and the English translation. Explain why you have chosen these three. (3 marks)

2. Gender Agreement: Choose one colour from the word bank that changes when describing a feminine noun (e.g., adding an 'e'). Write a sentence in French using this colour to describe a noun of your choice. (3 marks)

3. Creative Descriptions: Imagine you are describing an object using two different colours in French. Write the phrase and justify why the adjective order in French might differ from English. (4 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare the French word for 'orange' or 'rose' with English. Why do you think these words are similar in both languages? Research the etymology if you can. (4 marks)

5. Critical Thinking: What might happen to the meaning of a sentence if you accidentally use the masculine form of a colour adjective for a feminine noun? Justify the importance of accuracy. (4 marks)

6. Synthesis: If you were to create a new colour in French, what would you name it? Describe its appearance using French adjectives and explain the reasoning behind your creative choice. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'French Colour Wheel' poster. Instead of just writing the names, draw objects that are naturally those colours (e.g., a green apple, a yellow sun) and label them with the correct French noun and colour adjective, ensuring the gender agreement is correct for each.