

Rosa's Radiant Rainbow: A French Colours Challenge

Learning objective: To identify, spell, and apply French colour vocabulary, including understanding gender agreement (masculine and feminine) for advanced descriptive writing.

Join Rosa the parrot as she paints a masterpiece! Read each question carefully. Remember that in French, colours often change their spelling depending on the noun they describe (e.g., adding an 'e' for feminine nouns). Use your knowledge of French grammar to ensure your answers are accurate.

Rosa is painting a portrait of her friends. She has a palette full of bright pigments. She notes: 'Le soleil est jaune' (The sun is yellow) but 'La pomme est rouge' (The apple is red).

Word bank: rouge (red) · bleu / bleue (blue) · jaune (yellow) · vert / verte (green) · orange (orange) · violet / violette (purple) · noir / noire (black) · blanc / blanche (white) · rose (pink) · marron (brown)

1. Rosa is painting a blue dolphin. If 'dauphin' (dolphin) is masculine, write the correct phrase for 'the blue dolphin' in French. Explain why you chose that specific spelling of 'blue'. (2 marks)

2. Rosa paints a green leaf. 'Feuille' (leaf) is a feminine noun in French. How would you write 'the green leaf'? Justify your choice of spelling based on French grammatical gender rules. (2 marks)

3. Look at the following list: rouge, jaune, orange, rose, marron. What do these five colours have in common regarding their spelling when used with feminine nouns compared to colours like 'vert' or 'noir'? (2 marks)

4. If Max has a white hat (un chapeau blanc) and a white shirt (une chemise blanche), compare and contrast the spelling of 'white'. Why does the adjective change? (2 marks)

5. Rosa wants to describe a 'violet owl'. Translate this into French, ensuring the gender agreement is correct for 'une chouette' (an owl). (2 marks)

6. Imagine you are describing a scene for a painting. Write three full sentences in French describing objects and their colours, ensuring you use at least one masculine and one feminine noun correctly. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Nova the owl sitting in a forest. Label at least four items in the drawing using French phrases (e.g., 'Le ciel bleu' or 'La fleur rouge').



Extension challenge: What might happen to the meaning of a sentence if a student forgets to add the feminine 'e' to an adjective like 'verte'? Write a short paragraph explaining the importance of grammatical accuracy in descriptive language, and invent a mnemonic device to help you remember which colours change their spelling.