

Rosa's Seasonal Calendar

Learning objective: To read, understand, and recall the months of the year in French, demonstrating an understanding of seasonal vocabulary and cultural context.

Read the text carefully below. Use the information to answer the questions. Ensure your explanations are clear and use your knowledge of French vocabulary.

Rosa the parrot is an expert at teaching languages. She loves to fly across the French countryside, observing how the landscape changes throughout the year. During l'hiver, specifically décembre, janvier, and février, Rosa stays warm in her nest. She notes that the weather is cold and the days are short. As the sun returns in mars, avril, and mai, she welcomes le printemps, watching the flowers bloom in vibrant colours. When juin, juillet, and août arrive, the heat of l'été encourages her to fly higher to catch cool breezes. She often visits local markets during these months, where villagers sell fresh fruit for £2 a basket. Finally, as the leaves turn golden brown in septembre, octobre, and novembre, Rosa prepares for l'automne. She explains to her friends that the French calendar is very similar to ours, but the pronunciation makes it sing like a melody. Rosa believes that learning the months is the first step to understanding the rhythm of life in France. She encourages everyone to practise saying each one aloud, ensuring they capture the correct French accent.

Word bank: janvier (January) · février (February) · mars (March) · avril (April) · mai (May) · juin (June) · juillet (July) · août (August) · septembre (September) · octobre (October) · novembre (November) · décembre (December) · printemps (spring) · été (summer) · automne (autumn) · hiver (winter)

1. Identify which three months Rosa associates with the season of l'hiver (winter). (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what occurs in the French countryside during the months of mars, avril, and mai? (2 marks)

3. Explain why Rosa might find it important to visit local markets during the summer months. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to Rosa's travel plans if she decided to stay in France during the month of décembre instead of flying south? (3 marks)

5. Rosa describes the French months as having a ‘melody’. Justify why you think language learning could be compared to music. Include your own opinion. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a circular calendar divided into four seasons. Illustrate each season with a French landscape scene that reflects Rosa’s descriptions, such as golden leaves for l’automne or blooming flowers for le printemps.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the French calendar months with the English months. Are there any linguistic similarities? Research the etymology of the month names and present your findings in a short report for the class.