

Rosa's Time-Travelling Café: French Clock Challenge

Learning objective: To tell the time in French using the 12-hour clock format, including quarter past, half past, and quarter to.

Rosa the parrot is opening a bilingual café! She needs your help to label her clock menus correctly. Match the French time phrases to the correct clock positions and complete the menu orders. For the Greater Depth questions, explain the logic behind the French phrasing.

Word bank: Il est une heure · et quart · et demie · moins le quart · Quelle heure est-il ? · Il est midi

1. If it is 3:15 PM, how would you write this in French? Explain why we use the phrase 'et quart' instead of the number 15. (2 marks)

2. Translate 'Il est huit heures moins le quart' into English. Why do you think French speakers subtract time ('less a quarter') rather than adding minutes? (2 marks)

3. Rosa's café opens at 12:30. Write the time in French. If the café earns £45.50 in the first hour, how would you write that amount in words in French? (Hint: Use 'quarante-cinq livres et cinquante centimes'). (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: How is the French way of saying 'half past' (et demie) different from the English way? Justify why you think this phrase is used. (2 marks)

5. If a customer asks 'Quelle heure est-il?' at 9:45, write the correct response in French. (2 marks)

6. What might happen if someone misunderstood 'moins le quart' and added 15 minutes instead of subtracting them? Describe the consequence for Rosa's café schedule. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a large clock face for Rosa's café. Show the long hand on the 9 and the short hand pointing towards the 5. Label this time in French below your drawing.



Extension challenge: Design a 'Special Menu' for the café. Create three items with prices in pounds and pence (£). Write the time each item is served in French (e.g., 'Le petit-déjeuner est servi à sept heures'). Write a short paragraph explaining why clear communication of time is essential for a busy business owner like Rosa.