

# Quelle heure est-il ? Telling the Time in French

Master the Minutes with Rosa the Parrot: Learn to Tell Time in French!

- To say it is exactly on the hour, use the number followed by 'heure'. For example, 3:00 is 'Il est trois heures'.
- When the long hand is at the 3, add 'et quart' to show it is a quarter past the hour.
- When the long hand is at the 6, add 'et demie' to indicate half past the hour.
- When the long hand is at the 9, we use 'moins le quart', which means 'minus the quarter'.
- Remember: in French, we do not say 'o'clock'. We simply say the number followed by 'heures'.

*Did you know? Did you know? In France, while the 12-hour clock is common in casual conversation, many French speakers use the 24-hour clock (le système horaire de 24 heures) for train schedules, official appointments, and digital displays. So, 2:00 PM is often written as 14h00!*

**Key vocabulary:** Quelle heure est-il? (What time is it?) · Il est... (It is...) · une heure (one o'clock) · et quart (quarter past) · et demie (half past) · moins le quart (quarter to) · du matin (in the morning) · de l'après-midi (in the afternoon)