

Rosa's Grand Tour: Telling the Time in French

Learning objective: To be able to tell and write the time in French using the 12-hour clock, including 'et quart', 'et demie', and 'moins le quart'.

Read Rosa the Parrot's travel diary entry below. Pay close attention to how the French language describes the time. Use the word bank to help you complete the questions that follow.

Bonjour! I am Rosa, and I have been flying across France to visit famous landmarks. It is essential to know the time so I don't miss my train! At 8:15, I arrived at the station—'Il est huit heures et quart'. By 12:30, I was eating lunch in a park—'Il est midi et demie'. Later, at 4:45, I watched the sunset—'Il est cinq heures moins le quart'. Finally, I tucked myself into bed at exactly 10:00—'Il est dix heures'.

Word bank: Quelle heure est-il ? · Il est... · et quart (quarter past) · et demie (half past) · moins le quart (quarter to) · midi (midday) · minuit (midnight)

1. Translate the following times into French: a) 3:15, b) 6:30, c) 9:45. Explain why we use 'moins le quart' for 9:45 rather than adding minutes. (4 marks)

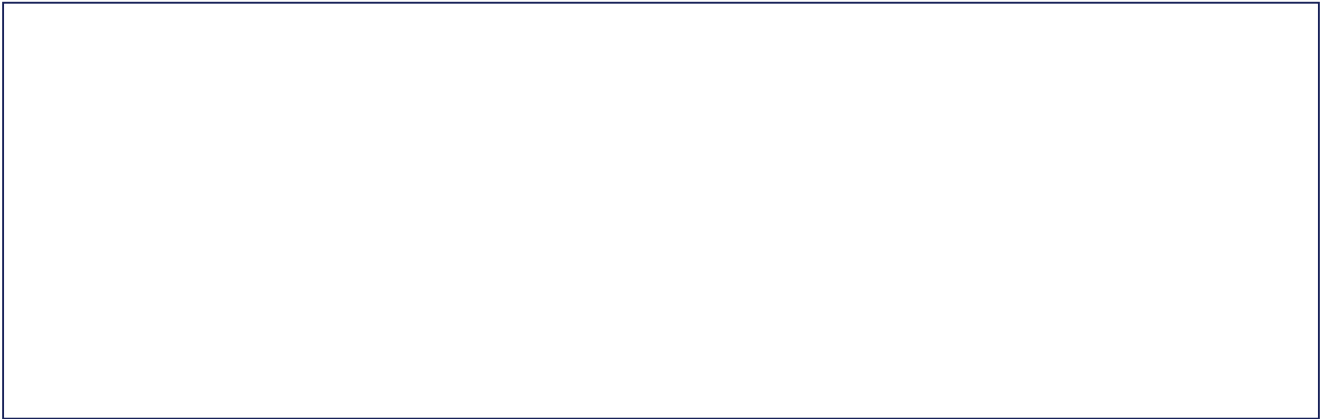
2. Rosa's train departs at 'onze heures et demie'. What time is this in the 12-hour clock? Justify your answer using your knowledge of French fractions. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the English way of saying 'quarter to' with the French 'moins le quart'. How does the mathematical structure differ? (3 marks)

4. If Rosa says 'Il est deux heures moins le quart', what time is it? Draw the hands on a clock face to demonstrate. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if a traveller confused 'et quart' with 'moins le quart' when reading a French train timetable? Explain the consequences. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw four clock faces showing: 2:15 (deux heures et quart), 5:30 (cinq heures et demie), 7:45 (huit heures moins le quart), and 12:00 (midi). Label each one in French.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a schedule for a busy day in Paris. Write five sentences in French using the time phrases you have learned to describe your itinerary (e.g., 'À huit heures, je mange le petit-déjeuner'). Then, write a paragraph justifying why accurate time-telling is a vital skill for international travellers.