

Rosa's French Tense Adventure

Learning objective: To understand and apply the present and near-future tenses in French, focusing on common regular verbs.

Read Rosa the parrot's daily routine below. Pay close attention to how the verbs change when she talks about what she is doing now versus what she plans to do later. Complete the exercises to test your linguistic skills.

Bonjour! I am Rosa. Every day, I follow a busy schedule. Today, I am practising my French verbs. In the present tense, I say, 'Je mange une pomme' (I am eating an apple). However, when I look at my schedule for this afternoon, I use the near-future tense. I say, 'Je vais manger une banane' (I am going to eat a banana). To form the near-future tense, we take the verb 'aller' (to go) and add the infinitive of the action verb. It is like a puzzle, and Max the monkey loves these patterns!

Word bank: je mange (I eat) · je vais manger (I am going to eat) · je joue (I play) · je vais jouer (I am going to play) · le présent (present tense) · le futur proche (near future tense)

1. Identify the difference between 'Je joue' and 'Je vais jouer'. Explain how the meaning changes for the speaker. (2 marks)

2. If 'manger' is the infinitive for 'to eat', write the French phrase for 'I am going to speak' using the verb 'parler'. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the structure of the near-future tense in French with the way we form the future tense in English. Why might this be tricky for learners? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why is it important to use 'aller' as an auxiliary verb when describing future plans in French? (3 marks)

5. What might happen to the meaning of a sentence if you forgot to include 'vais' when trying to describe a future action? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen illustration. On the left side, draw Rosa doing an activity in the present tense (e.g., reading a book). On the right side, draw her preparing to do a different activity, labelling both with the correct French sentences.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph in French (4-5 sentences) describing your own schedule for tomorrow using the near-future tense. Include at least three different 'je vais...' phrases and explain why you chose those specific activities.