Mastering the Clock: Telling the Time in French

1. Il est deux heures. (1 mark)

Working: Il est (It is) + deux (two) + heures (o'clock).

Accept 'Il est deux heures.'

2. It is half past six. (1 mark)

Working: Il est (It is) + six (six) + heures (o'clock) + et demie (and a half).

Accept 'It is half past six' or '6:30'.

3. It is four o'clock. (1 mark)

Working: Quatre = four.

Accept 'It is four o'clock' or '4:00'.

4. Il est cinq heures et demie. (2 marks)

Working: Il est (It is) + cinq (five) + heures (o'clock) + et demie (and a half).

Award 1 mark for correct numbers, 1 mark for correct structure.

5. Il est une heure et demie. (2 marks)

Working: One o'clock is 'une heure' (feminine).

Award 1 mark for 'une heure', 1 mark for 'et demie'.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates understanding of the 'Il est [number] heure(s)' structure and correctly identifies that 'une' is used for one o'clock.

If your child is stuck

Remind the child that 'une' is used for one, while other numbers follow the standard counting words. Encourage them to build the sentence piece by piece: 'It is' + 'number' + 'hour' + 'half'.

Common mistakes to watch for

Students often forget to use 'une' instead of 'un' for one o'clock, or they may try to translate 'thirty' literally instead of using the phrase 'et demie'.