Mastering French Verbs: A Time-Travel Challenge

1. Verb: aimons. Infinitive: aimer. (2 marks)

Working: The verb 'aimons' comes from the stem 'aim-' plus the '-ons' ending for 'nous'. The infinitive form of this regular -er verb is 'aimer'.

1 mark for identifying 'aimons', 1 mark for identifying 'aimer'.

2. 1. Je joue; 2. Ils jouent. (2 marks)

Working: For regular -er verbs, 'Je' takes the '-e' ending and 'Ils' takes the '-ent' ending.

1 mark per correct conjugation.

3. I am going to watch a film this evening. (3 marks)

Working: Translation of 'Je vais' (I am going) + 'regarder' (to watch) + 'un film' (a film) + 'ce soir' (this evening).

3 marks for accurate translation of all components.

4. Je vais manger une glace. (4 marks)

Working: Use 'aller' conjugated for 'Je' (vais) + the infinitive 'manger'.

1 mark for 'vais', 1 mark for 'manger', 1 mark for correct word order, 1 mark for full sentence accuracy.

5. We use different endings to show who is doing the action. For example, 'Je parle' (I speak) uses -e, while 'Ils parlent' (they speak) uses -ent. (4 marks)

Look for: Explanation of subject-verb agreement and a correct -er verb example.

Good: We use different endings because the subject changes.

Better: We change the ending to match the person, like 'Je joue' for I play and 'Ils jouent' for they play.

Best: In French, verb endings must agree with the subject pronoun. For the regular -er verb 'parler', we use '-e' for 'Je' and '-ent' for 'Ils' to show who is speaking.

What moves an answer up: Moving from a vague statement to a specific grammatical explanation with a clear example increases the level.

6. Example: 1. Je mange une pomme. 2. Je vais jouer au parc. 3. Je vais faire mes devoirs. 4. J'ai joué au football. 5. J'ai mangé un sandwich. (10 marks)

Look for: Five sentences total: one present, two near future (aller + infinitive), two past (j'ai + past participle).

Good: Five sentences with correct vocabulary, even if some tenses are mixed up.

Better: Five sentences using the correct tenses, showing understanding of 'aller' and 'j'ai'.

Best: Five grammatically accurate sentences using a variety of verbs, correctly applying present, near future, and past tense structures.

What moves an answer up: Accuracy in tense formation and variety in verb choice determines the level.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure student will correctly identify the infinitive and apply the standard -er verb endings (-e, -es, -e, -ons, -ez, -ent). They should be comfortable using 'aller' as an auxiliary verb for the future.

If your child is stuck

Remind the child that 'aller' is an irregular verb and they should look at the word bank for the infinitive forms. Suggest they say the sentence aloud to see if it sounds like the patterns Rosa the parrot uses.

Common mistakes to watch for

Confusing the 'Je' ending (-e) with the 'Ils' ending (-ent) and forgetting to include the infinitive after 'vais' when forming the near future tense.