Section: bcf-6-0125

Beginning Conversational French

Lesson 4: Numbers

Lesson 4 Introduction

Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson you will be able to:

1. Pronounce numbers in French
2. Count from 1 to 1 billion in French.
3. Recite the days of the week and months of the year in French.
4. Write the date in French.
5. Read the clock in French.
6. Demonstrate the rules of capitalization in French.
7. Recite the French seasons.

Introduction

Counting in French

Greetings! Do you know zero through ten? Don't worry. We'll start with a quick review.

By the end of this lesson, you'll know how to count to a billion. You'll know how to read a calendar, and you'll be able to tell time in French.

In Chapter 1, you'll continue to learn numbers. We'll start off by reviewing what you've already learned. Then we'll move on to the teens and twenties. We'll keep going all the way to a billion!

You'll learn the days and months in Chapter 2. Calendars are a little different in France, and you'll learn how to read them. You'll also learn words for *today* and *tomorrow*.

Capitalization rules are a little different in French than in English, so we're also going to spend some time looking at them in our Grammar Stop.

In Chapter 3, you'll learn how to tell time in French. Time is important to travelers. You don't want to be late for the opera! In the Conjugation Corner, we will learn how to conjugate one of the most popular French verbs, **être.**

Learning numbers isn't as hard as you might think. The numbers are structured a lot like English. French has words for hundreds, thousands, and so on. Soon you'll be able to count to a billion in French. Wow! You can do it!

As usual, you'll learn dialogues in each chapter. Let's go! ***Allons-y!***

Download

Lesson 4 Audio Files (https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/audio/L04_audio.zip)

Download

Lesson 4 Vocabulary List (https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/L04_Vocab.zip)

Chapter 1: Let's Count!

Numbers 0-100

Let's Review Numbers 0-10

First, we'll review zero through ten. See if you can remember each of these numbers and then click on the tab to see if you are right!

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
0	zéro {zay-roh}
1	un (an)
2	deux (duh)
3	trois (twah)
4	quatre (katr)
5	cinq (sink)
6	six (sees)
7	sept (seht)
8	huit (weet)
9	neuf (nuhf)
10	dix (dees)

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Numbers 11-19

Now we'll move on to new numbers. Eleven through sixteen have unique words, like eleven and twelve in English. Seventeen through nineteen follow a pattern. They're literally translated as *ten-seven*, *ten-eight*, and *ten-nine*. This is comparable to English numbers that have number ***+ teen***, such as *sixteen*.

Number	Pronunciation
11 onze	onz
	Play audio
12 douze	dooz
	Play audio
13 treize	trehz
	Play audio
14 quatorze	kah-tohrz
	Play audio
15 quinze	kinz
	Play audio
16 seize	sehz
	Play audio
17 dix-sept	dees-seht
	Play audio
18 dix-huit	dees-weet
	Play audio
19 dix-neuf	dees-nuhf
	Play audio

Translations

Time to learn the twenties! These are all consistent. In French, twenty-one is **vingt-et-un**, which literally means *twenty and one*. Twenty-two through twenty-nine are translated just like in English.

Numbers 20-29

Number	Pronunciation
20 vingt	vin Play audio
21 vingt-et-un	vin-tay-an Play audio
22 vingt-deux	vin-duh Play audio
23 vingt-trois	vin-twah Play audio
24 vingt-quatre	vin-katr Play audio
25 vingt-cinq	vin-sink Play audio
26 vingt-six	van-sees Play audio
27 vingt-sept	van-seht Play audio
28 vingt-huit	van-weet Play audio
29 vingt-neuf	van-nuhf Play audio

Translations

Thirty through sixty follow the same pattern as the twenties.

Numbers 30-39

Number	Pronunciation
30 trente	trant Play audio
31 trente-et-un	tran-tay-an Play audio
32 trente-deux	trant-duh Play audio
33 trente-trois	trant-twah Play audio
34 trente-quatre	trant-katr Play audio
35 trente-cinq	trant-sink Play audio
36 trente-six	trant-sees Play audio
37 trente-sept	trant-seht Play audio
38 trente-huit	trant-weet Play audio

Number	Pronunciation
39 trente-neuf	trant-nuhf

Translations

Numbers 40-60

Number	Pronunciation
40 quarante	kayr-ant
41 quarante-et-un	kayr-an-tay-an
42 quarante-deux	kayr-ant-duh
50 cinquante	sink-ant
51 cinquante-et-un	sink-an-tay-an
52 cinquante-deux	sink-ant-duh
60 soixante	swah-zant
61 soixante-et-un	swah-zan-tay-an

Number		Pronunciation
62	soixante-deux	swah-zant-duh

Translations

Now things get a little more complicated. Seventy is literally *sixty-ten*. Eighty is translated *four-twenty*. Ninety is *four-twenty ten*. These numbers follow the same pattern as the others. For example, 71 is *sixty and eleven*, seventy two is *sixty-twelve*, and so forth.

Numbers 70-90

Number		Pronunciation
70	soixante-dix	swah-zant-dees
71	soixante-et-onze	swah-zan-tay-onz
72	soixante-douze	swah-zant-dooz
80	quatre-vingts	kat-ruh-vin
81	quatre-vingt-un	kat-ruh-vin-tan
82	quatre-vingt-deux	kat-ruh-vin-duh
90	quatre-vingt-dix	kat-ruh-vin-dees

Number		Pronunciation
91	quatre-vingt-onze	kat-ruh-vin-onz
		Play audio
92	quatre-vingt-douze	kat-ruh-vin-dooz
		Play audio

Translations

This numbering system is like Roman numerals, which use multiplication and addition. Eighty really means *four twenties,* or four times twenty. Ninety is *four-twenty-ten*, or eighty plus ten.

Don't get too concerned with remembering why these numbers are stated like they are. Just memorize that seventy is **soixante-dix**, eighty is **quatre-vingts**, and ninety is **quatre-vingt-dix**.

Ready for the hundreds? Here they are! Two hundred is literally *two-hundreds*, three hundred translates as *three-hundreds*, and so on.

Numbers 100-1,000,000,000

Numbers 100-1,000,000,000

Number	Pronunciation
100 cent	san
	Play audio
101 cent un	san-an
	Play audio
102 cent deux	san-duh
	Play audio
110 cent dix	san-dees
	Play audio

Number	Pronunciation
120 cent vingt	san-vin ▶ Play audio
200 deux cents	duh-san ▶ Play audio
300 trois cents	twah-san ▶ Play audio
400 quatre cents	katr-san ▶ Play audio
500 cinq cents	sink-san ▶ Play audio
600 six cents	sees-san ▶ Play audio
700 sept cents	seht-san ▶ Play audio
800 huit cents	weet san ▶ Play audio
900 neuf cents	nuhf-san ▶ Play audio
1,000 mille	meel ▶ Play audio
1,000,000 un million	an-mee-yon ▶ Play audio

Number	Pronunciation
1,000,000,000 un milliard	an-mee-yahrd

Play audio

Translations

Now it starts to get a bit tricky. To say longer numbers, start at the left and move to the right. For example, 347 is said **trois-cent-quarante-sept**. This isn't too different from English, really. Although you will find that French numbers are a bit more of a mouthful than English numbers.

Time to practice, try to say each of the numbers below and click on the tab to see if you are right!

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
899	**huit-cent-quatre-vingt-dix-neuf** {weet-san-katr-ruh-vin-dees-nuhf}
427	**quatre-cent-vingt-sept** {katr-san-vin-seht}
1211	**mille-deux-cent-onze** {meel-duh-san-onz}

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

You don't really need a long example using a billion. Those numbers don't seem to come up much. However, if you want to play around with them, long numbers follow the same left to right pattern as shorter numbers.

Whew! Let's stop and learn some dialogues!

Number Dialogues

Dialogues Using Numbers

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Nannette:

Quel âge avez-vous?

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *Kehl-ahj-ah-vay-voos?*

Translate

How old are you?

Paul:

J'ai quarante-trois ans.

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *Jay-kah-rahnt-twah-zahn*

Translate

I'm forty three

Dialogue One: Filling Out Forms

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Nannette:

Et votre fille?

▶ Play audio

Translate

And your daugther?

Paul:

Elle a quinze ans.

▶ Play audio

Translate

She's fifteen

Dialogue One: Filling Out Forms

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Postal Customer:

Douze timbres, s'il vous plaît.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *Dooz-tinbr-seel-voo-play*

Translate

Twelve stamps, please

Postal Worker:

Huit euros, s'il vous plaît.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *wee-toe-roh-seel-voo-play*

Translate

That will be 8 euros

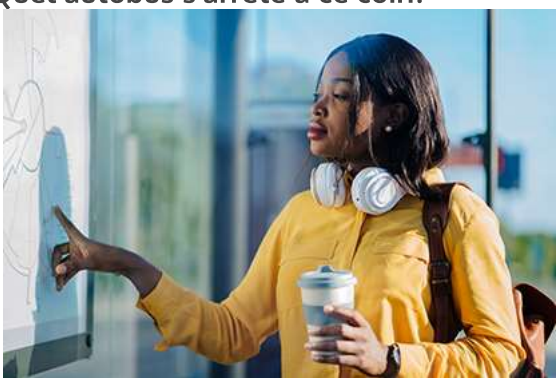
Dialogue Two: Buying Stamps

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Tourist:

Quel autobus s'arrête à ce coin?



Play audio

Pronounciation: *kehl-ah-toh-boos-sah-reht-ah-suh-kwan?*

Translate

Which bus stops at this corner?

Helpful Locals:

Numéro quarante-sept.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *noo-may-roh-kay-rant-seht*

Translate

Number 47

Dialogue: At the Bus Stop

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Tourist:

Merci!

Play audio

Pronounciation: *mehr-see!*

Translate

Thank you!

Dialogue: At the Bus Stop

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Helpful Locals:

Trois cent cinquante kilometres.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *twah-san-sin-kant-kee-loh-mehtr*

Translate

350 kilometers.

Tourist:

D'accord. Merci!

Play audio

Pronounciation: *dah-kohr. mehr-see!*

Translate

OK. Thanks!

Dialogue: At the Bus Stop

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Ordering Crepes!

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Crepe Customer:

Je voudrais des crêpes, s'il vous plaît.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *zhuh voo-dray-day-crehp-seel-voo-play*

Translate

I'd like crêpes, please.

Crepe Vendor:

Combien?

Play audio

Pronounciation: *kon-byen?*

Translate

How many?

Dialogue: Ordering Crepes

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Crepe Customer:

Deux fromages et trois chocolates.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *duh-froh-mah-zhay-twah-shoh-koh-laht*

Translate

Two cheese and three chocolate.

Dialogue: Ordering Crepes

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

French Math Vocabulary

French Math Vocabulary

Now we're going to learn a few French math words. Are you thinking: Math? Will there be story problems? Don't worry. No story problems or tricky geometry.

Travelers often encounter numbers involving calculations. It's helpful to know some math words, such as *plus* and *minus*. If a store clerk is calculating your bill, you'll want to be able to follow along!

Move through the gallery by clicking either the right or left arrow. You can also navigate to a specific slide by selecting the dropdown menu located at the bottom of the slide.

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Word: **et**

Play audio

Pronounciation: *ay*

Translation: **plus**

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Word: **moins**

Play audio

Pronounciation: *mwan*

Translation: **minus**

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Word: **Fois**

Play audio

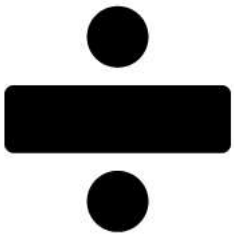
Pronounciation: *fwah*

Translation: **times**

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Slideshow Slide 4 starts here

Word: **diviser par**



Play audio

Pronounciation: *dee-vee-zay-pahr*

Translation: **divide**

Slideshow Slide 4 ends here

Slideshow Slide 5 starts here

Word: **font**

Play audio

Pronounciation: *fon*

Translation: **equal**

Slideshow Slide 5 ends here

French Math Practice

See if you can translate each of these math problems into English, then select the tab to check your answers!

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information
Deux et deux font quatre {duh-ay-duh-fon-katr}	2 + 2 = 4
Dix moins huit font deux {dees-mwan-weet-fon-duh}	10 – 8 = 2
Huit fois deux font seize {weet-fwah-duh-fon-sehz}	8 x 2 = 16

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Ready for some math conversations?

Math Dialogues

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Child:

Maman, combien font douze et six?

Play audio

Pronounciation: *mah-man-kon-byen-fon-dooz-ay-sees?*

Translate

Mommy, what's twelve plus six?

Mother:

Dix-huit

Play audio

Pronounciation: *dees-weet*

Translate

18

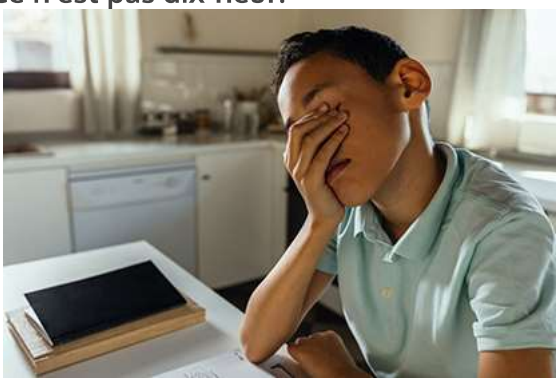
Dialogue: Multiplication

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Child:

Ce n'est pas dix-neuf?



Play audio

Pronounciation: *suh-neh-pah-dees-nuhf?*

Translate

It isn't 19?

Mother:

Non. Douze et six font dix-huit.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *non. dooz-ay-sees-fon-dees-weet.*

Translate

No. Twelve plus six equals eighteen.

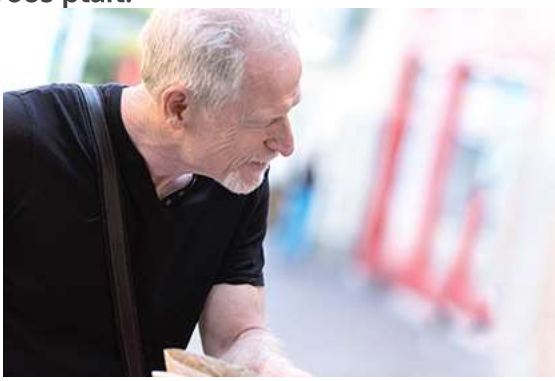
Dialogue: Multiplication

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Male Shopper:

Je voudrais trois kilos des pommes, s'il vous plaît.



Play audio

Pronounciation: *zhuh-voo-dray-twah-kee-loh-day-pon-seel-voo-play*

Translate

I'd like three kilos of apples, please.

Female Merchant:

Les pommes coûtent quatre euros au kilo.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *lay-pon-koot-katr-oe-roh-zoh-kee-loh*

Translate

They're four euros per kilo

Dialogue: Buying Apples

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Male Shopper:

D'accord. Trois fois quatre font douze. Voici douze euros

Play audio

Pronounciation: *dah-kohrd. twah-fwah-katr-fon-dooz. vwah-see-dooz- oe-roh*

Translate

OK. 3 x 4 = 12. Here are twelve euros.

Female Merchant:

Merci. Et avec ça?

Play audio

Pronounciation: *mehr-see. ay-ah-vehk-sah?*

Translate

Thank you. Anything else?

Dialogue: Buying Apples

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Male Shopper:

C'est tout aujourd'hui.

Play audio

Pronounciation: *seh-too-toh-zhoor-dwee*

Translate

That's all for today.

Dialogue: Buying Apples

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

The next chapter is about another use for numbers—the calendar! Are you ready?

Chapter 2: Calendar, Seasons, and Holidays

Days of the Week and Months of the Year

Mark Your Calendars, In French!

France uses the same calendar and yearly numbering system as in English. French has different names for the days and months, though.

Grammar Stop

Days and months are not capitalized in French.

French Days of the Week

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
lundi	lin-dee	Monday
	Play audio	
mardi	mahr-dee	Tuesday
	Play audio	
mercredi	mehr-kruh-dee	Wednesday
	Play audio	
jeudi	zhuh-dee	Thursday
	Play audio	
vendredi	van-druh-dee	Friday
	Play audio	
samedi	sahm-dee	Saturday
	Play audio	
dimanche	dee-mansh	Sunday
	Play audio	

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
hier	hyer	yesterday
	Play audio	
aujourd'hui	oh-zhoor-dwee	today
	Play audio	
demain	duh-min	tomorrow
	Play audio	

Translations

Calendars in France begin with Monday and end with Sunday. Be sure to remember this if you see a place that shows its open hours on a calendar. You don't want to show up on a day they're closed!

Learning Check-Days of The Week

Days of The Week Practice

Text equivalent start.

Image and descriptions

Choices

- vendredi
- jeudi
- dimanche
- lundi
- mercredi
- samedi
- mardi

Answers

1. lundi
2. mardi
3. mercredi
4. jeudi
5. vendredi
6. samedi
7. dimanche

View the image in the first column, then view the choices in the second column. Try to correctly match each item then compare your answers to the correct answers in the third column.

Text equivalent stop.

French Months of the Year

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
janvier	zhahn-vyay ▶ Play audio	January
février	fay-vree-ay ▶ Play audio	February
mars	mahs ▶ Play audio	March
avril	ah-vreel ▶ Play audio	April
mai	may ▶ Play audio	May
juin	zhwin ▶ Play audio	June
juillet	zhwee-ay ▶ Play audio	July
août	ah-oot ▶ Play audio	August

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
septembre	seh-tanbr ▶ Play audio	September
octobre	ohk-tohbr ▶ Play audio	October
novembre	noh-vanbr ▶ Play audio	November
décembre	day-sanbr ▶ Play audio	December

Translations

French Date Format

Reading the Date in French

Dates are read differently in French than in English. Many English speakers say the month, date, then year, such as May 15, 1993. Most of Europe and some English-speaking areas give date, month, then year. An example is 15 May 1993.

American English Date Format	French Date Format	French Translation
May 15, 1993	15 mai 1993	**le quinze mai mille neuf cent quatre-vingt-treize** {luh-kinz-may-meel-nuhf-san-katr--vin-trehz} ▶ Play audio
February 6, 1972	6 février 1972	**le six février mille neuf cent soixante-douze** {luh-sees-fay-vree-ay-meel-nuhf-san-swah-zant-dooz} ▶ Play audio

American English Date Format	French Date Format	French Translation
March 25, 1998	25 mars 1998	**le vingt-cinq mars mille neuf cent quatre-vingt-dix-huit** {luh-vin-sink-mahrs-meel-nuhf-san-kat-ruh-van-dees-weet} ▶ Play audio
November 3, 2021	3 novembre 2021	**le trois novembre deux mille vingt-et-un** {luh-twah-noh-vanbr-duh-meel-vin-tay-an} ▶ Play audio

Dates in French

The first day of the month is called **le premier**, literally, *the first*. All other dates are referred to by numbers, such as 6 July, or **le six juillet**.

American English Date Format	French Date Format	French Translation
January 1, 2002	1 janvier 2002	**le premier janvier deux mille deux** {luh-preh-myay-zhan-vyay duh-meel-duh} ▶ Play audio
January 2, 2002	2 janvier 2002	**le deux janvier deux mille deux** {luh-duh-zhan-vyay duh-meel-duh} ▶ Play audio

First Day of the Month

Seasons and Holidays

Seasons

This is a good time to learn the names of the four seasons. You might even take a quick break to listen to Ella Fitzgerald sing "I Love Paris".

Move through the gallery by clicking either the right or left arrow. You can also navigate to a specific slide by selecting the dropdown menu located at the bottom of the slide.

Slideshow Slide 1 starts here

Word: **l'hiver**

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *lee-vayr*

Translation: **Winter**

Slideshow Slide 1 ends here

Slideshow Slide 2 starts here

Word: **le printemps**

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *luh-prin-tan*

Translation: **spring**

Slideshow Slide 2 ends here

Slideshow Slide 3 starts here

Word: **l'été**

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *lay-tay*

Translation: **summer**

Slideshow Slide 3 ends here

Slideshow Slide 4 starts here

Word: **l'automne**

▶ Play audio

Pronounciation: *loh-ton*

Translation: **fall**

Slideshow Slide 4 ends here

When we think about seasons, we all associate holidays with them. Every country observes different holidays. Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, Canadians observe Boxing Day and France has Bastille Day. Some holidays, like New Year's Day, are practically universal.

Different institutions close for different holidays. Some museums in France may close for government holidays, but others stay open. Check before you go on a trip, or you can ask your hotel's concierge about closings.

French Holidays

- **Jour de l'An** {zhoor-duh-lan} = New Year's Day Play audio
- **Vendredi Saint** {van-druh-dee-san} = Good Friday Play audio
- **Pâques** {pahk} = Easter Play audio
- **Fête du Travail** {feht-doo-trah-vahy} = Labor Day Play audio
- **Pentecôte** {pan-tuh-koht} = Pentecost Play audio
- **Fête Nationale** {feht-nah-see-oh-nahl} = Bastille Day Play audio
- **Assomption** {ah-sohmp-syohn} = Assumption Day Play audio
- **La Toussaint** {lah-too-san} = All Saints Day Play audio
- **la veille de Noël**{lah-vay-duh-noh-ehl} = Christmas Eve Play audio
- **Noël** {noh-ehl} = Christmas Play audio
- **la veille de l'An** {lah-vay-duh-lan} = New Year's Eve Play audio

Grammar Stop: Rules for Capitalization

In French, words are not capitalized as often as they are in English. Look at some of these differences:

- As you already learned, months and days are not capitalized: novembre, lundi,
- The only time je (I) is capitalized is if it is at the beginning of the sentence.
- Languages are not capitalized: français, anglais.

Here are some common phrases! Can you believe how much French you already know? And this is only Lesson 4!

The Calendar

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Quel jour est aujourd'hui?	{kehl-zhoor-es-toh-zhoor-dwee?} Play audio	What day is it?
C'est aujourd'hui mardi.	{ces-toh-zhoord-wee-mahr-dee} Play audio	Today is Tuesday.
A quelle date est la Fête Nationale?	{ah-kehl-daht-eh-lah-feht-nah-see-oh-nahl?} Play audio	When is Bastille Day?
Le quatorze juillet.	{luh-kah-tohrz-zhwee-ay} Play audio	It's July 14.

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Quelle est la date de votre anniversaire?	{keh-leh-lah-daht-duh-vohtr-ahn-ee-vehr-sayr?} Play audio	What's your birthday?
Mon anniversaire est le dix novembre mille neuf cent soixante-douze.	{mon-ah-nee-vehr-sayr-eh-luh-dees-noh-vanbr-meel-nuhf-san-swah-zahnt-dooz} Play audio	My birthday is November 10, 1972.
Quel âge aurez-vous?	{kehl-azh-oh-ray-voo?} Play audio	How old will you be?
J'aurais vingt-neuf encore!	{zhoh-ray-vin-nuhf-an-kohr!} Play audio	I'll be 29 again!
Quand allez-vous en vacances?	{kahn-ah-lay-voo-an-vah-kahns?} Play audio	When are you going on vacation?
Le vingt juillet au cinq août.	{luh-vin-zhwee-yay-oh-sin-kah-oot} Play audio	July 20 through August 5.
Quelle est la date de votre anniversaire de mariage?	{keh-eh-lah-daht-duh-votr-ahn-ee-vehr-sayr-duh-mah-ree-ahzh?} Play audio	When is your anniversary?
Le seize octobre.	{luh-sehz-ohk-tohbr} Play audio	October 16.

Phrase	Pronunciation	Translation
Des combien ans avez-vous se marier?	{day-kon-byen-ahn-zah-vay-voo-suh-mah-ree-ay?} Play audio	How many years have you been married?
Neuf ans.	{nuh-van} Play audio	Nine years.

How to Ask The Date

All right! You know how to read a calendar and you know the names of the seasons. You can even talk about holidays! Now, synchronize your watches. In the next chapter, you're going to learn about telling time!

Chapter 3: Time to Tell Time!

Time Vocabulary

What Time Is It?

It's important to be able to ask about time when you travel. You need to know when museums and stores are open. You also need to know when trains, buses and other public transportation arrive and depart.

Let's start with the most important question:

Text equivalent start.

Topic	Information

Topic	Information
Quelle heure est-il? (keh-lur-eh-teel?)	Play audio What time is it?

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Here's some vocabulary about time.

Time Vocabulary

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
la seconde	lah-suh-gond Play audio	second
la minute	lah-mee-noot Play audio	minute
l'heure	lur Play audio	hour
tôt	toh Play audio	early
à l'heure	ah-lur Play audio	on time
tard	tar Play audio	late
maintenant	min-tuh-nan Play audio	now
plus tard	ploo-tar Play audio	later

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
l'horloge	lohr-lahzh	clock
	▶ Play audio	
la montre	lah-montr	watch
	▶ Play audio	

Vocabulary

It's time to learn about time! (How's that for a bad pun?) Let's start with the hours. Check out the time in French on the clocks below by clicking the center of the clock.

Text equivalent start.

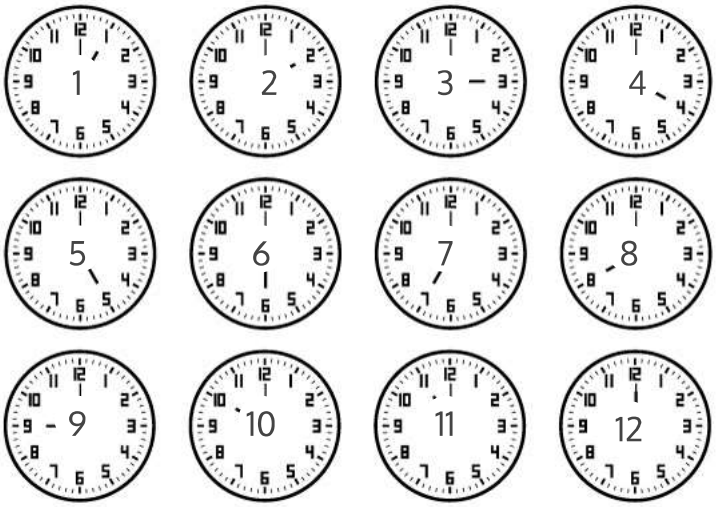


Image description: A set of analog clock icon with number notifying each hour isolated on white.

1. 1:00 - une heure {oo-nur}
2. 2:00 - deux heures {duh-zur}
3. 3:00 - trois heures {twah-zur}
4. 4:00 - quatre heures {katr-ur}
5. 5:00 - cinq heures {sin-kur}
6. 6:00 - six heures {see-zur}
7. 7:00 - sept heures {seh-tur}

8. 8:00 - huit heures {wee-tur}
9. 9:00 - neuf heures {nuh-vur}
10. 10:00 - dix heures {dee-zur}
11. 11:00 - onze heures {on-zur}
12. 12:00 - noon = midi {mee-dee} or midnight = minuit {meen-wee}

Text equivalent stop.

Time	Pronunciation	Audio
1:00	une heure {oo-nur}	Play audio
2:00	deux heures {duh-zur}	Play audio
3:00	trois heures {twah-zur}	Play audio
4:00	quatre heures {katr-ur}	Play audio
5:00	cinq heures {sin-kur}	Play audio
6:00	six heures {see-zur}	Play audio
7:00	sept heures {seh-tur}	Play audio
8:00	huit heures {wee-tur}	Play audio
9:00	neuf heures {nuh-vur}	Play audio
10:00	dix heures {dee-zur}	Play audio
11:00	onze heures {on-zur}	Play audio
12:00	noon midi {mee-dee} or minuit {meen-wee} = midnight	Play audio

Time

Now we'll learn how to say the minutes with the hours. French is a lot like English. For one minute through 14 minutes past the hour, you say the hour then minutes. For example, 2:12 is literally *two hours twelve*.

- **deux heures douze** {duh-zur-dooz} = 2:12 Play audio
- **six heures neuf** {see-zur-nuhf} = 6:09 Play audio

Quarter after the hour has its own word, just like in English. **Quart** is French for *quarter*. So, 3:15 is *three hours and quarter*.

- **trois heures et quart** {twah-zur-ay-kar} = 3:15 Play audio
- **onze heures et quart** {ohn-zur-ay-kar} = 11:15 Play audio

For sixteen through 29 minutes past the hour, once again you'll say the hour and minutes.

- **huit heures vingt sept** {wee-tur-vin-seht} = 8:27 Play audio
- **quatre heures dix-neuf** {kat-rur-deez-nuhf} = 4:19 Play audio

Half past the hour has a special word, **demie**, which literally means half.

- **six heures et demie** {see-sur-ay-duh-mee} = 6:30 Play audio
- **huit heures et demie** {wee-tur-ay-duh-mee} = 8:30 Play audio

To say minutes to the hour, such as twenty to nine, you say the hour minus the minutes.

- **neuf heures moins vingt** {nuh-vur-mwin-vin} = 8:40 Play audio
- **trois heures moins dix** {twah-zur-mwin-dees} = 2:50 Play audio

Quarter to an hour also follows the *next hour less the minutes* rule.

- **cinq heures moins le quart** {sin-kur-mwin-luh-kar} = 4:45 Play audio
- **quatre heures moins le quart** {katr-ur-mwin-luh-kar} = 3:45 Play audio

Don't worry if you can't remember saying the time as minutes to the hour. It's hard to quickly come up with **trois heures moins dix**. Just like in English, you can also say the hour and minutes.

- **huit heures quarante** {wee-tur-kay-rant} = 8:40 Play audio

- **deux heures cinquante** {duh-zur-sin-kant} = 2:50 ▶ Play audio

Learning Check-Time Vocabulary

Text equivalent start.

Item to Match	Matching Choices	Correct Match
une heure vingt {oon-ur-vin}	• 1:20 • 1:45 • 1:55 • 1:10	• 1:20
deux heures {duh-zur}	• 2:00 • 1:45 • 1:00 • 1:55	• 2:00
une heure dix {oon-ur-dees}	• 1:10 • 2:00 • 1:20 • 1:55	• 1:10
une heure cinq {oon-ur-sink}	• 1:40 • 1:35 • 2:00 • 1:05	• 1:05
une heure quarante {oon-ur-kayr-ant}	• 1:55 • 1:50 • 1:40 • 1:20	• 1:40
une heure et demie {oon-ur-ay-duh-mee}	• 1:40 • 1:35 • 1:30 • 2:00	• 1:30
une heure vingt-cinq {oon-ur-vin-sink}	• 1:10 • 1:15 • 1:30 • 1:25	• 1:25

Item to Match	Matching Choices	Correct Match
une heure trente-cinq {oon-ur-trant-sink}	• 1:35 • 1:05 • 1:55 • 1:40	• 1:35
deux heures moins dix {duh-zur-mwan-dees}	• 1:40 • 1:25 • 1:35 • 1:50	• 1:50
deux heures moins le quart {duh-zur-mwan-luh-kar}	• 2:00 • 1:45 • 1:50 • 1:15	• 1:45
une heure {oon-ur}	• 1:25 • 1:35 • 1:05 • 1:00	• 1:00
deux heures moins cinq {duh-zur-mwan-sink}	• 1:05 • 1:30 • 1:55 • 1:25	• 1:55
une heure et quart {oon-ur-ay-kar}	• 1:40 • 1:35 • 1:30 • 1:15	• 1:15

Instructions: Read the item in the first column and consider which choice(s) it matches to in the second column. Read the third column to find out if you are correct.

Text equivalent stop.

All clear now? Since you can tell time now, here are some tips about telling time in French.

Tips for Telling Time!

French has no literal translation for a.m. or p.m. They'll use "in the morning" and "in the afternoon" instead.

du matin {doo-mah-tin} = in the morning

▶ Play audio

de l'après midi {duh-lap-ray-mee-dee} = in the afternoon

▶ Play audio

du soir {doo-swahr} = in the evening

▶ Play audio

Military Time

Military Time

The 24- hour clock (military time) is often used in Europe. The image above illustrates the 24-hour military clock. Starting at the top of the clock 12:00 the equivalent military time is 1200 and moving clock wise, 1:00 is 1300, 2:00 is 1400 all the way to 11:00 which is 2300 in military time. These times are used mostly for scheduling. You'll see them often in places like train stations.

Midnight through noon are the same as what you've already learned. The table below describes noon to midnight using the military time French terms.

Noon to Midnight 24 Hour Clock

Word	Pronunciation	Military Time
midi	mee-dee Play audio	12:00
treize heures	treh-zur Play audio	13:00
quatorze heures	kah-tohr-zur Play audio	14:00
quinze heures	kin-zur Play audio	15:00
seize heures	seh-zur Play audio	16:00
dix-sept heures	dee-seh-tur Play audio	17:00
dix-huit-heures	dee-zwee-tur Play audio	18:00
dix-neuf heures	deez-nuh-vur Play audio	19:00
vingt heures	vin-tur Play audio	20:00
vingt et un heures	vin-tay-an-ur Play audio	21:00

Word	Pronunciation	Military Time
vingt deux heures	vin-duh-zur Play audio	22:00
vingt-trois heures	vin-twah-zur Play audio	23:00
minuit	meen-wee Play audio	24:00

Military Time

Don't forget to check out the Resources for Further Learning section of this lesson, you will find additional information to help you with your French time telling skills!

To Be or Not to Be... Meet the Verb **être**

In each lesson, we are going to spend a little time talking about conjugating verbs. Today we're going to focus on one of the most common verbs in French, être, which means to be. It goes perfectly with today's lesson on time, because if you want to tell someone what time it is, you will use the verb être. It is an irregular verb, which means that it doesn't follow any of the rules that we talked about in our last lesson. Your best attack plan is to memorize its conjugation.

Conjugation Corner: être

Pronoun	Word	Pronunciation	Translation
Je	suis	Juh-swee Play audio	I am

Pronoun	Word	Pronunciation	Translation
Tu	es	too-eh Play audio	You are
Il/Elle	est	eel/ehl-eh Play audio	He/She is
Nous	sommes	noo-sum Play audio	We are
Vous	êtes	voo-zeht Play audio	You are
Ils/Elles	sont	eel/ehl-son Play audio	They are

Conjugation

And now that you know how to conjugate être, let's talk about how that relates to time.

Time Flashcards and Dialogues

Whenever you talk about telling time, you will use il est.... (which translates as it is...). Let's look at a few examples:

Dialogues for Telling Time!

Let's learn some dialogues!

There's a lot to learn about telling time in French. Take your time (sorry, two bad puns in one chapter), and don't forget your watch!

Lesson 4 Review

Review

Let's Review

You learned all about numbers. You can count to a billion if you need to. You know how to read a calendar. You can even tell time on 12-hour and 24-hour clocks. Wow!

Don't get too worried about forgetting numbers. Remember, the goal is successful communication. If the native speaker understands what you're saying, consider yourself successful.

Remember Julie, the foreign exchange student? Read her story after a long day of being a tourist the first time she went to Europe as a teenager.

> I was a teenager the first time I went to Europe. In France, I stayed in Room 333 at a hotel (I can't remember which one). In some hotels, you leave your key at the reception desk every time you leave. So, every time you return, you must ask for your key again.
>
> I had been out all-day exploring Paris. It was rather late, and I was exhausted. Until then, I had asked for the key to 333 by saying, *three hundred thirty-three*. In French, it's **trois cent-trente-trois**. Quite a mouthful! That night, I was so tired, I couldn't seem to make my mouth form the words. Instead, I asked for **trois-trois-trois** or *three-three-three*. The clerk understood me, and she gave me my key.

Even though her French wasn't perfect, Julie communicated successfully. The clerk knew what she wanted and got the key. Even if she had only held up her hand and gestured *three three three*, the clerk would have understood.

Use your French whenever you can but be sure to enjoy yourself. Don't let yourself get so worked up over saying the right words that you become miserable. Have fun and show off your French as often as possible!

In the next lesson, you'll learn about traveling! We're going to start at the airport. Then you'll learn about public transportation. You'll be ready to arrive in France and find your way to your hotel! Now the fun really begins! See you then!

Lesson 4 Assignment

Numbers Practice!

Lesson 4 Discussion Area

General Discussion

Please feel free to use the Discussion Area for this lesson to ask any questions that may have come to mind as you reviewed the lesson content or completed your assignment.

Discussion Activity

Practice your French skills and write your birthdate using the French format.

Lesson 4 Quiz

7 correct out of 7 questions

January 31, 2025 11:53 PM

1. How do you say "40" in French?

   A. cinquante

   ✓ B. quarante

   Correct!

   C. seize

   D. treinte

2. What is the solution to "4 + 4"?

   ✓ A. huit

   Correct!

   B. six

C. quatre

D. douze

3. Which day is "mercredi"?

A. Sunday

B. Monday

C. Tuesday

✓ D. Wednesday

Correct!

4. How do you say "June" in French?

A. juillet

✓ B. juin

Correct!

C. août

D. dimanche

5. What time is "dix heures moins deux"?

✓ A. 9:58

Correct!

B. 10:02

C. 2:10

D. 10:30

6. What is the French date format of May 15, 1993?

A. 15 mars 1993

✓ B. 15 mai 1993

Correct!

C. 15 may 1993

D. mai 15 1993

7. Which of these is always capitalized in French?

A. Novembre

B. Francais

C. Je

✓ D. Robert.

Correct!

Lesson 4 Resources for Further Learning

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