

In this edition:
talking about
your daily
routine using
the present
tense

Lesson 42

Notes

La routine quotidienne

Talking about your daily routine

Programme Notes

Welcome to Coffee Break French, the podcast aimed at independent learners of French. Our regular podcasts will introduce you to the French language in easy steps. In this week's notes we'll look at further examples of present tense verbs within the context of what you do on a daily basis.

Mark began by testing Anna on her understanding of what we covered in lesson 41.

je chante

I sing / I am singing

tu dances

you dance / you are dancing

il regarde

he watches / he is watching

elle travaille

she works / she is working

nous chantons

we sing / we are singing

ils regardent

they watch / they are watching

elles dansent

they dance / they are dancing

Singular	Plural
-e	-ons
-es	-ez
-e	-ent

The pattern of endings listed above can be used with any regular *-er* verb in the present tense. Mark gave the example *plonger*, meaning “to dive”. We'll look at this example later in these notes because of the slight spelling change which occurs. The other example given was *laver*. To conjugate this verb, take the *-er* off the infinitive and add the endings. See the full conjugation below.

laver (to wash) - present tense	
je lave	nous lavons
tu laves	vous lavez
il / elle lave	ils / elles lavent

Quitter means “to leave” as in “to leave a room” or “to leave school”.

quitter (to leave) - present tense	
je quitte	nous quittons
tu quittes	vous quittez
il / elle quitte	ils / elles quittent

Talk about your daily routine

The following verbs can be used to talk about what you do in the course of a day.

Example sentences		
je quitte la maison	I leave the house	infinitive: <i>quitter</i>
j'arrive à l'université	I arrive at university	infinitive: <i>arriver</i>
j'arrive au travail	I arrive at work	
j'arrive au bureau	I arrive at the office	
j'arrive à l'hôpital	I arrive at the hospital	
je mange avec mes collègues	I eat with my colleagues	infinitive: <i>manger</i>
je mange avec mes copains	I eat with my friends	
je rentre	I return home	infinitive: <i>rentrer</i>
je dîne avec ma famille	I dine with my family / I have dinner with my family	infinitive: <i>dîner</i>

So far most of the examples relating to daily routine have been given in the *je* form. To ask the questions, simply use the *tu* form:

à quelle heure est-ce que tu quittes la maison?
at what time do you leave the house?

Note the *-es* ending on *tu quittes*. Note also the question marker *est-ce que* which we have seen many times before. There are, however, other ways of asking this same question:

tu quittes la maison à quelle heure?
at what time do you leave the house?

à quelle heure quittes-tu la maison?
at what time do you leave the house?

For information, the final version sounds just a little formal.

To say at what time you do something you use the following phrase:

à ... heure(s)

at ... o'clock

Note that if you are talking about “one o'clock” then the word *heure* is in the singular. Otherwise it is plural. A full list of times is given below:

giving times	
à une heure	at one o'clock
à deux heures	at two o'clock
à trois heures	at three o'clock
à quatre heures	at four o'clock
à cinq heures	at five o'clock
à six heures	at six o'clock
à sept heures	at seven o'clock
à huit heures	at eight o'clock
à neuf heures	at nine o'clock
à dix heures	at ten o'clock
à onze heures	at eleven o'clock
à midi	at midday
à minuit	at midnight
... et demie	half-past

Comprehension text

Below you will find the text of Mark's daily routine. This is a transcription of the text from lesson 42. Any new vocabulary is given overleaf.



Le matin je quitte la maison à huit heures. J'arrive au travail à huit heures et demie. Normalement je parle avec mes collègues pendant dix minutes. Ensuite je commence mon travail. Je mange à la cantine à une heure. Je passe l'après-midi à faire des enregistrements et je rentre chez moi à six heures. Je dîne avec ma famille à sept heures et après je joue un peu de piano ou je regarde la télé.

Vocabulary		
matin (m)	morning	Here <i>le matin</i> means “in the morning”.
pendant	during, for	
ensuite	then, next	
commencer	to begin	
cantine (f)	canteen, restaurant	
passer	to spend, pass	
après-midi (m or f)	afternoon	The word <i>après-midi</i> can be masculine or feminine.
enregistrement (m)	recording	
chez moi	at/to my house	<i>Je rentre chez moi</i> means “I return home” or simply “I go home”
jouer	to play	

Two interesting verbs: *manger* and *plonger*

In this lesson, Mark mentioned the word *plonger*, meaning “to dive”. Anna correctly translated “you dive” as *tu plonges*. However it’s important to note that there is a very slight difference with this verb. When adding endings to the stem of a verb, the stem must keep the same ‘sound’. So, with *plonger*, as you can see overleaf, when the *-ons* ending is added for the *nous* form, an *-e-* is inserted before the ending (shown in red in the verb table) to keep the ‘soft’ sound of the *-g-* in *plonger* (the same sound as *-s-* in the English word “pleasure”). Otherwise the *-g-* would have a hard sound like *-g-* in English “gate”.

plonger (to dive) - present tense	
je plonge	nous plonge ^e ons*
tu plonges	vous plongez
il / elle plonge	ils / elles plongent

Exactly the same thing happens with *manger* meaning “to eat”. See the verb table below.

manger (to eat) - present tense	
je mange	nous mange ^e ons*
tu manges	vous mangez
il / elle mange	ils / elles mangent

Note that the information listed below is part of the test in the bonus podcast. We would advise you to listen to the podcast before you read the content below.

Bonus episode test		
1	Je quitte la maison à sept heures et demie.	I leave the house at half past seven
2	Lucie arrive à l'université à huit heures.	Lucie arrives at university at eight o'clock.
3	À quelle heure est-ce que tu arrives au bureau?	At what time do you arrive at the office?
4	Nous arrivons au bureau à neuf heures.	We arrive at the office at nine o'clock.
5	Elle commence son travail à dix heures.	She starts (her) work at ten o'clock.
6	Je mange avec mes collègues à midi.	I have lunch with my colleagues at noon.
7	Je rentre chez moi à cinq heures.	I go home at five o'clock.
8	À quelle heure est-ce que tu dînes avec ta famille?	At what time do you have dinner with your family?
9	Je dîne avec ma famille à six heures et demie.	I have dinner with my family at half past six.
10	Ensuite nous regardons la télé.	After(wards) we watch the television.



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