



**SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**  
Coimbatore – 641 107  
**(An Autonomous Institution)**

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Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

**COURSE NAME : 23GEB205 Additional Language - French**

II YEAR /III SEMESTER

Unit IV: Conversation about time with friends

Topic 1 : Understanding and saying the time in French



# Telling Time - Lire l'heure



l'heure                      time as in telling time  
Quelle heure est-il ?      What time is it?

Only heure is needed for this lesson – when telling time, it's equivalent to "o'clock."

The foundation of telling time is knowing the French numbers 1 through 24. Why not just 12? In French, time is usually based on the 24-hour clock, like military time. Instead of 1 to 11 a.m., followed by 12 to 11 p.m., the clock continues counting up from 12, so that 1 p.m. is 13, 2 p.m. is 14, all the way up to 24.

Midnight itself can be stated as minuit, 24h00, or 0h00, but one minute later, 24 disappears: 0h01, 0h02, etc.

While you definitely need to be able to understand the 24-hour clock, you don't necessarily need to talk about time with it. Instead, you can use the phrases du matin to mean a.m., and then de l'après-midi from noon until around 6 p.m., followed by du soir until midnight.



# Key Difference

## Key Differences:

- **Written vs. Spoken:**

In everyday speech, you'll hear the 12-hour format, but for timetables, schedules, and formal contexts, the 24-hour clock is standard.

- **Digital Clocks:**

Many digital clocks in public spaces (e.g., trains, airports) and in workplaces use the 24-hour format.



# Key Notes



## Key Notes:

- In French, "h" stands for "heure", which means "hour" (e.g., 14h00 means "14 hours").
- The 24-hour format is standard for writing time in French, particularly for schedules, public transportation, and official documents.
- The 12-hour format (AM/PM) is used informally in spoken language, but the 24-hour clock is often used in written contexts.



# Vocabulary to indicate time of the day



When referring to the **time of the day**:

- In the morning - du matin
- In the afternoon - de l'après-midi
- In the evening - du soir
- Noon (12pm) - midi
- Midnight (12pm) - minuit.

When referring to **minutes** past the hour:

- et quart (quarter past) = 15 minutes past
- et demie (half past) = 30 minutes past
- moins le quart (quarter to) = 15 minutes before the next hour

*It is very easy to add in the minutes to the time, just mention the number of minutes after the hour.*



# 24-hour clock in French

00h00	00:00 (Midnight)
01h00	01:00 (1:00 AM)
02h00	02:00 (2:00 AM)
03h00	03:00 (3:00 AM)
04h00	04:00 (4:00 AM)
05h00	05:00 (5:00 AM)
06h00	06:00 (6:00 AM)
07h00	07:00 (7:00 AM)
08h00	08:00 (8:00 AM)
09h00	09:00 (9:00 AM)
10h00	10:00 (10:00 AM)
11h00	11:00 (11:00 AM)

12h00	12:00 (Noon)
13h00	13:00 (1:00 PM)
14h00	14:00 (2:00 PM)
15h00	15:00 (3:00 PM)
16h00	16:00 (4:00 PM)
17h00	17:00 (5:00 PM)
18h00	18:00 (6:00 PM)
19h00	19:00 (7:00 PM)
20h00	20:00 (8:00 PM)
21h00	21:00 (9:00 PM)
22h00	22:00 (10:00 PM)
23h00	23:00 (11:00 PM)



# minutes- "minutes" (pronounced: mee-noot)



## Minutes telling

- 5 minutes = 5 minutes

Eg: Il est 10 heures 5 minutes – It is 10:05 (10:05 AM).

- 15 minutes = 15 minutes

E.g: Il est deux heures et quart – It's a quarter past 2 (2:15pm)

- 30 minutes = 30 minutes

E.g: Il est deux heures et quart – It's a quarter past 2 (2:15pm)

- 45 minutes = 45 minutes

E.g: Il est une heure moins le quart – It is a quarter until 1 (12:45am)



# Bonus tips



“Time” has different translations in French depending upon the context:

- Time = hours of the day is - l’heure.
- Time = duration is - le temps.

E.g: Depuis combien de temps apprenez-vous le français? — How long have you been studying French?

- Time = frequency, i.e., the number of times - la fois

E.g: Combien de fois avez-vous visité la France ? — How many times have you visited France?





# How to tell the time in French



## Quelle heure est-il ?

**2:55 am**

Il est deux heures cinquante-cinq/  
Il est trois heures moins cinq.

**5:15 pm**

Il est dix-sept heures quinze.

**9:30 am**

Il est neuf heures et demie.

**4:45 pm**

Il est seize heures quarante-cinq.



**THANK YOU - Merci!**