

Telling Time in French (A1-7)

Study Sheet - Simply French - Ask and answer the time with confidence

KEY PHRASES

French	Pronunciation	English
Quelle heure est-il ?	kel ur eh-TEEL	What time is it?
Vous avez l'heure ?	voo-zah-vay LUR	Do you have the time?
A quelle heure ?	ah kel UR	At what time?
Il est une heure.	eel eh ewn UR	It's one o'clock.
Il est deux heures.	eel eh duh-ZUR	It's two o'clock.
Il est midi.	eel eh mee-DEE	It's noon.
Il est minuit.	eel eh mee-NWEE	It's midnight.
... et quart	ay KAR	quarter past (:15)
... et demie	ay duh-MEE	half past (:30)
... moins le quart	mwan luh KAR	quarter to (:45)
Il est huit heures dix.	eel eh wee-tur DEES	It's 8:10.
... du matin	dew ma-TAN	in the morning (a.m.)
... de l'après-midi	duh la-preh-mee-DEE	in the afternoon
... du soir	dew SWAR	in the evening (p.m.)
Il est quatorze heures.	eel eh ka-torz UR	It's 14:00 (2 p.m.).
Le train part à vingt heures.	luh tran par ah van-TUR	The train leaves at 20:00.

EXAMPLE CONVERSATION

- Excusez-moi, quelle heure est-il ? (*Excuse me, what time is it?*)
- Il est huit heures et demie. (*It's half past eight.*)
- A quelle heure ouvre le musée ? (*What time does the museum open?*)
- Il ouvre à dix heures. (*It opens at ten.*)
- Parfait. On se retrouve à midi ? (*Perfect. Shall we meet at noon?*)
- Oui, à midi. À tout à l'heure ! (*Yes, at noon. See you soon!*)

QUICK TIPS

1. Every clock time uses **Il est + number + heure(s)** - the word 'heure' never drops out.
2. Write **et demie** after heures, but **et demi** after midi and minuit (masculine nouns).
3. France uses the **24-hour clock** for schedules: add 12 to p.m. hours (2 p.m. = 14 h).
4. Watch the **liaison**: deux heures = 'duh-ZUR', neuf heures = 'nuh-VUR'. Say it out loud!

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