

Dire l'heure

Vocabulaire: Dire l'Heure

Il est trois heures It's three o'clock (du matin)

3:00AM

.....

Il est midi It's noon

12:00PM

A. To ask the time in French, you will use the question: Quelle heure est-il?

To respond, you will begin with the phrase Il est followed by the hour:

Il est + y + heure(s). Example: Il est deux heures.

It's two a clock.

B. Minutes past the hour until the half hour are added directly to the hour. The words quart and demie are joined by et.

Example: Il est quatre heures cinq.

It's five past four.

Example: Il est quatre heures et quart.

It's a quarter past four.

Minutes before the hour are expressed by the word moins. Moins le quart means a quarter to the hour.

Examples:

Il est six heures moins le quart. It's quarter to six.

Il est six heures moins vingt. It's twenty to six.

C. French uses the 24-hour clock (or "military time") for official purposes. In this system, et, moins, quart and demie are not used. Phrases such as du matin, de l'après-midi, du soir, which are French equivalents for A.M. and P.M. are also not used.

13:00h/ 1pm

1) Il est treize heures/ Il est une heure de l'après-midi

It's one o'clock

14:00h/ 2pm

2) Il est quatorze heures/ Il est deux heures
de l'après-midi. It's two o'clock

18:00 (6:00 P.M.)

Il est dix-huit heures

Il est six heures du soir

It's six o'clock

19:00 (7:00 P.M.)

Il est dix-neuf heures

Il est sept heures

du soir

It's seven o'clock

5:15 A.M.

Il est cinq heures quinze
Il est cinq heures et quart
It's five fifteen

5:30 A.M.

Il est cinq heures trente
Il est cinq heures et demie
It's five thirty

5:45 A.M.

Il est cinq heures quarante-cinq
Il est six heures moins le quart
It's five forty- five
It's a quarter to six

Exercise 4.5: Say the time in French.

6:00AM 3:00AM 11:00AM 4:00AM
12:00PM 3:00PM 5:00PM 2:00PM
3:14PM 4:20AM 7:35AM 9:40PM
12:00AM 8:00AM 7:00PM 9:00PM
5:30PM 8:39AM