

L'HEURE

Note culturelle

Traditionally, the French workday followed a particular pattern: breakfast in the early morning, work, a two-hour break for lunch, then work in the afternoon and into the evening. Most people went home for lunch to eat and be with their family. As France has become more urban, however, *la journée continue*, or a nine-to-five schedule, has become a way of life. There is a shorter lunch break, and people have lunch at work or in a nearby restaurant, fast-food chain, or café. How does this compare to a typical workday in your area?

Note de vocabulaire

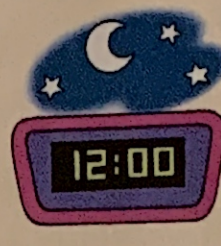
1. Some people use **douze heures** for **midi**.
2. One may also tell time by telling the minutes after the hour, instead of using **et quart**, **et demie**, and **moins le quart**. For example, one hears **Il est trois heures quinze** or **Il est cinq heures trente**.
3. Use **du matin** / **de l'après-midi** / **du soir** only for indicating A.M. and P.M. when telling time. Use **le matin** / **l'après-midi** / **le soir** to say *in the morning / afternoon / evening* in all other cases.
4. Although *at* may be dropped in English, *à* cannot be omitted in French. To ask (At) *What time is French class?*, use **À quelle heure est le cours de français?**

Quelle heure est-il? *What time is it?*

To tell time **on the hour**, use:

Il est + number + heure(s). **Il est trois heures.** *It's 3:00.*

When telling the time, use **une** for **one**. The word **heures** has an **s** except in **une heure**. Don't use **heure** after **midi** and **minuit**.

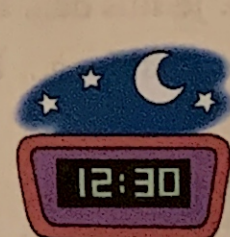
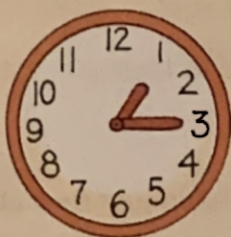


Il est une heure. Il est deux heures. Il est midi. Il est minuit.

To tell time **after the hour up to the half hour**, use:

Il est + number of hour + heure(s) + minutes. **Il est trois heures cinq.** *It's 3:05.*

For a **quarter after**, use **et quart** and for **half after**, use **et demie**. With **midi** and **minuit**, use **et demi** without the final **e**. These are the only times **et** is used in telling time.

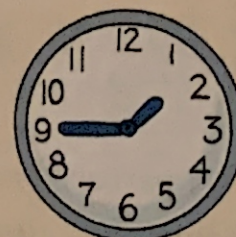


Il est une heure dix. Il est une heure et quart. Il est une heure et demie. Il est midi et demi. Il est minuit et demi.

To tell time **until the next hour**, use:

Il est + number of next hour + heure(s) moins + minutes until the hour. **Il est six heures moins cinq.** *It's 5:55.*

For a **quarter until the hour**, use **moins le quart**. This is the only time **le** is used in telling time.



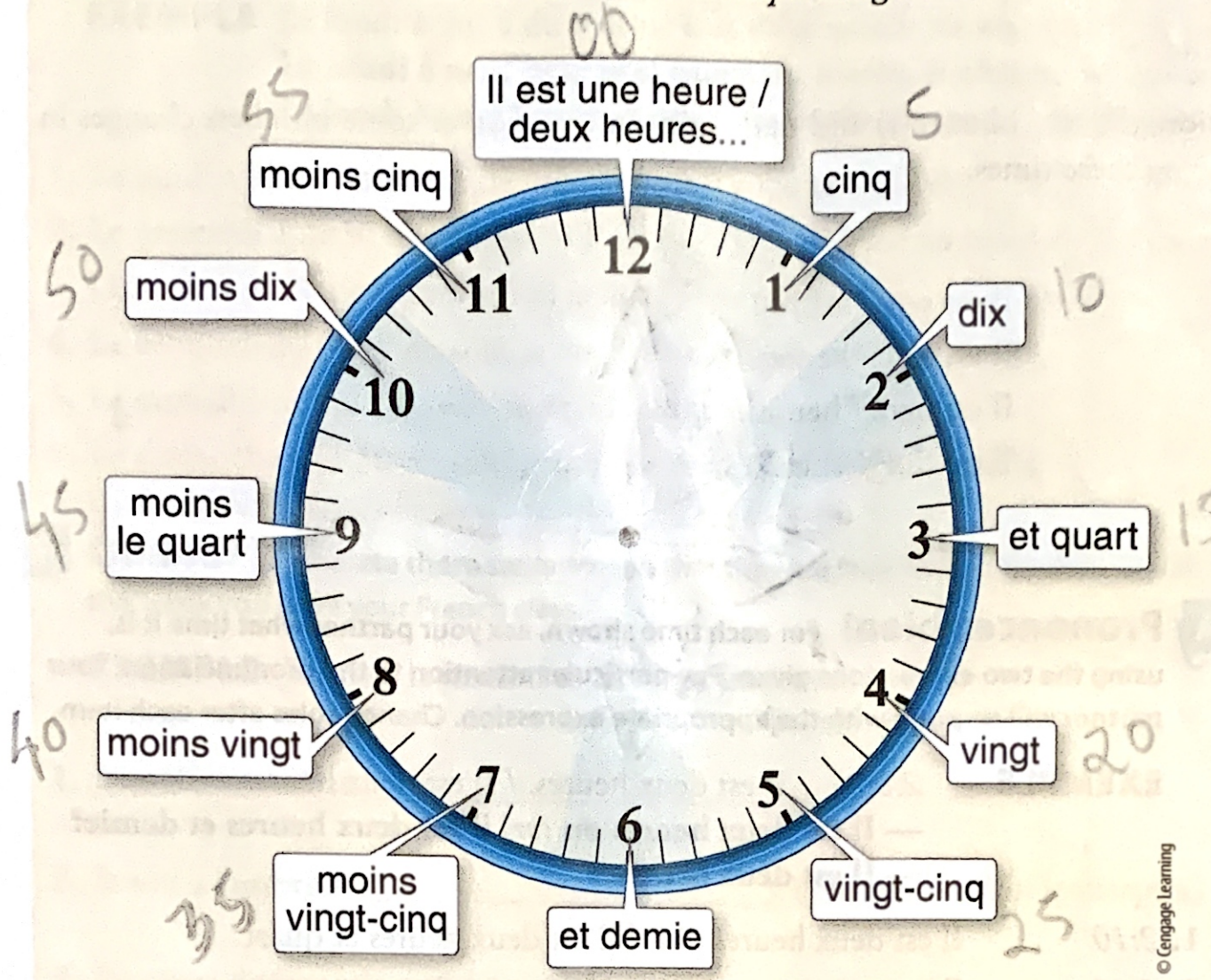
Il est deux heures moins vingt-cinq.

Il est deux heures moins vingt.

Il est deux heures moins le quart.

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The following clock is useful in visualizing how time is expressed. With **moins...**, remember to use the number of the *upcoming* hour.



Instead of using **A.M.** and **P.M.**, use the expressions that follow, except with **midi** or **minuit**.

du matin (after midnight until noon)
de l'après-midi (after noon until 6 P.M.)
du soir (6 P.M. until midnight)

Il est huit heures **du matin**.
Il est une heure **de l'après-midi**.
Il est neuf heures **du soir**.

Use **à** to ask or tell **at what time** something takes place.

Le cours de français est **à quelle heure**?



Le cours de français **commence** à une heure.



Le cours de français **finit** à deux heures et quart.

To say that you do something **from** a certain time **to** another, use **de... à**.

Le lundi, je suis en cours **de** neuf heures **à** une heure.

You can find a list of the new words from this **Compétence** on page 27 and access the audio online.

PRONONCIATION

L'heure et la liaison 1-14

Notice that there is liaison before the word **heure(s)** and that the pronunciation of some numbers changes in this liaison. Practice pronouncing these times.

Quelle heure est-il?

Il est deux^zheures.

Il est trois^zheures.

Il est cinq^kheures.

Il est six^zheures.

Il est sept^theures.

Il est huit^theures.

Il est neuf^vheures.

Il est dix^zheures.





Il est dix heures moins le quart.


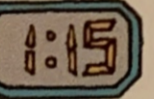

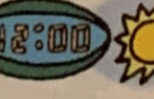

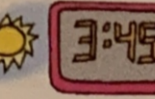



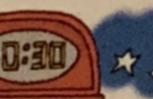






A **Prononcez bien!** For each time shown, ask your partner what time it is, using the two expressions given. Pay particular attention to the pronunciation. Your partner will respond with the appropriate expression. Change roles after each item.

EXEMPLE 2:00 Il est deux heures. / Il est deux heures et demie.
— Il est deux heures ou (or) il est deux heures et demie?
— Il est deux heures.

- 2:10 Il est deux heures dix. / Il est deux heures et quart.
- 3:15 Il est trois heures vingt. / Il est trois heures et quart.
- 4:20 Il est quatre heures vingt-cinq. / Il est quatre heures vingt.
- 5:30 Il est cinq heures et demie. / Il est cinq heures et quart.
- 6:45 Il est six heures moins le quart. / Il est sept heures moins le quart.
- 8:35 Il est neuf heures moins vingt-cinq. / Il est huit heures moins vingt-cinq.
- 9:50 Il est neuf heures moins dix. / Il est dix heures moins dix.
- 12:00 A.M. Il est midi. / Il est minuit.

B **Quelle heure est-il?** Take turns asking and telling the time with a partner.

EXEMPLE   — Quelle heure est-il?
— Il est une heure de l'après-midi.

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C **Il est quelle heure?** Write the times you hear. Notice how the word **heure(s)** is abbreviated in French.

EXEMPLE VOUS ENTENDEZ (YOU HEAR): Il est dix heures et quart.
VOUS ÉCRIVEZ (YOU WRITE): 10h15