

# Unit 5: Daily Life & Routines (La Vie Quotidienne)

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Now that you can describe your world with adjectives and possessives, let's bring it into daily motion! This unit is all about talking about time, days, months, and unlocking more verbs so you can discuss your daily routines and schedules.

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## Lesson 13: What Time Is It? (Quelle heure est-il ?)

**Thoughts:** Knowing how to tell time is fundamental for daily interactions – making plans, catching a train, or just knowing when the shop opens. French uses both the familiar 12-hour clock and the more official 24-hour clock.

**Casual Introduction:** "What time is it?" is one of the most common questions you'll ask or hear. In French, it's pretty straightforward, but there are a few useful phrases for "half past" and "quarter to" that you'll want to master. Also, remember that in France, the 24-hour clock is used much more commonly than in English-speaking countries. Good news, as a Czech speaker, you're likely already very comfortable with the 24-hour system!

### Asking for the Time

The most common way to ask "What time is it?" is:

- **Quelle heure est-il ?** (Kel UHR eh-TEEL?) - What time is it?
  - *Alternative (more casual):* **Il est quelle heure ?** (EEL eh kel UHR?)

### Telling the Time (Il est...)

You start your answer with **Il est...** (It is...).

- **Il est une heure.** (EEL eh EWN UHR) - It is 1 o'clock.
  - *Note:* For 1 o'clock, we use **une** (feminine for one) because **heure** is a feminine noun.
- **Il est deux heures.** (EEL eh DUH-zuh UHR) - It is 2 o'clock.
  - *Liaison Alert:* The 's' in **deux** links to **heures** with a 'z' sound. This applies to all numbers ending in a consonant before **heure(s)**.

### Specific Times (Minutes Past the Hour)

You simply state the hour, then the minutes.

- **Il est sept heures dix.** (EEL eh set UHR dees) - It is 7:10.
- **Il est neuf heures vingt-cinq.** (EEL eh nuhf UHR vang-sank) - It is 9:25.

### "Half past" and "Quarter past/to"

- **Il est... et demie.** (EEL eh... eh duh-MEE) - It is ... half past. (Literally: and half)
  - **Il est trois heures et demie.** (It is 3:30 / half past three.)
  - **Il est minuit et demie.** (It is 12:30 AM / half past midnight.)

- **Il est... et quart.** (EEL eh... eh KAHR) - It is ... quarter past. (Literally: and quarter)
  - **Il est huit heures et quart.** (It is 8:15 / quarter past eight.)
- **Il est... moins le quart.** (EEL eh... MWAN luh KAHR) - It is ... quarter to. (Literally: minus the quarter)
  - **Il est cinq heures moins le quart.** (It is 4:45 / quarter to five.)
- **Il est... moins [minutes].** (EEL eh... MWAN [minutes]) - It is ... minutes to. (Literally: minus minutes)
  - **Il est six heures moins dix.** (It is 5:50 / ten to six.)

### Important Time Markers

- **midi** (mee-DEE) - noon / 12 PM
- **minuit** (mee-NWEE) - midnight / 12 AM
- **du matin** (doo mah-TANG) - in the morning (from midnight to noon)
- **de l'après-midi** (duh lah-PREH-mee-DEE) - in the afternoon (from noon to about 6 PM)
- **du soir** (doo SWAR) - in the evening (from about 6 PM to midnight)

### The 24-Hour Clock (L'heure officielle)

The 24-hour clock (e.g., 13h for 1 PM, 20h for 8 PM) is standard in French in official contexts, train schedules, TV programs, etc. You'll hear it constantly.

- 1 PM = **treize heures**
- 2 PM = **quatorze heures**
- 5 PM = **dix-sept heures**
- 8 PM = **vingt heures**
- 10 PM = **vingt-deux heures**

When speaking, French speakers often use the 12-hour clock with **du matin**, **de l'après-midi**, or **du soir** for clarity, *but* they convert to the 24-hour number.

- **Il est six heures du matin.** (6 AM)
- **Il est quinze heures.** (It is 3 PM - official) / **Il est trois heures de l'après-midi.** (It is 3 PM - spoken)
- **Il est vingt et une heures.** (It is 9 PM - official) / **Il est neuf heures du soir.** (It is 9 PM - spoken)

### Example Dialogues:

**Dialogue 1: Ami:** Quelle heure est-il ? (What time is it?) **Vous:** Il est sept heures et quart. (It's 7:15.)

**Dialogue 2: Collègue:** Nous avons une réunion à quelle heure ? (What time is our meeting?) **Vous:** À quatorze heures trente. (At 14:30 / 2:30 PM.)

**Dialogue 3: Maman:** Il est quelle heure ? (What time is it?) **Enfant:** Il est dix heures moins vingt. (It's 9:40 / 20 to 10.)

### Vocabulary Box:

French Phrase	English Translation	Notes
Quelle heure est-il ?	What time is it?	
Il est...	It is...	Starting phrase for telling time

French Phrase	English Translation	Notes
une heure	1 o'clock	Use <b>une</b> for 1 o'clock
deux heures	2 o'clock	<b>z liaison</b> for numbers ending in silent <b>s</b>
et demie	half past	For :30 minutes
et quart	quarter past	For :15 minutes
moins le quart	quarter to	For :45 minutes
moins [minutes]	minus [minutes] / minutes to	For times like 5:50 (6 minus 10)
midi	noon	12:00 PM
minuit	midnight	12:00 AM
du matin	in the morning	For 12-hour clock (e.g., 8 AM)
de l'après-midi	in the afternoon	For 12-hour clock (e.g., 3 PM)
du soir	in the evening	For 12-hour clock (e.g., 9 PM)

### Exercises/Quiz:

#### 1. Write the time in French (using **Il est...**):

- a) 6:00
- b) 1:30
- c) 4:15
- d) 10:45
- e) 9:50 (use **moins**)

#### 2. Convert these 24-hour times to the 12-hour clock with **du matin/de l'après-midi/du soir** (spoken style):

- a) 07h00
- b) 14h00
- c) 21h00

#### 3. Answer the question in French:

- Quelle heure est-il ? (It is 5:20)

### Solutions:

1. a) Il est six heures. b) Il est une heure et demie. c) Il est quatre heures et quart. d) Il est onze heures moins le quart. e) Il est dix heures moins dix.
2. a) Il est sept heures du matin. b) Il est deux heures de l'après-midi. c) Il est neuf heures du soir.
3. Il est cinq heures vingt.

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## Lesson 14: Days of the Week & Months (Les jours et les mois)

**Thoughts:** Just like telling time, knowing the days of the week and months of the year is crucial for planning, making appointments, and discussing events. French has its own specific vocabulary and customs for dates.

**Casual Introduction:** If someone asks "When is the party?" or "When do you finish work?", you'll need the days and months! Good news: French days and months aren't capitalized like in English. This is similar to Czech, where you also don't capitalize days or months!

## Days of the Week (Les jours de la semaine)

Days of the week in French are all **masculine**.

- **lundi** (luhn-DEE) - Monday
- **mardi** (mahr-DEE) - Tuesday
- **mercredi** (mehr-kruh-DEE) - Wednesday
- **jeudi** (zhuh-DEE) - Thursday
- **vendredi** (vahn-druh-DEE) - Friday
- **samedi** (sahm-DEE) - Saturday
- **dimanche** (dee-MAHNCH) - Sunday

**Important Note:** Days of the week are **not capitalized** in French unless they begin a sentence.

**To say "on [day]":** Use the definite article **le** (the masculine singular "the").

- **le lundi** - on Monday (or every Monday)
- **le mardi** - on Tuesday
- **Le samedi, je travaille.** (On Saturday, I work.)

**To say "on [specific date]":** Still use **le**.

- **le 14 juillet** - on July 14th

## Months of the Year (Les mois de l'année)

Months in French are all **masculine** and are also **not capitalized**.

- **janvier** (zhahn-vee-AY) - January
- **février** (fay-vree-AY) - February
- *mars* (mahrs) - March
- *avril* (ah-VREEL) - April
- *mai* (may) - May
- *juin* (zhwen) - June
- *juillet* (zhwee-YAY) - July
- *août* (oot) - August (the 'o' is long, 't' often silent in everyday speech)
- *septembre* (sep-TAHN-bruh) - September
- *octobre* (ok-TOH-bruh) - October
- *novembre* (noh-VAHN-bruh) - November
- *décembre* (day-SAHN-bruh) - December

## Talking About Dates (Les dates)

To say a date, you use the definite article **le** followed by the number (usually cardinal, not ordinal like "first, second") and then the month.

- **le premier mai** - May 1st (For the *first* of the month, use **premier** - P Ruh-MYAY - (ordinal) instead of **un**.)
- **le deux juin** - June 2nd
- **le quatorze juillet** - July 14th (Bastille Day!)
- **le vingt-cinq décembre** - December 25th

### Example Sentences:

- Quel jour sommes-nous ? / On est quel jour ? (What day is it?)
  - **Nous sommes jeudi.** (It is Thursday.) / **On est jeudi.** (It is Thursday.)
- Mon anniversaire est **le vingt et un octobre.** (My birthday is October 21st.)
- J'ai un examen **le lundi.** (I have an exam on Monday.)
- La fête est **le trois mars.** (The party is on March 3rd.)
- Je travaille **du lundi au vendredi.** (I work from Monday to Friday.)

### Vocabulary Box:

French Word	English Translation	Notes
un jour	a day	
une semaine	a week	
un mois	a month	
une année	a year	
Quel jour sommes-nous ?	What day is it today?	
Mon anniversaire	My birthday	
la fête	the party	
un examen	an exam	
du [day] au [day]	from [day] to [day]	
le [date] [month]	on [date] [month]	Always <b>le</b> before the date, <b>premier</b> for 1st

### Exercises/Quiz:

#### 1. Write the day of the week in French:

- a) Sunday
- b) Wednesday
- c) Friday

#### 2. Write the month in French:

- a) August
- b) January
- c) November

#### 3. Translate these dates into French:

- a) May 1st
- b) October 12th

- c) On Tuesday
- d) My birthday is July 23rd.

### Solutions:

1. a) dimanche, b) mercredi, c) vendredi
2. a) août, b) janvier, c) novembre
3. a) le premier mai b) le douze octobre c) le mardi d) Mon anniversaire est le vingt-trois juillet.

## Lesson 15: More Regular Verbs: -ir and -re (Les verbes en -ir et -re)

**Thoughts:** You've mastered **-er** verbs, the biggest group! Now, let's learn the patterns for the other two main groups of regular verbs: those ending in **-ir** and those ending in **-re**. This will give you a powerful command over a vast number of French verbs.

**Casual Introduction:** Remember how much fun it was to learn that **-er** verbs mostly follow one simple rule? Well, French has two other common "regular" families of verbs: **-ir** verbs and **-re** verbs. While they have different endings, they are just as predictable once you know their patterns. Learning these will open up many more ways to talk about your daily actions!

### Grammar Spotlight: Regular -IR Verbs

Regular -ir verbs are the second largest group. They generally follow this pattern:

1. Take the infinitive verb (e.g., *finir* - to finish, *choisir* - to choose).
2. **Drop the -ir** ending to find the **stem**.
  - *finir* -> stem: **fin-**
  - *choisir* -> stem: **chois-**
3. Add the correct ending to the stem:

### Regular -IR Verb Endings (Present Tense)

Subject Pronoun	Ending	Example: Finir (to finish)	Pronunciation Notes
<b>Je</b>	<b>-is</b>	Je <b>finis</b>	The 's' is silent
<b>Tu</b>	<b>-is</b>	Tu <b>finis</b>	The 's' is silent
<b>Il / Elle / On</b>	<b>-it</b>	Il <b>finit</b> / Elle <b>finit</b> / On <b>finit</b>	The 't' is silent
<b>Nous</b>	<b>-issons</b>	Nous <b>finissons</b>	Sounds like 'iss-ohn' (pronounced 'ss' and nasal 'on')
<b>Vous</b>	<b>-issez</b>	Vous <b>finissez</b>	Sounds like 'iss-ay'
<b>Ils / Elles</b>	<b>-issent</b>	Ils <b>finissent</b> / Elles <b>finissent</b>	Sounds like 'iss' (silent 'ent')

**Notice the difference from -er verbs:** The **nous**, **vous**, and **ils/elles** forms of **-ir** verbs have a distinct **-iss-** sound!

### Let's try another one: Choisir (to choose)

- Je **choisis** - I choose
- Tu **choisis** - You choose
- Il/Elle/On **choisit** - He/She/One chooses
- Nous **choissons** - We choose
- Vous **choisissez** - You choose
- Ils/Elles **choissent** - They choose

### Grammar Spotlight: Regular -RE Verbs

Regular -re verbs are the smallest group of regular verbs, but they are also very common. Their pattern is unique:

1. Take the infinitive verb (e.g., *attendre* - to wait, *vendre* - to sell).
2. **Drop the -re** ending to find the **stem**.
  - *attendre* -> stem: **attend-**
  - *vendre* -> stem: **vend-**
3. Add the correct ending to the stem:

### Regular -RE Verb Endings (Present Tense)

Subject Pronoun	Ending	Example: Attendre (to wait)	Pronunciation Notes
<b>Je</b>	<b>-s</b>	J' <b>attends</b>	The 's' is silent (like "attand")
<b>Tu</b>	<b>-s</b>	Tu <b>attends</b>	The 's' is silent (like "attand")
<b>Il / Elle / On</b>	(no ending)	Il attend / Elle attend / On attend	The last consonant of the stem is pronounced (like "attand")
<b>Nous</b>	<b>-ons</b>	Nous <b>attendons</b>	Sounds like nasal 'on' (from Unit 1!)
<b>Vous</b>	<b>-ez</b>	Vous <b>attendez</b>	Sounds like "ay"
<b>Ils / Elles</b>	<b>-ent</b>	Ils <b>attendent</b> / Elles <b>attendent</b>	The 'ent' is silent (like "attand")

**Notice the pattern:** The **je**, **tu**, **il/elle/on**, **ils/elles** forms of **-re** verbs often **sound the same** and end with the consonant of the stem!

### Let's try another one: Vendre (to sell)

- Je **vends** - I sell
- Tu **vends** - You sell
- Il/Elle/On **vend** - He/She/One sells
- Nous **vendons** - We sell
- Vous **vendez** - You sell

- Ils/Elles **vendent** - They sell

### Vocabulary Box:

French Verb (Infinitive)	English Translation	Conjugation Group
finir	to finish	-ir
choisir	to choose	-ir
grandir	to grow	-ir
réussir	to succeed	-ir
attendre	to wait	-re
vendre	to sell	-re
répondre	to answer	-re
perdre	to lose	-re

### Example Sentences:

- Je **finis** mon travail. (I finish my work.)
- Nous **choisissons** un livre. (We are choosing a book.)
- Tu **grandis** vite ! (You are growing fast!)
- Il **attend** le bus. (He is waiting for the bus.)
- Elles **répondent** à la question. (They are answering the question.)
- Vous **vendez** la maison ? (Are you selling the house?)

### Exercises/Quiz:

#### 1. Conjugate the verb *grandir* (to grow) for the following pronouns:

- a) Je \_\_
- b) Nous \_\_
- c) Elle \_\_
- d) Ils \_\_

#### 2. Conjugate the verb *répondre* (to answer) for the following pronouns:

- a) Tu \_\_
- b) Vous \_\_
- c) On \_\_
- d) Elles \_\_

#### 3. Translate these sentences into French:

- a) We are waiting for the train. (*le train* - m)
- b) You (informal) finish quickly. (*vite* - quickly)
- c) They (feminine) choose a dress. (*une robe* - f)
- d) I sell my car.

### Solutions:

1. a) grandis, b) grandissons, c) grandit, d) grandissent



2. a) réponds, b) répondez, c) répond, d) répondent
  3. a) Nous attendons le train. b) Tu finis vite. c) Elles choisissent une robe. d) Je vends ma voiture.
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## Key Takeaways for Unit 5: Daily Life & Routines

- **Telling Time:**
  - Ask: **Quelle heure est-il ?**
  - Answer: **Il est...** (**une heure** for 1 o'clock, **heures** for others).
  - Use **et demie** for :30, **et quart** for :15, **moins le quart** for :45.
  - Remember **midi** (noon) and **minuit** (midnight).
  - French heavily uses the **24-hour clock** (e.g., **treize heures** for 1 PM), often with **du matin**, **de l'après-midi**, **du soir** for clarity in spoken language.
- **Days & Months:**
  - Learn the vocabulary: **lundi, mardi, mercredi, jeudi, vendredi, samedi, dimanche**.
  - Learn the vocabulary: **janvier, février, mars, avril, mai, juin, juillet, août, septembre, octobre, novembre, décembre**.
  - **Crucial:** Days and months are **not capitalized** in French (like in Czech!).
  - Use **le** before a day or date (e.g., **le lundi, le trois mars**). Use **premier** for the 1st of the month.
- **More Regular Verbs:**
  - **-IR Verbs (finir, choisir):** Drop -ir, add **-is, -is, -it, -issons, -issez, -issent**. Pay attention to the pronounced **iss** sound in plural forms.
  - **-RE Verbs (attendre, vendre):** Drop -re, add **-s, -s, (no ending), -ons, -ez, -ent**. The stem's final consonant is often pronounced in the singular forms.

You've significantly expanded your ability to talk about daily life and routines by mastering time, dates, and the other major regular verb patterns. You're building a solid foundation for more complex conversations! Keep practicing these new structures and vocabulary.