

Chapter- 3

LA JOURNÉE DE MME LAVIGNE

STUDY NOTES

In this chapter we will study about

- A. Small paragraph
- B. Telling time in French
- C. Seasons
- D. Pronominal verbs

B. TELLING TIME

In French, you're going to need tell time (**l'heure**) and probably with both the 12-hour and 24-hour clocks. To tell a time on the hour in French, use **il est + [number] + heure(s)**. For example: **il est deux heures** (it is two o'clock). **Note:** When it is one o'clock, say: **il est une heure** (it is one o'clock), using the feminine singular **une** instead of **un** because the word **heure** (hour) is feminine.

- To say 1 to 30 minutes past the hour, simply say the number of minutes after the hour, like this:
 - **Il est deux heures dix.** (Literally It is two hours ten; which is to say It is 2:10.)
 - **Il est sept heures vingt-cinq.** (It is 7:25.)
 - For 15 minutes past the hour say, **et quart** (and a quarter). For example: **Il est une heure et quart.** (It's a quarter past one.)
 - For 30 minutes past the hour, say **et demie** (and a half). For example: **Il est une heure et demie.** (It's half past one.)
 - For 31 to 59 minutes past the hour, say the next hour **moins** (minus) the number of minutes, like this:

- **Il est quatre heures moins dix.** (Literally 4 hours minus 10, or 3:50.)
- **Il est huit heures moins vingt.** (Literally 8 hours minus 20, meaning 7:40.)
- For a quarter until the hour, say **moins le quart** (minus the quarter). For example: **Il est trois heures moins le quart.** (It is a quarter until 3; meaning 2:45.)
- To abbreviate a time in French, don't use a colon between the hour and minutes like in English. Instead, use the letter **h** (for **heure**), like this: **8h10** (8:10).
- French has specific words for noon and midnight: **midi** (noon) and **minuit** (midnight). Those two words are used without saying **heures**. For example: **Il est minuit. Tout le monde au lit!** (It's midnight. Everybody to bed!)
- With the 12-hour clock, you may need to clarify if it's 8 a.m. or 8 p.m. Could make a big difference! French uses phrases to express the difference between morning (**le matin**), afternoon (**l'après-midi**), and evening/night (**le soir**).
- **du matin** (in the morning or a.m.)
For example: **Il part à six heures et demie du matin.** (He leaves at 6:30 a.m.)
- **de l'après-midi** (in the afternoon or p.m.)
For example: **En hiver il fait nuit à cinq heures de l'après-midi.** (In the winter, it's dark at 5 p.m.)
- **du soir** (in the evening/at night or p.m.)
For example: **Ils dînent à sept heures du soir.** (They eat dinner at 7 p.m.)

C. SEASONS

In France, there are four seasons: winter, spring, summer, and fall, or autumn, as it is sometimes called, after the Latin *autumnus*. The French use the word *automne*, which has the same origins, as well as *hiver*, *printemps*, and *été* to designate the three other seasons. Seasons are masculine, but since three out of four begin with vowel sounds, you will often

see them preceded by the preposition *en*. Otherwise, we use the preposition *au* before *printemps*, the preposition more often associated with masculine words.

In French, all four seasons (**saisons**) are masculine:

le printemps (spring) To say in the spring, say **au printemps**.

l'été (summer) To say in the summer, say **en été**.

l'automne (fall) To say in the fall, say **en automne**.

l'hiver (winter) To say in the winter, say **en hiver**.

D. PRONOMIAUX VERBES

A pronominal verb is a verb that is accompanied by a reflexive pronoun. Pronominal verbs fall into three major classes based on their meaning: reflexive, idiomatic, and reciprocal.

The verb is conjugated normally (here an **-er** verb) with addition of the reflexive pronouns **me, te, se, nous, vous, se**.

se raser 'to shave oneself'	
je me rase	nous nous rasons
tu te rases	vous vous rasez
il/elle/on se rase	ils/elles se rasent

