

checkpoint 1

- 1 In which of these phrases would you hear the **s** of **les**?
les rues, les oignons, les hindous, les soirs, les chaussures, les wagons, les haricots, les Européens
- 2 In which of these words is **c** pronounced like *k*?
citron, leçon, glace, comme, société
- 3 When spelling words out, what names are used for the letters **f, l, n** and **t**?
- 4 How is **www** pronounced?
- 5 How can you say @ in an email address, apart from using the English *at*?
- 6 **l'adresse de l'académie française est 23, quai de conti, 75006 paris.** Which of the words in this sentence need a capital letter?
- 7 What happens to the pitch of your voice at the end of a question?
- 8 What's the sixth vowel in French?
- 9 Pick out the word that doesn't rhyme: **pavé, avais, laver, ravi, savez**
- 10 Without looking at page 22, name four western European countries in French.

Once you're comfortable with spelling out your own details, have a go at spelling out the names and email addresses of friends and family.



Numbers, time and date

Some aspects of French and English numbers are very different. For example, in French:

- a comma is used where English uses a full stop, and vice versa, so 24,000 would be **24.000** in French and 7.5 would be **7,5**
- **one** has a masculine and a feminine version: **un** and **une**
- 17, 18 and 19 have a different pattern from 11–16
- 71–99 are based on a counting system that's different from 21–69. 70–79 translate literally as *sixty-ten, sixty-eleven*, etc; 80 translates literally as *four-twenties* and 81–99 use 80 followed by 1–19.
- French phone numbers are read out in pairs, not single digits:
93 44 50 08 is said as **quatre-vingt-treize, quarante-quatre, cinquante, zéro huit**.

There are also some interesting differences where time and date are concerned:

- In writing, time using the 24-hour clock (which is widespread in France) includes **h**, short for **heures hours** but has no full stop:
22h15, vingt-deux heures quinze 22.15
le train de 13h40 the 13.40 train lit. the train of 13.40
- The French for a week is **huit jours** eight days, and a *fortnight* is **quinze jours** 15 days or **une quinzaine**.

Zero is **zéro** in French. The noun that follows it is in the singular: **zéro faute no mistakes**. If you look it up in a dictionary, you'll find it has the following English translations:

- zéro** (m)
1. nought, zero: *au-dessous de ~* below zero; *au-dessus de ~* above zero; ~ *heure* zero hour, midnight; *partir de ~* start from scratch
 2. [sport] nil: *trois (butts) à ~* 3–0
 3. [tennis] love: *quinze à ~* 15-love.
 4. [telephone] 0.