

## 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 (buts)* à ~ 3–0 3. [*tennis*] love: *quinze* à ~ 15-love.  
4. [*telephone*] 0.