

French
Knowledge Book
Lent Term

Year 7

Unit 3: Autour de moi

School and home

la sixième	Year 7
la cinquième	Year 8
la quatrième	Year 9
la troisième	Year 10
une classe	class
un collègue	secondary school
le copain/la copine	friend, mate
un(e) élève	pupil, student
un kilomètre	kilometre
une matière	subject
un(e) professeur	teacher
une salle (de classe)	(class)room
j'habite	I live
dans	in
un appartement	a flat
une chambre	a bedroom
une maison individuelle	detached house
une maison jumelée	semi-detached house
un pavillon	bungalow
en banlieue	in the suburbs
à la campagne	in the countryside
à la montagne	in the mountains
dans un village	in a village
en ville	in town

Possessions and activities

des BD	comics
une console de jeux vidéo	console
des DVD	DVDs
un lecteur MP4	MP4 player
un ordi(nateur)	computer
un roman	novel
une télé	TV
un (téléphone) portable	mobile (phone)

Useful verbs

je bavarde avec mes copains
je fais des concerts
je joue au baby-foot
je joue au billard
je joue au foot
je regarde un film
je retrouve mes copains
je vais au bar

I chat with my friends
I do concerts
I play table football
I play pool
I play football
I watch a film
I meet up with my friends
I go to the bar

Pets

un animal
un chat
un cheval
un chien
un cochon d'Inde
un lapin
un lézard
un oiseau
un phasme
une souris
une tortue

animal
cat
horse
dog
guinea pig
rabbit
lizard
bird
stick insect
mouse
tortoise

Wild animals

un éléphant
une giraffe
un hippopotame
un lion
un rhinocéros
un singe
un tigre
un zèbre

elephant
giraffe
hippo
lion
rhino
monkey
tiger
zebra

Useful verbs

je vais
j'ai visité
j'ai vu
je n'ai pas vu
c'était
j'avais
je voudrais

I go
I visited
I saw
I didn't see
it was
I had/ I used to have
I would like

Connectives

et
aussi
donc
mais
par contre
tout d'abord
puis
ensuite
après ça

and
also, as well
therefore
but
on the other hand
first of all
then
next
after that

Unit 4: À table

Meals

au petit déjeuner	for breakfast
au déjeuner	for lunch
au goûter	for a snack
au dîner	for dinner
du lait	milk
du chocolat chaud	hot chocolate
du pain grillé	toasted bread
du jus d'orange	orange juice
du beurre	butter
de la confiture	jam
une tartine	a slice of bread
des céréales	cereals
des produits laitiers	milk/dairy products
le dessert	pudding, dessert

Food and drink

Qu'est-ce que tu manges/bois?	What do you eat/drink?
Je mange ...	I eat ...
Je bois ...	I drink ...
du pain	bread
du poulet	chicken
du bœuf	beef
du jambon	ham
du yaourt	yoghurt
du gâteau	cake
du poisson	fish
du riz	rice
du fromage	cheese
de l'eau	water
de la viande	meat
de la salade	green salad
de la baguette	French stick
de la pizza	pizza
des saucisses	sausages
des œufs	eggs
des chips	crisps

des légumes
des frites
des pâtes
une glace
une crêpe

vegetables
chips/fries
pasta
ice cream
pancake

Ordering food

Vous désirez?
C'est tout?
Quel parfum?
Combien de boules?
C'est combien?
Comme boisson?
un cornet
un pot
un plat régional
une spécialité

What would you like?
Is that all?
Which flavour?
How many scoops?
How much is it?
For drinks?
a cone
a tub
a regional dish
a speciality

Quantities

un paquet de
un morceau de
un pot de
une tablette de
une boîte de
une bouteille de
une tranche de
une cuillère de

a packet of
a piece of
a pot of
a bar of
a box of
a bottle of
a slice of
a spoonful of

Useful structures and verbs

Je peux
Je ne peux pas
Je vais
Je voudrais
J'aime
Je n'aime pas
Il faut ...
étaier
poser
allumer
mettre
mélanger
faire cuire

I can
I cannot
I am going (to)
I would like
I like
I don't like
You have/It is necessary ...
to spread
to place/to put
to switch on
to put
to mix
to cook

Opinions

Je suis fan (de)
C'est mieux que ...
Ce n'est pas mon truc.
trop bon/super bon
C'est top.
délicieux
dégoûtant
Ça me fait vomir.
J'ai horreur de ça.

I am a fan of
It is better than ...
It is not my thing.
really nice/really good
It's great.
delicious
disgusting
It makes me sick.
I can't stand it.

Information on Grammar Points

Subject pronouns

The subject of a verb is the person or thing "doing" the verb. The subject pronoun is the word that is used to refer to this person or thing. e.g. **He** plays football. Here are the English and French subject pronouns.

		English	French
singular	1 st . person	I	je (j')
	2 nd . person	you (informal/singular)	tu
	3 rd . person	he	il
		she	elle
one		on	
plural	1 st . person	we	nous
	2 nd . person	you (formal/plural)	vous
	3 rd . person	they (masculine)	ils
		they (feminine)	elles

Present tense

The present tense is used to say what is happening **now**, what **usually** happens or what **does** happen. In English there are three ways of expressing a verb in the present tense; in French, just one.

Here are some examples:

- Je **joue** au football.
I **am playing** football.
I **play** football.
I **do play** football.

- Je **vais** au parc.
I **am going** to the park.
I **go** to the park.
I **do go** to the park.

- J'**habite** à Luton.
I **am living** in Luton.
I **live** in Luton.
I **do live** in Luton.

In French there are **three** groups of verbs:

- those ending in **-er**
- those ending in **-ir**
- those ending in **-re**

1. Regular **-er** verbs

Verbs change their spelling according to their subject. Regular-**er** verbs are formed by replacing the letters **-er** with different endings.

	Subject	Ending	Subject	Ending
1 st . person	je	-e	nous	-ons
2 nd . person	tu	-es	vous	-ez
3 rd . person	il	-e	ils	-ent
	elle	-e	elles	-ent
	on	-e		

2. Regular **-ir** verbs

For these verbs e.g. *finir* (to finish), *choisir* (to choose) and *remplir* (to fill), replace **-ir** with the endings shown in the table below.

	Subject	Ending	Subject	Ending
1 st . person	je	-is	nous	-issons
2 nd . person	tu	-is	vous	-issez
3 rd . person	il	-it	ils	-issent
	elle	-it	elles	-issent
	on	-it		

3. Regular **-re** verbs

For these verbs e.g. *mordre* (to bite), *perdre* (to lose), and *vendre* (to sell), the **-re** is replaced by the endings shown in the table below.

	Subject	Ending	Subject	Ending
1 st . person	je	-is	nous	-ons
2 nd . person	tu	-s	vous	-ez
3 rd . person	il	-	ils	-ent
	elle	-	elles	-ent
	on	-		

Irregular verbs in the present tense

Irregular verbs do not follow the usual rules - they have their own patterns.

Some of the most useful, and most used, verbs are irregular and need to be learnt by heart.

avoir = to have		être = to be	
j'	ai	je	suis
tu	as	tu	es
il/elle/on	a	il/elle/on	est
nous	avons	nous	sommes
vous	avez	vous	êtes
ils/elles	ont	ils/elles	sont

e.g. **J'ai un chat.** = I have a cat.

e.g. **Je suis anglais.** = I am English.

aller to go		faire = to do	
je	vais	je	fais
tu	vas	tu	fais
il/elle/on	va	il/elle/on	fait
nous	allons	nous	faisons
vous	allez	vous	faites
ils/elles	vont	ils/elles	font

e.g. **Je vais au bar.** = I go to the bar.

e.g. **Je fais des concerts.** = I do concerts.

pouvoir = to be able		boire = to drink	
je	peux	je	bois
tu	peux	tu	bois
il/elle/on	peut	il/elle/on	boit
nous	pouvons	nous	buvons
vous	pouvez	vous	buvez
ils/elles	peuvent	ils/elles	boivent

e.g. **Je peux faire de la natation.** = I can go swimming.

e.g. **Je bois du jus d'orange au petit déjeuner.** = I drink orange juice for breakfast.

The perfect tense - regular avoir verbs

When you want to talk about things in the **past**, things that have happened or that have been done and are now finished, you use the perfect tense.

The perfect tense is formed by using the present tense of **avoir** with a past participle (a past participle is simply a way of saying what the verb looks like in the past). There are **3** parts:

subject + auxiliary/helper verb + past participle = perfect tense

The past participle is formed in different ways depending on the verb. Those with regular past participles follow this pattern:

	-er verbs	-ir verbs	-re verbs
1. take off	-er	-ir	-re
2. replace with	-é	-i	-u
example	visiter -> visité	finir -> fini	vendre -> vendu

- **J'ai visité le parc safari.** = I visited the safari park.
- **J'ai joué au foot.** = I played football.
- **J'ai fini mes devoirs.** = I have finished my homework.

Here are some irregular past participles which do not follow the rules:

J'ai **vu** - I have seen/I saw

J'ai **bu** - I have drunk/I drank

J'ai **lu** - I have read/I read

The past: the imperfect tense

When you want to describe **what things were like** or **how things used to be**, you use the imperfect tense in French. This list will help you to identify when the imperfect tense should be used:

- it used to happen regularly
- saying how things used to be
- describing the weather
- was/were ...ing
- the action is not complete
- describe feelings

Examples:

Quand j'**étais** petit, j'avais un lapin gris.

= When I **was** small, I **used to have** a grey rabbit.

À mon avis, c'**était** nul!

= In my opinion it **was** rubbish.

Nouns and articles

A noun is a "naming" word - places, people and things.

All French nouns are either **masculine** or **feminine**. When you look up a French word in the dictionary, it will tell you whether or not that word is a noun (n) and whether it is masculine (m) or feminine (f).

le and **la** are definite articles and mean "the".

e.g. le portable = the mobile 'phone

e.g. la voiture = the car

When **le** or **la** goes in front of a vowel, it loses a letter.

e.g. l'objet (m) = the object

l'école (f) = the school

In the plural (more than one), the definite article is **les** and the indefinite article is **des** (=some). You cannot omit des.

e.g. **les** portables = the mobile 'phones

Elle a **des** cartes postales = She's got (some) postcards.

un and **une** are indefinite articles and mean "a" or "an".

e.g. **un** portable = a mobile 'phone

e.g. **une** voiture = a car

	masculine	feminine	plural
definite article	le portable	la voiture	les portables les voitures
indefinite article	un portable	une voiture	des portables des voitures

Partitive articles

You use the partitive articles to say "some", when you are talking about unspecified quantities, for example with food e.g. some cheese, some cereal.

	masculine	feminine
singular	du pain	de la confiture
plural	des œufs	des chips

Use *de l'* for a singular noun starting with a vowel or silent "h": *de l'eau*.

Negatives

The negative is used when you want to say "no" or "not". In English the words don't, can't, hasn't and haven't are often used to make a negative statement e.g. I know -> I don't know.

To form the negative in French, you need to add two words to a statement - **ne** is placed in front of the verb and **pas** is placed after it.

- Je vais au bar. = I am going to the bar.
Je **ne** vais **pas** au bar. = I am not going to the bar.
- Je joue au tennis. = I play tennis.
Je **ne** joue **jamais** au tennis. = I never play tennis.

After a negative, the indefinite or partitive article becomes **de** or **d'** in front of a noun that starts with a vowel or silent "h".

- Je mange de la viande. = I eat (some) meat.
Je ne mange pas **de** viande. = I don't eat (any) meat.
- Je bois de l'eau minérale. = I drink (some) mineral water.
Je ne bois pas **d'**eau minérale. = I don't drink (any) mineral water.
- Il y a des lions au zoo. There are (some) lions at the zoo.
Il n'y a pas **de** lions au zoo. There aren't any lions at the zoo.

The exception to the **de** rule is *aimer*. When talking about likes and dislikes, you use *le/la/l'/les* in front of the noun.

- Je n'aime pas **les** frites. = I don't like fries/chips.

Adjectives

Adjectives describe a noun. In French, they normally follow the noun.

e.g. un chat **gris** = a **grey** cat
une tortue **verte** = a **green** tortoise

Some adjectives, often short ones such as beau, joli, jeune, vieux, petit, grand, gros and nouveau go in front of the noun.

e.g. un **petit** chien = a small dog
une **grande** maison = a large house

Adjectival agreement

Most adjectives agree with the noun. Their sound and spelling change according to whether the noun they describe is **masculine** or **feminine**, singular or **plural**. They add an **-e** in the feminine and an **-s** in the plural.

	masculine	feminine
singular	un petit chien	une petite maison
plural	deux petits chiens	deux petites maisons

If an adjective already ends in **-s**, it does not change in the masculine plural. This often happens with adjectives of nationality.

e.g. *deux garçons français* = two French boys

If an adjective already ends in **-e**, it does not change in the feminine singular.

e.g. *une maison jaune* = a yellow house

Some adjectives follow different rules when they agree.

translation	masculine	feminine	masc. plural	fem. plural
active	actif	active	actifs	actives
brave	courageux	courageuse	courageux	courageuses
hard-working	travailleur	travailleuse	travailleurs	travailleuses
kind	gentil	gentille	gentils	gentilles
long	long	longue	longs	longues
fat	gros	grosse	gros	grosses
national	national	nationale	nationaux	nationales
red-haired	roux	rousse	roux	rousses
beautiful	beau	belle	beaux	belles

Some common adjectives have irregular agreements.

masculine	feminine	masc. plural	fem. plural
blanc	blanche	blancs	blanches
vieux	vieille	vieux	vieilles

Some adjectives, such as marron, orange, sympa and cool, do not agree at all: they are invariable.

- e.g. Mes parents sont sympa. = My parents are nice.
- Mes copines sont cool. = My (girl) friends are cool.

Compound adjectives (made up of two adjectives) are also invariable.

- e.g. des yeux bleu foncé = dark blue eyes

The Habits of Expression

To express an opinion, use:

J'aime	I like
Je n'aime pas	I don't like
J'adore	I love
Je déteste	I hate
Je préfère	I prefer

e.g. J'adore les lions. = I love lions.

Je n'aime pas surfer sur internet. = I don't like surfing the internet.

Je préfère manger au restaurant. = I prefer eating out.

Connectives to justify:

parce que	because
car	because
comme	as
puisque	since
vu que	considering that

To justify:

je pense que	I think that
je crois	I think/believe that
il me semble que	I think that/it seems to me that
selon moi	I think that/according to me
à mon avis	I think that/to my mind/in my opinion

e.g. ... parce que je pense que c'est super. = ... because I think that it's super.

... comme je crois que c'est nul. = ... as I think/believe that it's rubbish.