

Grammaire - Comparatives

Comparisons compare 2 things (e.g. more interesting than, less fun than, as strict as). You can use these to compare school subjects.

FORMATION:
plus + adjective + **que** more ... than
moins + adjective + **que** less ... than
aussi + adjective + **que** as ... as

Remember: The adjective **MUST** agree in gender and number with the noun it describes!

E.G. La géographie est **plus intéressante** que la musique
 La danse est **moins amusante** que l'histoire
 Les maths sont **aussi difficiles** que les sciences.

IRREGULARS: Some comparatives are irregular:

bon (good) → **meilleur** (better)
mauvais (bad) → **pire** (worse)

e.g. mes notes sont **meilleures** que l'année dernière (my grades are better than last year)
 mon niveau d'espagnol est **pire** que mon niveau d'anglais (my level of Spanish is worse than my level of English)

Arriver (to arrive)
 Commencer (to begin)
 Finir (to finish)
 Chercher (to look for)
 Montrer (to show)
 Parler (to speak)
 Écouter (to listen)
 Regarder (to look at)
 Différent (different)
 Important (important)

une école (primary school)
 un collège (secondary school)
 un lycée (sixth form college)
 l'éducation (education)
 la classe (class)
 un cours (lesson)
 une chaise (chair)
 La communication (communication)
 La compétence (skill)
 Une équipe (team)

Mon collègue

Utile (useful)
 Chaque (each)
 Expliquer (to explain)
 Réviser (to revise)
 Réfléchir à (to think about)
 Rendre (to hand in)
 Rapidement (quickly)
 Plutôt (rather)
 Quelque chose (something)

La matière (school subject)
 Enseigner (to teach)
 Assister à (to attend)
 S'inscrire à (to enrol in)
 Noter (to write down)
 Pratiquer (to do, practise)
 Ranger (to tidy, put away)
 Distribuer (to distribute)
 Expliquer (to explain)
 Réviser (to revise)



3.1 - SCHOOL DAY, FACILITIES, PEOPLE DÉCRIS TON COLLÈGE



Il y a...

There are different ways to express 'there is/there are' in French depending on the tense:

'**il y a**' = there is/are → present tense
 '**il y avait**' = there was/were → past tense
 '**il y aura**' = there will be → future tense

The present tense is useful for describing facilities at school, for example using the phrase: "**Dans mon collège il y a...**"

- Une salle de classe (classroom)
- Une cour de récréation (playground)
- Une cantine (canteen)
- Une piscine (swimming pool)
- Un laboratoire (laboratory)
- Un gymnase (sports hall)
- Une bibliothèque (library)
- Des toilettes (toilets)
- Un terrain de sport (sports field)
- Une salle informatique (computer room)

SKILL: À quelle heure?

Knowing how to say what time it is or when something takes place is crucial for talking about the school day, and this is done using 2 different phrases:

Saying 'it is ... o'clock' **il est** + number + **heures** e.g. **il est neuf heures** → it is 9am

Saying 'at ... o'clock' **à** + number + **heures** e.g. **Les maths commencent à huit heures** → Maths starts at 8am

In France, it is common to use the 24-hour clock, so 'at 6pm' would be 'à dix-huit heures', OR 'à six heures du soir'.

To express times such as quarter past, half past and quarter to, use the structures below which work for any hour of the day.

neuf heures → 09:00
 neuf heures dix → 09:10
 neuf heures et quart → 09:15
 neuf heures vingt-cinq → 09:25
 neuf heures et demie → 09:30
 dix heures moins vingt → 09:40
 dix heures moins le quart → 09:45
 dix heures moins dix → 09:50

Useful time phrases

au premier cours (in the first lesson)
 avant/après la récré (before/after breaktime)

à l'heure du déjeuner (at lunchtime)
 le matin (in the morning)

l'après-midi (in the afternoon)
 le soir (in the evening)

Les matières scolaires

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Le français (French) | La biologie (Biology) | La danse (Dance) |
| Les maths (Maths) | Les études religieuses (R.S) | Le théâtre (Drama) |
| L'anglais (English) | L'histoire (History) | Les affaires (Business) |
| La technologie (DT) | La géographie (Geography) | L'informatique (Computing) |
| La physique (Physics) | L'espagnol (Spanish) | Le dessin (Art) |
| La chimie (Chemistry) | L'allemand (German) | L'EPS (P.E.) |
| | | La musique (Music) |

Top Tip!
 Don't forget to use the articles (le/la/l'/les) while discussing school subjects in French. Although in English you wouldn't say "I like the maths", in French the article is used before the subject.