Describing Your Hobbies and Free Time in French

KS4 FRENCH SPEAKING LISTENING WRITING Ages 13-16 ⏰ 3 min read

Why Talk About Your Hobbies?

One of the most important things to talk about in any language is what you like to do in your **free time**. Whether you're meeting a new friend from **France** or practising for your **GCSE exam**, knowing how to describe your hobbies is a **key skill**. It helps you build conversations, show your personality, and connect with other people.

The Basic Structure

In **French**, there's a simple pattern for talking about hobbies. You start with **"J'aime" (I like)** or **"J'adore" (I love)**, then add an **activity**. For example: **"J'aime jouer au football"** means **"I like playing football"**, and **"J'adore lire des livres"** means **"I love reading books"**.

Think of it like building blocks — you have your starting word (J'aime), then you add what you like doing. It's the same every time, so once you learn the pattern, you can swap out different activities.

Key Hobby Verbs and Phrases

Here are some **common activities** you might describe: **jouer (to play)**, **danser (to dance)**, **dessiner (to draw)**, **regarder (to watch)**, **écouter (to listen)**, **cuisiner (to cook)**, **nager (to swim)**, and **voyager (to travel)**. You can also add **details** — for instance, **"Je joue de la guitare" (I play the guitar)** or **"Je regarde des films" (I watch films)**.

Giving Reasons and Adding Detail

To make your answer more interesting, explain **why** you enjoy something. Use phrases like **"parce que" (because)**: **"J'aime jouer au tennis parce que c'est amusant"** (I like playing tennis because it's fun). You can also use **"c'est intéressant" (it's interesting)**, **"c'est créatif" (it's creative)**, or **"c'est relaxant" (it's relaxing)** to add depth.

Think of it like telling a story — don't just say what you do, explain the feelings behind it. That's what makes a conversation flow naturally.

Talking About Frequency

You can also say **how often** you do something using words like **"toujours" (always)**, **"souvent" (often)**, **"parfois" (sometimes)**, and **"rarement" (rarely)**. For example: **"Je joue souvent au badminton"** means **"I often play badminton"**.

Mastering these simple structures will help you have real conversations in **French** and score well in your assessments!

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