



Essential French Vocabulary for Talking About School

KS4 FRENCH

MODERN LANGUAGES

Ages 14-16 ⌚ 3 min read

Why Learn School Vocabulary in French?

When you're learning **French**, one of the most useful topics to master is talking about **school**. After all, school is a huge part of your life! Whether you're having a conversation with a **French** pen pal, travelling to **France**, or taking exams, you'll need to describe your classes, teachers, subjects, and daily routines. Learning this vocabulary opens up real conversations about something you know really well.

School Buildings and Rooms

Let's start with the basics. A school is **l'école** (or **le collège** for secondary school, and **le lycée** for sixth form). Inside, you'll find **la salle de classe** (classroom), **la cantine** (canteen), **la bibliothèque** (library), **la cour de récréation** (playground), and **le gymnase** (gym). The head teacher is **le directeur** or **la directrice**, and your teachers are **les professeurs**.

Think of it like learning the names of every room in your house—once you know them, you can describe where things happen and what you do in each space.

Subjects and Learning

Next, the **subjects** you study. **Les mathématiques** (maths), **l'anglais** (English), **les sciences** (science), **l'histoire** (history), **la géographie** (geography), **l'éducation physique** (PE), **l'art** (art), and **la musique** (music) are common ones. You'll also hear about **les devoirs** (homework), **les examens** (exams), and **les notes** (marks). When you do well, you might get **une bonne note** (a good mark), and you **réussir** (succeed) or **échouer** (fail).

Daily School Life

During the school day, you **assister à une leçon** (attend a lesson), **lever la main** (put your hand up), and **répondre aux questions** (answer questions). At lunch, you **manger à la cantine** (eat in the canteen). Your classmates are **mes camarades de**

classe, and you might **parler à mes amis** (talk to my friends) during **la récréation** (break time).

Think of it like learning the story of your own day—you're describing familiar events, just in a different language.

Getting It Right

The key to mastering school vocabulary is using it in context. Try describing your own timetable, favourite subject, or a recent lesson. The more you practise, the more natural these words will feel!