**L’heure**

**phrases importantes:**

The most basic way of telling the time is to literally say the numbers. To write the time the French use the following: 5h15, or five fifteen. Here are some examples:

**1:15 AM= une heure quinze 2:20 AM= deux heures vingt 3:00 AM= trois heures**

While this system is easy there is one problem: You do not know if it is the morning, afternoon, evening or night. So, to clarify this you could say: **de l’après-midi, du matin, du soir, de la nuit**.

**8:05 AM= huit heures cinq du matin 3:20 PM= trois heures vingt de l’après- midi.**

There are a few instances where the French use a different system to English speakers. First one is the use of the **24-hour clock or l’heure officielle** (this is also called military time). Basically, this makes it so you do not have to use AM and PM. To use this system all of the hours between 1am and 11am 12pm are the same as the English system. However, for the hours **1pm through 11pm you must add twelve hours**. For example: 1pm becomes 13h and 6pm becomes 18h. Here are some practice hours:

**1 PM= 13h 2 PM= 14h 3 PM= 15h 4 PM= 16h 5 PM= 17h 6 PM= 18h**

**7 PM= 19h 8 PM= 20h 9 PM= 21h 10 PM= 22h 11 PM= 23h**

**THE MOINS RULE**: For **the minutes between 31 and 59** you say the COMING hour plus the word MOINS then subtract the number of minutes to go before that coming hour. For example, to say 9:40 you say, “Dix heures moins vingt”. To say 6:50 you say, “Sept-heures moins dix”. To say 4:45, you say “Cinq-heures moins quart”.

**2:35 AM= trois heures moins vingt-cinq 3:55 PM= seize heures moins cinq (15h55)**

**4:40 AM= cinq heures moins vingt 5:45 PM= dix-huit heures moins le quart**

**(17h45)**

Quelle heure est-il?= What time is it?

Il est…= It is…

À quelle heure est…= At what time is…

J’ai un rendez-vous à/avec…=

I have a meeting at/with…

midi= noon

minuit= midnight

et quart= quarter after (15)

et demie= half past (30)

moins le quart= quarter til (45)

du matin= in the morning

de l’après-midi= in the afternoon

du soir= in the evening

