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*Instant  
Revision*

GCSE  
French

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Dave Carter asserts the moral right to be identified as the author of this work

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# Contents

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Get the most out of your Instant Revision e-book	iv
L'école	1
A la maison/les média	5
La santé, la forme et la nourriture	9
Moi, ma famille et mes amis	13
Le temps libre, les loisirs, les vacances et les fêtes	17
Rapports personnels, activités sociales et rendez-vous	21
La ville, les régions, le temps	25
Les courses, les services publics	29
La route, les voyages et les transports	33
L'enseignement supérieur, la formation et l'emploi	37
La publicité, les communications et les langues au travail	41
La vie à l'étranger, le tourisme, les coutumes et le logement	45
Le monde	49
Nouns	53
Articles & adverbs	54
Adjectives	57
Pronouns	61
Indefinites	65
Demonstratives & intensifiers	66
Numbers	69
Quantities, dates, time	70
Prepositions	73
Conjunctions & interrogatives	74
Verbs - present tense	77
Verbs - past tenses	81
Verbs - future tenses	85
Verbs - general	89
Listening	93
Speaking	99
Reading	107
Writing	115
Acknowledgements	123

# Get the most out of your Instant Revision e-Book

**1** **Learn and remember what you need to know.** This book contains all the really important things you need to know for your exam. All the information is set out clearly and concisely, making it easy for you to revise.

**2** **Find out what you don't know.** The *Check yourself* questions and *Score chart* help you to see quickly and easily the topics you're good at and those you're not so good at. Print out the *Score charts* from the separate printable e-book and keep a record of your progress.

## What's in this book?

### 1 *The facts* – just what you need to know

#### Vocabulary and phrases

- There are sections covering all the topics that you'll meet in your GCSE French exam. The more difficult phrases are usually on the reverse side of the page; you only need to learn these if you are sitting the Higher Tier exam.

#### Grammar

- All the important grammatical structures are covered, set out in a way that makes them easy to revise and remember.

#### Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills

- Look at these sections just before you go into each of the exams.

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## **2 Check yourself questions – find out how much you know and boost your grade**

- Each *Check yourself* is linked to one or more facts page. The numbers after the topic heading in the *Check yourself* tell you which facts page the *Check yourself* is linked to.
- The questions ask you to demonstrate the types of skills you will need to use in the exams. They will show you what you are good at and what you need to improve on.
- The reverse side of each *Check yourself* gives you the answers **plus** tutorial help and guidance to boost your exam grade.
- There are points for each question. The total number of points for each *Check yourself* is always 20. When you check your answers, fill in the score box alongside each answer with the number of points you feel you scored.

## **3 The Score chart – an instant picture of your strengths and weaknesses**

- *Score chart (1)* lists all the *Check yourself* pages.
- As you complete each *Check yourself*, record your points on the *Score chart*. This will show you instantly which areas you need to spend more time on.
- *Score chart (2)* is a graph which lets you plot your points against GCSE grades. This will give you a rough idea of how you are doing in each area. Of course, this is only a rough idea because the questions aren't real exam questions!

Use this *Instant Revision* e-book on your own – or revise with a friend or relative. See who can get the highest score!

Mon école est assez grande. Il y a environ mille élèves et soixante profs. C'est une école mixte. En été on a cinq semaines de vacances. Je vais à l'école du lundi au vendredi. Je n'ai pas cours le samedi. Les cours commencent à neuf heures moins le quart. L'école finit à quatre heures. Nous avons cinq cours par jour. J'ai beaucoup de devoirs. Le collège n'est pas loin de ma maison. Je viens au collège à pied. Je rentre à la maison pour déjeuner. Je dois porter un uniforme. Je porte une chemise blanche et une cravate bleue. Les filles portent une jupe grise. Je suis en seconde. Mon frère est en sixième. J'ai une sœur à l'école primaire. Mes matières préférées sont les maths et l'histoire. Je déteste les sciences. Mon professeur de chimie s'appelle Mme Martin. Je n'aime pas les profs. Je suis bon(ne) élève. J'ai de mauvaises notes en géographie. Je suis bon(ne)/nul(le) en EPS/anglais. L'espagnol est difficile.	My school is quite large. There are about 1,000 pupils and 60 teachers. It's a mixed school. In summer we have five weeks holiday. I go to school from Monday to Friday. I don't have lessons on Saturday. Lessons begin at quarter to nine. School ends at four o'clock. We have five lessons a day. I have a lot of homework. School is not far from my house. I walk to school. I go home for lunch. I have to wear a uniform. I wear a white shirt and a blue tie. The girls wear a grey skirt. I'm in Year 11. My brother is in Year 7. I have a sister at primary school. My favourite subjects are maths and history. I hate science. My chemistry teacher is called Mrs Martin. I don't like the teachers. I am a good student. I get bad marks in geography. I'm good/hopeless at games/English. Spanish is hard.
--	--

This topic lends itself easily to lots of personal opinions:

Je trouve l'histoire très intéressante. Mais les maths, c'est vraiment ennuyeux, et je suis nul(le).	I find history very interesting. But maths is really boring, and I'm useless.
J'aime bien l'école – les profs sont sympas, et j'y vois tous mes copains/toutes mes copines.	I really like school – the teachers are nice, and I see all my friends there.
Je ne supporte pas le collège – les profs me donnent trop de travail, et mes parents me critiquent toujours.	I really can't stand school – the teachers give me too much work, and my parents are always criticising me.

You can also make references to the future:

Cette année je vais passer des examens importants.	This year I'm going to take some important exams.
L'année prochaine j'espère retourner au collège pour continuer mes études.	Next year I hope to come back to school to continue my education.
Je vais étudier les langues et le commerce, car je voudrais travailler à l'étranger.	I'm going to study languages and business studies, as I'd like to work abroad.

and to the past:

L'année passée je n'ai pas travaillé, mais maintenant je fais des progrès.	Last year I didn't work, but now I'm making progress.
--	---

Even when the verb is in the present tense, you can move up to Higher Level performance by adding extra details:

Je travaille beaucoup – tous les soirs et le week-end aussi.	I work hard – every evening and the weekend too.
Pour réussir dans la vie, il faut bien travailler à l'école, pour avoir des qualifications.	To succeed in life, you have to work hard at school to get qualifications.

or by giving reasons:

J'étudie les maths parce que je trouve ça facile, et je suis assez bon(ne).	I study maths because I find it easy, and I am quite good.
J'ai choisi l'anglais à cause de mon père, qui est prof de langues.	I chose English because of my father, who is a languages teacher.



## L'école

**A** Ecrivez en français:

1



(1)

2



(1)

3



(1)

When you are speaking or writing about visuals, there is often more than one possible answer. As long as your answer fits the visual, you will get the credit for it.

**B** Answer in French:

- 4 Les cours commencent à quelle heure? (1)  
 5 Où est-ce que tu manges à midi? (1)  
 6 Le collège est à quelle distance de chez toi? (1)

**C** Say in French:

- 7 I hate French because it's boring. (2)  
 8 I've been learning German for three years. (2)  
 9 Next year I'm going to study languages and history. (2)

It's better to try to answer in sentences – you'll learn more than if you simply use a short phrase.

**D** Say in French:

- 10 After school I hope to go to university to continue my education. (2)  
 11 I like geography because of the teacher, who is very amusing. (2)  
 12 I would like to be a doctor, but I'm not very good at science. (2)  
 13 I like all lessons, apart from sport – I'm hopeless. (2)

Sentences containing *pour* (+ infinitive), *qui*, *mais*, *sauf* (or *à part*) will really get you up to Higher Level.



J'habite une grande maison. Tu habites une maison ou un appartement?	I live in a big house. Do you live in a house or a flat?
Mon frère habite un village à la campagne. Mon adresse est cinquante-trois rue de la Poste.	My brother lives in a village in the country. My address is 53 Post Office Street.
J'habite près/loin du collège. Le collège est à cinq minutes.	I live near/a long way from school. School is five minutes away.
Il y a un jardin devant la maison.	There is a garden in front of the house.
La maison est assez vieille. C'est une maison à trois étages. Il y a trois chambres, un salon et une salle à manger.	The house is quite old. It's a three-storey house. There are three bedrooms, a living-room and a dining-room.
Ma sœur a sa propre chambre. Ma chambre est bleue et blanche. J'ai un lit et une armoire.	My sister has her own bedroom. My bedroom is blue and white. I have a bed and a wardrobe.
Je fais mon lit/la vaisselle. J'aide ma mère à la maison. Mon frère range la chambre.	I make my bed/do the washing-up. I help my mother in the house. My brother tidies the bedroom.
On prend le petit déjeuner à quelle heure?	What time do we have breakfast?
Tu voudrais téléphoner chez toi? La machine à laver ne marche pas. Je n'ai pas de serviette. J'ai besoin de savon.	Would you like to phone home? The washing machine isn't working. I haven't got a towel. I need some soap.
Tu as une brosse à dents? J'ai oublié mon shampoing. Voici ta chambre. La salle de bains est juste en face. Je me couche d'habitude à onze heures.	Have you got a toothbrush? I've forgotten my shampoo. Here is your bedroom. The bathroom is just opposite. I usually go to bed at 11 o'clock.
Tu as vu le match à la télé? Je regarde souvent les feuilletons. Qu'est-ce qu'il y a à la télévision? Mon émission préférée, c'est ... Je n'écoute pas la radio.	Did you see the match on TV? I often watch soaps. What's on television? My favourite programme is ... I don't listen to the radio.

Nous habitons à deux kilomètres du centre-ville.	We live two kilometres from the town centre.
L'école est à vingt minutes de chez moi.	School is a 20 minute walk from home.
J'aime bien ma chambre. Elle est très jolie.	I love my room. It's very pretty.
Les murs sont blancs, et les rideaux sont verts.	The walls are white and the curtains are green.
Tu habites loin du centre-ville?	Do you live far from the town centre?
Ma sœur vient d'acheter un appartement neuf.	My sister has just bought a brand new flat.
Je partage ma chambre avec mon frère.	I share my room with my brother.
Mes soeurs aussi partagent leur chambre – elles détestent ça!	My sisters share a bedroom too – they hate it.
Dans ma chambre, j'ai une table pour faire mes devoirs.	In my bedroom, I have a table to do my homework on.
Je n'ai pas de télévision dans ma chambre – mes parents ne sont pas d'accord.	I don't have a television in my bedroom – my parents won't agree.
Nous aidons nos parents à la maison.	We help our parents in the house.
Moi, je passe l'aspirateur, et mon frère fait le jardinage.	I do the vacuuming, and my brother does the gardening.
Nous faisons tous la vaisselle.	We all do the washing up.
Tu peux regarder la télé si tu veux – ça ne me gêne pas du tout.	You can watch TV if you like – it doesn't bother me at all.
Je regarde les infos à la télé, mais dans le journal, je ne regarde que les pages de sport.	I watch the news on TV, but in the paper, I only read the sports pages.
J'adore les émissions sur les animaux sauvages – je les trouve très intéressantes.	I love programmes on wild animals – I find them very interesting.
Je ne lis jamais de magazines, car ils sont bêtes, et en plus ils sont très chers.	I never read magazines, because they are stupid, and also they are very expensive.
J'aime bien lire – surtout des romans policiers.	I love reading – especially detective novels.

## A la maison/les média

## A Que fais-tu pour aider à la maison?

1



(1)

2



(1)

3



(1)

## B Answer in French:

- 4 Il y a combien de chambres chez toi? (1)  
5 Tu habites une petite maison? (1)  
6 Le collège est loin de chez toi? (1)

Remember, you will get little credit for *Oui/Non* answers. It's much better to use a full sentence, and more useful revision too.

Remember also that this sort of question doesn't have a right or wrong answer – there may be several appropriate answers.

## C Say in French:

- 7 My room is very nice, but it is too small. (2)  
8 I don't like watching sport on television. (2)  
9 I love documentaries on animals. (2)

## D Say in French:

- 10 My brother never helps in the house, because he has too much homework. (2)  
11 Can I watch television? Does it bother you? (2)  
12 I wouldn't like to share a bedroom, especially not with my little brother. (2)  
13 Can I help you? I could do the washing-up? (2)



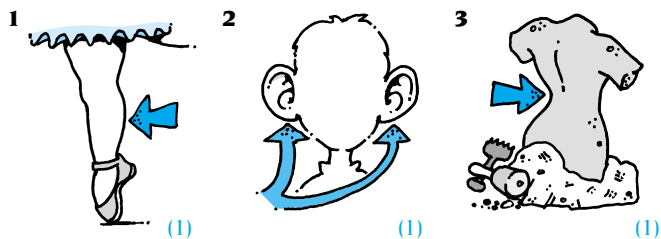
J'ai mal au bras.	My arm hurts.
Où est-ce que ça fait mal?	Where does it hurt?
J'ai mal aux dents.	I have toothache.
Je me suis cassé la jambe.	I have broken my leg.
Elle s'est fait mal au genou.	She has hurt her knee.
Je suis enrhumé(e).	I've got a cold.
Il faut aller chez le dentiste/chez le médecin/à l'hôpital.	You must go to the dentist's/to the doctor's/to hospital.
Au secours!	Help!
Je voudrais un rendez-vous avec le médecin.	I'd like an appointment with the doctor.
J'adore le chocolat.	I love chocolate.
Je déteste les carottes.	I hate carrots.
Je suis allergique au poisson.	I'm allergic to fish.
Je n'aime pas beaucoup le fromage.	I don't like cheese very much.
Voulez-vous me passer les pommes de terre/le sel, s'il vous plaît?	Will you pass me the potatoes/salt, please?
Je n'ai pas de couteau.	I haven't got a knife.
Vous avez une table pour deux personnes?	Do you have a table for two?
Monsieur/Madame/Mademoiselle, je voudrais voir la carte, s'il vous plaît.	Waiter, I'd like to see the menu, please.
Je prends le menu à quatre-vingts francs.	I'll have the 80 franc menu.
Qu'est-ce que c'est, le plat du jour?	What is the dish of the day?
Pour commencer, je voudrais le potage.	To start, I'll have the soup.
Puis je prendrai un steak-frites.	Then I'll have steak and chips.
Je prendrai un peu de fromage.	I'll have a little cheese.
Je ne veux pas de dessert.	I don't want any pudding.
Le service est compris?	Is the service charge included?
Où sont les toilettes/les téléphones?	Where are the toilets/telephones?
L'addition, s'il vous plaît.	Can I have the bill, please?
Qu'est-ce que vous avez comme glaces/sandwichs?	What sort of ice-creams/sandwiches have you got?

Je suis tombé(e) en jouant au football.	I fell while playing football.
Moi je trouve que le sport est dangereux – on peut se faire mal.	I think that sport is dangerous – you can hurt yourself.
Je suis très enrhumé(e), alors je tousse et j'ai mal à la tête.	I have a bad cold, so I've got a cough and a headache.
Hier j'ai travaillé dans le jardin, et maintenant j'ai mal au dos.	Yesterday I worked in the garden, and now I have backache.
Pouvez-vous me donner quelque chose pour mon rhume?	Can you give me something for my cold?
Portez cette ordonnance à la pharmacie.	Take this prescription to the chemist's.
Prenez deux comprimés trois fois par jour, avant les repas.	Take two tablets three times a day, before meals.
C'est quoi, exactement, le bœuf bourguignon?	What exactly is beef burgundy?
Tu en veux encore?	Would you like some more?
Oui, je veux bien, c'est délicieux.	Yes, I'd love some, it's delicious.
Non, merci. Ça suffit.	No thank you, I've had enough.
Le dîner est servi à partir de quelle heure?	What time do you start serving dinner?
Vous avez une table près de la fenêtre?	Do you have a table near the window?
Vous préférez manger à la terrasse, ou à l'intérieur?	Would you rather eat on the terrace, or indoors?
Ma viande est froide/trop cuite/ n'est pas assez cuite.	My steak is cold/over-cooked/ not well enough cooked.
Il y a une erreur dans l'addition.	There is a mistake in the bill.
Nous n'avons pas pris de vin.	We didn't have any wine.
Le service était très lent – j'ai attendu une demi-heure.	The service was very slow – I waited half an hour.
Manger trop de matières grasses/ de choses sucrées est mauvais pour la santé.	Eating too much fat/too many sweet things is bad for your health.
Vous devez manger des fruits, des légumes et des céréales.	You ought to eat fruit, vegetables and cereals.
Il est aussi important de faire du sport.	It is also important to do some sport.



La santé, la forme et la nourriture

**A** Où est-ce que ça fait mal?



**B** Say in French:

- 4 I'd like a table for four, please. (1)
- 5 I haven't got a spoon. (1)
- 6 For pudding, I'd like an ice-cream. (1)

**C** Ask in French:

- 7 ... if you should take the pills before or after meals. (2)
- 8 ... if the chemist has anything for sore throats. (2)
- 9 ... if your penfriend has a headache or a temperature. (2)

**D** At the restaurant:

- 10 Say you didn't order chicken, you ordered ham. (2)
- 11 Tell the waiter you asked for a bottle of wine ten minutes ago. (2)
- 12 Explain that your friend is a vegetarian, and ask if he can have an omelette. (2)
- 13 Ask what desserts are available, as you are allergic to nuts. (2)

Be careful when using your dictionary. If you look up a verb, make sure you use the right part. If you look up 'ago', or 'vegetarian', you need to check the examples. If you look up 'nuts' make sure you choose the right sort!



Il s'appelle Paul.	His name is Paul.
J'ai quinze ans.	I am 15.
Son anniversaire est le dix-sept mars.	Her birthday is the 17th of March.
Elles sont italiennes.	They are Italian.
Elle est fille unique.	She is an only daughter.
Je suis fils unique.	I am an only son.
Elle a deux frères.	She has two brothers.
Ma sœur est plus jeune que mon frère.	My sister is younger than my brother.
Mon frère est célibataire.	My brother isn't married.
Ça s'écrit G-U-I-L-L-A-U-M-E.	It's spelt G-U-I-L-L-A-U-M-E.
Ma mère est plus âgée que mon père.	My mother is older than my father.
Mes parents sont divorcés.	My parents are divorced.
J'ai deux frères jumeaux.	I have two twin brothers.
Elle a deux sœurs jumelles.	She has two twin sisters.
Il y a quatre personnes dans ma famille.	There are four people in my family.
Il n'habite pas chez ses parents.	He doesn't live with his parents.
Elle a les cheveux frisés.	She has curly hair.
Il a les yeux verts.	He has green eyes.
Je suis assez grand(e).	I am quite tall.
Mon cousin est égoïste.	My cousin is selfish.
Mon oncle est très gentil.	My uncle is very nice.
Ma tante est sympa.	My aunt is nice.
Ma demi-sœur est méchante.	My half sister is nasty.
Je m'entends bien avec ma belle-mère.	I get on well with my step-mother.
Je ne m'entends pas avec mon frère.	I don't get on with my brother.
Il m'énerve.	He gets on my nerves.
Elle est très sportive.	She is very sporting.
Il n'est pas amusant.	He is not much fun.
J'ai une souris qui s'appelle Max.	I have a mouse called Max.
Nous avons beaucoup d'animaux à la maison.	We have lots of animals at home.

To produce Higher Level work on this topic, you need to be sure to go beyond the language you learned in Year 8. There are a number of ways you can do this.

- Add an extra detail to your basic statement. This might be a reason, an explanation, an example, or simply an extra piece of information:

Je m'entends très bien avec ma mère. Elle écoute toujours mes problèmes.

J'aime bien mon père, mais quelquefois il est trop strict.

Mon petit frère est vraiment bête, et il fait trop de bruit.

Mon meilleur copain s'appelle Luc. Je peux lui parler de tout.

Je préfère être avec mes amis, car ils ont le même âge et les mêmes goûts que moi.

J'ai beaucoup de cousins et de cousines, et j'ai aussi un neveu.

I get on very well with my mother. She always listens to my problems.

I love my father, but sometimes he is too strict.

My little brother is really silly, and he makes too much noise.

My best friend is called Luc. I can talk to him about anything.

I prefer being with my friends, as they are the same age and have the same tastes as me.

I have lots of cousins, and I also have a nephew.

- As well as stating facts, make sure you express personal opinions:

Je dois toujours rester à la maison avec ma petite sœur. Ce n'est pas juste.

Je ne peux jamais sortir pendant la semaine. J'en ai marre.

J'aime bien être fille unique.

Mes parents s'occupent de moi tout le temps.

J'adore avoir une grande famille.

On ne se sent jamais seul.

Ma sœur ne range jamais ses affaires. Ça m'énerve!

Je ne m'entends pas avec mon frère aîné. Il est très égoïste.

I always have to stay at home with my little sister. It's not fair.

I can never go out during the week. I'm fed up with it.

I love being an only child. I have my parents' attention all the time.

I love having a large family.

You never feel alone.

My sister never puts her things away. It drives me mad.

I don't get on with my older brother. He's very selfish.

## Moi, ma famille et mes amis

**A Complete these descriptions:**

1 Ma sœur ...



(1)

2 Mon père ...



(1)

3 Ma grand-mère ...



(1)

**B Say in French:**

4 My sister is nice. (1)

5 She has a dog called Prince. (1)

6 My brother is younger than me. (1)

**C The following people are talking about their families. How do they get on together? (Well? OK? Badly?)**

7 Je me dispute quelquefois avec mes parents, mais la plupart du temps, ça va. (2)

8 J'aime bien mes parents, mais ils me critiquent toujours. Ma sœur, par contre, fait tout ce qu'elle veut – elle ne se plaint pas! (2)

9 On ne dirait pas, car mes parents sont divorcés, et mon frère n'habite plus avec nous, mais ils sont comme mes meilleurs amis. (2)

In this kind of exercise, you are not trying to pick out details, but to reach a general conclusion. For example, a really strong negative might be more important than two minor positives.

**D Say in French:**

10 I can only go out on Friday night and Saturday. (2)

11 I am the same age as my cousin, but we don't have the same tastes. (2)

12 I love my brothers, but sometimes they get on my nerves. (2)

13 If I have a problem, I would rather talk to my friends. (2)



Mon sport préféré, c'est la natation.	My favourite sport is swimming.
La lecture ne m'intéresse pas.	I'm not interested in reading.
Je collectionne les disques/CD.	I collect records/CDs.
J'aime la danse.	I like dance/dancing.
Je suis fou/folle de cinéma.	I'm mad about the cinema.
Je déteste le jardinage.	I hate gardening.
Mon frère adore les sports d'hiver.	My brother loves winter sports.
L'année dernière, nous sommes allés en Suisse.	Last year we went to Switzerland.
Je vais passer Noël chez mon père.	I'm going to spend Christmas with my father.
Tu veux aller au bord de la mer cette année?	Do you want to go to the sea-side this year?
Je préfère aller à l'étranger.	I prefer to go abroad.
Ce soir, on va au complexe sportif.	Tonight we'll go to the sports centre.
Il est ouvert de neuf heures à vingt-deux heures.	It's open from 9 a.m. till 10 p.m.
Marie veut aller à la piscine.	Marie wants to go to the swimming pool.
Luc préfère jouer au badminton.	Luc prefers to play badminton.
J'aime sortir le soir.	I like going out in the evening.
Si on allait à la discothèque?	How about going to the discotheque?
Jeudi soir, on va au club de jeunes.	On Thursday night, we go to the youth club.
Ça coûte cher?	Is it expensive?
Non, ça coûte quinze francs seulement.	No, it only costs 15 francs.
Dimanche, il y a une fête au village.	On Sunday there is a festival in the village.
Il y a un bal et une petite foire.	There's a dance, and a small fair.
Tu veux aller au cirque?	Do you want to go to the circus?
Non merci, c'est cruel.	No thank you, they're cruel.
Oui, tu as raison.	Yes, you are right.
Non, je ne suis pas d'accord.	No, I don't agree.
Tu as beaucoup d'argent de poche?	Do you get a lot of pocket money?
Mes parents me donnent cent francs par semaine.	My parents give me 100 francs a week.

This is an ideal topic for referring to past, present and future events. When talking about leisure activities, it's quite easy to say what you usually do (e.g. *le vendredi soir* – on Friday night), what you did last week (*la semaine dernière*), and what you are going to do next weekend (*le week-end prochain*). For holidays, again you can talk about where you usually go, where you went last year (*l'année dernière*), and where you are going this year (*cette année*).

La semaine prochaine, mon père va m'emmener à un match de foot.

Hier soir je suis allé(e) au cinéma avec mes copains.

Normalement, le dimanche je vais chez mes grands-parents à la campagne.

L'hiver dernier, je suis allé(e) en Italie, où j'ai fait du ski.

L'année prochaine, pendant les grandes vacances, j'espère aller aux Etats-Unis avec mes parents.

En été, nous allons toujours au même endroit. C'est un petit village au pays de Galles.

Next week, my father is going to take me to a football match.

Last night I went to the cinema with my friends.

Normally, on Sunday I go to visit my grandparents in the country.

Last winter, I went to Italy, where I went ski-ing.

Next year, during the summer holidays, I hope to go to the United States with my parents.

In summer, we always go to the same place. It's a little village in Wales.

For holidays you can also expand on the bare facts by giving extra detail about activities, the weather, excursions, etc. Don't forget to give some opinions.

Il a fait très chaud, alors on a mangé dehors tous les soirs.

S'il fait beau, nous jouons sur la plage, et s'il pleut, nous allons en ville pour faire du shopping.

Un jour, nous avons visité la vieille ville de Carcassonne. C'était très intéressant.

S'il faisait assez beau, je passerais mes vacances en Angleterre.

Je ne reçois pas assez d'argent pour acheter beaucoup de vêtements.

It was very warm, so we ate outside every evening.

If the weather is good, we play on the beach, and if it rains, we go into town to do some shopping.

One day we visited the old town of Carcassonne. It was very interesting.

If the weather was good enough, I would spend my holidays in England.

I don't get enough money to buy many clothes.



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