

## Translating times challenge

### Introduction

In this challenge learners will translate questions and answers for time calculations from English into French, paying attention to the correct grammatical use of masculine, feminine and plural countries.

## Support notes

The learners may begin by using individual whiteboards to review what they learned in the previous lesson, using the [time zone map](#) from the previous lesson.

Demonstrate how to ask a question such as: 'If it is 16:00 in French Polynesia, what time is it in France?' in French.

In groups, learners should take turns to ask questions to each other using the same structure demonstrated.

- S'il est 13 heures en France, quelle heure est-il à Madagascar?
- S'il est 18 heures en Egypte, quelle heure est-il au Gabon?

Learners can respond using their whiteboards.

Grammatical point which should be highlighted is the use of **en** for feminine countries, **au** for masculine countries and **aux** for plural countries. There are exceptions, where *en* is used with masculine countries, because the country's name begins with a vowel e.g. *en Afghanistan*. There are also islands where **à** is used.

As a group, the learners contribute what they have learned during the task.

Review the grammar points they learned and discuss the use of the 24-hour clock. Highlight that in many countries the 24-hour clock is used for everyday events, for example, making arrangements to meet friends:

'Rendez-vous à 18 heures'

and not just formally for timetables as we use it in Scotland.

[Supporting resources are available on the Passeport website.](#)