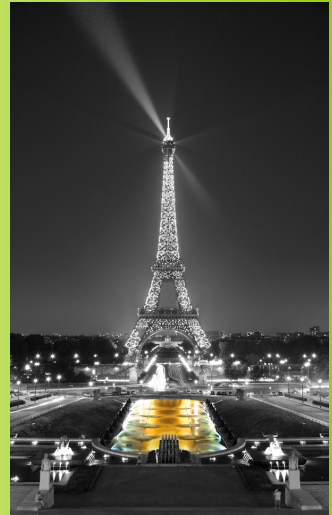




Greetings in French

How do French people greet each other ?

By Pauline, Anaïs, Yasemin and Marion



At work

- ❖ It is good customs to say hello « **bonjour** » when entering in a room or an office.
- ❖ For the time, you can say nice to meet you «**enchanté**» or please to meet you «**ravie de vous rencontrer**». Men do handshake when they arrive at the office in the morning.
- ❖ It is quite frequent that French people reply back by « **bonjour, ça va?** » or « **salut ...** » handshaking themselves even they've already seen each other the day before.
- ❖ Casual greetings between and women are often accompanied by a kiss.



Tu et Vous?

- ❖ French people use the « tu » when speaking informally to someone and the « vous » when speaking formally.
- ❖ Children do speak using the « tu » form until they are capable to distinguish when it is appropriate or not to do so.
- ❖ However adolescents do use the « tu » when speaking to each other.
- ❖ People do use the « vous » form when :
 - meeting someone for the first time,
 - When speaking to a teacher,
 - or your supervisor/boss.

Important festivals



- Christmas Season

- « St Nicolas » is celebrated in eastern and northern France on 6 December, he brings gingerbread to young students
- There's also « Père Fouettard » who gives out spankings to bad children

Christmas



- In France, Christmas is a time for family and for generosity, marked by family
- The celebration of Christmas in France varies by region. Most provinces celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December, which is a bank holiday.



French Christmas Traditions

- French children put their shoes in front of the fireplace,



- in the hopes that *Père Noël* will fill them with gifts.



Le Réveillon



- Although fewer and fewer French attend « *la Messe de Minuit* » on Christmas Eve, it is still an important part of Christmas for many families.
- It is followed by a huge feast, called « *le Réveillon* ».
- *It is the culinary high point of the season, which may be enjoyed at home or in a restaurant or café that is open all night.*
- *Each region in France has its own traditional Christmas menu, with dishes like goose, chicken, capon, turkey stuffed with chestnuts, oysters ...*

Le sapin de Noël



- The « sapin de Noël » is the main decoration in homes, streets, shops, offices, and factories.



La Crèche

- Another important aspect of French Christmas celebrations is « the crèche » filled with santons, which is displayed in churches and many homes.

Mistletoe



- It is hung above the door during the Christmas Season to bring good fortune throughout the year.

New year's day



- Many people in France start New Year's Day at midnight while celebrating with friends or family members.
- Public and private fireworks displays are common.
- Many people drink champagne.
- Public life is generally quiet in France on January 1. Post offices, banks, stores and other businesses are closed.



Epiphanie

- « La galette des rois » consists of a puff pastry case filled with frangipane. Frangipane is made with eggs, sugar, butter and ground almonds.
- The cakes are sold with a paper crown on top. A dried bean, small coin or ceramic figure is hidden in the filling.
- The person who finds the bean, coin or figure in their portion is 'King' for the day and wears the paper crown.



Easter

- 1: Religious tradition
- 2: Cultural customs
- 3: French confiseries

- Easter is celebrated in **France**, with various religious ceremonies, cultural customs having to do with rabbits, chocolates and eggs.



Religious tradition

- The predominant religion in France is Roman-Catholic (90%). No city, village or town is without a church. Most churches have a bell, which is rung joyfully throughout the year marking various events and the passage of time.





- On the Thursday before Good Friday, all church bells in France are silenced in fun, children are told that the bell's chimes have flown to Rome to see the Pope. Easter morning, the bells ring out once again.



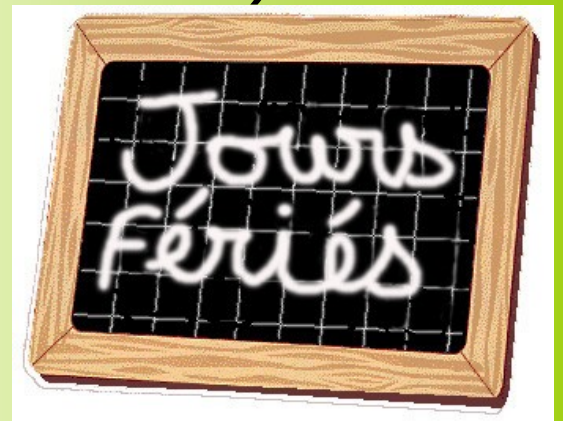
Cultural customs



- Easter morning is a happy time for children who wake to look for colorfully decorated **Easter eggs** (les œufs de pâques) hidden in their gardens. Parents tell their children the **eggs were brought from Rome.**



The French allot an extra vacation day for the Easter holiday. Everyone gets an automatic three-day weekend which they usually use to spend time with family. Schools tend to center the second Spring Vacation (two weeks for each of them) around Pâques as well.



French confiseries

- Easter in the perfect time of year for master chocolatiers to display and celebrate their delectable wares. Great attention to detail and years of practice result in chocolate eggs that look more like works of art than anything edible !





Bastille Day is also called « quatorze juillet ». It celebrates the 1790 « Fête de la Fédération ».



- A number of cities organize fireworks during the night. Dancing parties are organized. Generally, firefighters organize parties, which are called « bals du 14 Juillet ». These celebrations go on from July 13 at night to July 14.



- The Bastille was a prison. It symbolised the absolute power of Louis the 16th's Ancient Regime. By capturing Bastille, the people proved that King Louis, the sixteenth's power was no longer absolute.



- Military parades are organized. These parades are called Défilés du 14 juillet.

The largest parade takes place on the Champs-Élysées Avenue in Paris.