

Les quatre saisons (The four seasons)

1. Months and seasons

Prior Knowledge: It is helpful if children already know numbers up to 100 and how to say the date of their birthday.

Objectives

Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words.

Write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly.

Understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied, such as (where relevant): feminine, masculine and neuter forms and the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; **key features and patterns of the language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences**; and how these differ from or are similar to English

Support

When asking questions using the new vocabulary, allow less confident children to reply using single words instead of whole sentences.

Some children may benefit from having a vocabulary sheet to refer to.

Extension

When asked their birthday, more confident children could answer with a season, the date and month.

Ask children to choose a different way of ordering the months, e.g. alphabetically. Children share their methods.

Main

Play a song about the months or set these to a simple tune. Children stand up when they hear their birthday month.

Display picture cards for each season. Say each season – *l'hiver* (winter), *le printemps* (spring), *l'été* (summer) and *l'automne* (autumn) – and ask children to listen and repeat. Mime a season and ask *C'est quelle saison?* (Which season is it?) Ask for volunteers to repeat this activity. This can then be done in pairs.

ICT Opportunities: Using presentation software, show children typical scenes from different seasons. Include an atmospheric sound file or video clip for each slide to help them to work the season.

Before showing the written words for the seasons, challenge children to write the seasons from the sounds they hear. Then show the written words and highlight sound/spelling links. Show children some unfamiliar words that incorporate the same graphemes. Allow them a short time to talk to their partner before inviting volunteers to have a go at reading them. Allow children to have another attempt at writing the words, using the 'Look, say, cover, write, check' method.

Make four statements about months of the year and which season they are in, e.g. *avril est au printemps*, *août est en été*, *octobre est en automne* et *janvier est en hiver*. Ask children what they have noticed about how you say 'in winter', 'in summer', etc. Show on the board how *le* or *l'* become *en/au*. Ask children to listen to the phrases and repeat them.

Tell children which season your birthday is in, e.g. *Mon anniversaire est en automne* (My birthday is in the autumn). Ask children to identify the season of their birthday month, e.g. *C'est quand, ton anniversaire? Mon anniversaire est en hiver*.

Revise numbers 1–31 by playing a variety of counting games. Revise how to say the date by playing a game (see Unit 12, Session 6). Display a range of dates and read one out. Children have to identify the date you have selected. Working in pairs or small groups, children revise saying their birthdays. Perform a Mexican wave, where each child in turn says their birthday. This can be timed to add further challenge.

Discuss with children how French and English dates differ, e.g. use of capital letters and ordinal numbers (see Unit 3 Session 4). Display picture cards for each season. Ask children to identify the picture for the season of their birthday.

Set up a class 'speed challenge', where children order the months of the year against the clock. This can be done in pairs with word cards or as a whole-class activity using the interactive whiteboard.

ICT Opportunities: If using the interactive whiteboard, divide the screen into two, with a set of word cards in each half. Two teams compete using an electronic stop clock, if one is available with the whiteboard software.

In small groups, children divide a hoop into quarters to represent the seasons. They put month word cards into the correct season. Some children may benefit from having a chart with the months and seasons in English. Feed back as a class.

Children take it in turns to select a word card from the hoop and make a sentence, matching the month to the correct season, e.g. *avril est au printemps*. Ask children which words/months they find easy/difficult to remember and why.

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| <p>Grammar</p> <p><u>For teachers:</u></p> <p>In the phrase <i>Mon anniversaire est en hiver</i>, the <i>t</i> at the end of <i>est</i> is pronounced to create a liaison between <i>est</i> and <i>en</i>.</p> <p>When saying <i>en hiver</i>, the pronunciation of the <i>n</i> is quite emphatic (as in <i>en été</i> and <i>en automne</i>).</p> <p>Note that in French, the days, months and seasons are all written in lower case.</p> | <p>Grammar</p> <p><u>For children:</u></p> <p>How to say 'in' with seasons</p> <p>au printemps= in spring</p> <p>en été = in summer</p> <p>en automne = in autumn</p> <p>en hiver = in winter</p> | <p>Phonics focus</p> <p><u>For teachers:</u></p> <p>Silent h - <i>hiver</i></p> <p>[ɛ̃] <i>in</i> - <i>printemps</i></p> <p>[e] é – été</p> <p>[o] <i>au</i> – <i>automne</i></p> <p>[ɑ̃] <i>en</i> – en</p> | <p>Phonics focus</p> <p><u>For children:</u></p> <p>Silent h - <i>hiver</i></p> <p>[ɛ̃] <i>in</i> - <i>printemps</i></p> <p>[e] é – été</p> <p>[o] <i>au</i> – automne</p> |
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| <p><u>Learning Outcomes</u></p> <p>Children can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick out key words when listening to a song Remember how to write the date Create sentences linking months to seasons | <p><u>New National Curriculum Links</u></p> <p>Science</p> <p><u>Seasonal changes</u> - Year 1</p> <p>Observe changes across the four seasons</p> |
| <p><u>Throughout the week</u></p> <p>Play <i>Le Pendu</i> (Hangman) to revise the months and the seasons.</p> <p>Write and read aloud the date every day.</p> | <p><u>Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Song about the months Picture cards and text cards for each season Hoops Small sets of text cards for the months of the year Multimedia presentation software |
| <p><u>Teaching Tips</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To say the date in French, use the construction: <i>Aujourd'hui nous sommes le (mardi) quatre juillet</i>. When the date is written the <i>le</i> is omitted e.g. <i>(mardi) 4 juillet</i> Ensure that children work in mixed-ability groups when working on collaborative activities. The only season that uses <i>au</i> is <i>le printemps</i>. | |

| <i>Le langage du prof</i> | Teacher Language | <i>Le langage des enfants</i> | Children's Language |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p><i>Levez-vous quand vous entendez le mois de votre anniversaire.</i></p> <p><i>Pouvez-vous écrire le mot... ?</i></p> | <p>Stand up when you hear the month of your birthday.</p> <p>Can you write the word...?</p> | <p><i>l'hiver</i> (m)</p> <p><i>le printemps</i></p> <p><i>l'été</i> (m)</p> | <p>winter</p> <p>spring</p> <p>summer</p> |

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| <i>l'hiver (m)</i> | winter | <i>l'automne (m)</i> | autumn |
| <i>le printemps</i> | spring | <i>au printemps</i> | in spring |
| <i>l'été (m)</i> | summer | <i>en été/automne/hiver</i> | in summer/autumn/winter |
| <i>l'automne (m)</i> | autumn | ex. | e.g. |
| <i>C'est quelle saison?</i> | Which season is it? | <i>avril est au printemps.</i> | April is in the spring. |
| <i>au printemps</i> | in spring | | |
| <i>en été/automne/hiver</i> | in summer/autumn/winter | <i>Mon anniversaire est en automne.</i> | My birthday is in the autumn. |
| <i>ex.avril est au printemps.</i> | eg.April is in the spring | | |
| <i>Les mois de l'année</i> | the months of the year | <i>janvier</i> | January |
| <i>janvier</i> | January | <i>février</i> | February |
| <i>février</i> | February | <i>mars</i> | March |
| <i>mars</i> | March | <i>avril</i> | April |
| <i>avril</i> | April | <i>mai</i> | May |
| <i>mai</i> | May | <i>juin</i> | June |
| <i>juin</i> | June | <i>juillet</i> | July |
| <i>juillet</i> | July | <i>août</i> | August |
| <i>août</i> | August | <i>septembre</i> | September |
| <i>septembre</i> | September | <i>octobre</i> | October |
| <i>octobre</i> | October | <i>novembre</i> | November |
| <i>novembre</i> | November | <i>décembre</i> | December |
| <i>décembre</i> | December | <i>Mon anniversaire est le 30 avril.</i> | My birthday is the 30 th of April. |
| <i>C'est quand, ton anniversaire?</i> | When is your birthday? | les numéros 1-31 | numbers 1-31 |
| <i>Mon anniversaire est en automne.</i> | My birthday is in the autumn. | <i>le premier</i> | the first |
| <i>Mon anniversaire est le 30 avril.</i> | My birthday is the 30 th of April. | | |
| les numéros 1-31 | numbers 1-31 | | |
| <i>le premier</i> | the first | | |