

Skill

1

Precision

Topic: Family and friends

Only **one** of these translations into English would get a mark. Which one and why?

1	J'ai retrouvé mon copain au centre sportif pour jouer au tennis.	I went to the sports centre with friends and I played tennis.
2	Je ne m'entends pas toujours très bien avec mon père.	I don't get on well with my dad.
3	Mon frère est allé au supermarché où il a acheté un nouveau portable.	My brother went shopping and bought a phone.
4	Je voudrais voyager en Italie avec des amis.	I want to go on holiday in Italy with my friends.
5	D'habitude on mange tous les soirs ensemble.	Usually we eat together every evening.

Answer: 5

All the other translations paraphrase the original sentence or miss out a key element. How would you translate sentences 1-4 accurately and precisely?

Answers

1	J'ai retrouvé mon copain au centre sportif pour jouer au tennis.	I met my friend at the sports centre (in order) to play tennis.
2	Je ne m'entends pas toujours très bien avec mon père.	I don't always get on very well with my dad.
3	Mon frère est allé au supermarché où il a acheté un nouveau portable.	My brother went to the supermarket where he bought a new phone.
4	Je voudrais voyager en Italie avec des amis.	I would like to travel in Italy with some friends.
5	D'habitude on mange tous les soirs ensemble.	Usually we eat together every evening.

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Translate these sentences into English very precisely, using the first letter of each English word as support. 1-4 are Foundation level and 5-8 are Higher.

1	Demain, je vais aller au restaurant avec ma tante.	T i a g t g t t r w m a
2	Nos amis sont toujours généreux.	O f a a g
3	J'ai une sœur aînée qui est très méchante.	I h a o s w i v m
4	Hier, j'ai visité le musée en ville pour la première fois.	Y i v t m i t f t f t
5	Il me faudra être plus compréhensif avec ma famille.	I w n t b m u w m f
6	Nos amis sont toujours là pour nous aider.	O f a a t t h u
7	Je ne passe pas assez de temps avec mes copains.	I d s e t w m f
8	Mon père était fâché parce qu'il a pensé que j'étais trop paresseux.	M d w a b h t i w t l

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Answers

- 1 Tomorrow I am going to go to the restaurant with my aunt.
- 2 Our friends are always generous.
- 3 I have an older sister who is very mean.
- 4 Yesterday I visited the museum in town for the first time.
- 5 I will need to be more understanding with my family.
- 6 Our friends are always there to help us.
- 7 I don't spend enough time with my friends.
- 8 My dad was angry because he thought I was too lazy.

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Activity

Quiz, quiz, trade

Refer to Word document

Aim

The aim of this activity is to practise the skill of precision. You'll need to listen to your partners carefully as some of the cards have very similar phrases on them.

Instructions

- Take the card you are given.
- Stand up and find someone to quiz by reading out the French phrase on your card for them to translate back to you in English.
- Check their answer against the English translation on your card. Prompt them to have another try or give them a little clue if they need help.
- Read out the correct translation from your card.
- Let your partner quiz you in the same way.
- Trade cards and find a new partner to quiz with your new card.
- Quiz and then trade with as many people as you can until your teacher ends the activity.

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Assessment tasks

Foundation

J'ai deux frères qui sont très sportifs. Ils aiment jouer au football. Samedi, ils sont allés à un match. Ma grand-mère est très généreuse car elle me donne beaucoup d'argent. Le weekend prochain, je vais aller aux magasins avec elle.

Higher

Normalement, on se fait de nouveaux copains au collège mais l'année dernière, ce n'était pas facile pour moi parce que je suis si timide. Je voudrais surtout être plus sociable donc il me faudra faire un effort. J'ai commencé à sortir plus souvent ce qui est une bonne chose. Ma famille m'a beaucoup encouragé.

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Check list

Take time to read through your translation and check it.

Here's some advice gleaned from recent examiners' reports:

✓	Keep closely to the original – don't paraphrase or miss anything out.
✓	Be precise – aim to translate every word where this makes sense.
✓	Check the verbs and tenses carefully – all three time frames are likely to appear.
✓	Reread your answer to make sure it makes sense in English.

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Answers

Foundation

J'ai deux frères qui sont très sportifs.	I have two brothers who are very sporty.
Ils aiment jouer au football.	They love/like playing / to play football.
Samedi, ils sont allés à un match.	On Saturday, they went to a match.
Ma grand-mère est très généreuse car elle me donne beaucoup d'argent.	My grandmother is very generous because she gives me a lot of / lots of money.
Le weekend prochain, je vais aller aux magasins avec elle.	Next weekend, I'm going to go to the shops with her.

Allow one mark for each correctly translated section. Total = / 9 marks.

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Answers

Higher

Normalement, on se fait de nouveaux copains au collège	Normally/usually you/we make / one makes new friends at school
mais l'année dernière, ce n'était pas facile pour moi	but last year, it wasn't easy for me
parce que je suis si timide.	because I am so shy.
Je voudrais surtout	Above all I would like / I would really like
être plus sociable	to be more sociable
donc il me faudra faire un effort.	so I will have to make an effort.
J'ai commencé à sortir plus souvent	I've started going out more often
ce qui est une bonne chose.	which is a good thing.
Ma famille m'a beaucoup encouragé.	My family have encouraged me a lot.

Allow one mark for each correctly translated section. Total = / 9 marks.