

French register: choisir entre tu et vous

French and English | Pupil activity

Objectif: Je peux repérer tu et vous et choisir une formule selon une situation fictive.

1. Vocabulaire

Français	English
tutoyer	address one familiar person using tu (informal singular)
vouvoyer	use vous when addressing someone politely or addressing more than one person
le registre	language choices that fit a situation
une demande	a request for help or information
l'impératif	a verb form used to give an instruction
une formule de politesse	a polite expression such as s'il te plaît or s'il vous plaît

2. Compare les demandes

Tu peux m'aider, s'il te plaît ?

Can you help me, please? Informal singular form.

Pouvez-vous m'aider, s'il vous plaît ?

Can you help me, please? Polite singular or plural form.

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3. Situations fictives

1. You ask a classmate you know well for help with a group poster. Choose the request you would use in your class.

2. You ask one adult visitor you have not met before for help finding the library. Choose the request you would use in your class.

3. You ask a group of classmates to help carry books. Choose the request you would use in your class.

Try the situations first. Then use the suggested choices on page 3. Use the convention taught in your class.

4. Analyse

Underline tu or vous. Circle the verb form: peux or pouvez. Choose one situation and explain which detail guided your choice.

Remember that vous can address one person politely or a group; context and local conventions matter.

5. Compare les consignes

Ferme ton cahier. Informal singular: one familiar pupil.

Fermez votre cahier. Polite singular: one person addressed with vous.

Fermez vos cahiers. Plural group: several pupils.

Self-check: use after trying the situations

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6. Suggested choices

Situation 1 can use “Tu peux m’aider, s’il te plaît ?”.

Situation 2 can use the polite singular “Pouvez-vous m’aider, s’il vous plaît ?”.

Situation 3 can use “Pouvez-vous m’aider, s’il vous plaît ?” addressed to the group.

Use the convention taught in your class. Remember that vous can address one person politely or a group; context and local conventions matter.