



4 The Eiffel Tower's achievements

As soon as it was built, the Tower started to beat records. It remained the tallest monument over numerous decades. When the temperature is very hot, the Tower can incline its peak by up to 18 cm while under the effects of the wind the peak can also move a few centimetres. The maximum amplitude was 9 cm during the December 1999 storm.

The Tower also celebrates its anniversaries. For its 50th birthday, a mass was given on the first floor. For its seventy fifth birthday, some alpinists climbed the Tower. For its centenary, Philippe Petit, a funambulist, walked on a tight rope stretched between the Eiffel Tower and the Palais de Chaillot at the Trocadero.

Pilots are attracted by the Tower, such as Santos-Dumont who, in 1901, won a prize for flying higher than the Tower in an airship.



History of aviation – The Santos Dumont n°7 flies higher than the Eiffel Tower and wins the Deutsch Prize amounting to 100,000 francs



Reichelt's Gear

In 1909, Count de Lambert flew over Paris in an airplane and around the Tower for the first time.

In 1912, Mr. Reichelt, a tailor nicknamed « the bird man », killed himself when he jumped from the first floor using a parachute of his own fabrication.

In 1926, an aviator, Léon Collot, killed himself when he tried to fly under the Eiffel Tower.

In 1984, two paratroopers jumped from the third floor without any permission.

In 1987, a New-Zealander did a « yoyo » bungee jumping from the second floor.

Ten years later, a professional British stuntman jumped from the first floor with a parachute.



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Going up and down the Tower stairs has also given rise to many competitions and records.

1905 is the date of the first stair climbing competition to the first floor. It was organized by the newspaper called « Le Sport » and the first prize was a bicycle.

In 1923, Pierre Labric, who later became Montmartre's mayor, pedalled down from the first floor to the ground.

In 1983, Charles Coutard and Joël Descuns went up and down the Tower's stairs with a motocross bike.

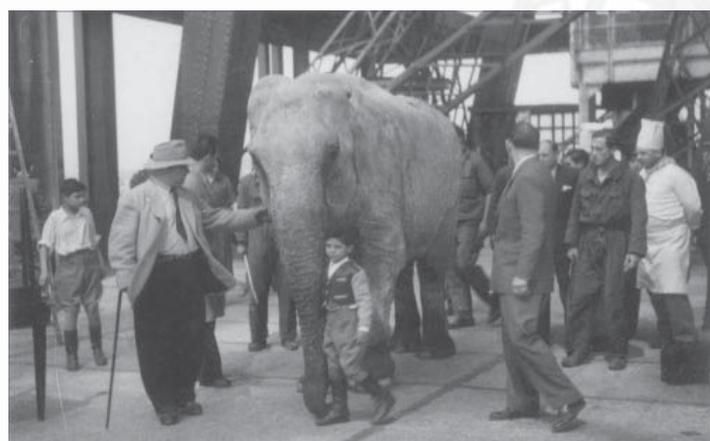
In 1995, a triathlete, Yves Lossuarn won the stair climbing competition which was broadcast on the Arte channel.

In 2001, the Spaniard Aitor Sarasua Zumera beat the stair climbing record previously held by Hugues Richard in 1998. The following year the latter retrieved the record time.

In 2004, an Andorran entered the Book of Records having climbed 1,300 steps with a mountain bike!
The following year, the athlete Jérôme Sur, went down 345 steps between the first floor and the ground, in a wheelchair.



Two motorcyclists, Charles Coutard and Joël Descuns, climb the Tower to the second floor.



Bouglione walks his oldest animal, an 85 year old female elephant, on the Tower.

A new record was beaten by the oldest elephant of the Bouglione circus which walked up to the first floor.

Among some of the anecdotes including achievements and records, it is worth mentioning the one concerning the sale of the Tower by a swindler called Victor Lustig, in 1925, to a scrap metal merchant making him believe that the Tower was going to be demolished.



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Exercices

CP - CE1

French / Reading / Spelling

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE

Learning the plural of nouns.

- Read the first two sentences of the text and ask the pupils to find the common nouns and separate the plural ones from the singular ones.

Singular	Plural
monument	sportifs
monde	amateurs
début	sensations
	aviateurs
	alpinistes
	coureurs

- Notice the « s » endings of plural nouns.
- Have the pupils write the following nouns in the plural form.

Une tour → des ...

Un éléphant → des ...

Un aviateur → des ...

Un étage → des ...

- Use other texts and carry out the same type of work. Then, for pupils of CE1, explain the ending of the verb in « ent » to agree with the noun (start with 1st group verbs in the present tense).
- Have the pupils write these sentences in the singular form.

Des aviateurs survolent la Tour.

Des alpinistes escaladent la Tour.

Des coureurs grimpent les escaliers.

Mathematics

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE

Reading and understanding the text of a simple problem.

- Present the two following problems.

Lydia, Elodie, Sofiane and Phil race up the stairs. Lydia reaches the top before Sofiane and Elodie, but she does not arrive first. Elodie arrives last. Rank the three children.

Phil, Lydia, Sofiane, Elodie

Mathis, Méline, Lilou and Noa each want to go up to the first floor of the Tower using different means of transport. Knowing that Mathis and Noa have chosen objects with wheels, that Noa has not chosen a bicycle and that Meline will not use the lift, indicate the means of transport used by each child.

- Lift: *Lilou*

- Walks up the stairs: *Méline*

- Goes up the stairs with roller blades: *Noa*

- Goes up the stairs with a bicycle: *Mathis*



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Exercises

CE2 - CM1 - CM2

French / Reading / Spelling

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE

Writing the plural form of nouns without making any mistake.

- Using the nouns contained in the text, have the pupils complete the following table.

Masculine singular	Feminine singular	Masculine plural	Feminine plural
		sportifs	
		aviateurs	
		concurrents	
		alpinistes	
		coureurs	
	éléphante		
	employée		

- Have the pupils find the rule that applies to nouns and adjectives.

Feminine: f → ve ; teur → trice ; t → te ; eur → euse ; e → no change (same spelling in the masculine and feminine forms).

- Have the pupils find other ways showing that a word is feminine.

- double consonant → ex: un chat et une chatte
- change the ... x into ... se → ex: un époux et une épouse
- change the ... e into ... esse → ex: un tigre et une tigresse
- change the ... er into ... ère → ex: un sorcier et une sorcière

Mathematics / Measuring time

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE

Learning and using the units used to measure time.

- Remind the pupils about the transformations when measuring time.

1 h = 60 min ; 1 min = 60 s ; 1 h = 3 600 s

- Have the pupils complete with <, > and =.

120 s 2 h

135 min 3 h

400 s 5 min

600 s 10 min

4 h 250 min

3 h 7 200 s

A new stair climbing race is organized. Here are the times of each one of the 6 competitors. Please classify them from the fastest to the slowest.

Léo: 9 min 15 s ; Mila: 580 s ; Bianca: 8 min and 110 s ; Hugo: 575 s ; Axel: 10 min less 70 s and Judie: 10 s less than Léo.