



J'AIME LE CHOCOLAT!

My personal weakness works nicely into a quick-paced activity to practice the days of the week. This is aimed at younger language learners, but I have had former students now in high school run into my classroom to show off that they can still recite at record speeds! It is simply a disguised repetition of the seven days of the week. The unconscious patterning of the use of the definite article with noun categories (*J'aime le chocolat; je déteste le poisson; je préfère les frites*) in contrast to the partitive (*je mange du chocolat; j'achète du poisson; je prends des frites*) becomes very useful later as the pattern has established itself nicely in the brain before the student needs to dissect the grammar.

PROFESSEUR:	<i>Tu aimes le chocolat?</i>
ÉLÈVE:	<i>Oui, j'aime le chocolate.</i>
PROFESSEUR:	<i>Tu manges du chocolat?</i>
ÉLÈVE:	<i>Oui, je mange du chocolat.</i>
PROFESSEUR:	<i>Quand?</i>
ÉLÈVE:	<i>Je mange du chocolate (takes a breath and cannot breathe as he/she recites) lundi, mardi, mercredi, jeudi, vendredi, samedi, dimanche, lundi—(until there's a breath!)</i>

IL S'APPELLE; ELLE S'APPELLE

My weakness for chocolate has led to a number of different ways to use M&Ms™. They are a tiny reward (We like to refer to this as positive motivation rather than chocolate bribes.) for many classroom victories. This game to help students learn their classmates' French names actually came from a graduate school ice breaker, and it can be modified to fit any age. Sitting in a circle facilitates this game. The teacher distributes one or two M&M's to every student with the instructions NOT to eat them yet. On the board make a list of each color (in French or just colored circles for younger students who do not yet have the vocabulary). Assign to each color a number and a direction (*à gauche, à droite*, or use arrows for younger children). Students earn the right to eat their *bonbon* by naming the students to the right or to the left according to the instructions on the board as indicated for the color. *ROUGE = 2 à droite; ORANGE = 3 à gauche; JAUNE = 4 à droite* (etc.), and be sure to include one color for *TOUT LE MONDE!* For the youngest students, just naming the classmates once they have chosen a French name for class will be enough, but even young ones can learn to use correctly the phrases *il s'appelle Robert* or *elle s'appelle Janine* with a little repetition.

This year I splurged and went on the M&M Web site [www.mymms.com] where you can order any color you wish and include writing on them! I chose to write *BONJOUR* and *AU REVOIR*, but you could write a direction and a number (you are allotted two lines of eight spaces each) if you wanted the M&Ms just for this game. *Bon appétit et amusez-vous bien!*

We invite FLES* and middle school teachers to share ideas, classroom gimmicks, games for oral interaction, National French Week activities, and successful lessons with other AATF members. Join the teacher network! Send your ideas to Elizabeth Miller, 74 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027; e-mail: [mmemiller@aol.com]; fax: 650-342-7623.

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