



## *méto - boulot - dodo*

The expression *méto-boulot-dodo* (subway-work-sleep) is how many a Parisian might describe his life! Clearly using the *méto* is second nature for any Parisian and the *méto* holds a fascination for tourists visiting the city. Created in 1900, it is efficient, often crowded, often beautiful, filled with wonderful publicity on the walls, often filled with music, and many stations are decorated in a unique way. The Louvre station is its own little museum! Even if you cannot actually go to Paris, your students can learn how to navigate the system in the classroom.

Any family who visits Paris from my school now knows to bring back used *méto* tickets for my students and extra *méto* maps from hotels. If you don't have the real thing, though, you can visit one of several Web sites under Paris *méto* and you can print tickets in color (*un ticket*) for your students and a copy of the map (*le plan du méto*). Blow up the map as large as possible for classroom use. I ordered a full-sized *méto* map from Teacher's Discovery [www.Teachersdiscovery.com] or 1-800-832-2437) which I post on the wall and have the students write their name on a ticket and place it anywhere on the map. That spot becomes the location of their hotel. They will learn to describe the *méto* route from that hotel to a monument in Paris for their classmates. Then they choose the monument they are going to visit from a collection of postcards.

Explain that the system is really quite easy! *C'est facile!* Each line has a number and all they need to find is the name at the end of the line to indicate the direction they will travel. If they have to change lines, that's called *une correspondance*. We use the sample below as a class to learn the procedure, then students have to figure out their individual *méto* trip on their own. If it becomes confusing, some Web sites will describe the route from start to finish for you!

Some useful vocabulary:

- RATP = Régie autonome des Transports parisiens (méto)
- RER = Réseau Express Régional (connects metro to suburbs)
- une station de méto = une "gare"
- le guichet = où on va pour acheter un ticket
- un carnet de dix (10 tickets) = C'est moins cher.
- Formule 1 = un billet pour une journée
- Paris Visite = un billet pour 3 - 5 jours
- un Coupon jaune = un billet pour 6 jours
- une Carte orange = un billet pour un mois
- une correspondance = Si la route n'est pas directe, il faut changer de train.

**SAMPLE TRIP:** I print out the outline below for the sample we do as a class. Then students are on their own, but can follow this formula to find any destination they wish. *BON VOYAGE!*

Vous êtes à l'Arc de Triomphe. Vous voulez visiter la cathédrale de Notre Dame. Décrivez la route. Est-ce que c'est direct? Vous prenez quelle ligne? Où est la correspondance? Vous changez où? Vous descendez à quelle station?

Je suis à \_\_\_\_\_  
Je veux visiter \_\_\_\_\_  
C'est direct/ Ce n'est pas direct  
La station à l'Arc de Triomphe s'appelle \_\_\_\_\_  
Je prends la ligne numéro \_\_\_\_\_  
dans la direction \_\_\_\_\_  
Il y a une correspondance à \_\_\_\_\_  
Il faut changer de ligne; alors je descends et je prends la ligne numéro \_\_\_\_\_  
dans la direction \_\_\_\_\_  
La station de Notre-Dame de Paris s'appelle \_\_\_\_\_  
Je descends à \_\_\_\_\_ et voilà la cathédrale!  
Ce n'est pas difficile!

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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