

Que/Ce qui/ce que/quel

- **What** in a question is translated as **que** (or **qu'** if followed by a vowel)
Que manges-tu pour le déjeuner? *What do you eat for lunch ?*
Qu'est ce que tu veux? *What do you want ?*
- The French equivalent of Which or What + noun, **quel**, must be used whenever there is one or more than one noun that you are choosing between.
Quel, because it is an adjective, has to agree in gender and number with the noun it modifies. Look at the different forms of **quel**:

	singular	plural
masc.	quel	quels
fem.	quelle	quelles

Examples :

Sophie m'a prêté un CD. **Quel** CD ? *Sophie lent me a CD. What CD?*
Quelle chemise préfères-tu? *What shirt do you prefer?*
Quels sont tes projets après le bac ? *What are your plans after the Leaving Certificate?*
Quelles sont tes matières préférées? *What are your favourite topics ?*

Quel can also be used as an **exclamative adjective**:

Quel dommage! (what a pity!)
 Quelle surprise! (what a surprise!)

- Finally, in the middle of a sentence, **what** can be translated as **ce que** (normally followed by a noun plus a verb; and when the idea referred to is the object of the sentence) or **ce qui** (normally followed by a verb; when the idea referred to is the subject of the sentence).

Examples:

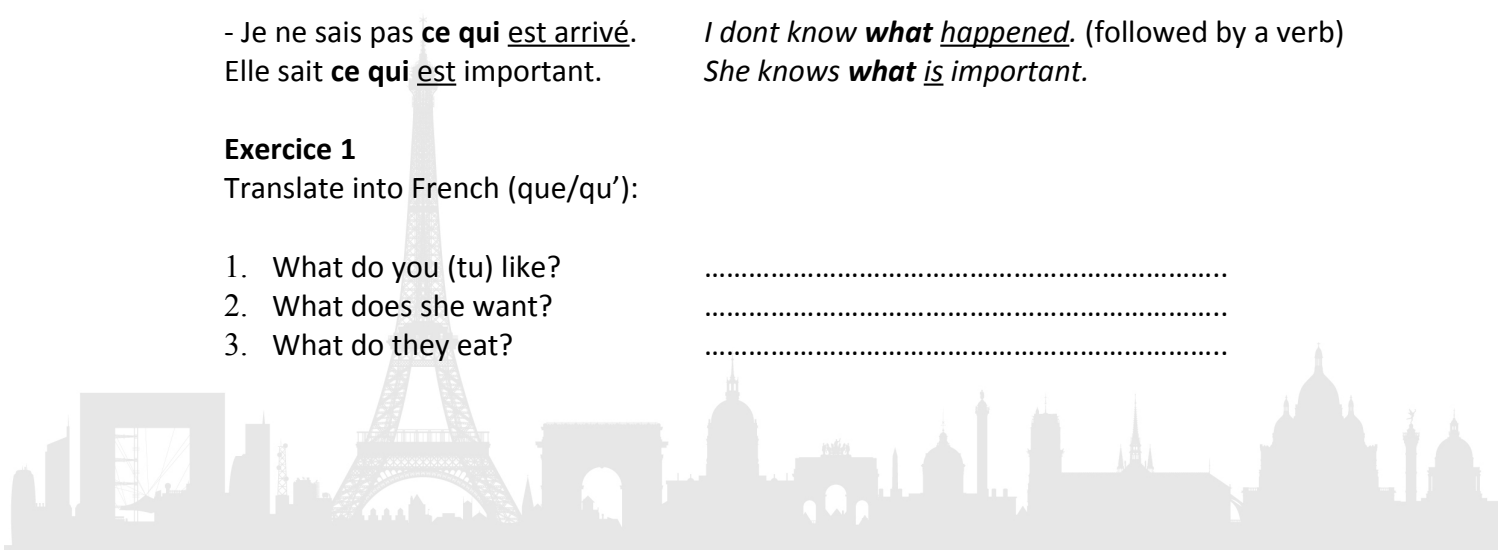
- Je ne sais pas **ce que tu** dis. *I dont know what you're saying* (followed by you + verb)
 Elle adore **ce que tu** portes. *She likes what you are wearing.*

- Je ne sais pas **ce qui est** arrivé. *I dont know what happened.* (followed by a verb)
 Elle sait **ce qui est** important. *She knows what is important.*

Exercice 1

Translate into French (que/qu'):

1. What do you (tu) like?
2. What does she want?
3. What do they eat?



4. What do you (vous) choose?
5. What do we do?

Exercise 2

Translate into French (quel):

1. What player do you (tu) prefer?
2. What car do you (vous) drive?
3. What sports do they like?
4. What flowers does she buy?
5. What story is he reading?

Exercise 3

Translate into French (ce que/ce qui):

1. I understand what you're (tu) saying
2. She knows what is right.
3. He can't see what is on the table.
4. They do what they want.
5. You (tu) don't know what you're doing

