THE MELT SOCIETY

Method for Effective Language Teaching

GCSE French – AQA

MELT FRENCH

Reading and writing workbook

Foundation and Higher

8 modules. 40 units. Full answers.

Ten friends from across the French-speaking world to guide you.
Written by an Oxford-trained, fully qualified MFL teacher.

THE MELT SOCIETY

MELT French · GCSE French for AQA (8652)
Reading and writing workbook, Foundation and Higher

MELT stands for Method for Effective Language Teaching.
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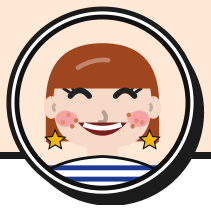
Salut ! Meet the Cast

Ten friends from France and the French-speaking world who will be with you on every page

LYON, FRANCE — FR

Léa
Martin, 15



« Trop bien ! »
So good!

Good vibes	100
Tarte tatin love	97
Chill about deadlines	12

Bubbly bookworm

In the book: always beaming, leads the reading tasks.

Loves: Comic books and cycling along the Rhône.

Quirk: Rates every text out of five stars, out loud.

LA RÉUNION — FR

Hugo
Payet, 16

« Oh là là, la barbe. »
Ugh, what a drag.

Sport	100
Social media talent	80
Patience	9

Laid-back grumbler

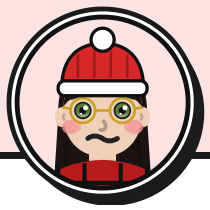
In the book: grumpy, sporty and secretly brilliant at writing.

Loves: Surfing and basketball.

Quirk: Sighs before every task, then finishes first.

MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC — FR

Inès
Tremblay, 15



« Et si ça se passe mal ? »
What if it goes wrong?

Weather checks	96
Rabbits cuddled	100
Calm in a crisis	15

Careful worrier

In the book: the careful one whose texts you translate.

Loves: Ice skating and looking after her two rabbits.

Quirk: Checks the weather forecast four times a day.

CASABLANCA, MAROC — FR

Mehdi
Benali, 16

« Techniquement... »
Technically...

Grammar accuracy	100
Chess wins	93
Smiles per lesson	7

Dry-witted problem solver

In the book: runs the grammar code and the Sentence Machines, with diagrams.

Loves: Chess and coding little apps.

Quirk: Draws a diagram for everything, including jokes.

DAKAR, SÉNÉGAL — FR

Awa
Diop, 16

« Allez, pas d'excuses ! »
Come on, no excuses!

Ambition	100
Pens carried	3
Excuses accepted	0

Driven and fearless

In the book: pushes you towards Grade 9 in the long writing tasks.

Loves: Running the 400 m and slam poetry.

Quirk: Always has three pens, in three colours.

PARIS, FRANCE — FR

Madame Morel
(Sylvie) Morel, 58

« Les accents, s'il vous plaît. »
Accents, please.

Strict	95
Secretly kind	90
Missing accents ignored	0

Elegant and exacting

In the book: sets the exam practice and the formal writing.

Loves: Art galleries and the piano.

Quirk: Marks in green ink and draws a tiny star for perfect agreement.

MARTINIQUE — FR

Théo
Joseph, 15

« On mange quand ? »
When do we eat?

Appetite	100
Jokes per hour	95
Quiet moments	6

Joker with a big appetite

In the book: keeps the word banks stocked and turns words into games.

Loves: Football on the beach and baking.

Quirk: Rates every word by how tasty it sounds.

BRUXELLES, BELGIQUE — FR

Chloé
Peeters, 16

« Respire, tout va bien. »
Breathe, it's all fine.

Calm	98
Lists made	100
Deadlines missed	1

Gentle organiser

In the book: pops up with a plan when revision gets stressful.

Loves: Drawing comic strips and growing herbs.

Quirk: Makes a to-do list, then a list of her lists.

PALAVAS, FRANCE — FR

Sandrine
Roux, 17

« Peuchère, quel drame ! »
Oh my, what a drama!

Drama	100
Stage presence	97
Inside voice	5

Flamboyant entertainer

In the book: the speaking coach, with a microphone and a southern accent.

Loves: Theatre club, karaoke and beach volleyball.

Quirk: Speaks with her hands, even on the phone.

MARTINIQUE — FR

Papi Pierre
Joseph, 78

« De mon temps... »
In my day...

Proverbs known	100
Fish caught	72
Short stories	3

Wise and witty storyteller

In the book: hosts the culture corners, with carnival, history and proverbs.

Loves: Fishing at dawn and playing the drum (tambour bèlè).

Quirk: Every story ends with a proverb, sometimes two.

Regional words. French is spoken on five continents, so you will meet a few regional words. They are always labelled. For the exam, make the specification vocabulary your revision priority.

How this book works

Every unit follows the same path, with the same colours all the way through

1 · Reading

A do now warm-up, texts with questions (Foundation and Higher), a Verb hunt, a word puzzle, translation into English and a cultural inquiry.

2 · Writing

Gap fill, translation into French, your own writing, a Sentence Machine, Mehdi's grammar code with a Verb workout, and the speaking checklist. Each module has a focus tense (present, then perfect, near future, future, imperfect and conditional), and the Verb workout chip says

Focus

when it drills that tense or

Recall

when it brings back an earlier one.

3 · End of module

This module's challenge, a vocabulary page, The MELT Society recap, exam practice with model answers, then the answer key.

The colour code

Reading task
Sky blue. Read in French, answer in English, translate into English.

Writing task
Coral. Gap fills, translation into French and your own writing.

Grammar · Mehdi's grammar code
Bright green. One grammar rule per unit, linked to the specification.

Sentence Machine
Turquoise. Pick one chunk per column to build correct sentences fast.

From the speaking exam
Bubblegum pink. Questions you could be asked in the speaking exam, answerable with the language on that page.

Vocabulary
Lilac. Word banks and a vocabulary page in every module, with a line to cover as you revise.

Cultural inquiry
Sunshine yellow with polka dots. Real places, regional words, things to find out.

Exam practice
Ink navy and gold. Exam-style tasks with Grade 9 and Grade 7 models. Exam and revision tips are teal.

Say it right
Leaf green with grid lines. Tricky French sounds, with a sounds-like guide.

Same word, different place
Amber. How France, Belgium, Québec and Senegal say it.

Culture corner
Orange. Festivals, places and news, with a picture, timeline, quiz or debate.

Can I answer these?
Candy-cane pink stripes. A speaking checklist at the end of each unit.

F Foundation H Higher F/H both tiers. Foundation students: try the Higher tasks when you feel ready. **Verbs are in bold** in every text so you can spot the tense.

Module colours (top band and page tab only)

1 Me and my people
2 Healthy body, healthy mind
3 Free time and culture
4 Life online
5 Where I live
6 Our planet
7 School and my future
8 Travel and tourism

Chloé: « Respire, tout va bien. » One spread at a time. Twenty minutes a day beats three hours the night before.

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A note for parents and carers. This workbook is written for the AQA GCSE French (8652) specification for first teaching from 2024, covering the three themes, all nine topics and the grammar for both tiers. Each unit takes about 40 minutes. The answer key at the end of every module means your child can work independently, and you can check their work without speaking French.

Grab your phone!

Scan me for quick, fun MELT videos

themeltsociety.co.uk/watch

Module 1

Me and my people

Moi et mes proches

Thematic context: My personal world. Grammar focus: present tense of être, avoir and regular -er verbs; adjective agreement.

In this module

1.1 Qui suis-je ? — Who am I? — page 7

1.2 Ma famille — My family — page 15

1.3 Mes amis — Friends and what makes a good friend — page 20

1.4 Je m'entends bien avec... — Relationships and getting on at home — page 26

1.5 Égalité et respect — Equality and respect — page 32

By the end, I can...

- I can introduce myself and describe my appearance and personality.
- I can describe my family and say how I get on with them.
- I can describe a friend and say what makes a good friend.
- I can say how I get on with my family and why.
- I can give opinions about equality and respect, with reasons.

Jack's tip · Did you notice?
Possessive adjectives agree with the thing owned, not the owner: *sa mère* can mean "his mother" or "her mother". Try it with three people in your family.

Léa: « Trop bien ! On commence avec les gens qu'on aime le plus. »

Dans l'actualité · le sport féminin
Aux Jeux olympiques de Paris 2024, il y avait pour la première fois autant de places pour les femmes que pour les hommes.
Find out: which French athletes won gold medals at Paris 2024?

★ **This module's challenge:** Detective case file: who took the phone? (page 38).
Also in this module: a vocabulary page to test yourself, The MELT Society recap, exam practice with Grade 9 and Grade 7 model answers, and the answer key.

1.1 Qui suis-je ?

Who am I? · Module 1: Me and my people

Reading

Léa leads

Do now Retrieval, 2 minutes, from this module: **1)** habiter → English **2)** *sometimes* → French **3)** l'ami / l'amie → English ___ / 3

1 **Read Léa's post. Answer the questions in English.** F/H — **6 marks**

Salut ! Je **m'appelle** Léa et j'**ai** quinze ans. J'**habite** à Lyon, une grande ville dans le sud-est de la France, avec mes parents, mon grand frère, Lucas, et notre chien, Pixel. Lucas **a** dix-huit ans et il **est** très grand. Moi, je **suis** petite, j'**ai** les cheveux longs et noirs et je **porte** des lunettes. Je **suis** bavarde et joyeuse, mais ma mère **dit** que je **suis** un peu désorganisée. Ma ville **est** magnifique parce qu'il y **a** beaucoup d'histoire et de bons restaurants. J'**adore** habiter ici !

« **Trop bien ! On commence.** » *So cool! Let's start. (Léa is always this cheerful. Always.)*

a) Where is Lyon? (1)

b) How old is Lucas? (1)

c) Give **two** details about Léa's appearance. (2)

d) What does her mother say about her? (1)

e) Why does Léa like Lyon? Give **one** reason. (1)

From the speaking exam
Comment es-tu ? Et comment tes amis te décrivent-ils ?

2 **Read Inès's profile. Answer the questions in English.** H — **8 marks**

Bonjour à tous ! Je **m'appelle** Inès Tremblay, j'**ai** quinze ans et j'**habite** à Montréal, au Québec. Montréal **est** une grande ville sur une île, et l'hiver, il **fait** très froid : il **neige** souvent et il **fait** parfois moins vingt degrés. J'**habite** dans un appartement avec mes parents et mes deux petites sœurs, Rose et Juliette. Physiquement, je **suis** de taille moyenne et j'**ai** les cheveux bouclés et les yeux marron. Mes amis **disent** que je **suis** créative et généreuse, mais je **reconnais** aussi que je m'**inquiète** trop, surtout avant les examens. Quand j'**étais** petite, je **voulais** être danseuse et je **passais** des heures à danser dans le salon. Cependant, il y a deux ans, j'**ai trouvé** un chat dans la rue et je l'**ai ramené** à la maison. Depuis, j'**adore** les animaux. Maintenant, le samedi, j'**aide** dans une clinique vétérinaire près de chez moi, où je **nettoie** les cages et je **donne** à manger aux chiens. Plus tard, j'**aimerais** devenir vétérinaire parce que je **veux** m'occuper des animaux abandonnés. Et je **vais adopter** un gros chien !

From the speaking exam
Qu'est-ce que tu voulais faire quand tu étais petit(e) ? Et maintenant ?

Théo: « Quelqu'un a vu mon sandwich ? Il était là il y a une minute. » *Has anyone seen my sandwich? It was here a minute ago.*

2 continued

a) Give **two** details about the weather in Montréal in winter. (2)

b) What does Inès admit about herself? (1)

c) What did she use to do when she was little? (1)

d) What happened two years ago? (1)

e) Give **two** things she does at the clinic. (2)

f) Why does she want to become a vet? (1)

Verb hunt F/H — **6 marks**

Verb hunt. These verbs are in bold in the long text above. For each one, write the infinitive, the tense, the person and the English meaning (1 mark per verb, 1 for the rewrite).

Verb	Infinitive	Tense	Person	Meaning
ai				
habite				
est				
voulais				
passais				

Now rewrite **ai** in the **perfect**, same person (write the subject too): _____

Cultural inquiry · Québec

« Au Québec, le 24 juin, c'**est** la Fête nationale : il y **a** des concerts et des feux de joie partout. Et au Québec, on **dit** souvent *magasiner* au lieu de *faire les magasins* ! » *Find out: which other name is often used for the Fête nationale du Québec?*

Regional words are for interest. The specification vocabulary is your revision priority; it is not a rule about which answers are accepted.

Mehdi's grammar code: adjective agreement

Adjectives agree with the noun: *Léa **est** petite · Hugo **est** petit · mes amis **sont** petits · mes amies **sont** petites*. Adjectives ending in *-e* do not change for gender (*timide, drôle*). Watch the patterns: *-eux → -euse* (*paresseux, paresseuse*), *-if → -ive* (*sportif, sportive*), *-en → -enne* (*canadien, canadienne*).

Specification link: AQA 8652 spec 3.2, Adjectives (agreement in gender and number); Verbs: Tenses (present tense of *être* and *avoir*). Foundation and Higher.

« Techniquement, ce n'est qu'un modèle. »

Pop culture corner · Stromae

Stromae, born in Brussels in 1985, became a star with *Alors on danse*. His songs mix dance music with serious lyrics about family and life.

Tiny task: describe him in French. *Stromae est…*

3 **Add the spaces: split each line into words and copy it out.** F/H 4 marks

`Etjevaisadopterungroschien!`

`Jem'appelleInèsTremblay,j'aiquinzeans etj'habiteàMontréal,auQuébec.`

From the speaking exam
Où habites-tu ? Qu'est-ce que tu aimes dans ta ville ou ton village ?

4 **Translate Chloé's text into English.** H 7 marks

Je **m'appelle** Chloé et je **suis** belge. J'**habite** à Bruxelles. Je **suis** une personne calme et j'**adore** lire. L'été dernier, je **suis allée** à la montagne avec ma famille. Plus tard, je **veux** habiter près de la nature.

Culture corner · Le français dans le monde

Selon l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), environ 321 millions de personnes parlent français sur les cinq continents.

- Plus de la moitié des personnes qui parlent français tous les jours habitent en **Afrique**.
- Au **Québec**, le français est la seule langue officielle. Depuis 1977, la loi 101 le protège.
- En **Belgique**, il y a trois langues officielles : le néerlandais, le français et l'allemand. En **Suisse**, il y a quatre langues nationales.
- « Bonjour » : *Bonjou* (créole martiniquais), *Salaam aleekum* (wolof), *Goeiedag* (néerlandais, en Belgique).

Hugo: « Oh là là, la barbe… mais ça marche. » Write one new sentence with **m'appelle** (in bold on this page). Then change its tense.

Say it right · Family words

Français	Sounds like	English
la famille	fa-MEE-y	family
le frère	frair (French r)	brother
la sœur	surr	sister

Sound rule: ill often sounds like "y" (la famille, la fille, gentille; but not in la ville or mille)

Watch out: *les parents*: the final -ts is silent: lay pa-RON.

Writing

Hugo leads

5 **Fill each gap with a word from the box. There are more words than gaps.** F — 5 marks

est · s'appelle · habite · ont · sommes · ai · suis

Je m'appelle Théo et j'(a) _____ quinze ans. Je (b) _____ martiniquais. Mon grand-père (c) _____ Pierre et il (d) _____ avec nous. Il (e) _____ très drôle.

Sentence Machine · Describe yourself

Mehdi: « Techniquement, presque tout va ensemble. » Take one from each column, left to right, and adjust agreement (masculine or feminine, singular or plural) where needed. Build three sentences, then write your best one below.

Opener	Verb	Detail	Opinion
Physiquement,	je suis	grand(e)	et ça me plaît.
Ma mère dit que	je ne suis pas	timide	et j'en suis fier / fière.
Selon mes amis,	parfois, je suis	drôle	trop bien !
Je pense que	je suis toujours	travailleur / travailleuse	et ça m'est égal.

Then link a second sentence: *De plus · Cependant · C'est pourquoi · Aussi*

Exam tip · Answer in the right language

English question, English answer. French question, French answer. An answer in the wrong language scores nothing.

Awa: « Allez, pas d'excuses ! » Build one more sentence with the Sentence Machine on this page, then add a reason with parce que or car.

6 Translate into French. F

5 marks

a) I am sixteen years old.

b) I live in the north of England.

c) My sister is short and funny.

d) We have a cat.

e) My friends are kind.

From the speaking exam
Qu'est-ce que tu as fait l'été dernier ?

7 Translate this paragraph into French. H

10 marks

My name is Alex and I live in a small town near the coast. I am quite shy but very hard-working. My parents are generous and my brother is always talking. Last summer we visited my grandparents in Scotland. Next year I am going to learn to drive.

Verb workout · Verb mastery

FOCUS: PRESENT F/H

14 marks

Verb mastery grid: *être* (irregular) in the present, perfect and imperfect. Some forms are done for you.

	present	perfect	imperfect
je / j'			
tu			
il / elle / on	**est**	**a été**	
nous		**avons été**	**étions**
vous			
ils / elles			

Then tick these tenses in your **Verb mastery tracker** (page 336).

Sandrine: « Peuchère, quel drame ! » Write your answer to the speaking question on this page: « Qu'est-ce que tu as fait l'été dernier ? » Then say it aloud.

8 Your turn: write it yourself. F/H

F 10 · H 15

Foundation, about 50 words. Write a profile for a French exchange website: your name and age · where you live · your personality · what you are going to do this weekend.

Higher, about 90 words. Write a post introducing yourself to a new penfriend: what you are like · your family · something you did recently · your plans for the future.

What makes it stand out · things examiners notice

Open with a hook. Start with a question or a surprising fact: *Tu savais que je dors neuf heures par nuit ?*

Higher: try *après avoir*. *Après avoir mangé, nous sommes sortis.* Or *avant de* + infinitive: *avant de partir…*

Need more room? Carry on in your exercise book.

From the speaking exam
Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire ce week-end ?

Can I answer these? · Speaking check · AQA Theme 1: People and lifestyle · Identity and relationships with others

- ☐ Comment es-tu ? Et comment tes amis te décrivent-ils ?
- ☐ Qu'est-ce que tu voulais faire quand tu étais petit(e) ? Et maintenant ?
- ☐ Où habites-tu ? Qu'est-ce que tu aimes dans ta ville ou ton village ?
- ☐ Qu'est-ce que tu as fait l'été dernier ?
- ☐ Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire ce week-end ?

I can introduce myself and describe my appearance and personality. How do I feel?

Success criteria. I can use adjective agreement accurately in my own sentences; I can answer the speaking questions above in full sentences.

Exit ticket. Write one sentence that uses adjective agreement:

_____

WWW (what went well): _____ **EBI** (even better if): _____

Fun fact · Votes for women

Women in France were given the right to vote in 1944, and they voted for the first time in 1945.

Sandrine: « Peuchère, quel drame ! » Write your answer to the speaking question on this page: « Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire ce week-end ? » Then say it aloud.

_____

Writing

Hugo leads

5 **Fill each gap with a word from the box. There are more words than gaps.** F — 5 marks

il y a · harcèlement · gagnent · aider · juste · respecter · égaux

Je pense que nous sommes tous (a) _____. Dans mon collège, (b) _____ des élèves de beaucoup de pays. Le (c) _____ est inacceptable. Nous devons (d) _____ tout le monde. Ce n'est pas (e) _____ que les femmes gagnent moins.

6 **Translate into French.** F — 5 marks

a) Everyone deserves respect.

b) Bullying is a serious problem.

c) At my school there are students from many countries.

d) I think we are all equal.

e) You have to help others.

7 **Translate this paragraph into French.** H — 10 marks

In my opinion, equality is very important. At my school we have a group that fights against racism. Last month we organised a talk about bullying and many students came. Unfortunately there are still problems in society. In the future I would like to work for a charity.

Théo: « On mange quand ? » Word box extension: add three more French words that could fill the gaps on this page, with the English.

Module 1 challenge

Me and my people · Detective case file: who took the phone?

Detective case file: who took the phone?

Case file 01: the missing phone. Madame Morel's phone has gone missing at the exchange. The thief is the person who is **15**. Read the witness notes, fill in the grid, then name the thief.

1. La personne de Paris a quatorze ans.
2. Karim habite à Nantes.
3. La personne de dix-sept ans a une barbe et habite à Toulouse.
4. Zoé habite à Lille et elle a les cheveux bouclés.
5. La personne qui porte des lunettes a seize ans.
6. Margaux a les cheveux longs et blonds.

Name	City	Age	Looks
Zoé			
Karim			
Margaux			
Bastien			

Le voleur / La voleuse, c'est _____ **parce que**

_____

Chloé: « Respire, tout va bien. » Now jot everything down: this space is yours for notes. Write three words from « Module 1 challenge » you want to remember, with the English.

✎ **My notes**

That was a taster.

You've just tried Unit 1.1. Here's what's waiting in the full book.

1 · Me and my people — 1 unit free
4 more units: family, friends, relationships, equality

2 · Healthy body, healthy mind — in the full book
Food, routines, illness, wellbeing

3 · Free time and culture — in the full book
Music, film, sport, festivals

4 · Life online — in the full book
Social media, gaming, tech, online safety

5 · Where I live — in the full book
Home, town, shopping, the past

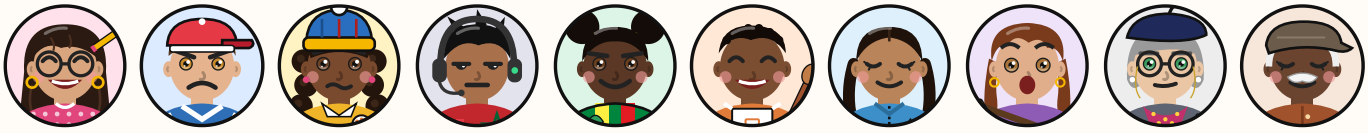
6 · Our planet — in the full book
Environment, climate, nature

7 · School and my future — in the full book
School life, jobs, plans, applications

8 · Travel and tourism — in the full book
Holidays, transport, problems abroad

Also only in the full book:

- **Full answer keys** for all 40 units, with Mehdi's notes on what else is accepted
- **39 more units** of reading, word puzzles, translation and "Your turn" writing tasks
- **The MELT Society recap** for every module: twenty quick-fire marks
- **Exam practice for every module** with Grade 9 and Grade 7 model answers, colour coded
- **Every vocabulary page** and Sentence Machine
- **Do now, Verb hunt and Verb workout** tasks in every unit, 26 culture corners and 8 module challenges



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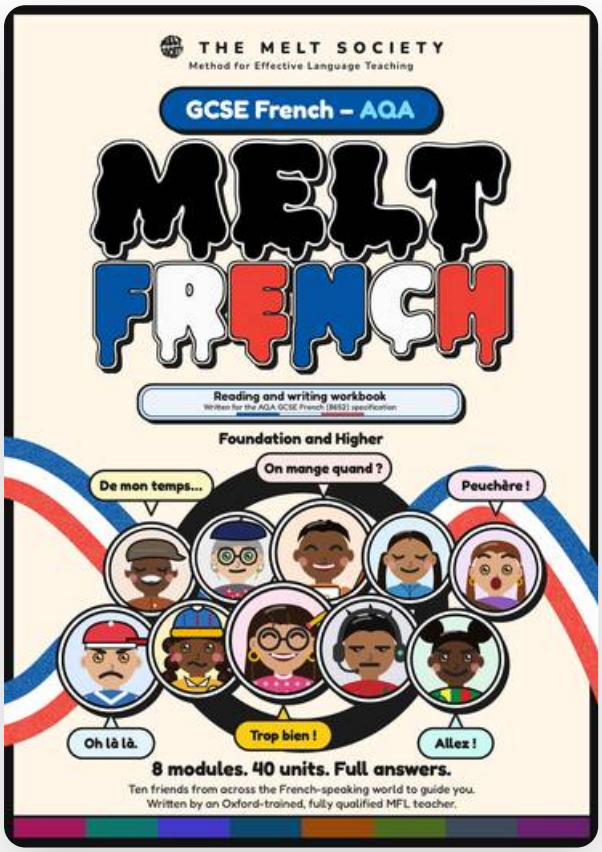
344 pages · 8 modules. 40 units. Full answers.

For AQA GCSE French (8652), Foundation and Higher



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Little and often beats one long cram. Do one unit a week, mark it with the answer key, and you'll be amazed what sticks. Small steps. Big grades.

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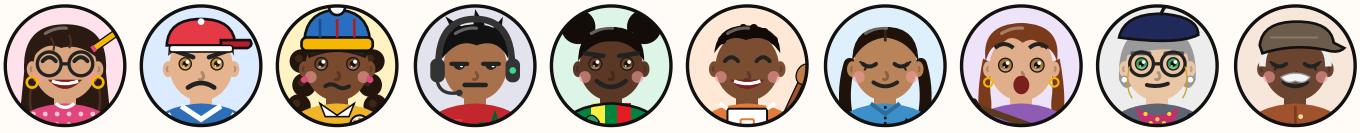

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