

Meetings: conferences, symposiums, colloquiums, workshop, etc.

Translating *colloque international* into English can be a bit confusing. You may often see “international conference”, which is what I regularly use. “International colloquium” would be an alternative. It is perhaps more correct, but also more unusual.

Here are some other words used for different types of meetings we may attend (note: *assister* in French is not “to assist” in English, which means to help). The meanings are fairly similar in English and French, except that in French *conférence* can also mean “lecture”.

Use one of the following words to match the definitions below (answers at bottom of the page).

Lecture or talk / Congress / Workshop / Webinar / Colloquium / Conference / Seminar / Symposium

1. _____: discussion of different subjects, involving lectures and group discussion, often in a graduate school. A smaller group of 15 to 20 people. It can take place on repeated occasions.
2. _____: emphasises hands-on experience and practice for exercising and learning a technique, with a possible presentation of lectures, and lasts one to three days.
3. _____: a small conference, usually in one day. It covers a single topic/subject with experts delivering a talk. (I think this could be used as a good translation of *journée d'étude*, although you can also find “study day” here.)
4. _____: usually an academic meeting at which specialists deliver addresses on a topic or on related topics and then answer questions about them.
5. _____: a larger gathering with keynote speakers and experts, who discuss and exchange views on various topics with delegates. Can be national or international.
6. _____: a larger meeting, sometimes with delegates and representatives, usually held once per year, in a particular discipline in academia.
7. _____: presentations that involve audio and video supports disseminated via Internet. There is usually an instructor or moderator. Normally audiences can participate in question and answer (Q&A) sessions.
8. _____: a presentation of a given subject given to an audience or class.

Accompanying videos: Here are two videos which you may wish to listen to. They both have Indian speakers, so you may find the accent hard to understand. But this might be useful practice too.

Dr. Manishika Jain from Jawaharlal Nehru University Delhi:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CiXCOHy070E>

Tarpan Shah presents the differences in a clear, but obvious India accent:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IC0bCuSZWhE>

Answers: 1. Seminar; 2. Workshop; 3. Symposium; 4. Colloquium; 5. Conference; 6. Congress; 7. Webinar; 8. Lecture or talk