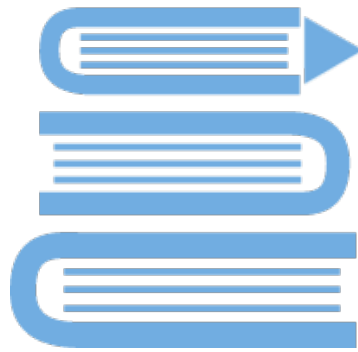


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Regular Verbs & Tenses

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Les pronoms personnels sujets (subject pronouns)

The person or thing doing the action is called the subject of the sentence. It can be a noun or a pronoun.

The French subject pronouns are:

- je = I
- tu = you (to one person, informal way)
- il = he/it
- elle = she/it
- nous = we
- vous = you (one person formal form or more than one person)
- ils = they (masculine)
- elles = they (feminine)

L'infinitif (the infinitive)

In the dictionary, the form of a verb is called the infinitive. The infinitive is the naming part of the verb.

French verbs in the infinitive have one of the following endings:

- -er ending
 - -ir ending
 - -re ending
-

Le présent (present tense)

Present tense of '-er' verbs:

- These verbs all end in '-er'. In French, the ending of a verb changes depending on the subject.
- When the subject is a mixture of masculine and feminine, you use the masculine plural pronoun (ils).

How to make -er in the present tense -

- Cross out -er. Then, add the following endings:

Je	-e	Nous	-ons
Tu	-es	Vous	-ez
Il/elle/on	-e	Ils/elles	-ent

Example of conjugated '-er' verb in present tense:

Passer (to spend time)	
Je	passe
Tu	passes
Il/elle/on	passe
Nous	passons
Vous	passez

Passer (to spend time)

Ils/elles	passent
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*If you want to make any verb negative, you must put 'ne' before the verb and 'pas' after the verb, eg. je ne passe pas

Present tense of '-ir' verbs:

How to make -ir in the present tense -

- Cross out -ir. Then, add the following endings:

Je	-is	Nous	-issons
Tu	-is	Vous	-issez
Il/elle/on	-is	Ils/elles	-issent

Example of conjugated '-ir' verb in present tense:

Finir (to finish)

Je	finis
Tu	finis
Il/elle/on	finit
Nous	finissons
Vous	finissez
Ils/elles	finissent

Present tense of '-re' verbs:

How to make -re in the present tense -

- Cross out -re. Then, add the following endings:

Je	-s	Nous	-ons
Tu	-s	Vous	-ez
Il/elle/on	No ending	Ils/elles	-ent

Example of conjugated '-re' verb in present tense:

Attendre (to wait for)

Je	attends
Tu	attends
Il/elle/on	attend
Nous	attendons
Vous	attendez
Ils/elles	attendent

Les verbes pronominaux (reflexive verbs)

Reflexive verbs are verbs which use an extra pronoun (reflexive pronoun). This pronoun refers back to the person or thing which is the subject of the verb (eg. myself, ourselves).

Example - se laver (to wash oneself):

Je me lave	I wash myself
Tu te laves	You wash yourself
Il se lave	He washes himself
Elle se lave	She washes herself
Nous nous lavons	We wash ourselves
Vous vous lavez	You wash yourself/yourselves
Ils se lavent	They wash themselves
Elles se lavent	They wash themselves

Le Futur Proche (future tense)

To make le futur proche, you use the présent of the irregular verb aller (to go) + the infinitive of the verb you need to use.

Aller:

Je vais (I go/ I am going)	Nous allons
Tu vas	Vous allez
Il va	Ils vont
Elle va	Elles vont

Example:

- Je vais manger une quiche = I am going to eat a quiche.
- Nous allons manger une quiche = we are going to eat a quiche

Le passé composé (a past tense)

This is made up of two parts - le verbe auxiliaire and le participe passé.

- The verbe auxiliaire usually is the present tense of avoir (to have). Sometimes it is être (to be).

Avoir (to have)

J'ai	I have
Tu as	You have
Il/elle a	He/she has
Nous avons	We have
Vous avez	You have
Ils/ elles ont	They have

Être(to be)

Je suis	I am
Tu es	You are
Il/elle est	He is/ she is
Nous sommes	We are
Vous êtes	You are
Ils/elles sont	They are

- The participe passé is the second part of the passé composé. To form le participe passé of a regular -er verb, you cross out the 'er' and add é (jouer - joué). To form the participe passé of a regular -ir verb, you cross out the 'ir' and add 'i' (finir - fini). To form the participe passé of a regular -re verb, you cross out 're' and add 'u' (vendre - vendu).

Examples:

- J'ai joué (I have played)
- J'ai fini (I have finished)
- J'ai vendu (I have sold)

La négation du passé composé:

- The 'ne' is put before le verbe auxiliaire and the 'pas' is put after le verbe auxiliaire eg. J'ai rangé ma chambre - je n'ai pas rangé ma chambre

*Ne needs to be shortened to n' always before a vowel

Irregular past participles

The irregular past participles still use avoir as their verbe auxiliaire

- There are no irregular past participles for -er verbs. The participe passé always ends in é
- There are a number of -ir verbs which have irregular past participles:

Avoir (to have)	eu
Devoir (to have to)	dû
Offrir (to give)	offert
Ouvrir (to open)	ouvert
Pouvoir (to be able)	pu
Voir (to see)	vu
Vouloir (to want)	voulu

- There a number of -re verbs which have participes passés irréguliers:

Boire (to drink)	bu
Dire (to say)	dit
Être (to be)	été

Boire (to drink)

bu

Faire (to do/make)	fait
Mettre (to put)	mis
Prendre (to take)	pris

Examples:

- J'ai offert un cadeau à Maman.
- J'ai fait du vélo.

Le passé composé avec 'être'

The verbs that use être as their verb auxiliare are the following:

- Aller = to go
- Arriver = to arrive
- Descendre = to go down
- Entrer = to enter
- Monter = to go up
- Mourir = to die
- Naître = to be born
- Partir = to leave
- Rester = to stay
- Retourner = to return
- Sortir = to go out
- Tomber = to fall
- Venir = to come

To form the past participles of those verbs:

- -er verbs: cross off '-er' and add é
- -ir verbs: cross off '-ir' and add i (except mourir - mort & venir - venu)
- -re verbs: cross off '-re' and add u (except naître - né)

Verbs which use être as their verbe auxiliare must agree with their subject:

1. Masculine singular - nothing changes
2. Feminine singular subject - add an 'e' to the past participle (elle est sortie)
3. Masculine plural subject - add 's' to the past participle (ils sont arrivés)
4. Feminine plural subject - add 'es' to the past participle (elles sont nées)

La forme négative:

- Put 'ne' before verbe auxiliare and 'pas' after it eg. je ne suis pas monté dans ma chambre.

Le passé composé des verbes pronominaux

Les verbes pronominaux need two pronouns (je me repose). All verbes pronominaux use être as their auxiliary verb.

- This means that their past participles need to agree with the subject of the sentence (elle s'est lavée)
- The past participles of les verbes pronominaux are formed as normal (-er verbs é, -ir verbs i, -re verbs u)
- Example (se coucher) - je me suis couché, je me suis couchée etc.

La forme négative des verbes pronominaux

Here is an example of where the 'ne' and 'pas' are placed:

- Je ne me suis pas amusé.

L'imperatif (the imperative)

When you want to give someone an order, an instruction or advice, you use the imperative form of the verb.

The imperative with 'tu' and 'vous':

- Find the second person singular (tu form) or the second person plural (vous form) of the verb in the present tense.
- Drop the words tu and vous and what you have left is the imperative.
- With all -er verbs, you also take away the final 's' from the 2nd person singular. This rule applies to irregular verbs too (except avoir and être).

Verb group	Present	Imperative
-er verbs (including aller)	Tu parles	□ Parle!
	Vous regardez	Regardez!

Verb group	Present	Imperative
-ir verbs (including irreg.)	Tu finis	□ Finis!
	Vous lisez	Lisez!

Verb group	Present	Imperative
-re verbs (including irreg.)	Tu attends □	Attends!
	Vous faites	Faites!

The imperative with 'nous':

- This is used when you want to translate 'let's do something' eg. Let's play football!
- To make this form you take the nous form of the present tense of the verb and simply drop the 'nous'.

Verb group	Present	Imperative
-er verbs	Nous parlons	□ Parlons!
-ir verbs	Nous finissons □	Finissons!
-re verbs	Nous attendons □	Attendons!
Irreg. verbs	Nous lisons □	Lisons!

Irregular verbs in l'imperatif:

- Avoir - Aie! Ayons! Ayez!
- Être - Sois! Soyons! Soyez!

Le Futur Simple

This tense is used to say what you will do tomorrow or later on, or for any action/ event that will happen.

To form this tense:

- For -er and -ir verbs you add the future endings to the infinitive (jouerai, finirai)
- For -re verbs you keep the 'r' of the infinitive but drop the 'e' and then add the future endings (vendrai)
- The endings are:

	Je	-ai
Tu		-as
Il		-a
Elle		-a
Nous		-ons
Vous		-ez
Ils		-ont
Elles		-ont

- Examples: je téléphonerai, je remplirai, j'attendrai
-

Le conditionnel

This tense is used to say:

- What would happen (I would go with you, if I had the money)
- What you would like to do (I would like to go to the cinema with you)
- Saying what you could/would be able to do (We could visit my grandparents)
- Asking politely for something (could you send me a brochure?)

The endings are:

	Je	-ais
Tu		-ais
Il		-ait
Elle		-ait
Nous		-ions
Vous		-iez
Ils		-aient
Elles		-aient

Examples:

- Je parlerais (I would speak)

- Je finirais (I would finish)
- J'apprendrais (I would learn)
- J'irais avec toi, si j'avais l'argent (I would go with you, if I had the money)

L'imparfait

This tense is used to describe:

- What was happening when... (I was going to a party when I saw the accident)
- What used to happen in the past (we used to spend Christmas with my cousins)
- What someone or something was like (the present was great)
- Feelings in the past (he was happy with the present)
- An opinion in the past (it was fabulous)

To form l'imparfait (it is the same for -er, -ir and -re verbs):

- Go to the nous form of the present tense of the verb
- Take away the nous and the -ons
- Now add the imparfait endings to what's left

The endings are:

	Je	-ais
Tu		-ais
Il		-ait
Elle		-ait
Nous		-ions
Vous		-iez
Ils		-aient
Elles		-aient

Examples (fêter = to celebrate):

- Je fêtais
- Il fêtait
- Vous fêtiez

There is one exception to these rules. When using être, the imparfait stem is 'ét-' and the imparfait endings are the same:

J'	étais	I was/used to be
Tu	étais	You were/used to be
Il	était	He was/used to be
Elle	était	She was/used to be
Nous	étions	We were/used to be
Vous	étiez	You were/used to be
Ils	étaient	They were/used to be
Elles	étaient	They were/used to be

The main French irregular verbs are on the other file, and you should learn these, along with all the above rules, all to help you with your written expression.

All the irregulars include:

- aller (to go)
- avoir (to have)
- boire (to drink)
- comprendre (to understand)
- connaître (to know- people/places)
- devoir (to have to)
- dire (to say/tell)
- écrire (to write)
- envoyer (to send)
- être (to be)
- faire (to make/do)
- lire (to read)
- mettre (to put)
- partir (to leave)
- pleuvoir (to rain)
- pouvoir (to be able to)
- prendre (to take)
- recevoir (to get/receive)
- savoir (to know - information/knowledge)
- sortir (to go out)
- tenir (to hold on)
- venir (to come)
- voir (to see)
- vouloir (to want)

*The ones underlined are the ones conjugated in the various tenses in the other file, as they are the main ones - the ones you will need constantly during your written expression.