

VERBS & TENSES

Subject pronouns

je (j') - I
 tu - you (singular)
 il - he
 elle - she
 nous - we
 vous - you (plural + polite)
 ils - they (masculine)

Infinitives

acheter (to buy)
 adorer (to love)
 aimer (to like)
 aller (to go)
 arriver (to arrive)
 attendre (to wait)
 avoir (to have)
 bavarder (to chat)
 boire (to drink)
 choisir (to choose)
 danser (to dance)
 demander (to ask)
 détester (to hate)
 dire (to say)
 écouter (to listen)
 être (to be)
 faire (to do / to make)
 finir (to finish)
 habiter (to live)
 jouer (to play)
 lire (to read)
 manger (to eat)
 mettre (to put)
 nager (to swim)
 parler (to speak)
 pêcher (to go fishing)
 perdre (to lose)
 pouvoir (to be able to)
 prendre (to take)
 regarder (to watch)
 répondre (to answer)
 rester (to stay)
 retrouver (to meet up with)
 savoir (to know)
 se laver (to have a wash)
 sortir (to go out)
 tourner (to turn)
 travailler (to work)
 trouver (to find)
 visiter (to visit a place)
 voir (to see)
 vouloir (to want)

The infinitive is the basic form of the verb (as you would find it in the dictionary). In English it starts with "to" (eg to think). In French it ends in **-er** or **-ir** or **-re** (eg jouer, finir, attendre)
The stem is the infinitive without the last two letters (eg jou.., fin.., attend..)

Present tense : what **is happening now** or **usually happens**

remove the **-er / -ir / -re** before adding the correct ending.

subject + stem + present ending
 1 2 3

Present endings: **-er verbs** **-ir verbs** **-re verbs**

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| je | ...e | ...is | ...s |
| tu | ...es | ...is | ...s |
| il/elle | ...e | ...it | ...- |
| nous | ...ons | ...issons | ...ons |
| vous | ...ez | ...issez | ...ez |
| ils/elles | ...ent | ...issent | ...ent |

exemples : Je mange une glace. (I am eating or I eat an ice-cream)
 Elle achète un CD. (She is buying or she buys a CD)
 Nicole finit ses devoirs (Nicole is finishing or finishes her homework)
 Nicole et Tom attendent le bus (Nicole and Tom are waiting or wait for the bus)

Perfect tense (past) : what **has happened**

subject + auxiliary + past participle

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|-------------|---|---|
| | avoir | or | être | use être for Mrs Van Der Tramp Verbs | -er verbs : jouer → joué |
| j' / je | ai | | suis | | -ir verbs : finir → fini |
| tu | as | | es | | -re verbs : attendre → attendu |
| il/elle | a | | est | | |
| nous | avons | | sommes | | |
| vous | avez | | êtes | | |
| ils/elles | ont | | sont | | |

Mrs Van Der Tramp Verbs:

monté (went up) tombé (fell)
 retourné (went back) resté (stayed)
 sorti (went out) arrivé (arrived)
 venu (came) mort (died)
 allé (went) parti (left)
 né (was born)
 descendu (went down)
 entré (went in)
 rentré (went home)

Irregular Past participles:

dit (said)
 écrit (wrote)
 fait (did/made)
 ouvert (opened)
 bu (drank)
 lu (read)
 vu (saw)
 eu (had)
 été (was)

exemples: J'ai mangé une glace. (I ate an ice-cream)
 Elle a acheté un CD. (she bought a CD)
 Nicole a fini ses devoirs. (Nicole finished her hwk)
 Nicole et Tom ont attendu le bus. (Nicole and Tom waited for the bus)
 Je suis allé(e) au cinéma (I went to the cinema)

Imperfect tense (past) : the **"was ...ing"**, **"were ...ing"** or **"used to"** tense

Imperfect endings: je ...ais

exemples : Je mangeais une glace. (I was eating an ice-cream or I used to eat an ice-cream)

-er & -re verbs : remove the **-er / -re** off the infinitive then add the correct imperfect ending onto it.
-ir verbs : remove the **-ir** off the infinitive, add **-iss**, then add the correct imperfect ending onto it.

tu ...ais
 il/elle ...ait
 nous ...ions
 vous ...iez
 ils/elles ...aient

Elle achetait un CD. (She was buying a CD or she used to buy a CD)
 Nicole finissait ses devoirs. (Nicole was finishing her homework or Nicole used to finish her homework)
 Nicole et Tom attendaient le bus. (Nicole and Tom were waiting for the bus or Nicole and Tom used to wait for the bus)

subject + stem + imperfect ending (for **-ir verbs**: subject + stem + **-iss** + imperfect ending)
 1 2 3 1 2 3 4

Near Future : the **"going to"** tense

Aller: je vais

exemples : Je vais manger une glace. (I'm going to eat an ice-cream)

Use the correct form of aller then the infinitive.

tu vas
 il/elle va
 nous allons
 vous allez
 ils/elles vont

Elle va acheter un CD. (She is going to buy a CD)
 Nicole va finir ses devoirs. (nicole is going to finish her homework)
 Nicole et Tom vont attendre le bus. (Nicole and Tom are going to wait for the bus)

subject + correct form of aller + infinitive
 1 2 3

Future tense : the **"will"** tense

Future endings : je ...ai

exemples : Je mangerai une glace. (I will eat an ice-cream)

-er & -ir verbs : Take the infinitive, add the correct future ending onto it.
-re verbs : remove the **-e** off the infinitive before adding the ending.

tu ...as
 il/elle ...a
 nous ...ons
 vous ...ez
 ils/elles ...ont

Elle achètera un CD. (She will buy a CD)
 Nicole finira ses devoirs. (Nicole will finish her homework)
 Nicole et Tom attendront le bus. (Nicole and Tom will wait for the bus)

subject + infinitive + future ending
 1 2 3

Conditional tense : the **"would"** tense

Conditional endings : je ...ais

exemples : Je mangerais une glace. (I would eat an ice-cream)

-er & -ir verbs : Take the infinitive, add the correct conditional ending onto it.
-re verbs : remove the **-e** off the infinitive before adding the ending.

tu ...ais
 il/elle ...ait
 nous ...ions
 vous ...iez
 ils/elles ...aient

Elle achèterait un CD. (She would buy a CD)
 Nicole finirait ses devoirs. (Nicole would finish her homework)
 Nicole et Tom attendraient le bus. (Nicole and Tom would wait for the bus)

subject + infinitive + conditional ending
 1 2 3