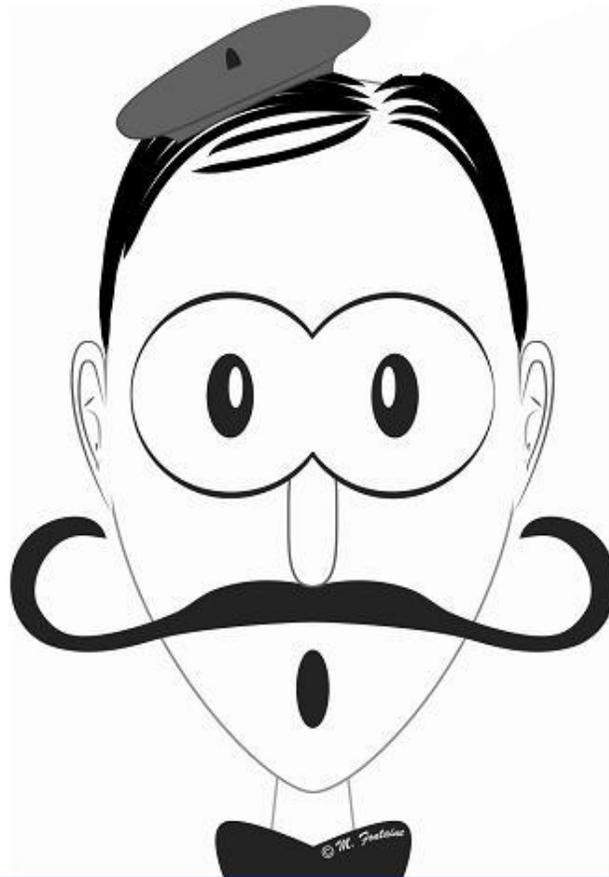


# French Verbs

*On Demand !*

chanter parler  
lire dire rire  
connaître paraître



**Robert Fontaine**

Creator of French K.I.S.S.

The fun and easy way to learn French

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## Author's Forward

In most traditional programs for learning French as a second language, teachers tend to overwhelm students with long lists of verbs that they must memorize, telling them that they must be able to remember them in order to speak fluent French.

This is complete insanity and a waste of time. My goal in creating this e-book is to prove that this is not necessary. There is a simpler and much more effective way to learn French verbs.

Since first creating my program, *French K.I.S.S. – The Fun and Easy Way to Learn French*, I have also developed my own proprietary way to master French verbs which I call: **“French Verbs On Demand!”**.

My simplified approach will allow you to successfully conjugate any French verb in your head, with no difficulty, any time or in any situation and without having to memorize long lists of verbs.

This method is striking back at all French methods which force you to conjugate verbs by repeating and memorizing long lists. This traditional way of learning verbs creates stress for the student and frustration to the point that a student eventually throws his hands up in the air, signaling his complete defeat.

Every year, students by the millions purchase copies of a little green book on French verbs. This book has been around for a very long time and the approach to learning verbs has not changed: memorize 12,000 individual verbs in all their various forms. And then.... hope that you can remember those verbs in the particular form that you need when you're trying to say something in French.

Well, good luck with that!

I'm on a mission to change all this and I'm starting with this e-book. My approach is simple, anyone can learn it, even children, and there is no need to memorize 12,000 verbs.

I've boiled the basics of French verbs down to a simple science and this e-book will explain it.

This e-book needs to replace every green verb book in the world!

Every French student NEEDS to know how really easy and simple French verbs can be.

If you find this e-book helpful, I hope you will tell everyone you know about it and help me to revolutionize how French verbs are taught.

Let's get started!

*Robert Fontaine*

## Getting Started

First of all, what does it mean to « **conjugate a verb** »? It is the ability to take an infinitive (in English it is represented by « **to...**» or the non-conjugated form of the verb and transform it so a context can be understood by the listener.

For your information, we will use the word « infinitive » and « verb » interchangeably. The infinitive in French always has an « r » on the last syllable, the equivalent of the English « to ».

Here are some basic concepts which you need to understand before we start:

- the **starting point** for conjugation must be the **infinitive**.  
Example: “*chanter*” is the infinitive of “*to sing*”
- the **French « r »** on the infinitive is equivalent of the « **to....**» in **English**.
- we will be **learning the French verbs by the number of different sounds you hear**
- **conjugating verbs is a two-step process** - the singular (I, You, He/She) and the plural (We, They)
- we will be using only **2 templates for conjugating**
- there are only 2 things to know when you want to conjugate any verb into any tense –  
1. **what is the verb?** and 2. **what is the past participle of the verb?**

Before we examine French verbs, let’s look at how English verbs behave, just for fun.

### The English template.

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate is : « **to *sing*** » in the Present

Step 2 – remove « to » from the infinitive

Step 3 – insert « **sing** » into the template

*I am sing ing*

*You are sing ing*

*He / she is sing ing*

*We are sing ing*

*You are sing ing*

*They are sing ing*

If you take any English verb, remove « to » and insert the verb root into the template, you will be able to conjugate the verb in the present tense. It is not the verb which is important to memorize, but rather the **template**.

As you can see, the verb conjugation template is very predictable. You will learn that French verbs are also highly predictable.

**The most important verb tense is the Present tense.** People are shocked to learn this because they always think they have a good handle on the Present tense. Sadly, the truth is they never learn the Present tense well enough, so this causes problems with the other verb tenses.

The most widely sold verb conjugation book on the market indicates that there are over 12,000 verbs in the French language which are divided into 84 categories. Who has the time to spend figuring out to which category a verb belongs?

I have pared down the number of categories to 11 plus the 8 most important verbs, classed together as the 12<sup>th</sup> category, for the entire French language. What is important is to look at the ending of the infinitive to determine the specific category you are seeking.

The categories you will learn are of my own creation – you will not find them in another book anywhere. What I have done is taken verbs people have thought of as « exceptions » and made them predictable when applied to the template.

Some categories will offer a slight modification to the basic template. Every verb flows out of the basic template. In other words, you must test the verb you want to conjugate against the verb template.

## Verb Categories: Category 1 – “er” verbs

The first template is for « er » verbs **ONLY**. There will only be 3 different sounds in this category.

Let’s look at the steps to successfully conjugate an « er » verb:

1. **What is the verb** I want to conjugate?
2. Decide if you want to conjugate in - the **singular**, or the **plural**
3. Perform the pattern for the singular or the plural
4. Insert what is left or the **verb root** into the template

The « er » Template in the singular is:

Je .....

Tu ..... s

Il / elle .....

Ils /Elles ....nt

**Note:** The plural « ils » and « elles » is classified as singular because the sound is the same for each subject as for il/elle in the singular. The black letters apply to the written form only, they **do not** affect the sound.

Let’s try this out with an example.

### The Singular « er » verbs

Step 1 - Our verb to conjugate is :

*“chanter”* – to sing

Step 2 - We want to conjugate it in the singular

Step 3 – Remove the « r » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 4 – We are left with the **verb root** « chante ».

Insert « chante » into: **Template # 1** below:

Je .....

Tu ..... s

Il / elle .....

Ils /Elles ....nt

**The result is :**

Je chante – sh\*ante

Tu chantes - sh\*ante

Il / elle chante - sh\*ante

Ils / elles chantent - sh\*ante

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound. The \* means you must drop your jaw to pronounce this syllable and to eliminate the consonant sound.

### **The Plural « er » verbs**

Step 1 - Our verb to conjugate is :

chanter – to sing

Step 2 - We want to conjugate in the plural

Step 3 – **Remove the « er »** which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 4 – We are left with the verb root, « chant ». Insert this into **Template # 1** below:

Nous \_\_\_\_\_ ons

Vous \_\_\_\_\_ ez

**The result is:**

Nous chantons - sh\*an t\*on

Vous chantez - sh\*an tay

Note: there are only 2 distinct sounds in the plural.

**Things to notice** in the « er » category:

- verbs in the « er » category will only have **3 sounds** – 1 in the singular and 2 in the plural
- just memorize « je » in the singular since the sound is the same for each subject
- « ils and elles » are plural, but they are pronounced the same as the singular
- there are over 8,000 verbs in this category that are **ALL conjugated in the same manner**
- 75% of all verbs used in French will come from the « er » category
- the « er » category is highly predictable

Let's put the « er » category to the test. Take the following verbs and give the 3 distinct sounds to fit the « er » verb template. Use Template # 1 each time so you do not make a mistake. Talk to yourself out loud. You might want to write the Template on an index card for future reference.

Je .....

Tu .....s

Il / elle .....

Ils / elles .....nt

Nous ..... ons

Vous .....ez

**Practice verbs ( write them correctly )**

parler - to talk                      Je

regarder - to look at              Tu

danser - to dance                    Il

habiter - to live                      Elle

laver - to wash                        Nous

marcher - to walk                    Vous

fermer - to close                      Ils

acheter - to buy                        Elles

donner - to give                        Je

monter - to go up                      Tu

Answers to the « er » Template with phonetics

**verb root** remove « r » singular

parler - **parle** - p\*al

regarder - **regarde** - re g\*a-de

danser - **danse** - d\*an-se

habiter - **habite** - ah beet

laver - **lave** - lah-ve

marcher - **marche** - m\*ash

fermer - **ferme** - f\*air-me

acheter - **achète** - ah shett

donner - **donne** - English done

monter - **monte** - m\*on-te

**verb root** remove « er » plural

**p\*arl** - p\*a l\*on, p\*a lay

**re g\*a d** - re g\*a d\*on, re g\*a day

**d\*ans** - d\*an s\*on, d\*an say

**habit** - ah bee t\*on, ah bee tay

**lav** - lah v\*on, l\*ah vay

**march** - m\*ah sh\*on, m\*ah shay

**ferm** - f\*air m\*on, f\*air may

**achet** - ash t\*on, ash tay

**donn** - doe n\*on, doe nay

**mont** - m\*on t\*on, m\*on tay

The basic « er » Template # 1 is :

**singular**

Je \_\_\_\_\_

Tu \_\_\_\_\_s

Il \_\_\_\_\_

Elle \_\_\_\_\_

Ils \_\_\_\_\_nt

Elles \_\_\_\_\_nt

**plural**

Nous \_\_\_\_\_ons

Vous \_\_\_\_\_ez

To continue on, let's examine the **Template # 2** which we use for all verbs other than « er » verbs. There will be 10 other categories of verbs which must be looked at from the basic Template # 1. Sometimes there will be a slight modification in a particular category. The modifications **usually** occur in the plural form. This is what you must remember.

**The generic Template # 2 is:**

<b>singular</b>	<b>plural</b>
Je ..... s	Nous ..... ( ) ons
Tu ..... s	Vous ..... ( ) ez
Il ..... t	Ils ..... ( ) ent
Elle ..... t	Elles ..... ( ) ent

Note: Generic **Template # 2** is used for the writing form, but you need to focus on the number of different sounds.

## Verb Categories: Category 2 – “ir” verbs

This category is called the « **ir** » – Mississippi » category

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is : finir – to finish

Step 2 – remove the « **r** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « fini »

Step 4 – insert « fini » into the empty spaces of the generic Template # 2 below:

Je \_\_\_\_\_ s

Tu \_\_\_\_\_ s

Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ t

**The result is:**

Je finis – fee **knee**

Tu finis - fee **knee**

Il / elle finit - fee **knee**

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: finir – to finish

Step 2 – remove the « **r** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « fini »

Step 4 – since we **MUST** attach « ons », « ez » and « ent » to the consonant of the **verb root**, we have a problem finishing the conjugation therefore:

Step 5 - add ( **ss** ) to the plural generic # 2 Template as shown below:

Nous ..... ( **ss** ) ons

Vous ..... ( **ss** ) ez

Ils / elles ..... ( **ss** ) ent

**The result is:**

Nous finissons - fee knee **s\*on**

Vous finissez - fee knee **say**

Ils / elles finissent - fee **niece**

Note: there are only **3 distinct sounds** in the plural.

Things to notice in the « **ir** » category:

- this category is called the « **ir - Mississippi** » Can you figure out why ?
- We need to attach « ons, ez and ent » to a consonant in the plural, in this case « **ss** »
- there are 4 sounds: 1 for the singular and 3 for the plural

Practice « ir » Mississippi verbs

choisir - to choose	Il
accomplir - to accomplish	Elle
grandir - to grow bigger	Nous
agir - to act or behave	Vous
réfléchir - to reflect on	Ils
salir - to dirty	Elles
établir - to establish	Je
fournir - to provide	Tu
remplir - to refill	Il

Answers for « **category 2** » generic Template # 2 - « **ir** » Mississippi verbs

**verb root** remove « r » singular + **s, s, t**

choisir - **choisi** - shwah zee

accomplir - **accompli** - ah c\*om plee

grandir - **grandi** - gr\*an dee

agir - **agi** - ah jee

réfléchir - **réfléchi** - ray flay shee

salir - **sali** - sah lee

établir - **établi** - ay tah blee

fournir - **fourni** - foo\*r knee

remplir - **rempli** - r\*em plee

**verb root** remove « r » + **ss** plural + **ons, ez, ent**

**choisiss** - shwah zee s\*on / say / zeese

**accompliss** - ah c\*om plee s\*on/say/pleese

**grandiss** - gr\*an dee s\*on / say / deese

**agiss** - ah jee s\*on / say / jeese

**réfléchiss** - ray flay shee s\*on/say/sheese

**saliss** - sah lee s\*on / say / lease

**établiss** - ay tah blee s\*on / say / bleese

**fourniss** - foo\*r knee s\*on/say/ niece

**rempliss** - r\*em plee s\*on/ say/pleese

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications **bold black**

Je \_\_\_\_\_s

Nous \_\_\_\_\_**ss**ons

Tu \_\_\_\_\_s

Vous \_\_\_\_\_**sse**z

Il \_\_\_\_\_t

Ils \_\_\_\_\_**ssent**

Elle \_\_\_\_\_t

Elles \_\_\_\_\_**ssent**

## Verb Categories: Category 3 – “re” verbs

This category is called the « **re** » verbs

Before examining this category, it must be noted that all of the following categories are part of the « **re** » category even if the verb does not end in « **re** ». This is what I call the garbage can of the language. This is where we find the « exceptions », as determined by French educators. I choose to believe that there are no exceptions, just slight modifications. They all use Template # 2.

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: vendre – to sell

Step 2 – remove the « **re** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « vend »

Step 4 – insert « vend » into the empty spaces of the generic Template # 2 below:

Je \_\_\_\_\_ s  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_ s  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ **d=t**

**The result is :**

Je vends – v\*en

Tu vends - v\*en

Il / elle vend - v\*en

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

Special note: If a **verb root** ends in « **d** », you will never add a « t » to « il » and « elle », therefore, with verbs in the singular ending in « d », we can say « **d = t** »

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: vendre – to sell

Step 2 – remove the « **re** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the verb root, « **vend** »

Step 4 –we need to attach « ons », « ez » and « ent » to the consonant of the **verb root** as seen below:

Nous ..... ( ) ons

Vous ..... ( ) ez

Ils / elles ..... ( ) ent

**The result is:**

Nous vendons - v\*en **d\*on**

Vous vendez - v\*en **day**

Ils / elles vendent - **v\*en-de**

Things to notice in the « **re** » category:

- the Template did not change except for « il and elle ». When you remove the « **re** » and are left with a « **d** », you **MUST NOT** use the « t »
- there are 4 sounds: 1 for the singular and 3 for the plural

Practice « re » verbs

rendre - to render	Elle
perdre - to lose	Nous
défendre - to defend, prohibit	Vous
correspondre - to correspond	Ils
confondre - to confuse	Elles
fendre - to split	Je
dépendre - to rely on	Tu
tondre - to mow	Il
mordre - to bite	Elle
pendre - to hang	Nous

Answers « **category 3** » Template # 2 - « **re** » verbs

**verb root** remove « **re** » singular + **s, s, -**

**verb root** remove « **re** » plural + **ons, ez, ent**

rendre - **rend** - r\*en

**rend** - r\*en d\*on / day/r\*en-de

perdre - **perd** - p\*air

**perd** - p\*air d\*on / day/ p\*air-de

défendre - **défend** - day f\*en

**défend** - day f\*en d\*on/day/ f\*en-de

correspondre - **correspond** - coe ress p\*on **correspond** -coe ress p\*on/d\*on day/p\*on-de

confondre - **confond** - c\*on f\*on

**confond** - c\*on f\*on/d\*on/day/f\*on-de

fendre - **fend** - f\*en

**fend** - f\*en /d\*on / day /f\*en-de

dépendre - **dépend** - day p\*en

**dépend** - day p\*en/d\*on/day/p\*en-de

tondre - **tond** - t\*on

**tond** - t\*on / d\*on / day / t\*on-de

mordre - **mord** - m\*ore

**mord** - m\*ore /d\*on/day/ m\*ore-de

pendre - **pend** - p\*en

**pend** - p\*en / d\*on/day / p\*en-de

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modification in **bold black**

Je \_\_\_\_\_ s

Nous \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) ons

Tu \_\_\_\_\_ s

Vous \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) ez

Il \_\_\_\_\_ **no t**

Ils \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) ent

Elle \_\_\_\_\_ **no t**

Elles \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) ent

Note : verb root with « **d** » = « **t** »

## Verb Categories: Category 4 – “Vienna” verbs

This category contains all verbs ending in « **enir** » and are identified as «**Vienna** » verbs

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: **venir** – to come

Step 2 – remove the « **r** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – the « **i** » jumps in front of the « **e** ». We are left with the **verb root** « vien »

Step 4 – insert « vien » into the empty spaces of the generic Template # 2

Je \_\_\_\_\_ s

Tu \_\_\_\_\_ s

Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ t

**The result is :**

Je vien s - vee-\*in

Tu vien s - vee-\*in

Il / elle vien t - vee-\*in

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

**Special note:** the « **i** » jumps in front of the « **e** » in this category

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: **venir** – to come

Step 2 – remove the « **r** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « ven »

Step 4 – we need to attach « ons », « ez » to the consonant of the **verb root**

Nous ..... ( ) ons

Vous ..... ( ) ez

Ils / elles ..... ( ) ent

**The result is :**

Nous venons - ve **n\*on**

Vous venez - ve **nay**

Step 5 - we use the singular **verb root** in the plural and double the « n »

Ils / elles viennent - **V N**

Things to notice in the « **enir** – Vienna » category:

- in the singular, when you remove the « r », the « i » jumps in front of the « e »
- in the plural, the « nous and vous » are regular, but the « ils and elles » forms revert back to « **Vienna** ». The « i » jumps in front of the « e » and the « n » is doubled



Answers « **category 4** » Template # 2 - « **enir** » Vienna verbs

**verb root** ien singular + s, s, t

tenir - tien - tee - y\*in

revenir - revien - re vee-y\*in

devenir - devien - de vee-y\*in

maintenir - maintien - m\*in tee-y\*in

retenir - retien - re tee-y\*in

soutenir - soutien - soo tee-y\*in

**verb root** remove « ir » plural + **ons, ez, ent**

ten - / n\*on / nay / T- N

reven - re ve / n\*on/ nay/ re V -N

deven - de ve / n\*on/ nay/ de V-N

mainten - m\*in te /n\*on/ nay/ m\*in T-N

reten - re te / n\*on/ nay/ re T-N

souten - soo te / n\*on/ nay/ soo T-N

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications in **bold black**

Je \_\_\_\_ ie \_\_\_\_\_ s

Tu \_\_\_\_ ie \_\_\_\_\_ s

Il \_\_\_\_ ie \_\_\_\_\_ t

Elle \_\_\_\_ ie \_\_\_\_\_ t

Nous \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) ons

Vous \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) ez

Ils \_\_\_\_ ien \_\_\_\_\_ (n) ent

Elles \_\_\_\_ ien \_\_\_\_\_ (n) ent

Note: the « i » jumps in front of the « e » in the singular and plural and the « n » doubles in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural, « ils » and « elles »

## Verb Categories: Category 5 – “no T” or “T minus 1” verbs

### This category is made of the « no T » or « T minus 1 » verbs

Whenever a verb ends in a « t » on the last syllable, you are in the « **no T** » category. In this category, you must **always subtract 1 « t » in the singular**. This means you will **never** find a « t » in the « je and tu » forms of the verb.

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: partir – to leave for

Step 2 – remove the « **tir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the verb root, « **par** »

Step 4 – insert « **par** » into the empty spaces of the generic Template # 2 :

Je \_\_\_\_\_ s  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_ s  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ t

**The result is :**

Je pars - p\*ar

Tu pars - p\*ar

Il / elle part - p\*ar

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other pronoun subject in the singular is also the same sound.

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: partir – to leave for

Step 2 – remove the « **ir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **part** »

Step 4 –we need to attach « ons », « ez » and « ent » to the consonant of the **verb root** below:

Nous ..... ( ) ons

Vous ..... ( ) ez

Ils / elles ..... ( ) ent

**The result is:**

Nous partons - p\*ar t\*on

Vous partez - p\*ar tay

Ils / elles partent - p\*ar-te

Things to notice in the « no T » category:

- the « **no T - T minus 1** » rule applies to **the singular only**, everything else is regular. Here is a simple rule - if the verb ends in a « t » on the last syllable, **subtract 1 « t »** which means you will have no « t »
- if a verb ends in « vir » or « mir », they will behave like a « **no T** » which means you will take away the « v » or « m » as if it were a « t »

Practice « no T » verbs

sentir - to feel or smell      Elle

dormir - to sleep              Nous

servir - to serve              Vous

mentir - to lie                Ils

repentir - to repent          Elles

sortir - to go out             Je

Answers « **category 5** » Template # 2 - « no **T** » verbs

**verb root** remove **tir, mir, vir** singular + **s, s, t**

sentir - **sen** - s\*en

dormir - **dor** - d\*or

servir - **ser** - s\*air

mentir - **men** - m\*en

repentir - **repen** - re p\*en

sortir - **sor** - s\*ore

**verb root** remove « **ir** » plural + **ons, ez, ent**

**sent** - s\*en / t\*on/ tay/ s\*en-te

**dorm** - d\*or / m\*on/ may/ d\*orm

**serv** - s\*air/ v\*on/ vay/ s\*air-ve

**ment** - m\*en/ t\*on/ tay/m\*en-te

**repent** - re p\*en/ t\*on/ tay/ re p\*en-te

**sort** - s\*ore / t\*on/ tay/ s\*or-te

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modification **bold black**

Je \_\_\_\_\_s **no T, m or v**

Nous \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) ons

Tu \_\_\_\_\_s **no T, m or v**

Vous \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) ez

Il \_\_\_\_\_t

Ils \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) ent

Elle \_\_\_\_\_t

Elles \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) ent

Note: you can never find a « **t** » in the first and second person singular  
Verbs ending in « **mir** » and « **vir** » behave like « no **T** » verbs

## Verb Categories: Category 6 – “aître” verbs

This category contains « **aître** - Mississippi » verbs

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is : **connaître** – to know someone

Step 2 – remove the « **tre** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **connai** »

Step 4 – insert « **connai** » into the empty spaces of the generic Template # 2:

Je \_\_\_\_\_ s  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_ s  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ t

**The result is :**

Je connais - coe nè

Tu connais - coe nè

Il / elle connaît - coe nè

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in the plural is : **connaître** – to know someone

Step 2 – remove the « **tre** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **connai** »

Step 4 –we need to attach « **ons** », « **ez** » to the consonant of the **verb root**

Step 5 - Add « **ss** » to Template # 2 below:

Nous ..... (ss) ons

Vous ..... (ss) ez

Ils ..... (ss) ent

Elles ..... (ss) ent

**The result is:**

Nous connaissons - coe nay s\*on

Vous connaissez - coe nay say

Ils / elles connaissent - coe ness

Things to notice in the « **âitre** - Mississippi » category:

- in the singular, you must put the accent « ^ » when the « i » is in front of the « t »
- this category is also a subset of the « no T » category, therefore « no T » in the « je and tu » forms
- note: verbs ending in « **ôitre** » are also in this category

Practice « **aître** » Mississippi verbs

paraître - to appear      Tu

disparaître - to disappear      Nous

accroître - to increase      Elle

N.B. : This category is extremely small.

Answers « **category 6** » Template # 2 - « **âtre** » Mississippi verbs

**verb root** remove « **tre** » singular + **s, s, î**t

paraître - **parai** - pah rè

disparaître - **disparai** - dis pah rè

accroître - **accroi** - ah craw

**verb root** remove « **tre** » + **ss** plural + **ons, ez, ent**

**paraiss** - pah rè /s\*on/say/ pah ress

**disparaiss** - pah rè /s\*on/say/ dis pah ress

**accroiss** - ah craw/s\*on/say/ ah craw-se

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications **bold black**

Je \_\_\_\_\_s

Tu \_\_\_\_\_s

Il \_\_\_\_\_**^**t

Elle \_\_\_\_\_**^**t

Nous \_\_\_\_\_ (**ss**) ons

Vous \_\_\_\_\_ (**ss**) ez

Ils \_\_\_\_\_ (**ss**)ent

Elles \_\_\_\_\_ (**ss**)ent

Note: In this category, you will always find a « **î** » when in front of a « **t** »

## Verb Categories: Category 7 – “indre - Gn” verbs

This category contains - « **indre – Gn** » verbs

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: **craindre** – to fear

Step 2 – remove the « **dre** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **crain** »

Step 4 – insert « **crain** » into the empty spaces of the generic Template # 2:

Je \_\_\_\_\_ s

Tu \_\_\_\_\_ s

Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ t

**The result is :**

Je **crains** - cr\*ain

Tu **crains** - cr\*ain

Il / elle **craint** - cr\*ain

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: **craindre** – to fear

Step 2 – remove the « **dre** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **crain** », add « **G** » in front of the « **n** »

Step 4 – we need to attach « ons », « ez » to the consonant of the **verb root**

Nous ..... ( gn ) ons

Vous ..... ( gn ) ez

Ils /elles.....( gn ) ent

**The result is:**

Nous craignons - cray **gn\*on**

Vous craignez - cray **gn\*ay**

Ils / elles craignent - **cray-gne**

Things to notice in the « aindre - **Gn** » category:

- the **Gn** applies to the plural only
- note: verbs ending in « **oindre** » and « **eindre** » are also in this category
- verbs in this category will behave like a « no **T** », therefore, remove « **dre** »

Practice « **Gn** » verbs

**peindre** - to paint                    Nous

**atteindre** - to achieve                Vous

**éteindre** - to extinguish            Ils

**joindre** - to join                        Elles

**teindre** - to dye                        Je

**feindre** - to pretend                 Tu

Answers « **category 7** » Template # 2 - « **indre** » Gn verbs

**verb root** remove « **dre** » singular + **s**, **s**, **tverb root** remove « **dre** » + gn plural + **ons, ez, ent**

peindre - **pein** - p\*in

**peign** - pay /gn\*on/gn\*ay/ pay-gne

atteindre - **attein** - ah t\*in

**atteign** - ah tay /gn\*on/gn\*ay/ ah tay-gne

éteindre - **étein** - ay t\*in

**éteign** - ay tay /gn\*on/gn\*ay/ ay tay-gne

joindre - **join** - jw\*in

**joign** - jw\*in/gn\*on/gn\*ay/ jw\*in-gne

teindre - **tein** - t\*in

**teign** - t\*in/gn\*on/gn\*ay/ t\*in-gne

feindre - **fein** - f\*in

**feign** - f\*in/gn\*on/gn\*ay/ f\*in-gne

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modification in **bold black**

Je \_\_\_\_\_s

Nous \_\_\_\_\_ (**gn**)ons

Tu \_\_\_\_\_s

Vous \_\_\_\_\_ (**gn**) ez

Il \_\_\_\_\_t

Ils \_\_\_\_\_ (**gn**) ent

Elle \_\_\_\_\_t

Elles \_\_\_\_\_ (**gn**) ent

Note: verbs that end in « **aindre** », « **eindre** » and « **oindre** » are all found in this category

## Verb Categories: Category 8 – “y = i” verbs

This category contains « y = i » verbs

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in the singular is: voir – to see

Step 2 – remove the « r » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « voi » generic Template # 2 below:

Je \_\_\_\_\_ s  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_ s  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ t

**The result is:**

Je vois - vw\*ah

Tu vois - vw\*ah

Il / elle voit - vw\*ah

Ils / elles voient - vw\*ah

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound. The plural, « **voient** » is in my world categorized as a singular sound.

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: voir – to see

Step 2 – remove the « r » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « voi »

Step 4 –we need to attach « ons », « ez » to the consonant of the verb root, therefore, change the « i » to « y ».

Nous .....( y ) ons

Vous .....(y) ez

**The result is:**

Nous voyons - vw\*ah **y\*on**

Vous voyez - vw\*ah **y\*ay**

Things to notice in the « **y** = i » category:

- the « i » changes to « **y** » in the « nous » and « vous » forms only
- if you have a verb such as « employer » it is conjugated just like « voir » except the endings are from the « **er** » category:

J'emploie

Tu emploies

Il emploie

Elle emploie

Ils emploient

Elles emploient

Nous employons

Vous employez

- there are **only 3 sounds** in this category, just like the « **er** » category

**Practice:** « y = i »verbs

renvoyer - to send again      Il

revoir - to see again      Elle

envoyer - to send      Nous

Answers: « **category 8** » Template # 2 - « **y = i** » verbs

**verb root** remove the « r » singular + **s, s, t, ent**    **verb root** remove « r » + **y** plural + **ons, ez**

renvoyer - **renvoi** - r\*en vw\*ah

**renvoy**- r\*en vw\*ah / y\*on / yay

revoir - **revoi** - re vw\*ah

**revoy** - re vw\*ah / y\*on / yay

envoyer - **envoi** - \*en vw\*ah

**envoy** - re vw\*ah / y\*on / yay

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modification in **bold black**

Je \_\_\_\_\_s

Tu \_\_\_\_\_s

Il \_\_\_\_\_t

Nous \_\_\_\_\_(**y**) ons

Elle \_\_\_\_\_t

Vous \_\_\_\_\_(**y**) ez

Ils \_\_\_\_\_ent

Elles \_\_\_\_\_ent

Special note: the « **y** » is only used in the « nous » and « vous » forms.  
This category has only 3 sounds. The category is very small.

## Verb Categories: Category 9 – “s or v” verbs

This category contains « **s** or **v** » verbs

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: **lire** – to read

Step 2 – remove the « **re** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **li** »

Step 4 – insert « **li** » into the empty spaces of the generic Template # 2:

Je \_\_\_\_\_ s

Tu \_\_\_\_\_ s

Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ t

**The result is :**

Je **lis** - lee

Tu **lis** - lee

Il / elle **lit** - lee

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: **lire** – to read

Step 2 – remove the « **re** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **li** »

Step 4 –we need to attach « **ons** », « **ez** » to the consonant of the **verb root**, therefore, add an « **s** » to Template # 2 below:

Nous ..... ( **s** ) ons

Vous ..... ( **s** ) ez

Ils / elles ..... ( **s** ) ent

**The result is :**

Nous lisons - lee **z\*on**

Vous lisez - lee **z\*ay**

Ils / elles lisent - **lise**

Things to notice in the « **s** or **v** » category:

- if the infinitive ends in « **ire** », you will use the « **s** » in the plural
- if the infinitive ends in « **rire** » such as « **écrire** », you will use the « **v** » in the plural

Practice « **s** or **v** » verbs

inscrire (v) - to register	Vous
conduire (s) - to drive	Ils
traduire (s) - to translate	Elles
prescrire (v) - to prescribe	Je
souscrire (v) - to subscribe	Tu
introduire (s) - to introduce	Il
produire (s) - to produce	Elle
transcrire (v) - to transcribe	Nous
instruire (s) - to instruct	Vous
construire (s) - to construct	Ils

Answers « **category 9** » Template # 2 - « **s / v** » verbs

**verb root** remove « **re** » singular + **s, s, t**

**verb root** remove « **re** » + **s** or **v** plural + **ons, ez, ent**

inscrire (v) - inscri - \*in scree

inscriv - \*in scree / v\*on/ vay / \*in scree-ve

conduire (s) - condui - c\*on dwee

conduis - c\*on dwee/ z\*on/ zay / c\*on dwee-ze

traduire (s) - tradui - trah dwee

traduis - trah dwee/ z\*on/ zay / trah dwee-ze

prescrire (v) - prescri - prè scree

prescriv - prè scree/ v\*on/ vay / prè scree-ve

souscrire (v) - souscri - soo scree

souscriv - soo scree/ v\*on/ vay / soo scree-ve

introduire (s) - introdui - \*in troh dwee

introduis - \*introhdwee/ z\*on/ zay / \*in trohdwee-ze

produire (s) - produi - proh dwee

produis - proh dwee/ z\*on/ zay / proh dwee-ze

transcrire (v) - transcri - tr\*an scree

transcriv - tr\*an scree/ v\*on/ vay / tr\*an scree-ve

instruire (s) - instrui - \*in strwee

instruis - \*in strwee/ z\*on/ zay / \*In strwee-ze

construire (s) - construi - c\*on strwee

construis - c\*on strwee/ z\*on/ zay / c\*on strwee-ze

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modification **bold black**

Je \_\_\_\_\_s

Nous \_\_\_\_\_( **s / v** ) ons

Tu \_\_\_\_\_s

Vous \_\_\_\_\_( **s / v** ) ez

Il \_\_\_\_\_t

Ils \_\_\_\_\_( **s / v** ) ent

Elle \_\_\_\_\_t

Elles \_\_\_\_\_( **s / v** ) ent

Note: If the infinitive ends in « **ire** », use the « **s** ». If it ends in « **rire** », use the « **v** »  
You will notice in the phonetics that the « **s** » is pronounced as a « **z** ».

## Verb Categories: Category 10 – “double TT” verbs

This category contains « double **TT** » verbs

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** i : **mettre** – to put, put on

Step 2 – remove the « **tre** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **met** »

Step 4 – insert « **met** » into the empty spaces of the generic Template # 2 below :

Je \_\_\_\_\_s  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_s  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_

**The result is :**

Je **met**s - mèt  
Tu **met**s - mèt  
Il / elle **met** - mèt

the « **t** » of s, s, **t** is not required

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound. The « il » and « elle » forms do not require the « **t** » because the **verb root** already has it. **Remember, if a verb has a « t » subtract 1 « T ».**

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: **mettre** – to put, put on

Step 2 – remove the « **re** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **mett** »

Step 4 –we need to attach « ons », « ez » to the consonant of the verb root.

Nous ..... ( ) ons

Vous ..... ( ) ez

Ils /elles ..... ( ) ent

**The result is:**

Nous mettons - me **t\*on**

Vous mettez - me **t\*ay**

Ils / elles mettent - **met**

Things to notice in the « double **TT** » category:

- if an infinitive has 2 t's, subtract one and proceed in a normal fashion
- any verb ending with a « t », always subtract one « t » and proceed as normal

Practice « **TT** » verbs

admettre - to admit	Elles
mettre - to put, put on	Je
commettre - to commit	Tu
omettre - to omit	Il
promettre - to promise	Elle
transmettre - to transmit	Nous
permettre - to allow	Vous
soumettre - to submit	Ils

Answers « **category 10** » template - « **TT** » verbs

**verb root** remove « **tre** » singular + **s, s,** - **verb root** remove « **re** » plural + **ons, ez, ent**

admettre - **admet** - add mè

**admett** - add me /t\*on/tay/ add mette

mettre - **met** - mè

**mett** - me /t\*on/tay/ mette

commettre - **commet** - coe mè

**commett** - coe me/t\*on/tay/ coe mette

omettre - **omet** - oh mè

**omett** - oh me /t\*on/tay/oh mette

promettre - **promet** - pro mè

**promett** - pro me /t\*on/tay/ proh mette

transmettre - **transmet** - tr\*an-ze mè

**transmett** - tr\*an-ze me/t\*on/tay/tr\*an-ze mette

permettre - **permet** - p\*air mè

**permett** - p\*air me /t\*on/tay/ p\*air mette

soumettre - **soumet** - soo mè

**soumett** - soo me/t\*on/tay/ soo mette

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications in **bold black**

Je \_\_\_\_\_ s **drop 1 T**

Nous \_\_\_\_\_ ons

Tu \_\_\_\_\_ s **drop 1 T**

Vous \_\_\_\_\_ ez

Il \_\_\_\_\_ **T already exists**

Ils \_\_\_\_\_ ent

Elle \_\_\_\_\_ **T already exists**

Elles \_\_\_\_\_ ent

Note: If an infinitive has a « **t** » in the last syllable, **always remove 1 « t »**, therefore, if there are 2 « **t**'s », you will have 1 remaining « **t** ». Note the difference between the « **no T** » category and the « **TT** » category.

## Verb Categories: Category 11 – “rir” verbs

This category contains « **rir** » verbs – conjugated like an « **er** » verb

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: ouvrir – to open

Step 1 – remove the « **ir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 2 – we are left with the **verb root** « ouvr »

Step 3 – insert « ouvr » into the empty spaces of the « **er** » Template # 1

Je \_\_\_\_\_ e  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_ es  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ e  
Ils / elles \_\_\_\_\_ ent

**The result is :**

J' ouvre - oo-vre  
Tu ouvres - oo-vre  
Il / elle ouvre - oo-vre  
Ils / elles ouvrent - oo-vre

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: ouvrir – to open

Step 2 – remove the « **ir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « ouvr »

Step 4 –we need to attach « ons », « ez » to the consonant of the **verb root**

Nous .....( ) ons

Vous .....( ) ez

**The result is:**

Nous ouvrons - oo **vr\*on**

Vous ouvrez - oo **vr\*ay**

Things to notice in the « **rir** » category:

- **it follows the « er » template to the letter**
- like an « er » verb, there are **only 3 sounds**
- there are only 3 categories which have 3 sounds : « **er** », « **y = i** » and « **rir** »

Practice « **rir** » verbs

offrir - to offer                      Elles

découvrir - to discover              Je

couvrir - to cover                      Tu

rouvrir - to reopen                    Il

souffrir - to suffer                      Nous

Answers « **category 11** » template - « **rir** » verbs are **conjugated like an « er » verb**

**verb root** remove « ir » singular + **e, es, e, ent**

**verb root** remove « ir » plural + **ons, ez**

découvrir - **découvr** - day coo-vre

**découvr** - day coo /vr\*on/ vr\*ay/ day coo-vre

couvrir - **couvr** - coo-vre

**couvr** - coo /vr\*on/ vr\*ay/ coo-vre

rouvrir - **rouvr** - roo-vre

**rouvr** - roo /vr\*on/ vr\*ay/ roo-vre

souffrir - **souffr** - soo-fre

**souffr** - soo /fr\*on/ fr\*ay/ soo-fre

### The basic « er » **Template # 1**

Je \_\_\_\_\_e

Tu \_\_\_\_\_es

Il \_\_\_\_\_e

Nous \_\_\_\_\_ons

Elle \_\_\_\_\_e

Vous \_\_\_\_\_ez

Ils \_\_\_\_\_ent

Elles \_\_\_\_\_ent

**Special note** : there are **5** « **ir** » **category verbs**:

1. « **ir** – Mississippi »
2. « **enir** – Vienna »
3. « no T »
4. « **y = i** »
5. « **rir** »

Students always ask how they can identify a **Mississippi** verb. The best way is to test the first person singular. If it ends in the sound « **ee** », it is **Mississippi**.

For example:

1. « **ir** – Mississippi » finir – Je finis – je fee **knee**
2. « **enir** – Vienna » venir – Je viens – je vee **y\*in**
3. « no **T** » partir – je pars – je **p\*ar**
4. « **y = i** » voir – je vois – je **vw\*ah**
5. « **rir** » ouvrir – j’ouvre - **joo-vre**

## Verb Categories: Category 12 – “The 8 most important ” verbs

### The « 8 most important verbs »

These verbs have been grouped together because they are the verbs which must be memorized since they are classified as « exceptions » in most grammar books. In this group of eight verbs, **être, avoir and aller MUST** be memorized because there is very little which conforms to Template # 2.

#### « 8 most important verb # 1 – être »

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is : être – to be

Step 2 – remove everything

Step 3 – use generic Template # 2

Je \_\_\_\_\_s  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_s  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_t

**The result is :**

Je **suis** - swee  
Tu **es** - è  
Il / elle **est** - è

Note: there are 2 distinct sounds in the singular, one for you and one for everyone else

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications in **bold black**

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: être – to be

Step 2 – remove everything

Step 3 – memorize the conjugated forms

Nous ..... ( ) ons

Vous ..... ( ) ez

Ils / elles..... ( ) ent

**The result is:**

Nous **sommes** - **sum**

Vous **êtes** - **ette**

Ils / elles **sont** - **s\*on**

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications in **bold black**

Things to notice about « être »:

- there is nothing regular about this verb
- the accent « ^ » represents an « s » For example, « être », in old French, would have been written « estre » so when you remove the « re » you are left with « est », therefore, « il est » and « elle est ». For « tu », we know it always ends in « s », therefore, you must remove « tre » from « estre » - tu es
- there are **5 sounds in the present** : 2 in the singular and 3 in the plural

## « 8 most important verb # 2 – avoir »

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: avoir – to have

Step 2 – remove the « **voir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « a »

Step 4 – insert « a » into the empty spaces of generic Template # 2:

Je \_\_\_\_\_s  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_s  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_t

**The result is:**

J'ai - jay  
Tu as - ah  
Il / elle a - ah  
**no T required**

Note: there are 2 distinct sounds in the singular, one for you and one for everyone else

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications in **bold black**

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: avoir – to have

Step 2 – remove the « **oir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **av** »

Step 4 – we need to attach « ons », « ez » to the consonant of the **verb root**

Nous ..... ( ) ons

Vous ..... ( ) ez

Ils / elles ..... ( ) ent

**The result is:**

Nous avons - ah **v\*on**

Vous avez - ah **v\*ay**

Ils / elles **ont** - **\*on**

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications in **bold black**

Things to notice about « avoir »:

- the singular is very irregular. We do keep the « a ». « Tu » always has an « s ».
- the plural is regular for « nous » and « vous »
- the plural « ils » and « elles » end in « **ont** » not to be confused with the « être » plural « sont »
- there are also **5 sounds in this verb**

## « 8 most important verb # 3 – aller »

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: aller – to go

Step 2 – remove everything

Step 3 – memorize the conjugated form

Je \_\_\_\_\_s

Tu \_\_\_\_\_s

Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_t

**The result is:**

Je **vais** - vè

Tu **vas** - v\*ah

Il / elle **va** - v\*ah

Note: there are 2 distinct sounds in the singular, one for you and one for everyone else

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications in **bold black**

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: aller – to go

Step 2 – remove the « **er** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **all** »

Step 4 – we need to attach « ons », « ez » to the consonant of the **verb root**

Nous ..... ( ) ons

Vous ..... ( ) ez

Ils ..... ( ) ent

Elles ..... ( ) ent

**The result is :**

Nous allons - ah **I\*on**

Vous allez - ah **I\*ay**

Ils / elles **vont** - **v\*on**

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications in **bold black**

Things to notice about « **aller** »:

- the singular is very irregular; however, we have « s » on « vais » and « vas »
- notice that we are using « **avoir** » in the present to be the verb root of the conjugation
- the plural is regular for « nous » and « vous »
- the plural « ils » and « elles » end in « **ont** »
- **the « v » plays an important part in the conjugation**
- there are also **5 sounds in this verb**

**special note** : « **être** », « **avoir** » and « **aller** » are the only verbs in the French language which have **5 sounds**

## « 8 most important verb # 4 – faire »

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: faire – to make, do

Step 2 – remove the « **re** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « fai »

Step 4 – insert « fai » into the empty spaces of generic Template # 2:

Je \_\_\_\_\_s  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_s  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_t

**The result is:**

Je fais - fè  
Tu fais - fè  
Il / elle fait - fè

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

The basic Template # 2 is in black and there are no modifications in the singular

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: faire – to make, do

Step 2 – remove the « **re** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « fai »

Step 4 – we need to attach « ons », « ez » to the consonant of the **verb root**, therefore, add an « s » since the verb ends in « ire »

Nous ..... ( ) ons

Vous ..... ( ) ez

Ils / elles ..... ( ) ent

**The result is :**

Nous faisons - fe **z\*on**

Vous faites - **fette**

Ils / elles **font** - **f\*on**

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications in **bold black**

Things to notice about « faire »:

- the singular is highly regular
- **the plural - « vous » needs to be memorized**
- faire is also a « s or v » category verb because it ends in « **ire** »
- there are 4 sounds

**special note:**

There are **4 verbs** which end in « **ont** » in the plural: « **être** », « **avoir** », « **aller** » and « **faire** »  
**All other verbs in the present always end in « ent »**

## « 8 most important verb # 5 – prendre »

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: prendre – to take

Step 2 – remove the « **re** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « prend »

Step 4 – insert « prend » into the empty spaces of generic Template # 2:

Je \_\_\_\_\_s

Tu \_\_\_\_\_s

Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_

**The result is :**

Je prends - pr\*en

Tu prends - pr\*en

Il / elle prend - pr\*en

no T required because « **d = t** »

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modification in **bold black**

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: prendre – to take

Step 2 – remove the « **dre** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « pren »

Step 4 – we need to attach « ons », « ez » to the consonant of the **verb root**

Nous ..... ( ) ons

Vous ..... ( ) ez

Ils / elles .... ( ) ent

**The result is :**

Nous prens - pre **n\*on**

Vous prenez - pre **n\*ay**

Ils / elles prennent - **prenn**

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modification in **bold black**

Things to notice about « **prendre** »:

- in the singular we do not need a « t » in the third person « il » or « elle » because the verb root ends in « d »
- remember, in the plural to remove the « **dre** » and add an extra « **n** » for the third person plural
- there are 4 sounds

## « 8 most important verb # 6 – vouloir »

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: vouloir – to want to

Step 2 – remove the « **ouloir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « v »

Step 4 – insert « v » into the empty spaces of generic Template # 2

Step 5 - add: **eux, eux, eut**

Je \_\_\_\_\_ **eux**  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_ **eux**  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ **eut**

**The result is :**

Je v**eux** - ve (pucker)  
Tu v**eux** - ve (pucker)  
Il / elle v**eut** - ve (pucker)

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications in **bold black**

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: vouloir – to want to

Step 2 – remove the « **oir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « voul »

Step 3 – we need to attach « ons », « ez » to the consonant of the **verb root**

Nous ..... ( ) ons

Vous ..... ( ) ez

Ils / elles .... ( ) ent

**The result is :**

Nous voulons - voo **l\*on**

Vous voulez - voo **l\*ay**

Ils / elles veulent - **ve-le**

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modification in **bold black**

Things to notice about « **vouloir** »:

- the singular is highly irregular. The « **x, x, t** » is equivalent to « **s, s, t** »
- the « nous » and « vous » are regular. The third person plural picks up on the verb root from the singular « veu » and the « l » from the « nous and « vous » forms.
- There are 4 sounds
- « **vouloir** » is usually followed by an infinitive

## « 8 most important verb # 7 – pouvoir »

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: pouvoir – to be able to

Step 2 – remove the « **ouvoir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **p** »

Step 4 – insert « **p** » into the empty spaces of generic Template # 2

Step 5 - add: **eux, eux, eut**

Je \_\_\_\_\_ **eux**  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_ **eux**  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ **eut**

**The result is :**

Je **p**eux - pe ( pucker up )  
Tu **p**eux - pe  
Il / elle **p**eut - pe

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modifications in **bold black**

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: pouvoir – to be able to

Step 2 – remove the « **oir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « **pouv** »

Step 4 – we need to attach « **ons** », « **ez** » to the consonant of the **verb root**

Nous ..... ( ) **ons**

Vous ..... ( ) **ez**

Ils / elles ..... ( ) **ent**

The result is :

Nous pouvons - poo **v\*on**

Vous pouvez - poo **v\*ay**

Ils / elles peuvent - **pe-ve**

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modification in **bold black**

Things to notice about « **pouvoir** »:

- the singular is highly irregular. The « **x, x, t** » is equivalent to « **s, s, t** »
- the « nous » and « vous » are regular. The third person plural picks up on the verb root from the singular « peu » and the « v » from the « nous and « vous » forms.
- There are 4 sounds
- « **pouvoir** » is usually followed by an infinitive
- « **Vouloir** » and « **pouvoir** » are the **only 2 verbs which use « x, x, t » in the singular**

## « 8 most important verb # 8 – *devoir* »

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the singular** is: *devoir* – to have to

Step 2 – remove the « **evoir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to ».

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « d »

Step 4 – insert « d » into the empty spaces of generic Template # 2

Step 5 - add: **oi**

Je \_\_\_\_\_ s  
Tu \_\_\_\_\_ s  
Il / elle \_\_\_\_\_ t

**The result is :**

Je dois - dw\*ah  
Tu dois - dw\*ah  
Il / elle doit - dw\*ah

Note: there is only 1 distinct sound in the singular, so just memorize « je » since every other subject in the singular is also the same sound.

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modification in **bold black**

Step 1 - The verb to conjugate in **the plural** is: *devoir* – to have to

Step 2 – remove the « **oir** » which is the equivalent of the English « to »

Step 3 – we are left with the **verb root** « dev »

Step 4 – we need to attach « ons », « ez » to the consonant of the **verb root**

Nous ..... ( ) ons

Vous ..... ( ) ez

Ils / elles ..... ( ) ent

The result is :

Nous devons - de **v\*on**

Vous devez - de **v\*ay**

Ils / elles doivent - **dw\*ah-ve**

The basic Template # 2 is in normal black and the modification in **bold black**

Things to notice about « **devoir** »:

- the singular is highly irregular.
- the « nous » and « vous » are regular. The third person plural picks up on the verb root from the singular « doi » and the « v » from the « nous » and « vous » forms.
- There are 4 sounds
- « **devoir** » is usually followed by an infinitive

## Summary of Verb Categories

Summary - The basic template for verbs other than « er » verbs is:

Singular	Plural
verb is _____, remove « r »	verb is _____, remove « r » to the consonant
we are left with « <b>verb root</b> »	we are left with « <b>verb root</b> »
add <b>s, s, t</b>	add <b>ons, ez, ent</b>
( I ) Je _____s	( We ) Nous _____( ) ons
( You ) Tu _____s	( You plural ) Vous _____( ) ez
( He ) Il _____t	( They ) Ils _____( ) ent
( She ) Elle _____t	( They ) Elles _____( ) ent

Points to remember:

- if the verb root ends in « **d** », you do not need the « **t** »
- for « **enir** – Vienna » verbs the « **i** » jumps in front of the « **e** ». The 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural is the same, but you must double the « **n** »
- « **indre** » verbs must remove the « **dre** », ( **G** ) is placed before the ( **n** ) in the plural
- « **vouloir** » and « **pouvoir** » use « **x, x, t** » instead of the basic « **s, s, t** »
- most of the verbs are regular. You must however pay attention to the :
- « **ir** – Mississippi » verbs – add « **ss** » in the plural
- « **indre** » verbs – add ( **Gn** )
- « **y = i** » verbs add « **y** » in « nous » and « vous » forms

- « **ire** » is an « **s** or **v** » verb – add « **s** »
- « **rire** » is an « **s** or **v** » verb – add « **v** »
- « **rir** » verbs are conjugated like « **er** » verbs
- there are 3 categories with 3 sounds: « **er** », « **y=i** » and « **rir** » verbs
- all other verb categories have 4 sounds
- **only** « **être** », « **avoir** » and « **aller** » have 5 sounds

### **My suggestion**

If you wish to become proficient in conjugating verbs, place the 2 Templates on the front of a 3 x 5 index card and the modifications on the back.

This will give you immediate access to the correct conjugation of any verb, any time and in any situation.

### **Important to learn**

1. the different categories based on the ending of the verb
2. the slight modifications for each category
3. memorize the 8 most important verbs especially **être, avoir, aller**

## Other Verb Tenses

Once you have mastered the present tense, you are ready to learn the other 9 tenses which are:

passé récent, passé composé, imparfait, plus-que-parfait, futur proche, futur antérieur, futur simple, conditionnel, conditionnel passé.

As we have already stated, there are only 2 things required to successfully conjugate any verb in any tense:

**1. What is the verb?**

**2. What is the past participle?**

First, people often ask : « **What is a past participle?** »

In English, I have **gone**, I have **done**, I have **eaten**, the words **gone**, **done** and **eaten** are past participles. Every verb has one and there is only one way to conjugate it, it never changes.

In French, there are basically 3 endings for the past participle :

- « **é** » for « **er** » verbs
- « **i** » for « **ir** » verbs
- « **u** » for « **re** » verbs

Any past participle which does not follow this pattern must be memorized. There are very few of them.

Here are the past participles for the verb categories:

<b>category</b>	<b>infinitive</b>	<b>past participle</b>	
• « <b>er</b> » verb	chanter	chanté ( same sound as the infinitive )	
• « <b>ir – Mississippi</b> »	finir	fini	regular
• « <b>re</b> » verbs	vendre	vendu	regular
• « <b>enir – Vienna</b> »	venir	venu**	regular

- « no T »                    partir                    parti\*\*                    regular
- « **âtre**–Mississippi » connaître                    connu                    regular
- « s or v »                    lire                    lu                    « lu » is a little irregular
- « s or v »                    écrire                    écrit                    a little irregular
- « double TT »                    mettre                    mis                    memorize
- « **rir** » like an « er »                    ouvrir                    ouvert                    memorize

\*\* Extremely important : **Verb tenses which use past participles will also use an auxiliary verb.** The two auxiliary verbs are « avoir » and « être ».

**99.99% of all verbs are conjugated with « avoir ».** The verbs which use « être » are movement or displacement verbs or reflexive verbs.

**A movement/displacement verb means that you or the subject moved from one place to another.** For example, if you went to the store, you probably left home (place 1) to go to the store ( place 2). *I walked in the park* would not be a movement verb because you never left the park. Can you see that you must leave the location you are at in order to go to another ?

**Reflexive verbs mean that you did the action to yourself.** For example, I washed (myself). Very often the most common reflexive verbs occur in the home:

to wake up, get up, wash, dress, comb your hair, brush your teeth, get dressed, get ready, go to bed, fall asleep.

You will learn more about these verbs as you become more proficient in the language. I will provide examples when we look at specific verb tenses.

Before we examine the 8 most important verbs, I would like to give you some insight into the past participle of the verb « **voir** » which is a « **y = i** » category verb

In general, verbs ending in « **re** » = « **oir** » = « **oire** », the past participle will end in « **u** ».

For example, the verb voir's past participle - remove the « **oir** », add « **u** », therefore, the past participle of voir is « **vu** »

**Important** If a verb ends in « re » = « oir » = « oire », remove the ending and add « u ».

For example, the past participle of:  
entendre is ....

vouloir is ...

boire is ...

**Answers:**

entendre is entend + u = **entendu**

vouloir is voul + u = **voulu**

boire is b + u = **bu**

**Special pattern to learn**

If a verb contains the verb « **voir** » within it, follow this simple rule to find the past participle.

**Memorize the following statement:**

1. Starting on the « r », **remove** the entire verb « **voir** »
2. then **moving left, remove any vowels** until you come to the **first consonant**
3. add « **u** »

Examples:

1. pou**voir** = pou, 2. po**u** = p, 3. pu, pouvoir = **pu**

1. rece**voir** = rece, 2. rece = rec, 3. rece**voir** = **reçu**

the ç is used to soften the « c » which is usually pronounced « k »

Try these verbs on for size. What is the past participle for each verb ?

vouloir =

devoir =

apercevoir =

boire =

savoir =

prétendre =

**Answers :**

**vouloir - oir = voul + u = voulu**

**devoir - voir = de - e = d + u = dû**

( the accent is to distinguish the past participle from the indefinite article « du » )

**apercevoir - voir = aperce - e = aperc + u = aperçu**

( the ç has the accent to change the sound from a « k » to an « s » )

**boire - oire + u = bu**

**savoir - voir = sa -a = su**

**prétendre - re = pretend + u = prétendu**

Like the verbs in the present tense, the past participles of the « 8 most important verbs » **must be memorized** and they are :

infinitive	past participle	trigger for recall
• être	<b>été</b>	« to be » in summer, summer = été
• avoir	<b>eu</b>	memorize
• aller	<b>allé</b>	« to go », go down the alley
• faire	<b>fait</b>	memorize

- prendre                      **pris**                      « to take », take me to the Grand Prix
- •
- vouloir                      **voulu**                      it is regular
- pouvoir                      **pu**                      it follows the rule with « **voir** »
- devoir                      **dû**                      it follows the rule with « **voir** »

## Conjugating the other tenses

When conjugating any verb into a specific verb tense, **it is important to know if you will use the verb or the past participle.**

**If you use the verb, you have 2 questions to ask: Am I keeping the « r » or getting rid of it?**

**If you are using a past participle, you need to know if you will use « avoir » or « être » as the auxiliary.** When in doubt, use « **avoir** » because **99.99%** of the verbs use « **avoir** ».

Let's walk through every tense which you can validate on the complete **Verb Time Line provided at the end of this e-book.**

You will find **2 Time Lines** at the end of this e-book.

The Verb Time Line identifies the tenses by colour and number. You can only perform one action for each verb tense.

The questions you need to ask for each verb tense are :

1. **What is the verb I want to conjugate ?**
2. **Do I need a verb ? or past participle ?**

## 1. The “présent” tense

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « parler »
2. Do I want to use the verb or past participle in the present tense? **Verb**
3. Do I keep or remove the « r »? **Remove it**
4. Use Template # 1 if the verb is « er », Template # 2 for the other categories. The verb root is - parle

ex:

1. parler à mon ami
2. Je parle à mon ami

**English template**

I am **talking** to my friend

## 2. The “passé recent”

The generic model is: venir ( présent ) + de + infinitive

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « manger »
1. Do I want to use a verb or past participle? **Verb**
3. Do I keep or remove the « r » according to the generic model? - **Keep it**
4. **Insert** into the generic model (conjugate the first verb in the present tense)

ex: 1. manger une pomme

2. Je viens de manger une pomme.

**English template**

**I have just eaten an apple**

**Note:** In this tense, French uses the infinitive and English uses the past participle

### 3. The “passé composé”

#### 1<sup>st</sup> generic model: avoir ( in the present tense) + past participle

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « **finir** »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être »? - « **avoir** »
3. What is the past participle of « finir » - « **fini** »

ex: 1. **finir** le travail

2. J’ai **fini** le travail

English template

I finished the work

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> generic model : être ( présent ) + past participle

This is used for movement or displacement verbs

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate ? « **aller** »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être » ? - « **être** »
3. What is the past participle of « aller » - « **allé** »

ex: 1. **aller** au magasin

2. Je suis **allé** au magasin

English template

I went to the store

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> generic model: s’être ( présent ) + past participle

The reflexive verbs reflect back onto the subject

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « **se laver** »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être » ? - « **être** »
3. What is the past participle of « laver » - « **lavé** »

ex: 1. **se laver** ce matin

2. Je **me** suis **lavé** ce matin

English template

I washed ( myself ) this morning

## 4. The “imparfait”

The generic model is: verb minus the « r » to the consonant + ais, ions, iez

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « regarder »
2. Do I keep or remove the « r »? - « **remove the « r » to the first consonant** »
3. What is the **verb root** - regard + ais, ions or iez

ex: 1. Hier soir à 20h, regarder la télévision.

2. Hier soir à 20h, je regardais la télévision

English template

Last night at 8 p.m., I was watching television

Note: The English template for the imparfait tense is: I was \_\_\_\_\_ ing or I used to \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. The “plus-que –parfait”

**The 1st generic model is: avoir ( imparfait ) + past participle**

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « **lire** »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être »? - « **avoir** »
3. What is the past participle of « lire » - « **lu** »

ex: J’avais **lu** un roman

**English template**                      **I had read a novel**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> generic model is: être ( imparfait) + past participle**

This is used for movement or displacement verbs

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « **retourner** »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être »? - « **être** »
3. What is the past participle of « retourner » - « **retourné** »

ex: J’étais **retourné** en Europe

**English template**                      **I had returned to Europe**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> generic model is: s’être ( imparfait) + past participle**

The reflexive verbs reflect back onto the subject

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « **se brosser** »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être »? - « **être** »
3. What is the past participle of « brosser » - « **brossé** »

ex: Je m’étais **brossé** les cheveux

**English template**                      **I had brushed ( myself ) my hair**

## 6. The “futur proche”

The generic model is: aller ( présent ) + infinitive

1. Do I want to use a verb or past participle? **verb**
2. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « prendre »
2. Do I keep or remove the « r »? - « **keep it** »
3. What is the verb root - prendre

ex: Je vais prendre le train

English template

I am going to take the train

## 7. The “futur antérieur”

The generic model is: **avoir ( futur ) + past participle**

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « écouter »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être »? - « **avoir** »
3. What is the past participle of « écouter » - « **écouté** »

ex: J’aurai écouté de la musique

English template

**I will have listened to some music**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> generic model is : **être ( futur ) + past participle**  
( movement or displacement )

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « sortir »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être »? - « **être** »
3. What is the past participle of « sortir » - « **sorti** »

ex: Je serai sorti de la maison

English template

**I will have gone out of the house**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> generic model is: **s’être ( futur ) + past participle**  
The reflexive verbs reflect back onto the subject

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « se dépêcher »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être »? - « **être** »
3. What is the past participle of « dépêcher » - « **dépêché** »

ex: Je me serai dépêché

English template

**I will have hurried (myself )**

## 8. The “futur simple”

The generic model is : infinitive + ai, as, a, ons, ez, ont

**Note:** the endings are taken from « avoir » in the « présent »

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « mettre »
2. Do I keep or remove the « r »? - « keep it »
3. What is the **verb root**? - mettr

ex: Je mettrai mon manteau

**English template**

**I will put on my coat**

I have included a document at the end of this e-book, which gives you the verb roots of certain verbs to use in the futur and conditionnel. Look at the bottom of the document in the green box – **you will need to memorize these.**

## 9. The “conditionnel passé”

The generic model is : **avoir ( conditionnel présent ) + past participle**

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « **peindre** »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être »? - « **avoir** »
3. What is the past participle of « peindre » - « **peint** »

ex: J'aurais **peint** la maison

English template

**I would have painted the house**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> generic model is : **être ( conditionnel présent ) + past participle**  
( movement or displacement verbs )

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « **entrer** »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être »? - « **être** »
3. What is the past participle of « entrer » - « **entré** »

ex: Je serais **entré** dans le salon

English template

**I would have entered the living room**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> generic model is: **s'être ( conditionnel présent ) + past participle**  
The reflexive verbs reflect back onto the subject

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « **se coucher** »
2. Do I use « avoir » or « être »? - « **être** »
3. What is the past participle of « coucher » - « **couché** »

ex: Je me serais **couché** à minuit

English template

**I would have gone to bed (myself ) at midnight.**

## 10. The conditionnel présent

The generic model is : infinitive + rais, rions, riez

**Note:** the endings are taken from « avoir » in the « imparfait »

1. What is the verb I want to conjugate? « faire »
2. Do I keep or remove the « r »? - « keep it »
3. What is the **special verb root for this verb** - fer

ex: Je ferais mon possible

English template

I would do my best

## Putting the method to work

When someone asks you a question, it is important for you to regurgitate what the person asked you in their question. **In the beginning, most answers are already in the question.** Remember, in the singular form of the verb, everyone has the same sound. This means that if the question is informal « tu », the question and the answer will sound the same.

Examples:

Est-ce que tu <b>regardes</b> la télévision ?	Oui, je <b>regarde</b> la télévision.
Est-ce que tu <b>reviens</b> avec Paul ?	Oui, je <b>reviens</b> avec Paul.
Est-ce qu'il <b>voit</b> le chien ?	Oui, il <b>voit</b> le chien.
Est-ce qu'elles <b>mettent</b> un manteau ?	Oui, elles <b>mettent</b> un manteau.
Est-qu'il <b>est</b> allé au bureau ?	Oui, il <b>est</b> allé au bureau.
Est-ce qu'il <b>va</b> lire un roman ?	Oui, il <b>va</b> lire un roman.

Now that you have all the patterns for the tenses, it is important you start making small sentences which will get longer as you gain confidence. You must translate in smaller segments.

For example, if you had to translate the following, most people would panic.

**I'm eating a red apple in the kitchen with my favourite cousin who lives in Toronto next to the university.**

Would this sentence have made you panic? What if we were to break the sentence up in the following way? Would you find it easier?

### Translate the small segments

I'm eating	Je <b>mange</b>
a red apple	une <b>pomme rouge</b>
in the kitchen	dans la <b>cuisine</b>

with my favourite cousin	avec <b>mon cousin préféré</b>
who lives	qui <b>habite</b>
in Toronto	à <b>Toronto</b>
next to the university	à <b>côté de l'université.</b>

If you start thinking this way, you will find that you will be speaking sooner and more correctly.

### What is the next step ?

The next step is getting accustomed to all the verb tenses at the same time. The first thing to do will be to conjugate a full sentence on the Verb Time line (sample provided at the end of this e-book), one tense at a time. Then, it will be important to start telling stories, using the Time line.

The most difficult relationship on the Time line is the « **passé composé** » and the « **imparfait** ». The « **passé composé** » is used to introduce new facts in your story or explain « **what you did** » or « **what happened** ».

The « **imparfait** » is used to describe those facts. If you would say in English, « **was** », « **was \_\_\_\_\_ing** » and « **used to \_\_\_\_\_** », then you need to use the « **imparfait** ».

When in the past, imagine yourself in a box where you only have 2 tools - the passé composé or the imparfait. Do not stray outside the box. Usually, you will start in the passé composé and you will describe those facts in the imparfait.

For beginning students, I would recommend you focus on:

- **the présent tense ( # 1 )**
- **the passé composé ( # 3 )**
- **the imparfait ( # 4 )**
- and **the futur proche ( # 6 )**

**If you master these 4 tenses, you will quickly and accurately be able to speak French.**

There you have it. You are now able to conjugate almost all verbs in the French language. I have not shown you all possibilities since you will probably never use the obscure verbs.

If you want to use a special verb, go to: **wordreference.com** where you will find a verb conjugator. Type in the verb you want to conjugate, and all the tenses will appear on the screen.

In addition, you will also have access to the online dictionary in **wordreference.com** which is exceptional because it gives you the context in which you will use your word, so you choose the most appropriate word. Also, **word reference.com** will give the expressions in which you would use that word.

I truly believe you are now well equipped to conjugate French verbs, without having to memorize the 12,000 presented in the little green verb book used by so many French students.

If you would like to further your studies, go to [www.french-kiss.ca](http://www.french-kiss.ca)  
Ask us what we can do specifically to advance your learning process. Our French K.I.S.S. program has always been about customizing the course to suit each student so they progress quickly and simplify your studies by looking for the inside tricks to speaking French.

If you have any questions regarding this e-book, contact me at my personal email address:  
[napoleon949@yahoo.com](mailto:napoleon949@yahoo.com)

Visit my website: [www.french-kiss.ca](http://www.french-kiss.ca) for more information and join **Équipe RIP**, our community of French students sharing and supporting one another and spreading the word about how easy it is to learn French.

## Application of the Verbs

Learn the categories by learning the model verbs which represent the category

- **Day 1** - the 3 categories which have three sounds: **chanter** = « er », **voir** or **employer** = « y = l » and **ouvrir** = « rir ». Identify the 3 sounds for each category, for example: **chanter** = je chante, nous chantons, vous chantez
- **Day 2** - the Mississippi verbs are: **finir** = « ir » **Mississippi** and **connaître** = « âître » **Mississippi** and **T minus 1**. Identify the 4 sounds focusing on what makes these 2 verbs Mississippi verbs
- **Day 3** - the **no T or T minus 1 verbs** are: **partir** = **T minus 1** and **mettre**. Remember that verbs ending in « mir » and « vir » behave like a « no T - T minus 1 » verb. Also, « indre » verbs will behave like « no T - T minus 1 » in the singular, remove the « dre ». Identify the 4 sounds of the « no T - T minus 1 » verbs.
- **Day 4** - « re » model verb - **vendre**. Remember, if a verb root ends in « d » when you remove the « re », you do not need « s, s, t » in the singular, but « s, s, - » because « d = t ». Identify the four sounds of the verb « vendre »
- **Day 5** - Verbs ending in « enir » are classified as « Vienna » verbs. The model verb is - **venir**. When you remove the « r » in the singular, the « i » jumps in front of the « e », therefore « vien » is the verb root. In the plural the « n » of the verb root is doubled for « ils and elles » only. « Nous and vous » are regular. Identify the four sounds.
- **Day 6** - Verbs ending in « indre » are classified as « Gn » verbs. Also, in the singular and the plural the « dre » is also classified as « T minus 1 ». The « Gn » applies only to the plural. Identify the four sounds of the model verb « craindre ».
- **Day 7** - Verbs ending in « ire » or « rire » are classified as « s or v » verbs. The verb such as « lire » will use the « s » in the plural, whereas a verb such as « écrire » will use the « v ». Identify the four sounds of « lire » and « écrire ».
- **Day 8** - Next, we will deal with the 8 most important verbs. We will group them into similar groups. The first group has « être, avoir and aller » because they are the only verbs in French which have 5 sounds. Practice the 5 sounds for each verb.
- **Day 9** - Today we will group « faire » and « prendre » together. Identify the four sounds for each verb.
- **Day 10** - The last group contains the verbs « vouloir, pouvoir and devoir ». You will notice that « vouloir and pouvoir » are similar. Identify and practice the four sounds for each verb.

The next item to memorize is the past participle for each category verb. With the past participle you will be able to conjugate any verb, in any tense, at any time.

## **Additional tools**

Following are 3 documents :

**2 Verb Time Line** graphs

1 document which covers the most important basics of the French language for beginners

## Fontaine Verb Time Line

### How to interpret the Verb Time line

The following Verb Time line is composed of two parts:

1. a color coded system 2. a number system.

Let me explain the color coded system.

Blue represents the present tense. Any card which has blue on it means that there is a direct relationship to the present tense.

Yellow refers to the present tense. Any card which has yellow on it refers to the past tenses.

Orange refers to the future tenses.

Red refers to the conditional tenses.

The numbers refer to a tense's position in time. It is much easier to learn tenses by number. For example, number 8 is the simple future. Number 10 is the present conditional because red is the dominant color and blue indicates that there is a reference to the present.

# FONTAINE VERB TIME LINE

Si 4--10

Je \_\_\_ais  
4

Nous\_\_\_ions

## Legend

verbs conjugated with avoir = 3a, 5a, 9a, 7a

verbs conjugated with être = 3e, 5e, 9e, 7e

reflexive verbs with être = 3r, 5r, 9r, 7r

Si 5--9

5a

J'avais\_\_

5e 5r

Je m'étais\_

3a

J'ai\_\_

3e 3r

Je me suis\_\_

Je viens  
de\_\_

2

Si 1--6/ 8

Je\_\_\_\_\_

1

Je vais  
\_\_\_\_\_

6

7a

J'aurai\_\_

7e 7r

Je me serai\_\_

Je\_\_\_\_\_rai

8

9a

J'aurais\_\_

9e 9r

Je me serais\_

Je\_\_\_rais

10

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<b>NOMS MASCULINS</b> Saisons / Mois / Jours Métaux Coulbres Arbres Langues Métrique Vin et fromage Chiffres Lettres ...eau ex. eau, peau ...age ...ège ...ent ...ier ...isme / ...asme ...acle ...me ...re ...phe ...oir ...phone ...termine consonne ...termine vowelle	<b>ÊTRE</b> Je ne suis pas Tu n'es pas Il n'est pas Nous ne sommes pas Vous n'êtes pas Ils ne sont pas	<b>AVOIR</b> Je n'ai pas Tu n'as pas Il n'a pas Nous n'avons pas Vous n'avez pas Ils n'ont pas	<b>ALLER</b> Je ne vais pas Tu ne vas pas Il ne va pas Nous n'allons pas Vous n'allez pas Ils ne vont pas	<b>FAIRE</b> Je ne fais pas Tu ne fais pas Il ne fait pas Nous ne faisons pas Vous ne faites pas Ils ne font pas	<b>PRENDRE</b> Je ne prends pas Tu ne prends pas Il ne prend pas Nous ne prenons pas Vous ne prenez pas Ils ne prennent pas	<b>VOULOIR/Pouvoir</b> Je ne veux pas Tu ne veux pas Il ne veut pas Nous ne voulons pas Vous ne voulez pas Ils ne veulent pas	<b>DEVOIR</b> Je ne dois pas Tu ne dois pas Il ne doit pas Nous ne devons pas Vous ne devez pas Ils ne doivent pas	<b>J'ai dit</b> que je....ais / <b>rais</b> nous...ions/ <b>riens</b> vous...iez / <b>riez</b> <b>liens :</b> que, si, ce que, ??? de + infinitif
	<b>1er groupe (-er)</b> Je .....e Tu .....es Il / elle .....e <b>infinitif - «r»</b> Nous .....ons Vous .....ez Ils .....ent <b>infinitif - «er»</b>	<b>3 e groupe (re)</b> Je.....s Tu.....s Il / elle .....(t) <b>infinitif - « re »</b> Nous.....ons Vous.....ez Ils / elles.....ent <b>infinitif - « re »</b>	<b>Catégories spéciales</b> (3e groupe) <b>1.Vienna verbs – je viens, ils viennent</b> nous venons, vous venez <b>2. No «t» rule - je pars ,nous partons, vous partez, ils partent</b> <b>3.-âtre&amp; -ôître: je connais, nous connaissons, Mississippi vous...ssez, ils...ssent</b> <b>4. -aindre, : je crains, nous craignons, -eindre,-oindre: vous...gnez, ils ....gnent gn</b> <b>5. Y=i verbs : je vois, nous voyons, vous...yez, ils...ent</b> <b>6. S/V rule: je lis, nous lisons, vous....lisez, ils....ent</b> <b>7. Double «t» rule: je mets nous mettons, vous...ez, ils...ent</b> <b>8. «rir» verbs : j'ouvre, nous ouvrons, vous ...ez, ils..ent</b>			<b># 3 Passé Composé</b> Je n'ai pas Tu n'as pas Il / elle n'a pas + pp Nous n'avons pas Vous n'avez pas Ils / elles n'ont pas	<b>Participes passés</b> Acquérir – acquis Attendre – attendu Avoir – eu Battre – battu Boire – bu Conduire – conduit Connaître – connu Courir – couru Croire – cru Décevoir – déçu Découvrir – découvert Décrire – décrit Descendre – descendu Devoir – dû Dire – dit Écrire – écrit Entendre – entendu Être – été Faire – fait Falloir – fallu Lire – lu Mettre – mis Mourir – mort Naître – né Obtenir – obtenu Offrir – offert Ouvrir – ouvert Perdre – perdu Pleuvoir – plu Pouvoir – pu Prendre – pris Recevoir – reçu Rendre – rendu Résoudre – résolu Rire – ri Savoir – su Souffrir – souffert Tenir – tenu Vaincre – vaincu Valoir – valu Vendre – vendu Venir – venu Vivre – vécu Voir – vu Vouloir – voulu	
<b>NOMS FÉMININS</b> fruits en «e» disciplines académie voitures montres ...ole ...ale ...ule ...ure ...ière ...trice ...lle ...elle ...ie ...ée ...té ...be ...te ...ce ...ne ...de ...que ...fe ...pe ...ge ...se ...tion ...ve ...sion ...xion ...aison ...ance ...ence ...anse	<b>2e groupe (-ir)</b> <b>Mississippi</b> Je .....s Tu .....s Il .....t <b>infinitif - « r »</b> Nous .....ssons Vous .....ssez Ils .....ssent <b>infinitif- « r »</b>	<b>Le subjonctif</b> Il a fallu Il fallait Il faut Il va falloir <b>qu(e)</b> je.....e tu.....es il / elle.....e nous.....ions vous .....iez ils / elles .....ent	<b># 2 VENIR</b> Je ne viens pas Tu ne viens pas Il ne vient pas Nous ne venons pas Vous ne venez pas Ils ne viennent pas <b>de + infin</b>	Si je...ais, je .....rais ( condition prés) Si je ....ais + pp, je ....rais + pp (passé) Si je (présent), je...rai ( futur) Si je (présent), je vais + inf ( futur)	<b># 4 Imparfait</b> Je ne.....ais pas Tu ne.....ais pas Il / elle ne .....ait pas <b>auxiliaire + pp = # 5</b> Nous ne.....ions pas Vous ne.....iez pas ILs / elles ne ..aient pas	<b>Les verbes- être- pp</b> venu, revenu, devenu monté, remonté arrivé entré, rentré resté sorti, ressorti parti, reparti descendu, redescendu allé tombé, retombé mort, décédé retourné passé, repassé né <b>verbes nronominaux</b>		
<b>Niveaux B &amp; C</b>		me le lui y en te la leur se les	<b>Pronoms objets</b> note : placer devant le verbe nous vous	Je ne me suis pas + pp Tu ne t'es pas Il ne s'est pas Nous ne nous sommes pas Vous ne vous êtes pas Ils ne se sont pas				

#8 FUTUR aux + pp #7 Être : SER Aller : IR Savoir : SAUR Envoyer : ENVERR Mourir : MOURR Tenir : TIENDR + ai, as, a ons, ez, ont

aux + pp #9 Avoir : AU Voir : VERR Vouloir : VOUDR Recevoir : RECEVR Courir : COURR Pleuvoir : PLEUVR

# 10 CONDITIONNEL Faire : FER Venir : VIENDR Pouvoir : POURR Devoir : DEVR Falloir : FAUDR Payer : PAIER

+ rais, rais, rait riens,riez, raient

Bonne chance!  
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# La Ligne du temps

Si + 4 + 10 1

ais, ions, iez

4

**Imparfait**  
Je travaillais  
*I was working*  
*I used to work*

No R

Si + 5 + 9 2

5

**Plus-que-parfait**  
J'avais travaillé  
*I had worked*  
J'étais allé(e)  
*I had gone*

4 + p.p.

pendant 2

3

**Passé composé**  
J'ai travaillé  
*I worked*  
*I have worked*  
Je suis allé(e)  
*I went*

1 + p.p.

2

2

**Passé récent**  
Je viens de travailler  
*I've just worked*

venir de + infinitif

Si + 1 + 6/8 1

depuis

1

**Présent**  
Je travaille  
*I work*  
*I'm working*  
*I've been working*

No R

2

6

**Futur proche**  
Je vais travailler  
*I'm going to work*

aller + infinitif

2

7

**Futur antérieur**  
J'aurai travaillé  
*I will have worked*  
Je serai allé(e)  
*I will have gone*

8 + p.p.

ai, as, a 1

8

**Futur simple**  
Je travaillerai  
*I will work*  
*I will be working*

R

2

9

**Conditionnel passé**  
J'aurais travaillé  
*I would have worked*  
Je serais allé(e)  
*I would have gone*

10 + p.p.

ais, ions, iez 1

10

**Conditionnel présent**  
Je travaillerais  
*I would work*  
*I would be working*

R

## Useful Links

Visit my website for more information about learning French  
[www.french-kiss.ca](http://www.french-kiss.ca)

Here are two very useful websites to help with vocabulary, grammar and translations

<http://www.wordreference.com>

<http://www.druide.com/antidote.html>

Author: **Robert Fontaine**

Author site: <http://www.french-kiss.ca>

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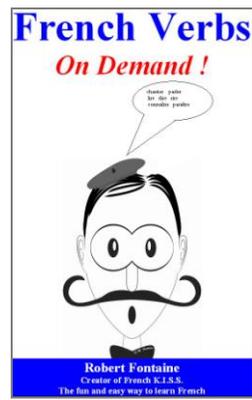
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