

BARRON'S

# FRENCH

# GRAMMAR

Christopher  
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An In-Depth Reference:  
Parts of Speech  
Pronunciation  
Verb Charts  
Sentence Structure  
Punctuation  
Idioms

CHOICE IN LANGUAGE GUIDES

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*To the sweet memory of my mother  
and to the memory of my father*

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# Contents

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Preface	vii
How to Use This Book	ix
<b>The Basics</b>	1
1. GUIDE TO PRONOUNCING FRENCH SOUNDS	1
2. CAPITALIZATION, PUNCTUATION MARKS, AND WORD DIVISION	4
<b>The Parts of Speech</b>	7
3. ARTICLES	7
3.1 Definite Article	7
3.2 Indefinite Article	12
3.3 Partitive	13
4. NOUNS	15
4.1 Gender	15
4.2 Plural of Nouns — The Basics	17
5. ADJECTIVES	19
5.1 Formation	19
5.2 Agreement	21
5.3 Position	22
5.4 Types	23
5.4-1 Descriptive	23
5.4-2 Demonstrative	23
5.4-3 Interrogative	24
5.4-4 Possessive	24
5.4-5 Comparative and Superlative	26
5.4-6 <i>Meilleur</i> and <i>Mieux</i>	28
5.4-7 Adjectives Used in an Adverbial Sense	29

<b>6. PRONOUNS</b>	30
6.1 Types	30
6.1-1 Subject Pronouns	30
6.1-2 Direct Object Pronouns	31
6.1-3 Indirect Object Pronouns	32
6.1-4 Double Object Pronouns	32
6.1-5 <i>En</i>	33
6.1-6 <i>Y</i>	34
6.1-7 Disjunctive Pronouns	34
6.1-8 Demonstrative Pronouns	36
6.1-9 Indefinite Pronouns	37
6.1-10 Interrogative Pronouns	38
6.1-11 Possessive Pronouns	40
6.1-12 Reflexive Pronouns	41
6.1-13 Relative Pronouns	42
6.1-14 <i>C'est + adjective + à + infinitive</i>	44
6.1-15 <i>Il est + adjective + de + infinitive</i>	45
6.1-16 Neuter Pronoun <i>le</i>	45
<b>7. VERBS</b>	46
7.1 Agreement	46
7.2 Past Participle	49
7.3 Types	50
7.3-1 Auxiliary Verbs <i>Avoir</i> and <i>Etre</i>	50
7.3-2 Transitive Verbs	52
7.3-3 Intransitive Verbs	52
7.4 Present Participle	53
7.5 Verbs and Prepositions	55
7.6 Complete Conjugation of an <i>Avoir</i> Verb	68
7.7 Complete Conjugation of an <i>Etre</i> Verb	72
7.8 Tenses and Moods	76
7.8-1 Present Indicative Tense	76
7.8-2 Imperfect Indicative Tense	77
7.8-3 Past Simple Tense	78
7.8-4 Future Tense	79
7.8-5 Conditional Present Tense	80
7.8-6 Present Subjunctive Tense	80
7.8-7 Imperfect Subjunctive Tense	81

7.8-8	Past Indefinite Tense	83
7.8-9	Pluperfect Tense	83
7.8-10	Past Anterior Tense	84
7.8-11	Future Perfect Tense	84
7.8-12	Conditional Perfect Tense	85
7.8-13	Past Subjunctive Tense	86
7.8-14	Pluperfect Subjunctive Tense	86
7.8-15	Imperative Mood	87
7.9	Passive Voice	87
7.10	<i>Si</i> Clause: A Summary	89
7.11	Special Uses of Common Verbs	89
7.12	Other Verbs with Special Meanings	95
7.13	Infinitives	96
7.14	Causative (Causal) <i>Faire</i>	98
7.15	Subjunctive	99
7.16	Summary of Tenses and Moods	103
7.17	Spelling Irregularities of Some Common Verbs	103
7.18	Basic Negations of Verbs	116
7.19	Four Conjugated Verbs	118

## 8. ADVERBS 123

### Definition 123

8.1 Formation 123

8.2 Position 124

8.3 Types 124

8.3-1 Interrogative Adverbs 124

8.3-2 Adverbs of Quantity 125

8.3-3 Comparative and Superlative Adverbs 125

8.4 *Oui* and *Si* 126

## 9. PREPOSITIONS — SPECIAL USES 127

9.1 *Dans* and *En* + length of time 127

9.2 *Envers* and *Vers* 127

9.3 *Pendant* and *Pour* 128

## 10. CONJUNCTIONS 129

<b>Special Topics</b>	131
<b>11. ORDER OF ELEMENTS IN FRENCH SENTENCES</b>	131
<b>12. IDIOMS</b>	135
12.1 Special Uses	135
12.2 Basic Expressions	138
<b>13. DATES, DAYS, MONTHS, SEASONS</b>	156
13.1 Dates	156
13.2 Days	156
13.3 Months	157
13.4 Seasons	157
<b>14. TELLING TIME</b>	
14.1 Time Expressions You Ought to Know	158
14.2 "Official" Time Expressions	159
<b>15. TALKING ABOUT THE WEATHER</b>	161
<b>16. NUMBERS</b>	163
<b>17. SYNONYMS</b>	168
<b>18. ANTONYMS</b>	172
<b>19. COGNATES</b>	177
<b>20. TRICKY WORDS</b>	179
French-English Vocabulary	181
Index	191

# Preface

This book is one of a new series of handy grammar reference guides. It is designed for students, business-people, and others who want to “brush up” their knowledge of French grammar for instant communication and comprehension.

Whether you are just beginning your study of French or have had some French and want to review, this book is for you. Previous knowledge has not been taken for granted in these pages; definitions and explanations are concise and clear, and examples use and reuse a core of basic vocabulary.

The complete grammar review consists of three parts: the Basics, the Parts of Speech, and Special Topics, all of which are outlined in the table of contents.

Occasionally I offer some mnemonic (memory) tips to help you remember certain aspects of French grammar and vocabulary. For example, if you cannot remember whether the French word for twenty (**vingt**) is spelled *ng* or *gn*, remember it this way:

Mnemonic tip

V	I	N	G	T	
T	W	E	N	T	Y

Mnemonic devices are very useful in learning and remembering. Students learn and remember in different ways. What works for you may not work for someone else. You must think of ways to help yourself remember. If you think of a way that seems foolish, don't tell anyone; just let it work for you. One of my students in a Spanish class, for example, told me that she finally figured out a way to remember the meaning of the Spanish verb *buscar* / to look

for. She said, "I'm looking for a bus or a car." How many mnemonic tips can you make up in French? Here are a few more: If someone asks you, "What are the five major Romance Languages?" are you going to say you don't know? Remember **FRIPS**:

Mnemonic tip

French  
Romanian  
Italian  
Portuguese  
Spanish

To remember that there are only four nasal vowels in French, hang on to this catchy phrase because each word contains one of the four nasal vowels:

Mnemonic tip

*un bon vin blanc* / a good white wine

If you keep pronouncing *un œuf* / an egg incorrectly, say this out loud:

Mnemonic tip

Do you want one egg? Two eggs?  
One egg is enough!  
One egg is *un œuf*!

The sound of the English word "enough" is very close to the sound of the French word *un œuf*.

There are many more mnemonic tips throughout this book. If I have omitted anything you think is important, if you spot any misprints, or if you have any suggestions for the improvement of the next edition, please write to me, care of the publisher.

Christopher Kendris  
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# ***How to Use This Book***

*In the chapters that follow, a numerical decimal system has been used with the symbol § in front of it. This was done so that you may find quickly and easily the reference to a particular point in basic French grammar when you use the index. For example, if you look up the entry "adjectives" in the index, you will find the reference given as §5. Sometimes additional § reference numbers are given when the entry you consult is mentioned in other areas in the chapter §. The index also includes some key French words, for example, avoir and être, with § references also given to them.*



# The Basics

## §1.

---

### Guide to Pronouncing French Sounds

English words given here contain sounds that only approximate French sounds.

#### PURE VOWEL SOUNDS

Pronounced as in the

French word	English word
<i>la</i>	lolly
<i>pas</i>	ah!
<i>été</i>	ate
<i>ère</i>	egg
<i>ici</i>	see
<i>hôtel</i>	over
<i>donne</i>	bun
<i>ou</i>	too
<i>leur</i>	urgent
<i>deux</i>	pudding
<i>tu</i>	cute
<i>le</i>	ago

#### NASAL VOWEL SOUNDS

<i>un</i>	unguent
<i>bon</i>	song
<i>vin</i>	sang
<i>blanc</i>	throng

#### SEMICONSONANT SOUNDS

<i>oui</i>	west
<i>huit</i>	you eat
<i>fille</i>	yes, see ya later

## CONSONANT SOUNDS

Pronounced as in the

French word	English word
<i>bonne</i>	bun
<i>dans</i>	dog
<i>fou</i>	first, pharmacy
<i>garçon</i>	go
<i>je</i>	measure
<i>chose</i>	shake
<i>café, qui</i>	cap, kennel
<i>le</i>	let
<i>mette</i>	met
<i>nette</i>	net
<i>montagne</i>	canyon, onion, union
<i>père</i>	pear
<i>rose</i>	rose
<i>si</i>	see
<i>te</i>	lot
<i>vous</i>	vine
<i>zèbre</i>	zebra
<i>ça</i>	sorry

- If you can, give equal stress to all syllables in a French word; do not raise your voice on any particular syllable.
- If you can't give equal stress to all syllables in a French word, then raise your voice slightly on the last syllable.

### EXAMPLES:

*chapeau* (shah-PO), *magazine* (mah-gah-ZEEN),  
*perspicacité* (per-spee-kah-see-TAY)

- Do not pronounce the last letter of a French word if it is a consonant.

### EXAMPLES:

*beaucoup* (bo-KOO), *aéroport* (ah-air-o-POR)

Some common exceptions: *parc* (pARK), *chef* (shEFF), *avec* (ah-VEK). If you're not sure, don't pronounce the last consonant at all.

**Mnemonic tip** If you don't know which is *accent aigu* (acute) (é) and which is *accent grave* (è), remember that the patient died of acute appendicitis (é) and ended up in the grave (è).

## §2.

---

# Capitalization, Punctuation Marks, and Word Division

## §2.1 CAPITALIZATION

Generally speaking, do not capitalize days of the week, months of the year, languages, adjectives of nationality, and religions.

*dimanche, lundi, mardi, etc.; janvier, février, mars, etc.; français, espagnol, anglais, etc.; Antonio est italien, María est espagnole; Pierre est français; Jacques est catholique.*

Nouns of nationality are capitalized.  
*un Américain* / an American (male);  
*une Française* / a French woman.

## §2.2 PUNCTUATION MARKS

The basic punctuation marks in French are:

*le point* / period .  
*point virgule* / semicolon ;  
*la virgule* / comma ,  
*l'apostrophe (f)* / apostrophe '   
*deux points* / colon :  
*les parenthèses (f)* / parentheses ( )  
*les guillemets (m)* / quotation marks « »  
*le point d'interrogation* / question mark ?  
*les points de suspension* / ellipses points . . .

## §2.3 WORD DIVISION

It is good to know how to divide a word into syllables (not only in French but also in English) because it helps you pronounce and spell the word correctly.

### Basic Rules

- A syllable must contain a vowel, but it may contain only one vowel and no consonant.

*é / cole* (*école* / school)

- When you are dealing with single separate consonants, each consonant remains with the vowel that follows it.

*beau / coup* (*beaucoup* / many, much)

- When two consonants come together, they are separated; the first remains with the preceding syllable and the second remains with the following syllable.

*im / por / tant* (*important*)

But if the second of the two consonants that come together is *l* or *r*, do not separate them:

*a / près* (*après* / after); *im / meu / ble* (*immeuble* / apartment building)

- When three consonants come together, the first two remain with the preceding vowel and the third remains with the vowel that follows it.

*ins / ti / tut* (*institut*)

But if the third of the three consonants is *l* or *r*, do not separate that third consonant from the second; it remains with the second consonant.

*com / pren / dre* (*comprendre* / to understand)

## 6 The Basics

### Vowels

- Two vowels together are generally separated if they are strong vowels (*a, e, o*).

*a / é / ro / port* (aéroport / airport)

But if you are dealing with a weak vowel (*i, u*), it ordinarily remains in the same syllable with its neighboring vowel, especially if that other vowel is a strong vowel.

*huî / tre* (huître / oyster)



# The Parts of Speech

## §3.

---

### Articles

#### §3.1 DEFINITE ARTICLE

The definite article in French has four forms, and they all mean “the”:

Gender	Singular	Plural
Masculine	<i>le, l'</i>	<i>les</i>
Feminine	<i>la, l'</i>	<i>les</i>

Singular	Plural
<i>le garçon</i> / the boy <i>l'arbre (m)</i> / the tree <i>la jeune fille</i> / the girl <i>l'actrice</i> / the actress	<i>les garçons</i> / the boys <i>les arbres</i> / the trees <i>les jeunes filles</i> / the girls <i>les actrices</i> / the actresses

## 8 The Parts of Speech

### Definite Article Used

#### WITH NOUNS

- Before each noun even when more than one noun is stated

*J'ai le livre et le cahier.* / I have the book and notebook.

- When you make a general statement.

*J'aime le lait.* / I like milk.

*J'aime l'été.* / I like summer.

- With a noun of weight or measure to express "a," "an," "per."

*dix francs la livre* / ten francs a pound

*vingt francs la douzaine* / twenty francs a dozen

- Before a noun indicating a profession, rank, or title followed by the name of the person.

*Le professeur Poulin est absent aujourd'hui.* / Professor Poulin is absent today.

- With the name of a language.

*J'étudie le français.* / I'm studying French.

EXCEPTION: Do *not* use the definite article when the name of a language directly follows a form of the verb *parler*.

*Je parle français et russe.* / I speak French and Russian.

- With the days of the week to indicate an action that is habitually repeated.

*Le samedi je vais au cinéma.* / On Saturdays I go to the movies.

But when you want to indicate a *particular* day, do not use the definite article.

*Samedi je vais au cinéma.* / Saturday I am going to the movies.  
(understood: this Saturday)

With parts of the body or articles of clothing if the possessor is clearly stated.

*Luigi, qui est italien, a les cheveux noirs.* / Luigi, who is Italian, has black hair.

With family names in the plural, in which case the spelling of the family name does not change.

*Nous allons chez les Durand.* / We're going to the Durands.

## WITH PREPOSITIONS

When the prepositions *à* and *de* come before the definite article, it contracts as follows:

Preposition		Article		Contraction	
<i>à</i>	{	+	le	>	<i>au</i>
		+	les	>	<i>aux</i>
<i>de</i>	{	+	le	>	<i>du</i>
		+	les	>	<i>des</i>

But there is *no* change with *l'* or *la*.

*Je vais à l'aéroport.* / I'm going to the airport.

*Je vais à la bibliothèque.* / I'm going to the library.

*Je viens de l'aéroport.* / I'm coming from the airport.

*Je viens de la bibliothèque.* / I'm coming from the library.

With the preposition *à* (which combines to form *au* or *aux*) in front of the name of a country that is masculine.

*Nous allons au Canada* / We're going to Canada.

*Janine vient aux États-Unis.* / Janine is coming to the United States.

## 10 The Parts of Speech

With the preposition *de* (which combines to form *du* or *des*) before the name of a country that is masculine.

*du Portugal* / from Portugal

*des Etats-Unis* / from the United States

With the preposition *de* + a common noun to indicate possession.

*le livre du garçon* / the boy's book

*les livres des garçons* / the boys' books

*la robe de la jeune fille* / the girl's dress

*les poupées des petites filles* / the little girls' dolls

### WITH CERTAIN EXPRESSIONS

- Indicating segments of the day.

*l'après-midi* / in the afternoon; *le matin* / in the morning;

*le soir* / in the evening

- Common expressions.

*à l'école* / to school, in school; *à la maison* / at home

*la semaine dernière* / last week; *l'année dernière* / last year

*la plupart de* / most of

*la plupart des jeunes filles* / most of the girls

- As a partitive in the affirmative.

*J'ai du café.* / I have (some) coffee.

*Tu as de l'argent.* / You have (some) money.

*Il a des amis.* / He has friends.

### Definite Article Not Used

However, the definite article is *not* used when the partitive is in the negative or when the definite article is used with an adjective.

*Je n'ai pas de café.* / I haven't any coffee.

*Tu n'as pas d'argent.* / You haven't any money.

*Il a de bons amis.* / He has some good friends.

Do not use the definite article:

In direct address: *Bonjour, docteur Leduc.*

After the preposition *en*: *Nous écrivons en français.* Exceptions:

*en l'air* / in the air; *en l'absence de* / in the absence of

*en l'honneur de* / in honor of

After the preposition *de* in an adjective phrase: *J'aime mon livre de français.*

With a feminine country and continents when you use *en* / at, to or *de* / of, from.

*Je vais en France, en Angleterre, en Allemagne, en Australie, en Asie, et en Amérique.*

*Paul vient de France, les Armstrong viennent d'Australie et Hilda vient d'Allemagne.*

With most cities: *à Paris, à New York; de Londres, de Montréal, de Sydney.*

With a noun in apposition: *Paul, fils du professeur Leblanc, est très aimable.*

With titles of monarchs:

*Louis Seize (Louis XVI) / Louis the Sixteenth*

With the preposition *sans* or with the construction *ne . . . ni . . . ni . . . ni . . .*:

*Je n'ai ni papier ni stylo.* / I have neither paper nor pen.

*Il est parti sans argent.* / He left without money.

With certain expressions of quantity that take *de*: *beaucoup de, trop de, combien de, peu de, plus de, assez de*

With the preposition *avec* when the noun after it is abstract:

*Jean-Luc parle avec enthousiasme.*

### §3.2 INDEFINITE ARTICLE

The forms of the indefinite article are:

Singular
<i>J'ai un frère.</i> / I have a brother.
<i>J'ai une sœur.</i> / I have a sister.
Plural
<i>J'ai des frères.</i> / I have brothers.
<i>J'ai des sœurs.</i> / I have sisters.

The indefinite article is used:

- When you want to say "a" or "an." It is also used as a numeral to mean "one":

*un livre* / a book or one book

*une orange* / an orange or one orange

- In front of each noun in a series:

*J'ai un cahier, un crayon et une gomme.* / I have a notebook, pencil, and eraser.

- With *C'est* or *Ce sont* with or without an adjective:

*C'est un docteur.* / He's a doctor.

*C'est un mauvais docteur.* / He's a bad doctor.

*Ce sont des étudiants.* / They are students.

The indefinite article is *not* used:

- With *cent* and *mille*:

*J'ai cent dollars.* / I have a hundred dollars.

*J'ai mille dollars.* / I have a thousand dollars.

- With *il est, ils sont, elle est, elles sont* + an unmodified noun of nationality, profession, or religion:

*Elle est professeur.* / She is a professor.

*Il est catholique.* / He is (a) Catholic.

When you use *quel* in an exclamation:

*Quelle femme!* / What a woman!

*Quel homme!* / What a man!

With negations, particularly with the verb *avoir*:

*Avez-vous un livre? Non, je n'ai pas de livre.* / Have you a book? No, I don't have a book (any book).

### §3.3 PARTITIVE

The partitive denotes a *part* of a whole; in other words, some. In English, we express the partitive by saying "some" or "any" in front of the noun. Use the following forms in front of the noun:

Masculine singular: *du* or *de l'*

Feminine singular: *de la* or *de l'*

Masculine or feminine plural: *des*

#### Simple Affirmative

*J'ai du café.* / I have some coffee.

*J'ai de la viande.* / I have some meat.

*J'ai de l'eau.* / I have some water.

*J'ai des bonbons.* / I have some candy.

#### Simple Negative

*Je n'ai pas de café.* / I don't have any coffee.

*Je n'ai pas de viande.* / I don't have any meat.

*Je n'ai pas d'eau.* / I don't have any water.

*Je n'ai pas de bonbons.* / I don't have any candy.

With an Adjective

*J'ai de jolis chapeaux.* / I have some pretty hats.  
*J'ai de jolies robes.* / I have some pretty dresses.

Note the following:

- When the noun is preceded by an adverb or noun of quantity or measure, use *de*, as in *J'ai beaucoup de choses.* / I have many things.
- When the noun is modified by another noun, use *de*, as in *une école de filles.*
- The partitive is not used with *sans* or *ne . . . ni . . . ni.*

EXAMPLE:

*J'ai quitté la maison sans argent.* / I left the house without any money.

- Use *quelques* and not the partitive when by "some" you mean "a few," in other words, "not many."

EXAMPLES:

*J'ai quelques amis.* / I have a few (some) friends.

*J'ai quelques bonbons.* / I have a few (some) candies.

- When the negated verb is *ne . . . que* / only, the partitive consists of *de* plus the definite article.

EXAMPLES:

*Elle ne lit que des livres.* / She reads only books.

*Elle ne mange que des bonbons.* / She eats only candy.

- The partitive must be repeated before each noun.

EXAMPLE:

*Ici on vend du papier, de l'encre et des cahiers.* / Here they sell paper, ink, and notebooks.



# §4.

## Nouns

### §4.1 GENDER

A *noun* is a word that refers to a person, place, thing, or quality. Nouns are either masculine or feminine and require the article *le*, *la*, *l'*, or *les*. The gender of nouns that refer to persons or animals is obvious.

### Examples

PERSONS	
<b>Masculine</b> <i>l'homme</i> / the man <i>le garçon</i> / the boy <i>l'oncle</i> / the uncle	<b>Feminine</b> <i>la femme</i> / the woman <i>la jeune fille</i> / the girl <i>la tante</i> / the aunt

ANIMALS	
<b>Masculine</b> <i>le taureau</i> / the bull <i>le coq</i> / the rooster <i>le chat</i> / the cat	<b>Feminine</b> <i>la vache</i> / the cow <i>la poule</i> / the hen <i>la chatte</i> / the cat

- The gender of nouns referring to anything other than persons or animals must be learned with the noun.

## Examples

Gender	Noun Endings	Examples
Masculine	-age or -âge	<i>l'âge</i> / age <i>le fromage</i> / cheese
	-ment	<i>le logement</i> / lodging <i>le médicament</i> / medicine (you take)
	-eau	<i>le chapeau</i> / hat <i>le gâteau</i> / cake
Feminine	-ance	<i>la circonstance</i> / circumstance <i>la chance</i> / chance, luck
	-ence	<i>l'apparence</i> / appearance <i>la science</i> / science
	-tion	<i>l'attention</i> / attention <i>la notion</i> / idea, notion
	-ette	<i>la fourchette</i> / fork <i>la serviette</i> / napkin <i>la sucette</i> / lollipop

## Special Cases

Some nouns have one meaning when masculine, another meaning when feminine:

**Masculine**

*le livre* / book

*le tour* / turn

**Feminine**

*la livre* / pound

*la tour* / tower

Some nouns are the same for both:

**Masculine**

*un élève* / pupil (boy)

*un enfant* / child (boy)

**Feminine**

*une élève* / pupil (girl)

*une enfant* / child (girl)

Some nouns add -e to the masculine to form the feminine:

**Masculine**

*un cousin* / cousin

*un ami* / friend

**Feminine**

*une cousine* / cousin

*une amie* / friend

Some nouns change the *-eur* masculine ending to *-euse* for feminine:

**Masculine**

*un vendeur* / salesman

*un menteur* / liar

**Feminine**

*une vendeuse* / saleswoman

*une menteuse* / liar

## §4.2 PLURAL OF NOUNS—THE BASICS

Add *-s* to the singular:

Singular	Plural
<i>le livre</i> / the book	<i>les livres</i> / the books
<i>la maison</i> / the house	<i>les maisons</i> / the houses
<i>l'étudiant</i> / the student	<i>les étudiants</i> / the students

If a noun ends in *-s*, *-x*, or *-z* in the singular, leave it alone:

Singular	Plural
<i>le bras</i> / the arm	<i>les bras</i> / the arms
<i>la voix</i> / the voice	<i>les voix</i> / the voices
<i>le nez</i> / the nose	<i>les nez</i> / the noses

If a noun ends in *-al* in the singular, change *-al* to *-aux*:

Singular
<i>le journal</i> / the newspaper
Plural
<i>les journaux</i> / the newspapers

## 18 The Parts of Speech

If a noun ends in *-eu* or *-eau* in the singular, add *-x*:

Singular	
<i>le feu</i>	/ the fire
<i>le bureau</i>	/ the office, the desk
Plural	
<i>les feux</i>	/ the fires
<i>les bureaux</i>	/ the offices, desks

Common irregular nouns

Singular	Plural		
<i>le ciel</i>	/ the sky	<i>les cieux</i>	/ the skies
<i>l'œil</i>	/ the eye	<i>les yeux</i>	/ the eyes

# §5.

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## Adjectives

### §5.1 FORMATION

#### Feminine Singular

- The feminine singular of an adjective is normally formed by adding *-e* to the masculine singular.

##### EXAMPLES

*joli* — *jolie* / pretty      *présent* — *présente* / present  
*grand* — *grande* / tall

- If a masculine singular adjective already ends in *-e*, the feminine singular is the same form.

##### EXAMPLES

*aimable* / kind      *énorme* / huge      *faible* / weak

- Some feminine singular forms are irregular. If a masculine singular adjective ends in *-c*, change it to *-que* for the feminine; *-er* to *-ère*; *-f* to *-ve*; *-g* to *-gue*; and *-x* to *-se*.

##### EXAMPLES

*public* — *publique* / public      *long* — *longue* / long  
*premier* — *première* / first      *heureux* — *heureuse* / happy  
*actif* — *active* / active

- Some masculine singular adjectives double the final consonant before adding *-e* to form the feminine.

##### EXAMPLES

*ancien* — *ancienne* / old      *cruel* — *cruelle* / cruel  
*bas* — *basse* / low      *gentil* — *gentille* / kind, nice  
*bon* — *bonne* / good

## 20 The Parts of Speech

- The following feminine singular adjectives are formed from the irregular masculine singular forms:

<b>Masculine Singular Before a Masculine Singular Noun Beginning with a Consonant</b>	<b>Irregular Masculine Singular Before a Masculine Singular Noun Beginning with a Vowel or Silent H</b>
<i>beau</i> / beautiful, handsome <i>fou</i> / crazy <i>nouveau</i> / new <i>vieux</i> / old	<i>bel ami</i> <i>fol ami</i> <i>nouvel hôtel</i> <i>vieil ami</i>

### **Feminine Singular**

*belle amie*  
*folle amie*  
*nouvelle amie*  
*vieille amie*

**Mnemonic tip** *La vieille dame a passé la veille de Noël avec son vieil ami dans un vieux cabaret.* /  
The old lady spent Christmas Eve with her old friend in an old cabaret.

- Some common masculine singular adjectives have irregular forms in the feminine singular. These do not fall into any particular category like those above.

### EXAMPLES

*blanc* — *blanche* / white

*complet* — *complète* / complete

*doux* — *douce* / soft, smooth, sweet

*faux* — *fausse* / false

*favori* — *favorite* /  
favorite

*frais* — *fraîche* / fresh

*sec* — *sèche* / dry

## Plural

- The plural is normally formed by adding -s to the masculine or feminine singular.

### EXAMPLES

*bon — bons; bonne — bonnes / good joli — jolis;  
jolie — jolies / pretty*

- If the masculine singular already ends in -s or -x, it remains the same in the masculine plural.

### EXAMPLES

*gris — gris / gray heureux — heureux / happy*

- If a masculine singular adjective ends in -al, it changes to -aux (with some exceptions).

### EXAMPLES

*égal — égaux / equal principal — principaux / principal*

- If a masculine singular adjective ends in -eau, it changes to -eaux.

### EXAMPLE

*nouveau — nouveaux / new*

## §5.2 AGREEMENT

An adjective agrees in gender (feminine or masculine) and number (singular or plural) with the noun or pronoun it modifies.

### EXAMPLES:

*Alexandre et Théodore sont beaux et intelligents. / Alexander and Theodore are handsome and smart.*

*Yolande est belle. / Yolande is beautiful.*

*Janine et Monique sont belles. / Janine and Monique are beautiful.*

*Hélène et Simone sont actives. / Helene and Simone are active.*

## 22 The Parts of Speech

*Anne est jolie.* / Anne is pretty.

*C'est un bel arbre.* / It is a beautiful tree.

*Ils sont amusants.* / They are amusing.

*Chaque garçon est présent.* / Every boy is here (present).

*Chaque jeune fille est présente.* / Every girl is here (present).

*Valentine est absente.* / Valentine is absent.

### §5.3 POSITION

- In French, most descriptive adjectives are placed after the noun; e.g., colors, nationality, religion: *une robe blanche* / a white dress, *un fromage français* / a French cheese, *une femme catholique* / a Catholic woman
- Here are some examples of common short adjectives that are generally placed in front of the noun:

*un autre livre* / another book, *un bel arbre* / a beautiful tree, *un beau cadeau* / a beautiful gift, *un bon dîner* / a good dinner, *chaque jour* / each day, *un gros livre* / a big book, *une jeune dame* / a young lady, *une jolie maison* / a pretty house, *une petite table* / a small table, *plusieurs amis* / several friends, *un vieil homme* / an old man, *le premier rang* / the first row, *quelques bonbons* / some candy, *un tel garçon* / such a boy, *toute la journée* / all day.

- Some adjectives change in meaning, depending on whether the adjective is in front of the noun or after it. The most common are:

*la semaine dernière* / last week

*la dernière semaine* / the last (final) week

*ma robe propre* / my clean dress

*ma propre robe* / my own dress

*une femme brave* / a brave woman

*une brave femme* / a fine woman

*le même moment* / the same moment

*le moment même* / the very moment

*un livre cher* / an expensive book

*un cher ami* / a dear friend



## §5.4 TYPES

### §5.4-1 Descriptive

A descriptive adjective is a word that describes a noun or pronoun: *une belle maison* / a beautiful house, *un beau livre* / a beautiful book, *un bel arbre* / a beautiful tree, *une jolie femme* / a pretty woman.

*Elle est grande.* / She is tall.

### §5.4-2 Demonstrative

A demonstrative adjective is used to point out something or someone.

Gender	Singular	Plural
Masculine	<i>ce, cet</i> / this, that	<i>ces</i> / these, those
Feminine	<i>cette</i> / this, that	<i>ces</i> / these, those

#### EXAMPLES:

*Ce garçon est beau.* / This boy is handsome.

*Cet arbre est beau.* / This tree is beautiful.

*Cette femme est belle.* / This woman is beautiful.

*Ces hommes sont beaux.* / These men are handsome.

*Ces livres sont beaux.* / These books are beautiful.

*Ces dames sont belles.* / These ladies are beautiful.

If you wish to make a contrast between “this” and “that” or “these” and “those,” add *-ci* this, these or *-là* that, those to the noun with a hyphen.

*Ce garçon-ci est plus fort que ce garçon-là.* / This boy is stronger than that boy.

The form *cet* is used in front of a masculine singular noun or adjective beginning with a vowel or silent *h*: *cet arbre, cet homme.*

## 24 The Parts of Speech

If there is more than one noun, a demonstrative adjective must be used in front of each noun: *cette dame et ce monsieur*.

### §5.4-3 Interrogative

The adjective *quel* is generally regarded as interrogative because it is frequently used in a question. Its forms are *quel, quelle, quels, quelles*.

#### EXAMPLES:

*Quel livre voulez-vous?* / Which book do you want?

*Quel est votre nom?* / What is your name?

*Quelle heure est-il?* / What time is it?

*Quelle est votre adresse?* / What is your address?

*Quels sont les mois de l'année?* / What are the months of the year?

*Quelles sont les saisons?* / What are the seasons?

The adjective *quel* is also used in exclamations. Note that the indefinite article *un (une)* is not used in this case.

#### EXAMPLES

*Quel garçon!* / What a boy!

*Quelle jeune fille!* / What a girl!

### §5.4-4 Possessive

#### MASCULINE

##### Singular

*mon livre* / my book

*ton stylo* / your pen

*son ballon* / his (her, its) balloon

*notre parapluie* / our umbrella

*votre sandwich* / your sandwich

*leur gâteau* / their cake

##### Plural

*mes livres* / my books

*tes stylos* / your pens

*ses ballons* / his (her, its) balloons

*nos parapluies* / our umbrellas

*vos sandwiches* / your sandwiches

*leurs gâteaux* / their cakes

<b>FEMININE</b>	
<p><b>Singular</b></p> <p><i>ma robe</i> / my dress  <i>ta jaquette</i> / your jacket  <i>sa balle</i> / his (her, its) ball  <i>notre maison</i> / our house  <i>votre voiture</i> / your car  <i>leur sœur</i> / their sister</p>	<p><b>Plural</b></p> <p><i>mes robes</i> / my dresses  <i>tes jaquettes</i> / your jackets  <i>ses balles</i> / his (her, its) balls  <i>nos maisons</i> / our houses  <i>vos voitures</i> / your cars  <i>leurs sœurs</i> / their sisters</p>

A possessive adjective agrees in gender and number with the noun it modifies.

*Notre*, *votre*, and *leur* do not agree with the gender of the noun in the singular. They are all the same, whether in front of a masculine or feminine singular noun.

Possessive adjectives do not agree with the gender of the noun in the plural. They are all the same, whether in front of a masculine or feminine plural noun: *mes*, *tes*, *ses*, *nos*, *vos*, *leurs*.

Be aware of *mon* (*ma*), *ton* (*ta*), *son* (*sa*): In front of a feminine singular noun beginning with a vowel or silent *h*, the masculine singular forms are used: *mon*, *ton*, *son* — not *ma*, *ta*, *sa*.

<p><i>mon adresse</i> / my address  <i>ton opinion</i> / your opinion  <i>son amie</i> / his (or her) friend  <i>mon habitude</i> / my habit (custom)</p>
---

Since *son*, *sa*, and *ses* can mean “his” or “her,” you may add *à lui* or *à elle* to make the meaning clear.

*sa maison à lui* / his house  
*sa maison à elle* / her house  
*son livre à lui* / his book  
*son livre à elle* / her book  
*ses livres à lui* / his books  
*ses livres à elle* / her books

- If there is more than one noun, a possessive adjective must be used in front of each noun: *ma mère et mon père, mon livre et mon cahier.*

## Possessive Adjectives with Parts of the Body and Clothing

- When using the verb *avoir*, the definite article is normally used with parts of the body, **not** the possessive adjective.

*Henri a les mains sales.* / Henry has dirty hands.  
*Simone a les cheveux roux.* / Simone has red hair.

- When using a reflexive verb, the definite article is normally used, **not** the possessive adjective.

*Paulette s'est lavé les cheveux.* / Paulette washed her hair.

- The *definite article* is used instead of the possessive adjective when referring to parts of the body or clothing if it is clear who the possessor is.

*Henri tient le livre dans la main.* / Henry is holding the book in his hand.

## §5.4–5 Comparative and Superlative

### Comparative

Of the same degree: *aussi . . . que* / *as . . . as*

Of a lesser degree: *moins . . . que* / *less . . . than*

Of a higher degree: *plus . . . que* / *more . . . than*

*Janine est aussi grande que Monique.* / Janine is as tall as Monique.

*Monique est moins intelligente que Janine.* / Monique is less intelligent than Janine.

*Janine est plus jolie que Monique.* / Janine is prettier than Monique.

*Aussi . . . que* becomes *si . . . que* in a negative sentence.

*Robert n'est pas si grand que Joseph.* / Robert is not as tall as Joseph.

The comparative forms of the adjective "bad" are *mauvais*, *pire*, *le pire*.

*Ce crayon est mauvais.* / This pencil is bad.

*Ce crayon est pire que l'autre.* / This pencil is worse than the other.

*Ce crayon est le pire.* / This pencil is the worst.

*Plus que* / more than becomes *plus de* + a number.

#### EXAMPLES

*Il a plus de cinquante ans.* / He is more than fifty years old.

*Je lui ai donné plus de cent dollars.* / I gave him (her) more than a hundred dollars.

## Superlative

The superlative is formed by placing the appropriate definite article (*le, la, les*) in front of the comparative:

*Marie est la plus jolie jeune fille de la classe.* / Mary is the prettiest girl in the class.

If the adjective normally follows the noun, the definite article must be used twice—in front of the noun and in front of the superlative:

*Monsieur Hibou fut le président le plus sage de la nation.* / Mr. Hibou was the wisest president of the nation.

## 28 The Parts of Speech

- After a superlative, the preposition *de* (not *dans*) is normally used to express "in":

*Pierre est le plus beau garçon de la classe.* / Peter is the most handsome boy in the class.

- If more than one comparative or superlative is expressed, each is repeated:

*Marie est la plus intelligente et la plus sérieuse de l'école.* / Mary is the most intelligent and most serious in the school.

*Une devinette* (a riddle) using a superlative:

*Quelle est la chose la plus sale de la maison?* / What is the dirtiest thing in the house?

*un balai* / a broom

## Irregular Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

Adjective (m)	Comparative	Superlative
<i>bon</i> / good	<i>meilleur</i> / better	<i>le meilleur</i> / (the) best
<i>mauvais</i> / bad	<i>plus mauvais</i> } <i>pire</i> } worse	<i>le plus mauvais</i> } <i>le pire</i> } (the) worst
<i>petit</i> / small	<i>plus petit</i> / smaller (in size) <i>moindre</i> / less (in importance)	<i>le plus petit</i> / (the) smallest <i>le moindre</i> / (the) least

### §5.4–6 *Meilleur* and *Mieux*

*Meilleur* is an adjective and must agree in gender and number with the noun or pronoun it modifies.

## EXAMPLE

*Cette pomme est bonne, cette pomme-là est meilleure que celle-ci et celle-là est la meilleure.* / This apple is good, that apple is better than this one, and that one is the best.

*Mieux* is an adverb and does not change in form.

## EXAMPLE

*Marie chante bien, Anne chante mieux que Marie et Claire chante le mieux.* / Mary sings well, Anne sings better than Mary, and Claire sings the best.

**Mnemonic tip** The adverb *bien* / well and the adverb *mieux* / better both contain *ie*.

## §5.4–7 Adjectives Used in an Adverbial Sense

An adjective used as an adverb does not normally change in form.

*Cette rose sent bon.* / This rose smells good.

*Ces bonbons coûtent cher.* / These candies are expensive.

# §6.

## Pronouns

### §6.1 TYPES

#### §6.1-1 Subject Pronouns

The subject pronouns are:

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	<i>je (j') / I</i>	<i>nous / we</i>
2d	<i>tu / you (familiar)</i>	<i>vous / you (singular polite or plural)</i>
3d	<i>il / he, it</i> <i>elle / she, it</i> <i>on / one</i>	<i>ils / they (m.)</i> <i>elles / they (f.)</i>

- Note that *je* becomes *j'* before a vowel or a silent *h*:

*j'aime / I love; j'hésite / I hesitate.*

- Remember that *vous* is not always plural; it is also the polite form of the second person; *tu* is the familiar form. You can use the *tu* form with members of the family and close friends, but always use the *vous* form with strangers and with people you do not know well.



## §6.1–2 Direct Object Pronouns

The direct object pronouns are:

Person	Singular
1st	<i>me (m') / me</i>
2d	<i>te (t') / you (familiar)</i>
3d	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{le (l')} / \textit{him, it} \\ \textit{la (l')} / \textit{her, it} \end{array} \right.$ (person or thing)

Person	Plural
1st	<i>nous / us</i>
2d	<i>vous / you (singular polite or plural)</i>
3d	<i>les / them (persons or things)</i>

- A direct object pronoun takes the place of a direct object noun.
- A direct object noun ordinarily comes after the verb, but a direct object pronoun is ordinarily placed *in front* of the verb or infinitive.

### EXAMPLES

*J'ai les lettres.* / I have the letters. → *Je les ai.* / I have them.

*Je connais Luigi.* / I know Luigi. → *Je le connais.* / I know him.

#### Mnemonic tip

*Je lis la leçon.* / I'm reading the lesson.

Drop the noun *leçon*; what remains is *la*, the feminine singular definite article. It now becomes the direct object pronoun. Place it in front of the verb: *Je la lis.* / I'm reading it.

- *Me, te, le, and la* become *m', t', l'* when directly followed by a verb that starts with a vowel or silent *h*.

### §6.1–3 Indirect Object Pronouns

The indirect object pronouns are:

Person	Singular
1st	<i>me (m')</i> to me
2d	<i>te (t')</i> to you (familiar)
3d	<i>lui</i> to him, to her

Person	Plural
1st	<i>nous</i> to us
2d	<i>vous</i> to you (singular polite or plural)
3d	<i>leur</i> to them

- An indirect object pronoun takes the place of an indirect object noun.
- An indirect object pronoun is ordinarily placed *in front* of the verb.

#### EXAMPLES

*Je parle à Janine.* / I'm talking to Janine. → *Je lui parle.* / I'm talking to her.

*Je parle à Luigi et à mon ami.* / I'm talking to Luigi and my friend. → *Je leur parle.* / I'm talking to them.

### §6.1–4 Double Object Pronouns

To get a picture of what the word order is when you have more than one object pronoun (direct and indirect) in a sentence, see Word Order of Elements in French Sentences, §11.

§6.1–5 *En*

- The pronoun *en* takes the place of the partitive and serves as a direct object. It can refer to persons or things.

## EXAMPLES

*Avez-vous des frères?* / Do you have any brothers?

*Oui, j'en ai.* / Yes, I have (some).

*Avez-vous de l'argent?* / Have you any money?

*Oui, j'en ai.* / Yes, I have (some). *Non, je n'en ai pas.* / No, I don't have any.

- The past participle of a compound verb does not agree with the preceding direct object *en*.

*Avez-vous écrit des lettres?* / Did you write any letters?

*Oui, j'en ai écrit trois.* / Yes, I wrote three (of them).

- When using a reflexive verb, use *en* to take the place of the preposition *de* + a thing.

*Est-ce que vous vous souvenez de l'adresse?* / Do you remember the address?

*Oui, je m'en souviens.* / Yes, I remember it.

*Est-ce que vous prenez des hors-d'œuvre?* / Are you helping yourself to the hors d'œuvre?

*Oui, merci, j'en prends.* / Yes, thank you, I'm helping myself to some.

Do not use *en* to take the place of the preposition *de* + a person. Use a disjunctive pronoun (see §6.1–7).

*Est-ce que vous vous souvenez de cette dame?* / Do you remember this lady?

*Oui, je me souviens d'elle.* / Yes, I remember her.

- Use *en* to take the place of *de* + noun and retain the word of quantity.

*Avez-vous beaucoup d'amis?* / Do you have many friends?

*Oui, j'en ai beaucoup.* / Yes, I have many (of them).

## 34 The Parts of Speech

*Madame Paquet a-t-elle mis trop de sel dans le ragoût? / Did Mrs. Paquet put too much salt in the stew?*

*Oui, elle en a mis trop dans le ragoût. / Yes, she put too much (of it) in the stew.*

- Use *en* to take the place of the preposition *de* + the place to mean “from there.”

*Est-ce que vous venez de l'école? / Are you coming from school?*

*Oui, j'en viens. / Yes, I'm coming from there.*

*Non, je n'en viens pas. / No, I am not coming from there.*

### §6.1–6 Y

Use *y* as a pronoun to serve as an object replacing a prepositional phrase beginning with *à*, *dans*, *sur*, or *chez* that refers to things, places, or ideas.

*Est-ce que vous pensez à l'examen? / Are you thinking of the exam?*

*Oui, j'y pense. / Yes, I'm (thinking of it).*

*Je réponds à la lettre. / I'm answering the letter.*

*J'y réponds. / I'm answering it.*

*Est-ce que les fleurs sont sur la table? / Are the flowers on the table?*

*Oui, elles y sont. / Yes, they are (there).*

*Est-ce que vous allez chez Pierre? / Are you going to Pierre's?*

*Oui, j'y vais. / Yes, I'm going (there).*

### §6.1–7 Disjunctive Pronouns

Person	Singular	Plural	
1st	<i>moi</i> me, I	<i>nous</i> us, we	
2nd	<i>toi</i> you (familiar)	<i>vous</i> you (formal singular or plural)	
3rd	<i>soi</i> oneself	<i>eux</i> them, they (m.)	
	<i>lui</i> him, he		<i>elles</i> them, they (f.)
	<i>elle</i> her, she		

Mnemonic tip
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*Je vais chez moi.* / I'm going to my house.  
*Tu vas chez toi.* / You're going to your house.  
*Il va chez lui.* / He's going to his house.  
*Elle va chez elle.* / She's going to her house.  
*On va chez soi.* / One is going to one's own house.  
  
*Nous allons chez nous.* / We're going to our house.  
*Vous allez chez vous.* / You're going to your house.  
*Ils vont chez eux.* / They're going to their house.  
*Elles vont chez elles.* / They're going to their house.

A disjunctive pronoun is used:

- as object of a preposition.

*Elle parle avec moi.* / She is talking with me.  
*Je pense toujours à toi.* / I always think of you.

- in a compound subject or object.

*Elle et lui sont amoureux.* / He and she are in love.  
*Je vous connais — toi et lui.* / I know you — you and him.

- for emphasis.

*Moi, je parle bien; lui, il ne parle pas bien.* / I speak well; he does not speak well.

- to indicate possession with *à* if the verb is *être* and if the subject is a noun, personal pronoun, or demonstrative pronoun.

*Ce livre est à moi.* / This book is mine.  
*Je suis à toi.* / I am yours.

- with *c'est* and *ce sont*.

*Qui est à la porte? — C'est moi.* / Who is at the door? It is I.  
*C'est toi? Oui, c'est moi.* / Is it you? Yes, it is I.

## 36 The Parts of Speech

*Est-ce que ce sont eux? — Oui, ce sont eux. / Is it they? — Yes, it's they.*

- with *même* and *mêmes*.

*Est-ce Pierre? — Oui, c'est lui-même. / Is it Peter? Yes, it's he himself.*

*Vont-ils les manger eux-mêmes? / Are they going to eat them themselves?*

- when no verb is stated.

*Qui est à l'appareil? Moi. / Who is on the phone? I (am).*

*Qui a brisé le vase? Eux. / Who broke the vase? They (did).*

See also Order of Elements in French Sentences, §11.

## §6.1–8 Demonstrative Pronouns

The demonstrative pronouns are:

	Singular	Plural
Masculine	<i>celui</i> / the one	<i>ceux</i> / the ones
Feminine	<i>celle</i> / the one	<i>celles</i> / the ones

### EXAMPLES

*J'ai mangé mon gâteau et celui de Pierre. / I ate my cake and Peter's.*

*Il aime beaucoup ma voiture et celle de Jacques. / He likes my car very much and Jack's.*

*J'ai mangé mes petits pois et ceux de David. / I ate my peas and David's.*

*J'aime tes jupes et celles de Jeanne. / I like your skirts and Joan's.*

*J'ai deux éclairs; est-ce que tu préfères celui-ci ou celui-là? / I have two eclairs; do you prefer this one or that one?*

*J'ai deux pommes; est-ce que tu préfères celle-ci ou celle-là? / I have two apples; do you prefer this one or that one?*

*Une devinette / a riddle*

*J'ai un chapeau, mais je n'ai pas de tête. Ne trouvez-vous pas que c'est bête? / I have a hat, but I don't have a head.*

Don't you think it's stupid?

*un champignon / a mushroom*

## **ce (c'), ceci, cela, ça**

These are demonstrative pronouns but they are invariable; that is, they do not change in gender and number. They refer to things that are not identified by name and may refer to an idea or a statement mentioned.

### EXAMPLES

*C'est vrai. / It's true.*

*Ceci est vrai. / This is true. Ceci est faux. / This is false.*

*Cela est vrai. / That is true. Cela est faux. / That is false.*

*Ça m'intéresse beaucoup. / That interests me very much.*

*Qu'est-ce que c'est que cela? OR Qu'est-ce que c'est que ça? /*

What's that?

Note that *cela* shortens to *ça*.

## **§6.1–9 Indefinite Pronouns**

*aucun (aucune) / not any, not one, none*

*un autre (une autre) / another, another one*

*nous autres Français / we French (people)*

*nous autres Américains / we American (people)*

*certain (certaines) / certain ones*

*chacun (chacune) / each one*

*nul (nulle) / not one, not any, none*

*n'importe qui, n'importe quel / anyone*

*n'importe quoi / anything*

*on / people, one, they, you, we*

*On dit qu'il va pleuvoir. / They say that it's going to rain.*

## 38 The Parts of Speech

*personne* / no one, nobody

*plusieurs* / several

*J'en ai plusieurs.* / I have several (of them).

*quelque chose* / something

*quelqu'un (quelqu'une)* / someone, somebody

*quelques-uns (quelques-unes)* / some, a few

*quiconque* / whoever, whosoever

*soi* / oneself

*On est chez soi dans cet hôtel.* / People feel at home in this hotel.

*tout* / all, everything

*Tout est bien qui finit bien.* / All is well that ends well.

## §6.1–10 Interrogative Pronouns

### Referring to Persons

- As subject of a verb:

*Qui est à l'appareil?* / Who is on the phone?

*Qui est-ce qui est à l'appareil?* / Who is on the phone?

*Lequel des deux garçons arrive?* / Which (one) of the two boys is arriving?

*Laquelle des deux jeunes filles est ici?* / Which (one) of the two girls is here?

- As direct object of a verb:

*Qui aimez-vous?* / Whom do you love?

*Qui est-ce que vous aimez?* / Whom do you love?

*Lequel de ces deux garçons aimez-vous?* / Which (one) of these two boys do you love?

*Laquelle de ces deux jeunes filles aimez-vous?* / Which (one) of these two girls do you love?

- As object of a preposition:

*Avec qui allez-vous au cinéma?* / With whom are you going to the movies?



*A qui parlez-vous au téléphone? / To whom are you talking on the telephone?*

Note that when the interrogative pronouns *lequel (laquelle)*, *lesquels (lesquelles)* are objects of the prepositions *à* or *de*, their forms are:

### Singular

*auquel (à laquelle)*  
*duquel (de laquelle)*

### Plural

*auxquels (auxquelles)*  
*desquels (desquelles)*

*Auquel de ces deux garçons parlez-vous? / To which (one) of these two boys are you talking?*

*A laquelle de ces deux jeunes filles parlez-vous? / To which (one) of these two girls are you talking?*

*Auxquels de ces hommes parlez-vous? / To which (ones) of these men do you talk?*

*Auxquelles de ces femmes parlez-vous? / To which (ones) of these women are you talking?*

*Duquel de ces deux garçons parlez-vous? / About which (one) of these two boys are you talking?*

## Referring to Things

As subject of a verb:

*Qu'est-ce qui est arrivé? / What arrived? OR What happened?*

*Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé? / What happened?*

### *Une devinette avec qu'est-ce qui*

*Qu'est-ce qui vous appartient et dont les autres se servent souvent? / What belongs to you that others use often?*

*votre nom / your name*

*Laquelle de ces deux voitures marche bien? / Which (one) of these two cars runs well?*

*Lesquels de tous ces trains sont modernes? / Which (ones) of all these trains are modern?*

## 40 The Parts of Speech

- As direct object of a verb:

*Que faites-vous?* / What are you doing?

*Qu'a-t-elle?* / What does she have? OR What's the matter with her?

*Qu'est-ce que vous faites?* / What are you doing?

*Laquelle de ces voitures préférez-vous?* / Which (one) of these cars do you prefer?

- As object of a preposition:

*Avec quoi écrivez-vous?* / With what are you writing?

*A quoi pensez-vous?* / Of what are you thinking? OR What are you thinking of?

## §6.1–11 Possessive Pronouns

MASCULINE			
Singular		Plural	
<i>le mien</i>	mine	<i>les miens</i>	mine
<i>le tien</i>	yours (familiar)	<i>les tiens</i>	yours (familiar)
<i>le sien</i>	his, hers, its	<i>les siens</i>	his, hers, its
<i>le nôtre</i>	ours	<i>les nôtres</i>	ours
<i>le vôtre</i>	yours	<i>les vôtres</i>	yours
<i>le leur</i>	theirs	<i>les leurs</i>	theirs
FEMININE			
Singular		Plural	
<i>la mienne</i>	mine	<i>les miennes</i>	mine
<i>la tienne</i>	yours (familiar)	<i>les tiennes</i>	yours (familiar)
<i>la sienne</i>	his, hers, its	<i>les siennes</i>	his, hers, its
<i>la nôtre</i>	ours	<i>les nôtres</i>	ours
<i>la vôtre</i>	yours	<i>les vôtres</i>	yours
<i>la leur</i>	theirs	<i>les leurs</i>	theirs

- A possessive pronoun takes the place of a possessive adjective + noun.

*mon livre* / my book; *le mien* / mine.

A possessive pronoun agrees in gender and number with what it is replacing.

*son livre* / his (her) book; *le sien* / his (hers).

When the definite articles *le* and *les* are preceded by the prepositions *à* and *de*, they combine as follows: *au mien*, *aux miens*, *du mien*, *des miens*.

*Paul me parle de ses parents et je lui parle des miens.* / Paul is talking to me about his parents and I am talking to him about mine.

*Je préfère ma voiture à la tienne.* / I prefer my car to yours.

Possessive pronouns are used with *être* to emphasize a distinction.

*Ce livre-ci est le mien et celui-là est le tien.* / This book is mine and that one is yours.

If no distinction is made as to who owns what, use *être* + *à* + disjunctive pronoun.

*Ce livre est à lui.* / This book is his.

Instead of using the possessive pronouns in French, we say "one of my friends," "one of my books," etc.

*un de mes amis* / a friend of mine; *un de mes livres* / a book of mine

*une de ses amies* / a girlfriend of his (hers)

*un de nos amis* / a friend of ours

## §6.1–12 Reflexive Pronouns

The reflexive pronouns, which are used with reflexive verbs, are *me*, *te*, *se*, *nous*, and *vous*.

The corresponding English pronouns are: myself, yourself, herself, himself, oneself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves.

## 42 The Parts of Speech

- To form the present tense of a reflexive verb in a simple affirmative sentence, put the reflexive pronoun in front of the verb.

*Je me lave.* / I wash myself.

- A reflexive verb expresses an action that turns back upon the subject.

*Jacqueline se lave tous les jours.* / Jacqueline washes herself every day.

You must be careful to use the appropriate reflexive pronoun—the one that matches the subject pronoun. You already know the subject pronouns, but here they are again, beside the reflexive pronouns.

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	<i>je me lave</i>	<i>nous nous lavons</i>
2d	<i>tu te laves</i>	<i>vous vous lavez</i>
3d	<i>il se lave</i> <i>elle se lave</i> <i>on se lave</i>	<i>ils se lavent</i> <i>elles se lavent</i>

To get a picture of what the word order is when you have more than one pronoun of any kind in a sentence, see *Word Order of Elements in French Sentences* (§11.).

### §6.1–13 Relative Pronouns

A *relative pronoun* is a word that refers to an antecedent. An *antecedent* is something that comes before something; it can be a word, a phrase, a clause that is replaced by a pronoun or some other substitute. For example, in the sentence “Is it Mary who did that?” “who” is the relative

pronoun and "Mary" is the antecedent. Another example: "It seems to me that you are wrong, which is what I had suspected right along." The relative pronoun is "which" and the antecedent is the clause, "that you are wrong."

Some common relative pronouns are:

*dont* / of whom, of which, whose, whom, which

*Voici le livre dont j'ai besoin.* / Here is the book (that) I need.

*Monsieur Béry, dont le fils est avocat, est maintenant en France.* / Mr. Béry, whose son is a lawyer, is now in France.

*ce dont* / what, of which, that of which

*Je ne trouve pas ce dont j'ai besoin.* / I don't find what I need.

*Ce dont vous parlez est absurde.* / What you are talking about is absurd.

*ce que (ce qu')* / what, that which

*Comprenez-vous ce que je vous dis?* / Do you understand what I am telling you?

*Comprenez-vous ce qu'elle vous dit?* / Do you understand what she is saying to you?

*Je comprends ce que vous dites et je comprends ce qu'elle dit.* / I understand what you are saying and I understand what she is saying.

*ce qui* / what, that which

*Ce qui est vrai est vrai.* / What is true is true.

*Je ne sais pas ce qui s'est passé.* / I don't know what happened.

Note that *ce qui* is a subject.

*lequel* (in all its forms) / which

As a relative pronoun, *lequel* (in its various forms) is used as object of a preposition referring to things.

## 44 The Parts of Speech

*Donnez-moi un autre morceau de papier sur lequel je peux écrire mon adresse. / Give me another piece of paper on which I can write my address.*

- *où* / where, in which, on which

*Aimez-vous la salle à manger où nous mangeons? / Do you like the dining room where we eat?*

*Je vais ouvrir le tiroir où j'ai mis l'argent. / I am going to open the drawer where I put the money.*

- *que* or *qu'* / whom, which, that

*Le garçon que vous voyez là-bas est mon meilleur ami. / The boy whom you see over there is my best friend.*

*La composition qu'elle a écrite est excellente. / The composition (that) she wrote is excellent.*

- *qui* / who, whom, which, that

*Connais-tu la jeune fille qui parle avec mon frère? / Do you know the girl who is talking with my brother?*

*Avez-vous une bicyclette qui marche bien? / Do you have a bicycle that (which) runs well?*

### §6.1-14 C'est + adjective + à + infinitive

*C'est difficile à faire. / It is difficult to do.*

Use this construction when what is being referred to *has already been mentioned*.

#### EXAMPLES

*Le devoir pour demain est difficile, n'est-ce pas? / The homework for tomorrow is difficult, isn't it?*

*Oui, c'est difficile à faire. / Yes, it [the homework] is difficult to do.*

*J'aimerais faire une blouse. / I would like to make a blouse.*

*C'est facile à faire! Je vais vous montrer. / It's easy to do! I'll show you.*

## §6.1-15 *Il est* + adjective + *de* + infinitive

*Il est impossible de lire ce gros livre en une heure.* / It is impossible to read this thick book within one hour.

Use this construction when the thing that is impossible, or difficult, or easy (or any adjective) to do is mentioned in the same sentence at the same time.

## §6.1-16 Neuter Pronoun *le*

The word *le* is the masculine singular definite article. It is also the masculine singular direct object. *Le* is used as a neuter pronoun and functions as a direct object referring to an adjective, a phrase, a clause, or a complete statement. It is generally not translated into English, except to mean "it" or "so."

*Janine est jolie, mais Henriette ne l'est pas.* / Janine is pretty, but Henrietta isn't.

*Moi, je crois qu'ils vont gagner le match, et vous? Je le crois aussi.* / I think they are going to win the game, and you? I think so too.

To get a picture of what the word order is when you have more than one pronoun of any kind in a sentence, see Word Order of Elements in French Sentences, §11.

# §7.

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## Verbs

### §7.1 AGREEMENT

#### SUBJECT AND VERB

A subject and its corresponding verb form must agree in *person* (first, second, or third) and number (singular or plural).

##### EXAMPLE:

*Je vais au cinéma.* / I'm going to the movies.

#### SUBJECT AND REFLEXIVE PRONOUN OF A REFLEXIVE VERB

A subject and reflexive pronoun must agree in person and number.

##### EXAMPLE

*Je me lave tous les matins.* / I wash myself every morning.

#### SUBJECT AND PAST PARTICIPLE OF AN ÊTRE VERB

The past participle of an *être* verb agrees with the subject in gender and number.

*Elle est allée au cinéma.* / She went to the movies. OR She has gone to the movies.

*Elles sont allées au cinéma.* / They went to the movies. OR They have gone to the movies.

#### PRECEDING REFLEXIVE PRONOUN AND PAST PARTICIPLE OF A REFLEXIVE VERB



*Elle s'est lavée.* / She washed herself.

*Elles se sont lavées.* / They washed themselves.

However, there is *no* agreement made with the past participle of a reflexive verb if the reflexive pronoun serves as an indirect object pronoun. In the following example, *se* (*s'*) is the indirect object; *les mains* the direct object.

*Elle s'est lavé les mains.* / She washed her hands.

*Elles se sont lavé les mains.* / They washed their hands.

Note this:

*Elles se sont regardées.* / They looked at each other.

Here, the reflexive pronoun *se* serves as the direct object. How do you know? There is no other obvious direct object mentioned, so what they looked at was *se* (each other); of course, you have to look at the subject to see what the gender and number is of the reflexive pronoun *se* in the sentence you are dealing with. The action of the verb is reciprocal.

Remember that the verb *regarder* in French means "to look at" in English; the preposition "at" is not expressed with *à* in French; it is included in the verb—that is why we are dealing with the reflexive pronoun as a direct object here, not an indirect object pronoun.

This same sentence, *Elles se sont regardées*, might also mean: "They looked at themselves." The principle of agreement is still the same. If you mean to say "They looked at each other," in order to avoid two meanings, add *l'une et l'autre*. If more than two persons, add *les unes les autres*.

And note:

*Elles se sont parlé au téléphone.* / They talked to each other on the telephone.

Here, the reflexive pronoun *se* is the indirect object because they spoke to each other; *parler à* is what you are dealing with here. And remember that no agreement is made on a past participle with an indirect object. The action of the verb is reciprocal.

## PAST PARTICIPLE OF AN AVOIR VERB WITH A PRECEDING DIRECT OBJECT

### EXAMPLES

*Je l'ai vue au concert.* / I saw her at the concert.

- There is agreement on the past participle (*vue*) because the preceding direct object is *la (l')*. Agreement is made in gender and number.

*Aimez-vous les fleurs que je vous ai données?* / Do you like the flowers (that) I gave you?

- There is agreement on the past participle (*données*) of this *avoir* verb because there is a preceding direct object, *les fleurs*; the relative pronoun *que* refers to *les fleurs*. Since this direct object noun precedes the verb, the past participle must agree in gender and number. A preceding direct object, therefore, can be a pronoun or noun.

*Quels films avez-vous vus?* / What films did you see?

- There is agreement on the past participle (*vus*) of this *avoir* verb because the preceding direct object, *films*, is a masculine plural noun.

*Avez-vous mangé les pâtisseries?* / Did you eat the pastries?  
*Oui, je les ai mangées.* / Yes, I ate them.

- In the response to this question, there is agreement on the past participle (*mangées*) of this *avoir* verb because the preceding direct object, *les*, refers to *les pâtisseries*, a feminine plural noun.

*J'en ai mangé assez.* / I ate enough (of them).

- There is no agreement on the past participle (*mangé*) of this *avoir* verb because the preceding direct object is, in this sentence, the pronoun *en*. We do not normally make an agreement with *en*, whether it precedes or follows. This is an exception.

## §7.2 PAST PARTICIPLE

### REGULAR FORMATION

Infinitive	Type Ending	Drop	Add	Past Participle
<i>donner</i>	<i>-er</i>	<i>-er</i>	<i>é</i>	<i>donné</i>
<i>finir</i>	<i>-ir</i>	<i>-ir</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>fini</i>
<i>vendre</i>	<i>-re</i>	<i>-re</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>vendu</i>

### COMMON IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES

Infinitive	Past Participle
<i>apprendre</i>	<i>appris</i>
<i>asseoir</i>	<i>assis</i>
<i>avoir</i>	<i>eu</i>
<i>boire</i>	<i>bu</i>
<i>comprendre</i>	<i>compris</i>
<i>conduire</i>	<i>conduit</i>
<i>connaître</i>	<i>connu</i>
<i>construire</i>	<i>construit</i>
<i>courir</i>	<i>couru</i>

**COMMON IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES (cont.)**

Infinitive	Past Participle
<i>couvrir</i>	<i>couvert</i>
<i>craindre</i>	<i>craint</i>
<i>croire</i>	<i>cru</i>
<i>devenir</i>	<i>devenu</i>
<i>devoir</i>	<i>dû</i>
<i>dire</i>	<i>dit</i>
<i>écrire</i>	<i>écrit</i>
<i>être</i>	<i>été</i>
<i>faire</i>	<i>fait</i>
<i>falloir</i>	<i>fallu</i>
<i>lire</i>	<i>lu</i>
<i>mettre</i>	<i>mis</i>
<i>mourir</i>	<i>mort</i>
<i>naître</i>	<i>né</i>
<i>offrir</i>	<i>offert</i>
<i>ouvrir</i>	<i>ouvert</i>
<i>paraître</i>	<i>paru</i>
<i>permettre</i>	<i>permis</i>
<i>plaire</i>	<i>plu</i>
<i>pleuvoir</i>	<i>plu</i>
<i>pouvoir</i>	<i>pu</i>
<i>prendre</i>	<i>pris</i>
<i>promettre</i>	<i>promis</i>
<i>recevoir</i>	<i>reçu</i>
<i>revenir</i>	<i>revenu</i>
<i>rire</i>	<i>ri</i>
<i>savoir</i>	<i>su</i>
<i>suivre</i>	<i>suivi</i>
<i>taire</i>	<i>tu</i>
<i>tenir</i>	<i>tenu</i>
<i>valoir</i>	<i>valu</i>
<i>venir</i>	<i>venu</i>
<i>vivre</i>	<i>vécu</i>
<i>voir</i>	<i>vu</i>
<i>vou'oir</i>	<i>voulu</i>

**§7.3 TYPES****§7.3-1 Auxiliary Verbs *avoir* and *être***

The auxiliary (helping) verbs *avoir* and *être* are used in any of the seven simple tenses + the past participle of the main verb you are using to form any of the compound tenses. You must be careful to choose the proper helping verb with the main verb. Some verbs take *avoir* and some take *être* to form the compound tenses.

- Most French verbs are conjugated with *avoir* to form a compound tense.
- All reflexive verbs, such as *se laver*, are conjugated with *être*.

The following is a list of common nonreflexive verbs that are conjugated with *être*.

1. *aller* to go *Elle est allée au cinéma.*
2. *arriver* to arrive *Elle est arrivée.*
3. \**descendre* to go down, come down *Elle est descendue vite.* / She came down quickly. BUT: \**Elle a descendu la valise.* / She brought down the suitcase.
4. *devenir* to become *Elle est devenue folle.*
5. *entrer* to enter, go in, come in *Elle est entrée.*
6. \**monter* to go up, come up *Elle est montée lentement.* / She went up slowly. BUT: \**Elle a monté l'escalier.* / She went up the stairs.
7. *mourir* to die *Elle est morte.*
8. *naître* to be born *Elle est née le premier octobre.*
9. *partir* to leave *Elle est partie.*
10. \**passer* to go by, pass by *Elle est passée par chez moi.* / She came by my house. BUT: \**Elle m'a passé le sel.* / She passed me the salt. AND: \**Elle a passé un examen.* / She took an exam.
11. \**rentrer* to go in again; to return (home) *Elle est rentrée tôt.* / She returned home early. BUT: \**Elle a rentré le chat dans la maison.* / She brought (took) the cat into the house.
12. *rester* to remain, stay *Elle est restée chez elle.*

## 52 The Parts of Speech

13. *retourner* to return, go back *Elle est retournée.*
14. *revenir* to come back *Elle est revenue.*
15. \**sortir* to go out *Elle est sortie hier soir.* / She went out last night. BUT: \**Elle a sorti son mouchoir.* / She took out her handkerchief.
16. *tomber* to fall *Elle est tombée.*
17. *venir* to come *Elle est venue.*

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\* Some of these verbs, as noted above, are conjugated with *avoir* if the verb is used in a transitive sense and has a direct object.

### §7.3–2 Transitive Verbs

A transitive verb is a verb that takes a direct object. It is transitive because the action passes over and directly affects something or someone in some way.

*Je vois mon ami.* / I see my friend. → *Je le vois.* / I see him.  
*Je ferme la fenêtre.* / I am closing the window. → *Je la ferme.* /  
I'm closing it.

When the direct object of the verb is a pronoun, it is usually placed in front of the verb. The only time it is placed after the verb is in the affirmative imperative. To get an idea of the position of direct object pronouns, see Word Order of Elements in French Sentences, §11.

### §7.3–3 Intransitive Verbs

An intransitive verb is a verb that does not take a direct object. Such a verb is called intransitive because the action does not pass over and directly affect anyone or anything.

*La maîtresse parle.* / The teacher is talking.

*Elle est partie tôt.* / She left early.

*Elles sont descendues vite.* / They came down quickly.

*Nous sommes montées lentement.* / We went up slowly.

An intransitive verb takes an indirect object.

*La maîtresse parle aux élèves.* / The teacher is talking to the students.

Here the indirect object noun is *élèves* because it is preceded by *aux* / to the.

*La maîtresse leur parle.* / The teacher is talking to them.

Here the indirect object is the pronoun *leur*, meaning "to them."

## §7.4 PRESENT PARTICIPLE

### Regular Formation

The present participle is regularly formed in the following way: Take the *nous* form of the present indicative tense of the verb you have in mind, drop the first person plural ending *-ons*, and add *-ant*. That ending is equivalent to *-ing* in English.

Infinitive	Present Tense 1st Person Pl.	Drop <i>-ons</i>	add <i>-ant</i>	Present Participle
<i>finir</i> / to finish	<i>nous finissons</i>	<i>finiss</i>	<i>ant</i>	<i>finissant</i>
<i>manger</i> / to eat	<i>nous mangeons</i>	<i>mange</i>	<i>ant</i>	<i>mangeant</i>
<i>vendre</i> / to sell	<i>nous vendons</i>	<i>vend</i>	<i>ant</i>	<i>vendant</i>
<i>faire</i> / to do; make	<i>nous faisons</i>	<i>fais</i>	<i>ant</i>	<i>faisant</i>
<i>dire</i> / to say; tell	<i>nous disons</i>	<i>dis</i>	<i>ant</i>	<i>disant</i>

## Common Irregular Present Participles

Infinitive	Present Participle
<i>avoir</i> to have	<i>ayant</i>
<i>être</i> to be	<i>étant</i>
<i>savoir</i> to know	<i>sachant</i>

### Mnemonic tip

If you're not sure which is a present participle and which is a past participle in French, associate the *n* in present with the *n* in the French ending *-ant* of a present participle.

## En + Present Participle

The present participle in French is used primarily with the preposition *en*, meaning "on," "upon," "in," "while," "by."

- en chantant* / while singing
- en finissant* / upon finishing
- en vendant* / by selling
- en mangeant* / upon eating, while eating
- en voyageant* / by traveling
- en ayant* / on having
- en étant* / on being, upon being
- en sachant* / upon knowing

The present participle is sometimes used as an adjective.

- un enfant amusant* / an amusing child (boy)
- une enfant amusante* / an amusing child (girl)



## §7.5 VERBS AND PREPOSITIONS

### Verb + à + Noun or Pronoun

- *assister à quelque chose (à un assemblage, à une réunion, à un spectacle, etc.)* / to attend or be present at (a gathering, a meeting, a theatrical presentation, etc.)

*Allez-vous assister à la conférence du professeur Godard?* / Are you going to attend (be present at) Professor Godard's lecture? —*Oui, je vais y assister.* / Yes, I am going to attend it.

- *demander à quelqu'un* / to ask someone

*Demandez à la dame où s'arrête l'autobus.* / Ask the lady where the bus stops.

- *désobéir à quelqu'un* / to disobey someone

*Ce chien ne désobéit jamais à son maître.* / This dog never disobeys his master.

*Il ne lui désobéit jamais.* / He never disobeys him.

- *être à quelqu'un* / to belong to someone

*Ce livre est à Victor.* / This book belongs to Victor.

- *faire attention à quelqu'un ou à quelque chose* / to pay attention to someone or to something

*Faites attention au professeur.* / Pay attention to the professor.

- *s'intéresser à quelqu'un ou à quelque chose* / to be interested in someone or something

*Je m'intéresse aux sports.* / I am interested in sports.

- *jouer à* / to play (a game or sport)

*Il aime bien jouer à la balle.* / He likes to play ball.

*Elle aime bien jouer au tennis.* / She likes to play tennis.

- *obéir à quelqu'un* / to obey someone

*Une personne honorable obéit à ses parents.* / An honorable person obeys his (her) parents.

- *participer à quelque chose* / to participate in something

*Je participe aux sports.* / I participate in sports.

- *penser à quelqu'un ou à quelque chose* / to think of (about) someone or something

*Je pense à mes amis.* / I am thinking of my friends.

*Je pense à eux.* / I am thinking of them.

*Je pense à mon travail.* / I am thinking about my work.

*J'y pense.* / I am thinking about it.

- *répondre à quelqu'un ou à quelque chose* / to answer someone or something

*J'ai répondu au professeur.* / I answered the teacher.

*Je lui ai répondu.* / I answered him.

*J'ai répondu à la lettre.* / I answered the letter.

*J'y ai répondu.* / I answered it.

- *ressembler à quelqu'un* / to resemble someone

*Il ressemble beaucoup à sa mère.* / He resembles his mother a lot.

- *réussir à quelque chose* / to succeed in something  
*réussir à un examen* / to pass an examination

*Il a réussi à l'examen.* / He passed the exam.

- *téléphoner à quelqu'un* / to telephone someone

*Marie a téléphoné à Paul.* / Marie telephoned Paul.

*Elle lui a téléphoné.* / She telephoned him.

## Verb + à + Infinitive

- *aider à* / to help

*Roger aide son petit frère à faire son devoir de mathématiques.*

Roger is helping his little brother to do his math homework.

- *s'amuser à* / to amuse oneself, enjoy, have fun

*Il y a des élèves qui s'amuse à mettre le professeur en*

*colère.* / There are pupils who enjoy making the teacher angry.

- **apprendre à / to learn**  
*J'apprends à lire. / I am learning to read.*
- **s'attendre à / to expect**  
*Je m'attendais à trouver une salle de classe vide. / I was expecting to find an empty classroom.*
- **avoir à / to have to, to be obliged to (do something)**  
*J'ai mes devoirs à faire ce soir. / I have to do my homework tonight.*
- **commencer à / to begin**  
*il commence à pleuvoir. / It is beginning to rain.*
- **continuer à / to continue**  
*Je continue à étudier le français. / I am continuing to study French.*
- **décider quelqu'un à / to persuade someone**  
*J'ai décidé mon père à me prêter quelques francs. / I persuaded my father to lend me a few francs.*
- **se décider à / to make up one's mind**  
*Il s'est décidé à l'épouser. / He made up his mind to marry her.*
- **demander à / to ask, request**  
*Elle demande à parler. / She asks to speak.*
- **encourager à / to encourage**  
*Je l'ai encouragé à suivre un cours de français. / I encouraged him to take a course in French.*
- **enseigner à / to teach**  
*Je vous enseigne à lire en français. / I am teaching you to read in French.*

- *s'habituer à* / to get used (to)

*Je m'habitue à parler français couramment.* / I am getting used to speaking French fluently.

- *hésiter à* / to hesitate

*J'hésite à répondre à sa lettre.* / I hesitate to reply to her (his) letter.

- *inviter à* / to invite

*Monsieur et Madame Boivin ont invité les Béry à dîner chez eux.* / Mr. and Mrs. Boivin invited the Béryrs to have dinner at their house.

- *se mettre à* / to begin

*L'enfant se met à rire.* / The child is beginning to laugh.

- *parvenir à* / to succeed

*Elle est parvenue à être docteur.* / She succeeded in becoming a doctor.

- *se plaire à* / to take pleasure in

*Il se plaît à taquiner ses amis.* / He takes pleasure in teasing his friends.

- *recommencer à* / to begin again

*Il recommence à pleuvoir.* / It is beginning to rain again.

- *réussir à* / to succeed in

*Henri a réussi à me convaincre.* / Henry succeeded in convincing me.

- *songer à* / to dream; to think

*Elle songe à trouver un millionnaire.* / She is dreaming of finding a millionaire.

**tenir à** / to insist, be anxious

*Je tiens absolument à voir mon enfant immédiatement.* / I am very anxious to see my child immediately.

## Verb + de + Noun

**s'agir de** / to be a question of, a matter of

*Il s'agit de l'amour.* / It is a matter of love.

**s'approcher de** / to approach

*La dame s'approche de la porte et elle l'ouvre.* / The lady approaches the door and opens it.

**changer de** / to change

*Je dois changer de train à Paris.* / I have to change trains in Paris.

**se douter de** / to suspect

*Je me doute de ses opinions.* / I suspect his (her) opinions.

**féliciter de** / to congratulate on

*Je vous félicite de vos progrès.* / I congratulate you on your progress.

**jouer de** / to play (a musical instrument)

*Je sais jouer du piano.* / I know how to play the piano.

**manquer de** / to lack

*Cette personne manque de politesse.* / This person lacks courtesy.

**se méfier de** / to distrust, to mistrust, to beware of

*Je me méfie des personnes que je ne connais pas.* / I distrust persons whom I do not know.

**se moquer de** / to make fun of

*Les enfants aiment se moquer d'un singe.* / Children like to make fun of a monkey.

## 60 The Parts of Speech

- *s'occuper de* / to be busy with

*Madame Boulanger s'occupe de son mari infirme.* / Mrs. Boulanger is busy with her disabled husband.

*Je m'occupe de mes affaires.* / I mind my own business.

*Occupez-vous de vos affaires!* / Mind your own business!

- *partir de* / to leave

*Il est parti de la maison à huit heures.* / He left the house at eight o'clock.

- *se plaindre de* / to complain about

*Il se plaint toujours de son travail.* / He always complains about his work.

- *remercier de* / to thank

*Je vous remercie de votre bonté.* / I thank you for your kindness

(Use *remercier de* + an abstract noun or infinitive; *remercier pour* + a concrete object; e.g., *Je vous remercie pour le cadeau.* / I thank you for the present.)

- *se rendre compte de* / to realize, to be aware of

*Je me rends compte de la condition de cette personne.* / I am aware of the condition of this person.

- *se servir de* / to employ, use, make use of

*Je me sers d'un stylo quand j'écris une lettre.* / I use a pen when I write a letter.

- *se souvenir de* / to remember

*Oui, je me souviens de Gervaise.* / Yes, I remember Gervaise.

*Je me souviens de lui.* / I remember him.

*Je me souviens d'elle.* / I remember her.

*Je me souviens de l'été passé.* / I remember last summer.

*Je m'en souviens.* / I remember it.

**tenir de / to take after (to resemble)**

*Julie tient de sa mère. / Julie takes after her mother.*

## Verb + de + Infinitive

**s'agir de / to be a question of, a matter of**

*Il s'agit de faire les devoirs tous les jours. / It is a matter of doing the homework every day.*

**avoir peur de / to be afraid of**

*Le petit garçon a peur de traverser la rue seul. / The little boy is afraid of crossing the street alone.*

**cesser de / to stop, cease**

*Il a cessé de pleuvoir. / It has stopped raining.*

**craindre de / to be afraid of, fear**

*La petite fille craint de traverser la rue seule. / The little girl is afraid of crossing the street alone.*

**décider de / to decide**

*J'ai décidé de partir tout de suite. / I decided to leave immediately.*

**demander de / to ask, request**

*Je vous demande de parler. / I am asking you to speak.*

[Note that here the subjects are different: *I* am asking *you* to speak; but when the subjects are the same, use *demande à*: *Elle demande à parler. / She is asking to speak.*]

**se dépêcher de / to hurry**

*Je me suis dépêché de venir chez vous pour vous dire quelque chose. / I hurried to come to your place in order to tell you something.*

## 62 The Parts of Speech

- *empêcher de* / to keep from, prevent

*Je vous empêche de sortir.* / I prevent you from going out.

- *essayer de* / to try

*J'essaye d'ouvrir la porte mais je ne peux pas.* / I'm trying to open the door but I can't.

- *féliciter de* / to congratulate

*On m'a félicité d'avoir gagné le prix.* / I was congratulated on having won the prize.

- *finir de* / to finish

*J'ai fini de travailler sur cette composition.* / I have finished working on this composition.

- *se hâter de* / to hurry

*Je me hâte de venir chez toi.* / I am hurrying to come to your house.

- *offrir de* / to offer

*J'ai offert d'écrire une lettre pour elle.* / I offered to write a letter for her.

- *oublier de* / to forget

*J'ai oublié de vous donner la monnaie.* / I forgot to give you the change.

- *persuader de* / to persuade

*J'ai persuadé mon père de me prêter quelques francs.* / I persuaded my father to lend me a few francs.

- *prendre garde de* / to take care not to

*Prenez garde de tomber.* / Be careful not to fall.



- *prier de* / to beg

*Je vous prie d'arrêter.* / I beg you to stop.

- *promettre de* / to promise

*J'ai promis de venir chez toi à huit heures.* / I promised to come to your place at eight o'clock.

- *refuser de* / to refuse

*Je refuse de le croire.* / I refuse to believe it.

- *regretter de* / to regret, be sorry

*Je regrette d'être obligé de vous dire cela.* / I am sorry to be obliged to tell you that.

- *remercier de* / to thank

*Je vous remercie d'être venu si vite.* / I thank you for coming (having come) so quickly. (Use *remercier de* + infinitive or + abstract noun. Use *remercier pour* + concrete object.)

- *se souvenir de* / to remember

*Tu vois? Je me suis souvenu de venir chez toi.* / You see? I remembered to come to your house.

- *tâcher de* / to try

*Tâche de finir tes devoirs avant de sortir.* / Try to finish your homework before going out.

- *venir de* / to have just (done something)

*Je viens de manger.* / I have just eaten. (I just ate.)

## Verb + à + Noun + de + Infinitive

The model to follow is: *J'ai conseillé à Robert de suivre un cours de français.* / I advised Robert to take a course in French.

## 64 The Parts of Speech

- *conseiller à* / to advise

*J'ai conseillé à Jeanne de se marier.* / I advised Joan to get married.

- *défendre à* / to forbid

*Mon père défend à mon frère de fumer.* / My father forbids my brother to smoke.

- *demander à* / to ask, request

*J'ai demandé à Marie de venir.* / I asked Mary to come.

- *dire à* / to say, to tell

*J'ai dit à Charles de venir.* / I told Charles to come.

- *interdire à* / to forbid

*Mon père interdit à mon frère de fumer.* / My father forbids my brother to smoke.

- *permettre à* / to permit

*J'ai permis à l'étudiant de partir quelques minutes avant la fin de la classe.* / I permitted the student to leave a few minutes before the end of class.

- *promettre à* / to promise

*J'ai promis à mon ami d'arriver à l'heure.* / I promised my friend to arrive on time.

- *téléphoner à* / to telephone

*J'ai téléphoné à Marcel de venir me voir.* / I phoned Marcel to come to see me.

## Verb + Other Prepositions

- *commencer par* + infinitive / to begin by + present participle

*La présidente a commencé par discuter des problèmes de la société.* / The president began by discussing problems in society.

- *s'entendre avec quelqu'un* / to get along with someone  
*Jean s'entend avec Christophe.* / John gets along with Christopher.
- *entrer dans* + noun / to enter, go in  
*Elle est entrée dans le restaurant.* / She went into the restaurant.
- *insister pour* + infinitive / to insist on, upon  
*J'insiste pour obtenir tous mes droits.* / I insist on obtaining all my rights.
- *se marier avec quelqu'un* / to marry someone  
*Elle va se marier avec lui.* / She is going to marry him.
- *se mettre en colère* / to become angry, upset  
*Monsieur Leduc se met en colère facilement.* / Mr. Leduc gets angry easily.
- *se mettre en route* / to start out, set out  
*Ils se sont mis en route dès l'aube.* / They started out at dawn.
- *remercier pour* + a concrete noun / to thank for  
*Je vous remercie pour le joli cadeau.* / I thank you for the pretty present. (Remember to use *remercier de* + an abstract noun or + infinitive: *Je vous remercie de votre bonté.* / I thank you for your kindness. *Je vous remercie d'être venue si vite.* / I thank you for coming so quickly.)

## Verb + no preposition + Infinitive

The following verbs take *no* preposition and are followed directly by the infinitive.

- *adorer* / to adore, love  
*Madame Morin adore mettre tous ses bijoux avant de sortir.*  
 Mrs. Morin loves to put on all her jewelry before going out.

## 66 The Parts of Speech

- *aimer/* to like

*J'aime lire./* I like to read.

- *aimer mieux/* to prefer

*J'aime mieux rester ici./* I prefer to stay here.

- *aller/* to go

*Je vais faire mes devoirs./* I am going to do my homework.

- *compter/* to intend

*Je compte aller en France l'été prochain./* I intend to go to France next summer.

- *croire/* to believe

*Il croit être innocent./* He believes he is innocent.

- *désirer/* to desire, wish

*Je désire prendre une tasse de café./* I wish to have a cup of coffee.

- *devoir/* to have to, ought to

*Je dois faire mes devoirs avant de sortir./* I have to do my homework before going out.

- *écouter/* to listen to

*J'écoute chanter les enfants./* I am listening to the children singing.

- *entendre/* to hear

*J'entends chanter les enfants./* I hear the children singing.

- *espérer/* to hope

*J'espère aller en France./* I hope to go to France.

- *faire/* to cause; to make; to have something done by someone

*Le professeur fait travailler les élèves dans la salle de classe.*  
The teacher has the pupils work in the classroom.

**Il faut / to be necessary**

*Il faut être honnête. / One must be honest.*

**Laisser / to let, allow**

*Je vous laisse partir. / I am letting you go.*

**Paraître / to appear, seem**

*Elle paraît être capable. / She appears to be capable.*

**Penser / to think, plan, intend**

*Je pense aller à Paris. / I intend to go to Paris.*

**Pouvoir / to be able, can**

*Je peux marcher mieux maintenant. / I can walk better now.*

**Préférer / to prefer**

*Je préfère manger maintenant. / I prefer to eat now.*

**Regarder / to look at**

*Je regarde voler les oiseaux. / I am looking at the birds flying.*

**Savoir / to know, know how**

*Je sais nager. / I know how to swim.*

**Va mieux / to be better**

*Il vaut mieux être honnête. / It is better to be honest.*

**Vouloir / to want**

*Je veux venir chez vous. / I want to come to your house.*

## **Verbs That Do Not Require a Preposition**

**Attendre / to wait for**

*J'attends l'autobus depuis vingt minutes. / I have been waiting for the bus for twenty minutes.*

## 68 The Parts of Speech

- *chercher* / to look for

*Je cherche mon livre. / I'm looking for my book.*

- *demander* / to ask for

*Je demande une réponse. / I am asking for a reply.*

- *écouter* / to listen to

*J'écoute la musique. / I am listening to the music.*

*J'écoute le professeur. / I am listening to the teacher.*

- *envoyer chercher* / to send for

*J'ai envoyé chercher le docteur. / I sent for the doctor.*

- *essayer* / to try on

*Elle a essayé une jolie robe. / She tried on a pretty dress.*

- *mettre* / to put on

*Elle a mis la robe rouge. / She put on the red dress.*

- *payer* / to pay for

*J'ai payé le dîner. / I paid for the dinner.*

- *pleurer* / to cry about, cry over

*Elle pleure la perte de son petit chien. / She is crying over the loss of her little dog.*

- *regarder* / to look at

*Je regarde le ciel. / I am looking at the sky.*

## §7.6 COMPLETE CONJUGATION OF AN AVOIR VERB

Present participle: *parlant* / talking, speaking; Past participle: *parlé* / talked, spoken; Infinitive: *parler* / to talk, to speak

Present indicative      *je parle, tu parles, il (elle, on) parle; nous parlons, vous parlez, ils (elles) parlent*

I talk, you talk, he (she, it, one) talks; we talk,  
you talk, they talk

OR

I do talk, etc.

OR

I am talking, etc.

Imperfect  
indicative

*je parlais, tu parlais, il (elle, on) parlait; nous  
parlions, vous parliez, ils (elles) parlaient*

I was talking, you were talking, he (she, it,  
one) was talking; we were talking, you were  
talking, they were talking

OR

I used to talk, etc.

OR

I talked, etc.

Past  
definite

*je parlai, tu parlas, il (elle, on) parla; nous  
parlâmes, vous parlâtes, ils (elles) parlèrent*

I talked, you talked, he (she, it, one) talked; we  
talked, you talked, they talked

OR

I did talk, etc.

Future

*je parlerai, tu parleras, il (elle, on) parlera;  
nous parlerons, vous parlerez, ils (elles)  
parleront*

I shall talk, you will talk, he (she, it, one) will  
talk; we shall talk, you will talk, they will talk

Conditional  
present

*je parlerais, tu parlerais, il (elle, on) parlerait;  
nous parlerions, vous parleriez, ils (elles)  
parleraient*

## 70 The Parts of Speech

I would talk, you would talk, he (she, it, one) would talk; we would talk, you would talk, they would talk

Present subjunctive *que je parle, que tu parles, qu'il (qu'elle, qu'on) parle; que nous parlions, que vous parliez, qu'ils (qu'elles) parlent*

that I may talk, that you may talk, that he (she, it, one) may talk; that we may talk, that you may talk, that they may talk

Imperfect subjunctive *que je parlasse, que tu parlasses, qu'il (qu'elle, qu'on) parlât; que nous parlussions, que vous parlassiez, qu'ils (qu'elles) parlassent*

that I might talk, that you might talk, that he (she, it, one) might talk; that we might talk, that you might talk, that they might talk

Past indefinite *j'ai parlé, tu as parlé, il (elle, on) a parlé; nous avons parlé, vous avez parlé, ils (elles) ont parlé*

I talked, you talked, he (she, it, one) talked; we talked, you talked, they talked

OR

I have talked, you have talked, he (she, it, one) has talked; we have talked, you have talked, they have talked

OR

I did talk, you did talk, he (she, it, one) did talk; we did talk, you did talk, they did talk

Pluperfect indicative *j'avais parlé, tu avais parlé, il (elle, on) avait parlé; nous avions parlé, vous aviez parlé, ils (elles) avaient parlé*



I had talked, you had talked, he (she, it, one) had talked; we had talked, you had talked, they had talked

Past anterior *j'eus parlé, tu eus parlé, il (elle, on) eut parlé; nous eûmes parlé, vous eûtes parlé, ils (elles) eurent parlé*

I had talked, you had talked, he (she, it, one) had talked; we had talked, you had talked, they had talked

Future perfect *j'aurai parlé, tu auras parlé, il (elle, on) aura parlé; nous aurons parlé, vous aurez parlé, ils (elles) auront parlé*

I shall have talked, you will have talked, he (she, it, one) will have talked; we shall have talked, you will have talked, they will have talked

Conditional perfect *j'aurais parlé, tu aurais parlé, il (elle, on) aurait parlé; nous aurions parlé, vous auriez parlé, ils (elles) auraient parlé*

I would have talked, you would have talked, he (she, it, one) would have talked; we would have talked, you would have talked, they would have talked

Past subjunctive *que j'aie parlé, que tu aies parlé, qu'il (qu'elle, qu'on) ait parlé; que nous ayons parlé, que vous ayez parlé, qu'ils (qu'elles) aient parlé*

that I may have talked, that you may have talked, that he (she, it, one) may have talked; that we may have talked, that you may have talked, that they may have talked

## 72 The Parts of Speech

Pluperfect subjunctive *que j'eusse parlé, que tu eusses parlé, qu'il (qu'elle, qu'on) eût parlé; que nous eussions parlé, que vous eussiez parlé, qu'ils (qu'elles) eussent parlé*

that I might have talked, that you might have talked, that he (she, it, one) might have talked; that we might have talked, that you might have talked, that they might have talked

Imperative *parle, parlons, parlez*

talk, let's talk, talk

### §7.7 COMPLETE CONJUGATION OF AN ÊTRE VERB

Present participle: *venant* / coming; Past participle; *venu* / come; Infinitive: *venir* / to come

Present indicative *je viens, tu viens, il (elle, on) vient; nous venons, vous venez, ils (elles) viennent*

I come, you come, he (she, it, one) comes; we come, you come, they come

OR

I do come, etc.

OR

I am coming, etc.

Imperfect indicative *je venais, tu venais, il (elle, on) venait; nous venions, vous veniez, ils (elles) venaient*

I was coming, you were coming, he (she, it, one) was coming; we were coming, you were

coming, they were coming

OR

I used to come, etc.

OR

I came, etc.

Past  
definite

*je vins, tu vins, il (elle, on) vint; nous vînmes,  
vous vîntes, ils (elles) vinrent*

I came, you came, he (she, it, one) came; we  
came, you came, they came

OR

I did come, etc.

Future

*je viendrai, tu viendras, il (elle, on) viendra;  
nous viendrons, vous viendrez, ils (elles)  
viendront*

I shall come, you will come, he (she, it, one)  
will come; we shall come, you will come, they  
will come

Conditional  
present

*je viendrais, tu viendrais, il (elle, on) viendrait;  
nous viendrions, vous viendriez, ils (elles)  
viendraient*

I would come, you would come, he (she, it,  
one) would come; we would come, you would  
come, they would come

Present  
subjunctive

*que je vienne, que tu viennes, qu'il (qu'elle,  
qu'on) vienne; que nous venions, que vous  
veniez, qu'ils (qu'elles) viennent*

that I may come, that you may come, that he  
(she, it, one) may come; that we may come,  
that you may come, that they may come

## 74 The Parts of Speech

Imperfect subjunctive *que je vinsse, que tu vinsses, qu'il (qu'elle, qu'on) vînt; que nous vinssions, que vous vinssiez, qu'ils (qu'elles) vinssent*

that I might come, that you might come, that he (she, it, one) might come; that we might come, that you might come; that they might come

Past indefinite *je suis venu(e), tu es venu(e), il (on) est venu, elle est venue; nous sommes venu(e)s, vous êtes venu(e)s, ils sont venus, elles sont venues*

I came, you came, he (she, it, one) came; we came, you came, they came

OR

I have come, etc.

OR

I did come, etc.

Pluperfect indicative *j'étais venu(e), tu étais venu(e), il, on était venu, elle était venue; nous étions venu(e)s, vous étiez venu(e)s, ils étaient venus, elles étaient venues*

I had come, you had come, he (she, it, one) had come; we had come, you had come, they had come

Past anterior *je fus venu(e), tu fus venu(e), il (on) fut venu, elle fut venue; nous fûmes venu(e)s, vous fûtes venu(e)s, ils furent venus, elles furent venues*

I had come, you had come, he (she, it, one) had come; we had come, you had come, they had come

Future  
perfect

*je serai venu(e), tu seras venu(e), il (on) sera venu, elle sera venue; nous serons venu(e)s, vous serez venu(e)(s), ils seront venus, elles seront venues*

I shall have come, you will have come, he (she, it, one) will have come; we shall have come, you will have come, they will have come

Conditional  
perfect

*je serais venu(e), tu serais venu(e), il (on) serait venu, elle serait venue; nous serions venu(e)s, vous seriez venu(e)(s), ils seraient venus, elles seraient venues*

I would have come, you would have come, he (she, it, one) would have come; we would have come, you would have come, they would have come

Past  
subjunctive

*que je sois venu(e), que tu sois venu(e), qu'il (on) soit venu, qu'elle soit venue; que nous soyons venu(e)s, que vous soyez venu(e)(s), qu'ils soient venus, qu'elles soient venues*

that I may have come, that you may have come, that he (she, it, one) may have come; that we may have come, that you may have come, that they may have come

Pluperfect  
subjunctive

*que je fusse venu(e), que tu fusses venu(e), qu'il (qu'on) fût venu, qu'elle fût venue; que nous fussions venu(e)s, que vous fussiez venu(e)(s), qu'ils fussent venus, qu'elles fussent venues*

that I might have come, that you might have come, that he (she, it, one) might have come;

that we might have come, that you might have come, that they might have come

Imperative     *viens, venons, venez*  
                   come, let's come, come

## §7.8 TENSES AND MOODS

### §7.8-1 Present Indicative Tense

The *present indicative* is the most frequently used tense in French and English. It indicates:

- An action or a state of being at the present time.

*Je vais à l'école maintenant.* / I am going to school now.  
*Je pense; donc, je suis.* / I think; therefore, I am.

- Habitual action.

*Je vais à la bibliothèque tous les jours.* / I go to the library every day.

- A general truth, something that is permanently true.

*Deux et deux font quatre.* / Two and two are four.  
*Voir c'est croire.* / Seeing is believing.

- Vividness when talking or writing about past events.

*Marie-Antoinette est condamnée à mort. Elle monte dans la charrette qui est en route pour la guillotine.* / Marie-Antoinette is condemned to die. She gets into the cart and is on her way to the guillotine.

- A near future.

*Il arrive demain.* / He arrives tomorrow.

An action or state of being that occurred in the past and continues up to the present. In English, this tense is the present perfect, which is formed with the present tense of "to have" plus the past participle of the verb you are using.

*Je suis ici depuis dix minutes.* / I have been here for ten minutes. (I am still here at present.)

This tense is regularly formed as follows:

Drop the *-er* ending of an infinitive like *parler*, and add *-e, -es, -e; -ons, -ez, -ent*.

You then get:

*je parle, tu parles, il (elle, on) parle; nous parlons, vous parlez, ils (elles) parlent*

Drop the *-ir* ending of an infinitive like *finir*, and add *-is, -is, -it; -issons, -issez, -issent*.

You then get:

*je finis, tu finis, il (elle, on) finit; nous finissons, vous finissez, ils (ells) finissent*

Drop the *-re* ending of an infinitive like *vendre*, and add *-s, -s, —; -ons, -ez, -ent*.

You then get:

*je vends, tu vends, il (elle, on) vend; nous vendons, vous vendez, ils (elles) vendent*

For the present tense of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19.

## §7.8–2 Imperfect Indicative Tense

The *imperfect indicative* is a past tense. It is used to indicate:

An action that was going on in the past at the same time as another action.

## 78 The Parts of Speech

*Il lisait pendant que j'écrivais.* / He was reading while I was writing.

- An action that was going on in the past when another action occurred.

*Il lisait quand je suis entré.* / He was reading when I came in.

- An action that was performed habitually in the past.

*Nous allions à la plage tous les jours.* / We used to go to the beach every day.

- A description of a mental or physical condition in the past.

(mental) *Il était triste quand je l'ai vu.* / He was sad when I saw him.

(physical) *Quand ma mère était jeune, elle était belle.* / When my mother was young, she was beautiful.

- An action or state of being that occurred in the past and lasted for a certain length of time prior to another past action

*J'attendais l'autobus depuis dix minutes quand il est arrivé.* / I had been waiting for the bus for ten minutes when it arrived.

This tense is regularly formed as follows:

For *-er*, *-ir*, and *-re* verbs, take the “*nous*” form in the present indicative tense of the verb you have in mind, drop the first person plural ending (*-ons*), and add the endings *-ais*, *-ais*, *-ait*; *-ions*, *-iez*, *-aient*.

### Mnemonic tip

The vowel *i* is in each of the six endings and *i* is the first letter of the *imperfect* tense.

For the imperfect indicative of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19.

## §7.8–3 Past Simple Tense

This past tense expresses an action that took place at some definite time. It is not ordinarily used in conversational



French or in informal writing. It is a literary tense—used in formal writing, such as history and literature.

The past simple tense is regularly formed as follows:

For all *-er* verbs, drop the *-er* of the infinitive and add *-ai*, *-as*, *-a*; *-âmes*, *-âtes*, *-èrent*.

For regular *-ir* and *-re* verbs, drop the ending of the infinitive and add the endings *-is*, *-is*, *-it*; *-îmes*, *-îtes*, *-irent*.

*Il alla en Afrique.* / He went to Africa.

*Il voyagea en Amérique.* / He traveled to America.

*Elle fut heureuse.* / She was happy.

*Elle eut un grand bonheur.* / She had great happiness.

For the past definite of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19.

## §7.8–4 Future Tense

In French and English the *future* tense is used to express an action or a state of being which will take place at some time in the future.

*J'irai en France l'été prochain.* / I will go to France next summer.

*J'y penserai.* / I will think about it.

*Je partirai dès qu'il arrivera.* / I will leave as soon as he arrives.

*Je te dirai tout quand tu seras ici.* / I will tell you all when you are here.

If the action of the verb you are using is not past or present and if future time is implied, the future tense is used when the clause begins with the following conjunctions: *aussitôt que* / as soon as, *dès que* / as soon as, *quand* / when, *lorsque* / when, and *tant que* / as long as.

This tense is regularly formed as follows:

Add the following endings to the whole infinitive: *-ai*, *-as*, *-a*, *-ons*, *-ez*, *-ont*. For *-re* verbs you must drop the *e* in *-re* before you add the future endings.

For the future of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19.

## §7.8–5 Conditional Present Tense

The conditional mood is used in French and English to express:

- An action that you would do if something else were possible.

*Je ferais le travail si j'en avais le temps.* / I would do the work if I had the time.

- A conditional desire.

*J'aimerais du thé.* / I would like some tea.

*Je voudrais du café.* / I would like some coffee.

- An obligation or duty.

*Je devrais étudier pour l'examen.* / I should study for the examination.

The conditional has two tenses, the present and the past.

The present conditional is regularly formed as follows:

Add the following endings to the whole infinitive: *-ais, -ais, -ait; -ions, -iez, -aient*. For *-re* verbs you must drop the *e* in *-re* before you add the conditional endings. Note that these endings are the same ones you use to form regularly the imperfect indicative. For the conditional of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19.

## §7.8–6 Present Subjunctive Tense

The subjunctive mood is used in French much more than in English. It is used in the following ways:

- After a verb that expresses some kind of insistence, preference, or suggestion.

*Nous insistons que vous soyez ici à l'heure.* / We insist that you be here on time.

*Je préfère qu'il fasse le travail maintenant.* / I prefer that he do the work now.

*Le juge exige qu'il soit puni.* / The judge demands that he be punished.

- After a verb that expresses doubt, fear, joy, sorrow, or some other emotion.

*Sylvie doute qu'il vienne.* / Sylvia doubts that he is coming.

*Je suis heureux qu'il vienne.* / I'm happy that he is coming.

*Je regrette qu'il soit malade.* / I'm sorry that he is sick.

- After certain conjunctions.

*Elle partira à moins qu'il ne vienne.* / She will leave unless he comes.

*Je resterai jusqu'à ce qu'il vienne.* / I will stay until he comes.

*Quoiqu'elle soit belle, il ne l'aime pas.* / Although she is beautiful, he does not love her.

*Le professeur l'explique pour qu'elle comprenne.* / The teacher is explaining it so that she may understand.

- After certain impersonal expressions that show a need, a doubt, a possibility or an impossibility.

*Il est urgent qu'il vienne.* / It is urgent that he come.

*Il vaut mieux qu'il vienne.* / It is better that he come.

*Il est possible qu'il vienne.* / It is possible that he will come.

*Il est douteux qu'il vienne.* / It is doubtful that he will come.

The present subjunctive is regularly formed by dropping the *-ant* ending of the present participle of the verb you are using and adding the endings *-e*, *-es*, *-e*; *-ions*, *-iez*, *-ent*.

For the present subjunctive of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19. See also Subjunctive, §7.15.

## §7.8–7 Imperfect Subjunctive Tense

The *imperfect subjunctive* is used in the same ways as the present subjunctive, that is, after certain verbs, conjunc-

tions, and impersonal expressions. The main difference between these two is the time of the action. If present, use the present subjunctive. If the action is related to the past, the imperfect subjunctive is used, provided that the action was not completed.

*Je voulais qu'il vînt.* / I wanted him to come. (action not completed; he did not come while I wanted him to come)

Note: The subjunctive of *venir* is used because *vouloir* requires the subjunctive *after* it. In conversational French and informal writing, the imperfect subjunctive is avoided. Use, instead, the present subjunctive.

*Je voulais qu'il vienne.* / I wanted him to come.

*Je le lui expliquais pour qu'elle le comprît.* / I was explaining it to her so that she might understand it. (action not completed; the understanding was not completed at the time of the explaining)

Note: The subjunctive of *comprendre* is used because the conjunction *pour que* requires the subjunctive *after* it. Again, avoid using the imperfect subjunctive in conversation and informal writing. Use, instead, the present subjunctive: *Je le lui expliquais pour qu'elle le comprenne.*

The imperfect subjunctive is regularly formed by dropping the endings of the *passé simple* of the verb you are using and adding the following endings:

<p>-er verbs: -asse, -asses, -ât; -assions, -assiez, -assent          -ir verbs: -isse, -isses, -ît; -issions, -issiez, -issent          -re verbs: -usse, -usses, -ût; -ussions, -ussiez, -ussent</p>
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For the imperfect subjunctive of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19. See also Subjunctive, §7.15.

## §7.8–8 Past Indefinite Tense

This past tense expresses an action that took place at no definite time. It is used in conversational French, correspondence, and other informal writing. The past indefinite is used more and more in literature these days and is taking the place of the past definite. It is a compound tense because it is formed with the present indicative of *avoir* or *être* (depending on which of these two auxiliaries is required to form a compound tense) plus the past participle. See §7.3 for the distinction made between verbs conjugated with *avoir* or *être*. This is the *passé composé*.

*Il est allé à l'école.* / He went to school; He did go to school; He has gone to school.

*J'ai mangé dans ce restaurant de nombreuses fois.* / I have eaten in this restaurant many times.

*J'ai parlé au garçon.* / I spoke to the boy; I have spoken to the boy; I did speak to the boy.

## §7.8–9 Pluperfect Tense

In French and English this tense (also called the *past perfect*) is used to express an action that happened in the past before another past action. Since it is used in relation to another past action, the other past action is expressed in either the past indefinite or the imperfect indicative in French. The pluperfect is used in formal writing and literature as well as in conversational French and informal writing. It is a compound tense because it is formed with the imperfect indicative of *avoir* or *être* (depending on which of these two auxiliaries is required to form a compound tense) plus the past participle. See §7.3 for the distinction made between verbs conjugated with *avoir* or *être*.

*Je me suis rappelé que j'avais oublié de le lui dire.* / I remembered that I had forgotten to tell him.

Note: It would be incorrect to say: I remembered that I forgot to tell him. The point here is that first I forgot; then I remembered. Both actions are in the past. The action that occurred in the past *before* the other past action is in the pluperfect. And in this example it is “I had forgotten” (*j'avais oublié*).

*J'avais étudié la leçon que le professeur a expliquée.* / I had studied the lesson that the teacher explained.

Note: First I studied the lesson; then the teacher explained it. Both actions are in the past. The action that occurred in the past before the other past action is in the pluperfect. And in this example it is “I had studied” (*j'avais étudié*).

*J'étais fatigué ce matin parce que je n'avais pas dormi.* / I was tired this morning because I had not slept.

## §7.8–10 Past Anterior Tense

This tense is similar to the pluperfect indicative. The main difference is that in French it is a literary tense; that is, it is used in formal writing such as history and literature. More and more French writers today use the pluperfect indicative instead of the past anterior. The past anterior is a compound tense and is formed with the *passé simple* of *avoir* or *être* (depending on which of these two auxiliaries is required to form a compound tense) plus the past participle. It is ordinarily introduced by conjunctions of time: *après que*, *aussitôt que*, *dès que*, *lorsque*, *quand*.

*Quand il eut tout mangé, il partit.* / When he had eaten everything, he left.

## §7.8–11 Future Perfect Tense

In French and English this tense (also called the *future anterior*) is used to express an action that will happen in the

future *before* another future action. Since it is used in relation to another future action, the other future action is expressed in the simple future in French. It is used in conversation and informal writing as well as in formal writing and in literature. It is a compound tense because it is formed with the future of *avoir* or *être* (depending on which of these two auxiliaries is required to form a compound tense) plus the past participle of the verb you are using. In English, it is formed by using “will have” plus the past participle of the verb you are using.

*Elle arrivera demain et j'aurai fini le travail.* / She will arrive tomorrow and I will have finished the work.

Note: First I will finish the work; then she will arrive. The action that will occur in the future *before* the other future action is in the future anterior.

*Quand elle arrivera demain, j'aurai fini le travail.* / When she arrives tomorrow, I will have finished the work.

Note: The idea of future time here is the same as in the preceding example. In English, the present tense is used (“When she arrives . . .”) to express a near future. In French, the future is used (*Quand elle arrivera . . .*) because *quand* precedes and the action will take place in the future.

## §7.8–12 Conditional Perfect Tense

This is used in French and English to express an action that you would have done if something else had been possible; that is, you would have done something on condition that something else had been possible. It is a compound tense because it is formed with the conditional of *avoir* or *être* plus the past participle of the verb you are using. In English, it is formed by using “would have” plus the past participle.

*J'aurais fait le travail si j'avais étudié.* / I would have done the work if I had studied.

*J'aurais fait le travail si j'en avais eu le temps.* / I would have done the work if I had had the time.

## §7.8–13 Past Subjunctive Tense

This tense is used to express an action that took place in the past in relation to the present. It is like the past indefinite, except that the auxiliary verb (*avoir* or *être*) is in the present subjunctive. The subjunctive is used because what precedes is a certain verb, conjunction, or impersonal expression. The past subjunctive is also used in relation to a future time when another action will be completed. In French this tense is used in formal writing and in literature as well as in conversation and informal writing. It is a compound tense because it is formed with the present subjunctive of *avoir* or *être* as the auxiliary plus the past participle of the verb you are using.

A past action in relation to the present:

*Il est possible qu'elle soit partie.* / It is possible that she has left.

*Je doute qu'il ait fait cela.* / I doubt that he did that.

An action that will take place in the future:

*Je désire que vous soyez rentré avant dix heures.* / I want you to be back before ten o'clock.

## §7.8–14 Pluperfect Subjunctive Tense

This tense (also called the *past perfect*) is used for the same reasons as the imperfect subjunctive — that is, after certain verbs, conjunctions, and impersonal expressions. The main difference between the imperfect and the pluperfect subjunctive is the time of the action in the past. If the action was not completed, the imperfect subjunctive is used; if the action was completed, the pluperfect is used. In French, it is used only in formal writing and literature.



*Il était possible qu'elle fût partie.* / It was possible that she might have left.

NOTE: Avoid this tense in French. Use the past subjunctive instead: *Il était possible qu'elle soit partie.*

## §7.8–15 Imperative Mood

The *imperative* mood is used in French and English to express a command or request. It is also used to express an indirect request made in the third person. In both languages it is formed by dropping the subject and using the present tense. There are a few exceptions in both languages when the present subjunctive is used.

*Sortez!* / Get out! *Asseyez-vous!* / Sit down!

*Entrez!* / Come in! *Levez-vous!* / Get up!

*Soyez à l'heure!* / Be on time! (subjunctive used)

*Dieu le veuille!* / May God grant it! (subjunctive used)

*Qu'ils mangent du gâteau!* / Let them eat cake! (subjunctive used)

You must drop the final *s* in the second person singular of an *-er* verb. This is done in the affirmative and negative, as in: *Mange!* / Eat! *Ne mange pas!* / Don't eat! However, when the pronouns *y* and *en* are linked to it, the *s* is retained in all regular *-er* verbs and in the verb *aller*. The reason for this is that it makes it easier to link the two elements by pronouncing the *s* as a *z*.

*Donnes-en!* / Give some!

*Manges-en!* / Eat some!

*Vas-y!* / Go there!

## §7.9 PASSIVE VOICE

When verbs are used in the active voice, which is almost all the time, the subject performs the action. When the *passive* voice is used, the subject of the sentence is not the performer; the action falls on the subject. The agent (the

## 88 The Parts of Speech

performer) is sometimes expressed, sometimes not, as is done in English. The passive voice, therefore, is composed of the verb in the passive, which is any tense of *être* + the past participle of the verb you are using to indicate the action performed upon the subject. Since *être* is the verb used in the passive voice, the past participle of your other verb must agree with the subject in gender and number.

*Jacqueline a été reçue à l'université.* / Jacqueline has been accepted at the university.

*Ce livre est écrit par un auteur célèbre.* / This book is written by a famous author.

*Cette composition a été écrite par un jeune élève.* / This composition was written by a young student.

There are certain rules you must remember about the passive voice:

- Usually the preposition *de* is used instead of *par* with such verbs as *aimer*, *admirer*, *accompagner*, *apprécier*, *voir*.

*Jacqueline est aimée de tout le monde.* / Jacqueline is liked (loved) by everyone.

BUT

*Nous avons été suivis par un chien perdu.* / We were followed by a lost dog.

- Avoid the passive voice if the thought can be expressed in the active voice with the indefinite pronoun *on* as the subject.

*On vend de bonnes choses dans ce magasin.* / Good things are sold in this store.

*On parle français ici.* / French is spoken here.

- You must avoid using the passive voice with a reflexive verb. Always use a reflexive verb with an active subject.

*Elle s'appelle Jeanne.* / She is called Joan.

*Comment se prononce ce mot?* / How is this word pronounced?

## §7.10 SI CLAUSE: A SUMMARY

When the Verb in the <i>Si</i> clause is in the:	The Verb in the Main or Result Clause is:
present indicative imperfect indicative pluperfect indicative	present indicative, future, or imperative conditional conditional perfect

- By *si* we mean “if.” Sometimes *si* can mean “whether” and in that case, this summary does not apply because there are no restrictions about the tenses. The sequence of tenses with a *si*- clause is the same in English with an “if” clause.

*Si elle arrive, je pars.* / If she arrives, I'm leaving.

*Si elle arrive, je partirai.* / If she arrives, I will leave.

*Si elle arrive, partez!* / If she arrives, leave!

*Si Paul étudiait, il aurait de meilleures notes.* / If Paul studied, he would have better grades.

*Si Georges avait étudié, il aurait eu de bonnes notes.* / If George had studied, he would have had good grades.

## §7.11 SPECIAL USES OF COMMON VERBS

### DEVOIR / TO OWE; OUGHT TO

- Present

*Je dois étudier.* / I have to study; I must study; I am supposed to study.

*Il doit être fou!* / He must be crazy! He's probably crazy!

*Mon père doit avoir cinquante ans.* / My father must be 50 years old.

• Imperfect

*Je devais étudier.* / I had to study; I was supposed to study.

*Quand j'étais à l'école, je devais toujours étudier.* / When I was in school, I always had to study.

*Ma mère devait avoir cinquante ans quand elle est morte.* / My mother was probably 50 years old when she died.

• Future

*Je devrai étudier.* / I will have to study.

*Nous devons faire le travail ce soir.* / We will have to do the work this evening.

• Conditional

*Je devrais étudier.* / I ought to study. / I should study.

*Vous devriez étudier davantage.* / You ought to study more; You should study more.

• Past indefinite

*Je ne suis pas allé(e) au cinéma parce que j'ai dû étudier.* / I did not go to the movies because I had to study.

*J'ai dû prendre l'autobus parce qu'il n'y avait pas de train à cette heure-là.* / I had to take the bus because there was no train at that hour.

*Robert n'est pas ici.* / Robert is not here.

*Il a dû partir.* / He must have left; He has probably left; He had to leave.

• Conditional perfect

*J'aurais dû étudier!* / I should have studied!

*Vous auriez dû me dire la vérité.* / You should have told me the truth.

• With a direct or an indirect object there is still another meaning.

*Je dois de l'argent.* / I owe some money.

*Je le lui dois.* / I owe it to him (to her).

**POUVOIR / TO BE ABLE TO, CAN**

## • Present

*Je ne peux pas sortir aujourd'hui parce que je suis malade.* / I cannot (am unable to) go out today because I am sick.

*Est-ce que je peux entrer? Puis-je entrer?* / May I come in?

*Madame Marin peut être malade.* Mrs. Marin may be sick.

This use of *pouvoir* suggests possibility.

*Je n'en peux plus.* / I can't go on any longer.

This use suggests physical exhaustion.

*Il se peut.* / It is possible.

This use as a reflexive verb suggests possibility.

*Cela ne se peut pas.* / That can't be done.

This use as a reflexive verb suggests impossibility.

## • Conditional

*Pourriez-vous me prêter dix francs?* / Could you lend me ten francs?

## • Conditional perfect

*Auriez-vous pu venir chez moi?* / Could you have come to my place?

*Ils auraient pu rater le train.* / They might have missed the train.

**VOULOIR / TO WANT**

## • Present

*Je veux aller en France.* / I want to go to France.

*Je veux bien sortir avec vous ce soir.* / I am willing to go out with you this evening.

## 92 The Parts of Speech

*Voulez-vous bien vous asseoir?* / Would you be good enough to sit down?

*Que veut dire ce mot?* / What does this word mean?

*Que voulez-vous dire?* / What do you mean?

*Qu'est-ce que cela veut dire?* / What does that mean?

- Conditional

*Je voudrais un café crème, s'il vous plaît.* / I would like coffee with cream, please.

- Imperative

*Veillez vous asseoir.* / Kindly sit down.

*Veillez accepter mes meilleurs sentiments.* / Please accept my best regards.

### **SAVOIR / TO KNOW (a fact)**

- Present

*Je sais la réponse.* / I know the answer.

*Je sais lire en français.* / I know how to read in French.

- Conditional

*Sauriez-vous où est le docteur?* / Would you know where the doctor is?

*Je ne saurais penser à tout!* / I can't think of everything!

- Imperative

*Sachons-le bien!* / Let's be well aware of it!

*Sachez que votre père vient de mourir.* / Be informed that your father has just died.

### **SAVOIR AND CONNAÎTRE**

The main difference between the meaning of these two verbs in the sense of "to know" is that *connaître* means merely to be acquainted with; for example, to be acquainted

with a person, a city, a neighborhood, a country, the title of a book, the works of an author.

*Savez-vous la réponse?* / Do you know the answer?

*Savez-vous quelle heure il est?* / Do you know what time it is?

*Connaissez-vous cette dame?* / Do you know this lady?

*Connaissez-vous Paris?* / Do you know Paris?

*Connaissez-vous ce livre?* / Do you know this book?

## **ENTENDRE AND COMPRENDRE**

The main difference between the meaning of these two verbs is that *entendre* means "to hear" and *comprendre* "to understand." Sometimes *entendre* can mean "to understand" or "to mean."

*Entendez-vous la musique?* / Do you hear the music?

*Comprenez-vous la leçon?* / Do you understand the lesson?

"*M'entends-tu?!*" dit la mère à l'enfant. "*Ne fais pas cela!*" /

"Do you understand me?!" says the mother to the child.

"Don't do that!"

*Je ne comprends pas le docteur Fu Manchu parce qu'il ne parle que chinois.* / I do not understand Dr. Fu Manchu because he speaks only Chinese.

*Qu'entendez-vous par là?* / What do you mean by that? What are you insinuating by that remark?

*Je vous entends, mais je ne vous comprends pas; expliquez-vous, s'il vous plaît.* / I hear you, but I don't understand you; explain yourself, please.

## **QUITTER, PARTIR, SORTIR, AND LAISSER**

These four verbs all mean "to leave," but note the differences in their uses:

- Use *quitter* when you state a direct object noun or pronoun that could be a person or a place.

*J'ai quitté mes amis devant le théâtre.* / I left my friends in front of the theater.

## 94 The Parts of Speech

*J'ai quitté la maison à six heures du matin.* / I left the house at six in the morning.

- Use *partir* when there is no direct object noun or pronoun.

*Elle est partie tout de suite.* / She left immediately.

However, if you use the preposition *de* after *partir*, you may add a direct object, but it would be object of the preposition *de*, not of the verb *partir*.

*Elle est partie de la maison à six heures du matin.* / She left (from) the house at six in the morning.

- Use *sortir*, in the sense of “to go out.” With no direct object:

*Elle est sortie il y a une heure.* / She went out an hour ago.

However, if you use the preposition *de* after *sortir*, you may add a direct object, but it would be object of the preposition *de*, not of the verb *sortir*.

*Elle est sortie de la maison il y a une heure.* / She left (went out of) the house an hour ago.

Note that *sortir* can also be conjugated with *avoir* to form a compound tense, but then the meaning changes because it can take a direct object.

*Elle a sorti son mouchoir pour se moucher.* / She took out her handkerchief to wipe her nose.

*Elle a sorti son mouchoir pour moucher son enfant.* / She took out her handkerchief to wipe her child's nose.

- Use *laisser* when you leave behind something that is not stationary; in other words, something movable, for example, books and articles of clothing.

*J'ai laissé mes livres sur la table dans la cuisine.* / I left my books on the table in the kitchen.

*J'ai laissé mon imperméable à la maison.* / I left my raincoat at home.



Note that *laisser* also has the meaning “to let, allow a person to do something”:

*J'ai laissé mon ami partir.* / I let (allowed) my friend to leave.

**Mnemonic tip** *Partir* / to leave, go away contains an *a* and so does “away.” *Sortir* / to go out contains an *o* and so does “out.”

## FALLOIR

Falloir is an impersonal verb, which means that it is used only in the third person singular (*il* form) in all the tenses; its primary meaning is “to be necessary.”

*Il faut étudier pour avoir de bonnes notes.* / It is necessary to study in order to have good grades.

*Faut-il le faire tout de suite?* / Is it necessary to do it at once?

*Oui, il le faut.* / Yes, it is (understood: necessary to do it).

The use of the neuter direct object *le* is needed to show emphasis and to complete the thought.

*Il faut être honnête.* / It is necessary to be honest.

In the negative:

*Il ne faut pas être malhonnête.* / One must not be dishonest.

Note that *il faut* in the negative means “one must not.”

*Il ne faut pas fumer à l'école.* / One must not smoke in school.

## §7.12 OTHER VERBS WITH SPECIAL MEANINGS

*arriver* / to happen *Qu'est-ce qui est arrivé?* / What happened?

*avoir* / to have something the matter *Qu'est-ce que vous avez?* / What's the matter with you?

## 96 The Parts of Speech

*entendre dire que* / to hear it said that, hear that *J'entends dire que Robert s'est marié.* / I hear that Robert got married.

*entendre parler de* / to hear of, about *J'ai entendu parler d'un grand changement dans l'administration.* / I've heard about a big change in the administration.

*envoyer chercher* / to send for *Je vais envoyer chercher le médecin.* / I'm going to send for the doctor.

*être à quelqu'un* / to belong to someone *Ce livre est à moi.* / This book belongs to me.

*faillir + infinitive* to almost do something *Le bébé a failli tomber.* / The baby almost fell.

*mettre* / to put on *Gisèle a mis sa plus jolie robe.* / Gisèle put on her prettiest dress.

*mettre la table* / to set the table

*profiter de* / to take advantage of

*rendre visite à* / to pay a visit to

*venir à* / to happen to *Si nous venons à nous rencontrer, nous pourrions prendre une tasse de café.* / If we happen to meet each other, we can have a cup of coffee.

*venir de + infinitive* / to have just done something *Joseph vient de partir.* / Joseph has just left; *Barbara venait de partir quand Françoise est arrivée.* / Barbara had just left when Françoise arrived.

### §7.13 INFINITIVES

- In English, an *infinitive* contains the preposition "to" in front of it: "to give," "to finish," "to sell." In French an infinitive has a certain ending. There are three major types of infinitives in French: those that end in *-er* (*donner*); those that end in *-ir* (*finir*); and those that end in *-re* (*vendre*).
- Make an infinitive negative in French by placing *ne pas* in front of it.

*Je vous dis de ne pas sortir.* / I am telling you not to go out.

The infinitive is often used after a verb of perception to express an action that is in progress.

*J'entends quelqu'un chanter.* / I hear somebody singing.

*Je vois venir les enfants.* / I see the children coming.

Some common verbs of perception are: *apercevoir* / to perceive, *écouter* / to listen to, *entendre* / to hear, *regarder* / to look at, *sentir* / to feel, *voir* / to see.

There are certain French verbs that take either the preposition *à* or *de* + infinitive.

*Il commence à pleuvoir.* / It is beginning to rain.

*Il a cessé de pleuvoir.* / It has stopped raining.

*Avant de* and *sans* + infinitive

*Sylvie a mangé avant de sortir.* / Sylvia ate before going out.

*André est parti sans dire un mot.* / Andrew left without saying a word.

Use of infinitive instead of a verb form

Generally speaking, an infinitive is used instead of a verb form if the subject in a sentence is the same for the actions expressed.

*Je veux faire le travail.* / I want to do the work.

BUT if there are two different subjects, you must use a new clause and a new verb form.

*Je veux que vous fassiez le travail.* / I want you to do the work.

*Je préfère me coucher tôt.* / I prefer to go to bed early.

BUT

*Je préfère que vous vous couchiez tôt.* / I prefer that you go to bed early.

• Past infinitive

In French the past infinitive is expressed by using the infinitive form of *avoir* or *être* + the past participle of the main verb being used.

*Après avoir quitté la maison, Monsieur et Madame Dubé sont allés au cinéma.* / After leaving the house, Mr. and Mrs. Dubé went to the movies.

*Après être arrivée, Jeanne a téléphoné à sa mère.* / After arriving, Jeanne telephoned her mother.

### §7.14 CAUSATIVE (CAUSAL) FAIRE

The construction *faire* + infinitive means to have something done by someone. The causative *faire* can be in any tense, but it must be followed by an infinitive.

Examples with nouns and pronouns as direct and indirect objects:

*Madame Smith fait travailler ses élèves dans la classe de français.* / Mrs. Smith makes her students work in French class

In this example, the direct object is the noun *élèves* and it is placed right after the infinitive.

*Madame Smith les fait travailler dans la classe de français.*  
Mrs. Smith makes them work (has them work) in French class

In this example, the direct object is the pronoun *les*, referring to *les élèves*. It is placed in front of the verb form of *faire*, where it logically belongs.

*Madame Smith fait lire la phrase.* / Mrs. Smith is having the sentence read. OR Mrs. Smith has the sentence read.

In this example, the direct object is the noun *phrase* and it is placed right after the infinitive, as in the first example.

*Madame Smith la fait lire.* / Mrs. Smith is having it read.

In this example, the direct object is the pronoun *la*, referring to *la phrase*. It is placed in front of the verb form of *faire*, where it logically belongs. This is like the second example, but here the direct object is a thing. In the other two examples, the direct object is a person.

## §7.15 SUBJUNCTIVE

The subjunctive is not a tense, but a *mood*, or mode. Usually when we speak in French or English, we use the indicative mood, but the subjunctive mood in French must be used in specific cases. They are:

### After Certain Conjunctions

When the following conjunctions introduce a new clause, the verb in that new clause is usually in the subjunctive mood.

*à condition que* / on condition that  
*à moins que* / unless  
*afin que* / in order that, so that  
*attendre que* / to wait until  
*au cas que; en cas que* / in case  
*bien que* / although  
*de crainte que* / for fear that  
*de peur que* / for fear that  
*de sorte que* / so that  
*en attendant que* / until  
*jusqu'à ce que* / until  
*malgré que* / although  
*pour que* / in order that  
*pourvu que* / provided that  
*quoique* / although

## 100 The Parts of Speech

*Je vous explique pour que vous compreniez.* / I am explaining to you so that you will understand.

*Attendez que je finisse mon dîner.* / Wait until I finish my dinner.

*Au cas que nous soyons d'accord . . .* / In case we are in agreement . . .

*En cas qu'il vienne, soyez prêts.* / In case he comes, be ready.

### After Indefinite Expressions

*où que* / wherever

*quel que* / whatever

*qui que* / whoever

*quoi que* / whatever, no matter what

### After an Indefinite Antecedent

The subjunctive is needed after an indefinite antecedent because the person or thing desired may possibly not exist; or, if it does exist, you may never find it.

*Je cherche une personne qui soit honnête.* / I am looking for a person who is honest.

*Je cherche un appartement qui ne soit pas trop cher.* / I am looking for an apartment that is not too expensive.

*Connaissez-vous quelqu'un qui puisse réparer mon téléviseur une fois pour toutes?* / Do you know someone who can repair my TV set once and for all?

*Y a-t-il un élève qui comprenne le subjonctif?* / Is there a student who understands the subjunctive?

### After a Superlative Expressing an Opinion

The most common superlatives expressing an opinion are: *le seul (la seule)* / the only, *le premier (la première)* / the first, *le dernier (la dernière)* / the last, *le plus petit (la plus petite)* / the smallest, *le plus grand (la plus grande)* / the biggest

*A mon avis, Marie est la seule étudiante qui comprend le subjonctif.* / In my opinion, Mary is the only student who understands the subjunctive.

*Selon mon opinion, Henriette est l'élève la plus jolie que j'aie jamais vue.* / According to my opinion, Henrietta is the prettiest pupil I have ever seen.

## After *que*, Meaning “Let” or “May”

The subjunctive is required after *que* to express a wish, an order, or a command in the third person singular or plural.

*Qu'il parte!* / Let him leave!

*Que Dieu nous pardonne!* / May God forgive us!

*Qu'ils s'en aillent!* / Let them go away!

## After Certain Impersonal Expressions

*c'est dommage que* / it's a pity that

*il est bizarre que* / it is odd that

*il est bon que* / it is good that

*il est douteux que* / it is doubtful that

*il est essentiel que* / it is essential that

*il est étonnant que* / it is astonishing that

*il est étrange que* / it is strange that

*il est heureux que* / it is fortunate that

*il est honteux que* / it is a shame that

*il est important que* / it is important that

*il est impossible que* / it is impossible that

*il est nécessaire que* / it is necessary that

*il est possible que* / it is possible that

*il est regrettable que* / it is regrettable that

*il est temps que* / it is time that

*il est urgent que* / it is urgent that

*il faut que* / it is necessary that

*il se peut que* / it may be that

*il semble que* / it seems that

*il vaut mieux que* / it is better that

## After Certain Verbs Expressing Doubt, Emotion, or Wishing

*aimer que* / to like that  
*aimer mieux que* / to prefer that  
*s'attendre à ce que* / to expect that  
*avoir peur que* / to be afraid that  
*craindre que* / to fear that  
*défendre que* / to forbid that  
*désirer que* / to desire that  
*douter que* / to doubt that  
*empêcher que* / to prevent that  
*s'étonner que* / to be astonished that  
*être bien aise que* / to be pleased that  
*être content que* / to be glad that  
*être désolé que* / to be distressed that  
*être étonné que* / to be astonished that  
*être heureux que* / to be happy that  
*être joyeux que* / to be joyful that  
*être ravi que* / to be delighted that  
*être triste que* / to be sad that  
*exiger que* / to demand that  
*se fâcher que* / to be angry that  
*insister que* / to insist that  
*ordonner que* / to order that  
*préférer que* / to prefer that  
*regretter que* / to regret that  
*souhaiter que* / to wish that  
*tenir à ce que* / to insist upon  
*vouloir que* / to want

### EXAMPLES

*J'aimerais que vous restiez ici.* / I would like you to stay here.

*J'aime mieux que vous restiez ici.* / I prefer that you stay here.

*Nous nous attendons à ce qu'elle vienne immédiatement.* / We expect her to come immediately.

*Ta mère est contente que tu sois heureux.* / Your mother is glad that you are happy.



## After Verbs of Believing and Thinking

Such verbs are *croire*, *penser*, *trouver* (meaning "to think, to have an impression"), and *espérer* when used in the negative or interrogative.

*Je ne pense pas qu'il soit coupable.* / I don't think that he is guilty.  
*Croyez-vous qu'il dise la vérité?* / Do you believe he is telling the truth?

*Trouvez-vous qu'il y ait beaucoup de crimes dans la société d'aujourd'hui?* / Do you find (think) that there are many crimes in today's society?

### §7.16 SUMMARY OF TENSES AND MOODS

The 7 simple tenses	The 7 compound tenses
Present indicative	Past indefinite ( <i>passé composé</i> )
Imperfect indicative	Pluperfect indicative
Past definite	Past anterior
Future	Future perfect
Conditional present	Conditional perfect
Present subjunctive	Past subjunctive
Imperfect subjunctive	Pluperfect subjunctive
	Imperative or Command

### §7.17 SPELLING IRREGULARITIES OF SOME COMMON VERBS

The verbs conjugated here all undergo certain spelling changes in the tenses indicated.\*

The subject pronouns have been omitted in order to

\*For additional verb conjugations, see *French Verbs* by Christopher Kendris, ©1990 by Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

eliminate repetition and to emphasize the verb forms. They are:

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
1st	<i>je (j')</i>	<i>nous</i>
2d	<i>tu</i>	<i>vous</i>
3d	<i>il, elle, on</i>	<i>ils, elles</i>

**PRESENT INDICATIVE**

*acheter* / to buy

<i>achète</i>	<i>achetons</i>
<i>achètes</i>	<i>achetez</i>
<i>achète</i>	<i>achètent</i>

**Mnemonic tip** This is a “boot” verb. Note the outline of a boot that contains the need for è.

*s'appeler* / to be named

<i>m'appelle</i>	<i>nous appelons</i>
<i>t'appelles</i>	<i>vous appelez</i>
<i>s'appelle</i>	<i>s'appellent</i>

**Mnemonic tip** This is another “boot” verb type.

*apprendre* / to learn

<i>apprends</i>	<i>apprenons</i>
<i>apprends</i>	<i>apprenez</i>
<i>apprend</i>	<i>apprennent</i>

*boire* / to drink

*bois*    *buvons*

*bois*    *buvez*

*boit*    *boivent*

**Mnemonic tip** This too is a "boot" verb. Note the "s, s, t" pattern in the singular.

*commencer* / to begin, start

*commence*    *commençons*

*commences*    *commencez*

*commence*    *commencent*

*comprendre* / to understand (like *prendre*; add *com* at the beginning of *prendre*)

*conduire* / to drive; to lead

*conduis*    *conduisons*

*conduis*    *conduisez*

*conduit*    *conduisent*

*connaître* / to know, to be acquainted with

*connais*    *connaissons*

*connais*    *connaissez*

*connaît*    *connaissent*

*courir* / to run

*cours*    *courons*

*cours*    *courez*

*court*    *courent*

*croire* / to believe

*crois* *croyons*

*crois* *croyez*

*croit* *croient*

*devenir* / to become

*deviens* *devenons*

*deviens* *devenez*

*devient* *deviennent*

*devoir* / to owe; to have to

*dois* *devons*

*dois* *devez*

*doit* *doivent*

*dire* / to say; to tell

*dis* *disons*

*dis* *dites*

*dit* *disent*

*dormir* / to sleep

*dors* *dormons*

*dors* *dormez*

*dort* *dorment*

*écrire* / to write

*écris* *écrivons*

*écris* *écrivez*

*écrit* *écrivent*

*envoyer* / to send

*envoie* *envoyons*

*envoies* *envoyez*

*envoie* *envoient*

*espérer / to hope*

<i>espère</i>	<i>espérons</i>
<i>espères</i>	<i>espérez</i>
<i>espère</i>	<i>espèrent</i>

*falloir / to be necessary*

*il faut*

*se lever / to get up*

<i>me lève</i>	<i>nous levons</i>
<i>te lèves</i>	<i>vous levez</i>
<i>se lève</i>	<i>se lèvent</i>

*lire / to read*

*lis lisons*

*lis lisez*

*lit lisent*

*manger / to eat*

*mange mangeons*

*manges mangez*

*mange mangent*

*mettre / to place, put; to put on*

*mets mettons*

*mets mettez*

*met mettent*

*mourir / to die*

<i>meurs</i>	<i>mourons</i>
<i>meurs</i>	<i>mourez</i>
<i>meurt</i>	<i>meurent</i>

*nager* / to swim

*nage*    *nageons*

*nages*   *nagez*

*nage*    *nagent*

*naître* / to be born

*nais*    *naissons*

*nais*    *naissez*

*naît*    *naissent*

*offrir* / to offer

*offre*    *offrons*

*offres*   *offrez*

*offre*    *offrent*

*ouvrir* / to open

*ouvre*   *ouvrons*

*ouvres*   *ouvrez*

*ouvre*    *ouvrent*

*partir* / to leave

*pars*    *partons*

*pars*    *partez*

*part*    *partent*

*pleuvoir* / to rain

*il pleut*

*pouvoir* / to be able, can

*peux* OR *puis*    *pouvons*

*peux*                    *pouvez*

*peut*                    *peuvent*

*préférer* / to prefer

<i>préfère</i>	<i>préférons</i>
<i>préfères</i>	<i>préférez</i>
<i>préfère</i>	<i>préfèrent</i>

*prendre* / to take

<i>prends</i>	<i>prenons</i>
<i>prends</i>	<i>prenez</i>
<i>prend</i>	<i>prennent</i>

*protéger* / to protect

<i>protège</i>	<i>protégeons</i>
<i>protèges</i>	<i>protégez</i>
<i>protège</i>	<i>protègent</i>

*recevoir* / to receive

<i>reçois</i>	<i>recevons</i>
<i>reçois</i>	<i>recevez</i>
<i>reçoit</i>	<i>reçoivent</i>

*revenir* / to return, come back (like *venir*; add *re-* at the beginning of *venir*)

*rire* / to laugh

<i>ris</i>	<i>rions</i>
<i>ris</i>	<i>riez</i>
<i>rit</i>	<i>rient</i>

*savoir* / to know (a fact)

<i>sais</i>	<i>savons</i>
<i>sais</i>	<i>savez</i>
<i>sait</i>	<i>savent</i>

*servir* / to serve

*sers*    *servons*

*sers*    *servez*

*sert*    *servent*

*sortir* / to go out; to leave

*sors*    *sortons*

*sors*    *sortez*

*sort*    *sortent*

*tenir* / to hold

*tiens*    *tenons*

*tiens*    *tenez*

*tient*    *tiennent*

*venir* / to come

*viens*    *venons*

*viens*    *venez*

*vient*    *viennent*

*vivre* / to live

*vis*    *vivons*

*vis*    *vivez*

*vit*    *vivent*

*voir* / to see

*vois*    *voyons*

*vois*    *voyez*

*voit*    *voient*



*vouloir* / to want

veux    *voulons*

veux    *voulez*

veut    *veulent*

*voyager* / to travel

*voyage*    *voyageons*

*voyages*    *voyagez*

*voyage*    *voyagent*

## IMPERFECT INDICATIVE

*apprendre* / to learn

*apprenais*    *apprenions*

*apprenais*    *appreniez*

*apprenait*    *apprenaient*

*boire* / to drink

buvais    *buvions*

buvais    *buviez*

buvait    *buvaient*

*commencer* / to begin, to start

commençais    *commencions*

commençais    *commenciez*

commençait    *commençaient*

*comprendre* / to understand (like *prendre*; add *com* at the beginning of *prendre*)

<i>conduire</i> / to drive; to lead	
<i>conduisais</i>	<i>conduisions</i>
<i>conduisais</i>	<i>conduisiez</i>
<i>conduisait</i>	<i>conduisaient</i>
<i>connaître</i> / to know, be acquainted with	
<i>connaissais</i>	<i>connaissions</i>
<i>connaissais</i>	<i>connaissiez</i>
<i>connaissait</i>	<i>connaissaient</i>
<i>courir</i> / to run	
<i>courais</i>	<i>courions</i>
<i>courais</i>	<i>couriez</i>
<i>courait</i>	<i>couraient</i>
<i>croire</i> / to believe	
<i>croisais</i>	<i>croisions</i>
<i>croisais</i>	<i>croisiez</i>
<i>croisait</i>	<i>croisaient</i>
<i>devenir</i> / to become	
<i>devenais</i>	<i>devenions</i>
<i>devenais</i>	<i>deveniez</i>
<i>devenait</i>	<i>devenaient</i>
<i>devoir</i> / to owe; to have to	
<i>devais</i>	<i>devions</i>
<i>devais</i>	<i>deviez</i>
<i>devait</i>	<i>devaient</i>
<i>dire</i> / to say; to tell	
<i>disais</i>	<i>disions</i>
<i>disais</i>	<i>disiez</i>
<i>disait</i>	<i>disaient</i>

**dormir / to sleep****dormais dormions****dormais dormiez****dormais dormaient****écrire / to write****écrivais écrivions****écrivais écriviez****écrivait écrivaient****falloir / to be necessary****il fallait****lire / to read****lisais lisions****lisais lisiez****lisait lisaient****manger / to eat****mangeais mangions****mangeais mangiez****mangeait mangeaient****mourir / to die****mourais mourions****mourais mouriez****mourait mouraient****nager / to swim****nageais nagions****nageais nageiez****nageait nageaient**

*naître / to be born*

*naissais naissions*

*naissais naissiez*

*naissait naissaient*

*offrir / to offer*

*offrais offrions*

*offrais offriez*

*offrait offraient*

*ouvrir / to open*

*ouvrais ouvriions*

*ouvrais ouvriez*

*ouvrait ouvraient*

*partir / to leave*

*partais partions*

*partais partiez*

*partait partaient*

*pleuvoir / to rain*

*il pleuvait*

*prendre / to take*

*prenais prenions*

*prenais preniez*

*prenait prenaient*

*protéger / to protect*

*protégeais protégeions*

*protégeais protégeiez*

*protégeait protégeaient*

*revenir* / to return, to come back  
(like *venir*; add *re* at the beginning of *venir*)

*rire* / to laugh

*ria*s    *ri*ions

*ria*s    *ri*iez

*ria*it    *ria*ient

*savoir* / to know (a fact)

*sava*is    *sav*ions

*sava*is    *sav*iez

*sava*it    *sava*ient

*servir* / to serve

*serv*a<sub>i</sub>s    *serv*ions

*serv*a<sub>i</sub>s    *serv*iez

*serv*a<sub>i</sub>t    *serv*a<sub>i</sub>ent

*sortir* / to go out; to leave

*sort*a<sub>i</sub>s    *sort*ions

*sort*a<sub>i</sub>s    *sort*iez

*sort*a<sub>i</sub>t    *sort*a<sub>i</sub>ent

*tenir* / to hold

*ten*a<sub>i</sub>s    *ten*ions

*ten*a<sub>i</sub>s    *ten*iez

*ten*a<sub>i</sub>t    *ten*a<sub>i</sub>ent

*venir* / to come

*ven*a<sub>i</sub>s    *ven*ions

*ven*a<sub>i</sub>s    *ven*iez

*ven*a<sub>i</sub>t    *ven*a<sub>i</sub>ent

<i>vivre / to live</i>	
<i>vivais</i>	<i>vivions</i>
<i>vivais</i>	<i>viviez</i>
<i>vivait</i>	<i>vivaient</i>
<i>voir / to see</i>	
<i>voyais</i>	<i>voyions</i>
<i>voyais</i>	<i>voyiez</i>
<i>voyait</i>	<i>voyaient</i>
<i>vouloir / to want</i>	
<i>voulais</i>	<i>voulions</i>
<i>voulais</i>	<i>vouliez</i>
<i>voulait</i>	<i>voulaient</i>
<i>voyager / to travel</i>	
<i>voyageais</i>	<i>voyagions</i>
<i>voyageais</i>	<i>voyagiez</i>
<i>voyageait</i>	<i>voyageaient</i>

## §7.18 BASIC NEGATIONS OF VERBS

The common negations of verbs are *ne* + verb + any of the following:

*aucun, aucune* / no, not one, not any

*Je n'ai aucun livre.* / I have no book.

*Robert n'a aucune amie.* / Robert has no girlfriend.

*guère* / hardly, scarcely

*Paul ne parle guère.* / Paul hardly (scarcely) talks.

*jamais* / never

*Jean n'étudie jamais.* / John never studies.

*ni . . . ni* / neither . . . nor

*Je n'ai ni argent ni billet.* / I have neither money nor tickets.

*nul, nulle* / no, not any

*Je n'en ai nul besoin.* / I have no need of it.

*Je ne vais nulle part.* / I'm not going anywhere.

*pas* / not

*Je n'ai pas de papier.* / I haven't any paper.

*pas du tout* / not at all

*Je ne comprends pas du tout.* / I do not understand at all.

*personne* / nobody, no one, not anybody

*Je ne vois personne.* / I don't see anybody. I see no one.

*plus* / any longer, no more, not any more

*Mon père ne travaille plus.* / My father doesn't work any more.

*point* / not at all

*Cet enfant n'a point d'argent.* / This child has no money at all.

*que* / only, but only

*Je n'ai que deux francs.* / I have (but) only two francs.

*rien* / nothing

*Je n'ai rien sur moi.* / I have nothing on me.

Note that all these negations require *ne* in front of the main verb. Also note that *aucun, aucune, nul, nulle, personne, rien* can be used as subjects and you still need to use *ne* in front of the verb.

*Personne n'entend le bruit.* / Nobody hears the noise.

*Rien n'est jamais parfait.* / Nothing is ever perfect.

*Une devinette* / a riddle

*J'ai des yeux mais je n'ai pas de paupières et je vis dans l'eau. Qui suis-je?* / I have eyes but I don't have eyelids and I live in the water. Who am I?

*un poisson*

## §7.19 FOUR CONJUGATED VERBS

The following irregular verbs — *aller, avoir, être, and faire* — have been fully conjugated in all their tenses because they are so frequently used.



*aller* / to goPresent participle: *allant*Past participle: *allé(e)(s)***The Seven Simple Tenses****The Seven Compound Tenses****Singular****Plural**

## Present indicative

<i>vais</i>	<i>allons</i>
<i>vas</i>	<i>allez</i>
<i>va</i>	<i>vont</i>

## Imperfect indicative

<i>allais</i>	<i>allions</i>
<i>allais</i>	<i>alliez</i>
<i>allait</i>	<i>allaient</i>

## Past definite

<i>allai</i>	<i>allâmes</i>
<i>allas</i>	<i>allâtes</i>
<i>alla</i>	<i>allèrent</i>

## Future

<i>irai</i>	<i>irons</i>
<i>iras</i>	<i>irez</i>
<i>ira</i>	<i>iront</i>

## Conditional

<i>irais</i>	<i>irions</i>
<i>irais</i>	<i>iriez</i>
<i>irait</i>	<i>iraient</i>

## Present subjunctive

<i>aille</i>	<i>allions</i>
<i>ailles</i>	<i>alliez</i>
<i>aille</i>	<i>aillent</i>

## Imperfect subjunctive

<i>allasse</i>	<i>allussions</i>
<i>allasses</i>	<i>allussiez</i>
<i>allât</i>	<i>allussent</i>

**Singular****Plural**

## Past indefinite

<i>suis allé(e)</i>	<i>sommes allé(e)s</i>
<i>es allé(e)</i>	<i>êtes allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>est allé(e)</i>	<i>sont allé(e)s</i>

## Pluperfect OR Past perfect indicative

<i>étais allé(e)</i>	<i>étions allé(e)s</i>
<i>étais allé(e)</i>	<i>étiez allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>était allé(e)</i>	<i>étaient allé(e)s</i>

## Past anterior

<i>fus allé(e)</i>	<i>fûmes allé(e)s</i>
<i>fus allé(e)</i>	<i>fûtes allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>fut allé(e)</i>	<i>furent allé(e)s</i>

## Future perfect OR Future anterior

<i>serai allé(e)</i>	<i>serons allé(e)s</i>
<i>seras allé(e)</i>	<i>serez allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>sera allé(e)</i>	<i>seront allé(e)s</i>

## Conditional perfect

<i>serais allé(e)</i>	<i>serions allé(e)s</i>
<i>serais allé(e)</i>	<i>seriez allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>serait allé(e)</i>	<i>seraient allé(e)s</i>

## Past subjunctive

<i>sois allé(e)</i>	<i>soyons allé(e)s</i>
<i>sois allé(e)</i>	<i>soyez allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>soit allé(e)</i>	<i>soient allé(e)s</i>

## Pluperfect OR Past perfect subjunctive

<i>fusse allé(e)</i>	<i>fussions allé(e)s</i>
<i>fusses allé(e)</i>	<i>fussiez allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>fût allé(e)</i>	<i>fussent allé(e)s</i>

## Imperative OR Command

<i>va</i>
<i>allons</i>
<i>allez</i>

*avoir* / to have

Present participle: *ayant*

Past participle: *eu*

**The Seven Simple Tenses** | **The Seven Compound Tenses**

Singular		Plural		Singular		Plural	
Present indicative				Past indefinite			
<i>ai</i>		<i>avons</i>		<i>ai eu</i>		<i>avons eu</i>	
<i>as</i>		<i>avez</i>		<i>as eu</i>		<i>avez eu</i>	
<i>a</i>		<i>ont</i>		<i>a eu</i>		<i>ont eu</i>	
Imperfect indicative				Pluperfect OR Past perfect indicative			
<i>avais</i>		<i>avions</i>		<i>avais eu</i>		<i>avions eu</i>	
<i>avais</i>		<i>aviez</i>		<i>avais eu</i>		<i>aviez eu</i>	
<i>avait</i>		<i>avaient</i>		<i>avait eu</i>		<i>avaient eu</i>	
Past definite				Past anterior			
<i>eus</i>		<i>eûmes</i>		<i>eus eu</i>		<i>eûmes eu</i>	
<i>eus</i>		<i>eûtes</i>		<i>eus eu</i>		<i>eûtes eu</i>	
<i>eut</i>		<i>eurent</i>		<i>eut eu</i>		<i>eurent eu</i>	
Future				Future perfect OR Future anterior			
<i>aurai</i>		<i>aurons</i>		<i>aurai eu</i>		<i>aurons eu</i>	
<i>auras</i>		<i>aurez</i>		<i>auras eu</i>		<i>aurez eu</i>	
<i>aura</i>		<i>auront</i>		<i>aura eu</i>		<i>auront eu</i>	
Conditional				Conditional perfect			
<i>aurais</i>		<i>aurions</i>		<i>aurais eu</i>		<i>aurions eu</i>	
<i>aurais</i>		<i>auriez</i>		<i>aurais eu</i>		<i>auriez eu</i>	
<i>aurait</i>		<i>auraient</i>		<i>aurait eu</i>		<i>auraient eu</i>	
Present subjunctive				Past subjunctive			
<i>aie</i>		<i>ayons</i>		<i>aie eu</i>		<i>ayons eu</i>	
<i>aies</i>		<i>ayez</i>		<i>aies eu</i>		<i>ayez eu</i>	
<i>ait</i>		<i>aient</i>		<i>ait eu</i>		<i>aient eu</i>	
Imperfect subjunctive				Pluperfect OR Past perfect subjunctive			
<i>eusse</i>		<i>eussions</i>		<i>eusse eu</i>		<i>eussions eu</i>	
<i>eusses</i>		<i>eussiez</i>		<i>eusses eu</i>		<i>eussiez eu</i>	
<i>eût</i>		<i>eussent</i>		<i>eût eu</i>		<i>eussent eu</i>	
Imperative OR Command							
				<i>aie</i>			
				<i>ayons</i>			
				<i>ayez</i>			

## être / to be

Present participle: *étant*Past participle: *été*

## The Seven Simple Tenses

## The Seven Compound Tenses

Singular		Plural		Singular		Plural	
Present indicative				Past indefinite			
<i>suis</i>		<i>sommes</i>		<i>ai été</i>		<i>avons été</i>	
<i>es</i>		<i>êtes</i>		<i>as été</i>		<i>avez été</i>	
<i>est</i>		<i>sont</i>		<i>a été</i>		<i>ont été</i>	
Imperfect indicative				Pluperfect OR Past perfect indicative			
<i>étais</i>		<i>étions</i>		<i>avais été</i>		<i>avions été</i>	
<i>étais</i>		<i>étiez</i>		<i>avais été</i>		<i>aviez été</i>	
<i>était</i>		<i>étaient</i>		<i>avait été</i>		<i>avaient été</i>	
Past definite				Past anterior			
<i>fus</i>		<i>fûmes</i>		<i>eus été</i>		<i>eûmes été</i>	
<i>fus</i>		<i>fûtes</i>		<i>eus été</i>		<i>eûtes été</i>	
<i>fut</i>		<i>furent</i>		<i>eut été</i>		<i>eurent été</i>	
Future				Future perfect OR Future anterior			
<i>serai</i>		<i>serons</i>		<i>aurai été</i>		<i>aurons été</i>	
<i>seras</i>		<i>serez</i>		<i>auras été</i>		<i> aurez été</i>	
<i>sera</i>		<i>seront</i>		<i>aura été</i>		<i>auront été</i>	
Conditional				Conditional perfect			
<i>serais</i>		<i>serions</i>		<i>aurais été</i>		<i>aurions été</i>	
<i>serais</i>		<i>seriez</i>		<i>aurais été</i>		<i>auriez été</i>	
<i>serait</i>		<i>seraient</i>		<i>aurait été</i>		<i>auraient été</i>	
Present subjunctive				Past subjunctive			
<i>sois</i>		<i>soyons</i>		<i>aie été</i>		<i>ayons été</i>	
<i>sois</i>		<i>soyez</i>		<i>aies été</i>		<i>ayez été</i>	
<i>soit</i>		<i>soient</i>		<i>ait été</i>		<i>aient été</i>	
Imperfect subjunctive				Pluperfect OR Past perfect subjunctive			
<i>fusse</i>		<i>fussions</i>		<i>eusse été</i>		<i>eussions été</i>	
<i>fusses</i>		<i>fussiez</i>		<i>eusses été</i>		<i>eussiez été</i>	
<i>fût</i>		<i>fussent</i>		<i>eût été</i>		<i>eussent été</i>	
Imperative OR Command							
<i>sois</i>							
<i>soyons</i>							
<i>soyez</i>							

*faire* / to do, to makePresent participle: *faisant* Past participle: *fait*

The Seven Simple Tenses	The Seven Compound Tenses
<p><b>Singular</b>                      <b>Plural</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Present indicative</p> <p><i>fais</i>                                      <i>faisons</i>  <i>fais</i>                                      <i>faites</i>  <i>fait</i>                                      <i>font</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Imperfect indicative</p> <p><i>faisais</i>                                  <i>faisions</i>  <i>faisais</i>                                  <i>faisiez</i>  <i>faisait</i>                                  <i>faisaient</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Past definite</p> <p><i>fit</i>    <i>fîmes</i>  <i>fit</i>    <i>fîtes</i>  <i>fit</i>    <i>firent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Future</p> <p><i>ferai</i>                                      <i>ferons</i>  <i>feras</i>                                      <i>ferez</i>  <i>fera</i>                                      <i>feront</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conditional</p> <p><i>ferais</i>                                      <i>ferions</i>  <i>ferais</i>                                      <i>feriez</i>  <i>ferait</i>                                      <i>feraient</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Present subjunctive</p> <p><i>fasse</i>                                      <i>fassions</i>  <i>fasses</i>                                      <i>fassiez</i>  <i>fasse</i>                                      <i>fassent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Imperfect subjunctive</p> <p><i>fisse</i>                                      <i>fissions</i>  <i>fisses</i>                                      <i>fissiez</i>  <i>fît</i>    <i>fissent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Imperative OR Command</p> <p><i>fais</i>  <i>faisons</i>  <i>faites</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Past indefinite</p> <p><i>ai fait</i>                                      <i>avons fait</i>  <i>as fait</i>                                      <i>avez fait</i>  <i>a fait</i>                                      <i>ont fait</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pluperfect OR Past perfect indicative</p> <p><i>avais fait</i>                                  <i>avions fait</i>  <i>avais fait</i>                                  <i>aviez fait</i>  <i>avait fait</i>                                  <i>avaient fait</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Past anterior</p> <p><i>eus fait</i>                                      <i>eûmes fait</i>  <i>eus fait</i>                                      <i>eûtes fait</i>  <i>eut fait</i>                                      <i>eurent fait</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Future perfect OR Future anterior</p> <p><i>aurai fait</i>                                  <i>aurons fait</i>  <i>auras fait</i>                                  <i> aurez fait</i>  <i>aura fait</i>                                  <i>auront fait</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conditional perfect</p> <p><i>aurais fait</i>                                  <i>aurions fait</i>  <i>aurais fait</i>                                  <i>auriez fait</i>  <i>aurait fait</i>                                  <i>auraient fait</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Past subjunctive</p> <p><i>aie fait</i>                                      <i>ayons fait</i>  <i>aies fait</i>                                      <i>ayez fait</i>  <i>ait fait</i>                                      <i>aient fait</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pluperfect OR Past perfect subjunctive</p> <p><i>eusse fait</i>                                  <i>eussions fait</i>  <i>eusses fait</i>                                  <i>eussiez fait</i>  <i>eût fait</i>                                      <i>eussent fait</i></p>

# §8.

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## Adverbs

### DEFINITION

An *adverb* is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

### §8.1 FORMATION

Many French adverbs are not formed from another word, for example: *bien, mal, vite, combien, comment, pourquoi, où*.

There are many other adverbs that are formed from another word. The usual way is to add the suffix *-ment* to the masculine singular form of an adjective whose last letter is a vowel; for example: *probable, probablement; poli, poliment; vrai, vraiment*.

The suffix *-ment* is added to the feminine singular form if the masculine singular ends in a consonant; for example: *affreux, affreuse, affreusement; seul, seule, seulement; amer, amère, amèrement; franc, franche, franchement*.

The ending *-ment* is equivalent to the English ending “-ly”: *lent, lente, lentement* / slow, slowly.

Some adjectives that end in *-ant* or *-ent* become adverbs by changing *-ant* to *-amment* and *-ent* to *-emment*: *innocent, innocemment; constant, constamment; récent, récemment*.

Some adverbs take *é* instead of *e* before adding *-ment*: *profond, profondément; confus, confusément; précis, précisément*.

The adjective *gentil* becomes *gentiment* as an adverb and *bref* becomes *brièvement*.

## §8.2 POSITION

1. *David aime beaucoup les chocolats.*
2. *Paulette a parlé distinctement.*
3. *Julie a bien parlé.*

- In French, an adverb ordinarily follows the simple verb it modifies, as in the first model sentence above.
- If a verb is compound, as in the *past indefinite* (sentence 2), the adverb generally follows the past participle if it is a long adverb. The adverb *distinctement* is long. Some exceptions: *certainement*, *complètement*, and *probablement* are usually placed between the helping verb and the past participle: *Elle est probablement partie. Il a complètement fini le travail.*
- If a verb is compound, as in the *past indefinite* (sentence 3), short common adverbs (like *beaucoup*, *bien*, *déjà*, *encore*, *mal*, *mieux*, *souvent*, *toujours*) ordinarily precede the past participle; in other words, they may be placed between the helping verb and the past participle.
- For emphasis, an adverb may be placed at the beginning of a sentence: *Malheureusement, Suzanne est déjà partie.*

## §8.3 TYPES

### §8.3-1 Interrogative Adverbs

Some common interrogative adverbs are *comment*, *combien*, *pourquoi*, *quand*, *où*.

#### EXAMPLES

*Comment allez-vous? Combien coûte ce livre? Pourquoi partez-vous? Quand arriverez-vous? Où allez-vous?*

### §8.3–2 Adverbs of Quantity

Some adverbial expressions of quantity are *beaucoup de*, *assez de*, *peu de*, *trop de*, *plus de*. With these, no article is used: *peu de sucre*, *beaucoup de travail*, *assez de temps*, *trop de lait*, *combien d'argent*.

### §8.3–3 Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
vite / quickly	<i>plus vite (que) / more quickly (than) faster (than)</i>	<i>le plus vite / (the) most quickly, (the) fastest</i>
	<i>moins vite (que) / less quickly (than)</i>	<i>le moins vite / (the) least quickly</i>
	<i>aussi vite (que) / as quickly (as), as fast (as)</i>	

#### EXAMPLES

*Arlette parle plus vite que Marie-France. / Arlette speaks faster than Marie-France.*

*Madame Legrange parle moins vite que Madame Duval. /*

*Madame Legrange speaks less quickly than Madame Duval.*

*Monsieur Bernard parle aussi vite que Monsieur Claude. / Monsieur Bernard speaks as fast as Monsieur Claude.*

*Madame Durocher parle le plus vite tandis que Madame Milot parle le moins vite. / Madame Durocher speaks the fastest whereas Madame Milot speaks the least fast (the slowest).*

*Aussi . . . que becomes si . . . que in a negative sentence.*

#### EXAMPLE

*Justin ne parle pas si vite que Justine. / Justin does not talk as fast as Justine.*

## Irregular Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
<i>bien</i> / well	<i>mieux</i> / better	<i>le mieux</i> / best, the best
<i>beaucoup</i> / much	<i>plus</i> / more	<i>le plus</i> / most, the most
<i>mal</i> / badly	{ <i>plus mal</i> / worse <i>pis</i> / worse	{ <i>le plus mal</i> / worst, the worst <i>le moins bien</i> / the worst <i>le pis</i> / worst, the worst
<i>peu</i> / little	<i>moins</i> / less	<i>le moins</i> / least, the least

### EXAMPLES

*Pierre travaille bien, Henri travaille mieux que Robert et Georges travaille le mieux.*

*Marie étudie beaucoup, Paulette étudie plus que Marie, et Henriette étudie le plus.*

## §8.4 OUI AND SI

Ordinarily, *oui* is used to mean “yes.” However, *si* can also be used to mean “yes” in response to a question in the negative.

### EXAMPLES

*Aimez-vous le français? — Oui, j’aime le français.*

*N’aimez-vous pas le français? — Si, j’aime le français.*

#### Mnemonic tip

*Une scie* (pronounced like the English “see”) is a carpenter’s “saw.”



## §9.

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# Prepositions — Special Uses

### §9.1 *Dans* and *en* + a length of time

The prepositions *dans* and *en* both mean “in,” but each is used in a different sense.

*Dans* + a length of time indicates that something will happen *at the end* of that length of time.

*Le docteur va venir dans une demi-heure.* / The doctor will come in a half-hour (i.e., at the end of a half-hour).

*Dans* and a duration of time can be at the beginning of the sentence or at the end of it and future time is ordinarily implied.

*En* + a length of time indicates that something happened or will happen at any time *within* that length of time.

#### EXAMPLES

*Robert a fait cela en une heure.* / Robert did that in (within) an (one) hour.

*Robert fera cela en une heure.* / Robert will do that in (within) an (one) hour.

#### BUT

*Robert fera cela dans une heure.* / Robert will do that in (at the end of) an (one) hour.

### §9.2 *Envers* and *vers*

*Envers* is used in a figurative sense in the meaning of “with regard to” someone, “with respect to” someone, “for” someone, or “for” something.

EXAMPLES

*Je montre beaucoup de respect envers les vieilles personnes.* / I show a lot of respect toward old persons.

*Je ne montre aucun respect envers un criminel.* / I show no respect toward a criminal.

*Vers* also means "toward," but is used in the physical sense (in the direction of) as well as in the figurative sense.

EXAMPLES

*Pourquoi allez-vous vers la porte?* / Why are you going toward the door?

*Je vais partir vers trois heures.* / I am going to leave toward (around) three o'clock.

### §9.3 *Pendant* and *pour*

#### IN THE PRESENT TENSE

*Combien de temps étudiez-vous chaque soir?* / How long do you study every evening?

*J'étudie une heure chaque soir.* / I study one hour each night.

OR *J'étudie pendant une heure chaque soir.* / I study for one hour each night.

#### IN THE PAST INDEFINITE

*Combien de temps êtes-vous resté(e) à Paris?* / How long did you stay in Paris?

*Je suis resté(e) à Paris deux semaines.* / I stayed in Paris two weeks. OR *Je suis resté(e) à Paris pendant deux semaines.* / I

stayed in Paris for two weeks.

#### IN THE FUTURE

*Combien de temps resterez-vous à Paris?* / How long will you stay in Paris?

*J'y resterai pendant deux semaines.* / I will stay there for two weeks. OR *J'y resterai deux semaines.* / I will stay there two weeks.

# §10.

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## Conjunctions

### §10.1 DEFINITION

A conjunction is a word that connects words, phrases, clauses, or sentences, such as *et* / and, *mais* / but, *ou* / or, *parce que* / because. The following is a list of the most common conjunctions.

### §10.2 Basic Conjunctions

*à moins que* / unless  
*afin que* / in order that, so that  
*aussitôt que* / as soon as  
*avant que* / before  
*bien que* / although  
*car* / for  
*comme* / as, since  
*de crainte que* / for fear that  
*de peur que* / for fear that  
*de sorte que* / so that, in such a way that  
*depuis que* / since  
*dès que* / as soon as  
*donc* / therefore, consequently  
*en même temps que* / at the same time as  
*et* / and  
*jusqu'à ce que* / until  
*lorsque* / when, at the time when  
*maintenant que* / now that  
*mais* / but  
*ou* / or  
*parce que* / because  
*pendant le temps que* / while

*pendant que* / while

*pour que* / in order that

*pourvu que* / provided that

*puisque* / since

*quand* / when

*que* / that

*quoi que* / whatever, no matter what

*quoique* / although

*si* / if

*tandis que* / while, whereas

**Mnemonic tip**

Pronounce the final c in donc as a k when it means consequently (therefore).

*Je pense; donc, je suis*, I think; therefore, I am.

# Special Topics

## §11.

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### Order of Elements in French Sentences

#### §11.1 Negative Constructions

Some common negative constructions are *ne* + verb + any of the following:

*aucun (aucune)* / no, not one, not any

*Je n'ai aucun livre.* / I have no book.

*Robert n'a aucune amie.* / Robert has no girlfriend.

*guère* / hardly, scarcely

*Paul ne parle guère.* / Paul hardly (scarcely) talks.

*jamais* / never

*Jean n'étudie jamais.* / John never studies.

*ni . . . ni* / neither . . . nor

*Je n'ai ni argent ni billets.* / I have neither money nor tickets.

*nul (nulle)* / no, not any

*Je n'en ai nul besoin.* / I have no need of it.

*Je ne vais nulle part.* / I'm not going anywhere.

*pas* / not

*Je n'ai pas de papier.* / I haven't any paper.

## 132 Special Topics

*pas du tout* / not at all

*Je ne comprends pas du tout.* / I do not understand at all.

*personne* / nobody, no one, not anybody

*Je ne vois personne.* / I don't see anybody. I see no one.

*plus* / any longer, no more, not anymore

*Mon père ne travaille plus.* / My father doesn't work anymore.

*point* / not at all

*Cet enfant n'a point d'argent.* / This child has no money at all.

*que* / only, but only

*Je n'ai que deux francs.* / I have (but) only two francs.

*rien* / nothing

*Je n'ai rien sur moi.* / I have nothing on me.

Remember that all these negations require *ne* in front of the main verb. Also note that *aucun* (*aucune*), *nul* (*nulle*), *personne*, and *rien* can be used as subjects, but you still need to use *ne* in front of the verb.

### EXAMPLES

*Personne n'est ici.* / Nobody is here.

*Rien n'est dans ce tiroir.* / Nothing is in this drawer.

*Une devinette*

*J'ai des yeux mais je n'ai pas de paupières et je vis dans l'eau. Qui suis-je?* / I have eyes, but I don't have eyelids and I live in the water. Who am I?

*un poisson* / a fish

## §11.2 Declarative Sentence with a Verb in a Simple Tense (e.g., present)

**SUBJECT** → *ne (n')* +  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{me (m')} \\ \textit{te (t')} \\ \textit{se (s')} \\ \textit{nous} \\ \textit{vous} \end{array} \right\}$  OR  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{le} \\ \textit{la} \\ \textit{' } \\ \textit{les} \end{array} \right\}$  AND/OR  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{lui} \\ \textit{leur} \end{array} \right\}$   
 OR *y + en + VERB* → **pas**

### EXAMPLES

*Il ne me les donne pas.* / He is not giving them to me.

*Je ne le leur donne pas.* / I am not giving it to them.

*Il n'y en a pas.* / There aren't any of them.

## §11.3 Declarative Sentence with a Verb in a Compound Tense (e.g., *passé composé*)

**SUBJECT** → *ne (n')* +  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{me (m')} \\ \textit{te (t')} \\ \textit{se (s')} \\ \textit{nous} \\ \textit{vous} \end{array} \right\}$  OR  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{le} \\ \textit{la} \\ \textit{' } \\ \textit{les} \end{array} \right\}$  AND/OR  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{lui} \\ \textit{leur} \end{array} \right\}$   
 OR *y + en + VERB* → **pas +**  
 past participle  
 (auxiliary verb  
*avoir* or *être* in  
 a simple tense)

### EXAMPLES

*Yvonne ne s'est pas lavée.* / Yvonne did not wash herself.

*Il ne m'en a pas envoyé.* / He did not send any of them to me.

*Je ne le lui ai pas donné.* / I did not give it to him (to her).

*Nous ne vous les avons pas données.* / We have not given them to you.

*Ils ne s'en sont pas allés.* / They did not go away.

## §11.4 Affirmative Imperative Sentence

$$\text{VERB} + \left. \begin{array}{l} \textit{le} \\ \textit{la} \\ \textit{l}' \\ \textit{les} \end{array} \right\} \text{OR} \left. \begin{array}{l} \textit{moi (m')} \\ \textit{toi (t')} \\ \textit{nous} \\ \textit{vous} \end{array} \right\} \text{AND/OR} \left. \begin{array}{l} \textit{lui} \\ \textit{leur} \end{array} \right\} \text{OR } y + \textit{en}$$

### EXAMPLES

*Donnez-les-leur.* / Give them to them.

*Assieds-toi.* / Sit down.

*Allez-vous-en!* / Go away!

*Apportez-le-moi!* / Bring it to me!

*Donnez-m'en!* / Give me some!

*Allez-y!* / Go to it! Go there!

## §11.5 Negative Imperative Sentence

$$\text{Ne (N')} + \left. \begin{array}{l} \textit{me (m')} \\ \textit{te (t')} \\ \textit{nous} \\ \textit{vous} \end{array} \right\} \text{OR} \left. \begin{array}{l} \textit{le} \\ \textit{la} \\ \textit{l}' \\ \textit{les} \end{array} \right\} \text{OR} \left. \begin{array}{l} \textit{lui} \\ \textit{leur} \end{array} \right\} \text{OR } y + \textit{en} + \text{VERB} \rightarrow \textit{pas}$$

### EXAMPLES

*Ne l'y mettez pas.* / Do not put it in it. Do not put it there.

*Ne les leur donnez pas.* / Do not give them to them.

*Ne t'assieds pas!* / Don't sit down!

*Ne vous en allez pas!* / Don't go away!

**Mnemonic tip** Object pronouns fall in the right order if you alphabetize them!

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \textit{la} \\ \textit{le} \\ \textit{les} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} + \\ + \\ + \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \textit{leur} \\ \textit{lui} \end{array}$$

The order is always the same, whether before or after a verb or before an infinitive.



# §12.

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## Idioms

### §12.1 SPECIAL USES

#### Depuis

- With the present indicative tense

When an action of some sort began in the past and is still going on in the present, use the present tense with *depuis* + the length of time.

*Je travaille dans ce bureau depuis trois ans. / I have been working in this office for three years.*

Use *depuis combien de temps* + the present indicative of the verb to ask how long one has been + verb:

*Depuis combien de temps travaillez-vous dans ce bureau? / How long have you been working in this office? Je travaille dans ce bureau depuis un an. / I have been working in this office for one year.*

- With the imperfect indicative tense

When an action of some sort began in the past and continued up to another point in the past that you are telling about, use the imperfect indicative tense with *depuis* + the length of time:

*J'attendais l'autobus depuis vingt minutes quand il est arrivé. / I had been waiting for the bus for twenty minutes when it arrived.*

• In a question

*Depuis combien de temps attendez-vous l'autobus? / How long have you been waiting for the bus?*

*J'attends l'autobus depuis vingt minutes. / I have been waiting for the bus for twenty minutes.*

Note: When you use *depuis combien de temps* in a question, you expect the other person to tell you how long, how much time—how many minutes, how many hours, how many days, weeks, months, years, etc.

*Depuis quand habitez-vous cet appartement? / Since when have you been living in this apartment?*

*J'habite cet appartement depuis le premier septembre. / I have been living in this apartment since September first.*

Note: When you use *depuis quand* in your question, you expect the other person to tell you since what particular point in time in the past—a particular day, date, month; in other words, since *when*, not *how long*.

*Depuis quand êtes-vous malade? / Since when have you been sick?*

*Je suis malade depuis samedi. / I have been sick since Saturday.*

*Depuis quand habitiez-vous l'appartement quand vous avez déménagé? / Since when had you been living in the apartment when you moved?*

*J'habitais l'appartement depuis le cinq avril dernier quand j'ai déménagé. / I had been living in the apartment since last April fifth when I moved.*

**// y a + Length of Time + que; voici + Length of Time + que; voilà + Length of Time + que**

• In questions and answers

*Depuis combien de temps attendez-vous l'autobus? / How long have you been waiting for the bus?*

*J'attends l'autobus depuis vingt minutes. / I have been waiting for the bus for twenty minutes.*

*Voici vingt minutes que je l'attends.* / I have been waiting for it for twenty minutes.

*Voilà vingt minutes que je l'attends.* / I have been waiting for it for twenty minutes.

Note: When you use these expressions, you generally use them at the beginning of your answer + the verb.

When you use the *depuis* construction, the verb comes first: *J'attends l'autobus depuis vingt minutes.*

### • *Il y a* + length of time

*Il y a* + length of time means "ago." Do not use *que* in this construction as in the above examples because the meaning is entirely different.

*Madame Martin est partie il y a une heure.* / Mrs. Martin left an hour ago.

*L'autobus est arrivé il y a vingt minutes.* / The bus arrived twenty minutes ago.

### • *Il y a* and *Il y avait*

*Il y a* alone means "there is" or "there are" when you are merely making a statement.

*Il y a vingt élèves dans cette classe.* / There are twenty students in this class.

*Il y a une mouche dans la soupe.* / There is a fly in the soup.

*Il y avait* alone means "there was" or "there were" when you are merely making a statement.

*Il y avait vingt élèves dans cette classe.* / There were (used to be) twenty students in this class.

*Il y avait deux mouches dans la soupe.* / There were two flies in the soup.

## **Voici and Voilà**

These two expressions are used to point out someone or something.

*Voici un taxi!* / Here's a taxi!

*Voilà un taxi là-bas!* / There's a taxi over there!

*Voici ma carte d'identité et voilà mon passeport.* / Here's my ID card and there's my passport.

*Voici mon père et voilà ma mère.* / Here's my father and there's my mother.

## §12.2 BASIC EXPRESSIONS

### With à

à *bicyclette* / by bicycle,  
on a bicycle

à *bientôt* / so long, see  
you soon

à *cause de* / on account  
of, because of

à *cette heure* / at this  
time, at the present  
moment

à *cheval* / on horseback

à *côté de* / beside, next to

à *demain* / until tomor-  
row, see you tomorrow

à *droite* / at (on, to) the  
right

à *gauche* / at (on, to) the  
left

à *haute voix* / aloud, out  
loud, in a loud voice

à *jamais* / forever

à *l'école* / at (in, to) school

à *l'étranger* / abroad,  
overseas

à *l'heure* / on time

à *l'instant* / instantly

à *l'occasion* / on the oc-  
casion

à *la campagne* / at (in, to)  
the country(side)

à *la fin* / at last, finally

à *la fois* / at the same time

à *la main* / in one's hand,  
by hand

à *la maison* / at home

à *la mode* / fashionable,  
in style, in fashion

à *la radio* / on the radio

à *la recherche de* / in  
search of

à *la télé* / on TV

à *mon avis* / in my opinion

à *part* / aside

à *partir de* / beginning with

à *peine* / hardly, scarcely

à *peu près* / approxi-  
mately, about, nearly

*à pied* / on foot  
*à plus tard* / see you later  
*à présent* / now, at present  
*à propos* / by the way  
*à propos de* / about, with reference to, concerning  
*à quelle heure?* / at what time?  
*à qui est ce livre?* / whose is this book?  
*à quoi bon?* / what's the use?  
*à son gré* / to one's liking  
*à temps* / in time

*à tour de rôle* / in turn  
*à tout à l'heure* / see you in a little while  
*à tout prix* / at any cost  
*à travers* / across, through  
*à tue-tête* / at the top of one's voice, as loud as possible  
*à vélo* / on a bike  
*à voix basse* / in a low voice, softly  
*à volonté* / at will, willingly  
*à vrai dire* / to tell the truth  
*à vue d'œil* / visibly

## With *au*

*au bas de* / at the bottom of  
*au besoin* / if need be, if necessary  
*au bout de* / at the end of, at the tip of  
*au contraire* / on the contrary  
*au début* / at (in) the beginning  
*au-dessous de* / below, beneath  
*au-dessus de* / above, over  
*au fond de* / in the bottom of  
*au haut de* / at the top of  
*au lieu de* / instead of

*au milieu de* / in the middle of  
*au moins* / at least  
*au pied de* / at the foot of  
*au printemps* / in the spring  
*au revoir* / goodbye  
*au sous-sol* / in the basement  
*au sujet de* / about, concerning  
*au téléphone* / on the telephone  
*café au lait* / coffee with milk  
*rosbif au jus* / roast beef with gravy

## With *aux*

*aux dépens* / at the  
expense

*aux pommes frites* / with  
French fries

*rire aux éclats* / to roar  
with laughter

*sauter aux yeux* / to be  
evident, self-evident

## With *aller*

*aller* / to feel (health):

*Comment allez-vous?*

*aller à* / to be becoming,  
fit, suit: *Cette robe lui  
va bien.* / This dress  
suits her fine. *Sa barbe  
ne lui va pas.* / His  
beard does not look  
good on him.

*aller à la chasse* / to go  
hunting

*aller à la pêche* / to go  
fishing

*aller à la rencontre de  
quelqu'un* / to go to  
meet someone

*aller à pied* / to walk, go  
on foot

*aller au fond des choses* /  
to get to the bottom of  
things

*aller chercher* / to go get  
*allons donc!* / nonsense!  
come on, now!

## With *avoir*

*avoir . . . ans* / to  
be . . . years old:  
*Quel âge — avez-  
vous?* / *J'ai dix-sept  
ans.*

*avoir à* + infinitive / to  
have to

*avoir affaire à quelqu'un* /  
to deal with someone

*avoir beau* + infinitive / to  
be useless + infinitive,  
to do something in  
vain: *Vous avez beau  
parler; je ne vous  
écoute pas.* / You are  
talking in vain; I am not  
listening to you.

*avoir besoin de* / to need,  
to have need of

*avoir bonne mine* / to  
look well

*avoir chaud* / to be (feel)  
warm (persons)

*avoir congé* / to have a  
day off, a holiday

*avoir de la chance* / to be  
lucky

*avoir de quoi* + infinitive /  
to have the material,  
means, enough +  
infinitive: *As-tu de quoi  
manger?* / Have you  
something (enough) to  
eat?

*avoir des nouvelles* / to  
receive news

*avoir du savoir-faire* / to  
have tact

*avoir du savoir-vivre* / to  
have good manners

*avoir envie de* + infini-  
tive / to have a desire to

*avoir faim* / to be (feel)  
hungry

*avoir froid* / to be (feel)  
cold (persons)

*avoir hâte* / to be in a hurry

*avoir honte* / to be  
ashamed, to feel  
ashamed

*avoir l'air* + adjective / to  
seem, to look +  
adjective: *Vous avez  
l'air malade.* / You look  
sick.

*avoir l'air de* + infinitive /  
to appear + infinitive:  
*Vous avez l'air d'être  
malade.* / You appear  
to be sick.

*avoir l'habitude de* + in-  
finitive / to be accus-  
tomed to, to be in the  
habit of: *J'ai l'habitude  
de faire mes devoirs  
avant le dîner.* / I'm in  
the habit of doing my  
homework before  
dinner.

*avoir l'idée de* + infini-  
tive / to have a  
notion + infinitive

*avoir l'intention de* +  
infinitive / to intend +  
infinitive

*avoir la bonté de* +  
infinitive / to have the  
kindness

*avoir la langue bien  
pendue* / to have the  
gift of gab

*avoir la parole* / to have  
the floor (to speak)

*avoir le cœur gros* / to be  
heartbroken

*avoir le temps de* +  
infinitive / to have (the)  
time + infinitive

*avoir lieu* / to take place

*avoir mal* / to feel sick

*avoir mal à* + (place  
where it hurts) / to  
have a pain or ache  
in . . . : *J'ai mal à la  
jambe.* / My leg hurts.  
*J'ai mal au dos.* / My  
back hurts. *J'ai mal au  
cou.* / I have a pain in  
the neck.

*avoir mauvaise mine* / to  
look ill, not to look well

*avoir peine à* + infinitive /  
to have difficulty  
in + present participle

*avoir peur de* / to be  
afraid of

*avoir pitié de* / to take  
pity on

*avoir raison* / to be right  
(persons)

*avoir soif* / to be thirsty

*avoir sommeil* / to be  
sleepy

*avoir son mot à dire* / to  
have one's way

*avoir tort* / to be wrong  
(persons)

*avoir une faim de loup* / to  
be starving

## With *bas*

*au bas de* / at the bottom  
of

*en bas* / downstairs,  
below

*là-bas* / over there

*A bas les devoirs!* / Down  
with homework!

*parler tout bas* / to speak  
very softly

*de haut en bas* / from top  
to bottom



**With bien**

*bien des* / many: Roger a  
*bien des amis.* / Roger  
has many friends.

*bien entendu* / of course  
*dire du bien de* / to speak  
well of

*être bien aise* / to be very  
glad, happy

*tant bien que mal* / rather  
badly, so-so

**With bon**

*à quoi bon?* / what's the  
use?

*bon gré, mal gré* / willing  
or not, willy nilly

*bon marché* / cheap, at a  
low price

*bon pour quelqu'un* /  
good to someone

*de bon appétit* / with  
good appetite, heartily

*de bon cœur* / gladly,  
willingly

*savoir bon gré à*

*quelqu'un* / to be  
thankful, grateful to  
someone

**With ça**

*ça et là* / here and there  
*Ça m'est égal.* / It makes  
no difference to me.

*comme ci, comme ça* /  
so-so

*Ça va?* / Is everything  
okay?

*C'est comme ça!* / That's  
how it is!

*Pas de ça!* / None of that!

**With *cela***

*Cela est égal.* / It's all the same. It doesn't matter. It makes no difference.

*Cela m'est égal.* / It doesn't matter to me. It's all the same to me.

*Cela n'importe.* / That doesn't matter.

*Cela ne fait rien.* / That makes no difference.

*Cela ne sert à rien.* / That serves no purpose.

*Cela ne vous regarde pas.* / That's none of your business.

*malgré cela* / in spite of that

*malgré tout cela* / in spite of all that

*Qu'est-ce que cela veut dire?* / What does that mean?

**With *ce, c'est, est-ce***

*c'est-à-dire* / that is, that is to say

*C'est aujourd'hui lundi.* / Today is Monday.

*C'est dommage.* / It's a pity. It's too bad.

*C'est entendu.* / It's understood. It's agreed. All right. OK.

*C'est épatant!* / It's wonderful!

*C'est trop fort!* / That's just too much!

*n'est-ce pas?* / isn't that so? isn't it?, etc.

*Qu'est-ce que c'est?* / What is it?

*Quel jour est-ce aujourd'hui?* / What day is it today? *C'est lundi.* / It's Monday.

*Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé?* / What happened?

**With d'**

*changer d'avis* / to change one's opinion, one's mind

*comme d'habitude* / as usual

*d'abord* / at first

*d'accord* / okay, agreed

*d'ailleurs* / besides, moreover

*d'aujourd'hui en huit* / a week from today

*d'avance* / in advance, beforehand

*d'habitude* / ordinarily, usually, generally

*d'ici longtemps* / for a long time to come

*d'ordinaire* / ordinarily, usually, generally

*tout d'un coup* / all of a sudden

**With de**

*au haut de* / at the top of

*autour de* / around

*changer de train* / to change trains: *changer*

*de vêtements* / to change clothes

*combien de* / how much, how many

*de bon appétit* / with good appetite, heartily

*de bon cœur* / gladly, willingly

*de bonne heure* / early

*de cette façon* / in this way

*de jour en jour* / from day to day

*de l'autre côté de* / on the other side of

*de la part de* / on behalf of, from

*de nouveau* / again

*de parti pris* / on purpose, deliberately

*de plus* / furthermore

*de plus en plus* / more and more

*de quelle cou-*

*leur . . . ?* / what

color . . . ?

*de quoi* + infinitive /

something, enough + infinitive: *de quoi*

*écrire* / something to

write with; *de quoi*

*manger* / something or enough to eat; *de quoi*

*vivre* / something or enough to live on

*de rien* / you're welcome, don't mention it

*de rigueur* / required,  
obligatory

*de son mieux* / one's best

*de suite* / one after  
another, in succession

*de temps en temps* / from  
time to time, occasion-  
ally

*de toutes ses forces* /  
with all one's might,  
strenuously

*du côté de* / in the  
direction of, toward

*éclater de rire* / to burst  
out laughing

*en face de* / opposite

*entendre parler de* / to  
hear about

*être de retour* / to be back

*être en train de* / to be in  
the act of, in the  
process of

*être temps de* + infinitive /  
to be time + infinitive

*faire semblant de* +  
infinitive / to pretend +  
infinitive

*féliciter quelqu'un de  
quelque chose* / to  
congratulate someone  
for something

*Il n'y a pas de quoi!* /  
You're welcome!

*jamais de la vie!* / never  
in one's life! never! out  
of the question!

*jouer de* / to play (a  
musical instrument)

*manquer de* + infinitive /  
to fail to, to almost do  
something: *Victor a  
manqué de se noyer.* /  
Victor almost drowned.

*mettre de côté* / to lay  
aside, to save

*pas de mal!* / no harm!

*près de* / near

*quelque chose de* +  
adjective / something  
+ adjective: *J'ai bu  
quelque chose de  
bon!* / I drank some-  
thing good!

*Quoi de neuf?* / What's  
new?

*Rien de neuf!* / Nothing's  
new!

*tout de même* / all the  
same

*tout de suite* / immedi-  
ately, at once

*venir de* + infinitive / to  
have just done some-  
thing; *Je viens de  
manger.* / I have just  
eaten.

**With du**

*dire du bien de  
quelqu'un* / to speak  
well of someone

*dire du mal de  
quelqu'un* / to speak ill  
of someone

*donner du chagrin à  
quelqu'un* / to give  
someone grief

*du côté de* / in the  
direction of, toward

*du matin au soir* / from  
morning until night

*du moins* / at least

*du reste* / besides, in  
addition, furthermore

*montrer du doigt* / to  
point out, to show, to  
indicate by pointing

*pas du tout* / not at all

**With en**

*de jour en jour* / from day  
to day

*de temps en temps* / from  
time to time

*en anglais, en français,*  
etc. / in English, in  
French, etc.

*en arrière* / backwards, to  
the rear, behind

*en automne, en hiver, en  
été* / in the fall, in  
winter, in summer

*en automobile* / by car

*en avion* / by plane

*en avoir plein le dos* / to  
be sick and tired of  
something

*en bas* / downstairs,  
below

*en bateau* / by boat

*en bois, en pierre, en + a*  
material / made of  
wood, of stone, etc.

*en chemin de fer* / by train

*en dessous (de)* / under-  
neath

*en dessus (de)* / above,  
on top, over

*en effet* / in fact, indeed,  
yes, indeed

*en face de* / opposite

*en famille* / as a family

*en haut* / upstairs, above

*en huit jours* / in a week

*en même temps* / at the  
same time

*en panne* / mechanical  
breakdown

*en plein air* / in the open  
air, outdoors

*en retard* / late, not on  
time

*en tout cas* / in any case,  
at any rate

*en toute hâte* / with all  
possible speed, haste

*en ville* / downtown, in  
(at, to) town

*En voilà assez!* / Enough  
of that!

*en voiture* / by car: *en  
voiture!* / all aboard!

*être en train de* +  
infinitive / to be in the  
act of + present  
participle, to be in the  
process of, to be  
busy + present partici-  
ple

*Je vous en prie.* / I beg  
you. You're welcome.

*mettre en pièces* / to tear  
to pieces, to break into  
pieces

*voir tout en rose* / to see  
the bright side of  
things, to be optimistic

## With *être*

*être à l'heure* / to be on  
time

*être à quelqu'un* / to  
belong to someone: *Ce  
livre est à moi.* / This  
book belongs to me.

*être au courant de* / to be  
informed about

*être bien* / to be comfort-  
able

*être d'accord avec* / to  
agree with

*être de retour* / to be back

*être en retard* / to be late,  
not to be on time

*être en train de* + infini-  
tive / to be in the act of,  
to be in the process  
of, to be busy +  
present participle

*être en vacances* / to be  
on vacation

*être enrhumé* / to have a  
cold, be sick with a cold

*être pressé(e)* / to be in a  
hurry

*Quelle heure est-il?* / What  
time is it? *Il est une  
heure.* / It is one  
o'clock. *Il est deux  
heures.* / It is two o'clock

With *faire*

- Cela ne fait rien.* / That doesn't matter.
- Comment se fait-il?* / How come?
- faire à sa tête* / to have one's way
- faire attention (à)* / to pay attention (to)
- faire beau* / to be pleasant, nice weather
- faire bon accueil* / to welcome
- faire chaud* / to be warm (weather)
- faire de l'autostop* / to hitchhike
- faire de son mieux* / to do one's best
- faire des châteaux en Espagne* / to build castles in the air
- faire des emplettes; faire des courses; faire du shopping* / to do or to go shopping
- faire des progrès* / to make progress
- faire du bien à quelqu'un* / to do good for someone
- faire du vélo* / to ride a bike
- faire exprès* / to do on purpose
- faire face à* / to oppose
- faire froid* / to be cold (weather)
- faire jour* / to be daylight
- faire la bête* / to act like a fool
- faire la connaissance de quelqu'un* / to make the acquaintance of someone, meet someone for the first time
- faire la cuisine* / to do the cooking
- faire la grasse matinée* / to sleep late in the morning
- faire la lessive* / to do the laundry
- faire (une) la malle* / to pack (a) the trunk
- faire la queue* / to line up, to get in line, to stand in line
- faire la vaisselle* / to do (wash) the dishes
- faire le ménage* / to do housework
- faire les bagages* / to pack the baggage, luggage
- faire les valises* / to pack the suitcases, valises

*faire mal à quelqu'un* / to hurt, to harm someone

*faire nuit* / to be night(time)

*faire peur à quelqu'un* / to frighten someone

*faire plaisir à quelqu'un* / to please someone

*faire sa toilette* / to wash and dress oneself

*faire ses adieux* / to say goodbye

*faire son possible* / to do one's best

*faire suivre le courrier* / to forward mail

*faire un tour* / to go for a stroll

*faire un voyage* / to take a trip

*faire une partie de* / to play a game of

*faire une promenade* / to take a walk

*faire une visite* / to pay a visit

*faire venir quelqu'un* / to have someone come: *Il a fait venir le docteur.* / He had the doctor come.

*faire venir l'eau à la bouche* / to make one's mouth water

*Faites comme chez vous!* / Make yourself at home!

*Que faire?* / What is to be done?

*Quel temps fait-il?* / What's the weather like?

## With *mieux*

*aimer mieux* / to prefer, like better

*aller mieux* / to feel better (person's health):

*Êtes-vous toujours malade?* / Are you still sick? *Je vais mieux, merci.* / I'm feeling better, thank you.

*de son mieux* / one's best

*faire de son mieux* / to do one's best

*tant mieux* / so much the better

*valoir mieux* / to be better (worth more), to be preferable



**With non**

*Je crois que non.* / I don't think so.

*Mais non!* / Of course not!

*Non merci!* / No, thank you!

*J'espère bien que non.* / I hope not.

**With par**

*par bonheur* / fortunately  
*par-ci; par-là* / here and there

*par conséquent* / consequently, therefore

*par exemple* / for example

*par hasard* / by chance

*par ici* / through here, this way, in this direction

*par jour* / per day, daily

*par la fenêtre* / out, through the window

*par-là* / through there, that way, in that direction

*par malheur* / unfortunately

*par mois* / per month, monthly

*par semaine* / per week, weekly

*par tous les temps* / in all kinds of weather

*apprendre par cœur* / to learn by heart, memorize

*finir par* + infinitive / to end up + present

participle: *Ils ont fini par se marier.* / They ended up by getting married.

*jeter l'argent par la fenêtre* / to waste money

## With *plus*

*de plus* / furthermore,  
besides, in addition

*de plus en plus* / more  
and more

*n'en pouvoir plus* / to be  
exhausted, not to be  
able to go on any  
longer: *Je n'en peux  
plus!* / I can't go on any  
longer!

*Plus ça change plus c'est  
la même chose.* / The  
more it changes, the  
more it remains the  
same.

*une fois de plus* / once  
more, one more time

## With *quel*

*Quel âge avez-vous?* /  
How old are you?

*Quel garçon!* / What a  
boy!

*Quel jour est-ce au-  
jourd'hui?* / What day  
is it today?

## With *quelle*

*De quelle couleur est  
(sont) . . . ?* / What  
color is (are) . . . ?

*Quelle fille!* / What a girl!

*Quelle heure est-il?* /  
What time is it?

*Quelle chance!* / What  
luck!

## With *quelque chose*

*quelque chose à +*  
 infinitive / something  
 + infinitive: *J'ai*  
*quelque chose à lui*  
*dire.* / I have some-  
 thing to say to him (to  
 her).

*quelque chose de +*  
 adjective / something +  
 adjective: *J'ai quelque*  
*chose d'intéressant à*  
*vous dire.* / I have  
 something interesting to  
 tell you.

## With *quoi*

*à quoi bon?* / what's the  
 use?  
*avoir de quoi + infinitive /*  
 to have something  
 (enough) + infinitive:  
*Avez-vous de quoi*  
*écrire?* / Do you have  
 something to write  
 with?

*avoir de quoi manger / to*  
 have something to eat  
*Il n'y a pas de quoi!* /  
 You're welcome!  
*Quoi de neuf?* / What's  
 new?

## With *rien*

*Cela ne fait rien.* / That  
 doesn't matter.  
*Cela ne sert à rien.* / That  
 serves no purpose.

*de rien* / you're welcome,  
 don't mention it  
*Rien de neuf!* / Nothing's  
 new!

## With *tant*

*tant bien que mal* / so-so  
*tant mieux* / so much the  
 better  
*tant pis* / so much the  
 worse  
*J'ai tant de travail!* / I  
 have so much work!

*Je t'aime tant!* / I love you  
 so much!  
*tant de choses* / so many  
 things

## With *tous*

*tous (les) deux* / both (m.  
 plural)  
*tous les ans* / every year  
*tous les jours* / every day  
*tous les matins* / every  
 morning

*tous les soirs* / every  
 evening  
*tous les mois* / every  
 month

## With *tout*

*après tout* / after all  
*en tout cas* / in any case,  
 at any rate  
*pas du tout* / not at all  
*tout à coup* / suddenly  
*tout à fait* / completely,  
 entirely  
*tout à l'heure* / a little  
 while ago, in a little while  
*tout d'abord* / first of all

*tout d'un coup* / all of a  
 sudden  
*tout de même!* / all the  
 same! just the same!  
*tout de suite* / immedi-  
 ately, at once, right  
 away  
*tout le monde* / everybody  
*tout le temps* / all the time

**With toute**

*en toute hâte* / with all possible speed, in great haste  
*toute chose* / everything  
*de toutes ses forces* / with all one's might

*toutes (les) deux* / both (f. plural)  
*toutes les nuits* / every night

**With y**

*il y a* + length of time / ago: *il y a un mois* / a month ago  
*il y a* / there is, there are  
*il y avait* . . . / there was (there were) . . .

*Il n'y a pas de quoi.* / You're welcome.  
*y compris* / including

# §13.

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## Dates, Days, Months, Seasons

### §13.1 Dates

*Quelle est la date aujourd'hui? / What's the date today?*  
*Quel jour sommes-nous aujourd'hui? / What's the date today?*

*C'est aujourd'hui le premier octobre. / Today is October first.*  
*C'est aujourd'hui le deux novembre. / Today is November second.*

*C'est lundi. / It's Monday.*  
*C'est aujourd'hui mardi. / Today is Tuesday.*

*Quand êtes-vous né(e)? / When were you born?*  
*Je suis né(e) le vingt-deux août, mil neuf cent soixante-six. / I was born on August 22, 1966.*

Use the cardinal numbers for dates, except "the first," which is *le premier*.

### §13.2 Days

The days of the week, which are all masculine, are:

<i>dimanche</i> / Sunday	<i>jeudi</i> / Thursday
<i>lundi</i> / Monday	<i>vendredi</i> / Friday
<i>mardi</i> / Tuesday	<i>samedi</i> / Saturday
<i>mercredi</i> / Wednesday	

### §13.3 Months

The months of the year, which are all masculine, are:

*janvier* / January

*février* / February

*mars* / March

*avril* / April

*mai* / May

*juin* / June

*juillet* / July

*août* / August

*septembre* / September

*octobre* / October

*novembre* / November

*décembre* / December

To say "in" + the name of the month, use *en*: *en janvier*, *en février*; OR *au mois de janvier*, *au mois de février* / in the month of January, etc.

### §13.4 Seasons

The seasons of the year, which are all masculine, are:

*le printemps* / spring

*l'été* / summer

*l'automne* / fall

*l'hiver* / winter

**Mnemonic tip** *En hiver*, you shiver.

To say "in" + the name of the season, use *en* except with *printemps*: *au printemps*, *en été*, *en automne*, *en hiver* / in spring, in summer, etc.

# §14.

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## Telling Time

### §14.1 TIME EXPRESSIONS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

*Quelle heure est-il? / What time is it?*

*Il est une heure. / It is one o'clock.*

*Il est une heure dix. / It is ten minutes after one.*

*Il est une heure et quart. / It is a quarter after one.*

*Il est deux heures et demie. / It is half past two; it is two thirty.*

*Il est trois heures moins vingt. / It is twenty minutes to three.*

*Il est trois heures moins le quart. / It is a quarter to three.*

*Il est midi. / It is noon.*

*Il est minuit. / It is midnight.*

*à quelle heure? / at what time?*

*à une heure / at one o'clock*

*à une heure précise / at exactly one o'clock*

*à deux heures précises / at exactly two o'clock*

*à neuf heures du matin / at nine in the morning*

*à trois heures de l'après-midi / at three in the afternoon*

*à dix heures du soir / at ten in the evening*

*à l'heure / on time*

*à temps / in time*

*vers trois heures / around three o'clock; about three o'clock*

*un quart d'heure / a quarter of an hour; a quarter hour*

*une demi-heure / a half hour*



*Il est midi et demi* / It is twelve thirty; It is half past twelve (noon).

*Il est minuit et demi.* / It is twelve thirty; It is half past twelve (midnight).

- In telling time, *Il est* + the hour is used, whether it is one or more than one, e.g., *Il est une heure. Il est deux heures.*
- If the time is after the hour, state the hour, then the minutes: *Il est une heure dix.*
- The conjunction *et* is used with *quart* after the hour and with *demi* or *demie*: *Il est une heure et quart. Il est une heure et demie. Il est midi et demi.*  
The masculine form *demi* is used after a masculine noun: *Il est midi et demi.* The feminine form *demie* is used after a feminine noun: *Il est deux heures et demie.*  
*Demi* remains *demi* when before a feminine or masculine noun, and is joined to the noun with a hyphen: *une demi-heure.*
- If the time expressed is before the hour, *moins* is used: *Il est trois heures moins vingt.*
- A quarter to the hour is *moins le quart.*
- To express A.M. use *du matin*; to express P.M. use *de l'après-midi* if the time is in the afternoon; *du soir* if in the evening.

## §14.2 “OFFICIAL” TIME EXPRESSIONS

Another way to tell time is the official time used by the French government on radio and TV, in railroad and bus stations, and at airports.

- It is the twenty-four-hour system.
- In this system, *quart*, *demi*, *demie*, *moins*, and *et* are not used.

## 160 Special Topics

- When you hear or see the stated time, subtract twelve from the number you hear or see. If the number is less than twelve, it is A.M. time, except for *24 heures*, which is midnight; *zéro heure* is also midnight.

### EXAMPLES

*Il est treize heures.* / It is 1:00 P.M.

*Il est quinze heures.* / It is 3:00 P.M.

*Il est vingt heures trente.* / It is 8:30 P.M.

*Il est minuit.* / It is midnight.

*Il est seize heures trente.* / It is 4:30 P.M.

*Il est dix-huit heures quinze.* / It is 6:15 P.M.

*Il est vingt heures quarante-cinq.* / It is 8:45 P.M.

*Il est vingt-deux heures cinquante.* / It is 10:50 P.M.

The abbreviation for *heure* or *heures* is *h*.

### EXAMPLES

*Il est 20 h. 20.* / It is 8:20 P.M.

*Il est 15 h. 50.* / It is 3:50 P.M.

*Il est 23 h. 30.* / It is 11:30 P.M.

# §15.

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## Talking About the Weather

*Quel temps fait-il?* / What's the weather like?

### WITH *Il fait* . . .

*Il fait beau.* / The weather is fine. The weather is beautiful.

*Il fait beau temps.* / The weather is beautiful.

*Il fait chaud.* / It's warm.

*Il fait clair.* / It is clear.

*Il fait doux.* / It's mild.

*Il fait du soleil.* / It's sunny. (You can also say *Il fait soleil.*)

*Il fait du tonnerre.* / It's thundering. (OR: *Il tonne.*)

*Il fait du vent.* / It's windy.

*Il fait frais.* / It is cool.

*Il fait froid.* / It's cold.

*Il fait humide.* / It's humid.

*Il fait mauvais.* / The weather is bad.

### WITH *Il fait un temps* . . .

*Il fait un temps affreux.* / The weather is frightful.

*Il fait un temps calme.* / The weather is calm.

*Il fait un temps couvert.* / The weather is cloudy.

*Il fait un temps lourd.* / It's muggy.

*Il fait un temps magnifique.* / The weather is magnificent.

*Il fait un temps superbe.* / The weather is superb.

### WITH *Le temps* + VERB . . .

*Le temps menace.* / The weather is threatening.

*Le temps se gâte.* / The weather is getting bad.

*Le temps se met au beau.* / The weather is getting beautiful.

*Le temps se met au froid.* / It's getting cold.

*Le temps se rafraîchit.* / The weather is getting cool.

**WITH *Le ciel est* . . .**

*Le ciel est bleu.* / The sky is blue.

*Le ciel est calme.* / The sky is calm.

*Le ciel est couvert.* / The sky is cloudy.

*Le ciel est gris.* / The sky is gray.

**WITH OTHER VERBS**

*Il gèle.* / It's freezing.

*Il grêle.* / It's hailing.

*Il neige.* / It's snowing.

*Il pleut.* / It's raining.

*Il tombe de la grêle.* / It's hailing.

# §16.

## Numbers

### Cardinal Numbers: 1 to 1000

0 <i>zéro</i> 1 <i>un, une</i> 2 <i>deux</i> 3 <i>trois</i> 4 <i>quatre</i> 5 <i>cinq</i> 6 <i>six</i> 7 <i>sept</i> 8 <i>huit</i> 9 <i>neuf</i> 10 <i>dix</i> 11 <i>onze</i> 12 <i>douze</i> 13 <i>treize</i> 14 <i>quatorze</i> 15 <i>quinze</i> 16 <i>seize</i> 17 <i>dix-sept</i> 18 <i>dix-huit</i> 19 <i>dix-neuf</i>	40 <i>quarante</i> 41 <i>quarante et un</i> 42 <i>quarante-deux, etc.</i>
	50 <i>cinquante</i> 51 <i>cinquante et un</i> 52 <i>cinquante-deux, etc.</i>
	60 <i>soixante</i> 61 <i>soixante et un</i> 62 <i>soixante-deux, etc.</i>
	70 <i>soixante-dix</i> 71 <i>soixante et onze</i> 72 <i>soixante-douze, etc.</i>
	80 <i>quatre-vingts</i> 81 <i>quatre-vingt-un</i> 82 <i>quatre-vingt-deux, etc.</i>
20 <i>vingt</i> 21 <i>vingt et un</i> 22 <i>vingt-deux, etc.</i>	90 <i>quatre-vingt-dix</i> 91 <i>quatre-vingt-onze</i> 92 <i>quatre-vingt-douze, etc.</i>
30 <i>trente</i> 31 <i>trente et un</i> 32 <i>trente-deux, etc.</i>	100 <i>cent</i> 101 <i>cent un</i> 102 <i>cent deux, etc.</i>

200 <i>deux cents</i> 201 <i>deux cent un</i> 202 <i>deux cent deux</i> , etc.	800 <i>huit cents</i> 801 <i>huit cent un</i> 802 <i>huit cent deux</i> , etc.															
300 <i>trois cents</i> 301 <i>trois cent un</i> 302 <i>trois cent deux</i> , etc.	900 <i>neuf cents</i> 901 <i>neuf cent un</i> 902 <i>neuf cent deux</i> , etc.															
400 <i>quatre cents</i> 401 <i>quatre cent un</i> 402 <i>quatre cent deux</i> , etc.	1000 <i>mille</i>															
500 <i>cinq cents</i> 501 <i>cinq cent un</i> 502 <i>cinq cent deux</i> , etc.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 10px;">Mnemonic tip</div> <p>If you're not sure that <i>vingt</i> is spelled with <i>ng</i> or <i>gn</i>, note this:</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">V</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">I</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">G</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">T</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">T</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">W</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">E</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 5px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">T</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">Y</td> <td colspan="4"></td> </tr> </table> </div>	V	I	N	G	T	T	W	E	N	T	Y				
V		I	N	G	T											
T		W	E	N	T											
Y																
600 <i>six cents</i> 601 <i>six cent un</i> 602 <i>six cent deux</i> , etc.																
700 <i>sept cents</i> 701 <i>sept cent un</i> 702 <i>sept cent deux</i> , etc.																

**Mnemonic tip** Pronounce *seize* (16) as in English "Says who?"

## Simple Arithmetical Expressions

<i>deux et deux font quatre</i>	$2 + 2 = 4$
<i>trois fois cinq font quinze</i>	$3 \times 5 = 15$
<i>douze moins dix font deux</i>	$12 - 10 = 2$
<i>dix divisés par deux font cinq</i>	$10 \div 2 = 5$

## Fractions

$\frac{1}{2}$	<i>un demi</i>	a (one) half
$\frac{1}{3}$	<i>un tiers</i>	a (one) third
$\frac{1}{4}$	<i>un quart</i>	a (one) fourth
$\frac{1}{5}$	<i>un cinquième</i>	a (one) fifth

## Approximate Amounts

<i>une dizaine</i>	about ten
<i>une quinzaine</i>	about fifteen
<i>une vingtaine</i>	about twenty
<i>une trentaine</i>	about thirty
<i>une quarantaine</i>	about forty
<i>une cinquantaine</i>	about fifty
<i>une soixantaine</i>	about sixty
<i>une centaine</i>	about a hundred
<i>un millier</i>	about a thousand

### Mnemonic tip

You can remember that *une quarantaine* is about 40 because there are 40 days in a "quarantine."

## Ordinal Numbers: First to Twentieth

first	<i>premier, première</i>	1st	1 <sup>er</sup> , 1 <sup>re</sup>
second	<i>deuxième (second, seconde)</i>	2d	2 <sup>e</sup>
third	<i>troisième</i>	3d	3 <sup>e</sup>
fourth	<i>quatrième</i>	4th	4 <sup>e</sup>
fifth	<i>cinquième</i>	5th	5 <sup>e</sup>
sixth	<i>sixième</i>	6th	6 <sup>e</sup>

seventh	<i>septième</i>	7th	7°
eighth	<i>huitième</i>	8th	8°
ninth	<i>neuvième</i>	9th	9°
tenth	<i>dixième</i>	10th	10°
eleventh	<i>onzième</i>	11th	11°
twelfth	<i>douzième</i>	12th	12°
thirteenth	<i>treizième</i>	13th	13°
fourteenth	<i>quatorzième</i>	14th	14°
fifteenth	<i>quinzième</i>	15th	15°
sixteenth	<i>seizième</i>	16th	16°
seventeenth	<i>dix-septième</i>	17th	17°
eighteenth	<i>dix-huitième</i>	18th	18°
nineteenth	<i>dix-neuvième</i>	19th	19°
twentieth	<i>vingtième</i>	20th	20°

Some observations:

- You must learn the difference between cardinal and ordinal numbers. If you have trouble distinguishing between the two, just remember that we use cardinal numbers most of the time: *un, deux, trois* (one, two, three), and so on.
- Use ordinal numbers to express a certain order: *premier* (*première*, if the noun following is feminine), *deuxième*, *troisième* (first, second, third), and so on.
- *Premier* is the masculine singular form and *première* is the feminine singular form. Examples: *le premier homme* / the first man, *la première femme* / the first woman.
- The masculine singular form *second*, or the feminine singular form *seconde*, is used to mean "second" when there are only two. When there are more than two, *deuxième* is used: *le Second Empire*, because there were only two empires in France, but *la Deuxième République*, because there have been more than two republics in France.
- The raised letters in *1<sup>er</sup>* are the last two letters in the word *premier*; it is equivalent to our "st" in 1st. The raised letters



in *1<sup>re</sup>* are the last two letters in the word *première*, which is the feminine singular form of “first.”

The raised letter *e* after an ordinal number (for example, *2<sup>e</sup>*) stands for the *-ième* ending of a French ordinal number.

- When referring to sovereigns or rulers, the only ordinal number used is *premier*. For all other designations, the cardinal numbers are used. The definite article “the” is used in English but not in French. Examples:

<i>François 1<sup>er</sup></i>	<i>François Premier</i>	Francis the First
BUT		
<i>Louis XIV</i>	<i>Louis Quatorze</i>	Louis the Fourteenth

# §17.

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## Synonyms

Synonyms are words with the same or nearly the same meaning.

<i>aide</i> n.f., <i>secours</i> n.m.	aid, help
<i>aimer mieux</i> v., <i>préférer</i>	to like better, prefer
<i>aliment</i> n.m., <i>nourriture</i> n.f.	food, nourishment
<i>anneau</i> n.m., <i>bague</i> n.f.	ring (on finger)
<i>arriver</i> v., <i>se passer</i>	to happen, occur
<i>aussitôt que</i> conj., <i>dès que</i>	as soon as
<i>auteur</i> n.m., <i>écrivain</i> n.m.	author, writer
<i>bâtiment</i> n.m., <i>édifice</i> , n.m.	building, edifice
<i>bâtir</i> v., <i>construire</i>	to build, construct
<i>beaucoup de</i> adv., <i>bien des</i>	many
<i>brief</i> . <i>brève</i> adj., <i>court</i> , <i>courte</i>	brief, short
<i>casser</i> v., <i>rompre</i> , <i>briser</i>	to break
<i>causer</i> v., <i>parler</i>	to chat, talk
<i>centre</i> n.m., <i>milieu</i> , n.m.	center, middle
<i>certain (certaine)</i> adj., <i>sûr</i> , <i>sûre</i>	certain, sure
<i>cesser</i> v., <i>arrêter</i>	to cease, to stop
<i>chagrin</i> n.m., <i>souci</i> n.m.	sorrow, trouble, care, concern
<i>chemin</i> n.m., <i>route</i> n.f.	road, route
<i>commencer à</i> + infinitive, v., <i>se mettre à</i> + infinitive	to commence, begin, start
<i>conseil</i> n.m., <i>avis</i> n.m.	counsel, advice, opinion
<i>content, (contente)</i> adj., <i>heureux (heureuse)</i>	content, happy
<i>de façon que</i> conj., <i>de manière que</i>	so that, in such a way
<i>décéder</i> v., <i>mourir</i>	to die

adj.: adjective; adv.: adverb; conj.: conjunction; f.: feminine; m.: masculine;  
n.: noun; prep.: preposition; v.: verb

<i>dégoût</i> n.m., <i>répugnance</i> n.f.	disgust, repugnance
<i>dérober</i> v., <i>voler</i>	to rob, steal
<i>désirer</i> v., <i>vouloir</i>	to desire, want
<i>disputer</i> v., <i>contester</i>	to dispute, argue, contest
<i>docteur</i> n.m., <i>médecin</i> , n.m.	doctor, physician
<i>embrasser</i> v., <i>donner un baiser</i>	to embrace, hug; to give a kiss
<i>employer</i> v., <i>se servir de</i>	to employ, use, make use of
<i>épouvanter</i> v., <i>effrayer</i>	to frighten, terrify, scare
<i>erreur</i> n.f., <i>faute</i> , n.f.	error, fault, mistake
<i>espèce</i> n.f., <i>sorte</i> , n.f.	species, type, kind, sort
<i>essayer de</i> + infinitive, v., <i>tâcher de</i> + infinitive	to try, to attempt + infinitive
<i>étrennes</i> n.f., <i>cadeau</i> n.m.	Christmas gifts, present, gift
<i>façon</i> n.f., <i>manière</i> , n.f.	way, manner
<i>fameux</i> , ( <i>fameuse</i> ) adj., <i>célèbre</i>	famous, celebrated
<i>fatigué</i> , ( <i>fatiguée</i> ) adj., <i>épuisé</i> , ( <i>épuisée</i> )	tired, fatigued, exhausted
<i>favori</i> , ( <i>favorite</i> ) adj., <i>préféré</i> ( <i>préférée</i> )	favorite, preferred
<i>fin</i> n.f., <i>bout</i> n.m.	end
<i>finir</i> v., <i>terminer</i>	to finish, end, terminate
<i>frémir</i> v., <i>trembler</i>	to shiver, quiver, tremble
<i>galette</i> n.f., <i>gâteau</i> n.m.	cake
<i>gaspiller</i> v., <i>dissiper</i>	to waste, dissipate
<i>gâter</i> v., <i>abîmer</i>	to spoil, ruin, damage
<i>glace</i> n.f., <i>miroir</i> n.m.	hand mirror, mirror
<i>grossier</i> , <i>grossière</i> adj., <i>vulgaire</i>	gross, vulgar, cheap, common
<i>habiter</i> v., <i>demeurer</i>	to live (in), dwell, inhabit
<i>hair</i> v., <i>détester</i>	to hate, detest
<i>image</i> n.f., <i>tableau</i> n.m.	image, picture
<i>indiquer</i> v., <i>montrer</i>	to indicate, show
<i>jadis</i> adv., <i>autrefois</i>	formerly, in times gone by

## 170 Special Topics

<i>jeu</i> n.m., <i>divertissement</i> , n.m.	game, amusement
<i>labourer</i> v., <i>travailler</i>	to labor, work
<i>laisser</i> v., <i>permettre</i>	to allow, permit
<i>lier</i> v., <i>attacher</i>	to tie, attach
<i>lieu</i> n.m., <i>endroit</i> , n.m.	place, spot, location
<i>logis</i> n.m. <i>habitation</i> n.f.	lodging, dwelling
<i>lutter</i> v., <i>combattre</i>	to struggle, fight, combat
<i>maître</i> n.m. <i>instituteur</i> , n.m.	master, teacher, instructor
<i>maîtresse</i> n.f. <i>institutrice</i> , n.f.	mistress, teacher, instructor
<i>mauvais</i> ( <i>mauvaise</i> ) adj., <i>méchant</i> ( <i>méchante</i> )	bad, mean, nasty
<i>mener</i> v., <i>conduire</i>	to lead; to take (someone)
<i>mince</i> adj., <i>grêle</i>	thin, slender, skinny
<i>naïf</i> ( <i>naïve</i> ) adj., <i>ingénu</i> ( <i>ingénue</i> )	naive, simple, innocent
<i>net</i> ( <i>nette</i> ) adj., <i>propre</i>	neat, clean
<i>noces</i> n.f., <i>mariage</i> n.m.	wedding, marriage
<i>œuvre</i> n.f., <i>travail</i> n.m.	work
<i>ombre</i> n.f., <i>obscurité</i> n.f.	shade, shadow, darkness
<i>ombrelle</i> n.f., <i>parasol</i> n.m.	sunshade, parasol, beach umbrella
<i>parce que</i> conj., <i>car</i>	because, for
<i>pareil</i> ( <i>pareille</i> ) adj., <i>égal</i> ( <i>égale</i> )	similar, equivalent, equal
<i>parvenir à</i> v., <i>réussir à</i>	to succeed, to attain
<i>pays</i> n.m., <i>nation</i> n.f.	country, nation
<i>pensée</i> n.f., <i>idée</i> , n.f.	thought, idea
<i>penser</i> v., <i>réfléchir</i>	to think, reflect
<i>penser à</i> v., <i>songer à</i>	to think of; to dream of
<i>professeur</i> n.m., <i>maître</i> , n.m., <i>maîtresse</i> , n.f.	professor, teacher
<i>puis</i> adv., <i>ensuite</i>	then, afterwards
<i>quand</i> conj., <i>lorsque</i>	when
<i>quelquefois</i> adv., <i>parfois</i>	sometimes, at times
<i>se rappeler</i> v., <i>se souvenir de</i>	to recall, to remember

<i>rester</i> v., <i>demeurer</i>	to stay, to remain
<i>sérieux (sérieuse)</i> adj., <i>grave</i>	serious, grave
<i>seulement</i> adv., <i>ne + verb + que</i>	only
<i>soin</i> n.m., <i>attention</i> n.f.	care, attention
<i>soulier</i> n.m., <i>chaussure</i> n.f.	shoe, footwear
<i>tout de suite</i> adv., <i>immédiatement</i>	right away, immediately
<i>triste</i> adj., <i>malheureux (malheureuse)</i>	sad, unhappy
<i>vêtements</i> n.m., <i>habits</i> , n.m.	clothes, clothing
<i>visage</i> n.m., <i>figure</i> n.f.	face
<i>vite</i> adv., <i>rapidement</i>	quickly, rapidly

**Mnemonic tip** *Bref* is brief and *court* is short because it contains the English word "curt" (brief, short).

**Mnemonic tip** *Une chaussure* is a shoe because it contains *sur* / on, and you put it on your foot.

**Mnemonic tip** *Une chaussette* is a sock because it's something like an anklet(te) sock.

**Mnemonic tip** *Une parole* is a spoken word because when a prisoner is on "*parole*" he gives his word that he will behave in a civil manner.

**Mnemonic tip** When you give someone *conseil*, you give him counsel, advice.

**Mnemonic tip** When you *embrasser* a person, you put your *bras* / arms around that person.

# §18.

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## Antonyms

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

**absent (absente)** adj., absent

**acheter** v., to buy

**agréable** adj., pleasant,  
agreeable

**aimable** adj., kind

**aller** v., to go

**ami (amie)** n., friend

**s'amuser** refl. v., to enjoy  
oneself, to have a good time

**ancien (ancienne)** adj., old,  
ancient

**avant** prep., before

**bas (basse)** adj., low

**beau (bel, belle)** adj., beauti-  
ful, handsome

**beaucoup (de)** adv., much,  
many

**beauté** n.f., beauty

**bête** adj., stupid

**bon (bonne)** adj., good

**bonheur** n.m., happiness

**chaud (chaude)** adj., hot,  
warm

**cher (chère)** adj., expensive

**content (contente)** adj., glad,  
pleased

adj.: adjective; adv.: adverb; conj.: conjunction; f.: feminine; m.: masculine;  
n.: noun; prep.: preposition; v.: verb

**présent (présente)** adj., present

**vendre** v., to sell

**désagréable** adj., unpleas-  
ant, disagreeable

**méchant (méchante)** adj.,  
mean, nasty

**venir** v., to come

**ennemi (ennemie)** n., enemy

**s'ennuyer** refl. v., to be bored

**nouveau (nouvel, nouvelle)**  
adj., new

**après** prep., after

**haut (haute)** adj., high

**laid (laide)** adj., ugly

**peu (de)** adv., little, some

**laideur** n.f., ugliness

**intelligent (intelligente)** adj.,  
intelligent

**mauvais (mauvaise)** adj., bad

**malheur** n.m., unhappiness

**froid (froide)** adj., cold

**bon marché** cheap

**mécontent (mécontente)**  
adj., displeased

*court (courte)* adj., short

*debout* adv., standing

*dedans* adv., inside

*demander* v., to ask

*dernier (dernière)* adj., last

*derrière* adv., prep., behind,  
in back of

*dessous* adv., prep., below,  
underneath

*différent (différente)* adj.,  
different

*difficile* adj., difficult

*domestique* adj., domestic

*donner* v., to give

*droite* n.f., right

*emprunter* v., to borrow

*entrer (dans)* v., to enter (in,  
into)

*est* n.m., east

*étroit (étroite)* adj., narrow

*faible* adj., weak

*fermer* v., to close

*fin* n.f., end

*finir* v., to finish

*gagner* v., to win

*gai (gaie)* adj., gay, happy

*grand (grande)* adj., large,  
tall, big

*gros (grosse)* adj., fat

*grossier (grossière)* adj.,  
coarse, impolite

*heureux (heureuse)* adj.,  
happy

*long (longue)* adj., long

*assis (assise)* adj., seated,  
sitting

*dehors* adv., outside

*répondre* v., to reply

*premier (première)* adj., first

*devant* adv., prep., in front of

*dessus* adv., prep., above,  
over

*pareil (pareille)* adj., same,  
similar

*facile* adj., easy

*sauvage* adj., wild

*recevoir* v., to receive

*gauche* n.f., left

*prêter* v., to lend

*sortir (de)* v., to go out (of,  
from)

*ouest* n.m., west

*large* adj., wide

*fort (forte)* adj., strong

*ouvrir* v., to open

*commencement* n.m.,  
beginning

*commencer* v., to begin; *se  
mettre à* v., to begin + inf.

*perdre* v., to lose

*triste* adj., sad

*petit (petite)* adj., small, little

*maigre* adj., thin

*poli (polie)* adj., polite

*malheureux (malheureuse)*  
adj., unhappy

*ici* adv., here*inutile* adj., useless*jamais* adv., never*jeune* adj., young*jeunesse* n.f., youth*joli (jolie)* adj., pretty*jour* n.m., day*léger (légère)* adj., light*lentement* adv., slowly*mal* adv., badly*moderne* adj., modern*moins* adv., less*monter* v., to go up*mourir* v., to die*né (née)* adj., past part., born*nord* n.m., north*nouveau (nouvel, nouvelle)*

adj., new

*obéir (à)* v., to obey*ôter* v., to remove, to take off*oui* adv., yes*paix* n.f., peace*paraître* v., to appear*paresseux (paresseuse)* adj.,

lazy

*partir* v., to leave*pauvre* adj., poor*perdre* v., to lose*plancher* n.m., floor*plein (pleine)* adj., full*poli (polie)* adj., polite*possible* adj., possible*prendre* v., to take*là-bas* adv., there*utile* adj., useful*toujours* adv., always*vieux (vieil, vieille)* adj., old*vieillesse* n.f., old age*laid (laide)* adj., ugly*nuit* n.f., night*lourd (lourde)* adj., heavy*vite* adv., quickly*bien* adv., well*ancien (ancienne)* adj.,

ancient, old

*plus* adv., more*descendre* v., to go down*naître* v., to be born*mort (morte)* adj., past part.,

died, dead

*sud* n.m., south*vieux (vieil, vieille)* adj., old*désobéir (à)* v., to disobey*mettre* v., to put, to put on*non* adv., no*guerre* n.f., war*disparaître* v., to disappear*travailleur (travailleuse)* adj.,

diligent

*arriver* v., to arrive*riche* adj., rich*trouver* v., to find*plafond* n.m., ceiling*vide* adj., empty*impoli (impolie)* adj., impolite*impossible* adj., impossible*donner* v., to give



*près (de)* adv., prep., near  
*propre* adj., clean

*quelque chose* pron.,  
 something

*quelqu'un* pron., someone,  
 somebody

*question* n.f., question

*refuser* v., to refuse

*réussir (à)* v., to succeed (at,  
 in)

*rire* v., to laugh

*sans* prep., without

*silence* n.m., silence

*souvent* adv., often

*sur* prep., on

*sûr (sûre)* adj., sure, certain

*tôt* adv., early

*travailler* v., to work

*travailleur (travailleuse)* adj.,  
 diligent, hardworking

*vie* n.f., life

*vivre* v., to live

*vrai (vraie)* adj., true

*loin (de)* adv., prep., far (from)  
*sale* adj., dirty

*rien* pron., nothing

*personne* pron., nobody, no  
 one

*réponse* n.f., answer, reply,  
 response

*accepter* v., to accept

*échouer (à)* v., to fail (at, in)

*pleurer* v., to cry, to weep

*avec* prep., with

*bruit* n.m., noise

*rarement* adv., rarely

*sous* prep., under

*incertain (incertaine)* adj.,  
 unsure, uncertain

*tard* adv., late

*jouer* v., to play

*paresseux (paresseuse)* adj.,  
 lazy

*mort* n.f., death

*mourir* v., to die

*faux (fausse)* adj., false

### Mnemonic tip

The verb *mourir* (to die) has one *r* because a person dies once; *nourrir* (to nourish) has two *r*'s because a person is nourished more than once.

### Mnemonic tip

The word *dessous* (below, underneath) contains *sous* (under).

**Mnemonic tip** The word *dessus* (above, over) contains *sus*, which reminds you of *sur* (on).

**Mnemonic tip** *Perdre* means “to lose” because perdition is a place for lost souls.

**Mnemonic tip** Detroit, a city in Michigan, is on the Detroit River, which is narrow (*étroit*) in spots.

**Mnemonic tip** A floor (*le plancher*) was originally made of wooden planks.

**Mnemonic tip** Pronounce *bonne* as in the English word “bun.”

**Mnemonic tip** You “mount” a mountain when you *monter une montagne*.

**Mnemonic tip** You go away when you *partir* and you go out when you *sortir*. *Partir* and “away” contain a’s. *Sortir* and “go out” contain o’s.

**Mnemonic tip** If you don’t know your right from your left, *droite* contains “it” and so does “right.”

# §19.

## Cognates

In addition to studying synonyms in §17. and antonyms in §18., another good way to increase your vocabulary is to become aware of cognates. A *cognate* is a word whose origin is the same as another word in another language. There are many cognates in French and English whose spelling is sometimes identical or very similar. Most of the time, the meaning is the same or similar; sometimes they appear to be related because of similar spelling, but they are not true cognates. You will find a list of these "false cognates" or "tricky words" in §20.

Generally speaking, certain endings, or suffixes, of French words have English equivalents.

### EXAMPLES

French Suffix	Equivalent English Suffix	French Word	English Word
-able	-able	<i>adorable</i>	adorable
		<i>aimable</i>	amiable (likeable)
-aire	-ary	<i>le dictionnaire</i>	dictionary
-eux }	-ous	<i>fameux</i>	famous
-euse }		<i>fameuse</i>	
-ieux }	-ous	<i>gracieux</i>	gracious
-ieuse }		<i>gracieuse</i>	
-iste	-ist	<i>le (la) dentiste</i>	dentist
-ité	-ity	<i>la qualité</i>	quality
-ment	-ly	<i>correctement</i>	correctly
-mettre	-mit	<i>admettre</i>	admit
-oire	-ory	<i>la mémoire</i>	memory
-phie	-phy	<i>la photographie</i>	photography
-scrire	-scribe	<i>transcrire</i>	transcribe

A French word that contains the circumflex accent (^) over a vowel means that there used to be an s right after that vowel.

## EXAMPLES

<i>hâte</i> / haste	<i>hôtel</i> / hostel
<i>pâte</i> / paste	<i>honnête</i> / honest
<i>bâtard</i> / bastard	<i>plâtre</i> / plaster
<i>bête</i> / beast	<i>île</i> / isle
<i>fête</i> / feast	<i>vêpres</i> / vespers
<i>mât</i> / mast	<i>prêtre</i> / priest

But you don't always get a cognate if you insert an s right after the vowel that contains a circumflex.

## EXAMPLES

<i>gâteau</i> / cake	<i>bêler</i> / to bleat
<i>bâtiment</i> / building	<i>âme</i> / soul

**Mnemonic tip** If you confuse *le gâteau* (cake) with *le bateau* (boat) because you can't remember which one contains the circumflex accent, remember that the ^ in *gâteau* is the icing on top of the cake!

## Tricky Words

“False friends” are look-alikes but have different meanings.

*actualités* n.f., pl. news reports

*actuel* adj. present, present-day

*actuellement* adv. at present

*addition* n.f. bill (check)

*attendre* v. to wait

*belle* adj., fem. beautiful

*bénir* v. to bless

*blessé* v. to wound

*bras* n.m. arm

*but* n.m. goal

*cabinet* n.m. office; study

*car* conj. because

*causer* v. to chat; to cause

*cave* n.f. cellar, basement

*chair* n.f. flesh

*chat* n.m. cat

*chose* n.f. thing

*coin* n.m. corner

*comment* adv. how

*conférence* n.f. lecture

*crâne* n.m. skull

*crayon* n.m. pencil

*dent* n.f. tooth

*dire* v. to say, to tell

*dot* n.f. dowry

*éditeur* n.m. publisher

*essence* n.f. gasoline

*fin* n.f. end

*flèche* n.f. arrow

*fort* adj., n. strong

*four* n.m. oven

*front* n.m. forehead

*grand* adj., m. tall, big, large

*grave* adj. serious

*hair* v. to hate

*journal* n.m. newspaper

*large* adj. wide, broad

*lecture* n.f. reading

*librairie* n.f. bookstore

*magasin* n.m. store

*main* n.f. hand

*marine* n.f. navy; seascape

*médecin* n.m. doctor, physician

*médecine* n.f. medicine (study of)

*médicament* n.m. medicine

*mine* n.f. facial appearance

*monnaie* n.f. change (coins)

*on* pers. pron. one, someone, they

*ours* n.m. bear (animal)

*pain* n.m. bread

*pal* n.m. pale, stake (for punishment)

*par* prep. by  
*personnel* adj. personal  
*pie* n.f. magpie (bird)  
*pile* n.f. battery; pile, heap  
*place* n.f. plaza, place  
*plate* adj., fem. flat  
*pour* prep. for  
*prune* n.f. plum  
*pruneau* n.m. prune

*raisin* n.m. grape  
*raisin sec* n.m. raisin  
*râpe* n.f. grater (cheese)  
*rose* adj. pink

*rose* n. rose  
*rue* n.f. street  
*sable* n.m. sand  
*sale* adj. dirty, soiled  
*sensible* adj. sensitive  
*son* n.m. sound  
*stage* n.m. training course of  
 study  
*stylo* n.m. pen  
*tôt* adv. early  
*user* v. to wear out  
*vent* n.m. wind (air)  
*vie* n.f. life

# French-English Vocabulary

**à** *prep.* at, to

**à moins que** *conj.* unless

**actif, active** *adj.* active

**aéroport** *n.m.* airport

**affreusement** *adv.* frightfully

**ai** *v. form of avoir*

**aimable** *adj.* amiable, likeable, pleasant, kind

**aimer** *v.* to love; **aimer bien** to like

**Allemagne** *n.f.* Germany

**allemand** *n.m.* German (language);

**Allemand, Allemande** *n.* German  
(person)

**aller** *v.* to go; **s'en aller** to go away

**allez-vous-en!** go away!

**allons!** let's go!

**amèrement** *adv.* bitterly

**ami, amie** *n.* friend

**amour** *n.m.* love

**amusant, amusante** *adj.* funny, amusing

**an** *n.m.* year

**ancien, ancienne** *adj.* old, ancient

**anglais** *n.m.* English (language); **Anglais,**

**Anglaise** *n.* English (person)

**Angleterre** *n.f.* England

**appeler** *v.* to call; **s'appeler** *reflexive v.* to  
call oneself, to be named

**après** *prep., adv.* after; **après-midi**  
afternoon

**arbre** *n.m.* tree

**argent** *n.m.* money

**Asie** *n.f.* Asia

**asseoir** *v.* to seat; **s'asseoir** *reflexive v.* to  
sit down; **asseyez-vous!** sit down!

**assez (de)** *adv.* enough (of); **assez bien**  
quite well, well enough

**assieds-toil** sit down!

**au** to the, at the; contraction of **à + le**

**aujourd'hui** *adv.* today

*adj.:* adjective; *adv.:* adverb; *conj.:* conjunction; *f.:* feminine; *m.:* masculine; *n.:* noun;  
*pl.:* plural; *prep.:* preposition; *pron.:* pronoun; *sing.:* singular; *v.:* verb

182 French-English Vocabulary

**aussi** *adv.* also, too

**aussi . . . que** *conj.* as . . . as

**Australie** *n.f.* Australia

**auteur** *n.m.* author; **une femme auteur**  
woman author

**autre** *adj.* other; *pron.* another

**autrefois** *adv.* formerly

**aux** to the, at the; contraction of à + les

**avec** *prep.* with

**avez** *v. form of avoir*

**avocat** *n.m.* lawyer; **une avocate** woman  
lawyer

**avoir** *v.* to have

**bas** *n.m.* stocking; *adv.* low; **en bas** down,  
downstairs; *adj.* **bas, basse** low

**beau** *adj. m.* handsome, beautiful

**beaucoup (de)** *adv.* many, much (of)

**bel** *adj. m.* handsome, beautiful

**belle** *adj. f.* beautiful, handsome

**bénir** *v.* to bless

**besoin** *n.m.* need; **avoir besoin de** to  
need, to have need of

**bibliothèque** *n.f.* library

**bien** *adv.* well

**bientôt** *adv.* soon

**billet** *n.m.* ticket, note

**blanc, blanche** *adj.* white

**bless** *v.* to injure, to wound

**boire** *v.* to drink

**bon, bonne** *adj.* good

**bonbons** *n.m.* candies

**bouche** *n.f.* mouth (of a person); **la gueule**  
(mouth of an animal)

**but** *n.m.* goal

**ça** *pron.* shortening of **cela**

**cadeau** *n.m.* gift, present

**café** *n.m.* coffee

**cahier** *n.m.* notebook

**campagne** *n.f.* country(side)

**catholique** *n.m.f.* Catholic

**ce** *demonstr. adj.* this; **ce stylo** this pen; **ce**  
**livre** this book; **ce garçon** this boy



**cela** *pron.* that; **Aimez-vous cela?** Do you like that?

**chanter** *v.* to sing

**chanteur, chanteuse** *n.m.f.* singer

**chapeau** *n.m.* hat

**chaque** *adj.* each

**chaud, chaude** *adj.* warm, hot

**chaussette** *n.f.* sock

**chaussure** *n.f.* shoe

**chef** *n.m.* chief, boss, chef

**cheveu, cheveux** *n.m.* hair

**chez** *prep.* at the place of, at the home of, at the shop of; **chez moi** at my place

**choisir** *v.* to choose, to select

**chose** *n.f.* thing; **quelque chose** something

**cinéma** *n.m.* movies (theater)

**clé, clef** *n.f.* key

**coin** *n.m.* corner

**combien (de)** *adv.* how much (of), how many (of)

**comprendre** *v.* to understand

**copain n.m., copine n.f.** pal, buddy

**cravate** *n.f.* necktie

**crayon** *n.m.* pencil

**croire** *v.* to believe

**cruel, cruelle** *adj.* cruel

**dame** *n.f.* lady

**dans** *prep.* in

**de** *prep.* of, from

**dehors** *adv.* outside

**déjà** *adv.* already; **déjà vu** already seen

**dent** *n.f.* tooth

**depuis** *adv.* since; **depuis longtemps** for a long time

**dernier, dernière** *adj.* last

**des** of the, from the; contraction of **de + les**; some

**dimanche** *n.m.* Sunday

**dire** *v.* to say, to tell; **vouloir dire** to mean

**donc** *conj.* therefore, consequently

**donner** *v.* to give

**dont** *pron.* of which, whose

**dormir** *v.* to sleep

## 184 French-English Vocabulary

**douche** *n.f.* shower (bath)

**douter** *v.* to doubt

**drôle** *adj.* funny, droll

**du** of the, from the; contraction of **de + le**;  
some

**dû** *past participle of devoir*; ought to, must

**eau** *n.f.* water

**école** *n.f.* school; **à l'école** in (at, to) school

**écouter** *v.* to listen (to)

**écrire** *v.* to write

**écrivons** *v. form of écrire*

**égal, égaux, égale, égales** *adj.* equal

**église** *n.f.* church

**en** *pron.* of it, of them, some of it, some of  
them; *prep.* in

**encore** *adv.* still, yet, again

**encre** *n.f.* ink

**enregistrer** *v.* to record (on a tape, record)

**enseigner** *v.* to teach

**entendre** *v.* to hear, to understand

**enthousiasme** *n.m.* enthusiasm

**entre** *prep.* between; also a *v. form of*  
**entrer (dans)** to enter (into)

**envers** *prep.* toward

**environ** *adv.* nearly, about

**envoyer** *v.* to send; **envoyer chercher** to  
send for

**Espagne** *n.f.* Spain

**espagnol** *n.m.* Spanish (language);

**Espagnol, Espagnole** *n.* Spanish  
(person)

**est** *present indicative of être*

**Etats-Unis** *n.m.pl.* United States

**été** *n.m.* summer; also *past participle of être*

**être** *v.* to be

**étudiant, étudiante** *n.m.* student

**étudier** *v.* to study

**eu** *past participle of avoir*

**faim** *n.f.* hunger; **avoir faim** to be hungry

**faire** *v.* to do, to make; **faire un voyage** to  
take a trip

**falloir** *v.* to be necessary; **il faut** it is necessary  
**faux, fausse** *adj.* false  
**favori, favorite** *adj.* favorite  
**femme** *n.f.* woman; when possessive, wife;  
**ma femme** my wife  
**fête** *n.f.* feast, holiday, party  
**feu** *n.m.* fire; **le feu rouge** red light (traffic)  
**février** *n.m.* February  
**fil** *n.m.* daughter; **la jeune fille** girl; **une école de filles** girls' school  
**fil** *n.m.* son  
**finir** *v.* to finish, to end  
**forêt** *n.f.* forest  
**fourchette** *n.f.* fork  
**français** *n.m.* French (language); **Français, Française** *n.* French (person)  
**franchement** *adv.* frankly  
**frère** *n.m.* brother  
**fromage** *n.m.* cheese  
**fuir** *v.* to flee, to run away; *past participle* **fui**

**garçon** *n.m.* boy  
**gâteau** *n.m.* cake  
**gentil, gentille** *adj.* nice, pleasant  
**gentiment** *adv.* gently  
**gomme** *n.f.* eraser (rubber)  
**grand, grande** *adj.* great, big, large; **un grand magasin** department store  
**Grande Bretagne** *n.f.* Great Britain  
**gris, grise** *adj.* gray  
**gros, grosse** *adj.* big, fat, large

**heureusement** *adv.* fortunately, happily  
**heureux, heureuse** *adj.* happy  
**homme** *n.m.* man  
**honneur** *n.m.* honor  
**hûtre** *n.f.* oyster

**ici** *adv.* here  
**île** *n.f.* isle, island  
**immeuble** *n.m.* apartment building

**interrompre** *v.* to interrupt

**italien** *n.m.* Italian (language); **Italien**,

**Italienne** *n.* Italian (person)

**janvier** *n.m.* January

**jeune** *adj.* young

**jeune fille** *n.f.* girl

**joli, jolie** *adj.* pretty

**jouer** *v.* to play

**jouet** *n.m.* toy

**jour** *n.m.* day

**journal** *n.m.* newspaper

**journée** *n.f.* (all) day (long)

**la** *definite article, f.* the; also *direct object pronoun, f. sing.* it, her

**laid, laide** *adj.* ugly

**laideur** *n.f.* ugliness

**laver** *v.* to wash (something or someone);

**se laver** *reflex. verb* to wash oneself

**le** *definite article, m.* the; also *direct object pronoun, m. sing.* it, him

**lent, lente** *adj.* slow

**lentement** *adv.* slowly

**les** *definite article, m. and f.* the; also *direct object pronoun, m. and f., pl.* them (people or things)

**leur** *possessive adj.* their; also *indirect object pron.* to them

**lire** *v.* to read; *past participle* lu

**lit** *n.m.* bed; also *present indicative, 3d person sing. of lire*

**livre** *n.m.* book; **la livre** pound

**Londres** *n.m.* London

**long, longue** *adj.* long

**longtemps** *adv.* long time; **depuis long-temps** since a long time, for a long time

**lorsque** *adv.* when; *synonym of quand*

**lui** *indirect object pron., 3d person sing.* to him, to her

**lundi** *n.m.* Monday

**ma possessive adj.**, *f. sing.* my; **ma maison**  
my house  
**magasin** *n.m.* store; **un grand magasin**  
department store  
**magazine** *n.m.* magazine  
**maintenant** *adv.* now  
**mais** *conj.* but  
**maison** *n.f.* house  
**malheur** *n.m.* unhappiness  
**malheureusement** *n.f.* unfortunately  
**manger** *v.* to eat  
**marcher** *v.* to walk, to march, to run  
(a machine)  
**mardi** *n.m.* Tuesday  
**mars** *n.m.* March  
**matin** *n.m.* morning; **le matin** in the morning  
**médecin** *n.m.* doctor  
**médecine** *n.f.* medicine (profession)  
**médicament** *n.m.* medicine (that you take)  
**meilleur, meilleure** *adj.* better  
**mer** *n.f.* sea  
**mère** *n.f.* mother  
**mettre** *v.* to put, to place; to put on (clothing)  
**mieux** *adv.* better  
**monnaie** *n.f.* change (money); coins  
**monsieur** *n.m.* gentleman, sir, Mr.  
**mourir** *v.* to die

**naître** *v.* to be born; *past participle* **né**  
**natation** *n.f.* swimming  
**noir, noire** *adj.* black  
**nom** *n.m.* name  
**nouveau, nouvel, nouvelle** *adj.* new

**œil** *n.m.* eye; **les yeux** eyes  
**œuf** *n.m.* egg  
**oiseau** *n.m.* bird  
**on** *personal pron.*, *3d person sing.* one (they)  
**oser** *v.* to dare  
**ou** *conj.* or; **où** *adv.* where  
**ouvrir** *v.* to open; *past participle* **ouvert**

## 188 French-English Vocabulary

**pain** *n.m.* bread

**papier** *n.m.* paper

**par** *prep.* by; **par terre** on the floor, on the ground

**parapluie** *n.m.* umbrella

**parc** *n.m.* park

**paresse** *n.f.* laziness

**paresseux, paresseuse** *adj.* lazy

**parler** *v.* to talk, to speak

**partir** *v.* to leave; *past participle* **parti**

**passer** *v.* to spend (time); to go by, to pass by, to pass

**pendant** *prep.* during; **pendant que** *conj.* while

**perdre** *v.* to lose; *past participle* **perdu(e)(s)**

**père** *n.m.* father

**perspicacité** *n.f.* perspicacity, insight

**peu (de)** *adv.* little (of)

**peur** *n.f.* fear; **avoir peur** to be afraid, to feel afraid

**peut** *present indicative of pouvoir*

**pied** *n.m.* foot; **aller à pied** to walk

**plage** *n.f.* beach, seashore

**pleuvoir** *v.* to rain; *past participle* **plu**

**plus** *adv.* more; **plus de, plus que** more than

**plusieurs** *adv.* several

**poule** *n.f.* hen

**poupée** *n.f.* doll

**pousser** *v.* to push, to bud (flowers)

**pouvoir** *v.* to be able, can

**précise** *adj.* precise, precisely

**prendre** *v.* to take

**presse** *n.f.* press (printing)

**public, publique** *adj.* public

**puis** *adv.* then

**quand** *adv.* when; *synonym of lorsque*

**quel, quelle, quels, quelles** *adj.* which, what

**quelque(s)** *adj.* some; **quelque chose** something

**quelquefois** *adv.* sometimes

**qui** *pron.* who, whom

**qui est-ce qui** *pron.* who  
**quitter** *v.* to leave (a person or place)  
**quoi** *pron.* what (as obj. of a prep.); **avec**  
**quoi** with what

**rang** *n.m.* rank, row  
**restaurant** *n.m.* restaurant  
**rire** *v.* to laugh; laughter  
**robe** *n.f.* dress  
**rose** *n.f.* rose; *adj.* pink  
**rue** *n.f.* street

**samedi** *n.m.* Saturday  
**sans** *prep.* without  
**se** *reflexive pron.* himself, herself, oneself  
**sec, sèche** *adj.* dry  
**seize** sixteen  
**semaine** *n.f.* week  
**si** *conj.* if  
**sœur** *n.f.* sister  
**soir** *n.m.* evening; **le soir** in the evening  
**son** *n.m.* sound; *possessive adj.* his, her, its  
**sont** *v.* form of **être**  
**sous** *prep.* under  
**souvent** *adv.* often  
**stylo** *n.m.* pen  
**sucette** *n.f.* lollipop; **sucer** *v.* to suck  
**sur** *prep.* on

**tenir** *v.* to hold  
**thé** *n.m.* tea  
**très** *adv.* very  
**trop (de)** *adv.* too much (of), too many (of)  
**trouver** *v.* to find; **se trouver** *reflexive v.* to  
be located  
**tuer** *v.* to kill

**un** *indefinite article, m. sing.* a, an (one);  
*fem., une*

190 French-English Vocabulary

**vacances** *n.f.pl.* vacation; **les grandes vacances** summer vacation

**vache** *n.f.* cow

**vais** *present indicative of aller*

**vendre** *v.* to sell

**venir** *v.* to come

**vent** *n.m.* wind; **il fait du vent** it's windy

**viande** *n.f.* meat

**vient** *present indicative of venir*

**vieux, vieil, vieille** *adj.* old

**vin** *n.m.* wine

**vingt** twenty

**voir** *v.* to see; *past participle vu*

**voyage** *n.m.* trip; **faire un voyage** to take a trip, go on a trip; **Bon voyage!** Have a good trip!

**y** *adverbial pron.* there, in it, on it

**yeux** *n.m.* eyes; **l'œil** the eye

**zèbre** *n.m.* zebra



# Index

References are to § numbers in this book.

à §3.1; in idioms §12.2

acheter §7.17

adjectives §5; used in an adverbial sense §5.4–7

adverbs §8.

ago §12.1

aller fully conjugated §7.19; *aller* in idioms §12.2

antonyms §18.

apprendre §7.17

approximate amounts §16.

arithmetical expressions §16.

articles §3.

au §3.1; *au (aux)* in idioms §12.2

auquel §6.1–10

avoir §7.3–1; fully conjugated §7.19; *avoir* in idioms §12.2

as in idioms §12.2

beaucoup (de) §8.3–2

bel, belle, beau, beaux §5.1

bien in idioms §12.2

boire §7.17

bon in idioms §12.2

*ça* §6.1–8, §12.2  
 capitalization §2.1  
 cardinal numbers §16.  
 causative (causal) *faire* §7.14  
*ce, c'* §6.1–8, §12.2  
*ceci, cela* §6.1–8, §12.2  
*celui, celle* §6.1–8  
*cent* §3.2  
*c'est* §6.1–14, §12.2  
*ceux* §6.1–8  
*-ci* §6.1–8  
 cognates §19.  
*combien (de)* §8.3-2, §3.1  
 command: see imperative  
 comparative: of adjectives §5.4–5; of adverbs  
 §8.3–3  
*comprendre, entendre* §7.11  
 conjunctions §10. with subjunctive §7.15  
*connaître, savoir* §7.11  
 continents, used with prepositions §3.1  
 countries, used with prepositions §3.1

*d'* in idioms §12.2  
*dans* + length of time §9.1  
 dates §13.  
 days of the week §2., §3.1, §13.  
*de* §3.1; after a superlative §5.4–5; in idioms §12.2  
 definite article §3.1; with parts of body and articles  
 of clothing §3.1  
 demonstrative adjectives §5.4–2  
 demonstrative pronouns §6.1–8  
*depuis* §12.1  
*des* §3.1  
 description (in the past) §7.8–2  
 descriptive adjectives §5.4–1  
*devoir*: spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11

- direct object pronouns §6.1–2, §11.  
 disjunctive pronouns §6.1–7  
*dont* §6.1–13  
 double object pronouns §6.1-4, §11.  
*du* §3.1; in idioms §12.2
- écrire* §7.17  
*en* §6.1–5; in idioms §12.2; + present participle §7.4; *en* + length of time §9.1  
*entendre, comprendre* §7.11  
*être* §7.3–1; fully conjugated §7.19; in idioms §12.2
- faire* causative (causal) §7.14; *faire* in idioms §12.2; fully conjugated §7.19  
*falloir* §7.11, §7.17  
 false cognates §20.  
 family name, with definite article §3.1  
 fractions §16.  
 future tense, forms of §7.8–4, §7.8–11
- idioms §12.  
 “if” clauses: *see si* clause.  
*il y a* §12.1  
 imperative §7.8–15, §11.4, §11.5  
 indefinite pronouns §6.1–9  
 indirect object pronouns §6.1–3, §11.  
 infinitives §7.13  
 interrogative adjectives §5.4–3  
 interrogative pronouns §6.1–10  
 intransitive verbs §7.3–3

*jouer à, jouer de* §7.5

*laisser* §7.11

languages, capitalization of §2.1; used with definite article §3.1

*le*: neuter pronoun §6.1–16

*lequel*: interrogative pronoun §6.1–10; relative pronoun §6.1–13

*lui*: disjunctive pronoun §6.1–7; indirect object pronoun §6.1–3; with other object pronouns §11.

*meilleur* §5.4–6

*mieux* §5.4–6; in idioms §12.2

months of the year, capitalization of §2.1; list of §13.

nationalities, capitalization of §2.1

negations §11.1, §7.18

nouns §4.

numbers §16.

*on* §6.1–1, §6.1–9

order of words in French sentences §11.

ordinal numbers §16.

*oui* or *si* §8.4

*par*, in idioms §12.2  
*partir*; spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11  
 partitive §3.3  
 parts of body and articles of clothing with definite  
 article §3.1, §5.4–4  
 passive voice §7.9  
 past participles: agreement §7.1; formation §7.2  
*plus*, in idioms §12.2  
 possessive adjectives §5.4–4

possessive pronouns §6.1–11  
*pouvoir*: spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11  
 prepositions, special use of §9.; with definite article  
 §3.1; with verbs §7.5  
 present participles §7.4  
 pronouns §6.  
 pronunciation of French sounds §1.  
 punctuation marks §2.2

*quel, quelle, quels, quelles* §3.2, §5.4–3, §12.2  
*quelque chose* in idioms §12.2  
*qu'est-ce que* §6.1–10  
*quitter* §7.11  
*quoi* in idioms §12.2

reflexive pronouns §6.1–12  
 relative pronouns §6.1–13  
 religions, capitalization of §2.1  
*rien* in idioms §12.2

- savoir*: spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11
- seasons §13.
- si* clause §7.10
- si* or *oui* §8.4
- sortir*: spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11
- sounds, pronunciation of French §1.
- spelling irregularities in verb forms §7.17
- subject pronouns §6.1–1
- subjunctive: forms §7.8–6, §7.8–7, §7.8–13,  
§7.8–14; uses §7.15
- superlative: of adjectives §5.4–5; of adverbs  
§8.3–3
- syllables §2.3
- synonyms §17.
- 
- tant*, in idioms §12.2
- telling time §14.
- tenses and moods in French §7.8; with English  
equivalents §7.16

*tous, tout, toute* in idioms §12.2  
transitive verbs §7.3–2  
tricky words §20.

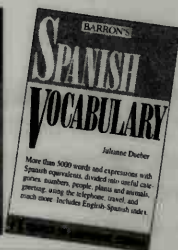
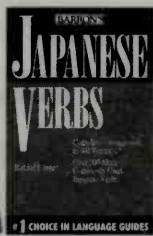
*venir*: fully conjugated §7.7; spelling changes in  
§7.17; *venir de* §7.5  
verbs and tenses §7.  
*voici* and *voilà* §12.1  
*vouloir*: spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11

weather expressions §15.  
word division §2.3  
word order of elements in French sentences §11.

*y* §6.1–6, §11.; in idioms §12.2; *il y a* §12.1

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