

In this edition: A review of the formation of regular and irregular verbs in the present tense.

# Lesson 47

## Notes

### Qu'est-ce que tu as appris?

### A review of regular and irregular verbs

#### Programme Notes

Welcome to Coffee Break French, the podcast aimed at independent learners of French. Our regular podcasts will introduce you to the French language in easy steps. In this week's notes we'll look at the test Mark gave Anna on her knowledge of regular *-er* verbs and the irregular verbs we have looked at.

First of all Mark asks Anna to translate phrases containing regular *-er* verbs from French to English.

Notice that *il regarde la télé* ("he watches / is watching TV") and *ils regardent la télé* ("they watch / are watching TV") sound exactly the same when they are spoken. However we can usually tell the meaning from the context surrounding the phrase.

<b>je chante avec mes amis</b>	I sing / I am singing with my friends
<b>nous dansons le vendredi soir</b>	we dance on Friday evenings
<b>il regarde la télé</b>	he watches / he is watching TV
<b>ils regardent la télé</b>	they watch / they are watching TV
<b>vous écoutez la radio</b>	you (formal singular/plural or informal plural) listen / are listening to the radio
<b>Marie bavarde avec ses copines</b>	Marie chats with / to her friends
<b>nous aimons la musique</b>	we like music
<b>est-ce que vous cherchez l'église?</b>	are you (formal singular/plural or informal plural) looking for the church?
<b>je parle français, tu parles français mais il ne parle pas français</b>	I speak French, you speak French but he does not speak French

Mark then made it a bit more complicated for Anna and asked her to translate from English into French.

Note that *jouer à* is used for a sport but *jouer de* is used for an instrument. Remember also that "French films" can be thought of as "French cinema" ie. *le cinéma français*. To say "my brother and I study French" some people will add in the *nous* as shown below. It is perfectly acceptable with or without the *nous* in this case.

I am looking for the cinema	<b>je cherche le cinéma</b>
he is playing at tennis	<b>il joue au tennis</b>
are you (informal singular) playing the piano?	<b>est-ce que tu joues du piano?</b>

we like French films	<b>nous aimons le cinéma français</b>
my sisters work in a cafe	<b>mes sœurs travaillent dans un café</b>
my brother and I study French	<b>mon frère et moi (nous) étudions le français</b>
are you (informal singular) eating the pizza?	<b>est-ce que tu manges la pizza?</b>
at what time do you (informal singular) arrive in Paris?	<b>à quelle heure est-ce que tu arrives à Paris?</b>

All the phrases we have looked at in this lesson have contained regular *-er* verbs. We have also been learning some irregular verbs and it's time to put these to the test now. Anna translates from French into English first of all.

Notice that to say "my brother is a doctor" we don't need to include the word for "a" in French, ie. *mon frère est médecin*.

<b>nous allons au théâtre ce soir</b>	we are going to the theatre this evening / tonight
<b>ils sont français</b>	they are French
<b>est-ce que tu vas à la piscine aujourd'hui?</b>	are you going to the swimming pool today?
<b>nous sommes professeurs mais mon frère est médecin</b>	we are teachers but my brother is a doctor
<b>elles ont faim</b>	they are hungry (female version)

Let's now look at translating some English phrases into French where irregular verbs are needed.

you (formal singular) are my teacher	<b>vous êtes mon professeur</b>
they (masculine version) have two brothers	<b>ils ont deux frères</b>
do you (informal singular) go to school every day?	<b>est-ce que tu vas à l'école tous les jours?</b>
they are going to the cinema with my brother	<b>ils / elles vont au cinéma avec mon frère</b>
are you (formal plural) hungry?	<b>est-ce que vous avez faim?</b>

In French, there are different ways to form questions. In Coffee Break French, we tend to concentrate on the construction which uses *est-ce que*, but there are two other ways. Let's look at the question *est-ce que vous avez faim?* ("are you hungry?"). A more informal version of this question is *vous avez faim?* As you can see, we have dropped the *est-ce que* to give *vous avez faim?* You would need to raise your voice at the end of the phrase to show it is a question, otherwise it could simply mean "you are hungry." Another way to form the same question is to use inversion, ie. *avez-vous faim?* Notice that we add a hyphen in between *avez* and *vous* in this case. This version can sound a little more formal than *vous avez faim?*

Note that the information listed below is part of the test in the bonus podcast. We would advise you to listen to the podcast before you read the content below.

Bonus episode test		
1	<b>J'ai faim, mais mon frère n'a pas faim.</b>	I'm hungry but my brother isn't hungry.
2	<b>Est-ce que vous êtes mon professeur de français?</b>	Are you my French teacher?
3	<b>Je suis plombier et mon frère est avocat.</b>	I'm a plumber and my brother is a lawyer.
4	<b>Il aime bien son travail, mais moi je n'aime pas être plombier.</b>	He likes his work/job, but I don't like being a plumber.
5	<b>J'ai faim. Où est-ce que je peux acheter du fromage?</b>	I'm hungry. Where can I buy some cheese?
6	<b>J'ai soif. Où est-ce que je peux acheter de l'eau?</b>	I'm thirsty. Where can I buy some water?
7	<b>Nous allons au marché parce que nous cherchons des tomates pour la salade.</b>	We are going to the market because we are looking for some tomatoes for the salad.
8	<b>Benoît mange dans le restaurant ce soir avec son père.</b>	Benoît is eating in the restaurant this evening with his father.
9	<b>À quelle heure est-ce que tu arrives parce que je vais à l'église à 10h.</b>	At what time do you arrive because I'm going to the church at 10 o'clock.
10	<b>J'habite à Paris mais je vais souvent à Bordeaux avec mes amis.</b>	I live in Paris but I often go to Bordeaux with my friends.



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