

## L'imparfait

The imperfect tense (**l'imparfait**), one of several past tenses in French, is used to describe states of being and habitual actions in the past. It also has several idiomatic uses.

### stem

The stem of the **imparfait** is the first person plural (**nous**) form of the present tense, minus the -ons. The imparfait stem is regular for all verbs except être:

verb	present tense 'nous' form	imparfait stem
<b>-er verbs:</b> parler	nous parlons	parl-
<b>-ir verbs:</b> finir	nous finissons	finiss-
<b>-re verbs:</b> descendre	nous descendons	descend-
faire	nous faisons	fais-
prendre	nous prenons	pren-
partir	nous partons	part-
être	nous sommes	ét-

### endings

To the stem, add the endings **-ais, -ais, -ait, -ions, -iez, and -aient**. Listen carefully to the pronunciation of the verbs danser, finir and être in the imparfait tense. Note that -ais, -ais, -ait, and -aient are all pronounced alike. That means that the singular forms and 3rd person plural (the boot) all sound the same!

## Le futur Simple

The 'simple' future (**le futur**) is so-named because it is a one-word tense. In other words, its formation is simple because there is no auxiliary.

The endings for the simple future are: **-ai, -as, -a, -ons, -ez, -ont**. The future stem for **-er** and **-ir** verbs is the infinitive. For regular **-re** verbs, the stem is the infinitive minus the final e. In all cases, the future stem ends in -r:

nager 'to swim'	
je nagerai, I will swim	nous nagerons, we will swim
tu nageras, you will swim	vous nagerez, you will swim
il, elle / on nagera, he, she (it) / one will swim	ils / elles nageront, they will swim

Here are the most common verbs that have irregular future stems:

infinitive	Stem	future	translation
aller	ir-	j'irai	I will go
courir	courr-	je courrai	I will run
devoir	devr-	je devrai	I will be obliged to
envoyer	enverr-	j'enverrai	I will send
faire	fer-	je ferai	I will do
falloir	faudr-	il faudra	it will be necessary
mourir	mourr-	je mourrai	I will die
obtenir	obtiendr-	j'obtiendrai	I will obtain
pleuvoir	pleuvr-	il pleuvra	it will rain
pouvoir	pourr-	je pourrai	I will be able
recevoir	recevr-	je recevrai	I will receive
savoir	saur-	je saurai	I will know
tenir	tiendr-	je tiendrai	I will hold
venir	viendr-	je viendrai	I will come
voir	verr-	je verrai	I will see
vouloir	voudr-	je voudrai	I will want

## Le futur proche

There are two future tenses in French, the **simple future** and the near future (**le futur proche**). The futur proche is usually translated into English as **going + infinitive** (e.g., going to eat, going to drink, going to talk). The futur proche is characteristic of spoken French but may be used in informal writing. It is formed with the verb **aller** (to go) conjugated in the present tense followed by an infinitive.

nager 'to swim'	
je vais nager, I am going to swim	nous allons nager, we are going to swim

tu vas nager, you are going to swim	vous allez nager, you are going to swim
il, elle / on va nager, he, she (it) / one is going to swim	ils / elles vont nager, they are going to swim

To negate the futur proche, place ne ... pas around the conjugated form of aller: Je ne vais pas nager. (I am not going to swim).

### Aller + infinitive

je vais chanter  
tu vas parler  
il va travailler  
nous allons sortir  
vous allez apporter  
ils vont manger

### Le passé Récent

When venir is conjugated in the present and followed by de + **infinitive**, it means 'to have just done something.' This is called the recent past (le passé immédiat).

Tex et Tammy **viennent de regarder** une vidéo romantique. Et **ils viennent de finir** toute une bouteille de jus. Il n'en reste plus une goutte!

Tex et Tammy have just finished watching a romantic video. And they have just finished a whole bottle of juice. There isn't a drop left!

### Venir de + infinitive

Je viens de chanter  
Tu viens de parler  
Il vient de sortir  
Nous venons de manger  
Vous venez de finir  
Ils viennent de terminer