Present Tense

In French, present tense verbs are conjugated (their endings are changed) based on the subject pronoun (je, tu, il/elle/on, nous, vous, ils/elles) and the verb's infinitive ending (-er, -ir, or -re). Regular verbs follow predictable patterns for these endings, while irregular verbs have their own unique conjugations. The present tense in French is used for current actions, routine actions, and facts.

Here's a breakdown:
1. Identifying the Verb Type:
  • French verbs are categorised by their infinitive endings: -er, -ir, or -re.

  • Examples: parler (to speak, -er), choisir (to choose, -ir), vendre (to sell, -re).

2. Forming the Present Tense:

  • **-er verbs:**
    Remove the -er from the infinitive and add the appropriate ending for each subject pronoun.
      ◦ Example: parler (to speak) becomes je parle, tu parles, il/elle/on parle, nous parlons, vous parlez, ils/elles parlent.

  • **-ir verbs:**
    Remove the -ir and add the corresponding endings.
      ◦ Example: choisir (to choose) becomes je choisis, tu choisis, il/elle/on choisit, nous choisissons, vous choisissez, ils/elles choisissent.

  • **-re verbs:**
    Remove the -re and add the corresponding endings.
      ◦ Example: vendre (to sell) becomes je vends, tu vends, il/elle/on vend, nous vendons, vous vendez, ils/elles vendent.

Here are some more examples:

  • **Faire**: (to do/make): je fais (I do/make), tu fais (you do/make), il/elle fait (he/she does/makes).

  • **Aller**: (to go): je vais (I go), tu vas (you go), il/elle va (he/she goes).

  • **Boire**: (to drink): je bois (I drink), tu bois (you drink), il/elle boit (he/she drinks).

  • **Lire**: (to read): je lis (I read), tu lis (you read), il/elle lit (he/she reads).

- **Avoir**: (to have): j'ai (I have), tu as (you have), il/elle a (he/she has).

- **Être**: (to be): je suis (I am), tu es (you are), il/elle est (he/she is).

- **Pouvoir**: (to be able to): je peux (I can), tu peux (you can), il/elle peut (he/she can).

- **Vouloir**: (to want): je veux (I want), tu veux (you want), il/elle veut (he/she wants).

These verbs demonstrate the variety of conjugations and uses within the present tense in French.