

# 🇫🇷 Mastering French -ER Verbs



## 1. What Are “-ER Verbs”?

In French, many verbs (action words) end with **-er** in their basic form — this is called the **infinitive**.

Examples:

- 👉 **parler** (to speak)
- 👉 **aimer** (to love/like)
- 👉 **jouer** (to play)
- 👉 **habiter** (to live)
- 👉 **écouter** (to listen)

Over **80% of all French verbs** end in **-er**, so once you master this pattern, you’ll already understand *most* verbs in French!

## 2. The Secret Recipe of -ER Verbs

To use a verb in French, you have to show **who** is doing the action — “I speak”, “you play”, “we listen”, etc.

In English, we often change the word (I *play*, he *plays*).

In French, we change the **ending** of the verb.

Here’s how it works — your magic formula:

✨ **Step 1: Take the infinitive (example: parler = to speak)**

✦ Step 2: Remove “-er” → you get the *stem* (parl-)

✦ Step 3: Add the correct ending, depending on WHO does the action:

Subject	Ending	Example (parler)	Pronunciation
je (I)	-e	je parle	/parl/
tu (you)	-es	tu parles	/parl/
il / elle / on (he/she/one)	-e	il parle	/parl/
nous (we)	-ons	nous parlons	/par-lon/
vous (you)	-ez	vous parlez	/par-lay/
ils / elles (they)	-ent	ils parlent	/parl/ (the -ent is silent!)


✦ **Pronunciation Secret:**

Even though the spellings change, the first three forms **sound exactly the same**:  
*je parle – tu parles – il parle* → all pronounced “parl”.

### 3. Why “-ER Verbs” Are So Logical

Think of it like LEGO bricks:

- The **stem** is your base brick (parl-)
  - The **ending** is the color or decoration you add depending on the person doing the action.
- Add the right piece, and voilà — your sentence fits perfectly.



## GRAMMAIRE

### Les verbes en -ER

A l'école nous **jouons** à beaucoup de jeux différents.  
Moi, je **joue** au tennis et toi, à quoi tu **joues**?"

**JOUER**

Radical du verbe + terminaisons

- je -e
- tu -es
- il/elle/on -e
- nous -ons
- vous -ez
- ils/elles -ent

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## 4. Pronunciation Trick

In spoken French:

- “je parle”, “tu parles”, and “il parle” **all sound the same**
- “nous parlons” ends with a nasal sound /ɔ̃/
- “vous parlez” sounds like /par-lay/
- “ils parlent” — silent *ent* → sounds like *il parle*

So... you only really have 3 different sounds to learn! Easy, right? 😊

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## 5. Spelling Tweaks (Tiny Changes That Keep French Beautiful)

Some verbs make *small spelling changes* to keep pronunciation smooth:

### a) Verbs ending in -ger (like *manger* – to eat)

→ Add an **e** before “ons” in *nous* form

➡ nous **mangeons** (not *mangons*)

### b) Verbs ending in -cer (like *commencer* – to start)

→ Add a **ç** before “ons”

➡ nous **commençons**

👉 Just two little “beauty fixes” — easy to remember!

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## 6. Some Super Common -ER Verbs

Verb	Meaning	Example
parler	to speak	Je parle français.
aimer	to like/love	J’aime le chocolat.
jouer	to play	Nous jouons au foot.
habiter	to live	J’habite à Paris.
écouter	to listen	Tu écoutes la musique.
étudier	to study	Il étudie le français.
travailler	to work	Elle travaille à Londres.

Verb	Meaning	Example
regarder	to watch/look	Nous regardons la télé.
chanter	to sing	Ils chantent bien.

## 7. Mini Practice Time

### A. Conjugate *parler* (to speak)

je \_\_\_\_\_  
tu \_\_\_\_\_  
il \_\_\_\_\_  
nous \_\_\_\_\_  
vous \_\_\_\_\_  
ils \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Choose the right form

1. Nous (parlons / parle) français.
2. Tu (manges / mange) une pizza.
3. Ils (chantent / chante) bien.
4. Je (écoute / écoutes) la musique.

### D. Translate to French

1. I speak French.
2. She sings.
3. We play football.
4. Do you live here?

## 8. Common Mistakes (and How to Fix Them)

❌ “Je parles” ❌ → ✨ “Je parle”  
You don’t need the -s for *je*.

❌ Pronouncing “ils parlent” with the -ent ❌ → ✨ Silent “-ent”!  
It sounds just like “il parle”.

❌ Forgetting the e/ç in *mangeons* / *commençons* ❌ → ✨ Remember sound rules.

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## 9. Real-Life Practice Ideas

- Talk about your hobbies: *J'aime danser, je regarde Netflix, je joue au foot.*
- Ask friends what they like: *Tu aimes la musique ?*
- Describe your life: *J'habite à Tokyo. Je travaille beaucoup. Je parle français !*

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## 10. Takeaway Rule

✂️ “Cut off **-ER**, keep the stem, add: **e, es, e, ons, ez, ent** — and you can speak 80% of French verbs!”

*Un mot de plus, un monde de plus* 🌍

— **Mr. Edem**