

FRENCH

ROMANCE LANGUAGE OF 128 MILLION

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FRENCH

ROMANCE LANGUAGE OF 128 MILLION

1. Some Basic Phrases

Bonjour
(bohn-zhoor)
Hello / Good day

Au revoir!
(ohr-vwah)
Goodbye!

Merci beaucoup
(mair-see boh-koo)

Bonsoir / Bonne nuit
(bohn-swahr/bun nwee)
Good evening / Good night (only said when going to bed)

S'il vous plaît
(see/ voo pleh)
Please

Je vous en prie / de rien (In Canada: **Bienvenu**)
(zhuh voo zawn pree/duh ree-ahn/bee-awn-vuh-)

Thank you very much

new)
You're welcome.

Oui / non
(*wee/nohn*)
Yes / no

Monsieur, Madame, Mademoiselle
(*muh-syuh, mah-dahm, mahd-mwah-zell*)
Mister, Misses, Miss

Comment allez-vous?
(*koh-mawn tahl-ay voo*)
How are you? (formal)

Ça va?
(*sah vah*)
How are you? (informal)

Je vais bien
(*zhuh vay bee-ahn*)
I'm fine

Ça va bien / mal / pas mal
(*sah vah bee-ahn/mahl/pah mahl*)
I'm good / bad / not bad

Je suis fatigué(e)
(*zhuh swee fah-tee-gay*)
I'm tired

Je suis malade
(*zhuh swee mah-lahd*)
I'm sick

J'ai faim
(*zhay fawn*)
I'm hungry

J'ai soif
(*zhay swahf*)
I'm thirsty

Comment vous appelez-vous?
(*koh-mawn voo zah-play voo*)
What's your name? (formal)

Comment t'appelles-tu?
(*koh-mawn tah-pell tew*)
What's your name? (informal)

Je m'appelle...
(*zhuh mah-pell*)
I am called...

Mon nom est...
(*mohn nohm ay*)
My name is...

Vous êtes d'où?
(*voo zet doo*)
Where are you from? (formal)

Tu es d'où?
(*tew ay doo*)
Where are you from? (informal)

Où habitez-vous?
(*ooh ah-bee-tay voo*)
Where do you live? (formal)

Où habites-tu?
(*ooh ah-beet tew*)
Where do you live? (informal)

Je suis des Etats-Unis / du Canada.
(*zhuh swee day zay-tahz-ew-nee/dew kah-nah-dah*)
I am from the United States / Canada.

J'habite aux Etats-Unis / au Canada.
(*zhah-beet oh zay-tahz-ew-nee/ oh kah-nah-dah*)
I live in the U.S. / Canada.

Vous avez quel âge?
(*voo za-vay kell ahzh*)
How old are you? (formal)

Tu as quel âge?
(*tew ah kell ahzh*)
How old are you? (informal)

J'ai ____ ans.
(*zhay ____ awn*)
I am ____ years old.

Parlez-vous français?

Parles-tu anglais?

(par-lay voo frahn-say)
Do you speak French? (formal)

Italien, Allemand, Espagnol
(ee-tahl-ee-ahn, ahll-uh-mawn, es-pahn-yol)
Italian, German, Spanish

Je parle...
(zhuh parl)
I speak...

Je (ne) comprends (pas)
(zhuh nuh com-prawn pah)
I (don't) understand

Excusez-moi / Pardonnez-moi
(eg-scew-zay mwah/par-dohn-ay mwah)
Excuse me / Pardon me

A tout à l'heure / A bientôt
(ah too tah luhr/ah bee-ahn-toh)
See you later / See you soon

Je t'aime
(zhuh tem)
I love you (singular)

(parl tew on-glai)
Do you speak English? (informal)

Russe, Japonais, Chinois
(rooss, zhah-po-neh, shee-nwah)
Russian, Japanese, Chinese

Je ne parle pas...
(zhuh nuh parl pah)
I don't speak...

Je (ne) sais (pas)
(zhuhn say pah)
I (don't) know

Je regrette / Je suis désolé(e)
(zhuh re-gret/zhuh swee day-zoh-lay)
I'm sorry

Salut
(sah-lew)
Hi / Bye

Je vous aime
(zhuh voo zem)
I love you! (plural)

2. Pronunciation

French letter(s)	English Sound
a, à, â	ah
é, et, and final er and ez	ay
e, è, ê, ai, ei, ais	eh
i, y	ee
o	oh
o	shorter and more open than aw in bought
ou	oo
oy, oi	wah
u	ew
u + vowel	wee
c (before e, i, y)	s
ç (before a, o, u)	s
c (before a, o, u)	k
g (before e, i, y)	zh
ge (before a, o)	zh
g (before a, o, u)	g
gn	nyuh

h	silent
j	zh
qu, final q	k
r	rolled
s (between vowels)	z
th	t
x	ekss, except as s in <i>six</i> , <i>dix</i> , and <i>soixante</i> in liaisons, like z

Note: French pronunciation is tricky because it uses nasal sounds which we do not have in English and there are a lot of silent letters. However, if a word ends in C, R, F or L (except verbs that end in -r) you usually pronounce the final consonant. Their vowels tend to be shorter as well. The French slur most words together in a sentence, so if a word ends in a consonant that is not pronounced and the next word starts with a vowel or silent h, slur the two together as if it were one word.

More about Pronunciation

1. The "slurring" that I mentioned is called liaison. It is always made:

- after a determiner (words like *un, des, les, mon, ces, quels*)
- before or after a pronoun (*vous avez, je les ai*)
- after a preceding adjective (*bon ami, petits enfants*)
- after one syllable prepositions (*en avion, dans un livre*)
- after some one syllable adverbs (*très, plus, bien*)
- after *est*

It is optional after *pas, trop fort*, and the forms of *être*, but it is never made after *et*.

2. Sometimes the e is dropped in words and phrases, shortening the syllables and slurring more words.

- rapid(e)ment, lent(e)ment, sauv(e)tage (pronounced *ra-peed-mawn*, not *ra-peed-uh-mawn*)
- sous l(e) bureau, chez l(e) docteur (pronounced *sool bewr-oh*, not *soo luh bewr-oh*)
- il a d(e) bons copains (*eel ahd bohⁿ ko-pahⁿ*, not *eel ah duh bohⁿ ko-pahⁿ*)
- il y a d(e)... , pas d(e)... , plus d(e)... (*eel yahd, pahd, plewd*, not *eel ee ah duh, pah duh, or plew duh*)
- je n(e), de n(e) (*zhuhn, duhn*, not *zhuh nuh* or *duh nuh*)
- j(e) te, c(e) que (*shtuh, skuh*, not *zhuh tuh* or *suh kuh* - note the change of the pronunciation of the j as well)

3. In general, intonation only rises for yes/no questions, and all other times, it goes down at the end of the sentence.

4. Two sounds that are tricky to an American English speaker are the differences between the long and short u and e. The long u is pronounced oooh, as in hoot. The short u does not exist in English though. To pronounce it correctly, round your lips as if to whistle, and then say eee. The long and short e are relatively easy to pronounce, but sometimes it is difficult to hear the difference. The long e is pronounced openly, like ay, as in play. The short e is more closed, and pronounced like eh, as in bed.

6. And of course, the nasals. These are what present the most problems for English speakers. Here are the orthographical representations, and approximate pronunciations. Nasal means that you expel air through your nose while saying the words, so don't actually pronounce the n fully.

My Representation	Pronunciation	Orthographical Representation
ahn	an apple	in, im, yn, ym, ain, aim, ein, eim, un, um, en, eng, oin, oing, oint, ien, yen, éen
awn	on the desk	en, em, an, am, aon, aen
ohn	my own book	on, om

In words beginning with in-, a nasal is only used if the next letter is a consonant. Otherwise, the in- prefix is pronounced *een* before a vowel.

3. Alphabet

a	ah	j	zhee	s	ess
b	beh	k	kah	t	teh
c	seh	l	ell	u	ooh
d	deh	m	em	v	veh
e	uh	n	en	w	doo-blah-veh
f	eff	o	oh	x	eeks
g	zheh	p	peh	y	ee-grek
h	ahsh	q	koo	z	zed
i	ee	r	air		

4. Nouns, Articles and Demonstrative Adjectives

All nouns in French have a gender, either masculine or feminine. For the most part, you must memorize the gender, but there are some endings of words that will help you decide which gender a noun is. Nouns ending in -age and -ment are usually masculine, as are nouns ending with a consonant. Nouns ending in -ure, -sion, -tion, -ence, -ance, -té, and -ette are usually feminine.

Articles and adjectives must agree in number and gender with the nouns they modify. And articles have to be expressed even though they aren't always in English; and you may have to repeat the article in some cases. Demonstratives are like strong definite articles.

Definite Articles (The)

Masculine	Feminine	Before Vowel	Plural
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le lit <i>the bed</i>	la pomme <i>the apple</i>	l' oiseau <i>the bird</i>	les gants <i>the gloves</i>
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Indefinite Articles (A, An, Some)

Masculine	Feminine	Plural
un lit <i>a bed</i>	une pomme <i>an apple</i>	des gants <i>some gloves</i>

Demonstrative Adjectives (This, That, These, Those)

Masc.	Masc, Before Vowel	Fem.	Plural
ce lit <i>this/that bed</i>	cet oiseau <i>this/that bird</i>	cette pomme <i>this/that apple</i>	ces gants <i>these/those gloves</i>

If you need to distinguish between this or that and these or those, you can add -ci to the end of the noun for this and these, and -là to the end of the noun for that and those. For example, **ce lit-ci** is *this bed*, while **ce lit-là** is *that bed*.

5. Useful Words and General Vocabulary

It's / That's	c'est	say	There is/are	il y a	eel-ee-yah
There is/are	voilà	vwah-lah	Here is/are	voici	vwah-see
and	et	ay	always	toujours	too-zhoor
but	mais	may	often	souvent	soo-vaw <u>n</u>
now	maintenant	mah <u>n</u> t-naw <u>n</u>	sometimes	quelquefois	kell-kuh-fwah
especially	surtout	sir-too	usually	d'habitude	dah-bee-tewd
except	sauf	sohf	also, too	aussi	oh-see
of course	bien sûr	bee-ah <u>n</u> sir	again	encore	aw <u>n</u> -kore
so so	comme ci, comme ça	kohm see kohm sah	late	en retard	aw <u>n</u> -ruh-tar
not bad	pas mal	pah mal	almost	presque	presk
book	le livre	leevr	friend (fem)	une amie	ew nah-mee
pencil	le crayon	krah-yoh <u>n</u>	friend (masc)	un ami	ah-nah-mee
pen	le stylo	stee-loh	woman	une femme	ewn faw <u>n</u>
paper	le papier	pah-pyaya	man	un homme	ah-nohm
dog	le chien	shee-ah <u>n</u>	girl	une fille	feey
cat	le chat	shah	boy	un garçon	gar-soh <u>n</u>

Note: When il y a is followed by a number, it means ago. Il y a cinq minutes means five minutes ago.

6. Subject Pronouns

Subject Pronouns

Je zhuh I	Nous noo We
Tu tew You (informal)	Vous voo You (formal and plural)
Il eel He	Ils eel They (masc.)
Elle ell She	Elles ell They (fem.)
On ohn One	

Note: Il and elle can also mean it when they replace a noun (il replaces masculine nouns, and elle replaces feminine nouns) instead of a person's name. Ils and elles can replace plural nouns as well in the same way. Notice there are two ways to say you. Tu is used when speaking to children, animals, or close friends and relatives. Vous is used when speaking to more than one person, or to someone you don't know or who is older. On can be translated into English as one, the people, we, they, or you.

7. To Be and To Have

Present tense of être - to be (eh-truh)

I am	Je suis	zhuh swee	We are	Nous sommes	noo sohm
You are	Tu es	tew ay	You are	Vous êtes	voo zett
He is	Il est	eel ay	They are	Ils sont	eel sohn
She is	Elle est	ell ay	They are	Elles sont	ell sohn
One is	On est	ohn ay			

Past tense of être - to be

I was (being)	j' étais	zhay-teh	We were (being)	nous étions	ay-tee-ohn
You were (being)	tu étais	ay-teh	You were (being)	vous étiez	ay-tee-ay
He was (being)	il était	ay-teh	They were (being)	ils étaient	ay-teh
She was (being)	elle était	ay-teh	They were (being)	elles étaient	ay-teh
One was (being)	on était	ay-teh			

Note: Je and any verb form that starts with a vowel (or silent h) combine together for ease of pronunciation.

Future Tense of être - to be

I will be	je serai	suh-reh	We will be	nous serons	suh-rohn
You will be	tu seras	suh-rah	You will be	vous seriez	suh-ree-ay
He will be	il sera	suh-rah	They will be	ils seront	suh-rohn
She will be	elle sera	suh-rah	They will be	elles seront	suh-rohn
One will be	on sera	suh-rah			

Note: You must use the subject pronouns; but I will leave them out of future conjugations.

Present tense of avoir - to have (ah-vwahr)

I have	j' ai	zhay	We have	avons	ah-vohn
You have	as	ah	You have	avez	ah-vay

He/she has **a** *ah* They have **ont** *ohn*

Past tense of avoir - to have

I had **j'avais** *zhah-veh* We had **avions** *ah-vee-ohn*

You had **avais** *ah-veh* You had **aviez** *ah-vee-ay*

He/she had **avait** *ah-veh* They had **avaient** *ah-veh*

Future tense of avoir - to have

I will have **j'aurai** *zhoh-reh* We will have **aurons** *oh-rohn*

You will have **auras** *oh-rah* You will have **aurez** *oh-ray*

He/she will have **aura** *oh-rah* They will have **auront** *oh-rohn*

Avoir and **être** are used in many common and idiomatic expressions that should be memorized:

avoir chaud - to be hot

avoir froid - to be cold

avoir peur - to be afraid

avoir raison - to be right

avoir tort - to be wrong

avoir faim - to be hungry

avoir soif - to be thirsty

avoir sommeil - to be sleepy

avoir honte - to be ashamed

avoir besoin de - to need

avoir l'air de - to look like, seem

avoir envie de - to feel like

avoir de la chance - to be lucky

être de retour - to be back

être en retard - to be late

être en avance - to be early

être d'accord - to be in agreement

être sur le point de - to be about to

être en train de - to be in the act of

être enrhumé - to have a cold

nous + être (un jour) - to be (a day)

J'ai froid. I'm cold.

Tu avais raison. You were right.

Il aura sommeil ce soir. He will be tired tonight.

Elle a de la chance! She's lucky!

Nous aurons faim plus tard. We will be hungry later.

Vouz aviez tort. You were wrong.

Ils ont chaud. They are hot.

Elles avaient peur hier. They were afraid yesterday.

Je suis en retard! I'm late!

Tu étais en avance. You were early.

Elle sera d'accord. She will agree.

Nous sommes lundi. It is Monday.

Vous étiez enrhumé. You had a cold.

Ils seront en train d'étudier. They will be (in the act of) studying.

Elles étaient sur le point de partir. They were about to leave.

On est de retour. We/you/they/the people are back.

8. Question Words

Who

Qui

kee

What

Quoi

kwah

Why

Pourquoi

poor-kwah

When

Quand

kawn

Where

Où

ooh

How

Comment

kohn-mawn

How much / many

Combien

kohn-bee-ahn

Which / what

Quel(le)

kehl

9. Numbers / Les numéros

Zero	Zéro	<i>zay-roh</i>
One	Un	<i>ahn</i>
Two	Deux	<i>duh</i>
Three	Trois	<i>twah</i>
Four	Quatre	<i>kat</i>
Five	Cinq	<i>sahn</i>
Six	Six	<i>seess</i>
Seven	Sept	<i>set</i>
Eight	Huit	<i>weet</i>
Nine	Neuf	<i>nuhf</i>
Ten	Dix	<i>deess</i>
Eleven	Onze	<i>ohnz</i>
Twelve	Douze	<i>dooz</i>
Thirteen	Treize	<i>trehz</i>
Fourteen	Quatorze	<i>kah-tohrz</i>
Fifteen	Quinze	<i>kanz</i>
Sixteen	Seize	<i>sez</i>
Seventeen	Dix-sept	<i>dee-set</i>
Eighteen	Dix-huit	<i>deez-weet</i>
Nineteen	Dix-neuf	<i>deez-nuhf</i>
Twenty	Vingt	<i>vahn</i>
Twenty-one	Vingt et un	<i>vahn tay ahn</i>
Twenty-two	Vingt-deux	<i>vahn duh</i>
Twenty-three	Vingt-trois	<i>vahn twah</i>
Thirty	Trente	<i>trawnt</i>
Thirty-one	Trente et un	<i>trawnt ay uhn</i>
Thirty-two	Trente-deux	<i>trawnt duh</i>
Forty	Quarante	<i>kuh-rawnt</i>
Fifty	Cinquante	<i>sank-awnt</i>
Sixty	Soixante	<i>swah-ssawnt</i>
Seventy	Soixante-diz	<i>swah-ssawnt deez</i>
(Belgium & Switzerland)	Septante	<i>seh-tahnt</i>
Seventy-one	Soixante et onze	<i>swah-ssawnt ay ohnz</i>
Seventy-two	Soixante-douze	<i>swah-ssawnt dooz</i>
Eighty	Quatre-vingts	<i>ka-truh vahn</i>
(Belgium & Switzerland)	Huitante	<i>weet-ahnt</i>
Eighty-one	Quatre-vingt-un	<i>ka-truh vahn tahn</i>
Eighty-two	Quatre-vingt-deux	<i>ka-truh vahn duh</i>
Ninety	Quatre-vingt-dix	<i>ka-truh vahn deez</i>
(Belgium & Switzerland)	Nonante	<i>noh-nahnt</i>

Ninety-one	Quatre-vingt-onze	<i>ka-truh vah<u>ŋ</u> ohnz</i>
Ninety-two	Quatre-vingt-douze	<i>ka-truh vah<u>ŋ</u> dooz</i>
One Hundred	Cent	<i>sawnt</i>
One Hundred One	Cent un	<i>sawnt ah<u>ŋ</u></i>
Two Hundred	Deux cents	<i>duh sawnt</i>
Two Hundred One	Deux cent un	<i>duh sawnt ah<u>ŋ</u></i>
Thousand	Mille	<i>meel</i>
Two Thousand	Deux mille	<i>duh meel</i>
Million	Un million	<i>ah<u>ŋ</u> meel-ee-oh<u>ŋ</u></i>

Note: French switches the use of commas and periods. 1,00 would be 1.00 in English. Belgian and Swiss French use septante, huitante and nonante in place of the standard French words for 70, 80, and 90. Also, when the numbers 5, 6, 8, and 10 are used before a word beginning with a consonant, their final consonants are not pronounced.

Ordinal Numbers

first	premier, première
second	deuxième
third	troisième
fourth	quatrième
fifth	cinquième
sixth	sixième
seventh	septième
eighth	huitième
ninth	neuvième
tenth	dixième
eleventh	onzième
twelfth	douzième
twentieth	vingtième
twenty-first	vingt et unième
thirtieth	trentième

Note: The majority of numbers become ordinals by adding -ième. But if a number ends in an e, you must drop it before adding the -ième. After a q, you must add a u before the -ième. And an f becomes a v before the -ième.

10. Days of the Week / Les jours de la semaine

Monday	lundi	<i>lah<u>ŋ</u>-dee</i>
Tuesday	mardi	<i>mahr-dee</i>
Wednesday	mercredi	<i>mare-kruh-dee</i>
Thursday	jeudi	<i>zhuh-dee</i>
Friday	vendredi	<i>vahn-druh-dee</i>

Saturday	samedi	<i>sahm-dee</i>
Sunday	dimanche	<i>dee-mahnsh</i>
day	le jour	<i>luh zhoor</i>
week	la semaine	<i>lah suh-men</i>
today	aujourd'hui	<i>oh-zhoor-dwee</i>
yesterday	hier	<i>ee-air</i>
tomorrow	demain	<i>duh-mahn</i>

Note: Articles are not used before days, except to express something that happens habitually on a certain day, such as "on Monday." (you would use **le** before the day, as in "le lundi")

11. Months of the Year / Les mois de l'année

January	janvier	<i>zhan-vee-ay</i>
February	février	<i>fay-vree-ay</i>
March	mars	<i>marz</i>
April	avril	<i>ah-vril</i>
May	mai	<i>may-ee</i>
June	juin	<i>zhwah</i>
July	juillet	<i>zhwee-ay</i>
August	août	<i>oot</i>
September	septembre	<i>sep-tawm-bruh</i>
October	octobre	<i>ahk-toh-bruh</i>
November	novembre	<i>noh-vawm-bruh</i>
December	décembre	<i>day-sawm-bruh</i>
Month	le mois	<i>luh mwah</i>
Year	l'an / l'année	<i>lawn/law-nay</i>

Note: To express in a certain month, such as "in May," use **en** before the month as in "en mai." With dates, the ordinal numbers are not used, except for the first of the month: **le premier mai** but **le deux juin**. Also note that days of the weeks and months of the year are all masculine and not capitalized in French.

12. Seasons / Les saisons

Summer	l'été	<i>lay-tay</i>	in the summer	en été	<i>awn ay-tay</i>
Fall	l'automne	<i>loh-toh</i>	in the fall	en automne	<i>aw noh-toh</i>
Winter	l'hiver	<i>lee-vair</i>	in the winter	en hiver	<i>aw nee-vair</i>
Spring	le printemps	<i>luh prahn-tawn</i>	in the spring	au printemps	<i>oh prahn-tawn</i>

13. Directions / Les directions

North **le nord** *luh nor*
 South **le sud** *luh sewd*
 East **l'est** *lest*
 West **l'ouest** *lwest*

14. Colors and Shapes / Les couleurs et les formes

Red	rouge	<i>roozh</i>	square	le carré	<i>kah-ray</i>
Orange	orange	<i>oh-rahⁿzh</i>	circle	le cercle	<i>sair-kluh</i>
Yellow	jaune	<i>zhohⁿ</i>	triangle	le triangle	<i>tree-awn-gluh</i>
Green	vert/e	<i>vehr/t</i>	rectangle	le rectangle	<i>ruh^k-tawn-gluh</i>
Blue	bleu/e	<i>bluh</i>	oval	l'ovale	<i>loh-vahl</i>
Purple	pourpre violet/te	<i>poo-pruh</i> <i>vee-oh-leh/lett</i>	cube	le cube	<i>kewb</i>
White	blanc/he	<i>blawⁿ/sh</i>	sphere	la sphère	<i>sfair</i>
Brown	brun/e marron	<i>brahⁿ/brehⁿ</i> <i>mah-rohn</i>	cylinder	le cylindre	<i>see-lahn-druh</i>
Black	noir/e	<i>nwahr</i>	cone	le cône	<i>kohn</i>
Pink	rose	<i>roze</i>	octagon	l'octogone	<i>ok-toh-gohn</i>
Gold	doré/e	<i>doh-ray</i>	box	une boîte	<i>bwaht</i>
Silver	argenté/e	<i>ahr-zhawn-tay</i>			
Gray	gris/e	<i>gree/z</i>			

Note: In French, nouns and adjectives have a gender. Ex: **vert/e** = **vert** is the masculine form of green, **verte** is the feminine form. Almost all adjectives agree in gender and number with the noun they modify (except marron and orange, as well as colors that are modified with the words **clair**-light and **foncé**-dark) and most are placed after the noun. **Un carré brun** would be a *brown square* and **une boîte noire** would be a *black box*.

15. Weather / Le temps

What's the weather like?	Quel temps fait-il?	<i>kell tawⁿ fay-teel</i>
It's nice.	Il fait bon.	<i>eel fay bohⁿ</i>
bad	Il fait mauvais	<i>moh-vay</i>
cool	Il fait frais	<i>fray</i>
cold	Il fait froid	<i>fwah</i>
warm, hot	Il fait chaud	<i>shoh</i>
cloudy	Il fait nuageux	<i>noo-ah-zhuh</i>
beautiful	Il fait beau	<i>boh</i>
mild	Il fait doux	<i>dooh</i>
stormy	Il fait orageux	<i>oh-rah-zhuh</i>

sunny	Il fait (du) soleil	eel fay (dew) so-lay
windy	Il fait du vent	vaw <u>n</u>
foggy	Il fait du brouillard	broo-ee-yar
snowing	Il neige	eel nez <u>h</u>
raining	Il pleut	pluh
freezing	Il gèle	zhell

Note: The **du** in "il fait (du) soleil" is optional. In Canada, **du** is often not said, but in France it is common.

16. Time / Le temps

What time is it?	Quelle heure est-il?	kell urr ay-teel
It is...	Il est...	eel ay
one o'clock	une heure	oon urr
two o'clock	deux heures	duh zurr
noon	midi	mee-dee
midnight	minuit	meen-wee
a quarter after three	trois heures et quart	twā zurr ay car
one o'clock sharp	une heure précise	oon urr pray-sees
four o'clock sharp	quatre heures précises	ka-truh urr pray-sees
twelve thirty	midi (minuit) et demi	meee-dee (meen-wee) ay duh-mee
six thirty	six heures et demie	see zurr ay duh-mee
a quarter to seven	sept heures moins le quart	set urr mwah <u>n</u> luh car
five twenty	cinq heures vingt	sank urr vah <u>n</u>
ten fifty	onze heures moins dix	ohnz urr mwan <u>n</u> dees
in the morning/AM	du matin	doo mah-tah <u>n</u>
in the afternoon/PM	de l'après-midi	duh lah-pray mih-dee
in the evening/PM	du soir	doo swahr

Note: Official French time is expressed as military time (24 hour clock.)

17. Family and Animals / La famille et les animaux

Family	la famille	fah-mee
Relatives	des parents	pahr-aw <u>n</u>
Grand-parents	les grands-parents	graw <u>n</u> -pahr-aw <u>n</u>
Parents	les parents	pahr-aw <u>n</u>
Mom	la mère, maman	mehr, ma-ma
Stepmother/Mother-in-Law	la belle-mère	bell-mehr
Dad	le père, papa	pehr, pa-pa

Stepfather/Father-in-Law	le beau-père	boh-pehr
Daughter	la fille	fee
Son	le fils	feess
Sister	la sœur	sir
Half/Step Sister	la demi-sœur	duh-mee-sir
Sister-in-Law	la belle-sœur	bell-sir
Stepdaughter/Daughter-in-Law	la belle-fille	bell-fee
Brother	le frère	frehr
Half/Step Brother	le demi-frère	duh-mee-frehr
Brother-in-Law	le beau-frère	boh-frair
Stepson/Son-in-Law	le beau-fils	boh-feess
Twins (m)	les jumeaux	zhoo-moh
Twins (f)	les jumelles	zhoo-mell
Uncle	l'oncle	ohnk-luh
Aunt	la tante	tawnt
Grandmother	la grand-mère	grawn-mehr
Grandfather	le grand-père	grawn-pehr
Cousin (f)	la cousine	koo-zeen
Cousin (m)	le cousin	koo-zahn
Wife	la femme	fawn
Husband	le mari	mah-ree
Woman	la femme	fawn
Man	l'homme	ohm
Girl	la fille	fee
Boy	le garçon	gar-sohn
Niece	la nièce	nee-ess
Nephew	le neveu	nuh-vuh
Grandchildren	les petits-enfants	puh-tee-zawn-fawn
Granddaughter	la petite-fille	puh-teet fee
Grandson	le petit-fils	puh-tee feez
Distant Relatives	des parents éloignés	pahr-awn zay-lwawn-yay
Single	célibataire	say-lee-bah-tair
Married	marié(e)	mah-ree-ay
Separated	séparé(e)	say-pah-ray
Divorced	divorcé(e)	dee-vor-say
Widower / Widow	veuf / veuve	vuhf / vuhv
Dog	le chien / la chienne	shee-ahn / shee-enn
Cat	le chat / la chatte	shah / shaht
Puppy	le chiot	shee-oh
Kitten	le chaton	shah-tohn
Pig	le cochon	koh-shohn
Rooster	le coq	kohk

Rabbit	le lapin	lah-pahn
Cow	la vache	vahsh
Horse	le cheval	chuh-val
Duck	le canard	kah-nahr
Goat	la chèvre	shev-ruh
Goose	l'oie	lwah
Sheep	le mouton	moo-tohn
Lamb	l'agneau	lon-yoh
Donkey	l'âne	lon
Mouse	la souris	soo-ree

18. To Know People and Places

connaître-to know people (<i>koh-net-truh</i>)		savoir-to know facts (<i>sahv-wahr</i>)	
connais <i>koh-neh</i>	connaissons <i>koh-nezz-ohñ</i>	sais <i>say</i>	savons <i>sah-vohn</i>
connais <i>koh-neh</i>	connaissez <i>koh-nezz-ay</i>	sais <i>say</i>	savez <i>sav-ay</i>
connaît <i>koh-neh</i>	connaissent <i>koh-nezz</i>	sait <i>say</i>	savent <i>sahv</i>

Note: Connaître is used when you know people or places, savoir is used when you know facts. When savoir is followed by an infinitive it means to know how.

Je connais ton frère. I know your brother.
 Je sais que ton frère s'appelle Jean. I know that your brother is named John.
 Connaissez-vous Grenoble? Do you know (Are you familiar with) Grenoble?
 Oui, nous connaissons Grenoble. Yes, we know (are familiar with) Grenoble.
 Tu sais où Grenoble se trouve. You know where Grenoble is located.
 Ils savent nager. They know how to swim.

19. Formation of Plural Nouns

To make a noun plural, you usually add an -s. But there are some exceptions:

		Sing.	Plural
If a noun already ends in an -s, add nothing.	<i>bus</i>	le bus	les bus
If a noun ends in -eu or -eau, add an x.	<i>boat</i>	le bateau	les bateaux
If a <i>masculine</i> noun ends in -al or -ail, change it to -aux.	<i>horse</i>	le cheval	les chevaux
Some nouns ending in -ou add an -x instead of -s.	<i>knee</i>	le genou	les genoux

There are, of course, some weird exceptions: **un œil** (eye) - **des yeux** (eyes); **le ciel** (sky) - **les cieux** (skies); and **un jeune homme** (a young man) - **des jeunes gens** (young men).

20. Possessive Adjectives

	<u>Masc.</u>	<u>Fem.</u>	<u>Plural</u>
My	mon (<i>mohn</i>)	ma (<i>mah</i>)	mes (<i>may</i>)
Your	ton	ta	tes
His/Her/Its	son	sa	ses
Our	notre (<i>noh-truh</i>)	notre	nos (<i>noh</i>)
Your	votre	votre	vos
Their	leur (<i>luhr</i>)	leur	leurs (<i>luhr</i>)

Note: Possessive pronouns go before the noun. When a feminine noun begins with a vowel, you must use the masculine form of the pronoun for ease of pronunciation. *Ma amie* is incorrect and must be *mon amie*, even though *amie* is feminine.

C'est ma mère et mon père. This is my mother and my father.

Ce sont vos petits-enfants? These are your grandchildren?

Mes parents sont divorcés. My parents are divorced.

Sa grand-mère est veuve. His grandmother is a widow.

Notre frère est marié, mais notre sœur est célibataire. Our brother is married, but our sister is single.

Ton oncle est architecte, n'est-ce pas? Your uncle is an architect, isn't he?

Leurs cousines sont hollandaises. Their cousins are Dutch.

21. To Do or Make

Faire-to do, make (*fair*)

fais *fay* **faisons** *fezz-ohn*

fais *fay* **faites** *fett*

fait *fay* **font** *fohnt*

Faire is used in expressions of weather (il fait beau) and many other idiomatic expressions:

faire de (a sport) - to play (a sport)

faire le sourd / l'innocent - to act deaf / innocent

faire le (subject in school) - to do / study (subject)

faire le ménage - to do the housework

faire la cuisine - to do the cooking

faire la lessive - to do laundry

faire la vaisselle - to do the dishes

faire une promenade - to take a walk

faire un voyage - to take a trip

faire les courses - to run errands

faire des achats - to go shopping

faire de l'exercice - to exercise

faire attention - to pay attention

faire la queue - to stand in line

22. Work and School

	Masculine		Feminine	
architect	l'architecte	lar-shee-tekt	l'architecte	lar-shee-tekt
accountant	le comptable	kohn-tahbl	la comptable	kohn-tabl
judge	le juge	zhoozh	la juge	zhoozh
business peron	l'homme d'affaires	lohn dah-fehr	la femme d'affaires	fahn dah-fehr
baker	le boulanger	boo-lawn-zhay	la boulangère	boo-lawn-zhay
hair dresser	le coiffeur	kwah-fur	la coiffeuse	kwah-fur
computer programmer	le programmeur	proh-grah-mur	la programmeuse	proh-grah-mur
secretary	le secrétaire	suk-ray-tehr	la secrétaire	suk-ray-tehr
electrician	l'électricien	ay-lehk-tree-see-ahn	l'électricien	ay-lehk-tree-see-ahn
mechanic	le mécanicien	may-kah-nee-syahn	la mécanicienne	may-kah-nee-syenn
cook	le cuisinier	kwee-zee-nyay	la cuisinière	kwee-zee-nyay
salesperson	le vendeur	vawn-dur	la vendeuse	vawn-dur
fire fighter	le pompier	pohn-pyay	le pompier	pohn-pyay
plumber	le plombier	plohn-byay	le plombier	plohn-byay
librarian	le bibliothécaire	bee-blee-oh-teh-kehr	la bibliothécaire	bee-blee-oh-teh-kehr
police officer	l'agent de police	lah-zhawnd poh-leess	l'agent de police	lah-zhawnd poh-leess
reporter	le journaliste	zhoor-nah-leest	la journaliste	zhoor-nah-leest
factory worker	l'ouvrier	loov-ree-ay	l'ouvrière	loov-ree-ay
banker	le banquier	bahn-kee-ay	la banquière	bahn-kee-ay
lawyer	l'avocat	lah-voh-kah	l'avocate	lah-voh-kah
postal worker	le facteur	fah-tur	la factrice	fah-tur
carpenter	le charpentier	shar-pawn-tyay	le charpentier	shar-pawn-tyay
engineer	l'ingénieur	lahn-zhay-nyur	l'ingénieure	lahn-zhay-nyur
doctor	le médecin	mayd-sawn	la médecine	mayd-sawn
nurse	l'infirmier	lahn-feer-myay	l'infirmière	lahn-feer-myay
pharmacist	le pharmacien	fahr-mah-see-ahn	la pharmacienne	fahr-mah-see-ahn
psychologist	le psychologue	psee-koh-lohg	la psychologue	psee-koh-lohg
dentist	le dentiste	dawn-teest	la dentiste	dawn-teest
veterinarian	le vétérinaire	vay-tay-ree-nehr	la vétérinaire	vay-tay-ree-nehr
taxi driver	le chauffeur de taxi	shoh-furd tahk-see	le chauffeur de taxi	shoh-furd tahk-see
writer	l'écrivain	lay-kree-vahn	l'écrivaine	lay-kree-vahn
teacher	l'instituteur	lahn-stee-tew-tur	l'institutrice	lahn-stee-tew-tur

professor	le professeur	proh-fuh-sur	le professeur	proh-fuh-sur
student	l'étudiant	lay-tew-dee-awn	l'étudiante	lay-tew-dee-awnt

Note: Notice that some professions are always masculine, even if the person is a woman. There are also words that are always feminine (such as **la victime**) even if the person is a man.

Math	les mathématiques	maht-ee-mah-teek
Algebra	l'algèbre	lal-zheb
Calculus	le calcul	kahl-kool
Geometry	la géométrie	zhay-oh-may-tree
Economics	les sciences économiques	see-awns ay-kon-oh-meek
Foreign Languages	les langues étrangères	law <u>n</u> zay-traw <u>n</u> -zhair
Linguistics	la linguistique	lah <u>n</u> -gee-steek
Literature	la littérature	lee-tay-rah-tur
Philosophy	la philosophie	fee-loh-soh-fee
Psychology	la psychologie	p-see-kol-oh-zhee
Political Science	les sciences politiques	see-awns poh-lee-teek
History	l'histoire (f)	ees-twahr
Geography	la géographie	zhay-oh-grahf-ee
Physics	la physique	fees-EEK
Biology	la biologie	bee-ol-oh-zhee
Chemistry	la chimie	shee-mee
Zoology	la zoologie	zoh-ol-oh-zhee
Botany	la botanique	boh-tah-neek
Art	les arts	zahr
Music	la musique	mew-zeek
Dance	la danse	dahns
Drawing	le dessin	duh-sah <u>n</u>
Painting	la peinture	pah <u>n</u> -tur
Computer Science	l'informatique	ah <u>n</u> -for-mah-teek
Technology	la technologie	teck-no-loh-zhee
Physical Education	l'éducation physique (f)	lay-dew-kah-see-oh <u>n</u> fee-zeek

Notice that you do not use an indefinite article before professions, unless they are preceded by an adjective.

Qu'est-ce que vous faites dans la vie? What do you do for a living?

Je suis avocate. I am a lawyer. (fem.)

Je suis professeur. I am a professor.

Je suis étudiant. I am a student (masc.)

Où est-ce que vous faites les études? Where do you study?

Je vais à l'université de Michigan. I go to the university of Michigan.

Je fais mes études à l'université de Toronto. I study at the University of Toronto.

Qu'est-ce que vous étudiez? What do you study?

Quelles matières étudiez-vous? What subjects do you study?
J'étudie les langues étrangères et la linguistique. I study foreign languages and linguistics.
Je fais des mathématiques. I study/do math.
Ma spécialisation est la biologie. My major is biology.

23. Prepositions and Contractions

among	parmi	<i>par-mee</i>
at / to / in	à	<i>ah</i>
at the house of	chez	<i>shay</i>
between	entre	<i>on-truh</i>
for	pour	<i>poohr</i>
from / of / about	de	<i>duh</i>
in	dans	<i>dawn</i>
on	sur	<i>sir</i>
with	avec	<i>ah-veck</i>
without	sans	<i>sawn</i>

Prepositional Contractions

à + le = au	<i>oh</i>	at / to / in the
à + les = aux	<i>oh</i>	at / to / in the (pl.)
de + le = du	<i>dew</i>	of / from / about the
de + les = des	<i>day</i>	of / from / about the (pl.)

In: Dans vs. En

Dans is used to show the time when an action will begin, while *en* shows the length of time an action takes.

Je pars dans quinze minutes. I'm leaving in 15 minutes.
Il peut lire ce livre en une demi-heure. He can read this book in a half hour.

With: Avec vs. De vs. A vs. Chez

Avec implies doing something or going along with someone; *de* is used in phrases of manner and in many idiomatic expressions; *à* is used when referring to someone's attributes; and *chez* is used to mean "as far as (person) is concerned." To describe the way a person carries him/herself, no extra word is used.

Je vais en France avec ma sœur. I'm going to France with my sister.
Elle me remercie d'un sourire. She thanks me with a smile.
L'homme aux cheveux roux est très grand. The man with the red hair is very tall.
Chez cet enfant, tout est simple. With this child, everything is simple.
Il marche, les mains dans les poches. He walks with his hands in his pockets.

24. Countries and Nationalities / Les pays and les nationalités

France	la France	frahns	français/e	frawn-say/sez
Switzerland	la Suisse	sweess	suisse	sweess
Italy	l'Italie	lee-tah-lee	italien/ne	ee-tahl-ee-awn/enn
Germany	l'Allemagne	lahl-mawn-yuh	allemand/e	ahl-mawn/d
Spain	l'Espagne	leh-spawn-yuh	espagnol/e	es-pan-yohl
Belgium	la Belgique	bell-zheek	belge	belzh
Netherlands	les Pays-Bas	pay-ee-bah	hollandais/e	oh-lawnd-day/dehz
China	la Chine	sheen	chinois/e	sheen-wah/wez
Great Britain	la Grande-Bretagne	grahnd bruh-tawn-yuh	britannique	bree-tahn-eek
England	l'Angleterre	lawn-gluh-tair	anglais/e	an-glaz/ez
Russia	la Russie	roo-see	russe	rewss
Poland	la Pologne	poh-lohn-yuh	polonais/e	poh-lon-ay/ez
Canada	le Canada	kah-nah-dah	canadien/ne	kah-nah-dee-awn/enn
Mexico	le Mexique	meks-eek	mexicain/e	mek-see-kahn/enn
Japan	le Japon	zhap-ohn	japonais/e	zhah-poh-nay/nez
Portugal	le Portugal	pore-tew-gahl	portugais/e	por-tew-gay/gez
Brazil	le Brésil	bray-zeel	brésilien/ne	bray-zeel-ee-awn/enn
United States	les États-Unis	ay-tah-zew-nee	américain/e	ah-may-ree-kahn/kenn
Sweden	la Suède	soo-ed	suédois/e	soo-ed-wah/wez
Norway	la Norvège	nor-vehzh	norvégien/ne	nor-vehzh-ee-awn/enn
Finland	la Finlande	feen-lahnd	finlandais/e	feen-lan-day/dez
Denmark	le Danemark	dahn-mark	danois/e	dahn-wah/wez
Greece	la Grèce	grehs	grec/grecque	grek
Austria	l'Autriche	loh-treesh	autrichien/ne	oh-trees-ee-awn/enn
Australia	l'Australie	loh-strah-lee	australien/ne	oh-strahl-ee-awn/enn
Africa	l'Afrique	lah-freek	africain/e	ah-free-kahn/kenn
India	l'Inde	lahnd	indien/ne	ahn-dee-ahn/enn
Ireland	l'Irlande	leer-lawnd	irlandais/e	eer-lahn-day/dez

Note: When the nationalities are used as adjectives, they must agree with the subject of the verb (masculine vs. feminine, and singular vs. plural.) The extra ending shown above is added to signify a feminine subject. To make them plural, just add an -s (unless it already ends in an -s, then add nothing.) The masculine forms of the nationalities are also used to signify the language. And the definite article is not used before a language when it follows the verb parler (to speak.)

25. Negative Sentences

To make sentences negative, simply put **ne** and **pas** around the verb. In spoken French, however, the **ne** is frequently omitted, but it cannot be omitted in written French. And when you are replying "yes" to a negative question, you use **si** and not oui.

Je suis du Canada. I am from Canada.

Je **ne** suis **pas** du Mexique. I am not from Mexico.

Je suis française. I am French (feminine.)

Je **ne** suis **pas** suisse. I am not Swiss. (masculine or feminine)

Il est australien. He is Australian.
 Elle **n'est pas** danoise. She is not Danish.
 Elles sont des Etats-Unis. They are from the United States.
 Ils **ne** sont **pas** du Portugal. They are not from Portugal.
 Je parle chinois et japonais. I speak Chinese and Japanese.
 Je **ne** parle **pas** suédois. I don't speak Swedish.
 Vous **n'êtes pas** du Brésil? You aren't from Brazil?
Si, nous sommes du Brésil. Yes, we are from Brazil.

26. To / In and From places, cities, and countries

	Places	Cities	Countries
<i>Masc.</i>	au du	à de	au du
<i>Fem.</i>	à la de la	à de	en de
<i>Vowel</i>	à l' de l'	à d'	en d'
<i>Plural</i>	aux des	aux des	aux des

If the name of a country, continent, island, state or province ends with an e, the gender is feminine. If it ends in anything else, it is masculine. The exceptions are le Cambodge, le Maine, le Mexique, le Zaïre and le Mozambique. Some cities have an article as well, such as La Nouvelle-Orléans (New Orleans).

Prepositions with American States

	To / In	From
<i>Feminine</i>	en	de
<i>Islands</i>	à	de / d'
<i>Masc. w/ Vowel</i>	en / dans l' d' / de l'	
<i>Masc. w/ Consonant</i>	dans le	du

Californie, Caroline du Nord / Sud, Floride, Géorgie, Louisiane, Pennsylvanie, and Virginie are the feminine states. The exception to the masculine beginning with a consonant rule is Texas: in / to Texas is au Texas.

27. To Come and to Go

Venir-to come (<i>vuh-neer</i>)				Aller-to go (<i>ah-lay</i>)			
viens	<i>vee-ahn</i>	venons	<i>vuh-nohn</i>	vais	<i>vay</i>	allons	<i>ah-lohn</i>
viens	<i>vee-ahn</i>	venez	<i>vuh-nay</i>	vas	<i>vah</i>	allez	<i>ah-lay</i>
vient	<i>vee-ahn</i>	viennent	<i>vee-enn</i>	va	<i>vah</i>	vont	<i>vohn</i>

Other verbs that are conjugated like venir: **tenir** - to hold, **devenir** - to become, **obtenir** - to get, **revenir** - to come back.

Je viens des Etats-Unis. I come from the United States.
 Il tient un crayon. He's holding a pencil.
 Nous allons en Espagne. We're going to Spain.
 Tu ne vas pas au Brésil cet été. You're not going to Brazil this summer.

Aller + an infinitive means "going to do something."
 Ils vont aller en Angleterre. They are going to go to England.
 Elle va parler russe. She's going to speak Russian.
 Je vais devenir professeur. I'm going to become a professor.

Aller is also used idiomatically when talking about health.
 Comment vas-tu? How are you?
 Je vais bien. I'm fine.

Venir de + an infinitive means "to have just done something."
 Il vient d'aller à la Finlande. He just went to Finland.
 Vous venez de manger une pomme. You just ate an apple.

28. Conjugating Regular Verbs in the Present Indicative Tense

Verbs in French end in -er, -re, or -ir. The verb before it is conjugated is called the infinitive. Removing the last two letters leaves you with the stem (**aimer** is the infinitive, **aim-** is the stem.) The present indicative tense indicates an ongoing action, general state, or habitual activity. Besides the simple present tense (I write, I run, I see); there are two other forms of the present tense in English: the progressive (I am writing, I am running, etc.) and the emphatic (I do write, I do run, etc.) However, these three English present tenses are all translated by the present indicative tense in French.

To conjugate verbs in the present tense, use the stem and add the following endings.

<u>-er</u>		<u>-re</u>		<u>1st -ir</u>		<u>2nd -ir*</u>	
-e	-ons	-s	-ons	-is	-issons	-s	-ons
-es	-ez	-s	-ez	-is	-issez	-s	-ez
-e	-ent	-	-ent	-it	-issent	-t	-ent

Sample Regular Verbs

aimer -to like, love				vendre - to sell			
j'aime	<i>zhem</i>	aimons	<i>em-ohn</i>	vends	<i>vawn</i>	vendons	<i>vawn-dohn</i>
aimes	<i>em</i>	aimez	<i>em-ay</i>	vends	<i>vawn</i>	vendez	<i>vawn-day</i>
aime	<i>em</i>	aiment	<i>em</i>	vend	<i>vawn</i>	vendent	<i>vawn</i>

finir - to finish				partir - to leave			
finis	<i>fee-nee</i>	finissons	<i>fee-nee-sohn</i>	pars	<i>pahr</i>	partons	<i>pahr-tohn</i>
finis	<i>fee-nee</i>	finissez	<i>fee-nee-say</i>	pars	<i>pahr</i>	partez	<i>pahr-tay</i>
finit	<i>fee-nee</i>	finissent	<i>fee-neess</i>	part	<i>pahr</i>	partent	<i>pahrt</i>

Regular verbs

-er

-re

aimer	<i>em-ay</i>	to like, love	vendre	<i>vawn-druh</i>	to sell
chanter	<i>shahn-tay</i>	to sing	attendre	<i>ah-tawn-druh</i>	to wait for
chercher	<i>share-shay</i>	to look for	entendre	<i>awn-tawn-druh</i>	to listen
commencer	<i>koh-mawn-say</i>	to begin	perdre	<i>pair-druh</i>	to lose
donner	<i>dohn-nay</i>	to give	répondre (à)	<i>ray-pohn-druh (ah)</i>	to answer
étudier	<i>ay-too-dee-ay</i>	to study	descendre	<i>deh-sawn-druh</i>	to go down
fermer	<i>fehr-may</i>	to close	1st -ir		
habiter	<i>ah-bee-tay</i>	to live	bâtir	<i>bah-teer</i>	to build
jouer	<i>zhoo-ay</i>	to play	finir	<i>fee-neer</i>	to finish
manger	<i>mawn-zhay</i>	to eat	choisir	<i>shwa-zeer</i>	to choose
montrer	<i>mohn-tray</i>	to show	punir	<i>poo-neer</i>	to punish
parler	<i>par-lay</i>	to speak	remplir	<i>rawn-pleer</i>	to fill
penser	<i>pawn-say</i>	to think	obéir (à)	<i>oh-bay-eer (ah)</i>	to obey
travailler	<i>trah-vy-yay</i>	to work	réussir	<i>ray-oo-seer</i>	to succeed
trouver	<i>troo-vay</i>	to find	guérir	<i>gay-reer</i>	to cure, heal

Note: If a verb is followed by **à** (like **répondre**) you have to use the **à** and any contractions after the conjugated verb. *Ex:* Je réponds **au** téléphone.

* The 2nd -ir verbs are considered irregular sometimes because there are only a few verbs which follow that pattern. Other verbs like **partir** are **sortir** (to go out), **dormir** (to sleep), **mentir** (to lie), **sentir** (to smell, feel) and **servir** (to serve.)

29. Pronominal (Reflexive) Verbs

These verbs are conjugated like normal verbs, but they require an extra pronoun before the verb. Most indicate a reflexive action but some are idiomatic and can't be translated literally. The pronouns are:

me nous
te vous
se se

Some Pronominal Verbs

s'amuser	to have fun	se reposer	to rest
se lever	to get up	se souvenir de	to remember
se laver	to wash (oneself)	s'entendre bien	to get along well
se dépêcher	to hurry	se coucher	to go to bed
se peigner	to comb	se brosser	to brush
s'habiller	to get dressed	se maquiller	to put on makeup
se marier	to get married	se casser	to break (arm, leg, etc.)

Note: When used in the infinitive, such as after another verb, the reflexive pronoun agrees with the subject of the sentence. **Je vais me coucher maintenant.** I'm going to go to bed.

Sample Irregular Pronominal Verb

s'asseoir - to sit down

je m'assieds	<i>mah-see-ay</i>	nous nous asseyons	<i>noo-zah-say-oh</i>
tu t'assieds	<i>tah-see-ay</i>	vous vous asseyez	<i>vous-zah-say-yay</i>
il s'assied	<i>sah-see-ay</i>	ils s'asseyent	<i>sah-say-ee</i>

30. Irregularities in Regular Verbs

1. Verbs that end in -ger and -cer: The *nous* form of *manger* isn't mangons, but mangeons. The *e* has to stay so the *g* can retain the soft sound. The *nous* form of *commencer* isn't commencons, but commençons. The *c* must have the accent (called a cedilla) under it to make the *c* sound soft.

manger-to eat				commencer-to begin			
mange	<i>mawnzh</i>	mangeons	<i>mawn-zhoh</i>	commence	<i>koh-mawnz</i>	commençons	<i>koh-mawn-soh</i>
manges	<i>mawnzh</i>	mangez	<i>mawn-zhay</i>	commences	<i>koh-mawnz</i>	commencez	<i>koh-mawn-say</i>
mange	<i>mawnzh</i>	mangent	<i>mawnzh</i>	commence	<i>koh-mawnz</i>	commencent	<i>koh-mawnz</i>

2. Verbs that add or change to an accent grave: Some verbs add or change to an accent grave (è) in all the forms except the *nous* and *vous*.

acheter-to buy				espérer-to hope			
j'achète	<i>zhah-shet</i>	achetons	<i>ahsh-toh</i>	j'espère	<i>zhess-pehr</i>	espérons	<i>ess-pay-roh</i>
achètes	<i>ah-shet</i>	achetez	<i>ahsh-tay</i>	espères	<i>ess-pehr</i>	espérez	<i>ess-pay-ray</i>
achète	<i>ah-shet</i>	achètent	<i>ah-shet</i>	espère	<i>ess-pehr</i>	espèrent	<i>ess-pehr</i>

3. Verbs that are conjugated as -er verbs: Some -ir verbs are conjugated with -er endings. For example: **offrir**-to offer, give, **ouvrir**-to open, **couvrir**-to cover, **découvrir**-to discover and **souffrir**-to suffer.

offrir-to offer			
j'offre	<i>zhaw-fruh</i>	offrons	<i>aw-froh</i>
offres	<i>aw-fruh</i>	offrez	<i>aw-fray</i>
offre	<i>aw-fruh</i>	offrent	<i>aw-fruh</i>

4. Verbs that end in -yer: Change the *y* to an *i* in all forms except the *nous* and *vous*. Examples: **envoyer**-to send (*awn-vwah-yay*), **nettoyer**-to clean (*nuh-twah-yay*), **essayer**-to try (*ess-ah-yay*)

envoyer-to send			
j'envoie	<i>zhawn-vwah</i>	envoyons	<i>awn-vwah-yoh</i>
envoies	<i>awn-vwah</i>	envoyez	<i>awn-vwah-yay</i>
envoie	<i>awn-vwah</i>	envoient	<i>awn-vwah</i>

5. Verbs that double the consonant: Some verbs, such as **appeler**-to call (*ahp-lay*), and **jeter**-to throw (*zheh-tay*) double the consonant in all forms except the *nous* and *vous*.

appeler-to call
j'appelle *zhah-pell* **appelons** *ahp-lohn*
appelles *ah-pell* **appelez** *ahp-lay*
appelle *ah-pell* **appellent** *ah-pell*

31. The Past Indefinite Tense or Passé Composé

You have learned the present indicative so far, which expresses what happens, is happening, or does happen now; but if you want to say something happened, or has happened, you have to use the *passé composé*. The *passé composé* is used for actions that happened only once, a specified number of times or during a specified period of time, and as a result or consequence of another action. All you need to learn are the past participles of the verbs.

Regular Verbs: Formation of the Past Participle

-er **-é**
-re **-u**
-ir **-i**

Then conjugate **avoir** and add the **past participle**:

J' ai aimé le concert.	I liked the concert.
Tu as habité ici?	You lived here?
Il a répondu au téléphone.	He answered (or has answered) the telephone.
Nous avons fini le projet.	We finished (or have finished) the project.
Elles ont rempli les tasses.	They filled (or have filled) the cups.

To make it negative, put the **ne** and **pas** around the conjugated form of **avoir**.

Je n' ai pas aimé le concert.	I didn't like the concert.
Il n' a pas répondu .	He didn't answer (or hasn't answered) .
Elles n' ont pas rempli les tasses.	They didn't fill (or haven't filled) the glasses.

32. Irregular Past Participles

avoir	to have	eu (ew)	had	ouvrir	to open	ouvert (oo-vehr)	opened
connaître	to know	connu	known	offrir	to offer	offert	offered
croire	to believe	cru	believed	pouvoir	to be able to	pu	was

devoir	to have to	dû	had to	prendre	to take	pris (pree)	able to taken
dire	to tell	dit	said	apprendre	to learn	appris	learned
écrire	to write	écrit	written	comprendre	to understand	compris	understood
être	to be	été	been	surprendre	to surprise	surpris	surprised
faire	to do, make	fait	made	recevoir	to receive	reçu (reh-sew)	received
lire	to read	lu	read	rire	to laugh	ri	laughed
mettre	to put	mis (me)	put	savoir	to know	su	known
permettre	to permit	permis	permitted	voir	to see	vu	seen
promettre	to promise	promis	promised	vouloir	to want	voulu (voo-lew)	wanted

33. Etre Verbs

Sixteen "house" verbs and **all pronominal verbs** are conjugated with **être**, and they must agree in gender and number with the subject. The house verbs are:

aller-to go	sortir-to go out	venir-to come	mourir-to die
arriver-to arrive	partir-to leave	devenir-to become	monter-to go up
entrer-to enter	tomber-to fall	revenir-to come back	rester-to stay
rentrer-to return home	naître-to be born	passer-to go by (pass)	descendre-to go down

Most have regular past participles, except **venir-venu**, **devenir-devenu**, **revenir-revenu**, **mourir-mort**, and **naître-né**. And five of these verbs, **monter**, **descendre**, **sortir**, **rentrer**, and **passer** can sometimes be conjugated with *avoir* if they are used with a *direct object*. Elle a rentré *le livre* à la bibliothèque. She returned *the book* to the library.

Conjugation of an être verb

Je suis resté(e)	Nous sommes resté(e)s
Tu es resté(e)	Vous êtes resté(e)(s)
Il est resté	Ils sont restés
Elle est restée	Elles sont restées

You add the **e** for feminine and **s** for plural. Vous can have any of the endings.

Conjugation of a Pronominal Verb

Je me suis amusé(e)	Nous nous sommes amusé(e)s
Tu t'es amusé(e)	Vous vous êtes amusé(e)(s)
Il s'est amusé	Ils se sont amusés
Elle s'est amusée	Elles se sont amusées

There are only two cases with pronominal verbs where the past participle does not agree:

1. When the pronominal verb is followed by a direct object.

Compare: **Elles se sont lavées**, but **elles se sont lavé les mains**.

2. With verbs where the reflexive pronoun is an indirect object, such as **se parler, se demander, se dire, s'écrire, se sourire, and se téléphoner**.
Ils se sont téléphoné.

34. Food and Meals / La Nourriture et Les Repas

Breakfast	le petit déjeuner	<i>puh-tee day-zhew-nay</i>
Lunch	le déjeuner	<i>day-zhew-nay</i>
Dinner	le dîner	<i>dee-nay</i>
Cup	la tasse	<i>tahss</i>
Slice	la tranche	<i>trawnsh</i>
Bowl	le bol	<i>bohl</i>
Glass	le verre	<i>verr</i>
Salt and Pepper	le sel et le poivre	<i>luh sell ay luh pwahv-ruh</i>
Fork	la fourchette	<i>foor-shett</i>
Spoon	la cuillère	<i>kwee-yehr</i>
Knife	le couteau	<i>koo-toh</i>
Plate	l'assiette (f)	<i>ah-syett</i>
Napkin	la serviette	<i>ser-vyett</i>
Ice cream	la glace	<i>glahss</i>
Juice	le jus	<i>zhew</i>
Fruit	le fruit	<i>fwee</i>
Cheese	le fromage	<i>froh-mawzh</i>
Chicken	le poulet	<i>poo-lay</i>
Egg	l'œuf (m)	<i>luff</i>
Cake	le gâteau	<i>gah-toh</i>
Pie	la tarte	<i>tart</i>
Milk	le lait	<i>leh</i>
Coffee	le café	<i>kah-fay</i>
Butter	le beurre	<i>burr</i>
Water	l'eau	<i>loh</i>
Ham	le jambon	<i>zham-bohn</i>
Fish	le poisson	<i>pwah-sohn</i>
Tea	le thé	<i>tay</i>
Salad	la salade	<i>sah-lahd</i>
Jam	la confiture	<i>kon-fee-chur</i>
Meat	la viande	<i>vee-awnd</i>
French fries	les frites (f)	<i>freet</i>
Beer	la bière	<i>bee-ehr</i>
Wine	le vin	<i>vahn</i>

Sugar
Soup

le sucre
le potage

soo-kruh
poh-tawzh

35. Fruits, Vegetables and Meat

fruit	un fruit	<i>fwee</i>	corn	le maïs	<i>mah-eez</i>
apple	une pomme	<i>pohm</i>	cucumber	un concombre	<i>cohn-cohn-bruh</i>
apricot	un abricot	<i>ah-bree-koh</i>	eggplant	une aubergine	<i>oh-behr-zheen</i>
banana	une banane	<i>bah-nahn</i>	lettuce	la laitue	<i>leh-tew</i>
blueberry	une myrtille	<i>meer-tee</i>	mushroom	un champignon	<i>shahm-pee-nyohn</i>
cherry	une cerise	<i>suh-reez</i>	onion	un oignon	<i>wawn-yohn</i>
coconut	une noix de coco	<i>nwah duh koh-koh</i>	peas	les pois	<i>pwah</i>
date	une date	<i>daht</i>	pepper	un piment	<i>pee-mawn</i>
fig	une figue	<i>feeg</i>	potato	une pomme de terre	<i>pohm duh tehr</i>
grape	un raisin	<i>reh-zahn</i>	pumpkin	une citrouille	<i>see-troo-ee</i>
grapefruit	un pamplemousse	<i>pahm-pluh-moos</i>	rice	le riz	<i>reez</i>
lemon	un citron	<i>see-trohn</i>	spinach	des épinards	<i>ay-pee-nar</i>
lime	un limon	<i>lee-mohn</i>	squash	une courge	<i>koorz</i>
melon	un melon	<i>mel-ohn</i>	tomato	une tomate	<i>to-maht</i>
olive	une olive	<i>oh-leev</i>	turnip	un navet	<i>nah-vay</i>
orange	une orange	<i>oh-ranzh</i>	zucchini	des courgettes	<i>koor-zhett</i>
peach	une pêche	<i>pesh</i>	meat	une viande	<i>vee-awnd</i>
pear	une poire	<i>pwahr</i>	bacon	du lard, du bacon	<i>lar, bah-kohn</i>
pineapple	un ananas	<i>ah-nah-nah</i>	beef	le bifteck	<i>beef-teck</i>
plum	une prune	<i>prewn</i>	chicken	un poulet	<i>poo-lay</i>
prune	un pruneau	<i>proo-noh</i>	duck	un canard	<i>kah-nar</i>
raisin	un raisin sec	<i>reh-zahn sek</i>	goat	une chèvre	<i>shev-ruh</i>
raspberry	une framboise	<i>frwahn-bwahz</i>	ham	le jambon	<i>zhahm-bohn</i>
strawberry	une fraise	<i>frez</i>	lamb	l'agneau	<i>awn-yoh</i>
watermelon	une pastèque	<i>pah-stek</i>	liver	le foie	<i>fwah</i>
vegetable	une légume	<i>leh-goom</i>	meatballs	des boulettes de viande	<i>boo-lett duh vee-awnd</i>
artichoke	un artichaut	<i>ar-tee-sho</i>	pork chop	une côtelette de porc	<i>kote-lett duh pork</i>
asparagus	des asperges	<i>ahs-pehrzh</i>	rabbit	un lapin	<i>lah-pahn</i>
beet	une betterave	<i>bett-rahv</i>	T-bone steak	une côte de bœuf	<i>kote duh buf</i>
broccoli	le brocoli	<i>broh-coh-lee</i>	sausage	la saucisse	<i>so-seess</i>
cabbage	un chou	<i>shoo</i>	turkey	une dinde	<i>dahnd</i>
carrot	une carotte	<i>cah-roht</i>	veal	le veau	<i>voh</i>
cauliflower	un chou-fleur	<i>shoo-flir</i>	venison	un chevreuil	<i>shuv-ruh-ee</i>

celery un céleri say-lay-ree

36. To Take, Eat or Drink

Prendre-to take, eat or drink (<i>prawn-druh</i>)				Boire-to drink (<i>bwahr</i>)			
prends	<i>prawn</i>	prenons	<i>pruh-nohn</i>	bois	<i>bwah</i>	buvs	<i>bew-vohn</i>
prends	<i>prawn</i>	prenez	<i>pru-nay</i>	bois	<i>bwah</i>	buvez	<i>bew-vay</i>
prend	<i>prawn</i>	prennent	<i>prenn</i>	boit	<i>bwah</i>	boivent	<i>bwahv</i>

Other verbs that are conjugated like prendre: **apprendre** - to learn, **comprendre** - to understand and **surprendre** - to surprise.

Note: When you want to say "I am having wine," the French translation is "*Je prends du vin.*" You must use *de* and *le, la, l',* or *les* and the proper *contractions* (called **partitives**) because in French you must also express *some*. So "*je prends de la bière*" literally means "I am having some beer" even though in English we would usually only say *I am having beer*.

Manger is a regular verb meaning "to eat," but manger is used in a general sense, such as **Je mange le poulet tous les samedis**. I eat chicken every Saturday. **Boire** is literally the verb to drink and is also used in a general sense only. **Je bois du vin tout le temps**. I drink wine all the time.

37. Quantities

assez de	enough (of)	un morceau de	a piece of	une douzaine de	a dozen of
une assiette de	a plate of	un peu de	a little (bit) of	un paquet de	a packet of
beaucoup de	a lot of	une tasse de	a cup of	un panier de	a basket of
une boîte de	a box of	une tranche de	a slice of	une poignée de	a handful of
une bouteille de	a bottle of	trop de	too much, many	plus de	more
un kilo de	a kilo of	un verre de	a glass of	un bouquet de	a bunch of

Note: With quantities and negatives, you never use partitives. The construction is always **de** or **d' + noun**.

Je voudrais prendre du fromage, mais pas de fruit. I would like to have some cheese, but no fruit.

Il prend de la viande. He is eating some meat.

Nous prenons du riz et du brocoli. We are having some rice and broccoli.

Il y a trop de lait dans la tasse. There is too much milk in the cup.

Je voudrais un morceau de tarte. I would like one piece of pie.

Est-ce que je peux prendre un verre de vin? May I have a glass of wine?

Je prends du vin. I'm drinking some wine.

Je ne prends pas de vin. I am not drinking any wine.

38. Commands

Use the vous, tu and nous forms for commands.

Vous form	<i>Polite and Plural</i>	Same as verb form	Restez!	Stay!
Tu form	<i>Familiar</i>	Same as verb form, but drop -s for -er verbs	Regarde!	Watch!
Nous form	<i>Let's...</i>	Same as verb form	Allons!	Let's go!

Note: With using pronominal verbs as commands, the pronoun is placed after the verb connected by a hyphen. *Tu te dépêches* becomes *Dépêche-toi!* And in negative commands, the pronoun precedes the verb, as in *Ne nous reposons pas.*

Irregular Command Forms

être (be)			avoir (have)			savoir (know)		
tu	sois	<i>swah</i>	tu	aie	<i>ay</i>	tu	sache	<i>sahsh</i>
nous	soyons	<i>swah-yohn</i>	nous	ayons	<i>ay-yohn</i>	nous	sachons	<i>sah-shohn</i>
vous	soyez	<i>swah-yay</i>	vous	ayez	<i>ay-yay</i>	vous	sachez	<i>sah-shay</i>

Ne sois pas méchant à ta sœur! Don't be mean to your sister!
 N'ayez pas peur! Don't be afraid!
 Sachez les mots pour l'examen demain! Know the words for the exam tomorrow!

39. More Negatives

ne...plus	no longer
ne...jamais	never
ne...rien	nothing
ne...aucun(e)	not a single one
ne...que	only
ne...personne	nobody
ne...ni...ni	neither...nor
ne...nulle part	nowhere

The negatives are used exactly like **ne...pas**; but **que** in **ne...que** is placed directly before the noun it limits. **Rien** and **personne** may be used as subjects: **Personne n'est** ici. **Aucun(e)** by definition is singular, so the verb and nouns must also be changed to the singular. With **ni...ni**, all articles are dropped except definite articles. *Je n'ai ni caméra ni caméscope*, but *Je n'aime ni les chats ni les chiens.*

Il **n'aime plus** travailler. He no longer likes to work. (Or: He doesn't like to work anymore)
 Nous **ne** voulons faire des achats **que** lundi. We want to go shopping only on Monday.
 Elle **ne** déteste **personne**. She hates no one. (Or: She doesn't hate anyone.)

Negatives with Passé Composé

1. **Ne...pas, ne...plus, ne...jamais, and ne...rien**

Ne comes before auxiliary verb, and the other part is between auxiliary and past participle.
 Nous n'avons rien fait. *We did nothing.* Vous ne vous êtes pas ennuyés. *You were not bored.*

2. **Ne...personne, ne...aucun, ne...ni...ni, ne...nulle part, and ne... que**

Ne comes before the auxiliary verb, but the other part is after the past participle.

Il n'a écouté personne. *He listened to no one.* Il n'a fait aucune faute. *He made not a single mistake.*

* Use of **ne ... pas de**: In negative sentences, the partitives and indefinite articles become **de** before the noun (unless the verb is être, then nothing changes.)

Partitive: Je prends **du** pain et **du** beurre. I'm having some bread and butter.

Negative: Je ne prends pas **de** pain ou **de** beurre. I am not having any bread or butter.

Indefinite: J'ai **un** chien. I have a dog.

Negative: Je n'ai pas **de** chien. I don't have a dog.

Verb is être: C'est **une** chatte brune. It's a brown cat.

Negative: Ce n'est pas **une** chatte brune. It's not a brown cat.

40. Holiday Phrases

Merry Christmas	Joyeux Noël	zhoy-uh no-ell
Happy New Year	Bonne Année	bun ah-nay
Happy Thanksgiving	Bonne Action de grâces	bun ak-see-oh <u>n</u> de grahss
Happy Easter	Joyeuses Pâques	zhoy-uhss pawk
Happy Halloween	Bonne Halloween	bun ah-loh-ween
Happy Valentine's Day	Bonne Saint-Valentin	bun sah <u>nt</u> -val-aw <u>n</u> -tah <u>n</u>
Happy Birthday	Bon Anniversaire	bohn ahn-nee-vair-sair

The French National Anthem: **La Marseillaise**

by Claude-Joseph Rouget de L'isle

Allons enfants de la Patrie, Le jour de gloire est arrivé.
Contre nous, de la tyrannie,
L'étendard sanglant est levé, l'étendard sanglant est levé.
Entendez-vous dans les campagnes Mugir ces farouches soldats.
Ils viennent jusque dans nos bras égorger vos fils, vos compagnes.
Aux armes citoyens! Formez vos bataillons, Marchons, marchons!
Qu'un sang impur Abreuve nos sillons.

Amour sacré de la Patrie,
Conduis, soutiens nos bras vengeurs.
Liberté, liberté chérie,
Combats avec tes défenseurs;
Sous nos drapeaux, que la victoire
Accoure à tes mâles accents;
Que tes ennemis expirants
Voient ton triomphe et notre gloire!
Aux armes citoyens!
Formez vos bataillons,
Marchons, marchons!
Qu'un sang impur Abreuve nos sillons.

*Ye sons of France, awake to glory, Hark, hark, what
myriads bid you rise: Your children, wives and grandsires
hoary, Behold their tears and hear their cries, see their
tears and hear their cries! Shall hateful tyrants mischief
breeding with hireling hosts, a ruffian band
Affright and desolate the land, while peace and liberty lie bleeding?
To arms, to arms, ye brave! Th'avenging sword unsheathe!
March on! March on! All hearts resolved on victory or death.*

*O sacred love of france, undying,
Th'avenging arm uphold and guide
Thy defenders, death defying,
Fight with Freedom on their side.
Soon thy sons shall be victorious
When the banner high is raised;
And thy dying enemies, amazed,
Shall behold thy triumph, great and glorious.
To arms, to arms, ye brave! Th'avenging sword unsheathe!
March on! March on! All hearts resolved on victory or death.*

Translation by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1st verse) and Mary Elizabeth Shaw (2nd verse) (This is not a literal translation.)

The Canadian National Anthem: **O Canada**

O Canada, terre de nos aïeux,
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux.
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix.
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.
Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.

*O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada,
We stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.*