

# FRENCH CONJUGATION GUIDE



Essential tips for mastering  
French conjugation in months,  
not years

## Introduction

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Hi! Welcome to the French Conjugation Guide!

Verb conjugation is one of the most challenging aspects of the French language. There are over 9,000 verbs in French, each with numerous forms, both regular and irregular. Learning them all can seem overwhelming.

The good news is that you don't need to know all of them to achieve a good level of French, and you don't have to memorize endless conjugation tables! In this guide, we'll share a few important principles that can help you master French conjugation much faster.



## Tip 1: Learn in Context

Learning verb conjugations in context is more effective than memorizing conjugation tables.

When we speak, verbs are rarely used in isolation as they appear in conjugation tables. Instead, they are typically **embedded within sentences** where context provides additional meaning.

For example, you might hear phrases like “J’ai acheté une voiture.” (I bought a car) or “Je me suis réveillé à 9 heures.” (I woke up at 9 o'clock).



## Tip 1: Learn in Context

In the examples above, the conjugated verbs ('ai acheté', 'me suis réveillé') are used in specific **contexts**. These contexts can help us to remember their conjugation patterns, which can be applied in other situations.

Therefore, learning verbs in sentences will help you master verb conjugation much faster.



## Tip 2: Leverage the power of repetition

**Repetition** is fundamental to learning.

When we encounter information several times – through reading, listening or practising – it becomes more familiar and easier to remember.

The more we come across a verb form in different contexts, the easier it becomes to remember and use it.

For example, if you read or hear “**Je suis** allé...” a few times, it will start to sound natural to your ear and a phrase like “**J’ai** allé” will sound wrong.



## Tip 2: Leverage the power of repetition

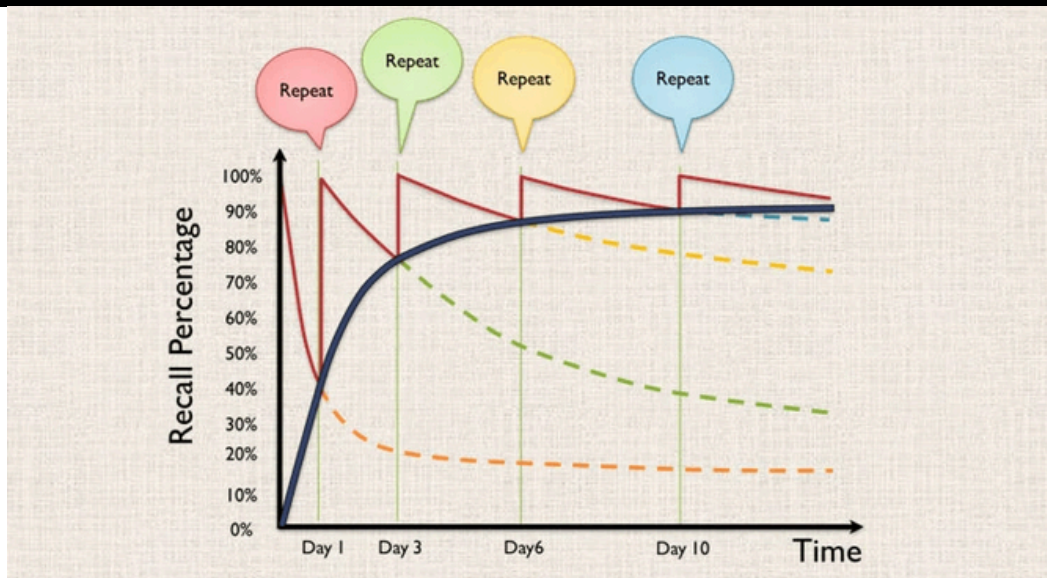
You can take it a step further by using **Spaced Repetition System** (SRS).

Spaced repetition is a learning strategy where new information is repeatedly **reviewed at increasing intervals** to optimize retention and long-term memory.

Spaced Repetition is scientifically proven to help you retain far more information than traditional learning techniques, such as cramming for a test.



## Tip 2: Leverage the power of repetition



Let's say you want to learn a new conjugation form like 'Je sors'. Instead of trying to memorize it by repeating it for 10-15 minutes, you're far more likely to remember it **long-term** by encountering it once or twice on the first day and then reviewing it at increasing intervals. For instance, you might review it again in 2 days, then in 4 days, 7 days, 15 days, and so on.



## Tip 3: Practise and Learn from Mistakes

**Mistakes** are a natural, important, and inevitable part of the learning process.

No matter how much you study and how hard you try to avoid making mistakes, you will still make them. So make sure you practise what you've learned and don't be afraid to make mistakes. See them as learning opportunities and you'll progress much faster.

Review your mistakes from time to time and understand the patterns behind them.





## Tip 4: Focus on the most common verbs and tenses

Although French has over 9,000 verbs and more than 15 tenses, only a fraction of them are used in everyday French.

If your goal is to understand native speakers and express yourself **in most everyday situations**, you should focus on the most common verbs and tenses first. Once you've mastered these, you can learn less common verbs and tenses, such as those used in formal or literary contexts.

The most common tenses include “le présent”, “le passé composé”, “l'imparfait”, “le futur simple” and a few others.



## Tip 5: Use Conjugation Master regularly

**Conjugation Master** is designed based on the 4 principles we've discussed: it helps you practise verb conjugations in context, shows you phrases at increasing intervals (**SRS system**), takes into account your mistakes, teaches you the **most common verbs and tenses** and allows you to review your mistakes.

We recommend using the app regularly to get the most out of the repetition system. You can already see progress after using the app for 5-10 minutes a day for a few weeks!

## Conclusion and Next Steps

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Here is a summary of the principles we've discussed:

- learn verb conjugations in context,
- use the power of repetition,
- practise and learn from your mistakes,
- focus on the most common verbs and tenses,
- use Conjugation Master regularly.

Applying these principles can help you master French conjugation in months, not years.

Head over to **[app.lingway.net](https://app.lingway.net)** to complete your daily conjugation lesson!

*Thank you!*



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