

FRENCH SUMMER TASK

- **YOUR TASK IS TO REVISE THE 5 TENSES BELOW & WRITE A 250 WORD SUMMARY OF YOUR SUMMER** (include what you plan/would like to do at the start of the summer and describe what you ended up doing with opinions)

Le présent

Le passé composé

L'imparfait

Le futur simple

Le conditionnel

- Grammar can be tough – it's important to make sure you keep up with it and reinforce your knowledge often. Otherwise, you will be in trouble at exam time!
- Invest in a grammar exercise book – there are hundreds of different ones available and a lot of them go right from the basics of conjugating the present tense etc. Probably the most useful is the 'Heinemann A-Level French Grammar Practice' which is matched to your textbook and specification
- <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/> is excellent for grammar practice + has a lot of different exercises under the grammar section. There is a section called 'Verb busters' which (sounds ridiculous but) is extremely helpful for practising conjugating in all tenses. Short, regular sessions of using it a few times a week are one of the best ways of improving your conjugation skills.

French Grammar: Tenses

1) In any language, when we refer to something happening, we always use a tense to indicate whether it is going to, is, or has already, happened.

e.g. I'm *going to eat* an apple. I *am eating* an apple. I *ate* an apple.

2) French verbs are formed by: a stem + an ending (-ER, -RE, -IR)

3) To use the verbs in different tenses, we need to know some rules. These rules are simple and are applied to nearly all verbs.

4) Unfortunately, some verbs do not follow these rules and it is therefore important to know these **IRREGULAR VERBS** such as “aller” (to go), “faire” (to do), “avoir” (to have) or “être” (to be).

5) Tenses:

Le présent

Le passé composé

L'imparfait

Le futur simple

Le conditionnel

Le Présent

When to use it: To talk about what is happening at the moment
To talk about what happens usually/normally

Time phrases: Tous les jours (everyday), chaque jour (everyday),
chaque matin (every morning), parfois (sometimes), etc.

Regular Verbs

1) **ER verbs:** take off the **-ER** and add the endings:

- e
- es
- e
- e
- ons
- ez
- ent
- ent

2) **IR verbs:** take off the **-IR** and add the endings:

- is
- is
- it
- it
- issons
- issez
- issent
- issent

3) **RE verbs:** take off the **-RE** and add the endings:

- s
- s
-
-
- ons
- ez
- ent
- ent

Examples:

Parler

Je parle
Tu parles
Il/Elle parle
Nous parl**ons**
Vous par**lez**
Il/Elles parl**ent**

Finir

Je fin**is**
Tu fin**is**
Il/Elle fin**it**
Nous finiss**ons**
Vous finiss**ez**
Il/Elles finiss**ent**

Vendre

Je vend**s**
Tu vend**s**
Il/Elle vend
Nous vend**ons**
Vous vend**ez**
Il/Elles vend**ent**

Irregular Verbs

As in every French tense there are always irregular verbs. These verbs do not follow the rules. You just have to learn them off!

Examples:

Être

Je suis
Tu es
Il/Elle est
Nous sommes
Vous êtes
Il/Elles sont

Avoir

J'ai
Tu as
Il/Elle a
Nous avons
Vous avez
Il/Elles ont

Aller

Je vais
Tu vas
Il/Elle va
Nous allons
Vous allez
Il/Elles vont

Faire

Je fais
Tu fais
Il/Elle fait
Nous faisons
Vous faites
Il/Elles font

Common irregular verbs:

venir: to come

pouvoir: to be able

vouloir: to want/wish

partir: to leave

prendre: to take

sortir: to go out

voir: to see

lire: to read

boire: to drink

écrire: to write

Le Passé Composé

When to use it: To talk about something that has happened in the past and is now finished.

Time phrases: La semaine dernière (last week), hier (yesterday), etc.

Le passé composé is made up of **2** parts:

- 1) The auxiliary verb (the present tense of AVOIR or ÊTRE)
- +
- 2) The past participle (donné, parlé, sorti, fait, etc)

Regular AVOIR Verbs

The present tense of avoir + the past participle

- 1) **-ER verbs:** take off the **-ER** and add **é**

Donner

J'ai donné

Tu as donné

Il/Elle a donné

Nous avons donné

Vous avez donné

Ils/Elles ont donné

- 2) **-IR verbs:** take off the **-IR** and add **i**

Finir

J'ai fini

Tu as fini

Il/Elle a fini

Nous avons fini

Vous avez fini

Ils/Elles ont fini

3) –RE verbs: take off the –RE and add **u**

Vendre

J'ai vendu

Tu as vendu

Il/Elle a vendu

Nous avons vendu

Vous avez vendu

Ils/Elles ont vendu

Irregular AVOIR verbs

There is a group of irregular verbs that take AVOIR in le passé composé. These verbs are formed with:

1) present tense of avoir + 2) the irregular past participle

Irregular past participles:

| | | |
|------------|--------------|--------|
| avoir: | to have: | eu |
| être: | to be: | été |
| boire: | to drink: | bu |
| connaître: | to know: | connu |
| courir: | to run: | couru |
| croire: | to believe: | cru |
| devoir: | to have to: | dû |
| dire: | to say/tell: | dit |
| écrire: | to write: | écrit |
| faire: | to make/do: | fait |
| lire: | to read: | lu |
| mettre: | to put: | mis |
| ouvrir: | to open: | ouvert |
| pouvoir: | to be able: | pu |
| prendre: | to take: | pris |
| recevoir: | to receive: | reçu |
| savoir: | to know: | su |
| voir: | to see: | vu |
| vouloir: | to want: | voulu |

Examples:

Prendre

J'ai pris

Tu as pris

Il/Elle a pris

Nous avons pris

Vous avez pris

Ils/Elles ont pris

Avoir

J'ai eu

Tu as eu

Il/Elle a eu

Nous avons eu

Vous avez eu

Ils/Elles ont eu

Être

J'ai été

Tu as été

Il/Elle a été

Nous avons été

Vous avez été

Ils/Elles ont été

ÊTRE Verbs

A small group of verbs take the present tense of “être” as their auxiliary verb.

1) present tense of être + 2) past participle

An easy way to remember this group of verbs is with the name:

MRS VAN DE TRAMP

Mourir: to die: mort

Retourner: to return: retourné

Sortir: to go out: sorti

Venir: to come: venu

Arriver: to arrive: arrivé

Naître: to be born: né

Descendre: to go down: descendu

Entrer: to enter: entré

Tomber: to fall: tombé

Rester: to stay: resté

Aller: to go out: allé

Monter: to go up: monté

Partir: to leave: parti

N.B: The past participle must 'agree with' who did the action. So if the person was female you must add an extra -e to the end of the past participle: e.g. elle est partie - *she left*.

If two or more females did the action you must add -es:
e.g. elles sont parties - *they left*.

If the person who did the action was one male, then the past participle **does not change**:
e.g. il est parti - *he left*.

If two or more males did the action add -s: e.g. ils sont partis - *they left*.

L'Imparfait

When to use it: To talk about something that used to happen in the past.
To describe the way something was in the past (the weather was fine last Tuesday).

Phrases: Quand j'étais jeune (when I was young), l'année dernière (last year).

How to form l'imparfait:

- 1) Take the "nous" part of the present tense: e.g nous **donnons**
- 2) Drop the **-ons**: e.g **donn**
- 3) Add the endings: -ais, -ais, -ait, -ait, -ions, -iez, -aient, -aient

Examples:

Parler

Je parlais
Tu parlais
Il/Elle parlait
Nous parlions
Vous parliez
Ils/Elles parlaient

Finir

Je finissais
Tu finissais
Il/Elle finissait
Nous finissions
Vous finissiez
Ils/Elles finissaient

Lire

Je lisais
Tu lisais
Il/Elle lisait
Nous lisions
Vous lisiez
Ils/Elles lisaient

*There is only one irregular verb in l'imparfait: être

Être

J'étais
Tu étais
Il/Elle était
Nous étions
Vous étiez
Ils/Elles étaient

Le Futur Simple

When to use it: To describe what will happen at a certain time in the future.

Time phrases: Demain (tomorrow), la semaine prochain (next week).

Regular Verbs

Regular **-er**, **-ir** and **-re*** verbs all follow the same rules in the future:

1) Take the infinitive (title) of the verb: e.g donner, finir

2) Add the endings: -ai, -as, -a , -a, -ons, -ez, -ont, -ont

*** There is a slight difference for -re verbs. Before adding the endings you must take off the “e”.** For example: vendre = vendr

I will sell = Je vendrai

Examples:

Parler

Je parlerai

Tu parleras

Il/Elle parlera

Nous parlerons

Vous parlerez

Ils/Elles parleront

Partir

Je partirai

Tu partiras

Il/Elle partira

Nous partirons

Vous partirez

Ils/Elles partiront

Prendre

Je prendrai

Tu prendras

Il/Elle prendra

Nous prendrons

Vous prendrez

Ils prendront

Futur Simple: Irregular Verbs

For irregular verbs in the futur simple, you only need to learn the stem as the endings are the same. For example: être: ser

I will be: je serai

Irregulars:

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| aller: | to go: | ir: | j'irai |
| avoir: | to have: | aur: | j'aurai |
| envoyer: | to send: | enverr: | j'enverrai |
| devoir: | to have to: | devr: | je devrai |
| être: | to be: | ser: | je serai |
| faire: | to make/do: | fer: | je ferai |
| pleuvoir: | to rain: | pleuvr: | il pleuvra |
| pouvoir: | to be able: | pourr: | je pourrai |
| recevoir: | to receive: | recevr | je recevrai |
| savoir: | to know: | saur: | je saurai |
| venir: | to come: | viendr: | je viendrai |
| voir: | to see: | verr: | je verrai |
| vouloir: | to want: | voudr: | je voudrai |

Examples:

Aller

J'irai
Tu iras
Il/Elle ira
Nous irons
Vous irez
Ils/Elles iront

Être

Je serai
Tu seras
Il/Elle sera
Nous serons
Vous serez
Ils/Elles seront

Vouloir

Je voudrai
Tu voudras
Il/Elle voudra
Nous voudrons
Vous voudrez
Ils/Elles voudront

Le Conditionnel

When to use it: To talk about things that would happen in the future
(I would buy a sports car if I won the lotto).

Regular verbs

Regular **-er**, **-ir** and **-re*** verbs all follow the same rules in the conditional:

1) Take the infinitive of the verb, e.g donner, finir

2) Add the endings: -ais, -ais, -ait, -ait, -ions, -iez, -aient, -aient
(These are the same endings as l'imparfait!)

* **There is a slight difference for -re verbs. Before adding the endings you must take off the "e".** For example: boire = boir

I would drink = je boirais

Examples:

Donner

Je donnerais

Tu donnerais

Il/Elle donnerait

Nous donnerions

Vous donneriez

Ils/Elles donneraient

Finir

Je finirais

Tu finirais

Il/Elle finirait

Nous finirions

Vous finiriez

Ils/Elles finiraient

Prendre

Je prendrais

Tu prendrais

Il/Elle prendrait

Nous prendrions

Vous prendriez

Ils/Elles prendraient

Le Conditionnel: Irregular verbs

If you know the irregular stems for the futur simple, you know them for le conditionnel (they are exactly the same!)

Use the irregular stems from the future tense and add the endings:

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------|--------------|
| aller: | to go: | ir: | j'irais |
| avoir: | to have: | aur: | j'aurais |
| envoyer: | to send: | enverr: | j'enverrais |
| devoir: | to have to: | devr: | je devrais |
| être: | to be: | ser: | je serais |
| faire: | to make/do: | fer: | je ferais |
| pleuvoir: | to rain: | pleuvr: | il pleuvrait |
| pouvoir: | to be able: | pourr: | je pourrais |
| recevoir: | to receive: | recevr | je recevrais |
| savoir: | to know: | saur: | je saurais |
| venir: | to come: | viendr: | je viendrais |
| voir: | to see: | verr: | je verrais |
| vouloir: | to want: | voudr: | je voudrais |

Examples:

Aller

J'irais
Tu irais
Il/Elle irait
Nous irions
Vous iriez
Ils/Elles iraient

Être

Je serais
Tu serais
Il/Elle serait
Nous serions
Vous seriez
Ils/Elles seraient

Vouloir

Je voudrais
Tu voudrais
Il/Elle voudrait
Nous voudrions
Vous voudriez
Ils/Elles voudraient