

## **Common French Reciprocal Verbs**

The most commonly used French reciprocal verbs are listed below, with an example of how each one could be used.

- *se voir* (to see each other) - *Ils se voient chaque semaine.* (They see each other every week.)
- *se téléphoner* (to call each other) - *Ils se téléphonent chaque soir.* (They call each other every night.)
- *s'écrire* (to write each other) - *Vous vous écrivez souvent?* (Do you write to each other often?)
- *se parler* (to talk with each other) - *Nous nous parlons de la politique.* (We talk to each other about politics.)
- *se dire* (to say to each other) *Ils se disent quelques mots d'amour.* (They say words of love to each other.)
- *s'aimer* (to love each other) - *Ils s'aiment beaucoup.* (They love each other very much.)
- *s'adorer* (to adore each other) - *Vous vous adorez.* (You are very fond of each other.)
- *se promettre* (to promise each other) *Nous nous promettons de vivre ensemble* (We promise each other to live together.)
- *se détester* (to detest each other) - *Nous nous détestons depuis longtemps.* (We have disliked each other for a long time.)
- *se disputer* (to fight with each other) *Ils se disputent au sujet des finances* (They are fighting about financial matters.)

## **Using Reciprocal Pronouns**

The reciprocal pronouns are identical to the reflexive pronouns; however, reciprocal verbs are only used in the plural. For this reason, there is no usage of the reflexive pronouns *me* and *te*. The reflexive pronouns used with reciprocal verbs are *se*, *nous* and *vous*. The latter two pronouns are easy to match with their subject because the pronoun is identical to the subject (e.g. *vous vous aimez*/'you love each other'). The pronoun *se* is used with the plural subject *ils* or *elles*, depending on whether one is talking about a group of men or women. *Ils* is used

much more often because whenever there is a mixed group of men and women, the masculine subject *ils* is required.

The pronoun *se* is often shortened into 's' in spelling, as well as in pronunciation. This pronoun is shortened into a single letter in front of any verb that starts with a vowel, such as *s'aimer* and *s'adorer*.

## **Learning Reciprocal Verbs**

Learning French reciprocals is quite simple; simply insert the reflexive/reciprocal pronoun before the verb that you would like to express is mutual. If you would add 'each other' in English, this is an occasion for a reciprocal verb. This simple rule, plus the application of the reflexive pronoun *se*, *nous*, or *vous* will have you correctly using reciprocal verbs in French in no time at all.