



**INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH VERBS**  
**PRESENT TENSE OF -ER VERBS:**  
**THE FIRST GROUP**

**Sixth lesson – Sixième lesson**

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- 1. Introduction
- 2. Present tense: **-er verbs**
- 3. Conjugation of **-er verbs**
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# 1. INTRODUCTION

- A verb is a word that expresses an action

ex. : **aller** (to go), **venir** (to come) ...

or a state of being

ex. : **être** (to be), **sentir** (to feel)...



# 1. INTRODUCTION

- A verb also indicates when the action or the state of being takes place: past tense, present tense or future tense.



# 1. INTRODUCTION

- The correct conjugated forms of a French verb are obtained from its basic, **unconjugated** form called the **infinitive**.



# 1. INTRODUCTION

- In English, the infinitive is formed by adding *to* in front of the verb (*to do, to sing...*).
- In French, the **infinitive** forms are indicated by **verb endings -er, -ir and -re.**



# 1. INTRODUCTION

○ Verbs in **-er** form the first group. Ex.:

○ Acheter

*to buy*

○ Appeler

*to call*

○ Essayer

*to try*

○ Parler

*to speak / to talk*

○ Préférer

*to prefer*

○ Voyager

*to travel*



# 1. INTRODUCTION

○ Verbs **-ir** form the second group. Ex.:

- Agir *to act*
- Choisir *to choose*
- Courir *to run*
- Finir *to finish*
- Mourir *to die*
- Sentir *to feel*
- Vouloir *to want*



# 1. INTRODUCTION

○ Verbs in **-re** form the third group. Ex.:

○ Comprendre

*to understand*

○ Conduire

*to drive*

○ Entendre

*to hear*

○ Sourire

*to smile*

○ Vendre

*to sell*

○ Vivre

*to live*



# 1. INTRODUCTION

- It is useful to classify verbs in these three groups because **different conjugation rules apply to each of them.**
- The **irregular verbs être, avoir and aller** are not a part of a group.



## 2. THE PRESENT TENSE: -ER VERBS

- To learn how to conjugate regular and irregular –**er** verbs, the most common category, let's use these verbs below as examples:

<i>a) chanter</i>	<i>to sing</i>
<i>b) appeler</i>	<i>to call</i>
<i>c) acheter</i>	<i>to buy</i>
<i>d) préférer</i>	<i>to prefer</i>
<i>e) peser</i>	<i>to weigh</i>
<i>f) essayer</i>	<i>to try</i>
<i>g) voyager</i>	<i>to travel</i>



### 3. CONJUGATION OF –ER VERBS

- To conjugate a regular –er verb, **remove its infinitive ending (-er)** and then **add the appropriate endings** to the root.

*A. Ex.: chanter → chant-*



### 3. CONJUGATION OF –ER VERBS

	Singular	Plural
1st person	Je <b>chante</b>	Nous <b>chantons</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	Tu <b>chantes</b>	Vous <b>chantez</b>
3rd person	Il/elle/on <b>chante</b>	Ils/elles <b>chantent</b>



### 3. CONJUGATION OF –ER VERBS

- Other useful –er verbs conjugated like **chanter (to sing)**

○ <i>Aimer</i>	<i>to love/to like</i>
○ <i>Étudier</i>	<i>to study</i>
○ <i>Habiter</i>	<i>to live</i>
○ <i>Parler</i>	<i>to talk</i>
○ <i>Travailler</i>	<i>to work</i>



### 3. CONJUGATION OF –ER VERBS

- Note : the verb forms : **je chante, tu chantes, il/elle/on chante, ils/elles chantent** are pronounced exactly in the same way.
- This means **the final –e, –s and –ent** are silent.
- This rule applies to all the above verbs and to those similar to them.



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

### **B. Verbs ending in –eler**

(Ex. : *s'appeler: je m'appelle...my name is...*),

its derivatives, similar verbs and

**verbs ending in –eter** (*such as jeter –to throw*).



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- When conjugating these verbs in the present tense, double the root's consonants **–l / –t**.
- This rule doesn't concern the plural **nous** (we) and **vous** (you).



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

<i>Appeler (to call)</i>	<i>Jeter (to throw)</i>
J' <b>appelle</b>	Je <b>jette</b>
Tu <b>appelles</b>	Tu <b>jettes</b>
Il/elle/on <b>appelle</b>	Il/elle/on <b>jette</b>
Nous <b>appelons</b>	Nous <b>jetons</b>
Vous <b>appelez</b>	Vous <b>jetez</b>
Ils/elles <b>appellent</b>	Ils/elles <b>jettent</b>



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- Here are some other verbs conjugated like **appeler** and **jeter**

- *Rappeler*

*to call back*

- *Épeler*

*to spell*

- *Feuilleter*

*to page through*

- *Rejeter*

*to reject*

- *Projeter*

*to plan*



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

**C. Some** verbs ending in –eler and –eter **do not double** the –l or –t before the silent final –e (acheter – to buy / peler – to peel)

The –e in the last syllable of the root changes to –è in all the conjugated forms, except in the plural (**nous** and **vous**)

- *Ex.: acheter → j'achète (to buy)*



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

Acheter (to buy)	Geler (to freeze)
J'ach <u>ète</u>	Je g <u>èle</u>
Tu ach <u>ètes</u>	Tu g <u>èles</u>
Il/elle/on ach <u>ète</u>	Il/elle/on g <u>èle</u>
Nous achet <u>ons</u>	Nous gel <u>ons</u>
Vous achet <u>ez</u>	Vous gel <u>ez</u>
Ils/elles ach <u>ètent</u>	Ils/elles g <u>èlent</u>



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- There are **22 irregular verbs** like *acheter* and *geler*, here are five examples:

- *Fileter*                      *to fillet, to thread*
- *Modeler*                    *to model, to shape*
- *Peler*                        *to peel*
- *Ciseler*                     *to chisel*
- *Écarteler*                 *to quarter*



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

### D. Verbs like *préférer* (*to prefer*).

- For these verbs, the – **é** in the last syllable of **the root** changes to an –**è**, except for the first and second person plural (**nous** and **vous**)



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- *Préférer-to prefer*

Singular	plural
Je préf <u>ère</u>	Nous préférons
Tu préf <u>ères</u>	Vous préférez
Il/elle/on préf <u>ère</u>	Ils/elles préf <u>èrent</u>

## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- Other verbs like **préférer**

- *Considérer*

*to consider*

- *Espérer*

*to hope*

- *Régler*

*to regulate, to pay*

- *Répéter*

*to repeat*

- *Récupérer*

*to recover*



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

**E. Verbs ending in –ecer, –emer, –eper, –erer, –eser, –ever and –evrer, have a silent –e before the last syllable (Ex.: peser-*to weigh*).**

- **The silent –e in the last syllable of the root’s form changes to –è, except for the plural (nous and vous)**



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- *Peser –to weigh*

Singular	Plural
Je <u>pèse</u>	Nous <b>pesons</b>
Tu <u>pèses</u>	Vous <b>pesez</b>
Il/elle/on <u>pèse</u>	Ils/elles <u>pèsent</u>



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- Other verbs conjugated like **peser**:

- *Amener* *to bring*
- *Se lever* *to get up*
- *Promener* *to walk*
- *Ramener* *to bring back*
- *Élever* *to raise*



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

**F. Verbs ending in –ayer**, such as *essayer* (*to try*) and *payer* (*to pay*) change their –y to –i in all persons : except the first and second person plural (*nous* and *vous*).



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- *Essayer-to try*

Singular	Plural
J'essaie	Nous essay <u>ons</u>
Tu essaies	Vous essay <u>ez</u>
Il/elle/on essaie	Ils/elles essaient



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

G. **Verbs ending in –ger** like *voyager* (*to travel*) take an **–e** after the **–g** in the present tense, so the pronunciation of **–g** remains soft.

○ *Ex. : voyager → nous voyageons*



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- *Voyager-to travel*

Singular	Plural
Je voyage	Nous voyage <u>ons</u>
Tu voyages	Vous voyage <u>ez</u>
Il/elle/on voyage	Ils/elles voyag <u>ent</u>



## 4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- Similarly, in **verbs ending in –cer**, such as *commencer* (*to start*), the **–c** in the **noun** form changes to **–ç** to keep the **soft c sound** (nous commençons)
- *Ex. : commencer → nous commençons*





## TO SUMMARISE

- In all these cases, there is a **general conjugation pattern** :
  - *1st person sg* → *-e*
  - *2<sup>nd</sup> person sg* → *-es*
  - *3rd person sg* → *-e*
  - *1st person pl* → *-ons*
  - *2<sup>nd</sup> person pl* → *-ez*
  - *3rd person pl* → *-ent*



C'est tout pour aujourd'hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!

