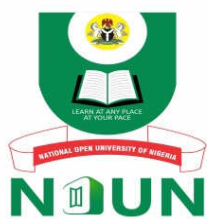


**COURSE
GUIDE**

FRE102 BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR II

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Introduction

FRE 102 is a 2-credit, one-semester course in the first year of B.A French degree of The National Open University of Nigeria. It will be available to all students as a core course. The course is made up of a Course Guide and Twenty (20) Study Units. It covers grammatical structures in terms of tenses: present tense, future tense, past tense, the imperfect and conditional tenses. This course guide tells you briefly what you should expect from the course, and what the units look like. It also intimates you on how you can get the best from the course. Finally this course guide gives you information on the assessment procedures.

What You Will Learn In This Course

FRE 102: FRENCH GRAMMAR II is to introduce you to the basic grammar of French language. This course is centred around conjugation of French verbs. It will expose you to various techniques of how to conjugate various groups of French verbs into various tenses.

Course Aims

The central aim of this course is to equip you with basic building blocks with which you can build a strong communicative ability in written expression and written comprehension in French.

This will be accomplished by aiming at:

- To tell you about the importance of verbs in the grammar of any human language like French.
- To draw your attention on how to identify various types of verbs in French Language.
- To teach you various techniques, through which you can conjugate French verbs into various tenses, taking into consideration their mood (mode) and aspects.

Course Objectives

On successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- State the importance of verbs in the grammar of any natural language.

- Identify the three types of French verbs (according to their endings)
- Classify French verbs into regular and irregular groupings
- State the techniques and steps to follow when conjugating French regular and irregular verbs into various tenses
- State the modal conditions that set indicative, subjunctive, imperative and conditional moods apart.
- Identify the endings and other grammatical traits with which one could classify the conjugation of French verbs on consideration of their tenses and moods.
- apply the verbs in context appropriately

Working Through This Course

To successfully complete this course, you are strongly advised to read and also visit all the websites recommended. You should also work through the exercises earnestly. You should also Read recommended books and any other materials that you can lay your hands on that will help you in understanding the contents of the course. Note that each unit contains self- assessment questions and also tutor-marked assignments. Make sure you are faithful in following every instruction.

Course Materials

Major materials of the course are:

1. Course guide
2. Study unit
3. Textbook
4. Assignment file
5. Presentation schedule

Study Units

Apart from the course guide, there are Twenty (20) study units in this course. The units are as follows:

Module 1

- Unit 1 Identification of conjugation groups.
- Unit 2 Conjugation of verbs ending with er and other regular verbs in the *présent de l'indicatif I*
- Unit 3 Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with re in the *présent de l'indicatif*
- Unit 4 Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with ir/oir in the *présent de l'indicatif*
- Unit 5 Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs in the *présent de l'indicatif*

Module 2

- Unit 1 Conjugation of verbs ending with er and other regular verbs in the futur simple
- Unit 2 Conjugation of irregular verbs in the futur Simple
- Unit 3 Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs in the futur simple
- Unit 4 Conjugation of verbs using the auxiliary avoir in the passé composé
- Unit 5 Conjugation of verbs using the auxiliary être in the passé composé

Module 3

- Unit 1 Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs in the *passé composé*
- Unit 2 Rules of agreement in the *passé composé*
- Unit 3 Conjugation of verbs ending with er and other regular verbs in *l'imparfait*
- Unit 4 Conjugation of irregular verbs in the present de *l'imparfait*
- Unit 5 Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs in *l'imparfait*

Module 4

- Unit 1 Conjugation of verbs in the impératif (positive and negative)
- Unit 2 Conjugation of verbs in the conditionnel présent?
- Unit 3 Conjugation of verbs in the conditionnel passé
- Unit 4 Conjugation of verbs in the subjonctif present
- Unit 5 Conjugation of verbs in the subjonctif passé

Set Textbooks

- Ade Ojo, Samuel (2002): *A comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*. Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
- Adeleke, Joseph (2014): *A Short French Grammar, 2nd edition*, Gad Press and Ventures Ltd, Lagos, 2010.
- Akeusola, Olu (1995): *French grammar for Anglophone Students*, Tobak Publishers, Lagos.
- Akeusola, Olu (2004): *Basic French Grammar for beginners*, Tobak Publishers, Lagos.
- Bescherelle (1990) : *La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes*, Paris, Hâtier.
- Beschrelle (1992) : *Junior : Grammaire, Orthographe grammatical d'Usage, Conjugaison, Vocabulaire*. Paris: Hâtier, 1992.
- Eruanga, Oluremi (2018): *A New Approach to Contemporary French*. Lagos: Ocean Gate Books Consult.
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- Lee, Wendy et al. (2004): *Collins Easy Learning French Grammar*. Glasglow: Harper Collins.

Assignment File

This course material also contains an Assignment File where more than twenty assignments are provided. The assignments carry 40% of the total mark for the course. The mark you obtain in the assignment will count towards the final mark you obtain for this course.

Assessment

The assessment of this course is divided into two main parts. The first part is made up of all the tutor-marked assignments and the second part is a written examination. The assignments must be submitted to your tutor for formal assessment in accordance with the deadline stated by the tutor. Note that the work submitted to your tutor for assessment will count for 40% of your total course mark. You will sit for a final examination of three hours' duration at the end of the course. This examination will also count for 60% of your total course mark.

Tutor Marked Assignment (Tmas)

There are twenty tutor-marked assignments in this course. You need to submit only six of the twenty assignments of which the highest four marks will be taken into consideration. Each assignment counts 10% toward your total course mark.

Whenever you complete any of your assignment, send it together with a TMA (tutor- marked assignment) form, to your tutor. Make sure that each assignment reaches your tutor on or before the deadline given to you.

Final Examination And Grading

The final examination for FRE102 will be of three hours duration and it carries 60% of the total course grade. The examination will reflect the types of self-testing, and tutor-marked assignments. The examination covers information from all parts of the course.

Therefore, you need to revise before you sit for the final examination. You may need to revise the self-assessment tests and all tutor marked

Course Marking Scheme

As stated earlier, the assessment in this course consists of two parts - the Tutor-Marked Assignments and the Final examinations.

There are twenty (20) Tutor-Marked Assignments (TMAs) and one set of Final Examinations. Each of the assignments will be marked over

20 marks making 400 marks at the end of the course. The 400 marks will eventually be converted to just 40%. This will be worked out using the following formulae:

$$\frac{\text{Marks obtained}}{400} \times 100 = 40$$

The Final Examinations will then be graded over 60%. The table below shows clearly the breakdown of the course marking scheme.

ASSESSMENT	MARKS ALLOTTED
TMA: 1 to 20 <i>FRENCH GRAMMAR II</i>	Each TMA carries 10 marks with obtained marks based on 10%; 3 best assignments will be chosen for computation, making 30% of the Total Course Score.
Final Examinations	70% of the Total Course Score
TOTAL COURSE SCORE	100%

How To Get The Best From This Course?

One of the advantages of distance learning is that you as the student can work on a study material at your own pace. While there is a fixed timetable for traditional students in the universities, you are the one to fix your own timetable as a student of National Open University of Nigeria. Therefore, to get maximum result from this course, you will need to create the most convenient time for yourself. If you believe you can study better in the morning then chose a period in the morning to study the units in this course. But if you prefer working in the afternoon or in the evening, then choose appropriately.

All the units in this course have the same structure. It is to help you get familiar with the content of the course so easily. Meanwhile, note that the course material has been written using instructional language. You are certain to get the best from this course if you follow instructions in its totality. You will also have several self-assessment exercises as you read and study the content of each unit.

Although the answers you give to those questions are not to be submitted, nevertheless, you are strongly advised to make use of them to assess yourself.

Very strategically, each unit has its learning objectives. You have not completed a unit until you are able to perform the actions stipulated in the objectives. Visiting and working with the websites recommended will help you a great deal. Do you know something? If others have done it before, then you too can do it.

Summary

This course has been designed to introduce you primarily to conjugation of tenses and their usage in French language. The projected outcome of this course is that at the end of the course, you would have had a solid background in the study of tenses in French language. You will be instructed to do several exercises as you go along in the study of French grammar.

I welcome you to Twenty exciting Study Units in French grammar II.

**COURSE
GUIDE**

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Module 1

- unit 1** Identification of conjugation groups
- unit 2** Conjugation of verbs ending with er and other regular verbs in the présent de l'indicatif 1
- unit 3** Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with re in the present de l'indicatif
- unit 4** Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with ir/oir in the present de l'indicatif
- unit 5** Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs in the present de l'indicatif

Unit 1 Identification Of Conjugation Groups

Contents

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Objective
- 1.3 Importance Of Verbs In French Grammar
 - 1.3.1 Identification Of Conjugation Groups
 - Assessment Exercise
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments
- 7.0 References/Further Reading



1.1 Introduction

This unit will introduce you to the identification of French conjugation groups. You will be taught about French verbs, their conjugation groupings and their endings. This unit will give you a general introduction on what French verb is all about. You will also learn some basic techniques of how to identify each of the French verbs that belong to various groupings. Knowledge gained from this unit will facilitate your proper understanding of how to conjugate French verbs. It is important to note that your understanding this course better depends on the way and manner with which you handle this unit. Therefore, you are advised to learn to study and ensure that you understand these groupings through their identification traits.



1.2 Learning Out Come

At the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- state the importance of verbs in French language grammar
- list correctly the conjugation groupings of French verbs
- list some verbs with er ending
- list some verbs with re ending
- list some verbs with ir/oir ending

You are now invited into the world of French verbs.



1.3 Importance Of Verbs In French Grammar

Verbs in French language, just like in any other languages of the world, are the most important linguistic elements. There is no other part of speech that could exist alone as a sentence and have meaning without a verb in it. Sometimes a sentence can be formed by a verb alone. If we should say “Go!”, it is a complete sentence that could portray a full meaning that a sentence with a subject, verb and object could have. A verb could be defined as a grammatical word that states the action(s) performed or the relationship that exists between a subject and an object in a given sentence. As the link and the presenter of the actions performed or the relationship that exist between the ‘performer’ and the ‘action performed’, the verb is then the most important aspect of the nine grammatical parts of speech in French grammar. Any of your sentences in French grammar will be incomplete if you should fail to add at least a verb to it.

3.1. Identification Of Conjugation Groups

French verbs are classified into three major conjugation groups, in consonance with the ending of their infinitive. They are the er verbs, there verbs and the ir/oir verbs. The possibility of each of these verbs to be conjugated in accordance with a rule that is applicable to a whole group introduces another subdivision of regular and irregular verbs. A regular verb is a verb whose conjugation follows the normal and general rule established for its group, while an irregular verb violates and contradicts the general principle of conjugation of verbs in its group (or a group of verbs that does not have a definite and appropriate way of conjugation).

You should therefore note that there are three conjugation groups of verbs in French Language namely the er verbs, the re verbs and the ir/oir

verbs. The er verbs are verbs that have er letters at their tail end, the re verbs are the verbs that contain re at their tail ending while the ir/oir verbs are the verbs that end in ir/oir. *Er Grouping Verbs and Their Examples* As earlier said, the er verbs are verbs that have er letters at their tail end. In French grammar, the ending of a verb is called 'terminaison'.

Therefore, a verb that has the er 'terminaison' is so tagged the er verb in French grammar. Most verbs in this group are regular verbs. It is only the verb aller that has the er ending that is considered as an irregular verb in conjugation. Apart from the verb aller (to go) which is irregular, almost all the verbs in this group (ending with er) are regular verbs. You should also note that the group contains the largest number of French verbs. Most of the borrowed verbs (from another language) as well as newly formed or coined verbs are also part of this group. Examples of such verbs are:

abandonner (to abandon . to leave . to give up etc ...)
 abimer (to damage to spoil)
 accepter (to accept . to agree to)
 acclamer (to cheer . to acclaim) accompagner (to go with) - to accompany)
 accuser (to accuse)
 agresser (to attack)
 agacer (to irritate . to tease) aider (to help)
 aimer (to like/love) ajouter (to add) bavarder (to talk)
 caresser (to caress . to stroke) commencer (to start)
 danser (to dance)
 effacer (to clean . to erase . to wipe off)
 fabriquer (to make . to produce - to manufacture) gêner (to disturb . to hamper)
 habiter (to live in) identifier (to identify) jurer (to swear) kidnapper (to kidnap)
 labourer (to plough) manger (to eat) Nger (to swim) oublier (to forget)
 parler (to speak . to talk) écouter (to listen)
 quitter (to leave)
 rester (to stay)
 semer (to sow)
 tricher (to cheat) uriner (to urinate) viser (to aim at)
 zigzaguer (to zigzag (along))

-RE GROUPINGS AND THEIR EXAMPLES

As explained in the introduction, remember that the re verbs are verbs that have re letters at their tail end. Apart from the er group that contain the largest number of verbs generally and largest number of regular verbs 4 in particular, most verbs in this group (as well as the third group) are

irregular verbs. Examples of such verbs are:

abattre (to cut down . to knock down)
 accroître (to increase)
 dire (to say)
 comprendre (to understand)
 prendre (to take)
 faire (to do . to make)
 fendre (to split . to crack . to break)
 mordre (to bite)
 pondre (to lay)
 répondre (to answer)
 tendre (to tighten . to stretch . to set etc)
 vendre (to sell)

IR/OIR GROUPINGS AND THEIR EXAMPLES

As a follow up to the explanation given at the beginning of this unit, the *ir/oir* verbs are verbs that have *ir/oir* letters at their tail end. Note also that most verbs in this category are irregular verbs. Examples of such verbs are:

abolir (to abolish. to do away with)
 accomplir (to carry out. to achieve. to perform) affermir (to consolidate)
 affranchir (to free. to stamp)
 anéantir (to annihilate)
 applaudir (to clap. to applaud) arrondir (to round. to round up)
 asservir (to enslave. to subjugate)
 attendrir (to soften. to melt) faiblir (to weaken. to wane) gémir (to moan.
 to groan)
 haïr (to hate. to detest)
 jaillir (to spurt out)
 languir (to languish) maudire (to curse) mourir (to feed) obscurcir (to
 darken) pâlir (to go pale)
 ralentir (to slow down)
 saisir (to seize. to grasp) trahir (to betray)
 unir (to unite - to bind) vomir (to vomit)
 voir (to see)
 pouvoir (to be able to)

Self-Assessment Exercise

- Give the three group of verbs in French
- List five verbs ending with *er*
- List five verbs ending with *re*
- List five verbs ending with *ir*
- List five verbs ending with *oir*

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, you have learned the importance of verbs in French language grammar. You have also learned how you can identify and list correctly the conjugation groupings of French verbs. By now it is believed that you can identify and list some verbs with er ending, some verbs with re ending and some other verbs with ir/oir ending.



5.0 Summary

This unit has equipped you with the basic techniques of how to identify the conjugation grouping of French verbs. You have learned how you can identify verbs with er ending, some verbs with re ending and some other verbs with ir/oir ending. By now we believe that your vocabulary should have been enriched through the translated examples of verbs listed under each group. We intentionally did this so as to enrich your vocabulary. A good grammarian needs to store many vocabularies in his/her memory.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. What is a verb and of what importance a verb to the grammar of French language?
2. With at least ten examples per group, identify the three groups of verbal conjugation in French grammar.



7.0 References/Further Reading

- Ade Ojo, Samuel (2002): *A comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*. Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
- Adeleke, Joseph (2014): *A Short French Grammar, 2nd edition*, Gad Press and Ventures Ltd, Lagos, 2010.
- Akeusola, Olu (1995): *French grammar for Anglophone Students*, Tobak Publishers, Lagos.
- Akeusola, Olu (2004): *Basic French Grammar for beginners*, Tobak Publishers, Lagos.
- Bescherelle (1990) : *La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes*, Paris, Hâtier.

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FRE 102 FRENCH GRAMMAR II

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Unit 2 **Conjugation Of Verbs Ending With -Er And Other Regular Verbs In The ‘Present De L’indicatif’ (Present Tense)**

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Content
- 3.1 Exceptionalities in the Conjugation of verbs ending with -*er* and other regular verbs in the ‘present de l’indicatif’
 - 3.1.1 Verbs ending with -cer
 - 3.1.2 Verbs ending with -ger
 - 3.1.3 Verbs with e and ending with -er
 - 3.1.4 Verbs with é and ending with -er Verbs
 - 3.1.5 Verbs ending with eler and eter verbs
 - 3.1.6 Verbs ending with -yer verbs
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References and Other Resources



1.0 Introduction

This unit will introduce you to the conjugation of *er* and other regular verbs in the ‘present de l’indicatif’. You will read to know about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French verbs in the ‘present de l’indicatif’. It is in this unit also you will be exposed to some minor peculiarities that are known for some verbs ending with *er* (irrespective of the notion of their being regular). Knowledge gained from this unit will initiate your properly into how to conjugate French verbs in the ‘present de l’indicatif’.

Note that your better understanding of French conjugation, in particular, and French grammar, generally, depends on the way and manner with which you handle this unit. Therefore, you are implorred to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating verbs ending with *er* as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the Stem/Radical of verbs ending with er
- Identify the ending/terminaison of er verbs when conjugated in the ‘‘present de l’indicatif’’
- identify the morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation
- identify some verbs that are noted as being regular but have some peculiarities. You are now invited into the world of conjugation of er verbs in the ‘present de l’indicatif’.



3.0 Main Content

Apart from the verb aller (to go) (conjugated in the ‘‘present de l’indicatif’’ below) which is irregular, almost all the verbs in the er group are regular verbs:

Aller

Je vais . I am going/I go

Tu vas - You are going/You go

Il/elle va . He /she is going/ He/she goes Nouns allons .

We are going/we go

Vous allez . you are going/you go

Ils/elles vont . They are going/they go

The general rule of the conjugation of all other er verbs in the ‘‘present de l’indicatif’’ is getting the infinitive divided or separated into the stem/radical and the ending.

Examples: manger - mang (stem/radical) er (ending)

regarder - regard (stem/radical) er (ending)

Then, you replace the ending, by adding the underlisted new endings to the stem or radical so as to form the conjugated verbs:

e for 1st person singular es for 2nd person singular e

for 3rd person singular ons for 1st person plural

ez for 2nd person plural ent for 3rd person plural

For example, here is the technique to follow in conjugating the verb parler (to speak) in the ‘present de l’indicatif’:

Parl er

Verbal stem/Radical Verbal

ending/terminaison.

As earlier explained, the conjugation rule says that you should drop the

er ending and replace it as follows:

e for 1st person singular = Je parle

es for 2nd person singular = Tu parles

e for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle parle

ons for 1st person plural = Nous parlons

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous parlez

ent for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles parlent

(Note 1. Please note that when a verb is conjugated into the French present indicative tense (present de l'indicatif), it has two meanings cum grammatical functions in English. It could function as simple present - Je

parle = I speak . and it could be present continuous tense . Je parle = I am speaking. Care should be taken when translating from English to French or vice versa.

Note 2: Although the 2nd person plural form . vous . is for two or more people. It is allowed in French to be used as a mark of respect for a single person also. So, you could say:

--- *Où allez – vous monsieur? Where are you going sir?*

Let us look at another example of the er group verb which is Aimer (to like/to love)

The radical/stem of the infinitive aimer is aim while the ending is er. If we follow the rule that says one should drop the er ending and replace it with the identified endings, the conjugation of aimer in the 'present de l'indicatif' is as follow:

J'aime I like/love

Tu aimes You like/love

Il/elle aime He/she likes/loves Nous aimons We like/love

Vous aimez You like/love

Ils/elles aiment They like/love

A lot of verbs ending with er are conjugated in this form.

(Note 3: You will discover that we wrote J'aime instead of Je aime. In French when a verb to be conjugated has an initial vowel, there will be an assimilation of a vowel whereby the vowel ending the pronoun would be dropped for that of the verb. And the vowel that is omitted is represented by an apostrophe (').

Exceptionalities in The Conjugation of Verbs Ending

With -Er And Other Regular Verbs into Present De L'indicatifs

Although verbs in the er group are said to be regular, there are some small peculiarities you have to know for some of the verbs when they are conjugated in the 'present de l'indicatif'. These sets are special and they need to be treated thus. Their examples are as follow:

Verbs ending with -cer:

In French, letter c plays a dual phonological role when you use it in words.

It sounds like /k/ when it precedes vowels a, o, u (classe, court, cul). Whereas it sounds /s/ when it is in front of vowels i, e (ciel, cercle). In case it precedes any of the vowels a, o, u and you want it to be pronounced

/s/ instead of its normal /k/, phonological rule says that you must put 'cedille' (ç) at the bottom of the c. So, you should not be surprised to see this 'strange' mark in the conjugation of verbs like (placer . to place) when it is conjugated in the 'present de l'indicatif':

Je place Nous plaçons

Tu places Vous placez

Il/elle place Ils/elles placent

This conjugation technique is applicable to all French verbs ending with cer. Verbs ending with -ger Like letter c, letter g plays a dual role also in the French phonology. It sounds /g/ when it precedes vowels like a, o, u (garçon, gomme, gulot).

But it sounds /ʒ/ when it precedes vowels i, e (légion, Liège). In a situation where the infinitive dictates that the g must have / ʒ/ sound even when it is to be followed by either a, o, or u, the French phonological cum grammatical rule says that you must add an additional e before you write the a, o, or the u. So, when conjugating a verb like manger . (to eat) In the 'present de l'indicatif', you normally have nous mangeons:

Je mange Nous mangeons

Tu manges Vous mangez

Il/elle mange Ils/elles mangent

Note: Verbs ending with guer (such as blaguer) are not affected by this rule. Such verbs are conjugated like the other general er verbs.

Verbs ending with e-er emer, -ener, -eper, -erer, -eser, -ever, -everr:

Verbs ending with -ecer, -emer, -ener, -eper, -erer, -eser, -ever, -everr have one peculiarity. In their infinitive, they have closed silence e in the last syllable of their stem. It is this e that is next to the single or double consonants that end their stem/radical: lev/er. When conjugating in the

'present de l'indicatif', this e changes its silence e sound to an opened è sound in the first person, second person, third person singular and third person plural. And to mark this change in pronunciation, you must put an accent 'grave' on the e so as to become è that falls in this category. Let us look at the conjugation of the verb lever (to rise):

Je lève Nous levons

Tu lève Vous levez

Il/elle lève Ils/elles lèvent.

Verbs ending with er but having é in the stems/radicals

There are some other French verbs whose letter e in the last syllable of the infinitive is carrying an acute accent (aigu) . é - already in the infinitive. This acute accent, (´), when the verb is conjugated in the 'present de l'indicatif', normally changes to a grave accent (̀) . è - in the

first person, second person, third person singular and third person plural. This peculiarity is found among verbs ending with -ébrer, -écer, -écher, -écrer, -éder, -égler, -égner, éguer, -éler, -émer, - éner, -éper, -équér, - érer, -éser, -éter, -étrer, -éver.

Example: *célébrer* (to celebrate)

Je célèbre Nous célébrons

Tu célèbres Vous célébrez Il/elle célèbre Ils/elles célèbrent

Note: You will discover that this peculiarity does not affect the 1st and 2nd person plural of groups' 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 of our exceptions. There is no problem of change in the pronunciation of e at these levels).

Verbs ending with eler and eter When conjugating French verbs ending with eler or eter in the 'present de l'indicatif', the single l or t in the infinitive is doubled in the first person, second person, third person singular and third person plural. This change becomes inevitable so as to allow for easy pronunciation. You must note that the e before the l or t is pronounced /./ in the infinitive.

Whereas you would want it pronounced /Σ/ when used in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons singular and 3rd person plural. In order to facilitate this pronunciation, you must double the l or the t. And, that is why the pronunciation of e would not change from being /e/ in the 1st and 2nd persons plural where we do not normally double these consonants.

Examples are:

Appeler (to call)

J'appelle Nous appelons

Tu appelles Vous appelez Il/elle appelle Ils/elles appellent

Jeter (to throw)

Je jette Nous jetons

Tu jettes Vous jetez

Il/elle jette Ils/elles jettent

Note: There are some exceptions to this general rule. Some verbs ending with -eler and -eter do not double their l or t in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons singular and 3rd person plural when conjugated in the 'present de l'indicatif', so as to enhance the evolution of the pronunciation of the vowel e, before the consonant t or l from /./ to /Σ/ sound. Such verbs are modeler, celer, déceler, receler, ciseler, démanteler, écarteler, geler, congeler, surgeler, marteler, peler, acheter, racheter, bégueter, and corseter. They only take accent grave (̀) on the e at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons singular and 3rd person plural. Example:

acheter (to buy):

J'achète Nous achetons

Tu achètes Vous achetez

Il/elle achète Ils/elles achètent

Verbs ending with -yer :

You must have been taught that in phonetics (as well as in French

phonology), consonant y is taken to be a semi-vowel or semi-consonant. It is also viewed by some linguists as the variant of /i/ sound. That is to say it could easily change to vowel 'i' or the vowel 'i' changes to y. That explains why the semi.vowel /y/ in the infinitive of verbs ending with yer changes to i in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons singular and 3rd persons plural. A better example of this peculiarity could be seen in the conjugation of the verb envoyer (to send) in the present tense:

J'envoie Nous envoyons

Tu envoies Vous envoyez

Il/elle envoie Ils/elles envoient

Note: You must note that the y does not change in the 1st and 2nd persons plural. It is retained so as to maintain a good and balanced pronunciation at these levels. And you should have been noting also that any peculiarity introduced into any of the verbs do not normally affect these sections of the conjugation. This is as a result of special and different way these two sets are pronounced. They differ in pronunciation from the other four.



4.0 Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the verbs “regarder”, “travailler”, “nager”, “lever” and “apporter” in the “present de l’indicatif”

5.0 Conclusion

In this unit, you have learned the rules governing the conjugation of French verbs ending with er in the ‘present de l’indicatif’. Although this group of conjugation is said to have the largest number of regular verbs, yet you have discovered some peculiarities in the conjugation of some of the verbs in this grouping. By now we believe you can conjugate differen categories of verbs with er ending.

You must have been adequately informed in this unit about the basic techniques of how to conjugate er verbs in the ‘present de l’indicatif’. You must have learned also some peculiarities in the conjugation of some of the verbs in this category. By now it is believed that your knowledge of the techniques of conjugation of verbs has been enriched through the explanation and examples of verbs given under each classification above.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

Conjugate the following verbs in ‘present de l’indicatif’:

- Parler,
- Nager,
- 3 Balayer,
- Lancer,
- Soulever,
- Célébrer,
- Monter, 8. Rejeter,
- 9. Payer,
- 10. Blaguer.



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Unit 3 **Conjugation Of Irregular Verbs Ending With -Re In The ‘Present De L’indicatif’**

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Objectives
- 3.1 Conjugation of three (3) common irregular verbs
- 3.2 Techniques guiding the Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with *-re* in the ‘present de l’indicatif’
 - 3.2.1 Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with ‘*ttre*’
 - 3.2.2 Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with ‘*ndre*’
 - 3.2.3 Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with ‘*aincre*’
 - 3.2.4 Conjugation of ‘*faire*’ and ‘*dire*’
 - 3.2.5 Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with *aire*, *aitre*, *oitre*, *oire* and others verbs.
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References and Other Resources



1.0 Introduction

This unit will introduce you to the conjugation of irregular verbs ending with *re* in the ‘present de l’indicatif’. You will also read about the techniques a French grammar learner like you can adopt in conjugating French irregular verbs ending with *-re* in the ‘present de l’indicatif’.

Knowledge gained from this unit will initiate your properly into how to Conjugate French irregular verbs ending with *-re* in the ‘present de l’indicatif’. Be warned once again that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle this unit. Therefore, you are advised to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating irregular verbs as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the stem/radical of irregular verbs ending with -re.
- Identify the ending/’terminaison’ of these irregular verbs when conjugated in the present tense and use them appropriately.
- Identify the morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced when conjugated in the present tense and use them appropriately.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of irregular verbs ending with -re in the ‘present de l’indicatif’.

General Techniques Guiding The Conjugation of Irregular Verbs Ending With -Re in the ‘Present De L’indicatif’

As you have been told earlier ,only verbs ending wither have the largest number of regular verbs. Apart from these er verbs, other verbs, such as verbs ending with -re, that we are about to treat in this unit, are irregular verbs. The general rule of conjugating the re verbs is that you break the infinitive into two: the stem/radical and the ending. You then replace the ending er with s, s, t, ons, ez, ent.

A verb is said to be irregular when its stem (and even the endings in some other cases like infinitive faire, dire) changes from one person to the other. Compare these two conjugations (of parler . to speak and être . to be):

parler:

Je parle Nous parlons

Tu parles Vous parlez

Il/Elle parle Ils/Elles parlent

être :

Je suis Nous sommes

Tu es Vous êtes

Il/elle est Ils/elles sont

Conjugation of the 3 Common Irregular Verbs: Être, Avoir, Aller

There are three common irregular verbs that are frequently used in dayto- day discussion in French. They are être (to be), avoir (to have) and aller (to go):

(a) Être (b) Avoir

Je suis Nous sommes J’ai Nous

avons

Tu es Vous êtes Tu as Vous avez

Il/elle est Ils/elles sont Il /elle a Ils /elles

ont

(b) Aller

Je vais Nous allons

Tu vas Vous allez

Il/elle va Ils/elles vont

As you can see clearly, the conjugation of these 3 verbs is quite different from that of the verbs ending with -er .

Techniques and Examples Guiding The Conjugation of Verbs Ending With -Re in the ‘Present De L’indicatif’

The general rule established for conjugating verbs in this group state that you divide the infinitive into the stem and ending. You will then drop there ending of the infinitive and replace it by s, s, t/d, ons, ez, ent, endings.

The t/d in the 3rd person singular is saying that in case the infinitive concerned is among verbs ending with dre, andre, endre, ondre, ordre, you will not add the consonant ‘t’ of the 3rd person singular to the consonant d that ends the radical. Instead, you will use the consonant d to stand . in for the consonant t that ends the 3rd person singular in the conjugation of other groups. For example, let us take a look at the conjugation of rendre and prendre.

(a) Rendre = to give back (rend= stem/radical; re= ending)

Je rends Nous rendons

Tu rends Vous rendez

Il /elle rend Ils/elles rendent

(b) Prendre = to take (prend=stem/radical; re= ending)

Je prends Nous prenons

Tu prends Vous prenez

Il/elle prend Ils/elles prennent

Note: In the case of prendre and other verbs in its group, you should drop the consonant d in the plural form and you double the n in the stem of the 3rd person plural. Conjugation of verbs ending with -ttre:

You should note, when conjugating, that this set of verbs drops one of the double t in their singular form (first to third person singular) but maintain them in plural (first to third person plural).

(a) Battre (to beat)

Je bats Nous battons

Tu bats Vous battez

Il/elle bat Ils/elles battent

(b) Mettre (to put)

Je mets Nous mettons

Tu mets Vous mettez

Il/elle met Il/elless mettent

Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with ‘ndre’

You should take into cognizance that this group of verbs drops the d that ends their radical/stem in all facets of conjugation. They take additional

gn before their verbal endings in the plural form. This strange addition is to facilitate pronunciation. Examples:

(a) Peindre . to paint

Je peins Nous peignons

Tu peins Vous peignez

Il/elle peint Ils/elles peignent

(b) Joindre . to join

Je joins Nous joignons

Tu joins Vous joignez

Il/elle joint Ils/elles joignent

Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with 'aincre'

You need to know that this group maintains the c that ends the stem of their infinitive in the singular form. But this same consonant c is replaced

by qu in the plural form. Examples:

(a) Vaincre . to conquer

Je vaincs Nous vainquons

Tu vaincs Vous vainquez

Il/elle vainc Ils/elles vainquent

(b) Convaincre . to convince

Je convaincs Nous convainquons

Tu convaincs Vous convainquez

Il/elle convainc Ils/elles convainquent

Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with 'dire'

Please note also that the conjugation of these two verbs in the 'present de l'indicatif' have a similar peculiarity; their ending in the 2nd person plural is completely different from that of the others.

Faire . to do /make

Je fais Nous faisons

Tu fais Vous faites

Il/elle fait Ils/elles font

Dire . to say/tell

Je dis Nous disons

Tu dis Vous dites

Il/elle dit Ils/elle disent

Note : Take good note of the spelling of the conjugated form in the second person plural, most especially letter *î*.

Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with 'aire', 'aitre', 'oitre', 'oire' and others In order to master the conjugation of this group in the present tense, note that while some allow their vowel i (that ends the stem) to change to y in the 1st and 2nd persons plural, some do not only maintain the vowel i, they take an addition s after it before taking the verbal ending. Note also that some go to the extent of duplicating the additional s, whereas some change their radical (stem) completely.

Distraire . to entertain Je distrais Nous distrayons Tu distrais Vous
 distrayez Il/elle
 distrait Ils distraient
 Plaire . to please
 Je plais Nous plaisons
 Tu plais Vous plaisez
 Il/elle plaît Ils/elles plaisent
 Connaître . to know (object)
 Je connais Nous connaissons Tu connais Vous connaissez
 Il/elle connaît Ils connaissent
 Naitre . to be born
 Je nais Nous naissons
 Tu nais Vous naissez
 Il/elle naît Ils/elles naissent
 Croire . to believe
 Je crois Nous croyons
 Tu crois Vous croyez Il/elle croit Ils/elles
 croient
 Boire . to drink
 Je bois Nous buvons
 Tu bois Vous buvez
 Il boit Ils boivent
 Conclure . to conclude
 Je conclus Nous concluons Tu conclus Vous concluez
 Il/elle conclut Ils/elles concluent
 Absoudre . to absolve
 J'absous Nous absolvons
 Tu absous Vous absolvez
 Il/elle absout Ils/elles absolvent
 Suivre . to follow
 Je suis Nous suivons
 Tu suis Vous suivez
 Il/elle suit Ils/elles suivent
 Vivre . to live
 Je vis
 Tu vis
 Il/elle vit
 Nous vivions
 Vous vivez
 Ils/elles vivent
 Lire . to read
 Je lis
 Nous lisons
 Tu lis
 Il/elle lit

Vous lisez
 Ils/ells lisent
 Rire . to laugh
 Je ris Nos rions
 Tu ris Vous riez
 Il/elle rit I ls/elles rient
 Cuire . to cook
 Je cuis Nous cuisons
 Tu cuis Vous cuisez
 Il/elle cuit Ils/elles cuisent



Self-Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs into the “Present l’indicatif.

(a) Plaire, (b) descendre, (c) battre.

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, you have learned the rules governing the conjugation of French verbs ending with -re into ‘present de l’indicatif’. And like you have been told from the beginning of the unit, all verbs in this category are irregular. By now we believe you can conjugate different categories of verbs with -re ending.



5.0 Summary

You must have adequately acquired in this unit some basic techniques on how to conjugate verbs ending with -re into ‘present de l’indicatif’. You must have also learned some peculiarities in the conjugation of some verbs in this category. By now, your vocabulary and technique of conjugation of verbs ending with -re should have been enriched through the explanation and examples of verbs given in this unit under each classification.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

Conjugate the following verbs into ‘present de l’indicatif’:

1. lire
2. dire
3. faire
4. descendre
5. pondre
6. cuire
7. extraire,
8. connaître
9. poursuivre
10. abattre.



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Unit 4 Conjugation Of Irregular Verbs Ending With -Ir/Oir Into Present De L'indicatif

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1.1 Conjugation of verbs ending with ir with double s in their plural form
 - 3.1.2 Conjugation of a second set of verbs ending with 'ir'
 - 3.1.3 Conjugation of verbs ending with 'ir' that take endings of 'er' verbs
 - 3.1.4 Conjugation of other verbs ending with 'ir'
 - 3.1.5 Conjugation of verbs ending with 'oir'
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References and Other Resources



1.0 Introduction

This unit will introduce you to the conjugation of other irregular verbs that end with ir and oir into 'present de l'indicatif'. You will also learn about the modern techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating such French irregular verbs into 'present de l'indicatif'. The knowledge you gain from this unit will initiate your properly into how to conjugate all French irregular verbs in the 'present de l'indicatif'. Remember that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle these first three units. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating irregular verbs as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the Stem/Radical of irregular verbs ending with ir and oir.

- Identify the *ir* and *oir* ending/’*terminaison*’ of these irregular verbs
 - Identify the morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation
 - Conjugate French irregular verbs ending with *-ir* and *-oir*.
- You are now invited to follow the method of conjugating irregular verbs ending with *-ir* and *-oir* into ‘*present de l’indicatif*’.



3.0 General Techniques Guiding The Conjugation Of Irregular Verbs Ending With *-Ir* And *-Oir* Into ‘*Present De L’indicatif*’

You need to know from the onset that the *ir* verbs could be divided into two groups. The first group is made up of verbs that have a double *s* in the plural form when conjugated, while the second group of verbs do not normally double their consonant at those levels.

The general rule for conjugating verbs ending with *ir/oir*, as it is done with verbs ending with *re* is that you break the infinitive into two: the stem/radical and the ending. You then replace the ending *ir/oir* with *s, s, t, ons, ez, ent*. But be warned that all verbs in this category, being irregular, change their radical/stem. They only end with *s, s, t, ons, ez, ent* when conjugated.

Conjugation of the first group of verbs ending with *-ir* (that have a double *s* in their plural forms)

You should note that these verbs follow the general rule in the conjugation

of their singular form. But they introduce double *s* before taking the verbal endings in the plural form. Examples of such verbs are *finir* . to finish, *haïr* . to hate, etc.

Finir . to finish

Je finis Nous finissons

Tu finis Vous finissez

Il/elle finit Ils/elles finissent

Conjugation of the second group of verbs ending with ‘*ir*’

For this group of verbs ending with ‘*ir*’, although their stem may change,

you do not have double *s* or double any of their consonants in all their plural form except the 3rd person plural of some of their conjugation.

Verbs in this group are very numerous than that of the first type. Here are

some examples:

Tenir . to hold

Je tiens Nous tenons
 Tu tiens Vous tenez
 Il/elle tient Ils/elles tiennent
 Venir . to come
 Je viens Nous venons
 Tu viens Vous venez
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Il/elle vient Ils/elles viennent
 Sentir . to smell/taste
 Je sens Nous sentons
 Tu sens Vous sentez
 Il sent Ils sentent
 Vêtir . to clothe/to dress Je vêts Nous vêtons
 Tu vêts Vous vêtez
 Il vêt Ils vêtent

Conjugation of verbs ending with 'ir' that are conjugated like verbs ending with 'er'

You should also take cognizance of the fact that there are some verbs ending with 'ir' that end in e, es, e, ons, ez, ent just like we conjugate verbs ending with er. When conjugated, the infinitive of such verbs only drops the 'ir' from their radical and take the e, es, e, ons, ez, ent endings. Examples of this set could be found in verbs like:

(a) Offrir . to offer

J'offre Nous offrons
 Tu offres Vous offrez
 Il/elle offre Ils/elles offrent

(b) Couvrir . to cover

Je couvre Nous couvrons Tu couvres Vous couvrez
 Il/elle couvre Ils couvrent

(c) Cueillir . to pluck

Je cueille Nous cueillons
 Tu cueilles Vous cueillez
 Il cueille Ils cueillent

(d) Assaillir . to attack

J'assaille Nous assaillons
 Tu assailles Vous assaillez
 Il assaille Ils assaillent

Conjugation of other verbs ending with 'ir'

You should learn about other forms of ir verbs. These sets belong to a group whose peculiarities are difficult to explain. Sometimes their radical changes completely from what is in the infinitive. And in some other cases. you only modify the radical. But they are all conjugated with the s,

s, t, ons, ez, ent, endings. As a matter of fact, that is why such verbs are qualified as irregular verbs. Examples could be found in verbs like:

(a) Bouillir . to Boil

Je bous Nous bouillons

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Tu bous Vous bouillez

Il/elle bout Ils/elles bouillent

(b) Dormir . to sleep

Je dors Nous dormons

Tu dors Vous dormez

Il/elle dort Ils/elles dorment

(c) Courir . to run

Je cours Nous courons

Tu cours Vous courez

Il/elle court Ils/elles courent

(d) Mourir . to die

Je meurs Nous mourons Tu meurs Vous mourez Il/elle

meurt Ils meurent

(e) Servir . to serve

Je sers Nous servons

Tu sers Vous servez

Il/elle sert Ils/elles servent

(f) Fuir . to run away

Je fuis Nous fuyons

Tu fuis Vous fuyez

Il/elle fuit Ils/elles fuient

Note: As the semi-vowel y in verbs ending with -er changes to i in the singular form and 3rd person plural, so also is the i in the group of verbs like fuir changes to y in the 1st and 2nd persons plural form here as you can see in the last example above.

Conjugation of other verbs ending with 'oir'

Like we have been emphasizing it for your attention from unit three, verbs ending with 'oir' are purely irregular. So, you should learn to accept and treat them that way. Like the verbs ending with -re and -ir, each of the verbs ending with -oir contains two or more peculiarities that we have treated in verbs of the other groups. It is therefore difficult for us to reclassify them again for detailed discussion on them.

Let us only take some examples and give you insights into the conjugation of some of them.

(a) Recevoir . to receive

Je reçois Nous recevons

Tu reçois Vous recevez

Il/elle reçoit Ils/elles reçoivent

(b) Voir . to see

Je vois Nous voyons

Tu vois Vous voyez
 Il/elle voit Ils/elles voient
 (c) Pouvoir . to be able
 Je peux Nous pouvons
 Tu peux Vous pouvez Il/elle peut Ils
 peuvent
 (d) Savoir . to know (knowledge)
 Je sais Nous savons
 Tu sais Vous savez
 Il/elle sait Ils/elles savent
 (e) Devoir . to be obliged
 Je dois Nous devons
 Tu dois Vous devez
 Il/elle doit Ils/elles doivent
 (f) Mouvoir . to move
 Je meus Nous mouvons
 Tu meus Vous mouvez
 Il/elle meut Ils/elles meuvent
 (g) Valoir . to be worth
 Je vaux Nous valons
 Tu vaux Vous valez
 Il/elle vaut Ils/elles valent
(h) Vouloir . to want: wish
 Je veux Tu veux Il
 veut
 Nous voulons
 Vous voulez Ils
 veulent
 (i)
 (i) Asseoir . sit
 J'assieds
 Nous asseyons
 Tu assieds Il assied Vous asseyez Ils
 Asseyent
 (j)
 (j) Asseoir to sit
 J'assois
 Nous assoyons
 Tu assois
 Il assoit
 Vous assoyez
 Ils assoient
 Note: As you can observe, the verb 'asseoir' has two forms of
 conjugation.



Self-Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs into “Present de l’indicatif”

- Sortir,
- Valoir
- Asseoir.

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, you have been taught the rules governing the conjugation of irregular verbs ending with -ir and -oir into ‘present de l’indicatif’. This group, as you should have discovered, has the largest number of irregular verbs. With our simplified explanation, we are convinced that the complication in understanding irregular verbs, which is a common problem of French language learners like you would have been alleviated.

By now we believe you can conjugate different categories of verbs with ir and oir ending.



5.0 Summary

Having gone this far in the conjugation of verbs, we are sure that you must have been adequately informed in this unit on the basic techniques on how to conjugation of French verbs ending with ir and oir into ‘present de l’indicatif’. Your knowledge of conjugation of these irregular verbs must have been enriched also. By now we are confident that you should have acquired enough verbal vocabulary as well as simple techniques of conjugation of irregular verbs into *présent de l’indicatif*.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs into *présent de l’indicatif*:

- a. savoir,
- b. venir,
- c. courir,
- d. offrir,
- e. partir, f. finir,
- g. sortir,
- h. pouvoir,
- i. valoir,

j. tenir.



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Unit 5 **Conjugation Of Impersonal And Reflexive Verbs Into ‘Present De L’indicatif’**

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Impersonal Verbs into Present De L’indicatif
 - 3.2 General techniques guiding the conjugation of Reflexive verbs into ‘present de l’indicatif’
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References and Other Resources



1.0 Introduction

This unit will teach you the technique of conjugation of French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs. In this unit, you will learn about the easier techniques which a French grammar learner like you could adopt in conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs. These types of verbs are common in French language. You will see them ending with either er, re, ir or oir. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units two to four, will be useful in this unit. What we will do mostly in this unit is to teach you how to identify French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs and the peculiarities of such verbs so that you could apply your already gained knowledge in the conjugation of simple er, re, ir and oir verbs to them thus conjugating them correctly. You can then understand why we have continuously been drawing your attention to the fact that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle the first four units of this course. Therefore, you are implored to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify and list French Impersonal verbs.
- Identify and list French Reflexive verbs
- Explain the peculiarities of these two types of verbs.
- Conjugate Impersonal and Reflexive verbs in the ‘present de l’indicatif’..

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of Impersonal and reflexive verbs into ‘*présent de l’indicatif*’.



3.1 General Techniques Guiding The Conjugation Of Impersonal Verbs Into Present De L’indicatif

Impersonal verbs are verbs that are not generally conjugated in all the persons and classes, such as first, second, third persons, singular and plural form, like the others. They are verbs that do not describe human activities. Since such verbs often refer to abstract things, they can only be conjugated into the 3rd person singular form. Even their conjugation into the third person singular form is limited to masculine personal pronoun, *il*, alone. This explanation is meant to draw your attention to the fact that you cannot use the third person singular of feminine form to conjugate them. We would like to note also that there are no other French verbs that you can conjugate using this method. This type of conjugation is only adopted for impersonal verbs alone.

Examples could be found in:

(a) Pleuvoir . to rain

Il pleut

(b) Falloir . to be necessary

Il faut

(c) Advenir . to happen

Il advient

(d) S’agir de . to be about

Il s’agit de

(e) Brûmer . to mist (hazy)

Il brume

(f) Venter . to blow wind

Il vente

3.2 General Techniques Guiding The Conjugation Of Reflexive Or Pronominal Verbs Into ‘Present De L’indicatif’

Reflexive verbs are what the French grammarians call “Les verbes pronominaux” hence our calling them reflexive or pronominal verbs in English so as to facilitate the ease of reference for French learners like

you. Reflexive or pronominal verbs are verbs used to refer to an action that the subject does to himself/herself. In a situation whereby you want to account for an action that you do to yourself or the action that another person does to himself or herself, you express this action through the use of reflexive or pronominal verbs in French grammar.

In order to conjugate these verbs into 'present de l'indicatif', this set of verbs takes additional (direct/personal) pronoun in their conjugation. The pronouns *me te se nous vous* and *se* are used to mark this action of reflexive or pronominal of the verbs at the level of each personal pronoun from first person singular to the third person plural. For example, if the subject or the speaker wants to say that *I bath myself*, he would say: *Je me lave*.

Note: Note that in the normal conjugation of the infinitive *laver* (to wash), you are to conjugate it in the 'present de l'indicatif' as *Je lave* (meaning I wash..... /I am washing ...) But in the case of reflexive or pronominal action whereby you want to say that you perform the action on yourself, another reflexive pronoun of the same person and grammatical class with that of the subject (personal pronoun) will be inserted to denote that reflexive action in the sentence. Hence, the inclusion of the reflexive pronoun, *me*, in the given example above.

Here are other examples:

(a) *Se laver* . to take ones bath

Je me lave . I bath myself

Tu te laves . You bath yourself

Il/elle se lave . he/she baths himself/herself *Nous nous lavons* . we bath ourselves

Vous vous lavez . you bath yourselves

Ils se lavent . They bath themselves

(b) *Se taire* . to keep quiet

Je me tais . I keep quiet

Tu te tais . You keep quiet

Il/elle se tait . he/she keeps quiet

Nous nous taisons . we keep quiet *Vous vous taisez* . you keep quiet *Ils se taisent* . They keep quiet

(c) *Se convertir* . to convert oneself

Je me convertis . I convert myself

Tu te convertis . You convert yourself

Il/elle se convertit . he/she convert himself/herself *Nous nous*

convertissons . we convert ourselves *Vous vous convertissez* . you convert yourselves *Ils se convertissent* . They convert themselves

(d) *S'asseoir* . to take ones seat

Je m'assois . I sit down/take my seat

Tu t'assois . You sit down/take your seat

Il/elle s'assoit . he/she sits down/take him/her seat *Nous nous assoyons* . we sit down/take our seat *Vous vous assoyez* . you sit down/take your

seat Ils s'assoient . They sit down/take their seat

Or

(e) S'asseoir . to take one's seat

Je m'assieds . I sit down/take my seat

Tu t'assieds . You sit down/take your seat

Il/elle s'assied . he/she sits down/take him/her seat

Nous nous asseyons . we sit down/take our seat

Vous vous asseyez . you sit down/take your seat

Ils s'asseyent . They sit down/take their seat

Note: We would like you to note that there are two grammatically accepted form of conjugation of the verb *S'asseoir* in French.

Whichever

form you chose is correct.

. S'appeler . to call oneself

Je m'appelle . I call myself (I am called) Tu t'appelles . You call yourself

Il/elle s'appelle . He/She calls himself/herself

Nous nous appelons . We call ourselves

Vous vous appelez . You call yourselves

Ils/elles s'appellent . They call themselves

Note: Take note of the fact that the contraction in the conjugation of s'appeler comes as a result of the contact in-between the vowel e of pronouns me, te, se and the infinitive of the verb appeler that has initial vowel a.



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs into “ Present de l'indicatif”

- i. Se taire,
- ii se laver
- iii se convertir

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, you have been taught the rules governing the conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into ‘present de l’indicatif’. As you should have discovered, the impersonal verb is a verb that you can only conjugate with the third person masculine pronoun thus making the verb to refer to inanimate things that are not human beings. You have been taught also that a reflexive verb refers to verbs that depict an action that the subject does to himself. With the way and manner that the explanation has been simplified in this unit, it is believed that the complication in understanding the impersonal and reflexive verbs, which is a common problem to French learners like you would have been

alleviated. By now we believe you can conjugate impersonal and reflexive verbs into 'present de l'indicatif' in French.



5.0 Summary

With this unit on the conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into 'present de l'indicatif', we have completed the cycle of conjugation of verbs into 'present de l'indicatif' in French. You should remember that having used the Unit one to do the general classification of French verbal conjugation groupings, we treated the Conjugation of verbs ending with - er and other regular verbs into 'present de l'indicatif' in Unit 2. Unit 3 treated the Conjugation of irregular verbs ending in - re into 'present de l'indicatif' while Unit 4 explained the Conjugation of irregular verbs ending with -ir/-oir into 'present de l'indicatif' to you. It is in this Unit 5 that we taught you the Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into 'present de l'indicatif'.

Having gone this far in the conjugation of verbs into 'present de l'indicatif', we are sure that you must have been adequately informed in all these five units on the basic techniques of how to conjugate different verbs into 'present de l'indicatif'.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs into présent de l'indicatif:

- a. Se comprendre,
- b. Se taire,
- c. Se voir,
- d. S'offrir,
- e. falloir,
- f. pleuvoir,
- g. venter,
- h. S'agir,
- i. S'habiller,
- j. Se lever.

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Module 2

- Unit 1 Conjugation of verbs ending with er and other regular verbs in the *futur simple*
- Unit 2 Conjugation of irregular verbs in the *futur simple*
- Unit 3 Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs in the *futur simple*
- Unit 4 Conjugation of verbs using the auxiliary *avoir* in the *passé composé*
- Unit 5 Conjugation of verbs using the auxiliary *être* in the *passé Composé*

Unit 1 Conjugation Of Verbs Ending With -Er And Other Regular Verbs Into ‘Futur Simple’

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Verbs Ending With -Er and Other Regular Verbs into Futur Simple
 - 3.2 Exceptionalities to these general rules.
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References/Further Readings

**1.0 Introduction**

In this Unit, you will be taught the method of conjugating verbs that end with -er and other regular verbs into *futur simple*. You will learn about the easier techniques which a French grammar learner like you can adopt in conjugating French er and other regular verbs into *futur simple*. You will recall that in the last five units we talked about the conjugation of verbs into the present tense or present continuous (present de l’indicatif).

We have now getting to a stage where you have to learn how to express actions that will be done in the future. *Futur simple* could therefore be translated as (simple) future tense in English. It is used to express an action that will be done in the future or at a later date or time after the

present moment.

Although we are talking of future tense here, it is a methodical development on the conjugation of verbs into present tense. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units two to five will also be useful in this Unit. Let us insist on our warning you that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the ways and manners with which you handle all the Units that were taught earlier. Therefore, you are implored to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating verbs ending with -er and other regular verbs into *futur simple* as they will be taught here.



2.0. Learning Out Come

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the Stem/Radical of verbs ending with -er
- Identify and use the ending/terminaison of er verbs and other regular verbs when conjugated in the *future simple*
- Identify the morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct
- conjugation of -er verbs and other regular verbs in the *futur simple* tense
- Conjugate -er verbs and other -er regular verbs in the *future simple* tense.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of -er and other regular verbs into *futur simple*.

3.1 General Techniques Guiding The Conjugation of Verbs Ending With -Er and Other Regular Verbs Into FuturSimple

Like you have been told in the introduction to this Unit, the *Futur simple* could be translated as (simple) future tense in English. It is used to express any action that will be done in the future or at a later date or time that exceeds the present. When you want to talk about what you will do or what any other person will do later than when you are talking, you use the future tense in grammar.

Just like in the conjugation of ‘present de l’indicatif’ earlier treated in Units 1 to 5, there are slight differences in the conjugation of this tense in the different verbal groupings. You need therefore to pay attention to the various dissimilarities in the conjugation of -er and other regular verbs into *futur simple* as taught in this Unit.

To conjugate -er and other regular verbs, such as manger, into future tense, you should take whole infinitive of the verb concerned (e.g. manger), then you should add the following endings ai, as, a, ons, ez, ont to it as indicated below:

ai for 1st person singular as for 2nd person singular a
 for 3rd person singular ons for 1st person plural
 ez for 2nd person plural ont for 3rd person plural

Manger

Je mangerai (I shall eat/I will eat)

Tu mangeras (You will eat)

Il mangera (He will eat)

Nous mangerons (We shall eat/We will eat) Vous
 mangerez (You will eat)

Ils mangeront (They will eat)

Note: It is necessary to call your attention to the fact that these *futur simple* endings (ai, as, a, ons, ez, ont) look a bit like the conjugation of the verb avoir into 'present de l'indicatif.' You are therefore advised to quickly compare these endings and the present de l'indicatif conjugated form of the verb avoir for ease of reference:

Avoir

J'ai Nous avons

Tu as Vous avez

Il/elle a Ils/elles ont

If you consider the highlighted ending parts of the 'futur simple' conjugation of manger as well as that of the verb avoir conjugated into 'present de l'indicatif', you will realize very close similarities in them. The differences you are at the level of 1st and 2nd persons plural whereby the verb avoir is conjugated as 'avons' and 'avez' respectively. You can through this enlightenment on the similarities to postulate a method for yourself that future tense could be formed in French language by adding completely the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Person singular and 3rd Person plural of auxiliary 'avoir', while the stem 'av' will be removed from the 1st and 2nd persons plural form leaving only the 'ons' and 'ez' forms of the verb avoir conjugated into 'present de l'indicatif', to the ending of the infinitive of the er and other regular verb you want to conjugate into *future simple*.

Let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some -er verbs into the *future simple*:

a. Parler

ai for 1st person singular = Je parlerai as for

2nd person singular = Tu parleras

a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle parlera ons

for 1st person plural = Nous parlerons

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous parlerez

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils /elles parleront

b. Commencer

ai for 1st person singular

= Je commencerai

as for 2nd person singular = Tu commenceras

a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle commencera
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous commencerons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous commencerez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles commenceront

c. Aimer

ai for 1st person singular = J'aimerai
 as for 2nd person singular = Tu aimeras
 a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle aimera
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous aimerons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous aimerez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles aimeront

d. Appeler

ai for 1st person singular = J'appellerai
 as for 2nd person singular = Tu appelleras
 a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle appellera
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous appellerons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous appellerez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles appelleront



3.2 Exceptionalities To The General Rules

Remember that although *-er* verbs are said to be regular at most of the conjugation groupings, some verbs in this category have some peculiarities when they are conjugated in the 'present de l'indicatif'. The same thing is applicable when conjugating some *-er* verbs in the *future simple* tense. There are some *-er* verbs that take exceptions to the general conjugation techniques/rules in the conjugation of their *futur simple* as we have explained above in this Unit.

In as much as we cannot because of these minor dissimilarities categorize them as being irregular, we then decided to treat them as peculiarities under this category. Examples of such *-er* verbs with peculiarities include *aller*, *payer*, *balayer*, *rudoyer*, *envoyer*, *renvoyer*, etc. You are therefore implored to pay serious attention to their conjugation peculiarities that we are about to treat as irregularities and learn them as presented to you:

e. Aller

ai for 1st person singular = J'irai
 as for 2nd person singular = Tu iras
 a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle ira
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous irons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous irez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles iront

f. Payer

ai for 1st person singular = Je paierai

as for 2nd person singular = Tu paieras
 a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle paiera
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous paierons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous paierez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles paieront
 (Balayer, Rudoyer are conjugated like Payer)
 g. Envoyer
 ai for 1st person singular = J'enverrai as for
 2nd person singular = Tu enverras
 a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle enverra
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous enverrons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous enverrez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles enverront
 (Renvoyer is conjugated like Envoyer)



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs into “futur simple”

- i. écouter
- ii danser
- iii regarder
- iv balayer**

4.0 Conclusion

In this Unit, you have been taught about the rules governing the conjugation of -er and other regular verbs into *futur simple*. You have also been told of some exceptionalities to the general rules. We believe that, by now, you can conjugate -er and other regular -er verbs into *futur simple*.



5.0 Summary

Having laid the foundation for the conjugation of French verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of verbs in the ‘present de l’indicatif’ in Units two to five, this Unit six has gone a little further in the conjugation techniques by focusing on the conjugation -er and other regular verbs into *futur simple*. Much as we discussed the -er verbs, in this unit, as regular verbs, we were quick in identifying and treating some elements of irregularities of some -er verbs at the *futur simple* level. These irregularities are what we treated as peculiarities.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs into *futur simple*:

- a. Aller,
- b. b. Rudoyer,
- c. c. Monter,
- d. d. Nager,
- e. e. Recommencer,
- f. f. Renvoyer, g. Blaguer,
- g. h. nettoyer,
- h. i. Laver,
- i. j. Discuter.



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Unit 2 Conjugation Of Irregular Verbs Into Futur Simple

Contents

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- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Content
- 3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Verbs Ending With -Re and Other Irregular Verbs in The 'Futur Simple' Tense
- 3.2 Conjugation of Re Verbs into Futur Simple
- 3.3 Conjugation of verbs ending with -ir verbs in the *futur simple*.
- 3.4 Conjugation of verbs ending with -oir in the *futur simple*.
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References/Further Readings



1.0 Introduction

You will recall that in Unit Six, we taught you the method of conjugating verbs ending with -er and other regular verbs into *futur simple*. In this Unit, you will be taught how to conjugate some irregular verbs in the *future simple*. Like we did in the previous Unit, we hope to teach you about the easier techniques a French grammar learner like you can apply in conjugating French irregular verbs into *futur simple*.



2.0 Learning Out Come

By the end of this Unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the Stem/Radical of the irregular verbs when conjugated in the *future simple*
- Identify the ending/terminaison of irregular verbs when they are conjugated in the *future simple*.
- Identify the morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation of verbs in the *future simple* tense
- Conjugate irregular verbs ending with -re in the *future simple*.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of irregular

verbs into *futur simple*.



3.1 General Techniques Guiding The Conjugation Of Verbs

Ending With -Re And Other Irregular Verbs In The 'Futur Simple' Tense

Like you have been told in Unit six, the *Futur simple* tense could be translated as (simple) future tense in English. The tense is used to express any action that will be done in the future or at a later date or time that exceeds the present. When you want to talk about what you will do or what any other person will do later than the period you are talking, you use the future tense. The French equivalent of future tense is what is called *Futur simple*.

You will also recall that in Unit six, we have treated how to conjugate verbs ending with -er and other regular verbs into *Futur simple*. If you recall very well in Unit One that you were told that verbs in French language could be divided into three groups according to their endings. We have treated the conjugation of verbs ending with -er and other regular verbs into *Futur simple* in Unit Six. And this Unit, we are focusing on the conjugation of irregular verbs ending with -re, -ir/-oir in the *Futur simple*.

3.2 Conjugation of Re Verbs into Futur Simple To conjugate verbs ending with -re, such as *prendre*, in the future tense, you need to first of all identify the infinitive of the verb concerned (e.g. *prendre*), then you drop the last vowel e of the infinitive and add the following endings i, as, a, ons, ez, ont to the *entire* infinitive of the verb concerned as indicated below:

ai for 1st person singular as for 2nd person singular a for 3rd person singular
 ons for 1st person plural ez for 2nd person plural ont for 3rd person plural

Prendre = To take

Je prendrai

Tu prendras

Il prendra

(I shall take/I will take) (You will take)

(He will take)

Nous prendrons (We shall take /We will take)

Vous prendrez (You will take)

Ils prendront (They will take)

Now, let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some -re verbs into the *futur simple*:

a. Battre (to beat)

ai for 1st person singular = Je battrai

as for 2nd person singular = Tu battras

a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle battra

ons for 1st person plural = Nous battons

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous battrez

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles battront

Note : The conjugation of débattre, combattre, mettre, soumettre, plaire, connaître, paraître, naître, croître, croire, boire, conclure, absoudre, coudre, moudre, suivre, vivre, revivre, survivre, revivre, lire etc, follow this pattern.

j. Craindre (to be afraid/to fear)

ai for 1st person singular = Je craindrai

as for 2nd person singular = Tu craindras

a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle craindra

ons for 1st person plural = Nous craindrons

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous craindrez

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles

craindront

Note : The conjugation of rendre, joindre, plaindre, contraindre, comprendre, rompre, corrompre, rire, interrompre, vaincre, convaincre, dire, contredire, prédire, redire, dedire, sourire, écrire, récrire, inscrire, cuire etc, follow this pattern.

c. Faire (to do/to make)

ai for 1st person singular = Je ferai

as for 2nd person singular = Tu feras

a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle fera

ons for 1st person plural = Nous ferons

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous ferez

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles feront

Note: The conjugation of défaire, refaire, etc, follow this pattern.

d. Etre (to be)

ai for 1st person singular = Je serai

as for 2nd person singular = Tu seras

a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle sera

ons for 1st person plural = Nous serons

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous serez

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles seront

3.3 Conjugation of Verbs Ending With -Ir in the 'Futur Simple' Tense

Note that among the irregular verbs in French language, apart from ones

ending with -re, verbs ending with -ir contain more verbs that follow the same pattern of conjugation into *futur simple*. To conjugate verbs ending with -ir such as finir into future tense, you will take the infinitive of the verb concerned (e.g. finir), then you will add the following endings ai, as, a, ons, ez, ont to the *entire* infinitive of the verb concerned as illustrated below:

a. Finir (to finish)

ai for 1st person singular = Je finirai as for

2nd person singular = Tu finiras

a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle finira

ons for 1st person plural = Nous finirons

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous finirez

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles finiront

Note : The conjugation of obéir, désobéir, haïr, partir, sortir, sentir, mentir, partir, repartir, répartir, vêtir, dévêtir, revêtir, couvrir, ouvrir, offrir, souffrir, accueillir, cueillir, bouillir, dormir, servir, revivre, lire etc, follow this pattern.

b. Tenir (to hold)

ai for 1st person singular = Je tiendrai as for

2nd person singular = Tu tiendras

a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle tiendra

ons for 1st person plural = Nous tiendrons

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous tiendrez

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles tiendront

Note : The conjugation of venir, revenir, parvenir, subvenir etc, follow this pattern.

c. Courir (to run)

ai for 1st person singular = Je courrai as for

2nd person singular = Tu courras

a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle courra

ons for 1st person plural = Nous courrons

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous courrez

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles courront

Note : The conjugation of mourir, etc, follow this pattern.

3.4 Conjugation Of Verbs Ending With -Oir in the 'Futur

Simple' You need to know that, among the irregular verbs in French language, the ones ending with -oir have the largest number that do not follow the same pattern of conjugation in the *futur simple*. It is thus difficult to proffer a general rule that could cover all of them. You are therefore advised to master their stem in the future and other forms of the conjugation could be done easily. It is their stems that you will add the following endings :

ai, as, a, ons, ez, ont.:

a. Avoir (to have)

ai for 1st person singular = J'aurai as for
 2nd person singular = Tu auras
 a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle aura
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous aurons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous aurez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles auront

b. Recevoir (to receive)

ai for 1st person singular = Je recevrai
 as for 2nd person singular = Tu recevras
 a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle recevra
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous recevrons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous recevrez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles recevront

Note : The conjugation of apercevoir, concevoir, décevoir, percevoir, etc. follow this pattern.

c. Voir (to see)

ai for 1st person singular = Je verrai as for
 2nd person singular = Tu verras
 a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle verra
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous verrons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous verrez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles verront

Note : The conjugation of entrevoir, revoir etc, follow this pattern.

d. Savoir (to know- knowlesge)

ai for 1st person singular = Je saurai as for
 2nd person singular = Tu sauras
 a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle saura
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous saurons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous saurez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles sauront

e. Devoir (to be compelled)

ai for 1st person singular = Je devrai as for
 2nd person singular = Tu devras
 a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle devra
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous devrons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous devrez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles devront

f. Pouvoir (to be able to)

ai for 1st person singular = Je pourrai
 as for 2nd person singular = Tu pourras
 a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle pourra
 ons for 1st person plural = Nous pourrons
 ez for 2nd person plural = Vous pourrez
 ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles pourront

g. Vouloir (to wish)

ai for 1st person singular

= Je voudrai

as for 2nd person singular = Tu voudras

a for 3rd person singular = Il/elle voudra

ons for 1st person plural = Nous voudrons

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous voudrez

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/elles voudront

Note : The conjugation of valoir, équivaloir, prévaloir, revaloir etc, follow this pattern.



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs in the “future simple” tense

- i. Apercevoir
- ii Revoir
- ii Prendre

4.0 Conclusion

In this Unit, you have learned the rules governing the conjugation of verbs ending with -re, -ir and -oir in the *futur simple* tense. You have also been told that most verbs in this category are irregular verbs and that you should pay serious attention in learning the stem of these infinitives when conjugated in the ‘future simple’ so that you can add the appropriate endings. We believe by now you can conjugate verbs ending with -re, -ir and -oir in the *futur simple*.



5.0 Summary

As a follow up to Unit six, this Unit seven has gone a little further in teaching you the conjugation techniques to be adopted in the conjugation of verbs ending with -re, -ir and -oir in the *futur simple*. Emphasis was also laid on the fact that most verbs in this category are irregular verbs and that you should be careful in learning the future tense stem of their infinitives so as to add the future tense endings to them.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs in the *futur simple*:

- a. Rendre,
- b. Refaire,
- c. Plaire,

d. d. Sortir,
 e. e. Revenir,
 f. f. Mourir,
 g. g. Valoir,
 h. h. Revoir,
 i. i. Concevoir,
 j. j. être.



7.0 References /Further Readings

- Ade Ojo, Samuel (2002): *A comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*. Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
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Unit 3 Conjugation Of Impersonal And Reflexive Verbs In The ‘Futur Simple’

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Content
- 3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Impersonal Verbs into ‘Futur Simple’ Tense
- 3.2 General techniques guiding the conjugation of Reflexive verbs in the *futur simple*
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References/Further Readings



1.0 Introduction

This Unit will introduce you to the technique of conjugating Impersonal and Reflexive verbs in the *futur simple* tense. In this Unit, you will learn about easy techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could adopt in conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs in the future tense. Like we you were told in Unit five, Impersonal as well as Reflexive verbs are common in French language. You will see them ending with either er, re, ir or even oir. The knowledge you have gained from other Units, most especially Units two to seven will be useful in this Unit. In this Unit, you will be taught mostly how to identify French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs and the peculiarities of such verbs so that you could apply your already gained knowledge in the conjugation of verbs ending with -er, -re,- ir and -oir in the *futur simple* to them. You can them understand why we have continuously emp h a s i z i n g t h e f a c t t h a t your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the ways and manners with which you pay attention to all the previous Units. Therefore, you are strongly advised to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs in the *futur simple* as they will be taught in this Unit.



2.0 Learning Out Come

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify and list the French Impersonal verbs.
- Identify and list the French Reflexive verbs
- Explain the peculiarities of these two types of verbs.
- Conjugate the two types of verbs in the *futur simple* tense.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugating impersonal and reflexive verbs in the '*futur simple*' tense.



3.0 Main Content

3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Impersonal Verbs into 'Futur Simple' Tense As you were told you in Unit five, Impersonal verbs are verbs that cannot be conjugated in all the personal persons such as first, second, third persons, singular and plural form, like the others. They are verbs that are not used to describe human beings' actions. And since they describe abstract things, they can only be conjugated in the 3rd person singular form. Even their conjugation in the third person singular is limited to masculine personal pronoun, *il*, alone. This explanation is a reminder to let you know that you cannot use the feminine form of the third person singular (*elle*) to conjugate them. Note also that it is not every other verb that you can conjugate using this method. This type of conjugation is only adopted for impersonal verbs. Here are some examples of the conjugation of interpersonal verbs in the *future simple* tense:

- a) Pleuvoir . to rain Il pleuvra
- b) Falloir . to be necessary Il faudra
- c) Advenir . to happen Il adviendra
- d) S'agir de . to be about
Il s'agira de
- e) Brûmer . to mist (hazy)
Il brumera
- f) Venter . to blow wind
Il ventera

3.2 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Reflexive or Pronominal Verbs in the 'Futur Simple' Tense Like it was explained in Unit five, Reflexive verbs are what the French grammarian call "Les verbes pronominaux' hence our calling them reflexive or pronominal

verbs in English so as to facilitate the ease of reference for French learners like you. Reflexive or pronominal verbs are verbs used to refer to an action that the subject does to himself/herself. In a situation whereby you want to refer to an action that you do to yourself or the action that another person does to himself or herself, you express the action through the use of reflexive or pronominal verbs in French.

Remember also that the conjugation of this type of verbs takes additional (direct/personal) pronoun in their conjugation. The pronouns *me te senous vous* and *se* are used to mark this reflexive or pronominal action of the verbs.

To conjugate reflexive verbs in the *futur simple*, the following endings are then added to the stem of the main verb. For example, if the subject or the speaker wants to say that *I will/shall bath myself*, he would say: *Je me laverai*.

Note: Take note of the fact that apart from the introduction of another reflexive pronoun of the same person with that of the subject (personal pronoun) that you will insert so as to denote that reflexive action in the sentence, you will be expected to bring into use also your knowledge of conjugation of verbs ending with *-er, -re, -ir, -oir* that you have acquired in Units six and seven. Here are some examples of conjugation:

(e) *Se laver* . to take one's bath

Je me laverai . I will/shall bath myself *Tu te laveras* . You will bath yourself

Il/elle se lavera . he/she will bath himself/herself *Nous nous laverons* . we will bath ourselves *Vous vous laverez* . you will bath yourselves *Ils/Elles se laveront* . They will bath themselves

(f) *Se taire* . to keep quiet

Je me tairai . I will/shall keep quiet *Tu te tairas* . You will keep quiet *Il/elle se taira* . he/she will keep quiet

Nous nous tairons . we will keep quiet *Vous vous tairez* . you will keep quiet *Ils/elles se tairont* . They will keep quiet

(g) *Se convertir* . to convert oneself

Je me convertirai . I will/shall convert myself *Tu te convertiras* . You will convert yourself

Il/elle se convertira . he/she will convert himself/herself *Nous nous convertirons* . we will convert ourselves *Vous vous convertirez* . you will convert yourselves *Ils/elles se convertiront* . They will convert themselves

(h) *S'asseoir* . to take one's seat

Je m'assoierai . I will/shall sit down/take my seat *Tu t'assoieras* . You will sit down/take your seat

Il/elle s'assoiera . he/she will sit down/take him/her seat *Nous nous assoierons* . we will sit down/take our seat *Vous vous assoierez* .

you will sit down/take your seat Ils/Elles s'assoieront . They will sit down/take their seat

Or

(f) S'asseoir . to take one's seat

Je m'assierai . I will/shall sit down/take my seat Tu t'assieras .

You will sit down/take your seat

Il/elle s'assiera . he/she will sit down/take him/her seat Nous nous

assiérons . we will sit down/take our seat Vous vous assiérez .

you will sit down/take your seat Ils/Elles s'assieront . They will sit down/take their seat

Note: Take good of the fact that, just like in the conjugation of the 'present

de l'indicatif" that we did in Unit five, there are two grammatically accepted forms of conjugating the verb *s'asseoir* in the *futur simple*. Whichever form you chose or use is correct.

(i) S'appeler . to call oneself

Je m'appellerai . I will call myself (I will be called) Tu t'appelleras

. You will call yourself

Il/elle s'appellera . He/She will call himself/herself Nous nous

appellerons . We will call ourselves Vous vous appellerez . You

will call yourselves Ils/elles s'appelleront . They will call themselves.



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs in the "Futur simple" tense:

i. Voir

ii. Se taire

iii. se lever

Tu te tairas Vous vous tairez il/elle se taira il / elles se tairont

4.0 Conclusion

In this Unit, you have been taught the rules governing the conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs in the '*futur simple*' tense. As explained, the impersonal verb is a verb that you can only conjugate with third person masculine pronoun (il) since the verb refers to inanimate things that are not human beings. You have been taught also that the *futur simple* of reflexive verb refers to an action that the subject will do to himself in the future. With the way and manner the explanation is simplified in this Unit, we are convinced that the complication in understanding the *futur simple* form of impersonal and reflexive verbs, which would have been a problem to French learners

like you is alleviated. By now we believe that you can conjugate impersonal and reflexive verbs in the *futur simple* in French.

5.0 Summary

With this Unit focusing on the conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs in the *futur simple*, we have completed the cycle of conjugation of verbs into that French tense.

Having gone this far in the conjugation of verbs in the ‘*futur simple*’, it is believed that you must have been adequately informed in all these eight units on the basic techniques of how to conjugate different verbs into ‘present de l’indicatif’ and the *futur simple*.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs in *futur simple*:
 - a. Advenir,
 - b. Se regarder
 - c. Se taire,
 - d. S’offrir,
 - e. falloir,
 - f. pleuvoir,
 - g. venter,
 - h. S’agir,
 - i. e lever,
 - j. Se comprendre.



7.0 References And Other Resources

- Ade Ojo, Samuel (2002): *A comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*. Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
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Unit4 Conjugation Of Verbs Using The Auxilliary *Avoir* In The ‘Passe Compose’ Tense

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Content
 - 3.1 General techniques guiding the conjugation of verbs using the auxiliary *avoir* in *passé composé*.
 - 3.2 Techniques guiding the conjugation of verbs ending with -er that use the auxiliary *avoir* in *passé composé*.
 - 3.3 Techniques guiding the conjugation of verbs ending with -re that use the auxiliary *avoir* in *passé composé*.
 - 3.4 Techniques guiding the conjugation of verbs ending with -ir/-oir that use the auxiliary *avoir* in the *passé composé*.
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References /Further Readings



1.0 Introduction

In this Unit, you will be taught how to conjugate French verbs using the auxiliary *avoir* in the *passé composé* tense. You will learn about the easier techniques which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating verbs that use the auxiliary *avoir* in the *passé composé*.

Recall that in the first five units we have learnt about the conjugation of verbs in the *présent de l'indicatif*, while in Units six to eight, we learnt about how to conjugate verbs in the *futur simple*. The significance of all these previous lessons is that, on the one hand, you were taught how to conjugate French verbs to express actions that one is doing at present, habitually or in present continuous manners with the conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif*, on the other hand, you were also taught how French learners like you can express actions that one is doing in the future through the conjugation of verbs in the *futur simple*.

Now we have just got to a stage where you will be taught how to express actions that are done in the past. Any action that has taken place in the past, that is before the time that you are reporting the action, is expressed in French through the *passé composé* tense. A *passé composé* tense expresses an action that has been done and concluded a second, a

minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year or even a decade in the past before the time the speaker is reporting it. Note that the knowledge you have gained from all the previous Units, most especially Units two to eight will also be useful in this Unit. Be warned that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle all the Units previously taught in this Course. Therefore, you are advised to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating verbs with the auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé* as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify and conjugate the auxiliary *avoir* in the present tense.
- Identify and list French verbs that use the auxiliary *avoir* in the *passé composé*.
- Identify the past participle of some of the verbs that use the auxiliary *avoir* in the *passé composé*.
- Conjugate verbs that use the auxiliary *avoir* in the *passé composé* by adding the appropriate form of the auxiliary *avoir* to the past participle of the verbs concerned.

You are now invited to follow the method that could facilitate the conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*.



3.0 Main Contents

3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Verbs that use the Auxiliary *Avoir* in the *Passé Composé*

As you were told you in the introduction to this Unit, the *passé composé* tense is used to express actions that have taken place in the past before the time that you are reporting the action. It is a tense that expresses an action that has been done and concluded a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year or even a decade in the past before the time the speaker is reporting it.

Unlike the conjugations of *présent de l'indicatif* and *future simple tenses* whereby the conjugation centres on the single major verb, the conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* entails the usage of an auxiliary in addition to the past participle of the main verb. It is the combination of this auxiliary and the main verb that gives the tense its name: *passé composé*.

In French, *composé* means *compounded, that contains more than one linguistic element*. *Passé composé* could therefore be literally translated

as *compound past* that relates past actions/tense i.e. the past perfect tense.

Be informed also that '*passé composé*' is used in French as the simple past in English. A lot of Anglophone Students make the mistake of translating the *passé composé* tense as being perfect tense. For example: J'ai été means I was but not I have been.

The general rule for conjugating verbs in this tense says that you add the past participle of the verb you want to conjugate to the present tense of the auxiliary 'avoir' or 'être' (as the case may be): - (Auxiliaire avoir ou être au présent de l'indicatif + participe passé du verbe concerné)

Since the rule insists that you add the auxiliary *avoir*, conjugated into the *présent de l'indicatif*, to the past participle of the main verb, let us help you to recollect your knowledge of conjugating the verb *avoir* in the *présent de l'indicatif*:

Avoir

J'ai Nous avons

Tu as Vous avez

Il a Ils ont

Let us now follow the rules to conjugate the verb *manger* in the *passé composé*: auxiliary *avoir* + past participle of *manger* (*mangé*)

Manger - to eat

J'ai mangé Nous avons mangé

Tu as mangé Vous avez mangé

Il/elle a mangé Ils/elles ont mangé

3.2 Techniques Guiding The Conjugation Of Er Verbs With

The Auxiliary *Avoir* Into *Passé Composé* Remember that for you to conjugate a verb in the '*passé composé*' you must first of all identify the past participle of such a verb. To form the past participle of all verbs ending with -er is easy: you drop the r at the end of the infinitive and put an acute accent (/) on the final 'e'. For example, *manger* becomes *mangé*. It is this past participle that you precede with the personal pronoun and the correct conjugated form of the auxiliary *avoir* in order to form your *passé composé*. Here are some examples of the conjugation of -er verbs:

(a) Parler - to speak J'ai parlé (I spoke)

Tu as parlé (You spoke) Il/elle a parlé (He/She spoke) Nous avons parlé (We spoke)

Vous avez parlé (You spoke) Ils/elles ont parlé (They spoke)

(b) Commencer - to start

J'ai commencé (I started)

Tu as commencé (You started) Il/elle a commencé (He/She started) Nous avons

commencé (We started) Vous avez commencé

(You started) Ils/elles ont commencé (They started)

3.3 Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of - Re Verbs

With Auxiliary *Avoir* in the *Passé Composé* Majority of verbs in this category form their past participle by replacing the re ending by t or s. Apart from some irregular verbs such as être (which has été as its past participle) most other -re verbs end in t or s as their past participle. Example could be seen in faire whose past participle is fait, dire whose past participle is dit.

(a) Être - to be

J'ai été (I was)

Tu as été (You were)

Il/elle a été (He/She was) Nous avons été (We were)

Vous avez été (You were) Ils/elles ont été (They were)

(b) Faire - to do/make

J'ai fait (I did/made)

Tu as fait (You did/made)

Il/elle a fait (He/She did/made) Nous avons fait

(We did/made) Vous avez fait (You

did/made) Ils/elles ont fait (They did/made)

(c) Dire - to say

J'ai dit (I said)

Tu as dit (You said)

Il/elle a dit (He/She said) Nous avons dit (We said)

Vous avez dit (You said) Ils/elles ont dit (They said)

3.4 Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of -Ir/-Oir Verbs with The Auxiliary *Avoir* in the *Passé Composé*

Remember that you were previously told that majority of French verbs, apart from those ending with -er are classified as irregular verbs. Note that this irregularity also affects the formation of their past participle. While finir has fini, partially following the -er verbs pattern to form its past participle, the same could not be said of voir whose past participle is vu. You are then advised to learn the irregular past participle as you acquire your vocabularies. Here are some examples of conjugation in the 'passe composé'.

(a) Finir - to finish

J'ai fini (I finished)

Tu as fini (You finished)

Il/elle a fini (He/She finished) Nous avons fini

(We finished) Vous avez fini (You

finished) Ils/elles ont fini (They finished)

(b) Voir - to see

J'ai vu (I saw)

Tu as vu (You saw)

Il/elle a vu (He/She saw) Nous avons vu (We saw)

Vous avez vu (You saw) Ils/elles ont vu (They saw)



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs intoe “Passe’ Compose’ : Regarder , Dire, Vouloir, faire.

4.0 Conclusion

In this Unit, you have been taught the rules governing the conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*. You have also been told of how to conjugate the auxiliary *avoir* as well as how to identify the past participle of er, re ir and oir verbs. We believe by now you can conjugate most verbs using the auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*.



5.0 Summary

With the solid foundation we have laid for you in Units two to five through the simplified presentation of the conjugation in the *présent de l’indicatif* as well as the techniques of the conjugation of *future simple* that we methodically handled in Units six to eight, this Unit nine has gone further by teaching you the techniques for the conjugation of verbs that use the auxiliary ‘avoir’ in the ‘passe compose’ tense.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

Conjugate the following verbs into *passé composé*:

- a. Mentir,
- b. Noter,
- c. Discuter,
- d. Regarder,
- e. Savoir,
- f. Vouloir,
- g. Prendre,
- h. Refaire,
- i. Définir,
- j. Dire



7.0 References/Further Readings

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Unit 5 Conjugation Of Verbs That Use The Auxiliary *Être* In The *Passé composé* Tense

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Contents
 - 3.1 General techniques guiding the conjugation of verbs that use the auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*.
 - 3.2 Techniques guiding the conjugation of er verbs that use the auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*.
 - 3.3 Techniques guiding the conjugation of – re verbs that use the auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*.
 - 3.4 Techniques guiding the conjugation of ir/oir verbs that use the auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*.
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References /Further Readings



1.0 Introduction

You will recall that we introduced you into the conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* in Unit 9 where you were taught about the method of conjugating verbs that use the auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*. In this Unit, we hope to teach you the method of conjugating verbs that use the auxiliary *être* in the *passé composé*. You will learn about the easier techniques which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating verbs with auxiliary *être* into French *passé composé*.

Just like you were told in Unit nine, any action that has been done in the past, before the time that you are reporting the action, is expressed in French through the *passé composé*. In other words, a *passé composé* tense expresses an action that has been done and concluded a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year or even a decade in the past before the time the speaker is reporting it. Note that the knowledge you gained from previous units, most especially Units two to nine will also be useful in this Unit. Let us insist again on the fact that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the ways and manners with which you handled all the previous Units. Therefore, you are strongly advised to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of

conjugating verbs that use the auxiliary *être* in the *passé composé* as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify and conjugate the auxiliary *être* in the present tense.
- Identify and list the past participle of various verbs that use the auxiliary 'etre' when conjugated in the 'passe composé'.
- Conjugate verbs that use the auxiliary 'etre' in the *passé composé*.

You are now invited to follow the method that could facilitate the conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*.



3.0 Main Objectives

3.1 General Techniques Guiding The Conjugation of Verbs That Use the Auxiliary *Etre* in the *Passé Composé* As you were told in Unit nine as well as i n t h e introduction to this Unit, *passé composé* is used to express actions that have taken place in the past. Also, unlike the conjugations in the *présent de l'indicatif* and *future simple* whereby the conjugation centres on the main verb, the conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* entails the usage of an auxiliary and the past participle of the main verb. Remember also that '*Le passé composé*' is used in French as the simple past in English. For example, J'ai ete means I was and not *I have been*. Let us call your attention to the general rule explained in Unit 9 which says that you add the past participle of the verb you want to conjugate to the present tense of the auxiliary avoir or être (as the case may be): - (Auxilliaire avoir ou être + participle passé du verbe concerné). Please note that while we used auxilliaire avoir for the verb manger, in Unit 9, the auxiliary être is what we will use for such verbs like aller, venir, etc. in this Unit. Before you start asking the question about how to know the rationale behind the choice of auxiliary to be used with one particular verb or the other, we thought it necessary provide a possible solution to your 'could be' problem.

Although some grammarians came with some 'indications' that could be used in deciding on the choice of the appropriate auxiliary to for the conjugation in the 'passe composé', we would want to suggest that the following verbs should take auxiliary 'etre' when they are to be conjugated in the that tense: Aller (to go), descendre (to come down), rester (to rest), monter (to climb), tomber (to fall), naître (to be born), sortir (to go out), partir (to go) venir (to come). Other verbs are venir,

advenir, provenir, devenir etc, entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return). Most other verbs, apart from these ones and their variants, are conjugated with auxiliary 'avoir'. The implication of this explanation here is that if there are well over twelve thousand verbs in French grammar and only about less than thirty of them are conjugated with auxiliary être, the easier method then is to memorise those verbs conjugated with auxiliary être so that you will know that any verb not in that category will be conjugated with auxiliary avoir. The 'passe compose' rule says that you add the auxiliary être, conjugated in the *présent de l'indicatif*, to the past participle of the main verb. Therefore, let us recollect the knowledge of conjugating the verb être in the *présent de l'indicatif*:

Etre

Je suis Nous sommes

Tu es Vous êtes

Il est Ils sont

Elle est Elles sont

Let us then follow this pattern and the rules governing it to conjugate the verb

aller into *passé composé*:

aller - to go (Past participle is 'alle')

Je suis allé(e) Nous sommes allé(e)s

Tu es allé(e) Vous êtes allé(e)s

Il est allé Ils sont allés

Elle est allée Elles sont allées

Note: You would have noted that an additional vowel e or consonant s or both (es) are added to the ending of some past participle above. The French grammatical rules compel all the verbs that take auxiliary être to agree with gender and the number of the Subject (either pronoun or noun) that precedes it. These agreement rules shall be explained to you better in Unit twelve.

3.2 Techniques Guiding the Conjugation Of -Er Verbs That Use the Auxiliary *Etre* in the *Passé Composé* Remember that it is easy to form the past participle of all -er verbs. Just like you were taught in Unit 9, you drop the r at the end of the infinitive and put an acute accent (/) on the final 'e'. Example: Monter becomes Monté. It is this past participle that you place after the personal pronoun and the auxiliary être in order to form your *passé composé*. Here are some examples of verbs conjugated in the 'passe compose' with the auxiliary 'avoir':

(a) Monter - to climb

Je suis monté(e) (I climbed)

Tu es monté(e) (You climbed)

Il est monté (He climbed)

Elle est montée (She climbed) Nous sommes monté(e)s (We climbed)

Vous êtes monté(e)s (You climbed) Ils sont montés (They climbed)

Elles sont montées (They climbed)

Note: Verbs ending with -er verbs such as aller (to go), rester (to rest), tomber (to fall), retomber (to fall again), entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return) are conjugated following this pattern.

3.3 Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of -Re Verbs That Use The Auxiliary *Etre* In The *Passé Composé* As you were told in Unit nine, majority of verbs in this category form their past participle by replacing the re ending by t or s. But an irregular verb such as naître has né as its past participle. You could note that this grouping of verb is not common in the category of verbs that take auxiliary être.

Example could be seen in descendre whose past participle is descendu.

(a) Descendre - (to come down)

Je suis descendu(e) (I came down)

Tu es descendu(e) (You came down)

Il est descendu (He came down)

Elle est descendue (She came down) Nous sommes

descendu(e)s (We came down) Vous êtes

descendu(e)s (You came down)

Ils sont descendus (They came down)

Elles sont descendues (They came down)

3.4 Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Ir/Oir Verbs that Use The Auxiliary 'Etre' in The 'Passe Compose'

As you were told in Unit nine, majority of verbs, apart from the er verbs are irregular; this irregularity also affects the formation of their past participle. While a verb like sortir has sorti, partially following the er verbs pattern to form its past participle, the same could not be said of venir whose past participle is venu. You are therefore strongly advised to memorise the irregular past participle as you acquire your vocabularies.

Here are some examples of conjugation:

(a) Sortir - to go out

Je suis sorti(e) (I went out)

Tu es sorti(e) (You went out)

Il est sorti (He went out)

Elle est sortie (She went out) Nous sommes sorti(e)s

(We went out)

Vous êtes sorti(e)s (You went out)

Ils sont sortis (They went out)

Elles sont sorties (They went out)

Note: Verbs ending with -ir such as sortir (to go out), ressortir (to go out again), partir (to go), repartir (to go again) are conjugated following this

pattern.

(b) Venir - to come

Je suis venu(e) (I came)

Tu es venu(e) (You came)

Il est venu (He came)

Elle est venue (She came) Nous sommes venu(e)s (We came) Vous êtes venu(e)s (You came)

Ils sont venus (They came)

Elles sont venues (They came)

Note: Verbs ending with -ir verbs such as venir (to come) and all other verbs that have something to do with venir like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, are conjugated following this pattern.



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs in the 'passe compose': partir, retourner, revenir.

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, you were taught the rules governing the conjugation of verbs that use the auxiliary *être* in the *passé composé*. You have also learnt how to conjugate the auxiliary *être*, how to identify the past participle of er, re ir and oir verbs and how to conjugate those verbs in that tense. We believe that by now you can conjugate most verbs that use the auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*.



5.0 Summary

With the solid foundation you got through the simplified presentation of the conjugation in the *présent de l'indicatif* (in Units two to five) and the techniques of conjugating in the *future simple* (in Unit six to eight) as well as the method of conjugating verbs with the auxiliary *avoir* in the *passé composé* (Unit nine), this Unit ten has gone further in the conjugation techniques by focusing on the conjugation verbs that use the auxiliary *être* in the *passé composé* tense.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

Conjugate the following verbs in the *passé composé*:

- a. Revenir,
- b. Aller,

- c. Retomber,
- d. Rentrer,
- e. Partir,
- f. Resortir,
- g. Retourner,
- h. Renaître,
- i. Devenir,
- j. Descendre.



7.0 References /Further Readings

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Module 3

- Unit 1 Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs in the *passé composé*
- Unit 2 Rules of agreement in the *passé composé*
- Unit 3 Conjugation of verbs ending with er and other regular verbs in *l'imparfait*
- Unit 4 Conjugation of irregular verbs in the present de *l'imparfait*
- Unit 5 Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs in *l'imparfait*

Unit 1 Conjugation Of Impersonal And Reflexive Verbs In The *Passé Composé*

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Contents
- 3.1 General techniques guiding the conjugation of Impersonal verbs in the *passé composé*
- 3.2 General techniques guiding the conjugation of Reflexive verbs in the *passé composé*
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References /Further Readings



1.0 Introduction

In this unit, you will be taught the technique of conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *passé composé*. You will also learn about the easier techniques which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *passé composé*. Like we said it in Units five and eight, impersonal, as well as reflexive verbs are common in French language. You will see them ending with either er, re, ir or even oir. Remember that the knowledge you have gained from other Units, most especially Units two to ten will be useful in this Unit. What we will do mostly in this unit is to teach you the peculiarities of these verbs so that you could apply your already gained knowledge in the *passé composé* conjugation of simple er, re, ir and oir verbs to them thus conjugating them correctly.

Therefore, you are urged you to read attentively the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *passé composé* as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify and list French Impersonal verbs.
- Identify and list the French Reflexive verbs
- Explain the peculiarities of these two verbs.
- Conjugate the two types verbs into *passé composé*

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of the two sets of irregular verbs into '*passé composé*'.



3.0 Main Contents

3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of

Impersonal Verbs into Passe Compose as you were told in Units five and eight, Impersonal verbs are verbs that cannot be conjugated in all the numerous persons and classes, such as first, second, third persons, singular and plural, like others verbs. They are verbs that are not used to describe human beings' actions. And since they refer to abstract things, they can only be conjugated using the 3rd person singular form. Even their conjugation into the singular form of the third person is limited to masculine personal pronoun, *il*, alone. This explanation is to let you know that you cannot use the feminine form of the third person singular to conjugate such verbs. This type of conjugation is only done for impersonal verbs alone!

When you want to conjugate impersonal verbs in the *passé composé*, you should adopt the *passé composé* rules as applicable to verbs with auxiliary *avoir* or *être* at the third person singular level only. The *passé composé* rules for this type of verbs could then be modified as follow:

Third person singular of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* plus the past participle of the verb concerned.

The implication of this rule is that there are some of these verbs that are conjugated with the auxiliary *avoir* while very few others are conjugated with the auxiliary *être*. The verb *venir*, as well as reflexive verbs in this category, such as *advenir* and *s'agir (de)* are conjugated with the auxiliary *être*, while a lot of other impersonal verbs are conjugated with auxiliary *avoir*. Examples could be found in:

a. Pleuvoir . to rain

- Il a plu
 b. Falloir . to be necessary
 Il a fallu
 c. Advenir . to happen Il est advenu
 d. S'agir de . to be about Il s'est agi de
 e. Brûmer . to mist (hazy)
 Il a brumé
 f. Venter . to blow wind Il a venté

3.2 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation Of Reflexive or Pronominal Verbs into *Passé Composé* As we explained in Units five and eight, Reflexive verbs are what the French grammarian call “Les verbes pronominaux’ hence our calling them reflexive or pronominal verbs in English so as to facilitate the ease of reference for French learners like you. They are verbs used to refer to an action that the subject does to himself/herself. In a situation whereby you want account for an action that you do to yourself or the action that another person does to himself or herself, you express this action through the use of reflexive or pronominal verbs in French grammar.

When conjugating these verbs into *passé composé*, they take additional (direct/personal) pronoun in their conjugation. The pronouns *me te se nous vous* and *se* are used to mark the reflexive or pronominal actions of the verbs. The *passé composé* rules are then applicable to these doubled pronouns. In line with the *passé composé* rules on to reflexive verbs, the rule allows such verbs to be conjugated with only auxiliary *être* as follows: auxiliary *être* that is preceded by the two personal pronouns plus the past participle of the verb concerned.

For example, if the subject or the speaker wants to say that *I bathed myself*, he would say: *Je me suis lavé(e)*.

NOTE: Please note that apart from the introduction of another reflexive pronoun of the same person and grammatical class with that of the subject (personal pronoun) that you will insert so as to denote that action of reflexive in the sentence, you will be also expected to bring into use your knowledge of conjugation of *er, re, ir, oir* into *passé composé* that you have acquired in Units nine and ten. Now, let us take some examples of conjugation of reflexive verbs in the ‘*passé composé*’

a) *Se laver* . to take one’s bath

Je me suis lavé(e) . I bathed myself

Tu t’es lavé(e) . You bathed yourself *Il s’est lavé* . He bathed himself

Elle s’est lavée . She bathed herself

Nous nous sommes lavé(e)s . we bathed ourselves *Vous vous êtes*

lavé(e)s . you bathed yourselves *Ils se sont lavés* . They bathed themselves *Elles se sont lavées* . They bathed themselves

(b) *Se taire* . to keep quiet

Je me suis tué(e) . I kept quiet. *Tu t’es tué(e)* . You kept quiet. *Il s’est tué* .

He kept quiet.

Elle s'est tue . She kept quiet.

Nous nous sommes tu(e)s . we kept quiet. Vous vous êtes tu(e)s . you kept quiet.

Ils se sont tus . They kept quiet. Elles se sont tues . They kept quiet.

(a) Se convertir . to convert oneself Je me suis converti(e) . I converted myself Tu t'es converti(e) . You converted yourself Il s'est converti . He converted himself

Elle s'est convertie . She converted herself

Nous nous sommes converti(e)s . we converted ourselves Vous vous êtes converti(e)s . you converted yourselves Ils se sont convertis . They converted themselves Elles se sont converties . They converted themselves

(b) S'asseoir . to take one's seat

Je me suis assis(e) . I sat down Tu t'es assis(e) . You sat down Il s'est assis . He sat down Elle s'est assise . She sat down

Nous nous sommes assis(e)s . we sat down Vous vous êtes assis(e)s . you sat down

Ils se sont assis . They sat down Elles se sont assises . They sat down

(c) S'appeler . to call oneself

Je me suis appelé(e) . I was called/ I called myself

Tu t'es appelle(e) . You were called/ you called yourself Il s'est appelle . He was called/ He called himself

Elle s'est appelee . She was called/ She called herself

Nous nous sommes appelé(e)s . we were called/ We called ourselves

Vous vous êtes appelé(e)s . You were called/ You called yourselves Ils se sont appelés . They were called/ They called themselves

Elles se sont appelées . They were called/ They called themselves



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs into *passé composé*: Se voir, se venter, se regarder

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, you have been taught, the rules governing the conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into '*passé composé*'. As you should have discovered, the impersonal verb is a verb that you can only conjugate with third person masculine pronoun in the *passé composé* thus making the verb to refer to inanimate things that are not human beings. With the conjugation method and technique explained in this Unit, we are convinced that the complication in understanding the *passé*

composé form of impersonal and reflexive verbs, which would have been a problem to French learners like you would have been alleviated. By now we believe that you can conjugate French impersonal and reflexive verbs into *passé composé*.



5.0 Summary

With this Unit focusing on the conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into *passé composé*, we have completed the cycle of conjugation of French verbs into *passé composé*. What is left now is to teach the agreement rules of the *passé composé*. This is what we will treat in Unit twelve. Having gone this far in the conjugation of verbs into '*passé composé*', we are sure that you must have been adequately informed in all these eleven units on the basic techniques of how to conjugate different verbs into '*présent de l'indicatif*', *futur simple* and the *passé composé*.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

Conjugate the following verbs into *passé composé*:

- a. Advenir,
- b. Se voir,
- c. Se taire,
- d. S'offrir,
- e. falloir,
- f. pleuvoir,
- g. venter,
- h. S'agir,
- i. Se lever,
- j. Se comprendre.



7.0 References /Further Readings

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Unit 2 The Rule Of Agreement (Accord) In The Passé Composé

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Contents
- 3.1 General techniques guiding the Agreement of *passé composé*
- 3.2 Agreement of 'Passé Composé'
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References /Further Readings



1.0 Introduction

In this unit, you will be taught the techniques of the Agreement (Accord) of *passé composé*. You will also learn about the techniques which a French grammar learner like you could apply in identifying areas that need the Agreement of *passé composé* when writing in French.

You will recall that we introduced you into the world of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* in Unit 9 where you were initiated into the method of conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *avoir* in *passé composé*.

In Unit 10 we also taught you the method of conjugating verbs with auxiliary *être* in *passé composé*. In this Unit, we would teach you about the Agreement of *passé composé* in French grammar.

Just like we explained in Units nine and ten, any action that has taken place in the past, before the time that you are reporting the action, is expressed in French through *passé composé*.

In as much as we will be talking about the rules of agreement of *passé composé* here, it is a methodical development on various conjugations of verbs that you have learned. The knowledge you have gained from other Units, most especially Units two to eleven will also be useful in this Unit.

Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of the agreement rules of *passé composé* in French grammar as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the grammatical level of French *passé composé* that needs agreement.
- Identify the French lexical items with which the agreement could be applied.
- Effectively accord these agreements correctly when conjugating or writing in French.

You are now invited to follow the explanation on the method of agreement of '*passé composé*'.



3.0 Main Contents

3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Agreement of

Passé Composé Like we said in Units nine to eleven as well as our introduction to this unit, we use *passé composé* to express actions that are done in the past, any action that has been done in the past, before the time that you are reporting the action. Remember that the conjugation of *passé composé* is different from that of the conjugations of *présent de l'indicatif* and *future simple*. Whereby their conjugation centres on the single major verb, the conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* entails the usage of an auxiliary and the past participle of the main verb.

Remember also that the general rule we provided in Units 9 and ten says that you add, the past participle of the verb you want to conjugate, to the present tense of the auxiliary avoir or être (as the case may be): Auxillaire avoir ou être + participe passé du verbe concerné. We also explained the rationale behind the choice of auxiliary to be used with one particular verb or the other by providing a possible solution to your 'could be' problem by saying that the following verbs when they are to be conjugated, should take auxiliary être: Aller (to go), descendre (to come down), rester (to rest), monter (to climb), tomber (to fall), naître (to be born), sortir (to go out), partir (to go) venir (to come), so also all other verbs that have something to do with venir like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return). Most other verbs, apart from these ones and their variants, are conjugated with auxiliary 'avoir'.

You were also taught that additional the vowel e or consonant s or both es are added to the ending of some past participle when you use the auxiliary être. We tried to explain then that the French grammatical rules

compel all the verbs that take auxiliary être to agree with gender and the number of the Subject (either pronoun or noun) that precedes it. It is the combination of these agreement rules that we would like to teach in this unit.

3.2 AGREEMENT OF 'PASSE COMPOSE'

1. There must be no agreement in between the subject and the past participle if the auxiliary avoir is used in a direct and simple sentence: Example:

- J'ai mangé de la viande.

2. But in a situation where the complement of the direct object comes before the verb that has avoir as its auxiliary verb in the 'passe compose', the past participle of this main verb must agree in gender and in number with the object. The feminine object therefore introduces an additional t to the ending of the past participle while the plurality is marked by an additional s (if it is masculine plural) or additional es (if it is feminine plural): Examples!

3. -- La viande que j'ai mangée.

-- Les livres que vous m'avez donnés.

-- j'ai vu des filles. = Je les ai vues.

4. When an auxiliary 'être' is used, the past participle must agree in gender and in number with the subject. The feminine subject introduces an additional e to the ending of the past participle while the plurality is marked by an additional s (if it is masculine plural) or additional es (if it is feminine plural):

-- Il est parti. = Elle est partie.

-- Elles sont sorties. = Ils sont sortis.

-- Nous sommes sorti(e)s.

5. Pronominal or reflexive verbs will agree in gender and in number if the reflexive pronoun used with the verb has its antecedent in the (main) subject thus referring to the subject also:

---Yétunde s'est lavée.

-- Nous nous sommes lavés./ Nous nous sommes lavées.

6. But there will be no agreement if the action is not referring to the subject but to a direct object placed after the past participle of the sentence:

---Elle s'est lavé la main.

-- Elles se sont lavé les vêtements.

7. In a situation where the compliment of direct object 'en' comes before the auxiliary *avoir* there will be no accord:

-- Les hommes celebres, j'en ai connu.

8. The past participle of the verb *faire* (fait) followed by an infinitive does not agree in gender and in number with the subject, nor with the object:

-- Je les ai fait comprendre

9. The past participle of verbs like *couru*, *coûté*, *valu* are invariable when they are used in their real sense but they agree in gender and in number when they are used in a figurative sense:

-- Les cinq Naira que ce pantalon m'a coute.

-- Les efforts que ce travail m'a coutes.

-- Combien de Kilomètres avez-vous couru avant de le rattraper?

-- Combien de commissions avez-vous courues pour le Président?

--- Ce sont les dix Naira que ce travail a valu.

--- Vous pensez que ma vie n'a value que celle de chien?



Self Assessment Exercise

Rewrite the following sentences by conjugating the verbs in the them into 'passe compose' by laying emphasis on the agreement (accord) where necessary.

1. les branches (rayer) ma voiture. .
2. ils (bondir) de joie lorsqu'ils (savoir) leur note. .
3. j'(commencer) a realiser un herbier. .
4. mes grands-parents (aller) en Iran ; ils m'(rapporter) un vase craquele. .
5. l'equipe de France (trionpher) en demi-finale.

Possible answer :

- 1 les branches ont rayé ma voiture. .
2. ils ont bondi de joie lorsqu'ils ont su leur note. .
3. j'ai commencé à réaliser un herbier. .
4. mes grandsparents son talles en Iran ; ils m'ont rapporte un vase craquele. .
5. L'equipe de France a triomphe en demi-finale.

4.0 Conclusion

You have been taught, in this unit, the rules governing the agreement of *passé composé*. You have also been told of how to recognize the sentences that need the grammatical agreement of *passé composé*. We believe by now you can accord the agreement rules of *passé composé*.



5.0 Summary

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation verbs with auxiliaries *avoir* and *être* into *passé composé* that we taught in Units nine to eleven, this Unit twelve has gone further in the conjugation techniques by tackling the agreement of *passé composé*. We believe by now that you can accord the agreement when you stumble on them in French language structure.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

Accord the *passé composé* to these sentences where necessary:

- a. Fatima a mangé de la viande.
- b. Voilà la viande que Fatima a mangé.
- c. Funsho et Yetunde se sont lavé.
- d. Ils se sont lavé les vêtements.
- e. Les femmes célèbres, j'en ai connu.
- f. Olu les a fait comprendre.
- g. Les dix Naira que cette chemise m'a coûté.
- h. Les efforts que ce travail m'a coûté.
- i. Combien de Kilomètres as-tu couru avant de le rattraper?
- j. Combien de commissions as-tu couru pour le Président?



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Unit 3 Conjugation Of Er And Other Regular Verbs Into L'imparfait

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Contents
- 3.1 General techniques guiding the conjugation of -er and other regular verbs to *L'imparfait*.
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
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1.0 Introduction

In this unit, you will be taught the method of conjugating er and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*. We hope to teach you about the easier techniques which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating of -er and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*. You will recall that in the last twelve units we have been talking about the conjugation of verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*, *futur simple* and *passé composé*. The significance of that is that we have been teaching you how to conjugate French verbs to express actions that one is doing at present, doing in the future and one is doing in past.

We have now got to a stage whereby you have to learn how to express actions that we do in the past but in a continuous manner; that is to describe what one has the habit of doing in the past. *L'imparfait* could be translated as past continuous tense in English. We implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating er and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait* as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify *l'imparfait* Stem/Radical of -er and other regular verbs
- Identify the ending/terminaison of er verbs and other regular verbs in the *imparfait*.
- Identify the *l'imparfait* morphemes (suffixation) with which the

endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation *l'imparfait* tense

- Conjugate -er and other regular verbs in the *l'imparfait* tense. You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation er and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*.



3.1 General Techniques Guiding The Conjugation Of -Er And Other Regular Verbs Into L'imparfait

As we have told you in the introduction to this unit, *l'imparfait* could be translated as past continuous tense in English. It is used to express any action that is done in a past continuous manner or that one has the habit of doing in the past. When you want to talk about what you have done or what you usually do in the past, you use the *l'imparfait* tense.

Just like in the conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif*, there are slight differences in the conjugation of this tense with the different types of verbal groupings. It is in realization of these dissimilarities in their conjugation that we decided to teach the conjugation -er and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait* in this Unit.

To conjugate -er and other regular verbs, such as *parler*, into *l'imparfait*, you will first of all identify the infinitive of the verb concerned (e.g. *parler*), you should also know how the verb is conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif*. It is at the level of the 1st person plural (nous) of the said conjugation that you will pick the stem of the verb concerned (*parl*). You then drop its usual *ons* ending, added to it before, so as to add the following endings (*ais, ais, ait, ions, iez, aient*) to this new special stem/radical:

ais for 1st person singular ais for 2nd person singular

ait for 3rd person singular ions for 1st person plural iez

for 2nd person plural aient for 3rd person plural

Parler- Nous parl/ons

Je parlais (I was speaking)

Tu parlais (You were speaking)

Il/Elle parlait (He/She was speaking)

Nous parlions (We were speaking)

Vous parliez (You were speaking) Ils/Elles

parlaient (They were speaking)

Manger - Nous mange/ons

Je mangeais (I was eating)

Tu mangeais (You were eating)

Il/Elle mangeait (He/She was eating)

Nous mangions (We were eating)

Vous mangiez (You were eating) Ils/Elles

mangeaient (They were eating)

Note: We dropped the vowel e before i in the 1st and 2nd person plural forms because the vowel i could perform the same function of softening the 'g' as does by the vowel e).

Let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some -er verbs into the *l'imparfait*:

a. Nager - to swim

ais for 1st person singular = Je nageais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu nageais ait

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle nageait

ions for 1st person plural = Nous nagions iez

for 2nd person plural = Vous nageiez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles

nageaient

b. Commencer

ais for 1st person singular = Je commençais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu commençais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle commençait ions for 1st

person plural = Nous commençons

iez for 2nd person plural = Vous

commençiez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles

commençaient

c. Aimer

ais for 1st person singular = J'aimais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu aimais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle aimait ions for 1st person

plural = Nous aimions iez

for 2nd person plural = Vous aimez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles aimaient

d. Appeler

ais for 1st person singular = J'appelais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu appelais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle appelait ions for 1st person

plural = Nous appelions iez

for 2nd person plural = Vous appelez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles

appelaient



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs into "L'imparfait".

a) Renvoyer

b) Blaguer

c) Parler.

4.0 Conclusion

In this Unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of -er and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*. You have also been told how to get the special stem/radical with which you could conjugate this tense.

We believe by now you can conjugate er and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*.



5.0 Summary

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* that we taught in Units nine to eleven, this Unit thirteen has gone further in the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the world of conjugation of *l'imparfait* in French grammar.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs into *l'imparfait*:

- a. Aller,
- b. Rudoyer,
- c. Monter,
- d. Nager,
- e. Recommencer,
- f. Renvoyer



7.0 References And Other Resources

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Unit 4 Conjugation Of Irregular Verbs Into *L'imparfait*

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Contents
- 3.1 General techniques guiding the conjugation of irregular verbs to *l'imparfait*
- 3.2 Conjugation of -re verbs to *l'imparfait*
- 3.2. Conjugation of -ir/-oir verbs to *l'imparfait*.
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References and Other Resources



1.0 Introduction

You will recall that in Unit Thirteen, we taught you the method of conjugation of er and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*. In this unit, you will be taught how to conjugate irregular verbs into *l'imparfait*. Like we did in the previous unit, we hope to teach you about the easier techniques which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French irregular verbs into *l'imparfait*.

Like we told you in Unit thirteen, we have now got to a stage whereby you have to learn how to express actions that we do in the past but in a continuous manner: what one has the habit of doing in the past. *l'imparfait* could be translated as past continuous tense in English. It is used to express any action that is done in the past but in a continuous manner. We then implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating ir and other irregular verbs into *l'imparfait* as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the *l'imparfait* Stem/Radical of the irregular verbs
- Identify the *l'imparfait* ending/terminaison of irregular verbs
- Identify the *l'imparfait* morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation *l'imparfait* tense

- Conjugate irregular verbs in the ‘*imparfait*’ tense.
You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of irregular verbs into *l'imparfait*.



3.0 Main Contents

3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Regular Verbs into *L'imparfait* Like we have told you in unit thirteen, *l'imparfait* could be translated as past continuous tense in English. Remember that we use it to express any action that is done in a past continuous manner or that one has the habit of doing in the past.

You will recall that in Unit thirteen, we have treated how to conjugate -er and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*. If you recall very well in our Unit One where we told you that verbs in French language could be divided into three groups according to their endings. And if we have treated the conjugation of -er and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait* in Unit thirteen, the onus is then on us in this unit to treat the conjugation of -re, -ir/-oir into *l'imparfait*. It is the combination of verbs with -re, -ir/-oir endings that we put together to be treated as irregular verbs in this unit.

3.2 Conjugation of Verbs Ending With -Re Into *L'imparfait* Just like we said in Unit thirteen, when you want to conjugate verbs ending with -re and other irregular into *l'imparfait*, you should first identify the infinitive of the verb concerned, you should also know how the verb is conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif*. It is at the level of the 1st person plural (nous) of the said conjugation that you will pick the stem of the verb concerned. You then drop its usual *ons* ending, added to it before, so as to add the following endings (ais, ais, ait, ions, iez, aient) to this new special stem/radical:

ais for 1st person singular ais for 2nd person singular
ait for 3rd person singular ions for 1st person plural
iez for 2nd person plural aient for 3rd person plural

Prendre = Nous pren/ons

Je prenais

Tu prenais

(I was taking)

(You were taking)

Il/Elle prenait (He was taking)

Nous prenions (We were taking)

Vous preniez (You were taking) Ils/Elles

prenaient (They were taking)

Let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some -re verbs into the *l'imparfait*:

a. Battre (to beat) = Nous batt/ons

ais for 1st person singular = Je battais
 ais for 2nd person singular = Tu battais
 ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle battait ions for 1st person
 plural = Nous battions iez
 for 2nd person plural = Vous battiez
 aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles battaient
 Note : The conjugation of débattre, combattre, mettre, soumettre, etc,
 follow this pattern.

b. Craindre (to be afraid/to fear)
 ais for 1st person singular = Je craignais
 ais for 2nd person singular = Tu craignais
 ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle craignait ions for 1st person
 plural = Nous craignons iez
 for 2nd person plural = Vous craigniez
 aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles
 craignaient
 Note : The conjugation of joindre, peindre, plaindre, contraindre, etc,
 follow this pattern.

c. Convaincre (to convince)
 ais for 1st person singular = Je convainquais
 ais for 2nd person singular = Tu convainquais
 ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle convainquait
 ions for 1st person plural = Nous convainquions
 iez for 2nd person plural = Vous convainquiez
 aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles convainquaient
 Note: convaincre follows the same pattern

d. Faire (to do/to make)
 ais for 1st person singular = Je faisais
 ais for 2nd person singular = Tu faisais
 ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle faisait
 ions for 1st person plural = Nous faisons
 iez for 2nd person plural = Vous faisiez
 aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles faisaient
 Note : The conjugation of défaire, refaire etc, follow this pattern.

e. Etre (to be)
 ais for 1st person singular = J'étais
 ais for 2nd person singular = Tu étais
 ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle était ions for 1st person
 plural = Nous étions iez
 for 2nd person plural = Vous étiez
 aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles étaient

Note : We would like you to note that *être* is the only Known verb that does not follow this general rule of conjugation into *l'imparfait*.)

3.3 Conjugation of Verbs Ending With -Ir/-Oir into L'imparfait Just like we said above, when you want to conjugate ir and other oir verbs into *l'imparfait*, you should identify the infinitive of the verb concerned, you should also know how the verb is conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif*. It is at the level of the 1st person plural (nous) of the said conjugation that you will pick the stem of the verb concerned. You then drop its usual *ons* ending, added to it before, so as to add the following endings (ais, ais, ait, ions, iez, aient) to this new special stem/radical:

a. Finir (to finish) = Nous finiss/ons

ais for 1st person singular = Je finissais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu finissais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle finissait ions for 1st person

plural = Nous finissions iez

for 2nd person plural = Vous finissiez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles finissaient

b. Tenir (to finish) = Nous ten/ons

ais for 1st person singular = Je tenais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu tenais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle tenait ions for 1st person

plural = Nous tenions iez

for 2nd person plural = Vous teniez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles tenaient

Note: The conjugation of most -ir verbs such as venir, sentir, vêtir etc, follow this pattern.

c. Avoir (to have) = Nous av/ons

ais for 1st person singular = J'avais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu avais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle avait ions

for 1st person plural = Nous avions iez

for 2nd person plural = Vous aviez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles avaient

d. Voir (to have) = Nous voy/ons

ais for 1st person singular = Je voyais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu voyais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle voyait

ions for 1st person plural = Nous voyions

iez for 2nd person plural = Vous voyiez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles voyaient

e. Devoir (to be obliged/ compelled) = Nous dev/ons

ais for 1st person singular = Je devais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu devais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle devait

ions for 1st person plural = Nous devions

iez for 2nd person plural = Vous deviez
 aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles devaient



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs into “L’imparfait”.

- i. Prendre,
- ii. Courir,
- iii. savoir

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of -re and other irregular verbs into *l’imparfait*. You have also been told how to get the special stem/radical with which you could conjugate this tense.

We believe by now you can conjugate -re and other irregular verbs into *l’imparfait*.



5.0 Summary

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l’indicatif* that we have laid for you in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* that we methodically handled in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* that we taught in Units nine to eleven, this Unit fourteen has gone further in the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the method of conjugation of ir and other irregular verbs into *l’imparfait*.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs into *l’imparfait*:

- a. savoir,
- b. venir,
- c. courir,
- d. offrir,
- e. partir,
- f. finir,
- g. sortir,
- h. pouvoir,
- i. valoir,
- j. tenir.



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Unit 5 Conjugation Of Impersonal And Reflexive Verbs Into L'imparfait

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Contents
- 3.1 General techniques guiding the conjugation of Impersonal verbs into *L'imparfait*
- 3.2 General techniques guiding the conjugation of Reflexive verbs into *L'imparfait*
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References /Further Readings



1.0 Introduction

This unit will present to you the technique of conjugating Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *l'imparfait*. In this unit, you will learn about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *l'imparfait*. Like we told you in Unit five, these impersonal, as well as Reflexive verbs are common in French language. You will see them as either er, re, ir or even oir verbs. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units five to fourteen will be useful in this unit. What you will do mostly in this unit is to identify French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs, then apply the peculiarities of these verbs so that you could apply your already gained knowledge in the conjugation of *l'imparfait* of er, re, ir and oir verbs to them thus conjugating them correctly. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *l'imparfait* as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify and list French Impersonal verbs.
- Identify and list French Reflexive verbs
- Explain the peculiarities of these two verbs.

- Conjugate the two types of verbs into *l'imparfait*.
You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of Impersonal and reflexive verbs into '*l'imparfait*'.



3.0 Main Contents

3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Impersonal Verbs Into L'imparfait Just like we told you in Unit five, Impersonal verbs are verbs that could not be conjugated into numerous persons and classes, such as first, second, third persons, singular and plural form, like the others. They are verbs that could not be used for human beings. And being that they are for abstract things, they could only be conjugated into the 3rd person singular form. Even their conjugation into the third person singular form is limited to masculine personal pronoun, *il*, alone. We insist that this explanation is to warn you that you cannot use the third person singular of feminine form to conjugate it! We would like to note also that it is not every other verb that you can conjugate using this method. This type of conjugation is only noted for impersonal verbs alone.

Examples could be found in:

- Pleuvoir . to rain Il pleuvait
- Falloir . to be necessary Il fallait
- Advenir . to happen Il advenait
- S'agir de . to be about Il s'agissait de
- Brûmer . to mist (hazy)
Il brumait
- Venter . to blow wind
Il ventait

3.2 General Techniques Guiding The Conjugation Of Reflexive Or Pronominal Verbs Into L'imparfait Like we said in Unit five, Reflexive verbs are what the French grammarian call "Les verbes pronominaux" hence our calling them reflexive or pronominal verbs in English so as to facilitate the ease of reference for French learners like you. Reflexive or pronominal verbs are verbs used to refer to an action that the subject does to himself/herself. In a situation whereby you want account for an action that you do to yourself or the action that another person does to himself or herself, you express this action through the use of reflexive or pronominal verbs in French grammar.

In order to conjugate these verbs into *l'imparfait*, this set of verbs takes additional (direct/personal) pronoun in their conjugation. The pronouns *me te se nous vous* and *se* are used to mark this action of reflexive or pronominal of the verbs. We then add *l'imparfait* ending to the main verb, as explained in Units 13 and 14. For example, if the subject or the

speaker wants to say that *I was bathing myself*, he would say: *Je me lavais*.

NOTE: We would like you to note that in the normal conjugation of the infinitive *laver* into *l'imparfait*, you are to conjugate it as *Je lavais* (meaning I was washing) But in the case of reflexive or pronominal action whereby you want to say that you perform the action to yourself, another reflexive pronoun of the same person and grammatical class with that of the subject (personal pronoun) will be inserted to denote that action of reflexive in the sentence, hence the inclusion of the reflexive pronoun, *me*, in the given example.

a. *Se laver* . to take one's bath

Je me lavais . I was bathing myself

Tu te lavais . You were bathing yourself

Il/elle se lavait . he/she was bathing himself/herself *Nous nous lavions* .

we were bathing ourselves *Vous vous laviez* . you were bathing yourselves

Ils se lavaient . They were bathing themselves

b. *Se taire* . to keep quiet

Je me taisais . I was keeping quiet

Tu te taisais . You were keeping quiet *Il/elle se taisait* . he/she was keeping

quiet *Nous nous taisions* . we were keeping quiet *Vous vous taisiez* . you were keeping quiet *Ils se taisaient* . They were keeping quiet

c. *Se convertir* . to convert oneself

Je me convertissais . I was converting myself

Tu te convertissais . You were converting yourself

Il/elle se convertissait . he/she was converting himself/herself *Nous nous convertissions* . we were converting ourselves *Vous vous convertissiez* . you were converting yourselves

Ils se convertissaient . They were converting themselves

(d) *S'asseoir* . to take one's seat

Je m'assoiais . I was sitting down/taking my seat

Tu t'assoiais . You were sitting down/ taking your seat

Il/elle s'assoyait . he/she was sitting down/ taking him/her seat

Nous nous assoyions . we were sitting down/ taking our seat *Vous vous assoyiez* . you were sitting down/ taking your seat *Ils s'assoyaient* . They were sitting down/ taking their seat

Or

(e) *S'asseoir* . to take one's seat

Je m'assieds . I was sitting down/ taking my seat

Tu t'assieds . You were sitting down/ taking your seat

Il/elle s'assied . he/she was sitting down/ taking him/her seat *Nous nous asseyons* . we were sitting down/ taking our seat *Vous vous asseyez* .

you were sitting down/ taking your seat *Ils s'asseyent* . They were sitting

down/ taking their seat

NOTE: We would like you to note that there are two grammatically accepted form of conjugation of the verb *S'asseoir* in French.

Whichever

form you chose is correct.

(g) *S'appeler* . to call oneself

Je m'appelais . I was calling myself (I was called) *Tu t'appelais* . You were calling yourself

Il/elle s'appelait . He/She was calling himself/herself *Nous nous*

appelions . We were calling ourselves *Vous vous appeliez* . You were calling yourselves

Ils/elles s'appelaient . They were calling themselves

NOTE: You should please note that the contraction in the conjugation of *s'appeler* comes as a result of the contact in-between the vowel *e* of pronouns *me*, *te*, *se* and the infinitive of the verb *appeler* that has initial vowel *a*.



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs into “L'imparfait”.

- i. *S'offrir*,
- ii. *Se lever*,
- iii. *Brumer*

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, you have been taught the rules governing the conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into '*l'imparfait*'. As you should have discovered, the impersonal verb is a verb that you can only conjugate with third person masculine pronoun thus making the verb to refer to inanimate things that are not human beings. You have been taught also that a reflexive verb refers to an action that the subject does to himself. With the method that we used in simplifying the explanation in this unit, we are convinced that the complication in understanding the impersonal and reflexive verbs, which is a common problem to French learners like you would have been alleviated. By now we believe you can conjugate impersonal and reflexive verbs into '*l'imparfait*' in French.



5.0 Summary

With this unit tackling the conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into '*l'imparfait*', we have completed the cycle of conjugation of verbs into '*l'imparfait*' in French. In consonance with our general classification

of verbs and what to expect in the course that we did in our Guide, we are now moving from simple conjugation to fairly complex ones. But no matter their difficulties, the moment you read what has been taught earlier and you follow the step by step of our presentation, we believe you will easily catch up with whatever we are going to teach in subsequent units.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs into *l'imparfait*:
 - a. Se comprendre,
 - b. Se taire,
 - c. Se voir,
 - d. S'offrir,
 - e. falloir,
 - f. pleuvoir,
 - g. venter,
 - h. S'agir,
 - i. Se lever,
 - j. Se balancer.



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Module 4

- Unit 1 Conjugation of verbs in the *impératif* (positive and negative)
- Unit 2 Conjugation of verbs in the *conditionnel présent*
- Unit 3 Conjugation of verbs in the *conditionnel passé*
- Unit 4 Conjugation of verbs in the *subjonctif présent*
- Unit 5 Conjugation of verbs in the *subjonctif passé*

Unit 1 Conjugation Of Verbs In The *Impératif* (Positive And Negative)

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Contents
 - 3.1 General techniques guiding the conjugation of verbs into *impératif présent* (positive)
 - 3.2 General techniques guiding the conjugation of verbs into *impératif présent* (negative)
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor-Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References and Other Resources



1.0 Introduction

This unit will introduce you to the conjugation of all verbs into '*impératif présent* (positive and negative)'. You will also learn about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French verbs into '*impératif présent* (positive and negative)'.

Knowledge gained from this unit will initiate your properly into how to conjugate French verbs in the '*impératif présent* (positive and negative)'.

We would like to sound a warning that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle other units we have taught earlier. Therefore, we implore you to revise the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating all verbs as they were taught earlier so as to understand better this unit.



2.0 Learning Out Come

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the Stem/Radical of all verbs
- Identify the ending/terminaison that could be used in conjugating verbs into '*impératif présent* (positive and negative)'
- Conjugate French verbs '*impératif present* to express a positive and negative action.

You are now invited into the world of conjugation of verbs into '*impératif present* (positive and negative)'.



3.0 Main Contents

3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Verbs into Imperatif Present (Positive) The imperative is used in French, just like in English language, to give out command (order) to others. It has only three forms. You could form it by taking the present tense form of the 2nd person singular, 1st and 2nd persons plural of the verb concerned. You will then eliminate the pronoun earlier attached to these conjugated verbs. If the verb belongs to there group, the rule compels us to drop the s ending the 2nd person singular. Its rule is always called 2-1-2, meaning 2nd person singular, 1st and 2ndpersons plural. Examples could be seen in 'Parler' and 'Prendre':

Parler: 2 parle! Prendre: 2 prends!

1 parlons! 1 prenons!

2 Parlez! 2 prenez!

NOTE: In the case of irregular verbs, their imperative form is sometime borrowed from the subjunctive form:

Etre savoir vouloir

2 sois 2 sache! 2 veuille (veux)

1 soyons 1 sachons! 1 voulons

2 soyez 2 sachez! 2 veuillez (voulez)

NOTE: When you are conjugating the verb 'vouloir', you could either use the veuille/veillez or the veux/voulez (in brackets) option. However, the 1st person plural form is homogenous for the two options.

In the case of reflexive verbs, apart from the application of this 2-1-2 rules to conjugate the verbs into positive imperative, you will also add a personal pronoun in the Compliment of Direct Object (COD) class, of the same grammatical number and person of the verb concerned; as suffix to the verb concerned: moi, nous, vous.

e.g. Se regarder S'entreppeler

2 regarde-moi! 2 appelle-moi!
 1 regardons-nous! 1 appelons-nous!
 2 regardez-vous! 2 appelez-vous!

3.2 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Verbs into Imperatif Present (Negative)

As said earlier, if the imperative is used in French, just like in English language, to give out command (order) to others, it must have the positive as well as the negative forms. In as much as orders could be given positively in any natural language, so can it be given negatively. Just like in the positive form, it has only three forms too. You could also form it by taking the present tense form of the 2nd person singular, 1st and 2nd persons plural of the verb concerned. You will then eliminate the pronoun earlier attached to these conjugated verbs. If the verb belongs to the –er group, the rule compels us to drop the s ending the 2nd person singular. Its rule is always called 2-1-2, meaning 2nd person singular, 1st and 2nd persons plural. The only difference that distinguishes positive from negative is the introduction of some adverbs of negation such as:

---- nepas - not
 ---- nepoint - not at all
 ---- ne.....nulle -not in any way
 ---- ne.....plus - no more
 ---- ne.....guère - hardly
 ---- ne.....jamais - never
 ---- ne.....rien - nothing
 ---- ne.....personne - nobody
 ---- ne.....que -only, not more than

These negation adverbs are used to change a sentence into a negative form.

These adverbs are split ones; on splitting them into two, as indicated by the dotted lines, the necessary *imperative* verb in that sentence is thus inserted into the space provided in-between them (to replace the dotted lines in the middle) e.g.

Parler: 2 ne parle pas! Prendre: 2 ne prends jamais!

1 ne parlons guère! 1 ne prenons nulle!

2 ne parlez point! 2 ne prenez rien!

Etre Vouloir

2 ne sois là 2 ne veuille (veux) que

1 ne soyons personne 1 ne voulons pas

2 ne soyez que 2 ne veuillez (voulez)

rien

2 ne sache rien!

1 ne sachons que! 2 ne sachez guère!

Note: Please note also that in the case of reflexive verbs, if you want to

conjugate them into negative imperative, apart from the application of this

2-1-2 rules, you will also add a personal pronoun (but not in the Compliment of Direct Object (COD) class this time around) of the same grammatical number and person of the verb concerned; me, nous, vous. But instead of their coming at the end of the verb as done in the positive categorization, these pronouns will come before the verb (immediately after the ne, the first part of the adverb of negation).

e.g. Se regarder S'appeler

2 ne me regarde pas! 2 ne m'appelle plus!

1 ne nous regardons plus! 1 ne nous appelons pas!

2 ne vous regardez guère! 2 ne vous appelez jamais!



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs into 'l'imperatif présent positif' "first and then 'negatif'".

- i. Savoir
- ii. Se regarder.

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, you have learned the rules governing the conjugation of '*impératif présent*'. You have also discovered the positive form as well as negative form in the conjugation of some verbs in this category. By now we believe you can conjugate different verbs '*impératif présent* (positive and negative)'.



5.0 Summary

You must have been adequately informed in this unit on the basic techniques of how to conjugate most verbs into '*impératif présent*'. You must have learned also some peculiarities in the conjugation of the positive and the negative forms of these conjugations. By now we believe that your verbal vocabulary and technique of conjugation of verbs should have been enriched through the explanation and examples of verbs we gave you under each classification. And we believe that you can handle any conjugation of imperative, be it positive or negative, that comes your way.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs into ‘*impératif présent positif*’ first and then *négatif* :

- a. Parler,
- b. Nager,
- c. Balayer,
- d. Lancer,
- e. Surlever,
- f. Célébrer,
- g. Monter,
- h. Rejeter,
- i. Payer,
- j. Blaguer.



7.0 References /Further Readings

- Ade Ojo, Samuel (2002): *A comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*. Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
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Unit 2 Conjugation Of Verbs Into Conditionnel Present

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Contents
- 3.1 General techniques guiding the conjugation of er verbs into *conditionnel présent*.
- 3.2 Exceptionalities to these general rules as they affect the –er verbs.
- 3.3 Conjugation of -re verbs into *conditionnel présent*.
- 3.4 Conjugation of -ir/-oir verbs into *conditionnel présent*.
- 3.5 Conjugation of impersonal verbs into *conditionnel présent*.
- 3.6 Conjugation of reflexive verbs into *conditionnel présent*.
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References Further Reading



1.0 Introduction

In this unit, you will be taught the method of conjugating French verbs into *conditionnel présent*. We hope to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French regular and other irregular verbs into *conditionnel présent*. You will recall that in the last fifteen units we have been talking of conjugation of verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*, *futur simple*, *passé composé*, *l'imparfait* and *imperatif* (positive and negative). The significance of that is that we have been teaching you how to conjugate French verbs to express actions that one is doing at present, doing in the future, one is doing in the immediate past as well as continuous past and what one commands to be done.

We have now got to a stage whereby you have to learn how to express actions that will be done on conditions. *Conditionnel présent* could be translated as Present Conditional Tense in English. It is used to express any action that will be done in the present, if all necessary conditions are fulfilled.

Although we are talking of *Conditionnel présent* here, it is a methodical development on the conjugation of verbs into *futur simple*. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units six to eight will also be useful in this unit. Let us insist on our warning you that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the

way and manner with which you handle all these units we have been teaching you earlier. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French verbs into *Conditionnel présent* of French grammar as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the *Conditionnel présent* Stem/Radical of verbs
- Identify the ending/terminaison of verbs when they are conjugated in *Conditionnel présent*
- Identify the *Conditionnel présent* morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation of *Conditionnel présent* tense
- Conjugate French verbs in the *Conditionnel présent* tense.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of verbs into *Conditionnel présent*.



3.0 Main Contents

3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of .Er and

Other Verbs into Conditionnel Present Like we have told you in our introduction to this unit, the *Conditionnel présent* could be translated as Present Conditional Tense in English. It is used to express any action that will be done in the present, if all necessary conditions are fulfilled. The conditional tense looks much like the future tense. It is used to express conditional statements. Its formation also looks like that of future tense. What you are expected to do is to take the stem of verbs conjugated to future tense, you remove the future endings and you then add the following conditional endings (ais, ais, ait, ions, iez, aient) to the stem thus replacing the future tense endings with these new conditional endings:

ais for 1st person singular ais for 2nd person singular
 ait for 3rd person singular ions for 1st person plural
 iez for 2nd person plural aient for 3rd person plural

e.g. Manger

Je mangerais I would/should eat

Tu mangerais You would eat

Il mangerait He would eat

Nous mangerions We would eat

Vous mangeriez You would eat

Ils mangeraient They would eat

NOTE: You will observe that the endings of this conjugation look like that of *l'imparfait*. But we would like you to be careful and remember that while *l'imparfait* uses the stem derived from *present de l'indicatif*, the *Conditionnel présent* uses, on the other hand, the stem of verbs conjugated into future tense (*futur simple*)

Let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some verbs into the *Conditionnel présent*:

a. Parler

ais for 1st person singular = Je Parlerais ais for 2nd person

singular = TuParlerais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle Parlerait ions for 1stperson

plural = Nous Parlerions iez

for 2nd person plural = Vous Parleriez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles

Parleraient

b. Aimer

ais for 1st person singular = J'aimerais ais for 2nd person

singular = Tuaimerais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle aimerait ions for 1stperson

plural = Nous aimerions iez

for 2nd person plural = Vous aimeriez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles

aimeraient

3.2 Exceptionalities to These General Rules as They Affect the-Er Verbs

Just like in the case of *futur simple*, we would like you to note that Although -er verbs are said to be regular at most of the conjugation groupings, just as we have some verbs in this category at the *futur simple* level that have some peculiarities noted for them, so also we have some -er verbs that take exceptions to these general rules in the conjugation of their *Conditionnel présent*. In as much as we cannot because of these minor dissimilarities categorize them as being irregular, we then decided to treat them as peculiarities under this category. Better examples of such -er verbs with peculiarities could be seen in verbs such as aller, payer, balayer, rudoyer, envoyer, renvoyer etc. We need to implore you that you should take their peculiarities that we are about to treat as irregularities and learn them as presented to you:

c. Aller

ais for 1st person singular = J'irais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu irais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle irait

ions for 1st person plural = Nous irions

iez for 2nd person plural = Vous iriez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles iraient

d. Envoyer

ais for 1st person singular = J'enverrais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu enverrais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle enverrait

ions for 1st person plural = Nous enverrions

iez for 2nd person plural = Vous enverriez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles enverraient

Note: Renvoyer is conjugated like Envoyer.

3.3 Conjugation Of Re Verbs Into *Conditionnel Present*

e. Battre (to beat)

ais for 1st person singular = Je Battrais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu Battrais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle Battrait

ions for 1st person plural = Nous Battrions

iez for 2nd person plural = Vous Battriez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles Battraient

Note : The conjugation of débattre, combattre, mettre, soumettre, plaire, connaître, paraître, naître, croître, croire, boire, conclure, absoudre, coudre, moudre, suivre, vivre, revivre, survivre, revivre, lire etc, follow this pattern.

f. Etre (to be)

ais for 1st person singular = Je serais ais for 2nd person singular = Tuserais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle serait ions for 1st person plural = Nous serions

iez for 2nd person plural = Vous seriez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles seraient

3.3 Conjugation of -Ir/-Oir VerbsInto

Conditionnel PRESENT

eg. Finir (to finish)

ais for 1st person singular = Je finirais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu finirais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle finirait

ions for 1st person plural = Nous finirions

iez for 2nd person plural = Vous finiriez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles finiraient

Note : The conjugation of obéir, désobéir, haïr, partir, sortir, sentir, mentir, partir, repartir, répartir, vêtir, dévêtir, revêtir, couvrir, ouvrir, offrir, souffrir, accueillir, cueillir, bouillir, dormir, servir, revivre, lire etc, follow this pattern.

h. Avoir (to have)

ais for 1st person singular = J'aurais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu aurais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle aurait

ions for 1st person plural = Nous aurions

iez for 2nd person plural = Vous auriez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles auraient

i. Voir (to see)

ais for 1st person singular = Je verrais

ais for 2nd person singular = Tu verrais

ait for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle verrait

ions for 1st person plural = Nous verrions

iez for 2nd person plural = Vous verriez

aient for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles verraient

Note: The conjugation of *entrevoir*, *revoir* etc, follow this pattern.

3.4 Conjugation of Impersonal Verbs into

Conditionnel Present

j. Pleuvoir . to rain Il pleuvrait

k. Falloir . to be necessary Il faudrait

l. Advenir . to happen Il adviendrait

m. S'agir de . to be about

Il s'agirait de

n. Brûmer . to mist (hazy)

Il brumerait

o. Venter . to blow wind

Il venterait

3.5 Conjugation of Reflexive or Pronominal Verbs

into *Conditionnel Present*

p. Se laver . to take one's bath

Je me laverais . I would/should bath myself Tu te laverais . You would bath yourself

Il/elle se laverait . he/she would bath himself/herself Nous nous laverions

. we would bath ourselves Vous vous laveriez . you would bath yourselves Ils/Elles se laveraient . They would bath themselves

q. Se convertir . to convert oneself

Je me convertirais . I would /should convert myself Tu te convertirais . You would convert yourself

Il/elle se convertirait . he/she would convert himself/herself Nous nous convertirions . we would convert ourselves Vous vous convertiriez . you would convert yourselves Ils/Elles se convertiraient . They would convert themselves



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs in the *Conditionnel présent*:

- i. manger,
- ii. envoyer,
- iii. aller.

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of *er, re, ir/oir* as well as impersonal cum reflexive verbs into *Conditionnel présent*. You have also been told of some exceptionalities to these general rules. We believe by now you can conjugate *er, re, ir/oir* as well as impersonal and reflexive verbs into *Conditionnel présent*.



5.0 Summary

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* in Units nine to eleven, the conjugation of *l'imparfait* that we taught in Units thirteen to fifteen and the conjugation of *imperative* (positive and negative) that we taught in Unit sixteen, we decided to bring you further into the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the world of conjugation of *conditionnel présent* in French grammar.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

Conjugate the following verbs into *conditionnel présent*:

- a. Rudoyer,
- b. Voir.,
- c. Prendre,
- d. S'appeler,
- e. Recommencer,
- f. Rendre,
- g. Pleuvoir,
- h. savoir,
- i. Se laver,
- j. Brumer.



7.0 References /Further Readings

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Unit 3 Conjugation Of Verbs Into Conditionnel Passe

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Contents
- 3.1 General techniques guiding the conjugation of verbs that use the auxiliary avoir into the *conditionnel passé*.
- 3.2 General techniques guiding the conjugation of verbs that use the auxiliary être into the *conditionnel passé*.
- 3.3 Conjugation of impersonal *conditionnel passé* verbs into
- 3.4 Conjugation of reflexive *conditionnel passé* verb into
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References /Further readings



1.0 Introduction

In this unit, you will be taught the method of conjugating French verbs into *conditionnel passé*. We hope to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French regular and other irregular verbs into *conditionnel passé*. You will recall that in the last unit, we have taught you the conjugation of *Conditionnel présent*. We have now got to a stage where you have to learn how to express actions that will be done on conditions but in the past.

Conditionnel passé could be translated as Past Conditional Tense in English. It is used to express any action that would have been done in the past, if all necessary conditions were fulfilled. With your knowledge of *Conditionnel présent* that you were earlier taught, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French verbs into *Conditionnel passé* as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être*.
- Identify the past participle of various verb groupings

- Conjugate verbs in the *Conditionnel passé* by adding the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to the past participle of the verb concerned.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of verbs into *Conditionnel passé*.



3.0 Main Contents

3.1 General Techniques Guiding The Conjugation of Verbs That Use The Auxilliary 'Avoir' Into Conditionnel Passe Like we have told you in our introduction to this unit, the *Conditionnel passé* could be translated as Past Conditional Tense in English. It is used to express any action that would have been done in the past, if all necessary conditions were fulfilled.

The general rule of conjugating this tense says that you add, the past participle of the verb you want to conjugate, to the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* (as the case may be): - (Auxilliaire de *Conditionnel présent* de verbe avoir ou être + participe passé du verbe concerné). If you look at these rules closely, you will observe that they resemble the rules of *passé composé*. The only difference is where the *passé composé* rule is asking for the auxiliary *avoir* or *être* conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif*, the *conditionnel passé* is asking for the auxiliary *avoir* or *être* conjugated into *conditionnel présent*.

We therefore implore you to please revise all the Units on *passé compose*, most especially, Units nine to ten, so as to comprehend this Unit better. If the rule insists on your adding the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to the past participle of the main verb, you then need to recollect, at this level, your knowledge of conjugating the verb *avoir* into *Conditionnel présent* :

Avoir

J'aurais Nous aurions

Tu aurais Vous auriez

Il aurait Ils auraient

Let us then follow this pattern and the rules governing it to conjugate the verb *manger* into *Conditionnel passé*:

a. *Manger* - to eat

J'aurais mangé Nous aurions mangé

Tu aurais mangé Vous auriez mangé

Il aurait mangé Ils auraient mangé

b. *Parler* - to speak

J'aurais parlé (I would have spoken)

Tu aurais parlé (You would have spoken) Il/Elle

aurait parlé (He/She would have spoken) Nous

aurions parlé (We would have spoken)
 Vous auriez parlé (You would have spoken) Ils/Elles
 auraient parlé (They would have spoken)

c. Etre - to be

J'aurais été (I would have been)
 Tu aurais été (You would have been)
 Il/Elle aurait été (He/She would have been)
 Nous aurions été (We would have been)
 Vous auriez été (You would have been) Ils/Elles
 auraient été (They would have been)

d Dire - to say

J'aurais dit (I would have said)
 Tu aurais dit (You would have said)
 Il/Elle aurait dit (He/She would have said)
 Nous aurions dit (We would have said)
 Vous auriez dit (You would have said) Ils/Elles
 auraient dit (They would have said)

e. Finir - to finish

J'aurais fini (I would have finished)
 Tu aurais fini (You would have finished) Il/Elle
 aurait fini (He/She would have finished) Nous
 aurions fini (We would have finished) Vous
 auriez fini (You would have finished) Ils/Elles
 auraient fini (They would have finished)

f. Avoir - to have

J'aurais eu (I would have had)
 Tu aurais eu (You would have had)
 Il/Elle aurait eu (He/She would have had)
 Nous aurions eu (We would have had)
 Vous auriez eu (You would have had) Ils/Elles
 auraient eu (They would have had)

3.2 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Verbs

That use The Auxiliary 'Etre' in The *conditionnel Passé* Just like we told you under the conjugation of verbs with auxiliary être into *passé composé* in Unit ten, the following verbs when they are to be conjugated into *conditionnel passé*, should take the auxiliary être: Aller (to go), descendre (to come down), rester (to rest), monter (to climb), tomber (to fall), naître (to be born), sortir (to go out), partir (to go) venir (to come), so also all other verbs that have something to do with venir like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return). Most other verbs, apart from these ones and their variants, are conjugated with auxiliary "avoir".

The general rule of conjugating this tense says that you add, the past participle of the verb you want to conjugate, to the *Conditionnel présent*

of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* (as the case may be): - (Auxiliaire de *Conditionnel présent* de verbe avoir ou être + participe passé du verbe concerné). We have applied the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* in the first part of this unit, we have now got to the point of applying the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *être*.

If the rule insists on your adding the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to the past participle of the main verb, you then need to recollect, at this level, your knowledge of conjugating the verb *être* into *Conditionnel présent* :

être

Je serais Nous serions

Tu serais Vous seriez

Il serait Ils seraient

Let us then follow these rules and the rules governing it to conjugate the following verbs into *Conditionnel passé*:

g. aller - to go

Je serais allé(e) Nous serions allé(e)s

Tu serais allé(e) Vous seriez allé(e)s

Il serait allé Ils seraient allés

Elle serait allée Elles seraient allées

NOTE: Just like it happened in Unit ten, you would have noted that additional vowel e or consonant s or both es are added to the ending of some past participle when we used the auxiliary être. The French grammatical rules compel all the verbs that take auxiliary être to agree with gender and the number of the Subject (either pronoun or noun) that precedes it. These agreement rules have been explained to you better in Unit twelve. We implore you to please go and revise them.

h. Monter - to climb

Je serais monté(e) (I would have climbed)

Tu serais monté(e) (You would have climbed) Il

serait monté (He would have climbed)

Elle serait montée (She would have climbed)

Nous serions monté(e)s (We would have climbed)

Vous seriez monté(e)s (You would have climbed) Ils

seraient montés (They would have climbed)

Elles seraient montées (They would have climbed)

Note: -er verbs such as aller (to go), rester (to rest), tomber (to fall), retomber (to fall again), entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return) are conjugated following this pattern.

i. Descendre - (to come down)

Je serais descendu(e) (I would have come down)

Tu serais descendu(e) (You would have come down)

Il serait descendu (He would have come down)

Elle serait descendue (She would have come down)

Nous serions descendu(e)s (We would have come down)
 Vous seriez descendu(e)s (You would have come down)
 Ils seraient descendus (They would have come down)
 Elles seraient descendues (They would have come down)

j. Sortir - to go out

Je serais sorti(e) (I would have gone out)
 Tu serais sorti(e) (You would have gone out) Il serait
 sorti (He would have gone out) Elle serait
 sortie (She would have gone out) Nous
 serions sorti(e)s (We would have gone out) Vous
 seriez sorti(e)s (You would have gone out) Ils
 seraient sortis (They would have gone out) Elles
 seraient sorties (They would have gone out)

Note: -ir verbs such as sortir (to go out), ressortir (to go out again), partir (to go), repartir (to go again) are conjugated following this pattern.

k Venir - to come

Je serais venu(e) (I would have come)
 Tu serais venu(e) (You would have come) Il serait venu
 (He would have come) Elle serait
 venue (She would have come) Nous serions venu(e)s
 (We would have come) Vous seriez venu(e)s
 (You would have come) Ils seraient venus
 (They would have come) Elles seraient venues
 (They would have come)

Note: -ir verbs such as venir (to come), so also all other verbs that have something to do with venir like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, are conjugated following this pattern.

3.3 Conjugation of Impersonal Verbs into

Conditionnel Passe

l. Pleuvoir . to rain Il aurait plu

m. Falloir . to be necessary Il aurait fallu

n. Advenir . to happen Il serait advenu

o. Brûmer . to mist (hazy)

Il aurait brumé

p. Venter . to blow wind

Il aurait venté

3.4 Conjugation of Reflexive or Pronominal

Verbs into *Conditionnel Passe*

q. Se laver . to take one's bath

Je me serais lavé(e) . I would have bathed myself

Tu te serais lavé(e) . You would have bathed yourself Il

se serait lavé . He would have bathed himself Elle
 se serait lavée . She would have bathed herself Nous
 nous serions lavé(e)s . we would have bathed ourselves Vous vous
 seriez
 lavé(e)s . you would have bathed yourselves
 Ils se seraient lavés . They would have bathed themselves
 Elles se seraient lavées . They would have bathed themselves
 r. Se taire . to keep quiet
 Je me serais tu(e) . I would have kept quiet.
 Tu te serais tu(e) . You would have kept quiet. Il se
 serait tu . He would have kept quiet. Elle se
 serait tue . She would have kept quiet. Nous
 nous serions tu(e)s . we would have kept quiet. Vous
 vous seriez tu(e)s . you would have kept quiet. Ils se
 seraient tus . They would have kept quiet. Elles
 se seraient tues . They would have kept quiet.
 Conjugate the following into Conditionnel Pasé.
 a) Brumer, b) Recommencer.

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of er, re, ir/oir as well as impersonal cum reflexive verbs into *Conditionnel passé*. You have also been told of some exceptionalities to these general rules. We believe by now you can conjugate er, re, ir/oir as well as impersonal and reflexive verbs into *Conditionnel passé*.



5.0 Summary

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* that we have laid in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* that we taught in Units nine to eleven, the conjugation of *l'imparfait* in Units thirteen to fifteen and the conjugation of *imperative* (positive and negative) in Unit sixteen and the conjugation of *conditionnel present* that we taught in Unit seventeen, we decided to bring you further into the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the world of conjugation of *conditionnel passé* in French.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs into *conditionnel passé*:

2. Rudoyer, b Voir., c. Prendre, d. S'appeler, e. Recommencer, f. Rendre,
 3. Pleuvoir, h. savoir, i. Se laver, j. Brumer.



7.0 References/Further

- Ade Ojo, Samuel (2002): *A comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*. Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
- Adeleke, Joseph (2014): *A Short French Grammar, 2nd edition*, Gad Press and Ventures Ltd, Lagos, 2010.
- Akeusola, Olu (1995): *French grammar for Anglophone Students*, Tobak Publishers, Lagos.
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Unit 4 Conjugation Of Verbs Into Subjonctif Present

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
- 3.0 Main Contents
 - 3.1 General techniques guiding the conjugation of er verbs into *subjonctif présent*.
 - 3.2 Exceptionalities to these general rules as they affect verbs ending with -er.
 - 3.3 Conjugation of verbs ending with -re into *subjonctif présent*.
 - 3.4 Conjugation of verbs ending with -ir/-oir into *subjonctif présent*.
 - 3.5 Conjugation of impersonal verbs into *subjonctif présent*.
 - 3.6 Conjugation of reflexive verbs into *subjonctif présent*.
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References /Further Reading



1.0 Introduction

In this unit, you will be taught the method of conjugation of French verbs into *subjonctif présent*. We hope to teach you about the easier techniques which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French regular and other irregular verbs into *subjonctif présent*. You will recall that in the last eighteen units we have been talking about the conjugation of verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*, *futur simple*, *passé composé*, *l'imparfait* and *imperatif* (positive and negative) and *conditionnels* (présent and passé).

The significance of that is that we have been teaching you how to conjugate French verbs to express actions that one is doing at present, in the future, in the immediate past as well as continuous past, what one commands to be done and what one could do hypothetically if all necessary conditions are met.

We have now got to a stage where you have to learn how to express actions of wish or supposition. *Subjonctif présent* could be translated as Present Form of Subjunctive Tense in English. It is used to express statements of doubt in French language. When a speaker wants to talk about a personal wish, emotion, doubt and things that could not be real in life, he uses the subjunctive tense. Example :

- Je souhaite que je sois professeur. - I wish I could be a teacher.

In as much as we are talking of *Subjonctif présent* here, it is a methodical development on the conjugation of verbs into *futur simple* and *Conditionnel présent*. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units six to eighteen will also be useful in this unit. Let us insist on our warning you that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle all these units we have been teaching you earlier. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French verbs into *Subjonctif présent* of French grammar as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the *Subjonctif présent* Stem/Radical of verbs
- Identify the *Subjonctif présent* ending/terminaison of verbs
- Identify the *Subjonctif présent* morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation of *Subjonctif présent* tense
- Conjugating French verbs in the ‘subjonctif present’.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of verbs into *Subjonctif présent*.



3.0 Main Content

3.1 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Verbs Ending With -Er And Other Verbs Into *Conditionnel Present* Like we have told you in our introduction to this unit, the *Subjonctif présent* could be translated as Present Form of Subjunctive Tense in English. It is used to express statements of doubt, personal wish, emotion and things that could not be real in life in French language.

To form the conjugation of *Subjonctif present*, of regular and some irregular verbs, you are to take the stem/radical from the 3rd person plural (ils/elles) conjugated form of the verb in the *présent de l'indicatif*, you remove its ent ending and then add the following subjunctive endings, (e, es, e, ions, iez, ent) to this special radical or stem. And in order to properly express this wish or doubt, a clause using the verb *falloir* (to be necessary), conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif*, is introduced at the beginning of the sentence:

e for 1st person singular e for 2nd person singular e
 for 3rd person singular ions for 1st person plural iez
 for 2nd person plural ent for 3rd person plural

e.g. Manger = Ils/Elles mang/ent

Il faut que je mange It is necessary, I eat

Il faut que tu manges It is necessary, you eat

Il faut qu'il mange It is necessary, he eats Il

faut que nous mangions It is necessary, we eat Il

faut que vous mangiez It is necessary, you eat Il

faut qu'ils mangent It is necessary, they eat

Let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some other verbs into the

Subjonctif présent:

a. Parler = Ils parl/ent

e for 1st person singular = Il faut que je

parle es for 2nd person singular = Il faut que tu

parles e for 3rd person singular = Il faut qu'il parle

ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous

parlions iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous

parliez ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils

parlent

b. Aimer

e for 1st person singular = Il faut que j'aime

es for 2nd person singular = Il faut que tu

aises e for 3rd person singular = Il faut qu'il aime

ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous

aimions iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous

aimiez ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils

aiment

3.2 Exceptionalities to These General Rules as They Affect the

Er Verbs Just like in the case of *présent de l'indicatif* and *futur simple*, we would like you to note that although -er verbs are said to be regular at most of the conjugation groupings, just as we have some verbs in this category at these levels that have some peculiarities noted for them, so also we have some -er verbs that take exceptions to these general rules in the conjugation of their *Subjonctif présent*. In as much as we cannot because of these minor dissimilarities categorize them as being irregular, we then decided to treat them as peculiarities under this category. Better examples of these -er verbs with peculiarities could be seen in verb such as aller.

We need to implore you that you should take these peculiarities that we are about to treat as irregularities and learn them as presented to you:

c. Aller

e for 1st person singular = Il faut que j'aille

es for 2nd person singular = Il faut que tu

ailles e for 3rd person singular = Il faut qu'il aille

ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous

allions iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous

alliez ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils aillent

3.3 Conjugation of Verbs Ending with -Re Into *Subjonctif Present*

d. Battre (to beat) e for 1st person singular = Il faut que je batte
es for 2nd person singular = Il faut que tu battes e for 3rd person singular = Il faut qu'il batte
ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous battions iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous battiez ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils battent

Note : The conjugation of débattre, combattre, mettre, soumettre etc, follow this pattern.

e. Etre (to be)

e for 1st person singular = Il faut que je sois es for 2nd person singular = Il faut que tu sois e for 3rd person singular = Il faut qu'il soit
ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous soyons iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous soyez ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils soient

NOTE : Be informed that être, being an exceptionally irregular verb, does not follow the general pattern. Hence the difference in stem formation and conjugation.

3.4 Conjugation of Verbs Ending With -Ir/-Oir into

Subjonctif Present

f. Finir (to finish)

e for 1st person singular = Il faut que je finisse es for 2nd person singular = Il faut que tu finisses e for 3rd person singular = Il faut qu'il finisse

ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous finissions iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous finissiez ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils finissent

Note : The conjugation of obéir, désobéir, haïr, partir, sortir, sentir, mentir, partir, repartir, répartir, vêtir, dévêtir, revêtir, couvrir, ouvrir, offrir, souffrir, accueillir, cueillir, bouillir, dormir, servir, revivre, lire etc, follow this pattern.

g. Avoir (to have)

e for 1st person singular = Il faut que j'aie es for 2nd person singular = Il faut que tu aies e for 3rd person singular = Il faut qu'il aie

ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous
 ayons iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous
 ayez ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils aient

NOTE: Be informed that avoir, being an exceptionally irregular verb, does not follow the general pattern. Hence the difference in stem formation and conjugation.

h. Voir (to see)

e for 1st person singular = Il faut que je voie
 es for 2nd person singular = Il faut que tu
 voies e for 3rd person singular = Il faut qu'il voie
 ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous
 voyions iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous
 voyiez ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils
 voient

Note : The conjugation of entrevoir, revoir etc, follow this pattern.

3.5 conjugation of impersonal verbs into *subjonctif Present*

i. Pleuvoir . to rain Il faut qu'il pleuve

j. Falloir . to be necessary

Il faut qu'il faille

k. Advenir . to happen Il faut qu'il advienne

l. S'agir de . to be about Il faut qu'il s'agisse de

m. Brûmer . to mist (hazy)

Il faut qu'il brume

n. Venter . to blow wind Il faut qu'il vente

3.6 Conjugation Of Reflexive Or Pronominal Verbs Into *Subjonctif Present*

o. Se laver . to take one's bath

e for 1st person singular = Il faut que je me lave

es for 2nd person singular = Il faut que tu te laves

e for 3rd person singular = Il faut qu'il se lave

ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous nous

lavions iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous vous

laviez ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils se lavent

p. Se convertir . to convert oneself

e for 1st person singular = Il faut que je me convertisse es for

2nd person singular = Il faut que tu te convertisses e for 3rd person

singular = Il faut qu'il se convertisse

ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous nous

convertissions iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous vous

convertissiez ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils se

convertissent



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following into "Subjonctif Present":

- i. finir
- ii. Etre
- iii. Se laver.

1. Verbe "finir au subjonctif present"

(1) Il faut que je finisse Il faut que tu finisses

Il faut qu'il/elle finisse

Il faut que nous finissions Il faut que vous finissiez

Il faut qu'ils/elles finissent

(2) Verbe " Etre au subjonctif present".

Il faut que je sois Il faut que tu sois

Il faut qu'il/elle soit

Il faut que nous soyons Il faut que vous soyez

Il faut qu'ils/elles soient.

(3) Verbe "Se laver au Subjonctif present".

Il faut que je me lave Il faut que tu te laves

Il faut qu'il/elle se lave

Il faut que nous nous lavions Il faut que vous vous laviez Il faut qu'ils/elles se lavent

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of er, re, ir/oir as well as impersonal cum reflexive verbs into *subjonctif présent*. You have also been told of some exceptionalities to these general rules. We believe by now you can conjugate er, re, ir/oir as well as impersonal and reflexive verbs into *subjonctif présent*.

5.0 Summary

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* in Units nine to eleven, the conjugation of *l'imparfait* in Units thirteen to fifteen, the conjugation of *imperative* (positive and negative) in Unit sixteen and the conjugation of *conditionnels présent* and *passé* in Units seventeen and eighteen, we decided to bring you further into the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the world of conjugation of *subjonctif présent* in French.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs into *subjonctif présent*:
 - a. Plaidoyer,
 - b. Savoir.,
 - c. Rendre,
 - d. S'appeler,
 - e. Recommencer,
 - f. Pendre,
 - g. Pleuvoir,
 - h. Valoir,
 - i. Se laver,
 - j. Brumer.



7.0 References /Further Readings

- Ade Ojo, Samuel (2002): *A comprehensive Revision Handbook of French Grammar*. Ibadan: Signal Educational Services Ltd.
- Adeleke, Joseph (2014): *A Short French Grammar, 2nd edition*, Gad Press and Ventures Ltd, Lagos, 2010.
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- Lee, Wendy et al. (2004): *Collins Easy Learning French Grammar*. Glasglow: Harper Collins.

Unit 5 **Conjugation Of Verbs Into *Subjonctif* *Passé***

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- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Objectives
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- 3.1 General techniques guiding the conjugation of using the auxiliary avoir in the *subjonctif passé*.
- 3.2 General techniques guiding the conjugation of verbs using the auxiliary être in the *subjonctif passé*.
- 3.3 Conjugation of impersonal *subjonctif passé*. verbs into
- 3.4 Conjugation of reflexive *subjonctif passé*. verbs into
- 4.0 Conclusion
- 5.0 Summary
- 6.0 Tutor Marked Assignment
- 7.0 References and Other Resources



1.0 Introduction

In this unit, you will be taught the method of conjugating French verbs into *subjonctif passé*. **We hope to teach you about the easier techniques which a** French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French regular and other irregular verbs into *subjonctif passé*. You will recall that in the last unit, we have taught you the conjugation of *subjonctif présent*. We have now got to a stage whereby you have to learn how to express actions of wish or supposition in the past. *Subjonctif passé* could be translated as Past Form of Subjunctive Tense in English. It is used to express statements of doubt in the past. When a speaker wants to talk about a personal wish, emotion, doubt and things that could not be real in life but which he would have loved to do in the past, he uses the past form of subjunctive tense:

- J'ai souhaité que j'aie été professeur. - I wished I could have been a teacher. Armed with the Knowledge of *subjonctif présent* that we have just taught you, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French verbs into *subjonctif passé* of French grammar as they will be taught here.



2.0 Learning Out Come

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify and practice the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être*.
- Identify the past participle of various verb groupings
- Conjugate French verbs in the *subjonctif passé* by adding the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to the past participle of the verb concerned.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of verbs into *subjonctif passé*.



3.0 Main Contents

3.1 General Techniques Guiding The Conjugation of Verbs Using

the Auxilliary *Avoir* into *Subjonctif Passe* Like we have told you in our introduction to this unit, the *subjonctif passé* could be translated as Past Form of Subjunctive Tense in English. It is used to express any action of wish or doubt that would have been done in the past.

The general rule of conjugating this tense says that you add, the past participle of the verb we want to conjugate, to the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* (as the case may be): - (Auxilliaire de *subjonctif présent* de verbe avoir ou être + participle passé du verbe concerné). If you look at these rules closely, you will observe that they resemble the rules of *passé composé* and *conditionnel passé*. The only difference is where the *passé composé* is asking for the auxiliary *avoir* or *être* conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif* and the *conditionnel passé* is asking for the auxiliary *avoir* or *être* conjugated into *conditionnel present*, the *subjonctif passé* will be asking for the auxiliary *avoir* or *être* conjugated into *subjonctif present*.

And in order to properly express this wish or doubt, a clause using the verb *falloir* (to be necessary), conjugated into *passé composé*, is introduced at the beginning of the sentence. We therefore implore you to please revise all the Units on *passé compose* and *conditionnel passé*, most especially, Units nine, ten and eighteen, so as to comprehend this Unit better. If the rule insists on your adding the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to the past participle of the main verb, you then need to recollect, at this level, your knowledge of conjugating the verb *avoir* into *subjonctif present* as we taught you in Unit nineteen:

Avoir Que j'aie Que nous ayons

Que tu aies Que vous ayez

Qu'il ait Qu'ils aient

Let us then follow this pattern and the rules governing it to conjugate the verb manger into *subjonctif passé*:

a. Manger - to eat Il a fallu que j'aie mange Il a fallu que tu aies mange Il a fallu qu'il ait mangé

Il a fallu que nous ayons mangé Il a fallu que vous ayez mangé Il a fallu qu'ils aient mangé

b. Parler - to speak Il a fallu que j'aie parlé

Il a fallu que tu aies parle Il a fallu qu'il ait parle

Il a fallu que nous ayons parle Il a fallu que vous ayez parle Il a fallu qu'ils aient parlé

c. Etre- to be

Il a fallu que j'aie ete Il a fallu que tu aies ete Il a fallu qu'il ait été

Il a fallu que nous ayons ete Il a fallu que vous ayez ete Il a fallu qu'ils aient été

d Dire - to say Il a fallu que j'aie dis

Il a fallu que tu aies dis Il a fallu qu'il ait dis

Il a fallu que nous ayons dis Il a fallu que vous ayez dis Il a fallu qu'ils aient dis

e. Finir - to finish Il a fallu que j'aie fini Il a fallu que tu aies fini

Il a fallu qu'il ait fini

Il a fallu que nous ayons fini Il a fallu que vous ayez fini Il a fallu qu'ils aient fini

f. Avoir - to have Il a fallu que j'aie eu Il a fallu que tu aies eu Il a fallu qu'il ait eu

Il a fallu que nous ayons eu Il a fallu que vous ayez eu Il a fallu qu'ils aient eu

Eu

3.2 General Techniques Guiding the Conjugation of Verbs Using the Auxiliary *Etre* into *Subjonctif Passé* Just like we told you under the conjugation of verbs with auxiliary être into *passé composé* and *conditionnel passé* in Units ten and eighteen, the following verbs when they are to be conjugated into *subjonctif passé*, should take auxiliary être: aller (to go), descendre (to come down), rester (to rest), monter (to climb), tomber (to fall), naître (to be born), sortir (to go out), partir (to go) venir (to come), so also all other verbs that have something to do with venir like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return). Most other

verbs, apart from these ones and their variants, are conjugated with auxiliary avoir.

If the general rule of conjugating this tense says that you add, the past participle of the verb we want to conjugate, to the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary avoir or être (as the case may be): - (Auxiliaire de *subjonctif présent* de verbe avoir ou être + participe passé du verbe concerné). And that we have applied the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary avoir in the first part of this unit, we have now got to the point of applying the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary être.

If the rule insists on your adding the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary avoir or être to the past participle of the main verb, you then need to recollect, at this level, your knowledge of conjugating the verb être into *subjonctif présent*:

être

Que je sois Que nous soyons

Que tu sois Que vous soyez

Qu'il soit Qu'ils soient

Let us then follow these rules and the rules governing it to conjugate the following verbs into *subjonctif passé*:

g. aller - to go

Il a fallu que je sois allé(e) Il a fallu que nous soyons allé(e)s

Il a fallu que tu sois allé(e) Il a fallu que vous soyez allé(e)s

Il a fallu qu'il soit allé Il a fallu qu'ils soient allés

Il a fallu qu'elle soit allé(e) Il a fallu qu'elles soient allées

NOTE: Just like it happened in Units ten and eighteen, you would have noted that additional vowel e or consonant s or both es are added to the ending of some past participle when we used the auxiliary être. The French grammatical rules compel all the verbs that take auxiliary être to agree with gender and the number of the Subject (either pronoun or noun) that precedes it. These agreement rules have been explained to you better in Unit twelve.

We implore you to please go and revise them.

h. Monter- to climb

Il a fallu que je sois monté(e) Il a fallu que nous soyons

monté(e)s Il a fallu que tu sois monté(e) Il a fallu que vous soyez monté(e)s

Il a fallu qu'il soit monté Il a fallu qu'ils soient montés

Il a fallu qu'elle soit montée Il a fallu qu'elles soient montées

NOTE: -er verbs such as Aller (to go), rester (to rest), tomber (to fall), retomber (to fall again), entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return) are conjugated following this pattern.

i. Descendre - (to come down)

Il a fallu que je sois descendu(e) Il a fallu que nous soyons descendu(e)s
 Il a fallu que tu sois descendu(e) Il a fallu que vous soyez descendu(e)s
 Il a fallu qu'il soit descendu Il a fallu qu'ils soient descendus

Il a fallu qu'elle soit descendue Il a fallu qu'elles soient descendues

j. Sortir - to go out

Il a fallu que je sois sorti(e) Il a fallu que nous soyons descendu(e)s Il a fallu

que tu sois sorti(e) Il a fallu que vous soyez sorti(e)s

Il a fallu qu'il soit sorti Il a fallu qu'ils soient sortis

Il a fallu qu'elle soit sortie Il a fallu qu'elles soient sorties

Note: -ir verbs such as sortir (to go out), ressortir (to go out again), partir (to go), repartir (to go again) are conjugated following this pattern.

k Venir - to come

Il a fallu que je sois venu(e) Il a fallu que nous soyons venu(e)s

Il a fallu que tu sois venu(e) Il a fallu que vous soyez venu(e)s

Il a fallu qu'il soit venu Il a fallu qu'ils soient venus

Il a fallu qu'elle soit venue Il a fallu qu'elles soient venues

Note: ir verbs such as venir (to come), so also all other verbs like advenir,

provenir, devenir etc, are conjugated following this pattern.

3.3 Conjugation of Impersonal Verbs into *Subjonctif Passe*

s. Pleuvoir . to rain

Il a fallu qu'il ait plu

t. Falloir . to be necessary Il a fallu qu'il ait fallu

u. Advenir . to happen

Il a fallu qu'il soit advenu

v. Brûmer . to mist (hazy)

Il a fallu qu'il ait brume

w. Venter . to blow wind Il a fallu qu'il ait venté

3.4 Conjugation of Reflexive or Pronominal Verbs into *Subjonctif Passe*

x. Se laver . to take one's bath

Il a fallu que je me sois lavé(e) Il a fallu que nous nous soyons lavé(e)s

Il a fallu que tu te sois lavé(e) Il

a fallu qu'il se soit lavé

Il a fallu qu'elle se soit lavée

Il a fallu que vous vous soyez lavé(e)s Il

a fallu qu'ils se soient lavés

Il a fallu qu'elles se soient lavées
 y. Se taire . to keep quiet
 Il a fallu que je me sois tu(e) Il a fallu que nous nous soyons tu(e)s
 Il a fallu que tu te sois tu(e) Il a
 fallu qu'il se soit tu
 Il a fallu qu'elle se soit tue
 Il a fallu que vous vous soyez tu(e)s Il a
 fallu qu'ils se soient tus
 Il a fallu qu'elles se soient tues



Self Assessment Exercise

Conjugate the following verbs into subjunctif Passé

- i. Monter
- ii. Etre
- iii. Avoir

4.0 Conclusion

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of verbs ending with er, re, ir/oir as well as impersonal cum reflexive verbs into *subjunctif passé*. You have also been told of some exceptionalities to these general rules. We believe by now you can conjugate er, re, ir/oir as well as impersonal and reflexive verbs into *subjunctif passé*.



5.0 Summary

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* taught in Units nine to eleven, the conjugation of *l'imparfait* taught in Units thirteen to fifteen and the conjugation of *imperative* (positive and negative) taught in Unit sixteen, the conjugation of *conditionnels présent* and *passé* in Units seventeen and eighteen and then we decided to bring you further into the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the world of conjugation of *subjunctifs présent* and *passé* in French as taught in Units nineteen and twenty. With this unit twenty, we have now come to the end of our lectures of FRE102 that focuses on the conjugation of verbs into various tenses of French grammar.

6.0 Tutor Marked Assignments

1. Conjugate the following verbs into *subjonctif passé*:

- a. Rudoyer,
- b. Voir.,
- c. Prendre,
- d. S'appeler,
- e. Recommencer,
- f. Rendre,
- g. Pleuvoir,
- h. savoir,
- i. Se laver,
- j. Brumer.



7.0 References And Other Resources

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