

Le Commencement

Structures, Sounds
& Sight Words

FRENCH BEGINNER'S BASICS - by AUDREY A. ROGERS, 2012

Phonemes – les premières sons

(Phonemes are the basic sounds people make when speaking any language. In order to speak and read the language properly, we have to learn what sounds to make and what letters or letter combinations represent those sounds.)

L'ALPHABET: (Letters in italics are only a small sound that is barely heard, * are tricky.) We'll use a *cadence* rhythm to memorize these sounds.

A (ah) B (bay) C (say) D (day) E (er) F (eff) G (zhay)

*H (ahsh) I (ee) J (zhee) K (kah) L (ell) M (ehm) N (ehn)

O (oh) P (pay) Q (coo)* R (air) S (ess) T (tay) U (oo)

V (vay) W (doobluh-vay) X (eeks) Y (eegrek) Z (zed)

Word ending groups	Sound	Word end/letter groups	Sound
an am en em	ahn	uin oin	wahn (like an unhappy baby)
in im ain ein eim	an (a flat "a" sound)	oi ois	wah; wahz when following the liaison rule.
on om	ohn	ll	y or ul (not usually an ending)
un um	uhn	et est er ez é ès	ayee as in play - a "long vowel sound at the end of a word.

NASALS: are special pronunciations for certain letter groupings. You will sound and *look* silly practicing this, but it's the only way... Now, put your finger to your nose and begin.

* There are no standard **diphthongs** (diphthongs) - used in French pronunciation. Diphthongs are vowel (or letter) sounds made up of more than one sound – long a is ai-ee-yuh.) So, all vowels are pronounced either as short vowel sounds or used as part of a nasal sound. (An *oh* sound is not a diphthong.) You will only find long *a* or *i* sound as vowel combinations, such as *ei* or *ai*.



French and English have a shared cultural history, so as a result they also have many shared language rules and components.



However, there are some real differences as well, especially in **phonics** (how the sound is represented in writing).



As an example of a difference in French, in order to make an *oh* sound, you might write one of the following letter combinations: *au, aux, eau, eaux*.



As an example of a shared rule, *c* or *g* are "hard" consonant sounds in words like *cart* or *good*. However, they can become "soft" consonant sounds, like *s* or *j* when followed by an *i, e* or *y* in words like *place* and *gelatin*.



Luckily, in parts of their shared history, French and English use the same lettering system, both read from left to right, share grammar structures, have similar (not *same*) order for placing words in a sentence, and share Greek & Latin word origins. When the Normans invaded England in 1066, they significantly changed many of the words we use for food, like *beef, pork, mutton* and *herb*.

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FRENCH BEGINNER'S BASICS

VOWELS, CONSONANTS & ACCENTED LETTERS

THE FOLLOWING LETTERS AND COMBINATIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO KNOW FOR PRONUNCIATION, SPELLING AND TESTS.

Most Common French Vowel Combinations	Sounds like...	French Consonants (different)	Sounds like... (or does)
au(x) eau(x)	oh	qu	k (never kwuh)
ai ei, eil, eille	Ā (as in way)	pn	The French pronounce each of these letters
ou	ooh (pool)	h	When beginning words, it's <u>always</u> silent.
ui, oui	whee		
eu, eut, eux	uhr (like her, but soft)	ch	Pronounced sh like shy in English.
oi, oix, ois, oit	wah	r	Makes a sound in the throat; lightly gargled.

More - including letters with accent marks and with rules...

Consonants / Accents	Rule / Details	Consonants / Accents	Rule / Details
c	1) Before i, y or e makes an s sound, like in silly.	g	1) Before e or i, makes a zh sound, like rouge.
c	2) At the end of words and before a, o, u makes a k sound.	g	2) Also, in front of any other letters, this g makes a hard g sound - guh as in grave.
ç	3) With cédille, you say s when it follows a, o, u	j	Pronounced zh, as in jambon. A softer sound than the English equivalent jump.
ll	Pronounced two ways: y like yellow, or l like lemon.	consonant + e word ending	Nasals and unpronounced consonant endings + silent e become pronounced endings, & no longer fit liaison rules.
gn	Pronounced n+[yuh] the way we pronounce canyon. (espagnol)	ai	When a tréma accent is used, you pronounce both vowels separately, like ah ee.

TO REMEMBER - all French accent marks should be read like standard English text: **from left to right**. It will help you to remember which ones to use.



Aigu: this accent mark "points up" when reading left to right. It's for pronunciation and we remember it by saying the phrase, "Aigu makes you say A." (long vowel sound). It goes above the letter like this: é



Grave: this mark "points down" (down to the grave) reading left to right. It's for grammar purposes. Using this accent mark can change the meaning of the word. It looks like this: è



Tréma: this mark occurs over vowel combinations, and means you pronounce both vowels equally when ordinarily you wouldn't. It looks like this: ö



Circonflex: Often called a hat, this mark looks like a "flexed half-circle" and means it has replaced a letter that was once there. It looks like this: î



Cédille: this mark changes the letter c from a "hard sound" to a "soft sound" when it ordinarily wouldn't. It looks like this: ç

Numbers

LES NOMBRES: (FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH PRONUNCIATION CUES)

ONES to 10:

0 - zéro _____

1 - un, une _____

2 - deux _____

3 - trois _____

4 - quatre _____

5 - cinq _____

6 - six _____

7 - sept _____

8 - huit _____

9 - neuf _____

10 - dix _____

TEENS to 20:

11 - onze _____

12 - douze _____

13 - treize _____

14 - quatorze _____

15 - quinze _____

16 - seize _____

17 - dix-sept _____

18 - dix-huit _____

19 - dix neuf _____

20 - vingt _____

More TENS and Beyond: (watch for *s)

30 - trente _____

31 - trente et un _____

32 - trente-deux _____

40 - quarante _____

50 - cinquante _____

60 - soixante _____

*70 - soixante-dix _____

71 - soixante-onze _____

78 - soixante-dix-sept _____

*80 - quatre-vingts _____

81 - quatre-vingt-et-un _____

82 - quatre-vingt-deux _____

90 - quatre-vingt-dix _____

91 - quatre-vingt-onze _____

97 - quatre-vingt-dix-sept _____

100 - cent _____

103 - cent trois _____

200 - deux cent _____

1.000 - mille _____

10.000 - dix mille _____

100.000 - cent mille _____

1.000.000 - un million _____

French has some language and number structures in common with English, but some are unique to the French language and culture.



When French has *composite numbers* (when two or more numbers make up another), the numbers are connected with a hyphen. Like the roman numeral system, these composite numbers may represent addition or multiplication of digits to make the final number.



In English, a period's used for a decimal, and a comma for thousands & up. For French, its the opposite - commas for decimals, periods for thousands & over.



The French language also has a formal (*vous*) and informal (*tu*) subject pronoun. The conjugations for them (subject:verb agreement), unlike those for English, are very different in form. French even has verbs that describe that difference: *tutoyer* (to use informal speech) and *vouvoyer* (to use formal).



FRENCH BEGINNER'S BASICS

First Words & Useful Phrases

GREETINGS & INTRODUCTIONS:

Bonjour _____	Je vous présente... _____
Bon matin _____	Je te présente... _____
Salut* _____	Allô* _____
Bonsoir _____	Bienvenue _____
Bonne nuit _____	Qu'est-ce qui se passe? _____
Comment allez-vous? _____	_____
Comment Ça va? _____	Bon retour _____
Ça va bien _____	Enchanté(e) _____
Comment-vas tu? _____	Je m'appelle _____
Ça va _____	Mon nom est... _____

French has both a *formal* and *informal* form. What that means is that you change *how* you say things based on *who* you say it to. Sort of like “being on your best behavior” with someone.



FORMAL vs. **INFORMAL** greetings: Formal greetings in French are used with everyone, but indicate respect. Formal greetings are those beginning with *bon* or *bien*. The rest are informal, and should only be used with close friends, family and those younger than you.

STANDARD FAREWELLS:

Salut* _____	À bientôt _____
Ciao* _____	À dieu _____
À tout à l'heure _____	À la semaine prochaine _____
À demain _____	Passe un bon weekend* _____
Au revoir _____	Bonne journée _____



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POLITE TERMS & USEFUL PHRASES: FOR ALL OCCASIONS

FORMAL vs. **INFORMAL** farewells: Formal farewells / goodbyes in French are also used with everyone, indicating respect. Formal goodbyes are those beginning with *à* or *au(x)*. The rest are informal, and used the same as informal greetings.



The French language also has a formal (*vous*) and informal (*tu*) subject pronoun. The verb conjugations for them (subject:verb agreement), unlike those for English, are very different in form. French even has verbs that describe that difference: *tutoyer* (to use informal speech) and *vouvoyer* (to use formal speech). Since it was important enough for the French to create verbs to describe levels of formality, then it makes sense that using those different levels properly is useful for communication.



S'il vous plait _____

S'il te plait _____

Ça me plait _____

Merci _____

Merci pour... _____

Il n'y a pas de quoi _____

De rien _____

Puis-je utiliser les toilettes? _____

Où sont les toilettes? _____

À vos souhaits! _____

À tes souhaits! _____

D'où viens-tu? _____

Comme ci, comme ça _____

Ça va bien. _____

Il y a/Il n'y a pas _____

Pourquoi? _____

Parce-que _____

À quelle heure? _____

Quelle heure est-il? _____

Pardon _____

Excusez-moi _____

D'accord _____

Allons-y _____

Prête? _____

POLITE TERMS & USEFUL PHRASES: EN CLASSE

Écoutez _____

Lisez _____

Prenez _____

Répétez _____

Écrivez _____

Répondez _____

Épelez _____

Ouvrez _____

Fermez _____

Tous ensemble _____

Encore _____

Montrez-moi... _____

Continuez (ons) _____

Je ne comprends pas _____

Comment dit-on...? _____

ordinateur _____

livre _____

cahier _____

papier _____

Madame _____

Monsieur _____

Mademoiselle _____

oui, non _____

peut-être _____

FRENCH BEGINNER'S BASICS

Days, Months, Seasons, Colors...

Many of these words are cognates for French and English due to their historic cultural / religious connections, changing dynasties and conquest.



COGNATES are words that two different languages have in common. A cognate *looks* like the other language's word, *sounds* similar and *means* the same thing. A "false" cognate (*faux amis*) also *looks* and *sounds* similar, but does *not* mean the same thing.



Vendredi (think "vendor day") indicates a weekly market day. If you're having a hard time recognizing days of the week amid other words, remember the *di* and think "day" as a mental connection.



French is a *Romance Language* which means it's heavily based on the early Roman language, Latin - as well as Greek (because Latin has a lot of Greek-origin words). Much of the English language is also constructed using Greek & Latin roots, prefixes and suffixes. As noted on an earlier page, we have many words and grammar structures in common with French as well as many other Western European languages. That common bond makes it easier for English speakers to learn those related languages.



WEEK DAY WORDS

lundi _____	samedi _____
mardi _____	dimanche _____
mercredi _____	hier _____
jeudi _____	aujourd'hui _____
vendredi _____	demain _____

MONTHS & SEASONS

janvier _____	septembre _____
février _____	octobre _____
mars _____	novembre _____
avril _____	décembre _____
mai _____	le printemps (au) _____
juin _____	l'été (en) _____
juillet _____	l'automne (en) _____
août _____	l'hiver (en) _____

Quelle est la date? _____

Aujourd'hui est le _____ de _____, _____

En quelle saison sommes-nous? _____

Nous sommes (en/ au) _____

CRAYON COLORS

rouge _____	marron _____
rose _____	brun(e) _____
noir(e) _____	violet(te) _____
gris(e) _____	pourpre _____
blanc, blanche _____	cuivre _____
vert(e) _____	argenté(e) _____
bleu(e) _____	doré(e) _____
jaune _____	ombre _____
orange _____	vif, éclatant _____

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FIVE MAIN IRREGULAR VERBS

Infinitive form: <i>être</i> = to be ; being				Infinitive form: <i>faire</i> = to do/to make; doing/making			
English (singular)	French (singular)	English (plural)	French (plural)	English (singular)	French (sing.)	English (plural)	French (plural)
I am I am being		We are We are being		I do, I make I do do, I do make I'm doing, I'm making		We do, we make we do do, we do make We're doing, we're making	
You are You are being		You are You are being		You do, make You're doing, making...		You do, make You're doing, making	
He, she, one (<i>it</i>) is He, she, one is being		They are They are being		He, she, one does, makes He, she, one's doing, making		They do, make They're doing, making	
Infinitive form: <i>avoir</i> = to have; having				Infinitive form: <i>aller</i> = to go; going			
English (singular)	French (singular)	English (plural)	French (plural)	English (sing.)	French (sing.)	English (plural)	French (plural)
I have I do have I am having		We have We do have We are having		I go I do go I am going		We go We do go We are going	
You have You do have You are having		You have You do have You are having		You go You do go You are going		You go You do go You are going	
He, she, one has He, she, one does have He, she, one is having		They have They do have They are having		He, she, one goes He, she, one does go He, she, one is going		They go They do go They are going	
Infinitive form: <i>venir</i> =							
English (singular)	French (singular)	English (plural)	French (plural)				
I come (to, from) I am coming (to, from) I do come (to, from)		We come (to, from) We are coming We do come					
You come (to, from) You are coming You do come		You come (to, from) You are coming You do come					
He, she, one comes He, she, one is coming He, she, one does come		They come (to, from) They are coming They do come					

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EXPLAINING SOME VERBS



CLASSROOM TERMS AND GENERAL INFORMATION FOR VERBS (ON TESTS)

The word “tense” refers to time. To **conjugate** a verb in a tense, means to make subject-verb agreement within time.

There are two main **types** of French verbs, with a sub-category type that falls under both of the main:

- **Regular Verbs** that follow common rules of conjugation.
- **Irregular Verbs** which don't follow common rules and may not even resemble the original verb after conjugating.
- The sub-category is **Reflexive Verbs** which can be either *regular* or *irregular* but require adding a *reflexive pronoun*. (se laver, not laver)

FORMAL vs. INFORMAL verb forms: yes, French even has formal and informal subject-verb forms. For a formal term of address, use the plural subject

pronoun *vous*. For informal terms of address, use the *tu* form for conjugating.

Translating verbs from English to French, or French to English, may be hard at first. For one, English often uses “extra” or *auxiliary* verbs in **Present Indicative Tense** that French just doesn't need. Phrases like “go shopping” don't translate properly.

WAYS WE REFER TO VERBS:

Infinitive: the unconjugated verb form. It's an *idea* and not yet an *action*. It translates in English as “to...” or as a verb-as-noun ending in “ing” like playing.

Verb Groups: French *infinitives* come in 3 groups: *-er*, *-ir* and *-re*. When conjugated to agree with a subject, we call it a **form**.

PRIMARY Verb: the first verb in a sentence. It's conjugated and tied to the subject. It may not be the *main* verb, it might be an *auxiliary*. When adding negation, the negative *surrounds* this verb.

SECONDARY Verb: falls 2nd in the sentence and modifies the *main* verb - usually the primary - and remains *infinitive* (unconjugated).

Auxiliary Verb: as in English, is a “helper” verb. It is not the *main* verb but it will always be the *primary* verb when it occurs.

Main Verb: this is the real action from the subject. It will be conjugated, but not always using present tense formation.

Regular Verbs in Present Tense

CONJUGATE: TO CHANGE THE VERB FOR SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Rules: To conjugate a *regular* verb, you take the **base or stem form** (drop the main ending - either *re*, *ir* or *er*) and add on whichever **subject ending** applies. Ex: *répondre* with *je* - ~~répondre~~, *je répond* +s. = *je réponds*...

"er" verb endings	
Subject form	Verb ending
je	
tu	
il/elle/on	
nous	
vous	
ils/elles	

"ir" verb endings	
Subject form	Verb ending
je	
tu	
il/elle/on	
nous	
vous	
ils/elles	

"re" verb endings	
Subject form	Verb ending
je	
tu	
il/elle/on	
nous	
vous	
ils/elles	

Sample Conjugations: of regular verbs to fill in for practice. These *will not* help you conjugate irregular verbs.

parler (parl...)	
English	French
I speak	
You speak	
He/she/one speaks	
We speak	
You speak	
They or those speak	

finir (fin...)	
English	French
I finish	
You finish	
He/she/one finishes	
We finish	
You finish	
They or those finish	

perdre (perd...)	
English	French
I lose	
You lose	
He/she/one loses	
We lose	
You lose	
They or those lose	

Use the rule you learned above to conjugate, make sure subject and verb are both there.

*Sometimes regular verb conjugations require a slight change in spelling because of rules for consonants and vowel sounds, such as adding an e to the nous form of *manger* to retain a "soft" g sound.

For verbs whose stems end in an "e" you will often replace that stem-ending with the "i" that is part of the new ending.

Necessary Parts

NECESSARY PRONOUNS

Subject Pronouns: (replace “named” subjects in a sentence) as a note -in French, subject pronouns only have to be capitalized if they occur at the beginning of the sentence. Names (proper nouns) still have a capital letter at any time. To find the correct verb conjugations for named subjects or groups of named subjects, we use pronoun swapping to select the correct conjugations and modifiers.

Singular forms	Plural forms
je	nous
tu	vous
il elle on	ils elles

Indirect Object Pronouns: (replace “named” indirect object in a sentence) as a note -in French, indirect objects tend to **follow à** in a sentence (example: Je téléphone **à Christine.**) or another phrase-preposition like **pour**. When changed to use as a **pronoun**, they move to sit before the primary verb (conjugated), including laying inside the negative, ex: Je ne **lui** donne pas; I didn't give that **to him**. Note the placement difference. (In English, think “at whom, to whom, for whom”.)

Singular forms	Plural forms
me (m', moi <-end of phrase)	nous
te (t', toi <-same)	vous
lui	leur

Reflexive Pronouns: are verb-related. They help form a sub-category of regular and irregular verbs (verbs that follow conjugation rules and those that don't). This means that **Reflexive Verbs** can be regular or irregular, but they all must have those pronouns. At first, this list will

Singular forms	Plural forms
me (m', moi <-Imperative form)	nous
te (t', toi <-same)	vous
se (s')	se (s') *not an error



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FRENCH BEGINNER'S BASICS

...and More Necessary Parts

ARTICLES, À & DE WITH COMBINED FORMS

Indefinite Articles: words that translate as number concepts; “one” or “some.” These words are general terms, or non-specific.

masculine	feminine	plural
un	une	des



Like English, the French language uses pronouns to represent nouns in sentences, so that we can say “it” instead of something like “public transportation” in sentences, and to avoid redundancy.



Definite articles: words that translate as “pointers” – they refer clearly to a

masculine	feminine	apostrophe	plural
le	la	l'	les

ARTICLES are more necessary and more often used in French than in English. Nouns have a **gender** in French that is almost non-existent in English. To write properly in French, you will need to learn to use these articles effectively, and as often as needed. Articles are placed before the noun they modify. When the article becomes an object pronoun, it will fall before the primary verb in the sentence.



Definite articles with prepositions: de (of, from) and à (at, to) :

- When a definite article hooks up with a preposition, the definite articles can change. We need to remember what group of words will merge, and what group will always remain separate.

Groups that **change** – Masculine and plural (note: plural forms end in s or x)

preposition	+ article	= combined form
de		
de		
à		
à		

Groups that **don't change** – feminine singular and apostrophe rule articles

preposition	+ article	= final form
de		
de		
à		
à		

DEFINITE articles in French are used to say “the” or “those/these” and also indicate items in general: the pen (specific) pens (general).



INDEFINITE articles in French are used to say “a”, “one” or “some” but do not “point to” specific objects.

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FRENCH BEGINNER'S BASICS

Survival Items - Things to Memorize

INTERROGATIVE ADJECTIVES: QUESTION WORDS & PHRASES

Comment... ? _____	(à) Quel/Quelle... ? _____
Est-ce que...? _____	Pourquoi...? _____
Qu'est-ce que...? _____	Pourquoi pas? _____
Qu'est-ce que c'est? _____	Où/D'où... ? _____
(à, de) Qui... ? _____	Quand... ? _____
Qui est-ce que...? _____	Depuis quand _____
Est-ce qu'il y a? _____	N'est-ce pas? _____
Y a-t-il...? _____	Puis-je...? _____
Combien... (de, d')? _____	Pouvez-vous...? _____

ACCENT MARKS & PUNCTUATION: TRANSLATE OR EXPLAIN

[è, à] _____	,	_____
[é] _____	.	_____
[i] _____	?	_____
[ô, â, â] _____	;	_____
[ç] _____	:	_____
() _____	" "	_____
' _____	-	_____

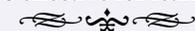
VOWEL & OTHER RULES - MORE WILL FOLLOW, BUT LEARN THEM...

Form	Rule
Vowel rule: Apostrophe makes a contraction	When the 1st word ENDS in e or a and the 2nd word BEGINS with a vowel , make a contraction by dropping the e or a and inserting an apostrophe. Example: je + ai = j'ai. Note: the final e cannot be silent, it must be a "pronounced" e ending without an accent mark.
Vowel rule: Liaison affects pronunciation only	When the 1st word ENDS in an unpronounced consonant and the 2nd word BEGINS with a vowel , the last consonant is pronounced to link the two words. Example: vous+avez = vou-zavay or comment+allez =co-mahn-tal-lay.
Forming questions	As with English, we can form questions by 1)using voice inflection on the final word to change a statement into a question, 2)swap subject & verb for inversion but tie with a hyphen, 3) use an interrogative adjective or phrase.
Plural forms s and x	In French, adding s will make a singular noun or adjective plural. For words ending in vowel combinations such as eu or au, we use x.

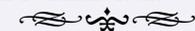
In learning any language, you need to be able to ask questions in order to do anything. Frankly, when trying to communicate if you don't understand a question, you can't answer it.



VOWEL RULES represent recurring grammar structures that all have something in common; the SECOND word in the structure *always* begins with a vowel or *h-muet* - silent h. Because they all appear to have the second word-type in common, it follows the FIRST word is where we find the key differences that define the individual rules within the group. To my knowledge, this may not be an official, formal way to designate this group, but it's effective for learners.



QUESTIONS are an indispensable part of communicating, so you need to MEMORIZE them.



MODIFIERS in French usually follow the words they modify. The exceptions, luckily, tend to follow a pattern.





Adjectives, Adverbs & Nouns ...oh my!

GENDER & NUMBER RULE OUR USAGE OF NOUNS & MODIFIERS

NOUNS (noms) are the same in French & English with a couple exceptions:

- Person, place, thing or idea.
- They can be subjects *or* objects.
- They can be a *singular* item, or several items (*plural*).
- In French, nouns have gender, either *masculine* or *feminine* and to English-speaking natives, there doesn't seem to be a lot of reasoning behind the choices. *All modifiers must agree in both number & gender.*
- Nouns in French are **preceded by articles** and **followed by adjectives**.

ADJECTIVES modify **Nouns**:

- Because French nouns show both *number* and *gender*, **all** their modifiers must too, unless the *adjective* is irregular. (Just like those in English...mostly.)
- Adjectives **follow** the **noun** they modify, EXCEPT for those that measure Beauty, Age, Goodness or Size (BAGS). Those adjectives will fall *before* the noun they modify.

ADVERBS

modify **Verbs** ... mainly:

- Adverbs *do not* need to show number & gender
- Adverbs **follow** the **verb** or word they modify.
- Adverbs tell you *how much*, *how many* as well as *in what way* something is done.
- In French, when an adverb ends in *-ment*, we usually translate it as an *-ly* ending.

SAMPLES OF MODIFIERS:

(write them below.)

French *never* has a **contraction** such as 's to show possession. They use a set of adjectives instead.



Usage: Adjectives describe nouns, so all *possessive adjectives* will be used directly with nouns. Possessive adjectives show "belonging" - they let you know when an object, idea or person "belongs to" someone or something else, *usually* the subject of the sentence.

Vowel Rule for possessives:

- Can't use a **contraction**.
- The feminine singular possessive *ma* can be followed by a word that begins with a vowel.
- If that happens, we *revert masculine* and use *mon* instead.



Possessive Adjectives

Helpful hints: Because possessives usually "belong" to the subject, or a noun, use subject-pronoun swapping for names or compound subjects to find which pronoun we need.

Rules: The subject determines the first letter of the possessive; *who* it belongs to. The gender and number of the noun that belongs to the subject determines the ending. If the subject is *Marc (il)*, the first letter is "s", if the thing belonging to Marc is *la pizza*, the ending is "a", so our noun will look like this: *sa pizza*.

Things to know when choosing:

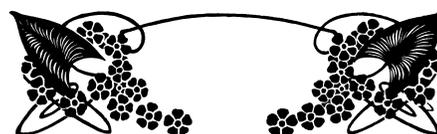
1. The number and gender of the "owner" word, and the subject pronoun it "swaps" with
2. The number and gender of the "belonging" word
3. Apostrophe rule nouns (these all revert to masculine possessives)

Singular subjects:

Subject pronoun	Beg. letter	masculine noun	feminine noun	plural noun
je	m			
tu	t			
il/elle/on	s			

Subject pronoun	Beg. Letter	singular noun	plural noun
nous	n		
vous	v		
ils/elles	---		

Plural subjects: Gender is not an issue here, only number



Futur Simple

Future Verb Tense Conjugation Endings: verb <i>infinitive</i> +	
Subject form	Verb ending
je	
tu	
il/elle/on	
nous	
vous	
ils/elles	



FUTUR SIMPLE is called a “simple” tense, because it doesn’t use extra verbs, only the main verb.

Rules: To use the *simple future* tense for regular verbs, you are not required to create or use a stem of the infinitive verb. Instead you will take the infinitive form of the verb and add a subject-related ending to it. That then will become your future tense.

Verbs in the *-re* ending group drop the *e* for the *nous* & *vous* forms.

For *some* irregular verbs, you’ll need to know the irregular future stem, and use that instead of the infinitive.

Manger (to eat)– the Future Tense

French Subject/Verb	English Translation
Je manger_____	I will eat...
Tu manger_____	You will eat...
Il/elle/on manger_____	He/she/one will eat...
Nous manger_____	We will eat...
Vous manger_____	You will eat...
Ils/elles manger_____	They will eat...

Être, avoir, aller, faire, devoir, envoyer, pleuvoir, pouvoir, recevoir, savoir, venir, voir and vouloir do not follow this conjugation rule. They have what is called an “irregular stem.” Each of these verbs has its own special stem that must be memorized separately. You must use your irregular verb chart to memorize these stems. As with irregular verb conjugations in present tense, regular future tense forms will not help you!