

common french verbs conjugation table

Common French Verbs Conjugation Table: Your Ultimate Guide to Mastering French Verbs

Learning French, with its rich history and global influence, opens doors to literature, culture, and communication. At the heart of mastering any language lies understanding its verbs, and for French, this means delving into the fascinating world of conjugation. This comprehensive article, your go-to common French verbs conjugation table, will demystify the process, providing a clear roadmap to conjugating essential verbs across various tenses. We'll explore the foundational patterns, irregular verb exceptions, and practical tips to build your confidence in using French verbs accurately. Prepare to unlock fluent French with this detailed guide, covering present, past, and future tenses, and equipping you with the knowledge to tackle even the most common French verbs.

- Understanding French Verb Groups
- The Present Tense (Le Présent)
 - Regular -ER Verbs in the Present Tense
 - Regular -IR Verbs in the Present Tense
 - Regular -RE Verbs in the Present Tense
 - Key Irregular Verbs in the Present Tense
- The Past Tense: Passé Composé
 - Using 'Avoir' and 'Être' as Auxiliary Verbs

- Passé Composé for Regular -ER Verbs
- Passé Composé for Regular -IR Verbs
- Passé Composé for Regular -RE Verbs
- Passé Composé for Common Irregular Verbs
- The Future Tense: Futur Simple
- Futur Simple for Regular -ER Verbs
- Futur Simple for Regular -IR Verbs
- Futur Simple for Regular -RE Verbs
- Futur Simple for Common Irregular Verbs
- Essential Irregular Verbs: A Deeper Dive
- Verb 'Être' (To Be) Conjugation
- Verb 'Avoir' (To Have) Conjugation
- Verb 'Aller' (To Go) Conjugation
- Verb 'Faire' (To Do/Make) Conjugation
- Verb 'Pouvoir' (To Be Able To) Conjugation
- Verb 'Vouloir' (To Want) Conjugation

- Verb 'Savoir' (To Know) Conjugation
- Verb 'Venir' (To Come) Conjugation
- Verb 'Voir' (To See) Conjugation
- Verb 'Prendre' (To Take) Conjugation
- Verb 'Mettre' (To Put) Conjugation
- Tips for Mastering French Verb Conjugation
- Practice and Repetition Strategies
- Using Online Resources and Apps
- Understanding Verb Agreement
- Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Understanding French Verb Groups

French verbs are typically categorized into three main groups based on their infinitive endings: those ending in -ER, -IR, and -RE. This grouping is fundamental because verbs within the same group often follow predictable conjugation patterns, especially in common tenses. While there are thousands of French verbs, the vast majority, particularly those ending in -ER, are regular. This regularity is a cornerstone for learners, providing a solid foundation upon which to build. Understanding these groups will help you anticipate how a verb will change based on its infinitive form and the context in which it's

used. Mastering the conjugation of common French verbs relies heavily on recognizing these patterns and the exceptions that inevitably arise.

The Present Tense (Le Présent)

The present tense in French, known as "le présent," is used to describe actions happening now, habitual actions, and general truths. It's often the first tense learners encounter and is crucial for everyday communication. The conjugation of verbs in the present tense depends on their group and whether they are regular or irregular. Understanding the systematic changes to verb endings for each pronoun (je, tu, il/elle/on, nous, vous, ils/elles) is key to accurate usage. This section will break down the conjugation of regular verbs by their group, laying the groundwork for understanding the more complex irregular verbs.

Regular -ER Verbs in the Present Tense

The -ER ending is the most common infinitive ending for French verbs, and luckily, most verbs in this group are regular. To conjugate a regular -ER verb in the present tense, you typically remove the -ER from the infinitive and add the following endings: -e for "je," -es for "tu," -e for "il/elle/on," -ons for "nous," -ez for "vous," and -ent for "ils/elles." For example, the verb "parler" (to speak) follows this pattern: je parle, tu parles, il/elle/on parle, nous parlons, vous parlez, ils/elles parlent. Familiarizing yourself with this core pattern for common French verbs will accelerate your learning process significantly.

Regular -IR Verbs in the Present Tense

The second major group of regular verbs ends in -IR. While there are many -IR verbs, not all of them

are regular (some have irregular stem changes). However, the regular -IR verbs have a distinct set of present tense endings. After removing the -IR infinitive, you add: -is for "je," -is for "tu," -it for "il/elle/on," -issons for "nous," -issez for "vous," and -issent for "ils/elles." A classic example is "finir" (to finish): je finis, tu finis, il/elle/on finit, nous finissons, vous finissez, ils/elles finissent. This consistent pattern is vital for building a strong foundation in French verb conjugation.

Regular -RE Verbs in the Present Tense

The third group of regular verbs traditionally ends in -RE. These verbs also have a predictable set of present tense endings once the -RE is removed. The typical endings are: -s for "je," -s for "tu," (no ending or sometimes a silent 't' for "il/elle/on" depending on the verb), -ons for "nous," -ez for "vous," and -ent for "ils/elles." For example, "vendre" (to sell) conjugates as: je vends, tu vends, il/elle/on vend, nous vendons, vous vendez, ils/elles vendent. It's important to note that while this is the general rule, some -RE verbs can be considered semi-regular or have minor variations, but the core pattern applies to many common French verbs.

Key Irregular Verbs in the Present Tense

While regular verb patterns are crucial, French is peppered with irregular verbs that do not follow these rules. These verbs often have unique stem changes or entirely unique conjugations that must be memorized. Mastering the present tense of common French verbs like "être" (to be), "avoir" (to have), "aller" (to go), and "faire" (to do/make) is paramount for basic fluency. These irregular verbs are used so frequently that their conjugations become second nature with practice. We will explore these in more detail later in the article, but it's important to acknowledge their significance early on.

The Past Tense: Passé Composé

The passé composé is the most common past tense in spoken French, used to describe completed actions in the past. It's a compound tense, meaning it's formed using an auxiliary verb ("avoir" or "être") in the present tense, followed by the past participle of the main verb. The choice of auxiliary verb and the formation of the past participle are critical elements. Understanding how to correctly form the passé composé for common French verbs is essential for discussing past events and narratives. This tense often presents a learning curve due to the auxiliary verb choice and past participle agreement rules.

Using 'Avoir' and 'Être' as Auxiliary Verbs

The auxiliary verb used in the passé composé is usually "avoir," but a significant number of verbs, particularly those indicating movement or a change of state, use "être." Additionally, all reflexive verbs use "être." The choice of auxiliary affects how the past participle is formed. If "être" is used, the past participle must agree in gender and number with the subject. For example, "j'ai mangé" (I ate - using avoir) vs. "elle est allée" (she went - using être, past participle agrees with 'elle'). Mastering when to use each auxiliary is a fundamental step in using the passé composé for common French verbs.

Passé Composé for Regular -ER Verbs

To form the passé composé for regular -ER verbs, you use the present tense of "avoir" as the auxiliary verb and add the past participle, which is formed by removing the -ER and adding "-é." For example, "parler" becomes "parlé." So, "to speak" in the passé composé is: j'ai parlé, tu as parlé, il/elle/on a parlé, nous avons parlé, vous avez parlé, ils/elles ont parlé. This pattern is consistent across all regular -ER verbs, making it a highly manageable aspect of mastering common French verbs.

Passé Composé for Regular -IR Verbs

For regular -IR verbs in the passé composé, you again use the present tense of "avoir" as the auxiliary. The past participle is formed by removing the -IR infinitive and adding "-i." For instance, "finir" becomes "fini." The conjugations would be: j'ai fini, tu as fini, il/elle/on a fini, nous avons fini, vous avez fini, ils/elles ont fini. This straightforward rule applies to the regular -IR verbs, aiding in the accurate use of common French verbs in the past.

Passé Composé for Regular -RE Verbs

The passé composé for regular -RE verbs also employs "avoir" as the auxiliary. The past participle is formed by removing the -RE infinitive and adding "-u." For example, "vendre" becomes "vendu." The resulting passé composé is: j'ai vendu, tu as vendu, il/elle/on a vendu, nous avons vendu, vous avez vendu, ils/elles ont vendu. This consistent rule simplifies the conjugation process for this group of common French verbs.

Passé Composé for Common Irregular Verbs

As with the present tense, irregular verbs present variations in the passé composé. The auxiliary verb choice ("avoir" or "être") must be learned for each irregular verb, and their past participles are often irregular as well. For example, "faire" (to do/make) has the past participle "fait" (j'ai fait), and "venir" (to come) uses "être" and has the past participle "venu" (je suis venu(e)). Mastering these exceptions is crucial for a complete understanding of the passé composé for common French verbs.

The Future Tense: Futur Simple

The futur simple, or simple future tense, is used to express actions that will happen in the future. It's often used for predictions, promises, or intentions. The formation of the futur simple is generally more regular than the passé composé. For most verbs, you take the infinitive and add specific future endings. This tense is a valuable tool for discussing future plans and events, and understanding its formation for common French verbs is a key step towards fluency.

Futur Simple for Regular -ER Verbs

For regular -ER verbs, the futur simple is formed by keeping the infinitive form and adding the future endings: -ai for "je," -as for "tu," -a for "il/elle/on," -ons for "nous," -ez for "vous," and -ont for "ils/elles." For "parler," this would be: je parlerai, tu parleras, il/elle/on parlera, nous parlerons, vous parlerez, ils/elles parleront. This consistent pattern makes conjugating a large number of common French verbs in the future tense quite manageable.

Futur Simple for Regular -IR Verbs

Similar to -ER verbs, regular -IR verbs in the futur simple retain their infinitive form and add the future endings. For "finir," this would be: je finirai, tu finiras, il/elle/on finira, nous finirons, vous finirez, ils/elles finiront. The endings are identical to those used for -ER verbs, providing another layer of consistency for learners of common French verbs.

Futur Simple for Regular -RE Verbs

Regular -RE verbs in the futur simple undergo a slight change: the final "-e" of the infinitive is dropped

before adding the future endings. So, for "vendre," the stem becomes "vendr-" and then the endings are added: je vendrai, tu vendras, il/elle/on vendra, nous vendrons, vous vendrez, ils/elles vendront. This minor adjustment is the only difference from the -ER and -IR verb patterns in the futur simple for common French verbs.

Futur Simple for Common Irregular Verbs

As expected, irregular verbs have unique stems for the futur simple. For example, "avoir" becomes "aur-," "être" becomes "ser-," and "aller" becomes "ir-." The standard future endings are then added to these irregular stems. For instance, "je serai" (I will be), "tu auras" (you will have), "il ira" (he will go). Memorizing these irregular stems is essential for accurately conjugating common French verbs in the future tense.

Essential Irregular Verbs: A Deeper Dive

To truly master common French verbs, a focused look at the most frequently used irregular verbs is indispensable. These verbs are the building blocks of countless sentences, and their conjugations, while irregular, are also the most frequently encountered. Familiarity with their present, passé composé, and futur simple forms will significantly boost your confidence and fluency.

Verb 'Être' (To Be) Conjugation

The verb "être" (to be) is one of the most fundamental and frequently used irregular verbs in French. Its conjugations are essential for describing states, identities, and locations. Its present tense forms are: je suis, tu es, il/elle/on est, nous sommes, vous êtes, ils/elles sont. In the passé composé, it uses itself as the auxiliary: j'ai été, tu as été, etc. For the futur simple, its stem is "ser-": je serai, tu seras,

il/elle/on sera, nous serons, vous serez, ils/elles seront.

Verb 'Avoir' (To Have) Conjugation

'Avoir' (to have) is another cornerstone irregular verb, crucial for possession and forming many compound tenses. The present tense conjugations are: j'ai, tu as, il/elle/on a, nous avons, vous avez, ils/elles ont. In the passé composé, it uses itself as the auxiliary: j'ai eu, tu as eu, etc. For the futur simple, its stem is "aur-": j'aurai, tu auras, il/elle/on aura, nous aurons, vous aurez, ils/elles auront.

Verb 'Aller' (To Go) Conjugation

'Aller' (to go) is a vital verb for describing movement and is also used to form the immediate future (futur proche) with the infinitive of another verb. Its present tense conjugations are: je vais, tu vas, il/elle/on va, nous allons, vous allez, ils/elles vont. Importantly, "aller" uses "être" as its auxiliary in the passé composé: je suis allé(e), tu es allé(e), etc. Its futur simple stem is "ir-": j'irai, tu iras, il/elle/on ira, nous irons, vous irez, ils/elles iront.

Verb 'Faire' (To Do/Make) Conjugation

'Faire' (to do/make) is a highly versatile verb with a common irregular pattern. In the present tense: je fais, tu fais, il/elle/on fait, nous faisons, vous faites, ils/elles font. Its passé composé is formed with "avoir" and the past participle "fait": j'ai fait, tu as fait, etc. The futur simple stem for "faire" is "fer-": je ferai, tu feras, il/elle/on fera, nous ferons, vous ferez, ils/elles feront.

Verb 'Pouvoir' (To Be Able To) Conjugation

'Pouvoir' (to be able to) is a modal verb indicating ability. Present tense: je peux, tu peux, il/elle/on peut, nous pouvons, vous pouvez, ils/elles peuvent. Passé composé: j'ai pu, tu as pu, etc. Futur simple stem: "pourr-": je pourrai, tu pourras, il/elle/on pourra, nous pourrons, vous pourrez, ils/elles pourront.

Verb 'Vouloir' (To Want) Conjugation

'Vouloir' (to want) expresses desire. Present tense: je veux, tu veux, il/elle/on veut, nous voulons, vous voulez, ils/elles veulent. Passé composé: j'ai voulu, tu as voulu, etc. Futur simple stem: "voudr-": je voudrai, tu voudras, il/elle/on voudra, nous voudrons, vous voudrez, ils/elles voudront.

Verb 'Savoir' (To Know) Conjugation

'Savoir' (to know) refers to knowing facts or how to do something. Present tense: je sais, tu sais, il/elle/on sait, nous savons, vous savez, ils/elles savent. Passé composé: j'ai su, tu as su, etc. Futur simple stem: "saur-": je saurai, tu sauras, il/elle/on saura, nous saurons, vous saurez, ils/elles sauront.

Verb 'Venir' (To Come) Conjugation

'Venir' (to come) indicates movement towards the speaker or a destination. Present tense: je viens, tu viens, il/elle/on vient, nous venons, vous venez, ils/elles viennent. Crucially, "venir" uses "être" as its auxiliary: je suis venu(e), tu es venu(e), etc. Futur simple stem: "viendr-": je viendrai, tu viendras, il/elle/on viendra, nous viendrons, vous viendrez, ils/elles viendront.

Verb 'Voir' (To See) Conjugation

'Voir' (to see) is a common verb of perception. Present tense: je vois, tu vois, il/elle/on voit, nous voyons, vous voyez, ils/elles voient. Passé composé: j'ai vu, tu as vu, etc. Futur simple stem: "verr-": je verrai, tu verras, il/elle/on verra, nous verrons, vous verrez, ils/elles verront.

Verb 'Prendre' (To Take) Conjugation

'Prendre' (to take) is widely used. Present tense: je prends, tu prends, il/elle/on prend, nous prenons, vous prenez, ils/elles prennent. Passé composé: j'ai pris, tu as pris, etc. Futur simple stem: "prendr-": je prendrai, tu prendras, il/elle/on prendra, nous prendrons, vous prendrez, ils/elles prendront.

Verb 'Mettre' (To Put) Conjugation

'Mettre' (to put) is another essential verb. Present tense: je mets, tu mets, il/elle/on met, nous mettons, vous mettez, ils/elles mettent. Passé composé: j'ai mis, tu as mis, etc. Futur simple stem: "mettr-": je mettrai, tu mettras, il/elle/on mettra, nous mettrons, vous mettrez, ils/elles mettront.

Tips for Mastering French Verb Conjugation

Mastering French verb conjugation, especially for common French verbs, is a journey that benefits from strategic approaches. Consistent practice, understanding the underlying patterns, and utilizing available resources can transform what might seem daunting into an achievable skill. It's about building a framework and then filling it with the correct forms through repetition and application.

Practice and Repetition Strategies

The most effective way to internalize verb conjugations is through regular, active practice. This can involve writing out conjugations for different verbs and tenses, using flashcards, or completing conjugation exercises. Try conjugating verbs in sentences to see them used in context. For instance, take a common French verb and write three sentences about your day using different tenses. This active recall reinforces memory far more effectively than passive reading.

Using Online Resources and Apps

The digital age offers a wealth of tools to aid in learning French verb conjugations. Many websites provide interactive drills and conjugation tables for common French verbs. Language learning apps often have dedicated modules for verb practice, incorporating gamification to make the process more engaging. These resources can offer instant feedback, helping you identify and correct mistakes as you learn.

Understanding Verb Agreement

A key aspect of French grammar, particularly with the passé composé when "être" is the auxiliary, is verb agreement. The past participle must agree in gender and number with the subject. For example, if a female subject is speaking, the past participle of a verb conjugated with "être" will often take an extra "-e." If the subject is plural, it will take an "-s." Paying close attention to these agreements is crucial for accurate written and spoken French.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Learners often stumble on a few common issues. These include mixing up the auxiliary verbs "avoir" and "être," incorrectly forming past participles, and forgetting agreement rules. Another pitfall is relying too heavily on irregular verb exceptions without also mastering the regular patterns. Break down your learning into manageable chunks, focusing on one tense or one group of verbs at a time, and review regularly.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the most frequently used French verbs to know for beginners?

For beginners, mastering the conjugation of essential verbs like 'être' (to be), 'avoir' (to have), 'aller' (to go), 'faire' (to do/make), 'parler' (to speak), 'manger' (to eat), 'voir' (to see), and 'venir' (to come) is crucial.

How does the conjugation of regular -er verbs differ from irregular verbs in French?

Regular -er verbs in the present tense follow a predictable pattern of endings (-e, -es, -e, -ons, -ez, -ent), whereas irregular verbs have unique stem changes and endings that must be memorized.

What are the key tenses usually included in a common French verbs conjugation table?

A comprehensive table typically includes the present tense (présent), the past compound (passé composé), the imperfect (imparfait), the future simple (futur simple), and the conditional present (conditionnel présent).

Why is understanding the 'passé composé' conjugation important for speaking French?

The 'passé composé' is vital as it's used to describe completed actions in the past, making it essential for narrating events, recounting experiences, and discussing past occurrences.

How can I easily memorize the conjugations of common French verbs?

Regular practice through flashcards, conjugation exercises, using language learning apps, and actively trying to use the verbs in sentences are highly effective methods for memorization.

What is the difference between the 'imparfait' and 'passé composé' conjugations?

The 'imparfait' is used for ongoing or habitual actions in the past, descriptions, and background information, while the 'passé composé' is for single, completed actions.

Are there any online resources or tools that provide interactive French verb conjugation tables?

Yes, many websites and apps like WordReference, Kwiziq, Babbel, and Duolingo offer interactive tools and comprehensive conjugation tables with exercises and explanations.

What common pitfalls should I avoid when learning French verb conjugations?

Common mistakes include confusing similar-sounding endings, not distinguishing between regular and irregular verb patterns, and neglecting to practice all persons (je, tu, il/elle/on, nous, vous, ils/elles).

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to common French verbs conjugation, each starting with "":

1. *The Inner Workings of Être: A Deep Dive into French Being Verbs*

This book meticulously dissects the conjugation patterns and nuances of "être" and its related existential verbs. It explores how these verbs form the backbone of countless French sentences, offering clear explanations and illustrative examples. Readers will gain a profound understanding of how to express states of being and existence fluently in French.

2. *Irregular Elegance: Mastering Common French Verb Irregularities*

Focusing on the delightful, yet often perplexing, irregular verbs, this guide offers a structured approach to memorization and application. It breaks down common irregular patterns into digestible lessons, providing ample practice exercises. Unlock the secrets to confidently conjugating verbs like "avoir," "aller," and "faire" in all tenses.

3. *Regular Rhythms: The Foundation of French Verb Conjugation*

This accessible volume demystifies the regular French verb groups (-er, -ir, -re) by highlighting their predictable conjugation rhythms. Through clear charts, practical examples, and targeted drills, learners will build a solid foundation in applying these essential rules. Master the regular verbs and unlock a vast array of communicative possibilities.

4. *The Art of Auxiliaries: Navigating Avoir and Être in Compound Tenses*

Essential for constructing perfect and past tenses, this book shines a spotlight on the auxiliary verbs "avoir" and "être." It provides in-depth guidance on when to use each auxiliary, including explanations of agreement rules and common pitfalls. Become a master of compound tenses and express past actions with precision.

5. *The Flow of Future: Conjugating French Verbs for Tomorrow*

This comprehensive guide focuses on the formation and usage of the future and conditional tenses in French. It breaks down both regular and irregular future conjugations, offering strategies for remembering them. Learn to confidently express intentions, predictions, and hypothetical situations in

French.

6. Subjunctive Secrets: Unlocking the Mood of Nuance

Delve into the often-intimidating subjunctive mood with this insightful exploration. The book clarifies the triggers for subjunctive usage, common verbs that require it, and its diverse applications in expressing doubt, emotion, and necessity. Master the subjunctive to add depth and sophistication to your French.

7. Imperative Impact: Commands and Requests in French

This practical manual focuses on the imperative mood, the key to giving clear commands and making polite requests in French. It covers the formation of the imperative for regular and irregular verbs, along with idiomatic expressions. Learn to communicate directly and effectively in everyday French conversations.

8. Past Perfect: A French Verb Tense Treasury

Explore the richness of French past tenses, with a particular emphasis on the passé composé and imparfait. This book provides a clear comparison of their usage, offering practical scenarios and exercises to solidify understanding. Gain confidence in recounting past events and describing historical contexts in French.

9. The Dynamic Dictionary of French Verbs: A Conjugation Companion

This indispensable resource serves as a comprehensive dictionary for French verb conjugation. Featuring hundreds of the most common French verbs, each entry includes clear conjugation tables for all major tenses and moods, along with helpful usage notes. A must-have for any serious French learner seeking accuracy and fluency.

Common French Verbs Conjugation Table

Common French Verbs Conjugation Table

Related Articles

- [common core state standards math](#)

- [cognitive psychology e bruce goldstein 3rd edition](#)
- [compound inequalities word problems worksheet 3](#)

[Back to Home](#)