

Regular And Irregular French Verbs

Irregular Verbs							
V	V-ED	V-EN	Translation	V	V-ED	V-EN	Translation
be	was/were	been	être	lend	lent	lent	prêter
beat	beat	beaten	battre	let	let	let	laisser
become	became	become	devenir	lose	lost	lost	perdre
begin	began	begun	commencer	make	made	made	fabriquer
bite	bit	bitten	mordre	mean	meant	meant	signifier
blow	blew	blown	souffler	meet	met	met	rencontrer
break	broke	broken	casser	pay	paid	paid	payer
bring	brought	brought	apporter	put	put	put	mettre
build	built	built	construire	read	read	read	lire
burn	burnt	burnt	brûler	rent	rent	rent	louer
buy	bought	bought	acheter	ride	rode	ridden	monter à
catch	caught	caught	attraper				cheval ou à vélo
choose	chose	chosen	trouver	ring	rang	rung	sonner
come	came	come	venir	rise	rose	rise	s'élever
cost	cost	cost	coûter	run	ran	run	courir
cut	cut	cut	couper	say	said	said	dire
do	did	done	faire	see	saw	seen	voir
draw	drew	drawn	dessiner	sell	sold	sold	vendre
dream	dreamt	dreamt	rêver	send	sent	sent	envoyer
drink	drank	drunk	boire	set	set	set	poser, placer
drive	drove	driven	conduire	shake	shook	shaken	secouer
eat	ate	eaten	manger	shine	shone	shone	briller
fall	fell	fallen	tomber	shoot	shot	shot	tirer,
feed	fed	fed	nourrir				tourner un film
feel	felt	felt	ressentir	show	showed	shown	montrer
fight	fought	fought	se battre	shut	shut	shut	fermer
find	found	found	trouver	sing	sang	sung	chanter
fly	flew	flown	voler	sit	sat	sat	s'asseoir
forget	forgot	forgotten	oublier	sleep	slept	slept	dormir
forgive	forgave	forgiven	pardonner	smell	smelt	smelt	sentir
forbid	forbade	forbidden	interdire	speak	spoke	spoken	parler
get	got	got	obtenir	spend	spent	spent	dépenser
give	gave	given	donner	stand	stood	stood	être debout
go	went	gone	aller	steal	stole	stolen	dérober
grow	grew	grown	grandir	swear	swore	sworn	jurer
hang	hung	hung	pendre	sweep	swept	swept	balayer
have	had	had	avoir	swim	swam	swum	nager
hear	heard	heard	entendre	take	took	taken	prendre
hide	hid	hidden	cacher	teach	taught	taught	enseigner
hit	hit	hit	frapper	tell	told	told	dire
hold	held	held	tenir	think	thought	thought	penser
hurt	hurt	hurt	blessar	throw	threw	thrown	jeter
keep	kept	kept	garder	understand	understood	understood	comprendre
know	knew	known	connaître, savoir	wake	woke	woken	se réveiller
learn	learnt	learnt	apprendre	wear	wore	worn	porter
leave	left	left	quitter, partir	win	won	won	(vêtement)
				write	wrote	written	gagner
							écrire

Regular and irregular French verbs are fundamental components of the French language, playing a crucial role in communication and grammar. Understanding the difference between these two categories of verbs is essential for anyone looking to master French, whether you are a beginner or advancing your skills. This article will delve into the characteristics of regular and irregular verbs, how to conjugate them, and provide examples and tips to help you navigate the complexities of French verb conjugation.

Understanding French Verbs

French verbs are categorized based on their conjugation patterns, which are influenced by their endings. The two primary categories of French verbs are regular verbs and irregular verbs.

Regular Verbs

Regular verbs follow a predictable pattern in their conjugation, making them easier to learn. They are typically divided into three groups based on their infinitive endings:

1. **-er Verbs:** This is the largest group of regular verbs in French. Examples include "parler" (to speak), "aimer" (to love), and "jouer" (to play).
2. **-ir Verbs:** These verbs follow a slightly different pattern. Examples include "finir" (to finish), "choisir" (to choose), and "réussir" (to succeed).
3. **-re Verbs:** This group is smaller and includes verbs like "vendre" (to sell), "attendre" (to wait), and "entendre" (to hear).

Conjugating Regular Verbs

The conjugation of regular verbs is systematic. Here's how to conjugate each type of regular verb in the present tense:

-er Verbs

1. Remove the -er ending from the infinitive.
2. Add the appropriate endings:
 - Je (I): -e
 - Tu (You - singular informal): -es
 - Il/Elle/On (He/She/One): -e
 - Nous (We): -ons
 - Vous (You - plural/formal): -ez
 - Ils/Elles (They - masculine/feminine): -ent

Example: Conjugating "parler" (to speak):

- Je parle (I speak)
- Tu parles (You speak)
- Il parle (He speaks)
- Nous parlons (We speak)
- Vous parlez (You speak)
- Ils parlent (They speak)

-ir Verbs

1. Remove the -ir ending from the infinitive.
2. Add the appropriate endings:
 - Je: -is
 - Tu: -is
 - Il/Elle/On: -it
 - Nous: -issons
 - Vous: -issez
 - Ils/Elles: -issent

Example: Conjugating "finir" (to finish):

- Je finis (I finish)
- Tu finis (You finish)
- Il finit (He finishes)
- Nous finissons (We finish)
- Vous finissez (You finish)
- Ils finissent (They finish)

-re Verbs

1. Remove the -re ending from the infinitive.
2. Add the appropriate endings:
 - Je: -s
 - Tu: -s
 - Il/Elle/On: (no ending)
 - Nous: -ons
 - Vous: -ez
 - Ils/Elles: -ent

Example: Conjugating "vendre" (to sell):

- Je vends (I sell)
- Tu vends (You sell)
- Il vend (He sells)
- Nous vendons (We sell)
- Vous vendez (You sell)
- Ils vendent (They sell)

Irregular Verbs

Irregular verbs do not follow a consistent pattern, making them more challenging to learn. This category includes some of the most commonly used verbs in the French language. Irregular verbs can change significantly when conjugated, and they may not even resemble their infinitive forms.

Common Irregular Verbs

Here are some of the most common irregular verbs in French along with their conjugation in

the present tense:

1. Être (to be):

- Je suis (I am)
- Tu es (You are)
- Il/Elle/On est (He/She/One is)
- Nous sommes (We are)
- Vous êtes (You are)
- Ils/Elles sont (They are)

2. Avoir (to have):

- J'ai (I have)
- Tu as (You have)
- Il/Elle/On a (He/She/One has)
- Nous avons (We have)
- Vous avez (You have)
- Ils/Elles ont (They have)

3. Aller (to go):

- Je vais (I go)
- Tu vas (You go)
- Il/Elle/On va (He/She/One goes)
- Nous allons (We go)
- Vous allez (You go)
- Ils/Elles vont (They go)

4. Faire (to do/make):

- Je fais (I do/make)
- Tu fais (You do/make)
- Il/Elle/On fait (He/She/One does/makes)
- Nous faisons (We do/make)
- Vous faites (You do/make)
- Ils/Elles font (They do/make)

Conjugating Irregular Verbs

Because irregular verbs do not follow a standard pattern, each verb must be memorized. Here are some tips to help you with irregular verb conjugation:

- Flashcards: Create flashcards with the verb on one side and its conjugations on the other. Regular practice can reinforce your memory.
- Practice Sentences: Use each verb in a sentence. This will help you understand the context in which the verb is used.
- Group Similar Verbs: Some irregular verbs share similar conjugation patterns. Grouping them can make memorization easier.

Other Tenses and Irregularities

While the present tense is essential, French verbs are also conjugated in various other tenses (past, future, conditional, subjunctive, etc.). Many irregular verbs maintain their irregularity across these tenses, making it crucial to learn them thoroughly.

Common Tenses

1. **Passé Composé (Past Tense):** This tense is used to describe actions that have been completed. It typically uses the auxiliary verbs "avoir" or "être" along with the past participle of the main verb.

- Example: "J'ai mangé" (I ate) uses "avoir" as the auxiliary.
- Example: "Elle est allée" (She went) uses "être" as the auxiliary.

2. **Futur Simple (Future Tense):** This tense describes actions that will happen in the future. Regular verbs use the infinitive plus specific endings, while irregular verbs may change their stems.

- Example: "Je parlerai" (I will speak) is regular.
- Example: "Je serai" (I will be) is irregular.

3. **Conditionnel (Conditional Tense):** This tense expresses what would happen under certain conditions. The structure is similar to the future tense but uses different endings.

- Example: "Je parlerais" (I would speak) is regular.
- Example: "Je serais" (I would be) is irregular.

Conclusion

Mastering regular and irregular French verbs is a fundamental step in becoming proficient in the French language. Regular verbs offer a structured way to learn conjugation patterns, while irregular verbs challenge learners to memorize unique forms. By practicing these verbs in various tenses and contexts, you can significantly improve your understanding and fluency in French. Take your time with each category, use techniques that work best for you, and continually practice to reinforce your learning. With dedication and persistence, you will find yourself navigating the intricate world of French verbs with ease.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main difference between regular and

irregular French verbs?

Regular French verbs follow a consistent conjugation pattern, while irregular verbs do not follow these patterns and have unique conjugations.

Can you give examples of regular French verbs?

Yes, examples of regular French verbs include 'parler' (to speak), 'finir' (to finish), and 'vendre' (to sell).

What are the three groups of regular French verbs?

The three groups of regular French verbs are -ER verbs (like 'parler'), -IR verbs (like 'finir'), and -RE verbs (like 'vendre').

How do you conjugate regular -ER verbs in the present tense?

To conjugate regular -ER verbs in the present tense, remove the -ER ending and add -e, -es, -e, -ons, -ez, -ent to the stem.

What is a common irregular verb in French and how is it conjugated?

A common irregular verb is 'être' (to be). Its present tense conjugation is: je suis, tu es, il/elle/on est, nous sommes, vous êtes, ils/elles sont.

How can I identify an irregular French verb?

You can identify an irregular French verb by its unique conjugation patterns that do not align with the standard endings of regular verbs.

Are there any tips for memorizing irregular verb conjugations?

Yes, using flashcards, practicing with verb conjugation apps, and engaging in speaking or writing exercises can help memorize irregular verb conjugations.

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