French

Grammar Reference

This booklet will form the basis of your Grammar Reference Section in your portfolio.

There are suggested websites at the bottom of each page, and you can also use grammar books to research your answers.

Present Tense

My explanation with examples of what the Present Tense is used for and what it means:

RE Verbs:



IR Verbs:



ER Verb Endings:



Typical Pattern of a Radical Changing Verb.



Common Examples of Radical Changing Verbs and their changes:



Persons of the verb:

1st person =

2nd person =

3rd person =

1st person plural =

2nd person plural =

3rd person plural =

Some common irregular verbs:

<http://www.gcse.com/french/tense_present.htm>

<http://www.french-linguistics.co.uk/grammar/presenttense_er.shtml>

<http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/present.htm>

<http://about-france.com/french/present-tense.htm>

Present Tense

1. Match the verb to the correct subject:

réussit à nous convaincre

travaille pour mes examens

croyons que c’est peu probable

ne veulent pas l’accepter

donnez votre opinion

ne m’aides pas

Je

tu

la société

nous

vous

les adultes

1. Now translate the sentences you have made into English.
2. Correct the mistakes in these verbs:
3. He plays = Il joues \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. I try = Je essaie \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. We go = on allons \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. They think = ils penses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. We eat = nous mangons \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Perfect Tense with Avoir

My explanation with examples of what the Perfect Tense is used for and what it means:

Past Participle

ER verbs:

IR verbs :

RE verbs :

Auxiliary Verb



*Verbs with avoir used to agree with the direct object. But scribes complained that by the time the object was dictated, they had to go back and change what they’d written. So now it only agrees if the object comes before the verb.*

Some verbs with irregular past participles

<http://www.frenchlearner.com/verbs/past-tense/>

<https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/tap2.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yg5gqJBtUo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-7mvMs_VBQ>

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZNFDPvv9hs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZNFDPvv9hs) !!ons!!!

Perfect Tense with Être

My explanation with examples of what être verbs are and what the perfect tense with être means

Past Participle

Er verbs:

IR verbs:

RE verbs :

Auxiliary Verb:

être



Some être verbs with irregular past participles :

Être verbs agree with the subject of the verb. Give some examples to show you understand what this means:

A List of verbs that take être and how to remember them

Plus also ALL reflexive verbs. My explanation and examples of what this means:

<http://www.frenchlearner.com/verbs/etre-verbs-passe-compose/>

<http://www.cliffsnotes.com/foreign-languages/french/french-i/french-i-the-passe-compose/the-passe-compose-with-etre>

<http://www.frenchtoday.com/blog/etre-versus-avoir-french-auxiliary-verbs-past-tenses>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrK8k7UdYIA>

<http://goanimate.com/videos/0NnfTGpxHT5c?utm_source=linkshare>

The Perfect Tense

1. Translate these sentences into French:
2. I have played b. I played c. I did play
3. Match up the correct perfect tense form to the subjects. One of them will need tweaking to be correct.

a décidé d’aller en France

avons écouté de la musique

avez acheté un ordinateur

m’ont envoyé à la bibliothèque

ai fini les devoirs

as mangé mon déjeuner

1. Je
2. Tu
3. Clive
4. Nous
5. Vous
6. Mes parents
7. Now write out your sentences and translate them into English.
8. Translate these sentences into French:
9. You wrote a good essay
10. He read the book
11. We saw him on TV
12. They told him to stop
13. Circle the verbs that will take être. 2. Write the correct past participle under each infinitive.

porter aller vouloir éviter prendre se demander gagner finir

\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_

1. Now translate these sentences into French, using the correct form of the auxiliary verb (avoir or être) and the correct past participle.
2. They wanted to study for their exams
3. We took the decision
4. I wore my uniform
5. You avoided the teacher
6. Rob wondered why
7. Becky went to History
8. You earned more
9. I haven’t finished
10. Now go back and decide which one of these verbs needs to be made to agree.

Imperfect Tense

My explanation with examples of what the Imperfect is used for and what it means:

Imperfect Verb Endings:



For the stem of the verb, use…

Verbs with irregular forms or spelling changes in the stem in the imperfect:

<http://www.french-linguistics.co.uk/grammar/imperfect.shtml>

<http://www.cliffsnotes.com/foreign-languages/french/french-ii/french-ii-past-tenses/the-imparfait>

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vg2g5GWsZr0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vg2g5GWsZr0)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCUuVa7US9M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCUuVa7US9M)

<http://www.learn-french-help.com/french-past-imperfect-tense.html>

Future and Conditional Tenses

My explanation with examples of what the Future and Conditional Tenses are used for and what they mean:

Future Tense Formation



For the Future and the Conditional Tense it is important to remember NOT to:

Conditional Tense Formation



Some verbs with irregular stems in the future and conditional:

What tense is “could” if it means *I would be able to*?

je pourrais =\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tense

What tense is “could” if it means *I was able to*?

je pouvais = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ tense

<http://www.french-linguistics.co.uk/grammar/future_tense.shtml>

<https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/taf2.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french/grammar/verbsh/futuretensehirev2.shtml>

<http://www.french-linguistics.co.uk/grammar/conditional.shtml>

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKrCgXaMcVg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKrCgXaMcVg)

Imperfect, Future and Conditional Tenses:

1. Categorise these verbs by tense. 2. Write the correct translation next to each verb.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Imperfect | Future | Conditional |
|  |  |  |

j’allais il jouaient il ira je pourrais on irait ils joueraient

je pouvais je voulais on voudra je pourrai tu voudrais je vendrai il viendra

nous arriverons vous aidiez on déciderait j’écrivais j’écrirais

2. Translate into French

a. I would live in France

b. I used to live in France

c. He will live in France

d. If I could, I would go to France

e. At the weekend it was raining so I couldn’t go out

Articles and Gender

Definite Articles Indefinite Articles

Four words for “the”



Two words for “a”



My explanation of why there are 4

My explanation of why there are 2

Explain what happens when you try to say “at the” using à…

Explain what happens when you try to say “of the “ using de…

Some common masculine endings with examples:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=054MD3i3RDE>

<http://video.about.com/french/Learn-French--Definite-Articles.htm>

<http://www.frenchtutorial.com/en/learn-french/basics/le_la_les>

<http://www.frenchtutorial.com/en/learn-french/basics/un_une_des>

<http://www.french-linguistics.co.uk/grammar/le_or_la_in_french.shtml>

<https://frenchtogether.com/french-nouns-gender/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xoNqKyq48Y>

Some tricky ones with their gender and an explanation

Some common feminine endings with examples:

Articles and Gender :

1. Find out if these words are masculine or feminine:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Masc | Fem |
|  |  |

équipe groupe touriste professeur problème dent victime cours

France Japon cage héritage méthode eau leçon cour

2. Correct these sentences:

a. Mon la mère est très intelligente

b. Le équipe a gagné la coupe

c. Je voudrais aller au plage

d. Je suis allée à la toilettes

e. Le chiens sont méchants

f. J’aime chocolat

g. Où est la ballon?

3. Write these sentences in English :

a. I need the book

b. I have the flu

c. I ate the cake

d. I wrote the story

e. I saw the film at the cinema

f. The students work hard