

# THE FUTURE TENSE IN FRENCH

## - IRREGULAR VERBS

(a.k.a. the simple future tense)

### When to use it:

- when describing events that are going to happen in the future
- usually when describing future events that may be some way off (i.e. in 5 years' time)

To conjugate a future tense verb, we have a verb stem and we add the endings (which look very similar to the verb AVOIR (to have)).

Here are the verb endings:

| ENGLISH Subject pronoun | French Subject pronoun | SIMPLE FUTURE verb endings |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| I                       | j'                     | -ai                        |
| you (sgl.)              | tu                     | -as                        |
| he / she / we           | il / elle / on         | -a                         |
| we                      | nous                   | -ons                       |
| you (pl.)               | vous                   | -ez                        |
| they (m.) / (f.)        | ils / elles            | -ont                       |

### RULE:

1. Use the right subject pronoun (I, you, he, she etc)
2. Add the right verb stem (see below)
3. Add the verb ending  
i.e. *Je regarderai* – I will watch  
*il mangeraa* – he will eat  
*nous nagerons* – we will swim



Irregular verbs use the same verb endings (above) but DO NOT follow a pattern;

| INFINITIVE      | ENGLISH INFIN.         | STEM           | EXAMPLE           | TRANSLATION                 |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| etre            | to be                  | ser-           | je serai          | I will be                   |
| avoir           | to have                | aur-           | j'aurai           | I will have                 |
| aller           | to go                  | ir-            | j'irai            | I will go                   |
| faire           | to do / make           | fer-           | je ferai          | I will do / make            |
| voir            | to see                 | verr-          | je verrai         | I will see                  |
| envoyer         | to send                | enverr-        | j'enverrai        | I will send                 |
| venir           | to come                | viendr-        | je viendrai       | I will come                 |
| revenir         | to come back           | reviendr-      | je reviendrai     | I will come back            |
| savoir          | to know (a fact)       | saur-          | je saurai         | I will know                 |
| recevoir        | to receive             | recevr-        | je recevrai       | I will receive              |
| <i>pleuvoir</i> | <i>to rain</i>         | <i>pleuvr-</i> | <i>il pleuvra</i> | <i>It will rain</i>         |
| <i>falloir</i>  | <i>to be necessary</i> | <i>faudr-</i>  | <i>il faudra</i>  | <i>It will be necessary</i> |
| <i>valoir</i>   | <i>to be worth</i>     | <i>vaudr-</i>  | <i>il vaudra</i>  | <i>it will be worth</i>     |
| <b>vouloir*</b> | <b>to want</b>         | <b>voudr-</b>  | <b>je voudrai</b> | <b>I will want</b>          |
| <b>pouvoir*</b> | <b>to be able to</b>   | <b>pour-</b>   | <b>je pourrai</b> | <b>I will be able to</b>    |
| <b>devoir*</b>  | <b>to have to</b>      | <b>devr-</b>   | <b>je devrai</b>  | <b>I will have to</b>       |

\*modal verbs: used a lot: LEARN THEM!