

# THE FUTURE TENSE IN FRENCH

## - REGULAR 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.

3. Add the verb ending

i.e. Je regarderai – I will watch  
 il mangeraa – he will eat  
 nous nagerons – we will swim

Note how **-er** and **-ir** verbs just use the infinitive for the stem – there is no change

For **-re** verbs however, there **is** a change: remove the **e** from the infinitive

Regular verbs follow a pattern;

type of verb	<b>-er</b> verbs	<b>-ir</b> verbs	<b>-re</b> verbs
infinitive example	regard <u>er</u>	fin <u>ir</u>	vend <u>re</u>
verb stem	regard <u>er-</u>	fin <u>ir-</u>	vend <u>r-</u>

### Examples:

#### **-ER VERBS**

to eat = manger FUTURE TENSE I will eat = je mangerai  
 to listen = écouter FUTURE TENSE she will listen = elle écoutera  
 to fly/steal = voler FUTURE TENSE they will fly/steal = ils voleront  
 to buy = acheter FUTURE TENSE we will bring = nous mangerons

#### **-IR VERBS**

to finish = finir FUTURE TENSE you will finishe = tu finiras  
 to grasp = saisir FUTURE TENSE he will grasp = il saisira

#### **-RE VERBS**

to sell = vendre FUTURE TENSE I will sell = je vendrai  
 to melt = fondre FUTURE TENSE we will melt = on fondra