

PRESENT TENSE IN FRENCH

- regular verbs

When to use it:

- when you would normally say “I go...” or “I do go...” or “I am going...” in English
 To conjugate a verb in the present tense, we add specific endings to the stem of the infinitive of the verb depending on whether it ends in **-er**, **-ir** or **-re**.
 Here are the endings;

| ENGLISH Subject pronoun | French Subject pronoun | -er | -ir | -re |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------|---------|------|
| I | je | -e | -is | -s |
| you (sgl.) | tu | -es | -is | -s |
| he / she / we | il / elle / on | -e | -it | - |
| we | nous | -ons | -issons | -ons |
| you (pl.) | vous | -ez | -issez | -ez |
| they (m.) / (f.) | ils / elles | -ent | -issent | -ent |

Here are some examples;

| Person | -er verbs <u>aimer</u> | -ir verbs <u>finir</u> | -re verbs <u>vendre</u> |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st person singular (<i>I</i>) | j'aime <u>e</u> | je fin <u>is</u> | je vend <u>s</u> |
| 2nd person singular (<i>you</i>) | tu aime <u>s</u> | tu fin <u>is</u> | tu vend <u>s</u> |
| 3rd person singular (<i>he/she/it</i>) | il/elle/on aime <u>e</u> | il/elle/on fin <u>it</u> | il/elle/on vend <u>_</u> |
| 1st person plural (<i>we</i>) | nous aim <u>ons</u> | nous fin <u>issons</u> | nous vend <u>ons</u> |
| 2nd person plural (<i>you</i>) | vous aime <u>ez</u> | vous fin <u>issez</u> | vous vend <u>ez</u> |
| 3rd person plural (<i>they</i>) | ils/elles aim <u>ent</u> | ils/elles fin <u>issent</u> | ils/elles vend <u>ent</u> |

The vast majority of French verbs are REGULAR – that is, they follow a pattern. So, for verbs that end in -er, you can just follow the pattern;

1. Remove the **-er** from the infinitive to leave you with the stem
 regarderer > regard- parlerer > parl- écouterer > écout-
2. Choose the correct verb ending for the person you are writing about (from the table above)
 je regardee nous parlons ils écoutent

The same rule applies to **-ir** and **-re** verbs too!