

501

FRENCH VERBS

fully conjugated in all the tenses
in a new easy to learn format
alphabetically arranged

Fifth Edition

by Christopher Kendris, Ph.D.
and Theodore Kendris, Ph.D.

Summary of meanings and uses of French and English
verb tenses and moods

Formation of present and past participles

Principal parts of important French verbs

Sample English verb conjugation

English-French verb index

Verb forms identified by infinitive

Helpful expressions and idioms for travelers

More than 1,100 French verbs conjugated like model verbs

Guidelines for verbs with prepositions

Verbs used in popular expressions

NEW two-color design for easy reference

Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

Fifth Edition

501

FRENCH VERBS

fully conjugated in all the tenses
and moods in a new easy-to-learn
format, alphabetically arranged

by

Christopher Kendris

B.S., M.S., Columbia University
M.A., Ph.D., Northwestern University
Diplômé, Faculté des Lettres, Sorbonne

Former Chairman
Department of Foreign Languages
Farmingdale High School
Farmingdale, New York

and

Theodore Kendris

B.A., Union College
M.A., Northwestern University
Ph.D., Université Laval

Former *Chargé de cours*
Université Laval
Québec, Canada



EDUCATIONAL SERIES, INC.

© Copyright 2003, 1996, 1990, 1982, 1970 by Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, by photostat, microfilm, xerography, or any other means, or incorporated into any information retrieval system, electronic or mechanical, without the written permission of the copyright owner.

All inquiries should be addressed to:

Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

250 Wireless Boulevard

Hauppauge, New York 11788

<http://www.barronseduc.com>

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 2003040395

International Standard Book No. 0-7641-2429-3

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Kendris, Christopher.

501 French verbs fully conjugated in all the tenses in a new easy-to-learn format / alphabetically arranged by Christopher Kendris and Theodore Kendris.—5th ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-7641-2429-3

1. French language—Verb—Tables. I. Title: Five hundred and one French verbs fully conjugated in all the tenses in a new easy-to-learn format. II. Title: Five hundred one French verbs fully conjugated in all the tenses in a new easy-to-learn format. III. Kendris, Theodore. IV. Title.

PC2271.K378 2003

448.2'421—dc21

2003040395

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

To St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
of Albany, New York

and

Yolanda, Alex, Tina, Fran, Bryan, Daniel, Matthew, Andrew, Athena,
Tom, Donna, Amanda, Laura, Thomas, Mary Ann, Hilda, Arthur,
Karen, George, Christopher, Matthew, Delores, Faith,
Demetra, Stephanie, Tony, Toni, LC, Mike, Dot, MJ, Nick, Bob, Katie,
Brett, Ellen, Connor, Hannah, Anne, Marie, Jean-Claude, Pierrette, Kamal,
Sabrina, Thierry, René, Nathalie, Pierre, Jocelyne, Tillie, Richard, Alice,
Elizabeth, Katherine

With love

About the Authors

Dr. Christopher Kendris has worked as interpreter and translator of French for the U.S. State Department at the American Embassy in Paris. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Columbia University in the City of New York, where he held a New York State Scholarship, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he held a Teaching Assistantship and Tutorial Fellowship during four years. He also earned two diplomas with *Mention très Honorable* at the Université de Paris (en Sorbonne), Faculté des Lettres, École Supérieure de Préparation et de Perfectionnement des Professeurs de Français à l'Étranger, and at the Institut de Phonétique, Paris. In 1986 he was one of 95 teachers in the United States awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship for Teachers of Foreign Languages in American High Schools. He has taught French at the College of the University of Chicago as visiting summer lecturer, at Colby College, Duke University, Rutgers—The State University of New Jersey, and the State University of New York at Albany. He was Chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages and Supervisor of 16 foreign language teachers on the secondary level at Farmingdale High School, Farmingdale, New York, where he was also a teacher of all levels of French and Spanish, and prepared students for the New York State French and Spanish Regents, SAT exams, and AP tests. Dr. Kendris is the author of 22 school and college books, workbooks, and other language guides of French and Spanish. He is listed in *Contemporary Authors* and the *Directory of American Scholars*.

Dr. Theodore Kendris earned his B.A. degree in Modern Languages at Union College, Schenectady, New York, where he received the Thomas J. Judson Memorial Award for modern language study. He went on to earn his M.A. degree in French Language and Literature at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, where he held a Teaching Assistantship. He earned his Ph.D. degree in French Literature at Université Laval in Quebec City, where he studied the Middle Ages and Renaissance. While at Université Laval he taught French writing skills as a *chargé de cours* in the French as a Second Language program and, in 1997, he was awarded a doctoral scholarship by the *Fondation de l'Université Laval*. He has also taught in the Department of English and Foreign Languages at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois.

This anniversary edition has been updated to take into account the many technological advances that have taken place over the past several years. Increased globalization and social changes have also made it necessary to ensure that *501 French Verbs* will continue to provide the guidance that students and travelers like you have come to expect. We have therefore added to the related words and expressions (listed, along with English meanings, at the bottom of each entry). We hope that you will take advantage of the section on verb drills and tests with answers explained, beginning on page 622. You will need a lot of practice in French verb forms and tenses in a variety of tests to determine your strengths and weaknesses and to make some things clearer in your mind. You should also review the section on definitions of basic grammatical terms, with examples. Many students who study a foreign language do not understand certain grammatical terms. If you know what they are, what they are called, and how they are used in the grammatical structure of a sentence, you will be able to communicate better in French.

In your spare time, especially if you are planning a trip abroad, consult the two sections on travel vocabulary in the back pages. One section, which begins on page 568, contains thirty practical situations you may find yourself in while visiting a French-speaking country or region of the world. The other section, which begins on page 599, gives you many popular phrases, words, expressions, abbreviations, signs, and notices in French and English in one alphabetical listing. This allows you to look in one place instead of two for an entry. Also, cognates and near-cognates in both languages are given in a single entry.

On page 566 there is a simple system of transcription of sounds to help you pronounce French words effectively. Pay attention to page 568, which explains the reasons for the use of hyphens in the sound transcriptions. And, if you can't remember the French verb you need to use, don't forget to refer to the index of English-French verbs, which starts on page 503.

We hope that you will make full use of all the features of this new edition and that you will enjoy your exploration of French language and culture.

C.K. and T.K.

This self-teaching book of 501 commonly used French verbs for students and travelers provides fingertip access to correct verb forms.

Verb conjugations are usually found scattered in French grammar books and they are difficult to find quickly when needed. Verbs have always been a major problem for students no matter what system or approach the teacher uses. You will master French verb forms if you study this book a few minutes every day, especially the pages before and after the alphabetical listing of the 501 verbs.

This book has been compiled in order to help make your work easier and at the same time to teach you French verb forms systematically. It is a useful book because it provides a quick and easy way to find the full conjugation of many French verbs.

The 501 verbs included here are arranged alphabetically by infinitive at the top of each page. The book contains many common verbs of high frequency, both reflexive and non-reflexive, which you need to know. It also contains many other frequently used verbs which are irregular in some way. Beginning on page 515 you can find an additional 1,100 French verbs that are conjugated in the same way as model verbs among the 501. If the verb you have in mind is not given among the 501, consult this list.

The subject pronouns have been omitted from the conjugations in order to emphasize the verb forms. You can find the subject pronouns on page xxxii. Turn to that page now and become acquainted with them.

The first thing to do when you use this book is to become familiar with it from cover to cover—in particular, the front and back pages where you will find valuable and useful information to make your work easier and more enjoyable. Take a minute right now and familiarize yourself with the following features:

(a) On page viii there is an explanation of which verbs are conjugated with *avoir* or *être* to form a compound tense. Study page viii and refer to it frequently until you master those verbs.

(b) On page ix you will find how to form a present participle regularly in French and we give you examples. We also give you the common irregular present participles.

(c) On page ix we do the same for past participles, with examples. The present and past participles of each verb are at the top of the page where verb forms are given for a particular verb.

(d) On page xii you will find the principal parts of some important verbs, which, in French, are called *Les temps primitifs*. This is useful because if you know these you can easily form all the tenses and moods from them.

(e) On pages x and xi there are two tables showing the derivation of tenses of a typical verb conjugated with *avoir* and another conjugated with *être*. These are presented as in a picture so that you can see what tenses are derived from the principal parts.

(f) On pages xiii and xiv a sample English verb conjugation gives you an idea of the way a verb is expressed in the English tenses. Many people do not know one tense from another because they have never learned the use of verb tenses in a systematic and organized way—not even in English! How can you know, for example, that you need the conditional form of a verb in French when you want to say “*I would go to the movies if . . .*” or the pluperfect tense in French if you want to say “*I had gone . . .*”? The sample English verb conjugation with the names of the tenses and their numerical ranking will help you to distinguish one tense from another so that you will know what tense you need to express a verb in French.

(g) Beginning on page xv is a summary of meanings and uses of French verb tenses and moods as related to English verb tenses and moods. That section is very important and useful because the seven simple tenses are separated from the seven compound tenses. The name of each tense is given in French and English starting with the present indicative, which is called tense number one, because it is the tense most frequently used. A number is assigned to each tense name so that you can fix each one in your mind and associate the tense names and numbers in their logical order. There is a brief explanation of what each tense is, and when you use it, and there are examples using verbs in sentences in French and English.

(h) On page xxvi is a summary of all the fourteen tenses in French with English equivalents, which have been divided into the seven simple tenses and the seven compound tenses. After referring to that summary frequently, you will soon know that tense number 1 is the present indicative, tense number 2 is the imperfect indicative, and so on.

(i) On page xxvii you are shown how to form the seven simple tenses for regular verbs and here, again, the same number has been assigned to each tense name. We also explain how each compound tense is based on each simple tense in the table on page xxviii and on page xxix. Try to see these two divisions as two frames, two pictures, with the seven simple tenses in one frame and the seven compound tenses in another frame. Place them side by side in your mind, and you will see how tense number 8 is related to tense number 1, tense number 9 to tense number 2, and so on. If you study the numerical arrangement of each of the seven simple tenses and associate the tense number with the tense name, you will find it very easy to learn the names of the seven compound tenses, how they rank numerically according to use, how they are formed, and when they are used. Spend at least ten minutes every day studying these preliminary pages to help you understand better the fourteen tenses in French.

Finally, in the back pages of this book there are useful indexes, an additional 1,100 French verbs that are conjugated like model verbs among the 501, many examples of verbs used in idiomatic expressions and simple sentences, as well as verbs that require certain prepositions. If you refer to these each time you look up verb tense forms for a particular verb, you will increase your knowledge of French vocabulary and French idioms by leaps and bounds.

Consult the table of contents to find the page numbers of new features in the appendixes of this book; for example, explanations and examples of orthographically changing verbs (verb forms that change in spelling), French verbs used in weather expressions and in proverbs, as well as a summary of the sequence of verb tenses and a note about the subjunctive.

We sincerely hope that this book will be of some help to you in learning and using French verbs.

Christopher Kendris and Theodore Kendris

Verbs Conjugated with *avoir* or *être* to Form a Compound Tense

- (a) Generally speaking, a French verb is conjugated with *avoir* to form a compound tense.
- (b) All reflexive verbs, for example, *se laver*, are conjugated with *être*.
- (c) The following is a list of common non-reflexive verbs that are conjugated with *être*. The five verbs marked with asterisks (*) are conjugated with *avoir* when used with a direct object.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. aller to go
Elle est allée au cinéma. | BUT: *Elle m'a passé le sel. She passed me the salt. |
| 2. arriver to arrive
Elle est arrivée à une heure. | AND: *Elle a passé un examen. She took an exam. |
| 3. * descendre to go down, come down
Elle est descendue vite. She came down quickly.
BUT: *Elle a descendu la valise. She brought down the suitcase. | 11. * rentrer to go in again, to return (home)
Elle est rentrée tôt. She returned home early.
BUT: *Elle a rentré le chat dans la maison. She brought (took) the cat into the house. |
| 4. devenir to become
Elle est devenue docteur. | 12. rester to remain, to stay
Elle est restée chez elle. |
| 5. entrer to enter, go in, come in
Elle est entrée dans l'école. | 13. retourner to return, to go back
Elle est retournée à sa place. |
| 6. * monter to go up, come up
Elle est montée vite. She went up quickly.
BUT: *Elle a monté l'escalier. She went up the stairs. | 14. revenir to come back
Elle est revenue hier. |
| 7. mourir to die
Elle est morte hier. | 15. * sortir to go out
Elle est sortie hier soir. She went out last night.
BUT: *Elle a sorti son mouchoir. She took out her handkerchief. |
| 8. naître to be born
Elle est née hier. | 16. tomber to fall
Elle est tombée. |
| 9. partir to leave
Elle est partie vite. | 17. venir to come
Elle est venue ce matin. |
| 10. * passer to go by, to pass by
Elle est passée chez moi. She came by my house. | |

Formation of the Present and Past Participles in French

Formation of the present participle in French

The present participle is regularly formed in the following way. Take the “**nous**” form of the present indicative of the verb you have in mind, drop the ending **-ons** and add **-ant**. That ending is the equivalent to *-ing* in English. Examples:

chantons, chantant	vendons, vendant	allons, allant
finissons, finissant	mangeons, mangeant	travaillons, travaillant

Common irregular present participles

The three common irregular present participles are: **ayant** from **avoir**; **étant** from **être**; **sachant** from **savoir**.

Formation of the past participle in French

The past participle is regularly formed from the infinitive:

- er** ending verbs, drop the **-er** and add **é**: **donner, donné**
- ir** ending verbs, drop the **-ir** and add **i**: **finir, fini**
- re** ending verbs, drop the **-re** and add **u**: **vendre, vendu**

Common irregular past participles

INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE	INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE
apprendre	appris	naître	né
asseoir	assis	offrir	offert
avoir	eu	ouvrir	ouvert
boire	bu	paraître	paru
comprendre	compris	permettre	permis
conduire	conduit	plaire	plu
connaître	connu	pleuvoir	plu
construire	construit	pouvoir	pu
courir	couru	prendre	pris
couvrir	couvert	promettre	promis
craindre	craint	recevoir	reçu
croire	cru	revenir	revenu
devenir	devenu	rire	ri
devoir	dû, due	savoir	su
dire	dit	suivre	suivi
écrire	écrit	taire	tu
être	été	tenir	tenu
faire	fait	valoir	valu
falloir	fallu	venir	venu
lire	lu	vivre	vécu
mettre	mis	voir	vu
mourir	mort	vouloir	voulu

Tables Showing Derivation of Tenses of Verbs Conjugated with *avoir* and *être*

Derivation of Tenses of Verbs Conjugated with *avoir*

INFINITIF	PARTICIPE PRÉSENT	PARTICIPE PASSÉ	PRÉSENT DE L'INDICATIF	PASSÉ SIMPLE
donner	donnant	donné	je donne	je donnai
FUTUR	IMPARFAIT DE L'INDICATIF	PASSÉ COMPOSÉ	PRÉSENT DE L'INDICATIF	PASSÉ SIMPLE
donner ai		ai donné		donn ai
donner as	donn ais	as donné	donne	donn as
donner a	donn ais	a donné	donnes	donn a
donner ons	donn ait	avons donné	donne	donn âmes
donner ez	donn ions	avez donné	donn ons	donn âtes
donner ont	donn iez	ont donné	donn ez	donn èrent
	donn aient		donn ent	
CONDITIONNEL		PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT DE L'INDICATIF	IMPÉRATIF	IMPARFAIT DU SUBJONCTIF
donner ais		avais donné	donne	donn asse
donner ais		avais donné	donn ons	donn asses
donner ait		avait donné	donn ez	donn ât
donner ions		avions donné		donn assions
donner iez		aviez donné	PRÉSENT DU SUBJONCTIF	donn assiez
donner aient		avaient donné	donne	donn assent
		PASSÉ ANTÉRIEUR	donnes	
		eus donné	donne	
		eus donné	donn ions	
		eut donné	donn iez	
		eûmes donné	donn ent	
		eûtes donné		
		eurent donné		
FUTUR ANTÉRIEUR	CONDITIONNEL PASSÉ	PASSÉ DU SUBJONCTIF	PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT DU SUBJONCTIF	
aur ai donné	aur ais donné	aie donné	eusse donné	
aur as donné	aur ais donné	aies donné	eusses donné	
aur a donné	aur ait donné	ait donné	eût donné	
aur ons donné	aur ions donné	ayons donné	eussions donné	
aur ez donné	aur iez donné	ayez donné	eussiez donné	
aur ont donné	aur aient donné	aient donné	eussent donné	

Derivation of Tenses of Verbs Conjugated with être

INFINITIF	PARTICIPE PRÉSENT	PARTICIPE PASSÉ	PRÉSENT DE L'INDICATIF	PASSÉ SIMPLE
arriver	arrivant	arrivé	j'arrive	j'arrivai
FUTUR	IMPARFAIT DE L'INDICATIF	PASSÉ COMPOSÉ	PRÉSENT DE L'INDICATIF	PASSÉ SIMPLE
arriverai		suis arrivé(e)	arrive	arrivai
arriveras	arrivais	es arrivé(e)	arrives	arrivas
arrivera	arrivais	est arrivé(e)	arrive	arriva
arriverons	arrivait	sommes arrivé(e)s	arrives	arrivâmes
arriveriez	arrivions	êtes arrivé(e)(s)	arrivons	arrivâtes
arriveront	arriviez	sont arrivé(e)s	arrivez	arrivèrent
	arrivaient		arrivent	
CONDITIONNEL		PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT DE L'INDICATIF	IMPÉRATIF	IMPARFAIT DU SUBJONCTIF
arriverais		étais arrivé(e)	arrive	arrivasse
arriverais		étais arrivé(e)	arrivons	arrivasses
arriverait		était arrivé(e)	arrivez	arrivât
arriverions		étions arrivé(e)s		arrivassions
arriveriez		étiez arrivé(e)(s)	PRÉSENT DU SUBJONCTIF	arrivassiez
arriveraient		étaient arrivé(e)s	arrive	arrivassent
		PASSÉ ANTÉRIEUR	arrives	
		fus arrivé(e)	arrive	
		fus arrivé(e)	arrivions	
		fut arrivé(e)	arriviez	
		fûmes arrivé(e)s	arrivent	
		fûtes arrivé(e)(s)		
		furent arrivé(e)s		
FUTUR ANTÉRIEUR	CONDITIONNEL PASSÉ	PASSÉ DU SUBJONCTIF		PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT DU SUBJONCTIF
serai arrivé(e)	serais arrivé(e)	sois arrivé(e)		fusse arrivé(e)
seras arrivé(e)	serais arrivé(e)	sois arrivé(e)		fusses arrivé(e)
sera arrivé(e)	serait arrivé(e)	soit arrivé(e)		fût arrivé(e)
serons arrivé(e)s	serions arrivé(e)s	soyons arrivé(e)s		fussions arrivé(e)s
seriez arrivé(e)(s)	seriez arrivé(e)(s)	soyez arrivé(e)(s)		fussiez arrivé(e)(s)
seront arrivé(e)s	seraient arrivé(e)s	soient arrivé(e)s		fussent arrivé(e)s

Principal Parts of Some Important Verbs

(Les temps primitifs de quelques verbes importants)

The principal parts of a verb are very important to know because from them you can easily form all the tenses. See the following pages where two tables are given, one showing the derivation of tenses of a verb conjugated with **avoir** and the other with **être**. Note that the headings at the top of each column are the same as the following headings.

INFINITIF	PARTICIPE PRÉSENT	PARTICIPE PASSÉ	PRÉSENT DE L'INDICATIF	PASSÉ SIMPLE
aller	allant	allé	je vais	j'allai
avoir	ayant	eu	j'ai	j'eus
battre	battant	battu	je bats	je battis
boire	buvant	bu	je bois	je bus
craindre	craignant	craint	je crains	je craignis
croire	croyant	cru	je crois	je crus
devoir	devant	dû, due	je dois	je dus
dire	disant	dit	je dis	je dis
écrire	écrivant	écrit	j'écris	j'écrivis
être	étant	été	je suis	je fus
faire	faisant	fait	je fais	je fis
lire	lisant	lu	je lis	je lus
mettre	mettant	mis	je mets	je mis
mourir	mourant	mort	je meurs	je mourus
naître	naissant	né	je nais	je naquis
ouvrir	ouvrant	ouvert	j'ouvre	j'ouvris
porter	portant	porté	je porte	je portai
pouvoir	pouvant	pu	je peux <i>or</i> je puis	je pus
prendre	prenant	pris	je prends	je pris
recevoir	recevant	reçu	je reçois	je reçus
savoir	sachant	su	je sais	je sus
venir	venant	venu	je viens	je vins
vivre	vivant	vécu	je vis	je vécus
voir	voyant	vu	je vois	je vis
voler	volant	volé	je vole	je volai

Tip

In the present indicative (*présent de l'indicatif*) and the simple past (*passé simple*) columns above, only the 1st person singular (**je**) forms are given just to get you started. If you cannot recall the remaining verb forms in the *présent de l'indicatif* and the *passé simple* of the verbs listed above in the first column under infinitive (*infinitif*), please practice them by looking them up in this book, where the infinitive form of the verb is listed alphabetically at the top of each page from page 1 to 501. When you find them, say them aloud at the same time you practice writing them in French. This is a very useful exercise to do.

A Summary of Meanings and Uses of French Verb Tenses and Moods as Related to English Verb Tenses and Moods

A verb is where the action is! A verb is a word that expresses an action (like *go*, *eat*, *write*) or a state of being (like *think*, *believe*, *be*). Tense means time. French and English verb tenses are divided into three main groups of time: past, present, and future. A verb tense shows if an action or state of being took place, is taking place, or will take place.

French and English verbs are also used in three moods (or modes). Mood has to do with the way a person regards an action or a state. For example, a person may merely make a statement or ask a question—this is the Indicative Mood, which we use most of the time in French and English. A person may say that he *would do* something if something else were possible or that he *would have done* something if something else had been possible—this is the conditional tense. A person may use a verb *in such a way* to indicate a wish, a fear, a regret, a supposition, or something of this sort—this is the Subjunctive Mood. The Subjunctive Mood is used in French much more than in English. A person may command that something be done—this is the Imperative Mood. (There is also the Infinitive Mood, but we are not concerned with that here.)

There are six tenses in English: Present, Past, Future, Present Perfect, Past Perfect, and Future Perfect. The first three are simple tenses. The other three are compound tenses and are based on the simple tenses. In French, however, there are fourteen tenses, seven of which are simple and seven of which are compound.

In the pages that follow, the tenses and moods are given in French and the equivalent name or names in English are given in parenthesis. Each tense name has been numbered for easy reference and recognition. Although some of the names given in English are not considered to be tenses (there are only six), they are given for the purpose of identification as they are related to the French names. The comparison includes only the essential points you need to know about the meanings and uses of French verb tenses and moods as related to English usage.

The examples serve to illustrate their meanings and uses. See page xxvii for the formation of the seven simple tenses for regular verbs.

THE SEVEN SIMPLE TENSES

Tense No. 1 Le Présent de l'Indicatif (Present Indicative)

This tense is used most of the time in French and English. It indicates:

- (a) An action or a state of being at the present time.

EXAMPLES:

1. Je **vais** à l'école maintenant. I *am going* to school now.
2. Je **pense**; donc, je **suis**. I *think*; therefore, I *am*.

(b) Habitual action.

EXAMPLE:

1. Je **vais** à la bibliothèque tous les jours.
2. I *go* to the library every day, or I *do go* to the library every day.

(c) A general truth, something which is permanently true.

EXAMPLES:

1. Deux et deux **font** quatre. Two and two *are* four.
2. Voir c'**est** croire. Seeing *is* believing.

(d) Vividness when talking or writing about past events. This is called the *historical present*.

EXAMPLE:

Marie-Antoinette **est** condamnée à mort. Elle **monte** dans la charrette et **est** en route pour la guillotine.

Marie-Antoinette *is* condemned to die. She *gets* into the cart and *is* on her way to the guillotine.

(e) A near future.

EXAMPLE:

Il **arrive** demain. He *arrives* tomorrow.

(f) An action or state of being that occurred in the past and *continues up to the present*. In English, this tense is the Present Perfect, which is formed with the present tense of *to have* (*have* or *has*) plus the past participle of the verb you are using.

EXAMPLES:

1. Je **suis** ici depuis dix minutes.
I *have been* here for ten minutes. (I am still here at present)
2. Elle **est** malade depuis trois jours.
She *has been* sick for three days. (She is still sick at present)
3. J'**attends** l'autobus depuis dix minutes.
I *have been waiting* for the bus for ten minutes.

NOTE: In this last example the formation of the English verb tense is slightly different from the other two examples in English. The present participle (*waiting*) is used instead of the past participle (*waited*).

NOTE ALSO: For the formation of this tense for regular verbs see page xxvii.

Tense No. 2 L'Imparfait de l'Indicatif (Imperfect Indicative)

This is a past tense. It is used to indicate:

(a) An action that was going on in the past at the same time as another action.

EXAMPLE:

Il **lisait** pendant que j'**écrivais**. He *was reading* while I *was writing*.

(b) An action that was going on in the past when another action occurred.

EXAMPLE:

Il **lisait** quand je suis entré. He *was reading* when I came in.

- (c) An action that a person did habitually in the past.

EXAMPLE:

Nous **allions** à la plage tous les jours. We *used to go* to the beach every day.

OR:

We *would go* to the beach every day.

- (d) A description of a mental or physical condition in the past.

EXAMPLES :

(mental condition) Il **était** triste quand je l'ai vu.

He *was* sad when I saw him.

(physical condition) Quand ma mère **était** jeune, elle **était** belle.

When my mother *was* young, she *was* beautiful.

- (e) An action or state of being that occurred in the past and *lasted for a certain length of time* prior to another past action. In English, it is usually translated as a pluperfect tense and is formed with *had been* plus the present participle of the verb you are using. It is like the special use of the **Présent de l'Indicatif** described in the above section (Tense No. 1) in paragraph (f), except that the action or state of being no longer exists at present.

EXAMPLE:

J'**attendais** l'autobus depuis dix minutes quand il est arrivé.

I *had been waiting* for the bus for ten minutes when it arrived.

NOTE: For the formation of this tense for regular verbs see page xxvii.

Tense No. 3 Le Passé Simple

(Past Definite or Simple Past)

This past tense is not ordinarily used in conversational French or in informal writing. It is a literary tense. It is used in formal writing, such as history and literature. You should be able merely to recognize this tense when you see it in your French readings. It should be noted that French writers use the **Passé Simple** less and less these days. The **Passé Composé** (Tense No. 8) is taking its place in literature, except for **avoir** and **être**, which you must know in this tense.

EXAMPLES:

(a) Il **alla** en Afrique. He *went* to Africa.

(b) Il **voyagea** en Amérique. He *traveled* to America.

(c) Elle **fut** heureuse. She *was* happy.

(d) Elle **eut** un grand bonheur. She *had* great happiness.

NOTE: For the formation of this tense for regular verbs see page xxvii.

Tense No. 4 Le Futur (Future)

If French and English this tense is used to express an action or a state of being which will take place at some time in the future.

EXAMPLES:

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) J' irai en France l'été prochain.
I <i>shall go</i> to France next summer.
OR:
I <i>will go</i> to France next summer. | (c) Je partirai dès qu'il arrivera.
I <i>shall leave</i> as soon as he arrives. |
| (b) J'y penserai .
I <i>shall think</i> about it.
OR:
I <i>will think</i> about it. | (d) Je te dirai tout quand tu seras ici.
I <i>shall tell</i> you all when you are here. |

If the action of the verb you are using is not past or present and if future time is implied, the future tense is used when the clause begins with any of the following conjunctions: **aussitôt que** (as soon as), **dès que** (as soon as), **quand** (when), **lorsque** (when), and **tant que** (as long as).

NOTE: For the formation of this tense for regular verbs see page xxvii.

Tense No. 5 Le Conditionnel Présent (Conditional)

The Conditional is used in French and English to express:

- (a) An action that you would do if something else were possible.

EXAMPLE:

Je **ferais** le travail si j'avais le temps.
I *would do* the work if I had the time.

- (b) A conditional desire. This is the Conditional of courtesy in French.

EXAMPLES:

J'**aimerais** du thé. I *would like* some tea.
Je **voudrais** du café. I *would like* some coffee.

- (c) An obligation or duty.

EXAMPLE:

Je **devrais** étudier pour l'examen. I *should* study for the examination.
OR: I *ought to* study for the examination.

NOTE (1): The French verb **devoir** plus the infinitive is used to express the idea of *should* when you mean *ought to*.

NOTE (2): When the Conditional of the verb **pouvoir** is used in French, it is translated into English as *could* or *would be able*.

EXAMPLE:

Je **pourrais** venir après le dîner. I *could come* after dinner.
OR: I *would be able to* come after dinner.

NOTE: For the formation of this tense for regular verbs see page xxvii.

Tense No. 6 Le Présent du Subjonctif (Present Subjunctive)

The Subjunctive Mood is used in French much more than in English. It is disappearing in English, except for the following major uses:

- (a) The Subjunctive is used in French and English to express a command.

EXAMPLE:

Soyez à l'heure! *Be* on time!

NOTE: In English, the form in the Subjunctive applies mainly to the verb *to be*. Also, note that all verbs in French are not in the Subjunctive when expressing a command. See

L'Impératif on pages xxv–xxvi.

- (b) The Subjunctive is commonly used in English to express a condition contrary to fact.

EXAMPLE:

If I *were* you, I would not do it.

NOTE: In French the Subjunctive is not used in this instance. Instead, the **Imparfait de l'Indicatif** is used if what precedes is *si* (*if*). Same example in French: Si j'**étais** vous, je ne le ferais pas.

- (c) The Present Subjunctive is used in French and English after a verb that expresses some kind of insistence, preference, or suggestion.

EXAMPLES:

1. Je préfère qu'il **fasse** le travail maintenant. I prefer that *he do* the work now.

2. J'exige qu'il **soit** puni. I demand that *he be* punished.

- (d) The Subjunctive is used in French after a verb that expresses doubt, fear, joy, sorrow, or some other emotion. Notice in the following examples that the Subjunctive is not used in English but it is in French.

EXAMPLES:

1. Je doute qu'il **vienne** .

I doubt that he *is coming*. OR: I doubt that he *will come*.

2. Je suis heureux qu'il **vienne** .

I'm happy that he *is coming*.

3. Je regrette qu'il **soit** malade.

I'm sorry that he *is sick*.

4. J'ai peur qu'il ne **soit** malade.

I'm afraid that he *is sick*.

NOTE: After a verb that expresses fear (used in the affirmative), you should add *ne* before the verb that is in the subjunctive. If the statement is negative, do not add *ne*.

- (e) The Present Subjunctive is used in French after certain conjunctions. Notice, however, that the Subjunctive is not always used in English.

EXAMPLES:

1. Je resterai **jusqu'à ce qu'il vienne** .

I shall stay until he *comes*.

2. **Quoiqu'elle soit** belle, il ne l'aime pas.

Although she *is* beautiful, he does not love her.

3. Je l'explique **pour qu'elle comprenne** .

I'm explaining it *so that she may understand*.

4. Je partirai **à moins qu'il ne vienne** .

I shall leave unless he *comes*.

NOTE: After a verb that expresses the possibility of an obstacle (or of a precaution), you may add *ne* before the verb that is in the subjunctive.