

DICTIONARY OF

501

FRENCH VERBS

fully conjugated in all the tenses

by Christopher Kendris

*Verbs conjugated with **avoir** or **être***

*Principal parts of verbs (*Les temps primitifs*)*

*Table showing derivation of tenses of verbs
conjugated with **avoir***

*Table showing derivation of tenses of
verbs conjugated with **être***

French verb tenses and English equivalents

Sample English verb conjugation

French verbs fully conjugated in all the tenses

English-French verb index

Index of verb forms identified by infinitive

BARRON'S EDUCATIONAL SERIES, INC.

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501 FRENCH VERBS

FULLY CONJUGATED IN ALL THE TENSES

by

Christopher Kendrix

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

Formerly Assistant Professor
Department of Romance Languages
State University of New York at Albany



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FOREWORD

AN EVERYDAY DICTIONARY such as this one for students in colleges and high schools and for travelers should assist the user in learning French verbs.

Verb conjugations are usually found in the back pages of French books and, as you know, French grammar books generally present a limited number of verbs fully conjugated. The verbs which grammar books give are usually the most common regular and irregular ones and only a few of them are conjugated fully. Verbs have always been a major problem for students no matter what system or approach the teacher uses. This everyday dictionary will give you the verb form you need to use. If you study this book, you should master verbs.

There is no doubt that it is frustrating to the student when he does not find in a book the conjugation of a verb he needs to use. It is also somewhat annoying to the average student when he is told in many grammar books that one verb is conjugated the same way as another. This means nothing to some students and very little to others. Although this may seem difficult to believe, it is nevertheless true. Furthermore, verbs conjugated in the same way as other verbs are often difficult to find because they are buried somewhere either in footnotes or in some other obscure place in a grammar book. As a student of French, you undoubtedly have had difficulty in finding the verb form you wish to use. At other times, you probably did not find it at all and tossed the book aside in despair.

For reasons stated above, this everyday dictionary has been compiled in order to help you make your task easier and at the same time to teach you how to learn French verbs systematically. It is a useful dictionary which can always be at your fingertips because it provides a quick and easy way to find the full conjugation of many French verbs. The five

hundred and one verbs included in this dictionary are arranged alphabetically. Naturally, this book does not include all the verbs in the French language. It includes an enormous number of common verbs of high frequency, both reflexive and non-reflexive. It also contains a great many others which are irregular in some way and also used frequently.

The student can also use this dictionary as a method of self-instruction. *On one single page you will find the verb forms of all the tenses you need to know.* The subject pronouns have been omitted. The first three verb forms before the semicolon are the first, second and third persons of the singular. The three verb forms after the semicolon are the plural forms of the verbs. After a while, you will gain skill in verb use and you will not have to keep referring to the sample English verb.

At the end of this foreword, you will find a sample English verb conjugated in all the tenses. The purpose of this is to give you an idea of the way the verb is expressed in the same tenses in English. Many people do not know one tense from another because they have never learned the use of verbs in a systematic and organized way. How can you, for instance, know that you need the Future Tense when you want to translate "I shall go" or "I will go" into French? The sample verb in English will help you to distinguish one tense from another so that you will know where to find the desired verb form.

Preceding the sample English verb page, you will find a table showing the formation of regular verbs, both simple and compound, in all the tenses. I have included this for those who wish to observe and memorize the regular endings. Also, at the end of this book, you will find an English-French Verb Index. If you do not know the French equivalent of the English verb you have in mind, look it up in the English-French Verb Index at the end of this dictionary. If it is not listed, remember that this book contains five hundred and one French verbs of high frequency and it does not contain all the verbs in the French language. If it did, the book would be encyclopedic.

As you know, the new way to teach modern languages is with an audio-lingual approach, that is to say, conversational. This means that the language is *used*. In this approach, the student's main difficulty is his search for the form of the verb in a particular tense which he wants

to use. He will not stop and read *about* French verbs; rather, he will stop to look up the verb in a dictionary, such as this one, in order to find the form he wants quickly and easily.

At the end of this book there is an index of verb forms identified by infinitive. In your readings, perhaps you have had difficulty in recognizing such verb forms. Some are slightly different from their infinitives, others are very different. The purpose of the index is to help you recall infinitives. Once you have the infinitive, you can look it up in this book, where they are all arranged alphabetically, and identify the verb forms.

In conclusion, this dictionary provides students of French in colleges and high schools, and travelers, with the needed information quickly and easily. It is useful, handy and practical. I sincerely hope that it will be of some help to you in learning and using French verbs.

Christopher Kendris, Ph.D.

VERBS CONJUGATED WITH AVOIR OR ÊTRE

- (1) Generally speaking, the French verb is conjugated with AVOIR to form the compound tenses.
- (2) Reflexive verbs, such as *se laver*, are conjugated with ÊTRE.
- (3) The following is a list of some common non-reflexive verbs which are conjugated with ÊTRE. Refer to this list from time to time until you know them.

aller	<i>to go</i>
arriver	<i>to arrive</i>
*descendre	<i>to go down</i>
devenir	<i>to become</i>
entrer	<i>to enter</i>
*monter	<i>to go up</i>
mourir	<i>to die</i>
naître	<i>to be born</i>
partir	<i>to leave</i>
*passer	<i>to go by, pass by</i>
*rentrer	<i>to come (go) back home</i>
rester	<i>to remain</i>
retourner	<i>to go back, return</i>
revenir	<i>to come back</i>
*sortir	<i>to go out, to leave</i>
tomber	<i>to fall</i>
venir	<i>to come</i>

*These 5 verbs marked * are conjugated with AVOIR if the verb is used in a transitive sense and has a direct object. For examples, see pp. 161, 304, 331, 394, 440.

LES TEMPS PRIMITIFS DE QUELQUES VERBES

THE PRINCIPAL PARTS OF SOME VERBS

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	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	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

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
donnerai	donnais	ai donné	donne	donnai
donneras	donnais	as donné	donnes	donnas
donnera	donnait	a donné	donne	donna
donnerons	donnions	avons donné	donnons	donnâmes
donnerez	donniez	avez donné	donnez	donnâtes
donneront	donnaient	ont donné	donnent	donnèrent
CONDITIONNEL		PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT DE L'INDICATIF	IMPÉRATIF	IMPARFAIT DU SUBJONCTIF
donnerais		avais donné	donne	donnasse
donnerais		avais donné	donnons	donnasses
donnerait		avait donné	donnez	donnât
donnerions		avions donné	PRÉSENT DU SUBJONCTIF	donnassions
donneriez		aviez donné	donne	donnassiez
donneraient		avaient donné	donnes	donnassent
		PASSÉ ANTÉRIEUR	donne	
		eus donné		
		eus donné	donnions	
		eut donné	donniez	
		eût donné	donnent	
		eûmes donné		
		eûtes donné		
		eurent donné		
FUTUR ANTÉRIEUR	CONDITIONNEL	PASSÉ	PASSÉ DU SUBJONCTIF	PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT DU SUBJONCTIF
aurai donné	aurais donné	aie donné	aie donné	eusse donné
auras donné	aurais donné	aies donné	aies donné	eusses donné
aura donné	aurait donné	ait donné	ait donné	eût donné
aurons donné	aurions donné	ayons donné	ayons donné	eussions donné
auriez donné	auriez donné	ayez donné	ayez donné	eussiez donné
auront donné	auraient donné	aient donné	aient donné	eussent donné

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)		arrivai
arriveras	arrivais	es arrivé(e)	arrive	arrivas
arrivera	arrivais	est arrivé(e)	arrives	arriva
	arrivait		arrive	
arriverons		sommes arrivé(e)s		arrivâmes
arriverez	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	PRÉSENT DU SUBJONCTIF	arrivassions
arriveriez		étiez arrivé(e)s	arrive	arrivassiez
arriveraient		étaient arrivé(e)s	arrives	arrivassent
		PASSÉ ANTÉRIEUR	arrive	
		fus arrivé(e)		
		fus arrivé(e)	arrivions	
		fut arrivé(e)	arriviez	
			arrivent	
		fûmes arrivé(e)s		
		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		
seriez arrivé(e)s	seriez arrivé(e)s	soyez arrivé(e)s	fussions arrivé(e)s	
seront arrivé(e)s	seraient arrivé(e)s	soient arrivé(e)s	fussiez arrivé(e)s	
			fussent arrivé(e)s	

SAMPLE ENGLISH VERB CONJUGATION

INFINITIVE **to go—aller**

PRESENT		PAST
PARTICIPLE	going	PARTICIPLE gone

Present Indicative I go, you go, he (she, it) goes;
we go, you go, they go

or: I do go, you do go, he (she, it) does go;
we do go, you do go, they do go

or: I am going, you are going, he (she, it) is going;
we are going, you are going, they are going

Imperfect Indicative I was going, you were going, he (she, it) was going;
we were going, you were going, they were going

or: I went, you went, he (she, it) went;
we went, you went, they went

or: I used to go, you used to go, he (she, it) used to go;
we used to go, you used to go, he (she, it) used to go

Past Definite or Simple Past I went, you went, he (she, it) went;
we went, you went, they went

or: I did go, you did go, he (she, it) did go;
we did go, you did go, they did go

Future I shall go, you will go, he (she, it) will go;
we shall go, you will go, they will go

Conditional I should go, you would go, he (she, it) would go;
we should go, you would go, they would go

Present Subjunctive that I may go, that you may go, that he (she, it) may go;
that we may go, that you may go, that they may go

<i>Imperfect Subjunctive</i>	that I might go, that you might go, that he (she, it) might go; that we might go, that you might go, that they might go
<i>Past Indefinite</i>	I have gone, you have gone, he (she, it) has gone; we have gone, you have gone, they have gone or: I went, you went, he (she, it) went; we went, you went, they went or: I did go, you did go, he (she, it) did go; we did go, you did go, they did go
<i>Pluperfect or Past Perfect Indicative</i>	I had gone, you had gone, he (she, it) had gone; we had gone, you had gone, they had gone
<i>Past Anterior</i>	I had gone, you had gone, he (she, it) had gone; we had gone, you had gone, they had gone
<i>Future Perfect or Future Anterior</i>	I shall have gone, you will have gone, he (she, it) will have gone; we shall have gone, you will have gone, they will have gone
<i>Conditional Perfect</i>	I should have gone, you would have gone, he (she, it) would have gone; we should have gone, you would have gone, they would have gone
<i>Past Subjunctive</i>	that I may have gone, that you may have gone, that he (she, it) may have gone; that we may have gone, that you may have gone, that they may have gone
<i>Pluperfect or Past Perfect Subjunctive</i>	that I might have gone, that you might have gone, that he (she, it) might have gone; that we might have gone, that you might have gone, that they might have gone
<i>Imperative or Command</i>	go, let us go, go

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 four moods (or modes). Mood has to do with the *way* a person regards an action or a state that he expresses. 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 Mood*. A person may use a verb *in such a way* that he indicates 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 someone to do something—this is the *Imperative Mood*.

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 parentheses. Although some of the names given in English are not considered to be tenses (for 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. We shall use examples to illustrate their meanings and uses.

Le Présent de l'Indicatif

(The 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.
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 **entre** dans la charrette et **est** en route pour la guillotine.

Marie-Antoinette *is* condemned to die. She *goes* 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*. It 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 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*).

L'Imparfait de l'Indicatif

(The 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 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.

Le Passé Simple

(The Past Definite or Simple Past)

This past tense expresses an action that took place at some definite time. This 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** is taking its place in literature.

EXAMPLES:

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

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

Le Futur

(The Future)

In 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 *shall go* to France next summer.

OR:

I *will go* to France next summer.

(b) J'**y penserai**.

I *shall think* about it.

OR:

I *will think* about it.

Le Conditionnel Présent

(The 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.*

Le Présent du Subjonctif

(The Present Subjunctive)

The Subjunctive 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 p. xxviii.

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