

2A.1

Present tense of regular -er verbs

Point de départ The infinitives of most French verbs end in **-er**. To form the present tense of regular **-er** verbs, drop the **-er** from the infinitive and add the corresponding endings for the different subject pronouns. This chart demonstrates how to conjugate regular **-er** verbs.

Parler (to speak)

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| je parle | <i>I speak</i> | nous parlons | <i>we speak</i> |
| tu parles | <i>you speak</i> | vous parlez | <i>you speak</i> |
| il/elle parle | <i>he/she/it speaks</i> | ils/elles parlent | <i>they speak</i> |

- Here are some other verbs that are conjugated the same way as **parler**.

Common -er verbs

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| adorer | <i>to love</i> | habiter (à/en) | <i>to live in</i> |
| aimer | <i>to like; to love</i> | manger | <i>to eat</i> |
| aimer mieux | <i>to prefer (to like better)</i> | oublier | <i>to forget</i> |
| arriver | <i>to arrive</i> | partager | <i>to share</i> |
| chercher | <i>to look for</i> | penser (que/qu'...) | <i>to think (that...)</i> |
| commencer | <i>to begin, to start</i> | regarder | <i>to look (at)</i> |
| dessiner | <i>to draw</i> | rencontrer | <i>to meet</i> |
| détester | <i>to hate</i> | retrouver | <i>to meet up with; to find (again)</i> |
| donner | <i>to give</i> | travailler | <i>to work</i> |
| étudier | <i>to study</i> | voyager | <i>to travel</i> |

- Note that **je** becomes **j'** when it appears before a verb that begins with a vowel sound.

J'habite à Bruxelles.
I live in Brussels.

J'étudie la psychologie.
I study psychology.

- With the verbs **adorer**, **aimer**, and **détester**, use the definite article before a noun to tell what someone loves, likes, prefers, or hates.

J'aime mieux l'art.
I prefer art.

Marine **déteste** **les** devoirs.
Marine hates homework.

- Use infinitive forms after the verbs **adorer**, **aimer**, and **détester** to say that you like (or hate, etc.) to do something. Only the first verb should be conjugated.

Ils adorent **travailler** ici.
They love to work here.

Ils détestent **étudier** ensemble.
They hate to study together.

- The present tense in French can be translated in different ways in English. The English equivalent depends on the context.

Ils **étudient** la physique.

They study physics.

They are studying physics.

They do study physics.

Nous **travaillons** ici demain.

We work here tomorrow.

We are working here tomorrow.

We will work here tomorrow.

- Verbs ending in **-ger** (**manger**, **partager**, **voyager**) and **-cer** (**commencer**) have a spelling change in the **nous** form.

manger ► **nous mangeons**

Nous **voyageons** avec une amie.

We are traveling with a friend.

commencer ► **nous commençons**

Nous **commençons** les devoirs.

We are starting the homework.

- Unlike the English *to look for*, the French **chercher** requires no preposition before the noun that follows it.

Nous **cherchons les stylos**.

We are looking for the pens.

Vous **cherchez la montre?**

Are you looking for the watch?

- Use present tense verb forms to give commands. The **nous** and **vous** command forms are identical to those of the present tense. The **tu** command form of **-er** verbs drops the **-s** from the present tense form. The command forms of **être** are irregular: **sois**, **soyons**, **soyez**.

Regarde!

Look!

Travaillons.

Let's work.

Parlez français.

Speak French.

Sois patiente!

Be patient!

Est-ce que tu oublies ton coloc?



Nous partageons un des appartements du P'tit Bistrot.

