

I'm not a robot





























About This Quiz ... Quiz Review Timeline (Updated): Sep 3, 2024 + Our quizzes are rigorously reviewed, monitored and continuously updated by our expert board to maintain accuracy, relevance, and timeliness. Sep 03, 2024 Quiz Edited byProProfs Editorial Team Apr 08, 2010 Quiz Created byJulie Johnson Thank you for your feedback! Please provide name and email to proceed. Please provide correct email to proceed. Please provide feedback. Please select the option. Parts of speech in French grammar "Le futur proche" redirects here. For the 2012 Canadian film, see The Near Future (film). Part of a series on theFrench language Langues d'oïl Dialects Creoles Francophonie History Phonological history Oaths of Strasbourg Ordinance of Villers-Cotterêts Anglo-Norman Grammar Adverbs Articles and determiners Pronouns (personal) Verbs (conjugation)morphologypassé composépassé simple Orthography Alphabet Reforms Circumflex Braille Phonology Elision Liaison Aspirated h Help:IPA/French verb In French grammar, verbs are a part of speech. Each verb lexeme has a collection of finite and non-finite forms in its conjugation scheme. Finite forms depend on grammatical tense and person/number. There are eight simple tense-aspect-mood forms, categorized into the indicative, subjunctive and imperative moods, with the conditional mood sometimes viewed as an additional category. The eight simple forms can also be categorized into four tenses (future, present, past, and future-of-the-past), or into two aspects (perfective and imperfective). The three non-finite moods are the infinitive, past participle, and present participle. There are compound constructions that use more than one verb. These include one for each simple tense and one for each aspect. The -iss- or -iss- in many of their conjugation is a reflex of the Latin inchoative infix -isc-/esc-, but does not retain any aspectual semantics. The third conjugation class consists of all other verbs; aller, arguably (re)envoyer, a number of verbs in -oir, which is an etymologically unrelated ending), and all verbs in -re. Nonetheless, this class is very small compared to the other two, though it does contain some of the most common verbs. This class has a few dozen subclasses, often differing substantially; indeed, this class is essentially a catch-all for verbs, besides être and avoir, that do not fit into the first two classes. There are about 370 verbs in this group, though a much smaller number are still in frequent use. As with English verbs, French verbs have both non-finite moods (les modes impersonnels), also called verbals, and finite ones (les modes personnels). The finite moods are the indicative (l'indicatif), the imperative (l'impératif), and the subjunctive (le subjonctif). As discussed below, sometimes the conditional is recognized as a fourth mood. While the rules that determine the correct mood are quite complex, they are simplified and summarized in the following table: indicative used in most independent clauses used in affirmative and negative statements and questions used in dependent clauses that are certainly true when no other mood applies « Où êtes-vous ? » ("Where are you?") « Je suis ici. » ("I am here.") subjunctive used in many dependent clauses used to express a doubtful, desired, or requested event used to express an event to which the reaction is of most significance used to express a third-person imperative used much more than in English « Il se peut qu'il vienne demain. » ("It may be that he will come tomorrow.") « J'ai demandé qu'il parte. » ("I asked that he leave.") « Je suis heureux qu'il soit venu. » ("I am glad that he came.") « Vive la République ! » ("Long live the Republic!") imperative used in commands and requests only possible with first-person plural and second-person singular and plural subject the subjunctive is implied almost exactly as in English « Fais tes devoirs ! » ("Do your homework!") « Faisons nos devoirs ensemble. » ("Let's do our homework together.") Many linguists recognize a fourth mood, the conditional (le conditionnel), which is used in almost exactly the same circumstances as the conditional in English. In French, « Je le ferais si j'avais assez de temps » is "I would do it if I had enough time" in English. The conditional can also be used evidentially, to express reservations about the verb: « Il serait suivi par un psychologue », "He is apparently/is said to be/et[c]. under the care of a psychologist." Other linguists consider the conditional to be a tense of the indicative mood. The two camps do not disagree on the rules for when and how to use the conditional.(citation needed) A third camp recognizes both "conditionnel présent/conditionnel passé" (for use in conditional sentences), and "indicatif futur du passé / indicatif futur antérieur du passé" (for tense condsitions, "future from a past point of view"; e.g. « Il m'a dit qu'il le ferait le lendemain », "He told me he would do it the next day"), but they recognize also that both are conjugated the same. The infinitive has a present tense, with a perfect: "faire" means "to do", while "avoir fait" means "to have done". There is a present participle, with a perfect construction: "faisant" means "doing", while "ayant fait" means "having done". As noted above, this participle is not used in forming a continuous aspect. Further, it cannot be used as a noun, in the way that present participles in English have the same form as gerunds; the only verbal noun is the infinitive. There is a gérondif ("gerundive", but different from the Latin gerundive), formed with the clitic en and the present participle: "en faisant" means "by doing" or "while doing". (It is analogous to the English "in doing", but in English, since "doing" can act as a noun, "in doing" is taken as a prepositional phrase rather than as a separate verb form. That interpretation is not available for "en faisant".) Similarly, "en ayant fait" means "by having done". There is a separate past participle: "fait" means "done". As in English, it can be used in the passive voice, in the perfect form, on its own as an adjective. The past participle has no perfect, except arguably in the special surcomposé tense. The indicative mood has five "simple" (synthetic) tense-aspect forms, conveying four tenses (times of action) (future, present, past, and future-of-past) and two aspects (fabrics of time) (perfective, conveying an action viewed in its entirety without its time frame being considered in more detail, and imperfective, conveying an action that occurs repeatedly or continuously). The tense-aspect forms of the indicative mood in French are called the present (le présent, present tense, imperfective aspect), the simple past (le passé simple, past tense, perfective aspect), the imperfect (l'imparfait, past tense, imperfective aspect), the future (le futur, future tense, unspecified aspect), and the conditional (le conditionnel, future-in-past tense, unspecified aspect). Note that, as discussed above, in some uses the conditional can be considered a separate mood completely, while in other uses it is the future-in-past tense of the indicative. The use of the various tense forms is described in the following table: present (le faire in English, used to describe habitual, recurring, and "always" true events unlike in English, used to describe ongoing current action unlike in English, used to describe events that started in the past and affect the present (i.e., most cases where simple perfect is used in English) sometimes used to describe upcoming events used in a protasis (if-clause) when the apodosis (then-clause) is in the future tense mood « Les mardi, je joue au tennis. » ("On Tuesdays, I play tennis.") « En ce moment, je joue au tennis. » ("At the moment, I am playing tennis.") « Il habite à Paris depuis 15 ans. » ("He has lived/had been living in Paris for 15 years.") « Demain, je joue au tennis avec Marc. » ("Tomorrow, I am playing tennis with Marc.") « Si je joue au tennis avec vous mardi, jouerez-vous aux échecs avec moi mercredi ? » ("If I play tennis with you on Tuesday, will you play chess with me on Wednesday?") simple past(past perfective) used to describe past events in a perfective or aorist aspect; that is, with a sense of completion, with a definite beginning and end a literary tense that is rarely used in spoken language « E! la lumière fut. » ("And there was light.") « Il naquit en 1930 et mourut en 1998. » ("He was born in 1930 and died in 1998.") « Hier, il plut. » ("Yesterday, it rained.") « Il rangea la salle tandis qu'elle faisait la vaisselle. » ("He cleaned the room while she was washing the dishes.") imperfect(past imperfective) used to describe past events or situations in an imperfective aspect; that is, ongoing, repetitive, or habitual past events or situations often used in conjunction with the simple or compound past to indicate when an event that was taking what another took place used in a contrary-to-fact protasis (with the apodosis in the conditional) often analogous to English past continuous ("was doing") or to the construction "used to do" « Quand j'étais jeune, j'habitais à Paris. » ("When I was young, I lived in Paris.") « Il rangea la salle tandis qu'elle faisait la vaisselle. » ("He cleaned the room while she was washing the dishes.") « Si je le savais, je te le dirais. » ("If I knew [it], I would tell you.") simple future used to describe future events mostly the same as English, except that it is a simple (one-word) tense in French (« Je le ferai demain. » ("I will do it tomorrow.") conditional (future-in-past) used in an apodosis when the protasis is contrary to fact (in the imperfect) used to describe a past event from the standpoint of an even-earlier event mostly the same as in English, except that it is a simple (one-word) tense in French (« Si je le savais, je te le dirais. » ("If I knew it, I would tell you.") « Il s'ensuisait que je réussissais. » ("They said that I would succeed.") Additionally, the indicative has five compound (two-word) tense-aspect forms, each of which is formed analogously to the perfect in languages such as English (e.g., "have done") (though in French this form does not indicate the perfect aspect) as applied to one of the above simple tense forms. These tense forms are used to indicate events before the corresponding simple tense forms; for example, « A ce moment-là, il se souvint de ce qu'il avait promis » ("At that moment, he remembered what he had promised"). In addition, except in literature or very formal speeches, the present perfect form is used in modern French wherever the simple past would have been used in older or more literary writing. Since this use is much more common than its use as a true present perfect, it is usually called the compound past (le passé composé). Further, where older or more literary French would have used the perfect form of the simple past tense (le passé antérieur) for the past-of-the-past, modern non-literary French uses the pluperfect (le plus-que-parfait; the perfect of the imperfect, or sometimes a new form called the surcomposé (literally, "over-compound"), which re-applies the perfect to the compound past, resulting in a structure like « Je l'ai eu fait » (literally, "I it have had done"). Unlike English or Spanish, French does not mark for a continuous aspect. Thus, "I am doing it" (continuous) and "I do it" both translate to the same sentence in French: « Je le fais ». However, the distinction is often clear from context, and when not, it can be conveyed using periphrasis, for example, the expression être en train de [faire quelque chose] ("to be in the middle of [doing something]") is often used to convey the sense of a continuous aspect. (For example, "I am doing it" might be expressed as « Je suis en train de le faire ». "I am in the middle of doing it.") In the case of the past tense, neither the simple nor the compound past tense is ever used with a continuous sense; therefore, the imperfect often indicates a continuous sense (though it does have other uses, as discussed above). Similarly to English, the verb aller (to go) can be used as an auxiliary verb to create a near-future tense (le futur proche). Whereas English uses the continuous aspect (to be going), French uses the simple present tense; for example, the English sentence "I am going to do tomorrow" would in French be « Je vais le faire demain ». As in English, this form can generally be replaced by the present or future tense: "I am doing it tomorrow", "I shall do it tomorrow", "Je le fais demain », « Je le ferai demain ». Much like the use of aller (to go) to create a near-future tense, the verb venir (to come) can be used as an auxiliary verb to create a near-past tense (le passé proche). As in the near-future tense, the auxiliary verb is in the present tense. Unlike aller, venir needs the preposition de before the infinitive. Hence the English sentence "I [just] did it a minute ago" would in French be « Je viens de le faire il y a une minute ». Main article: Subjunctive mood § French The subjunctive mood has only two simple tense-aspect forms: a present (le présent du subjonctif) and an imperfect (l'imparfait du subjonctif). Of these, only the present is used nowadays; like the simple past indicative, the imperfect subjunctive is only found in older and more literary works. When both tense-aspect forms are used, there is no difference in meaning between the two; the present is used in subordinate clauses whose main clauses are in a present or future tense, as well as in the few main clauses that use the subjunctive, and the imperfect is used in subordinate clauses whose main clauses are in a past tense form (other than present perfect). Except in literature and very formal speeches, modern French uses the present subjunctive even where an older or more literary work would use the imperfect subjunctive. As with the indicative, the subjunctive also has one compound tense form for each simple tense form. The difference between the present perfect subjunctive (le passé du subjonctif) and the pluperfect subjunctive (le plus-que-parfait du subjonctif) is analogous to the difference between the present subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive of the two, only the present perfect subjunctive is found in modern French. The subjunctive in French[3] is used almost wherever it would be in English, and in many other situations as well. It is used in que ("that") clauses to indicate emotion, doubt, possibility, necessity, desire, and so forth. For example, as in English one says Je préfère qu'il le fasse, "I prefer that he it do", "I prefer that he do it"! But also, unlike in English, the subjunctive is used in, for example, Je veux qu'il le fasse "I want that he it do", "I want him to do it" Je crains qu'il (ne) parte "I fear that he (optional subjunctive participle) leave", "I am afraid that he will leave" Je cherche un homme qui sache la vérité "I seek a man who knows the truth", "I am looking for a man who knows the truth" Sometimes the subjunctive is used in the interrogative and the negative but not in the affirmative: Penses-tu qu'il soit sympa ? (subjunctive) "Do you think that he is nice?" Oui, je pense qu'il est sympa. (indicative) "Yes, I think that he is nice." Non, je ne pense pas qu'il soit sympa. (subjunctive) "No, I do not think that he is nice." In addition to situations of doubt, negatives stated with certainty take the subjunctive: Il n'y a rien que nous puissions faire. "There is nothing that we can do." Superlatives also can optionally be accompanied by the subjunctive in a que clause, if the speaker feels doubt: C'est le meilleur livre que j'aie pu trouver. "That is the best book that I could find." Finally, as in English, counterfactual conditions in the past are expressed by backshifting the apparent time reference. In English this backshifted form is called the pluperfect subjunctive, and unless it is expressed in inverted form it is identical in form to the pluperfect indicative; it is called subjunctive because of the change in implied time of action. In French, however, there is a distinction in form between the seldom used pluperfect subjunctive and the pluperfect indicative, which is used in this situation. For example, Si j'avais su (pluperfect indicative) on aurait pu (conditional perfect) l'empêcher. "Had we known (pluperfect subjunctive) it, we would have been able (conditional perfect) to prevent it. imperative used to give commands « Fais-le. » ("Do it.") The imperative only has a present tense, with a rarely used perfect: "fais-le" and "aie-le fait" both mean "do it", with the latter implying a certain deadline (somewhat like English "have it done"). Like English, French has two voices, the unmarked active voice and the marked passive voice. As in English, the passive voice is formed by using the appropriate form of "to be" (être) and the past participle of the main verb. Main article: Passé composé In French, all compound tense-aspect forms are formed with an auxiliary verb (either être "to be" or avoir "to have"). Most verbs use avoir as their auxiliary verb. The exceptions are all reflexive verbs and a number of verbs of motion or change of state, including some of the most frequently used intransitive verbs of the language: aller — to go arriver — to arrive décider — to pass away descendre1 — to descend devenir — to become entrer1 — to enter monter1 — to climb/mount mourir — to die naître — to be born partir — to leave or part passer1 — to pass by rester — to stay retourner1 — to return revenir — to return/come back sortir1 — to go out tomber1 — to fall venir — to come These verbs are often remembered by the acronym MRS VANDER TRAMP or DR & MRS VANDER TRAMP. In the former acronym, devenir and revenir aren't mentioned because they are often thought of as variations of venir. Verbs that are derived from these by prefixation may continue to select être, but this is not always the case. For example: (with être) derived from venir: advenir, intervenir, parvenir, provenir, survenir prefix re-: redevenir, remonter1, renaître, rentrer1, ressortir1, revenir, etc. (with avoir) derived from venir: circonvvenir, contrevenir, convenir, prévenir, subvenir transitive verbs: démonter, surmonter, dépasser, outrepasser, surpasser, etc. (The verbs marked with "1" above combine with être in their intransitive uses, and avoir when used transitively.) A small number of verbs, including some already mentioned above, can in fact be found with either auxiliary (croître, monter, descendre, convenir, paraître, apparaître, dépasser). There may be a subtle change of meaning depending on the auxiliary chosen, and one auxiliary is usually more literary or archaic than the other. The distinction between the two auxiliary verbs is important for the correct formation of the compound tense-aspect forms and is essential to the agreement of the past participle. The past participle is used in three ways in French: as an adjective, in the passive construction, and in the compound tense-aspect constructions. When it is used as an adjective, it follows all the regular adjective agreement rules. In passive constructions, it always agrees with the passive subject. In compound tense-aspect forms, more complicated agreement rules apply, reflecting the subtle priority rules between the attribute meaning (which implies an agreement) and the compound tense construction (which by itself does not imply any agreement). A. The auxiliary verb is avoir. If there is no direct object (the verb is intransitive) or the direct object appears after the past participle, then the past participle does not agree (i.e., it takes the default masculine singular form). (Intransitive) Elles ont dormi. ("They (fem.) slept.")(direct object after verb) Claire a vu deux baleines. ("Claire saw two whales.")If there is a direct object and it appears before the past participle, then the participle must agree with it. Three cases: (pronoun before the auxiliary) Il y avait deux baleines. Claire les a vues. ("There were two whales. Claire saw them.")(clause-initial wh-question element) Quelles baleines Claire a-t-elle vues ? ("Which whales did Claire see?")(relative clause introduced by que) les deux baleines que Claire a vues ("the two whales that Claire saw")The above rule is one of the most difficult in French, and even native speakers have trouble with it, and ignore it in colloquial speech. Since, when spoken, for most verbs, the different forms sound the same (for example, vu vs vue vues "seen" are all pronounced /vɥ/) this is usually not noticeable. There are however, past participles like fait "done" and mis "put" whose feminine forms sound different when spoken, and only the most careful speakers will be heard applying the rule. B. The auxiliary is être, and the verb is reflexive. The past participle agrees with the subject: Elles sont arrivées. ("They (fem.) arrived.") C. The auxiliary is être and the verb is reflexive. The agreement rules are in fact the same as those for structures with avoir in A, keeping in mind that the reflexive pronoun corresponds to either the direct object or the indirect object of the verb. There is no direct object, or the direct object appears after the past participle — no agreement. In these cases, the reflexive pronoun expresses the indirect object. (no direct object) Elles se sont succédé. Nous nous sommes parlé. ("They (fem.) succeeded. We spoke with each other.")(direct object after verb) Elles se sont posé des questions. ("They (fem.) asked each other some questions.")There is a direct object and it appears before the past participle. — The past participle agrees with this object. The first three cases are the same as in A.2 above (the reflexive pronoun is the indirect object). (direct object pronoun) J'ai fait une tarte. Les enfants se la sont partagée. ("I made a pie. The children shared it.")(wh-question) Quelle tarte se sont-ils partagée ? ("Which pie did they share?")(que relative) la tarte que les enfants se sont partagée ("the pie that the children shared") The reflexive pronoun can itself be the direct object, in which case the participle agrees with it (and therefore with the subject). This also includes "inherently reflexive" verbs, for which the reflexive pronoun cannot be interpreted semantically as an object (direct or indirect) of the verb. (ordinary reflexive) Elles se sont suivies. Nous nous sommes salués. ("They (fem.) followed each other. We greeted each other.") (inherently reflexive) Ils se sont moqués de moi. Nous nous sommes souvenus de l'événement. ("They made fun of me. We remembered the event.") (exception: Elles se sont ri du danger. "They (fem.) laughed at the danger.") Romance verbs - shows the development of French verbs from Latin English verbs ^ L. Tasmowski and S. Reinheimer. "Variations dans le radical du verbe roman". In D. Godard (ed). Les langues romanes; Problèmes de la phrase simple. Paris, CNRS Editions, 2003. ^ Langue française-Questions courantes Archived 2011-05-14 at the Wayback Machine ^ Laura K. Lawless, Lawless French. "French Subjunctive - Subjunctif". [1] For a list of words relating to French verbs, see the French verbs category of words in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. VerB2Verbe - French/English verb conjugation with translations Verb Conjugation Trainer by The Bien French French conjugation & grammar of verbs Le Conjugueur - online conjugation for all French verbs Bescherelle - Reference book for French Conjugation Comment-conjuger.fr - online conjugation for all French verbs and conjugation rules Retrieved from "http://www.comment-conjuger.fr/fr/conjugaison/le-conjugueur" Archived 2013-07-28 at the Wayback Machine French knowledge effortlessly. The following grammatical components are summaries of how they contribute to French grammar overall. We take a deeper look into their construction, conjugation, and cases in separate posts on this blog. Feel free to check those out for an even better understanding of French grammar. It teaches you useful words and phrases. Presented in a natural, everyday context. Spaced out over time, so you absorb your new language organically. It's kind of like learning the words to your new favorite song! You're just one click away from your FREE 7-day trial! The Grammar of French Verbs This is arguably the most important part of French grammar. Every single sentence in French needs to have a verb. Verbs are the words that show the action. Without verbs, you could only talk French in sentence fragments. So make sure you master French verbs, their cases, and their conjugations thoroughly. French verbs have tenses to show the time the action takes place. The three most major tenses are present, past, and future. Additionally, there are other cases and tenses in French verb grammar that specify the nuances of the French language. When you put a French verb into a sentence you always need to conjugate it. That's a clear and constant French grammar rule. But, how you conjugate it depends in the verb, the pronoun, and the tense. There are countless variations of this in French. Read through this ultimate French verb guide to master all of the verb tenses, conjugations, and exceptions. There's also a list of extremely useful verb vocabulary to get you started. The Grammar Behind French Nouns Nouns are the most basic part of French grammar. They're a person, place, thing, or idea. You'll encounter nouns in almost every French sentence. That's why it's important to master this part of French grammar first. In fact, French actually holds nouns as the most important part of a sentence. While the verb gives the sentence its meaning, French uses nominalization to express emphasis. French nouns have two genders: masculine and feminine. The gender (and number) of the nouns influence the conjugation of the articles, pronouns, and adjectives around them. There's no rule that tells you with 100% certainty if a noun is feminine or masculine. But, if you don't want to memorize all of the French nouns with their genders, use these easy steps to guess the gender with 80% accuracy. A noun is feminine if it ends in "-e" or "-ion." The exceptions to this are the endings "-age", "-ège", or "-isme." Nearly every other noun ending is masculine. But, there's much more to this part of French grammar. Learn more about French nouns to have a solid base for the language. French Articles in Grammar As mentioned before, articles are influenced by the gender and number of the noun they represent. But what is an article? Well, it's not part of a newspaper. In English, there are only three articles: "the", "a", and "an." You put these in front of nouns to show how definite it is. In French, there are a lot more French articles. French Definite Articles You use definite articles if the noun is something specific. The English equivalent is "the". There are 4 different definite articles in French, depending on the gender and number of the noun: Singular le / l' les la / l' you use "l" if the noun starts with a vowel or a mute h. Examples: le cheval - the horse l'eau - the water la femme - the woman les yeux - the eyes French Indefinite Articles If you're not sure about the specific noun, you use indefinite articles in front of it. In English, these would be "a" or "an." In French, there are only two indefinite articles, and they're both singular: "un" and "une". "Un" is for masculine nouns, and "une" is for feminine. Examples: un vélo - a bike une voiture - a car Because the French articles change according to gender, they're a reliable signal. If you're not sure what the gender of the noun is, just look at the article in front of it. Learn more about French articles to make sure you never mix them up when you speak French. French Pronouns When you're talking to someone, you probably don't want to call them by their name in every single sentence. The distinction between the two auxiliary verbs is important for the correct formation of the compound tense-aspect forms and is essential to the agreement of the past participle. The past participle is used in three ways in French: as an adjective, in the passive construction, and in the compound tense-aspect constructions. When it is used as an adjective, it follows all the regular adjective agreement rules. In passive constructions, it always agrees with the passive subject. In compound tense-aspect forms, more complicated agreement rules apply, reflecting the subtle priority rules between the attribute meaning (which implies an agreement) and the compound tense construction (which by itself does not imply any agreement). A. The auxiliary verb is avoir. If there is no direct object (the verb is intransitive) or the direct object appears after the past participle, then the past participle does not agree (i.e., it takes the default masculine singular form). (Intransitive) Elles ont dormi. ("They (fem.) slept.")(direct object after verb) Claire a vu deux baleines. ("Claire saw two whales.")If there is a direct object and it appears before the past participle, then the participle must agree with it. Three cases: (pronoun before the auxiliary) Il y avait deux baleines. Claire les a vues. ("There were two whales. Claire saw them.")(clause-initial wh-question element) Quelles baleines Claire a-t-elle vues ? ("Which whales did Claire see?")(relative clause introduced by que) les deux baleines que Claire a vues ("the two whales that Claire saw")The above rule is one of the most difficult in French, and even native speakers have trouble with it, and ignore it in colloquial speech. Since, when spoken, for most verbs, the different forms sound the same (for example, vu vs vue vues "seen" are all pronounced /vɥ/) this is usually not noticeable. There are however, past participles like fait "done" and mis "put" whose feminine forms sound different when spoken, and only the most careful speakers will be heard applying the rule. B. The auxiliary is être, and the verb is reflexive. The past participle agrees with the subject: Elles sont arrivées. ("They (fem.) arrived.") C. The auxiliary is être and the verb is reflexive. The agreement rules are in fact the same as those for structures with avoir in A, keeping in mind that the reflexive pronoun corresponds to either the direct object or the indirect object of the verb. There is no direct object, or the direct object appears after the past participle — no agreement. In these cases, the reflexive pronoun expresses the indirect object. (no direct object) Elles se sont succédé. Nous nous sommes parlé. ("They (fem.) succeeded. We spoke with each other.")(direct object after verb) Elles se sont posé des questions. ("They (fem.) asked each other some questions.")There is a direct object and it appears before the past participle. — The past participle agrees with this object. The first three cases are the same as in A.2 above (the reflexive pronoun is the indirect object). (direct object pronoun) J'ai fait une tarte. Les enfants se la sont partagée. ("I made a pie. The children shared it.")(wh-question) Quelle tarte se sont-ils partagée ? ("Which pie did they share?")(que relative) la tarte que les enfants se sont partagée ("the pie that the children shared") The reflexive pronoun can itself be the direct object, in which case the participle agrees with it (and therefore with the subject). This also includes "inherently reflexive" verbs, for which the reflexive pronoun cannot be interpreted semantically as an object (direct or indirect) of the verb. (ordinary reflexive) Elles se sont suivies. Nous nous sommes salués. ("They (fem.) followed each other. We greeted each other.") (inherently reflexive) Ils se sont moqués de moi. Nous nous sommes souvenus de l'événement. ("They made fun of me. We remembered the event.") (exception: Elles se sont ri du danger. "They (fem.) laughed at the danger.") Romance verbs - shows the development of French verbs from Latin English verbs ^ L. Tasmowski and S. Reinheimer. "Variations dans le radical du verbe roman". In D. Godard (ed). Les langues romanes; Problèmes de la phrase simple. Paris, CNRS Editions, 2003. ^ Langue française-Questions courantes Archived 2011-05-14 at the Wayback Machine ^ Laura K. Lawless, Lawless French. "French Subjunctive - Subjunctif". [1] For a list of words relating to French verbs, see the French verbs category of words in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. VerB2Verbe - French/English verb conjugation with translations Verb Conjugation Trainer by The Bien French French conjugation & grammar of verbs Le Conjugueur - online conjugation for all French verbs Bescherelle - Reference book for French Conjugation Comment-conjuguer.fr - online conjugation for all French verbs and conjugation rules Retrieved from "http://www.comment-conjuger.fr/fr/conjugaison/le-conjugueur" Archived 2013-07-28 at the Wayback Machine French knowledge effortlessly. The following grammatical components are summaries of how they contribute to French grammar overall. We take a deeper look into their construction, conjugation, and cases in separate posts on this blog. Feel free to check those out for an even better understanding of French grammar. It teaches you useful words and phrases. Presented in a natural, everyday context. Spaced out over time, so you absorb your new language organically. It's kind of like learning the words to your new favorite song! You're just one click away from your FREE 7-day trial! The Grammar of French Verbs This is arguably the most important part of French grammar. Every single sentence in French needs to have a verb. Verbs are the words that show the action. Without verbs, you could only talk French in sentence fragments. So make sure you master French verbs, their cases, and their conjugations thoroughly. French verbs have tenses to show the time the action takes place. The three most major tenses are present, past, and future. Additionally, there are other cases and tenses in French verb grammar that specify the nuances of the French language. When you put a French verb into a sentence you always need to conjugate it. That's a clear and constant French grammar rule. But, how you conjugate it depends in the verb, the pronoun, and the tense. There are countless variations of this in French. Read through this ultimate French verb guide to master all of the verb tenses, conjugations, and exceptions. There's also a list of extremely useful verb vocabulary to get you started. The Grammar Behind French Nouns Nouns are the most basic part of French grammar. They're a person, place, thing, or idea. You'll encounter nouns in almost every French sentence. That's why it's important to master this part of French grammar first. In fact, French actually holds nouns as the most important part of a sentence. While the verb gives the sentence its meaning, French uses nominalization to express emphasis. French nouns have two genders: masculine and feminine. The gender (and number) of the nouns influence the conjugation of the articles, pronouns, and adjectives around them. There's no rule that tells you with 100% certainty if a noun is feminine or masculine. But, if you don't want to memorize all of the French nouns with their genders, use these easy steps to guess the gender with 80% accuracy. A noun is feminine if it ends in "-e" or "-ion." The exceptions to this are the endings "-age", "-ège", or "-isme." Nearly every other noun ending is masculine. But, there's much more to this part of French grammar. Learn more about French nouns to have a solid base for the language. French Articles in Grammar As mentioned before, articles are influenced by the gender and number of the noun they represent. But what is an article? Well, it's not part of a newspaper. In English, there are only three articles: "the", "a", and "an." You put these in front of nouns to show how definite it is. In French, there are a lot more French articles. French Definite Articles You use definite articles if the noun is something specific. The English equivalent is "the". There are 4 different definite articles in French, depending on the gender and number of the noun: Singular le / l' les la / l' you use "l" if the noun starts with a vowel or a mute h. Examples: le cheval - the horse l'eau - the water la femme - the woman les yeux - the eyes French Indefinite Articles If you're not sure about the specific noun, you use indefinite articles in front of it. In English, these would be "a" or "an." In French, there are only two indefinite articles, and they're both singular: "un" and "une". "Un" is for masculine nouns, and "une" is for feminine. Examples: un vélo - a bike une voiture - a car Because the French articles change according to gender, they're a reliable signal. If you're not sure what the gender of the noun is, just look at the article in front of it. Learn more about French articles to make sure you never mix them up when you speak French. French Pronouns When you're talking to someone, you probably don't want to call them by their name in every single sentence. The distinction between the two auxiliary verbs is important for the correct formation of the compound tense-aspect forms and is essential to the agreement of the past participle. The past participle is used in three ways in French: as an adjective, in the passive construction, and in the compound tense-aspect constructions. When it is used as an adjective, it follows all the regular adjective agreement rules. In passive constructions, it always agrees with the passive subject. In compound tense-aspect forms, more complicated agreement rules apply, reflecting the subtle priority rules between the attribute meaning (which implies an agreement) and the compound tense construction (which by itself does not imply any agreement). A. The auxiliary verb is avoir. If there is no direct object (the verb is intransitive) or the direct object appears after the past participle, then the past participle does not agree (i.e., it takes the default masculine singular form). (Intransitive) Elles ont dormi. ("They (fem.) slept.")(direct object after verb) Claire a vu deux baleines. ("Claire saw two whales.")If there is a direct object and it appears before the past participle, then the participle must agree with it. Three cases: (pronoun before the auxiliary) Il y avait deux baleines. Claire les a vues. ("There were two whales. Claire saw them.")(clause-initial wh-question element) Quelles baleines Claire a-t-elle vues ? ("Which whales did Claire see?")(relative clause introduced by que) les deux baleines que Claire a vues ("the two whales that Claire saw")The above rule is one of the most difficult in French, and even native speakers have trouble with it, and ignore it in colloquial speech. Since, when spoken, for most verbs, the different forms sound the same (for example, vu vs vue vues "seen" are all pronounced /vɥ/) this is usually not noticeable. There are however, past participles like fait "done" and mis "put" whose feminine forms sound different when spoken, and only the most careful speakers will be heard applying the rule. B. The auxiliary is être, and the verb is reflexive. The past participle agrees with the subject: Elles sont arrivées. ("They (fem.) arrived.") C. The auxiliary is être and the verb is reflexive. The agreement rules are in fact the same as those for structures with avoir in A, keeping in mind that the reflexive pronoun corresponds to either the direct object or the indirect object of the verb. There is no direct object, or the direct object appears after the past participle — no agreement. In these cases, the reflexive pronoun expresses the indirect object. (no direct object) Elles se sont succédé. Nous nous sommes parlé. ("They (fem.) succeeded. We spoke with each other.")(direct object after verb) Elles se sont posé des questions. ("They (fem.) asked each other some questions.")There is a direct object and it appears before the past participle. — The past participle agrees with this object. The first three cases are the same as in A.2 above (the reflexive pronoun is the indirect object). (direct object pronoun) J'ai fait une tarte. Les enfants se la sont partagée. ("I made a pie. The children shared it.")(wh-question) Quelle tarte se sont-ils partagée ? ("Which pie did they share?")(que relative) la tarte que les enfants se sont partagée ("the pie that the children shared") The reflexive pronoun can itself be the direct object, in which case the participle agrees with it (and therefore with the subject). This also includes "inherently reflexive" verbs, for which the reflexive pronoun cannot be interpreted semantically as an object (direct or indirect) of the verb. (ordinary reflexive) Elles se sont suivies. Nous nous sommes salués. ("They (fem.) followed each other. We greeted each other.") (inherently reflexive) Ils se sont moqués de moi. Nous nous sommes souvenus de l'événement. ("They made fun of me. We remembered the event.") (exception: Elles se sont ri du danger. "They (fem.) laughed at the danger.") Romance verbs - shows the development of French verbs from Latin English verbs ^ L. Tasmowski and S. Reinheimer. "Variations dans le radical du verbe roman". In D. Godard (ed). Les langues romanes; Problèmes de la phrase simple. Paris, CNRS Editions, 2003. ^ Langue française-Questions courantes Archived 2011-05-14 at the Wayback Machine ^ Laura K. Lawless, Lawless French. "French Subjunctive - Subjunctif". [1] For a list of words relating to French verbs, see the French verbs category of words in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. VerB2Verbe - French/English verb conjugation with translations Verb Conjugation Trainer by The Bien French French conjugation & grammar of verbs Le Conjugueur - online conjugation for all French verbs Bescherelle - Reference book for French Conjugation Comment-conjuguer.fr - online conjugation for all French verbs and conjugation rules Retrieved from "http://www.comment-conjuger.fr/fr/conjugaison/le-conjugueur" Archived 2013-07-28 at the Wayback Machine French knowledge effortlessly. The following grammatical components are summaries of how they contribute to French grammar overall. We take a deeper look into their construction, conjugation, and cases in separate posts on this blog. Feel free to check those out for an even better understanding of French grammar. It teaches you useful words and phrases. Presented in a natural, everyday context. Spaced out over time, so you absorb your new language organically. It's kind of like learning the words to your new favorite song! You're just one click away from your FREE 7-day trial! The Grammar of French Verbs This is arguably the most important part of French grammar. Every single sentence in French needs to have a verb. Verbs are the words that show the action. Without verbs, you could only talk French in sentence fragments. So make sure you master French verbs, their cases, and their conjugations thoroughly. French verbs have tenses to show the time the action takes place. The three most major tenses are present, past, and future. Additionally, there are other cases and tenses in French verb grammar that specify the nuances of the French language. When you put a French verb into a sentence you always need to conjugate it. That's a clear and constant French grammar rule. But, how you conjugate it depends in the verb, the pronoun, and the tense. There are countless variations of this in French. Read through this ultimate French verb guide to master all of the verb tenses, conjugations, and exceptions. There's also a list of extremely useful verb vocabulary to get you started. The Grammar Behind French Nouns Nouns are the most basic part of French grammar. They're a person, place, thing, or idea. You'll encounter nouns in almost every French sentence. That's why it's important to master this part of French grammar first. In fact, French actually holds nouns as the most important part of a sentence. While the verb gives the sentence its meaning, French uses nominalization to express emphasis. French nouns have two genders: masculine and feminine. The gender (and number) of the nouns influence the conjugation of the articles, pronouns, and adjectives around them. There's no rule that tells you with 100% certainty if a noun is feminine or masculine. But, if you don't want to memorize all of the French nouns with their genders, use these easy steps to guess the gender with 80% accuracy. A noun is feminine if it ends in "-e" or "-ion." The exceptions to this are the endings "-age", "-ège", or "-isme." Nearly every other noun ending is masculine. But, there's much more to this part of French grammar. Learn more about French nouns to have a solid base for the language. French Articles in Grammar As mentioned before, articles are influenced by the gender and number of the noun they represent. But what is an article? Well, it's not part of a newspaper. In English, there are only three articles: "the", "a", and "an." You put these in front of nouns to show how definite it is. In French, there are a lot more French articles. French Definite Articles You use definite articles if the noun is something specific. The English equivalent is "the". There are 4 different definite articles in French, depending on the gender and number of the noun: Singular le / l' les la / l' you use "l" if the noun starts with a vowel or a mute h. Examples: le cheval - the horse l'eau - the water la femme - the woman les yeux - the eyes French Indefinite Articles If you're not sure about the specific noun, you use indefinite articles in front of it. In English, these would be "a" or "an." In French, there are only two indefinite articles, and they're both singular: "un" and "une". "Un" is for masculine nouns, and "une" is for feminine. Examples: un vélo - a bike une voiture - a car Because the French articles change according to gender, they're a reliable signal. If you're not sure what the gender of the noun is, just look at the article in front of it. Learn more about French articles to make sure you never mix them up when you speak French. French Pronouns When you're talking to someone, you probably don't want to call them by their name in every single sentence. The distinction between the two auxiliary verbs is important for the correct formation of the compound tense-aspect forms and is essential to the agreement of the past participle. The past participle is used in three ways in French: as an adjective, in the passive construction, and in the compound tense-aspect constructions. When it is used as an adjective, it follows all the regular adjective agreement rules. In passive constructions, it always agrees with the passive subject. In compound tense-aspect forms, more complicated agreement rules apply, reflecting the subtle priority rules between the attribute meaning (which implies an agreement) and the compound tense construction (which by itself does not imply any agreement). A. The auxiliary verb is avoir. If there is no direct object (the verb is intransitive) or the direct object appears after the past participle, then the past participle does not agree (i.e., it takes the default masculine singular form). (Intransitive) Elles ont dormi. ("They (fem.) slept.")(direct object after verb) Claire a vu deux baleines. ("Claire saw two whales.")If there is a direct object and it appears before the past participle, then the participle must agree with it. Three cases: (pronoun before the auxiliary) Il y avait deux baleines. Claire les a vues. ("There were two whales. Claire saw them.")(clause-initial wh-question element) Quelles baleines Claire a-t-elle vues ? ("Which whales did Claire see?")(relative clause introduced by que) les deux baleines que Claire a vues ("the two whales that Claire saw")The above rule is one of the most difficult in French, and even native speakers have trouble with it, and ignore it in colloquial speech. Since, when spoken, for most verbs, the different forms sound the same (for example, vu vs vue vues "seen" are all pronounced /vɥ/) this is usually not noticeable. There are however, past participles like fait "done" and mis "put" whose feminine forms sound different when spoken, and only the most careful speakers will be heard applying the rule. B. The auxiliary is être, and the verb is reflexive. The past participle agrees with the subject: Elles sont arrivées. ("They (fem.) arrived.") C. The auxiliary is être and the verb is reflexive. The agreement rules are in fact the same as those for structures with avoir in A, keeping in mind that the reflexive pronoun corresponds to either the direct object or the indirect object of the verb. There is no direct object, or the direct object appears after the past participle — no agreement. In these cases, the reflexive pronoun expresses the indirect object. (no direct object) Elles se sont succédé. Nous nous sommes parlé. ("They (fem.) succeeded. We spoke with each other.")(direct object after verb) Elles se sont posé des questions. ("They (fem.) asked each other some questions.")There is a direct object and it appears before the past participle. — The past participle agrees with this object. The first three cases are the same as in A.2 above (the reflexive pronoun is the indirect object). (direct object pronoun) J'ai fait une tarte. Les enfants se la sont partagée. ("I made a pie. The children shared it.")(wh-question) Quelle tarte se sont-ils partagée ? ("Which pie did they share?")(que relative) la tarte que les enfants se sont partagée ("the pie that the children shared") The reflexive pronoun can itself be the direct object, in which case the participle agrees with it (and therefore with the subject). This also includes "inherently reflexive" verbs, for which the reflexive pronoun cannot be interpreted semantically as an object (direct or indirect) of the verb. (ordinary reflexive) Elles se sont suivies. Nous nous sommes salués. ("They (fem.) followed each other. We greeted each other.") (inherently reflexive) Ils se sont moqués de moi. Nous nous sommes souvenus de l'événement. ("They made fun of me. We remembered the event.") (exception: Elles se sont ri du danger. "They (fem.) laughed at the danger.") Romance verbs - shows the development of French verbs from Latin English verbs ^ L. Tasmowski and S. Reinheimer. "Variations dans le radical du verbe roman". In D. Godard (ed). Les langues romanes; Problèmes de la phrase simple. Paris, CNRS Editions, 2003. ^ Langue française-Questions courantes Archived 2011-05-14 at the Wayback Machine ^ Laura K. Lawless, Lawless French. "French Subjunctive - Subjunctif". [1] For a list of words relating to French verbs, see the French verbs category of words in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. VerB2Verbe - French/English verb conjugation with translations Verb Conjugation Trainer by The Bien French French conjugation & grammar of verbs Le Conjugueur - online conjugation for all French verbs Bescherelle - Reference book for French Conjugation Comment-conjuguer.fr - online conjugation for all French verbs and conjugation rules Retrieved from "http://www.comment-conjuger.fr/fr/conjugaison/le-conjugueur" Archived 2013-07-28 at the Wayback Machine French knowledge effortlessly. The following grammatical components are summaries of how they contribute to French grammar overall. We take a deeper look into their construction, conjugation, and cases in separate posts on this blog. Feel free to check those out for an even better understanding of French grammar. It teaches you useful words and phrases. Presented in a natural, everyday context. Spaced out over time, so you absorb your new language organically. It's kind of like learning the words to