INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH VERBS
PRESENT TENSE OF –ER VERBS:
THE FIRST GROUP

Sixth lesson – Sixième lesson
CONTENTS

1. Introduction

2. Present tense: -er verbs

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1. INTRODUCTION

- A verb is a word that expresses an action
  
  ex. : **aller** (to go), **venir** (to come) ...

  or a state of being

  ex. : **être** (to be), **sentir** (to feel) ...

A verb also indicates when the action or the state of being takes place: past tense, present tense or future tense.
1. INTRODUCTION

- The correct conjugated forms of a French verb are obtained from its basic, *unconjugated* form called the *infinitive*. 
1. INTRODUCTION

- In English, the infinitive is formed by adding *to* in front of the verb (*to do, to sing*...).

- In French, the **infinitive** forms are indicated by **verb endings** –*er, -ir and –re*. 
1. INTRODUCTION

- Verbs in –er form the first group. Ex.:
  - Acheter to buy
  - Appeler to call
  - Essayer to try
  - Parler to speak/to talk
  - Préférer to prefer
  - Voyager to travel
1. INTRODUCTION

- Verbs –**ir** form the second group. Ex.:

- Agir  \(\rightarrow\) to act
- Choisir  \(\rightarrow\) to choose
- Courir  \(\rightarrow\) to run
- Finir  \(\rightarrow\) to finish
- Mourir  \(\rightarrow\) to die
- Sentir  \(\rightarrow\) to feel
- Vouloir  \(\rightarrow\) to want
1. INTRODUCTION

- Verbs in -re form the third group. Ex.:
  - Comprendre \(\rightarrow\) to understand
  - Conduire \(\rightarrow\) to drive
  - Entendre \(\rightarrow\) to hear
  - Sourire \(\rightarrow\) to smile
  - Vendre \(\rightarrow\) to sell
  - Vivre \(\rightarrow\) to live
1. INTRODUCTION

- It is useful to classify verbs in these three groups because **different** conjugation **rules apply to each of them**.

- The **irregular verbs être, avoir and aller** are not a part of a group.
2. THE PRESENT TENSE: -ER VERBS

To learn how to conjugate regular and irregular –er verbs, the most common category, let’s use these verbs below as examples:

a) chanter to sing
b) appeler to call
c) acheter to buy
d) préférer to prefer
e) peser to weigh
f) essayer to try
g) voyager to travel
3. Conjugation of –ER verbs

To conjugate a regular –er verb, remove its infinitive ending (-er) and then add the appropriate endings to the root.

A. Ex.: chanter ➔ chant-
3. **Conjugation of –ER verbs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st person</td>
<td>Je <em>chante</em></td>
<td>Nous <em>chantons</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd person</td>
<td>Tu <em>chantes</em></td>
<td>Vous <em>chantez</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd person</td>
<td>Il/elle/on <em>chante</em></td>
<td>Ils/elles <em>chantent</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. **Conjugation of –ER verbs**

- Other useful –er verbs conjugated like chanter (to sing)

- Aimer: to love/to like
- Étudier: to study
- Habiter: to live
- Parler: to talk
- Travailler: to work
3. **Conjugation of –ER verbs**

- Note: the verb forms: *je chante, tu chantes, il/elle/on chante, ils/elles chantent* are pronounced exactly in the same way.
- This means the **final –e, -s and –ent are silent**.

- This rule applies to all the above verbs and to those similar to them.
4. **Special Characteristics of –er Verbs**

**B. Verbs ending in –eler**

(Ex. : s’appeler: je m’appelle… *my name is...*)

its derivatives, similar verbs and

verbs ending in –eter (such as jeter – *to throw*).
4. **Special characteristics of –er verbs**

- When conjugating these verbs in the present tense, double the root’s consonnants –l / –t.

- This rule doesn’t concern the plural **nous** (we) and **vous** (you).
## 4. Special Characteristics of –er Verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeler (to call)</th>
<th>Jeter (to throw)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J’appelle</td>
<td>Je jette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu appelles</td>
<td>Tu jettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il/elle/on appelle</td>
<td>Il/elle/on jette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nous appelons</td>
<td>Nous jetons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vous appelez</td>
<td>Vous jetez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ils/elles appellent</td>
<td>Ils/elles jettent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. **Special Characteristics of –ER Verbs**

- Here are some other verbs conjugated like **appeler** and **jeter**
  - Rappeler
  - Épeler
  - Feuilleter
  - Rejeter
  - Projeter
  - to call back
  - to spell
  - to page through
  - to reject
  - to plan
4. **Special Characteristics of –er Verbs**

C. Some verbs ending in –eler and –eter **do not double** the –l or –t before the silent final –e (acheter – to buy / peler – to peel)

The –e in the last syllable of the root changes to –è in all the conjugated forms, except in the plural (**nous** and **vous**)

- *Ex.*: acheter ➔ j’achète (to buy)
### 4. Special Characteristics of –er Verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acheter (to buy)</th>
<th>Geler (to freeze)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J’achète</td>
<td>Je gèle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu achètes</td>
<td>Tu gèles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il/elle/on achète</td>
<td>Il/elle/on gèle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nous achetons</td>
<td>Nous gelons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vous achetez</td>
<td>Vous gelez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ils/elles achètent</td>
<td>Ils/elles gèlent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Special characteristics of –er verbs

There are 22 irregular verbs like acheter and geler, here are five examples:

- Fileter: to fillet, to thread
- Modeler: to model, to shape
- Peler: to peel
- Ciseler: to chisel
- Écarteler: to quarter
4. Special characteristics of –er verbs

D. Verbs like préférer (to prefer).

- For these verbs, the – é in the last syllable of the root changes to an –è, except for the first and second person plural (nous and vous)
4. Special characteristics of –er verbs

- Préférer - to prefer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Je préfère</td>
<td>Nous préférons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu préfères</td>
<td>Vous préférez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il/elle/on préfère</td>
<td>Ils/elles préfèrent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- Other verbs like préférer
  - Considérer
  - Espérer
  - Régler
  - Répéter
  - Récupérer
  - to consider
  - to hope
  - to regulate, to pay
  - to repeat
  - to recover
4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

E. Verbs ending in –ecer, -emer, -eper, -erer, -eser, -ever and –evrer, have a silent –e before the last syllable (Ex.: peser-to weigh).

- The silent –e in the last syllable of the root’s form changes to –è, except for the plural (nous and vous)
4. **Special characteristics of –er verbs**

- **Peser** – *to weigh*

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Je</td>
<td><strong>pèse</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nous pesons</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu</td>
<td><strong>pèses</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vous pesez</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il/elle/on</td>
<td><strong>pèse</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ils/elles pèsent</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Special characteristics of –er verbs

- Other verbs conjugated like *peser*:
  - *Amener* to bring
  - *Se lever* to get up
  - *Promener* to walk
  - *Ramener* to bring back
  - *Élever* to raise
4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

F. Verbs ending in –ayer, such as essayer (to try) and payer (to pay) change their –y to –i in all persons: except the first and second person plural (nous and vous).
4. **Special Characteristics of –er Verbs**

- **Essayer** - to try

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J’essaie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nous essayons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu essais</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vous essayez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il/elle/on essaie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ils/elles essaient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Special characteristics of –er verbs

G. Verbs ending in –ger like voyager (to travel) take an –e after the –g in the present tense, so the pronunciation of –g remains soft.

- Ex. : voyager ➔ nous voyagesons
4. **Special Characteristics of –ER Verbs**

- **Voyager** - to travel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Je</td>
<td>voyage</td>
<td>voyageons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu</td>
<td>voyages</td>
<td>voyagez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il/elle/on</td>
<td>voyage</td>
<td>voyagent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF –ER VERBS

- Similarly, in verbs ending in –cer, such as commencer (to start), the –c in the noun form changes to –ç to keep the soft c sound (nous commençons)

- *Ex. : commencer ➔ nous commençons*
4. **Special characteristics of –er verbs**

- Other **verbs in this category** include:
  - **Corriger** to correct
  - **Exiger** to demand, to require
  - **Manger** to eat
  - **Nager** to swim
  - **Partager** to share
In all these cases, there is a general conjugation pattern:

- 1st person sg ➔ -e
- 2nd person sg ➔ -es
- 3rd person sg ➔ -e
- 1st person pl ➔ -ons
- 2nd person pl ➔ -ez
- 3rd person pl ➔ -ent
C’est tout pour aujourd’hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!