

# Leçon 15: Verb Forms

As you know, many French verbs end in ER in the infinitive. The **INFINITIVE** is the basic form of a verb, the one you would look up in a dictionary. Once you know all the forms of one ER verb, you know how to get the forms of the rest.

The present tense of ER verbs is formed by taking the ER off the infinitive to get the **STEM**, then adding **ENDINGS** based on the subject.

The present tense endings for ER verbs are:

Je : E	Nous : ONS
Tu : ES	Vous : EZ
Il / Elle : E	Ils / Elles : ENT

Let's take, for example, the French verb **parler**

Infinitive = **PARLER**

Remove the ER to get the stem => **PARL**

Add the endings:

Je <b>PARLE</b>	Nous <b>PARLONS</b>
Tu <b>PARLES</b>	Vous <b>PARLEZ</b>
Il <b>PARLE</b>	Ils <b>PARLENT</b>
Elle <b>PARLE</b>	Elles <b>PARLENT</b>

A chart, like the one above, showing all the forms of a verb is called a **CONJUGATION**.

Verbs that follow a predictable pattern, like the ER verbs, are called **REGULAR VERBS**.

NOTE:

- (1) when the subject is not a pronoun, but is a noun (*Jean-Claude, le crayon, les pupitres*), use the third person endings E or ENT depending on whether the noun is singular or plural.
- (2) Because the ENT ending is silent, the **je, tu, il, elle, ils, and elles** forms of the verb all sound alike. Only the **nous** and **vous** forms have a difference you can hear.
- (3) Verbs that have a G on the end of their stem have one special form: the **nous** form adds EONS: **Nous mangeons, nous nageons** for example.

# Leçon 15: Negatives

Compare the affirmative (positive) and negative forms of **parler**:

<b>Je parle.</b>	<b>Je ne parle pas.</b>
<b>Tu parles.</b>	<b>Tu ne parles pas.</b>
<b>Il parle.</b>	<b>Il ne parle pas.</b>
<b>Elle parle.</b>	<b>Elle ne parle pas.</b>
<b>Nous parlons.</b>	<b>Nous ne parlons pas.</b>
<b>Vous parlez.</b>	<b>Vous ne parlez pas.</b>
<b>Ils parlent.</b>	<b>Ils ne parlent pas.</b>
<b>Elles parlent.</b>	<b>Elles ne parlent pas.</b>

Remember, negatives in French follow this pattern:

**SUBJECT + ne + VERB + pas** (ne becomes **n'** before vowels)

**Il ne travaille pas.**  
**Ils n'écoutent pas.**  
**Elle ne chante pas bien.**

In the present tense, French verbs have several English translations (Here's a case where French is simpler, they only have one way to do what we have two or three different forms for):

**Je joue au tennis.** = I play tennis OR  
I do play tennis. OR  
I am playing tennis.

**Je ne joue pas au tennis.** = I do not play tennis (I don't play tennis) OR  
I am not playing tennis (I'm not playing tennis)

## **OTHER FRENCH NEGATIVES:**

<b>Ne ... pas</b>	not	<b><i>Je ne chante pas bien.</i></b>
<b>Ne ... rien</b>	nothing	<b><i>Je ne regarde rien.</i></b>
<b>Ne ... jamais</b>	never	<b><i>Je n'étudie jamais.</i></b>
<b>Ne ... personne</b>	nobody	<b><i>Je ne téléphone personne.</i></b>