

## VERBS 1: PRESENT TENSE

A **verb** is a word which describes an action, eg. **to sing**, **to dance** etc. When you look up a verb in your *Chambers Harrap's French School Dictionary*, you will see **verb** in blue next to the word.

➔ See page 304 of your *Chambers Harrap's French School Dictionary* for information on the present tense of French verbs.

### INFINITIVES

The **infinitive** of a verb in English has “to” in front of the verb, eg. **to do**, **to play**, **to jump**, **to work** etc.

The infinitives of French verbs end in three different ways: “-er”, “-ir” and “-re”. You need to know the infinitives, as this is how you will find the verbs in your dictionary.

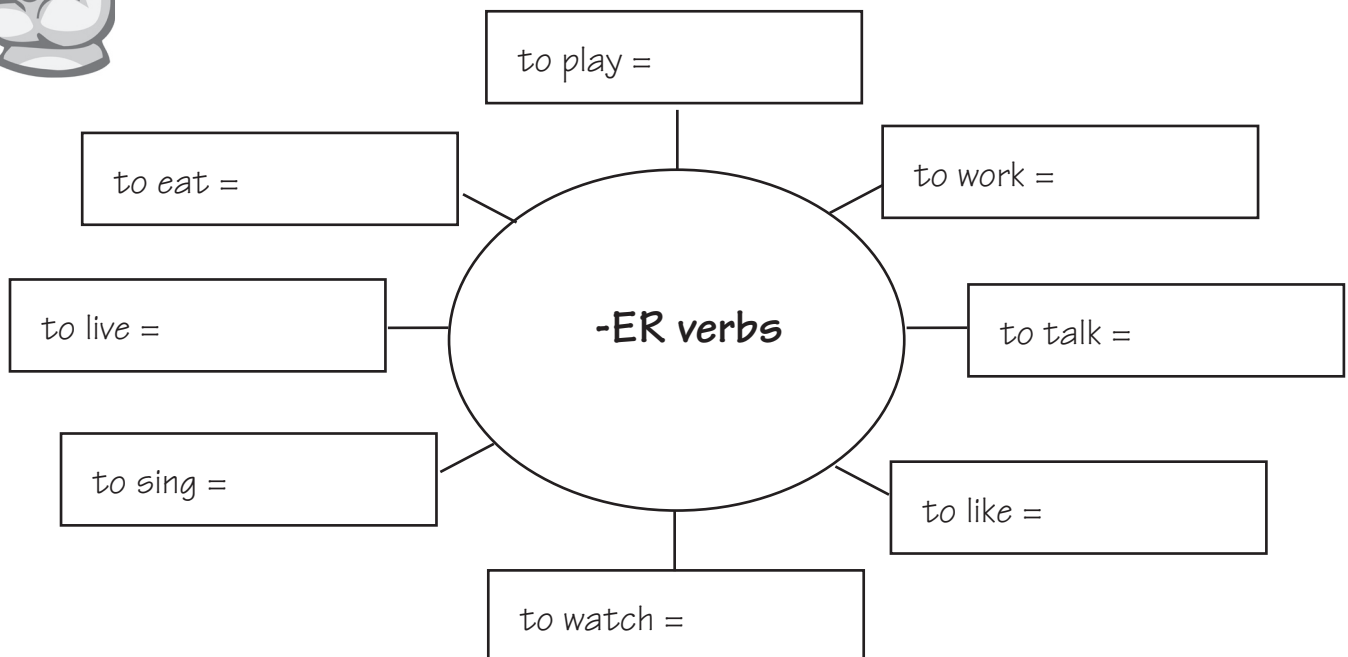
### “-ER” Verbs

Let's look first at the biggest group: “-er” verbs. You will find the present tense of these verbs on page 306 of your *Chambers Harrap's French School Dictionary*.

Using your dictionary to help you, find the infinitives of the following verbs.



Remember all the words below are **verbs** and will end in “-er”. **DO NOT LOOK UP** the “to” part in English.



To form the present tense of regular “-er” verbs , remove “er” and add the following endings: **-e, -es, -e, -ons, -ez, -ent**

## MIX AND MATCH

Make six correct sentences by matching the words on the left with the phrases on the right. See page 304 and 306 (*The Present Tense*) of your *Chambers Harrap's French School Dictionary* if you need help.



Be careful with the words and phrases marked \*. You will have to decide which pronoun (je, tu, il/elle/on, nous, vous, elles) they correspond to.

|                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tu                | jouons au foot tous les jours. |
| *Ma mère          | regardent la télé.             |
| Je                | travaille comme professeur.    |
| *Mes sœurs        | parle français.                |
| *Mon frère et moi | manges un sandwich.            |
| Vous              | habitez en France.             |

*Note: A line connects 'Tu' to 'manges un sandwich'.*

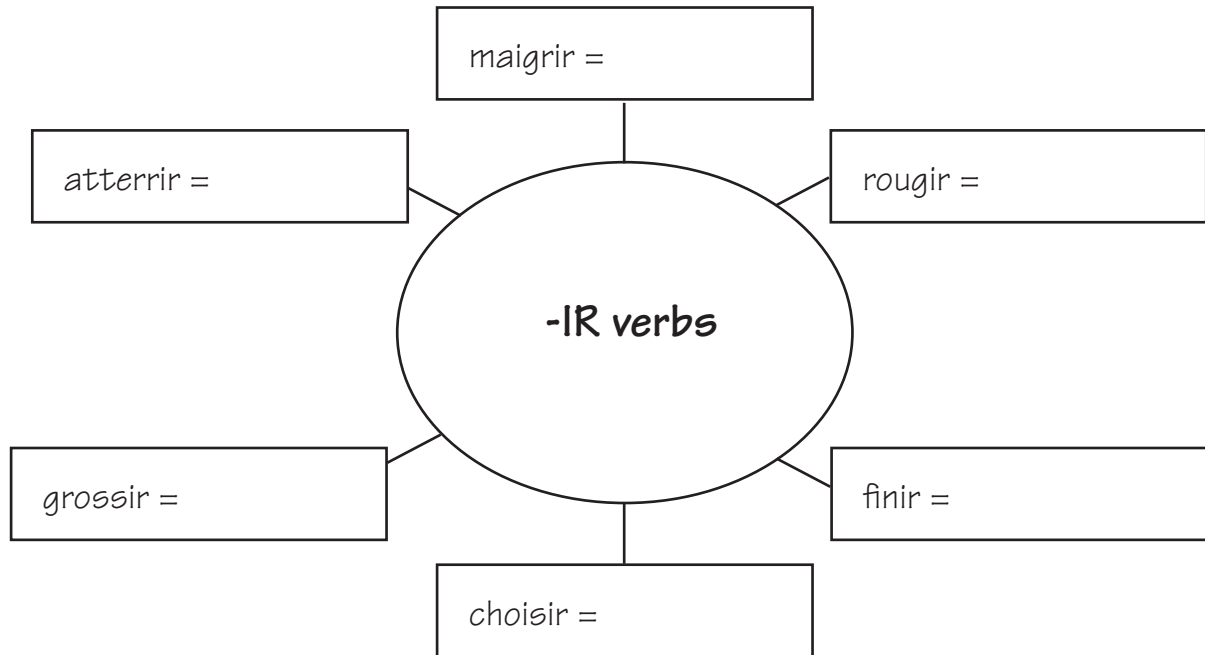


Be careful: some regular “-er” verbs have slight spelling changes in the present tense. You will find more information on these verbs on page 310 of your *Chambers Harrap's French School Dictionary*.

## “-IR” Verbs

The next group we will look at are “-ir” verbs. You will find the present tense of these verbs on page 307 in your *Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary*.

Using your dictionary to help you, find the English meanings of the following verbs.



To form the present tense of regular “-ir” verbs, remove “ir” and add the following endings: **-is, -is, -it -issons, -issez, -issent**

### FILL IN THE GAPS

Add the endings of the following verbs. See page 304 and 307 (*The Present Tense*) of your *Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary* if you need help. If you fancy a little challenge, try covering up the endings above and completing the gaps from memory.

- Vous fin\_ \_ \_ \_ de travailler à 20 heures.
- Je roug\_ \_ quand je suis embarrassée.
- L’avion atterr\_ \_ à 18 heures.
- Ma sœur et moi gross\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ quand nous mangeons trop de chocolat.
- Tu chois\_ \_ toujours le rouge.
- Les ours maigr\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ beaucoup pendant l’hiver.

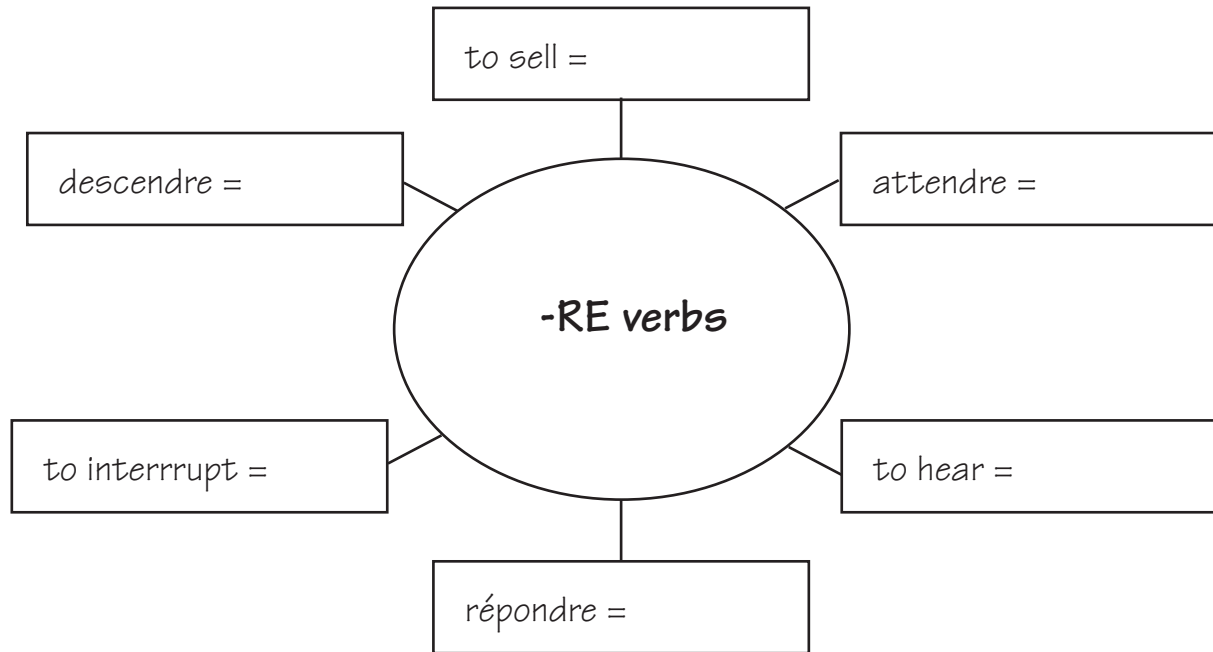


Optional: using your dictionary if you need to, translate the above sentences into English.

## “-RE” Verbs

The final group of regular verbs are “-re” verbs. You will find the present tense of these verbs on page 308 in your *Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary*.

Using your dictionary to help you, find the English and the French meanings of the following verbs.



To form the present tense of regular “-re” verbs, remove “re” and add the following endings: **-s, -s, - , -ons, -ez, -ent**

## VERB CHOICE

Circle the correct part of the verb in the following sentences. See page 304 and 308 (*The Present Tense*) of your *Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary* if you need help.

- Je répond / répons / réponds toujours au téléphone.
- Ma mère et moi attendez / attends / attendons le bus
- Elle vendent / vends / vend sa voiture
- Vous entends / entendez / entendons les oiseaux?
- Mes frères descendent / descendons / descend les escaliers.



Optional: using your dictionary if you need to, translate the above sentences into English.

## DICTIONARY WORKSHEET 8

### **-ER, -IR, -RE???**

Now you have had lots of practice with the three groups of verbs and know the endings really well, here is a little exercise to test yourself on the infinitives. Remember you can find the present tense endings on the previous worksheets and on pages 306, 307 and 308 of your *Chambers Harrap's French School Dictionary*.

Look at the following sentences. Underline the verb in each sentence, decide if it is an “-er”, “-ir” or “-re” verb and write the infinitive and English meaning in the spaces provided. Check the infinitives in your dictionary if you're not sure.

- Mon petit frère grandit vite.

infinitive: ..... (to .....)

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- Nous rendons les clés cet après-midi.

infinitive: ..... (to .....)

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- Ils bâtissent une maison.

infinitive: ..... (to .....)

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- Tu perds toujours aux échecs.

infinitive: ..... (to .....)

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- Ma mère et moi cherchons la gare.

infinitive:..... (to .....)

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- Les fleurs fleurissent au printemps.

infinitive: ..... (to .....)

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- J'habite une grande maison en Écosse.

infinitive: ..... (to .....)

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- Mes frères aident avec le ménage.

infinitive: ..... (to .....)

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Optional: with the help of your dictionary and your teacher, you may wish to translate the above sentences into English. Write the translation on the line provided.

## REFLEXIVE VERBS

Reflexive verbs have the usual pronouns (**je, tu, il/elle/on, nous, vous, ils/elles**), but they also have an extra pronoun.

This is called a **reflexive pronoun**. They are **me, te, se, nous, vous, se**.

eg. **se laver**

je **me** lave

tu **te** laves

il/elle/on **se** lave

nous **nous** lavons

vous **vous** lavez

ils/elles **se** lavent

➔ See page *xii* and 309 of your *Chambers Harrap's French School Dictionary* for more information on reflexive verbs.

In your dictionary reflexive verbs are written with “**se**” before the infinitive. However, you must look up the main verb first.

eg. If you look up “**laver**” you will find “*verb to wash*”  
If you look further down the page you will see “*reflexive verb se laver*”.

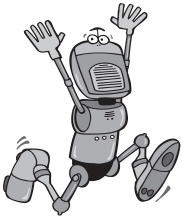
Using page 309 of your *Chambers Harrap's French School Dictionary* to help you, rewrite these sentences putting the reflexive verb into the correct form.

- Je (*se doucher*) tous les matins.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Ma sœur (*se lever*) à 8 heures du matin. (Careful: you need to add an accent here)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Mes frères (*se réveiller*) à 6 heures et demie.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Nous (*se détendre*) après le travail.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Vous (*se coucher*) à quelle heure ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Tu (*se laver*) avant le petit déjeuner ?  
\_\_\_\_\_



Optional: with the help of your dictionary and your teacher, you may wish to translate the above sentences into English.

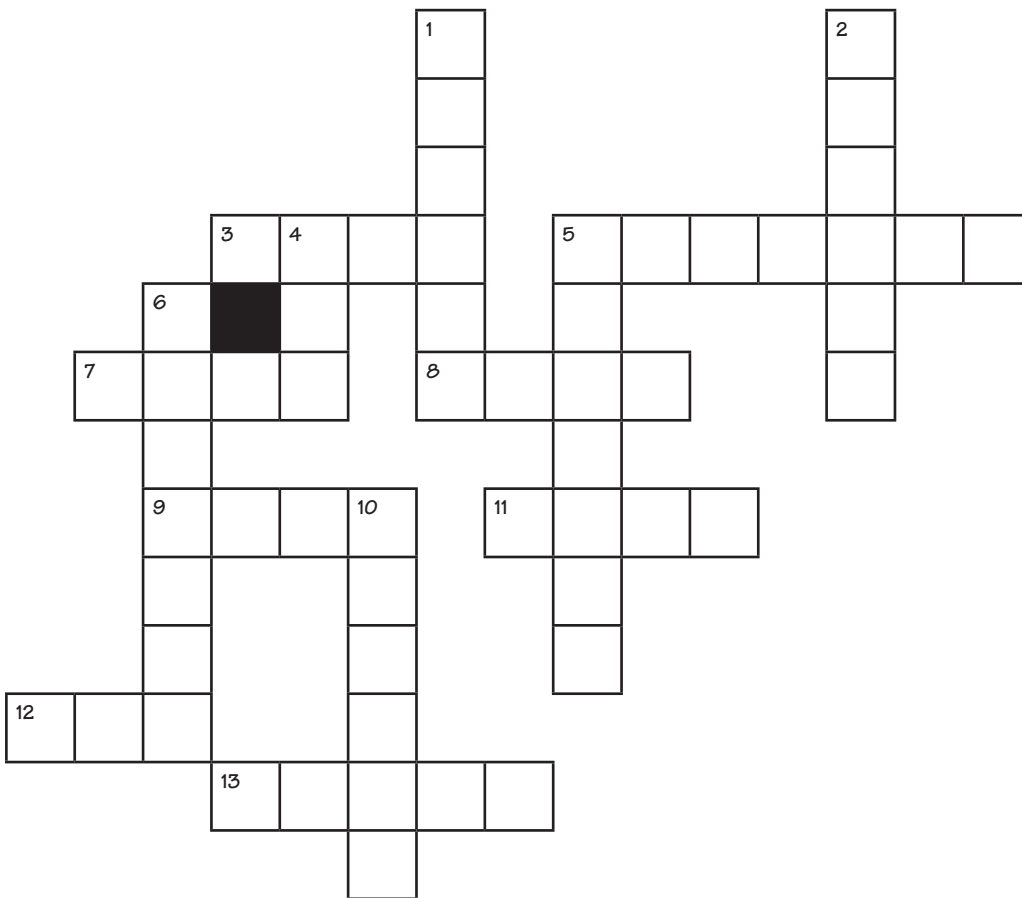
## IRREGULAR VERBS



Bad news: many verbs in French are irregular and you will just have to learn the endings off by heart.

➔ See pages 311-325 in your *Chambers Harrap's French School Dictionary* for the present tense of these irregular verbs.

Just for fun, here is a little crossword to help you remember some of the more common ones.



Across

3. They go = Ils \_\_\_\_\_
5. We are sleeping = Nous \_\_\_\_\_
7. She wants = Elle \_\_\_\_\_
8. I am = Je \_\_\_\_\_
9. I am going = Je \_\_\_\_\_
11. I put = Je \_\_\_\_\_
12. He's reading = Il \_\_\_\_\_
13. You are coming = Tu \_\_\_\_\_

Down

1. You do = Vous \_\_\_\_\_
2. We drink = Nous \_\_\_\_\_
4. They have = Ils \_\_\_\_\_
5. They have to = Elles \_\_\_\_\_
6. They can = Elles \_\_\_\_\_
10. We are = Nous \_\_\_\_\_