

There are three major groups of regular verbs in French: verbs with infinitives ending in **-er**, verbs with infinitives ending in **-ir**, and verbs with infinitives ending in **-re**. Since **-er** verbs are the most numerous, they are considered the first conjugation. To conjugate these verbs, drop the **-er** from the infinitive to form the stem. Next, add the **-er** endings to the stem. Different tenses have different endings.

The endings given below (**-e**, **-es**, **-e**, **-ons**, **-ez**, **-ent**) are for forming the present tense. The endings (**-e**, **-es**, **-e**, and **-ent**) are all silent. The only endings that are pronounced are the nous (**-ons**) and the vous (**-ez**) endings. The four silent endings form a boot shape in the verb conjugation.



parler 'to speak'	
je parl e	nous parl ons
tu parl es	vous parl ez
il/elle/on parl e	ils/elles parl ent
past participle: parlé	

Listen carefully to the following sentences. Note that the pronunciation of each of the verbs is the same even though the conjugations are spelled differently.

Tex, il **parle** français? Mais c'est un tatou.

Tex: Bien sûr je **parle** français et Tammy, elle aussi, elle **parle** français.

Eh bien dis donc, même les tatous **parlent** français au Texas?

Tex speaks French? But he's an armadillo.

Tex: Of course, I speak French and Tammy, too, she speaks French.

Well, I'll bet, even the armadillos speak French in Texas?

Here is a list of common **-er** verbs:

adorer, to adore

aimer, to like

aimer mieux, to prefer

chanter, to sing

chercher, to look for

danser, to dance

demander, to ask

détester, to hate, to detest

donner, to give

écouter, to listen to

étudier, to study

habiter, to live

jouer, to play

montrer, to show

présenter, to introduce

regarder, to watch

rencontrer, to meet (by chance)

rester, to stay, remain

téléphoner, to telephone

travailler, to work

trouver, to find

Je changes to **j'** before a verb starting with a vowel or a silent **h** (ex. **j'**adore, **j'**habite). This phenomenon is known as **élision**. Listen to the following sentences. Can you hear the **élision** in the first two examples?

Tex: **J'**adore la musique rap et **j'**écoute souvent de la musique dans les clubs.

I love rap music and I often listen to music in clubs.



Je chante et je danse aussi.

I sing and I dance, too.

LA MUSIQUE RAP

Note also that the **s** in plural pronouns (**nous**, **vous**, and **ils/elles**) is usually silent except when it is followed by a verb that begins with a vowel sound. In such a case the silent **s** is pronounced as a /z/ and links the pronoun to the verb. This phenomenon is called **liaison** ('linking') and is very characteristic of French. Listen carefully to the sentences below. Which sentences contain examples of **liaison**?



Tex et Tammy, ils **écoutent** de la musique cadienne avec Paw-Paw!

Tex and Tammy, they listen to Cajun music with Paw-Paw!

Tammy: Nous **adorons** danser.

Tammy: We love to dance.

Tex: Oui, oui, c'est vrai. Nous **dansons** beaucoup.

Tex: Yes, yes, that's true. We dance a lot.



exercices

fill in the blanks






Give the correct form of the verb indicated in parentheses.

1. Tex et Tammy, ils _____ à Austin. (habiter)
2. Tammy _____ le français. (étudier)
3. Je _____ un peu. (chanter)
4. J' _____ la musique française. (adorer)
5. Nous _____ au foot. (jouer)
6. Vous _____ la musique texane? (aimer)
7. Quelle sorte de musique est-ce que tu _____? (aimer)
8. Tammy _____ les sports. (détester)
9. Joe-Bob _____ de la guitare. (jouer)
10. Est-ce que tu _____ du piano? (jouer)
11. Joe-Bob _____ son ami Corey. (chercher)
12. Tammy et Bette _____ la télévision. (regarder)

listening comprehension

Listen to the following sentences and decide if they refer to Tex (singular), Tex and Tammy (plural) -- or if it's impossible to tell. Hint: Pay close attention to liaison between subject pronoun and verb.

1. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer
2. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer
3. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer
4. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer
5. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer
6. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer
7. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer

-  8. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer
-  9. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer
-  10. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer
-  11. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer
-  12. ___Tex ___Tex et Tammy ___impossible à distinguer