

# LSCC GCSE French Knowledge organiser

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### What are articles?

Articles are the little words that come before nouns, e.g. 'the', 'a', 'some'.

### When do I use them and why are they important?

In French, nouns are almost always used with an article in front of them. So every time you speak or write, you need to use articles. If you learn a new noun with its article, you will also learn whether it is masculine or feminine.

### Things to look out for

Sometimes you need to use an article in French where there is none in English. For example,

- when you are talking about likes/dislikes: *J'aime **les** bananes.* I like bananas.
- when you are talking about what you eat/drink: *Je mange **du** pain.* I eat bread.

### How do they work?

- The article used depends on whether the noun is masculine, feminine or plural. Here are the articles:

	masculine nouns	feminine nouns	plural nouns
the	<i>le</i>	<i>la</i>	<i>les</i>
a	<i>un</i>	<i>une</i>	–
some	<i>du</i>	<i>de la</i>	<i>des</i>

- If a noun begins with a vowel or *h*, *le* and *la* shorten to *l'*, and the word for 'some' is *de l'*.  
*L'hôtel est grand.* The hotel is big.  
*Je bois **de l'**eau.* I drink some water.
- After *pas*, you use *de*.  
*Je n'ai pas **de** stylo.* I haven't got a pen.

Try for yourself, bring your work to be marked by your French teacher.

**1 Choose the correct article to complete each French sentence.**

- 1 The book is interesting. *Le / Un / Du* livre est intéressant.
- 2 I have the books. *J'ai le / la / les* livres.
- 3 It's a mistake. *C'est la / une / des* erreur.
- 4 There are some mistakes. *Il y a la / une / des* erreurs.
- 5 The mistake is important. *La / L' / Une* erreur est importante.
- 6 I love French. *J'adore le / les / un* français.
- 7 He hates spiders. *Il déteste le / des / les* araignées.
- 8 She is drinking tea. *Elle boit du / les / de l'* thé.
- 9 Do you like maths? *Tu aimes le / des / les* maths?
- 10 I haven't got a sister. *Je n'ai pas les / une / de* sœur.

**2 Write these in French. The noun you need is gâteau (m) (plural gâteaux).**

- |              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1 a cake     | 5 some cake               |
| 2 the cake   | 6 I love cakes.           |
| 3 the cakes  | 7 I am eating cake.       |
| 4 some cakes | 8 I haven't got any cake! |

# Adjectives

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z6n4t39/revision/1>

## How do they work?

- To make an adjective agree with a noun, change the ending of the adjective according to the gender of the noun, and whether the noun is singular or plural.

masculine	feminine	masc plural	fem plural
<i>un vase noir</i>	<i>une table noire</i>	<i>des vases noirs</i>	<i>des tables noires</i>

- Many adjectives are irregular and follow a different pattern. Here are some examples:

ends in ...	masc	fem	ends in ...	masc	fem
<b>-eux</b>	<i>heureux</i>	<i>heureuse</i>	<b>-os</b>	<i>gros</i>	<i>grosse</i>
<b>-eur</b>	<i>travailleur</i>	<i>travailleuse</i>	<b>-on</b>	<i>bon</i>	<i>bonne</i>
<b>-anc</b>	<i>blanc</i>	<i>blanche</i>	<b>-il</b>	<i>gentil</i>	<i>gentille</i>
<b>-f</b>	<i>actif</i>	<i>active</i>	<b>-ien</b>	<i>italien</i>	<i>italienne</i>

- Some adjectives never change, e.g. *sympa*, *cool*, *super*, *marron*.
- Most adjectives come after the noun. However, these common adjectives come before the noun:  
*grand* (big)    *petit* (small)    *nouveau* (new)    *vieux* (old)    *beau* (beautiful)  
*joli* (pretty)    *jeune* (young)    *bon* (good)    *mauvais* (bad)    *haut* (high)  
e.g. *un bon étudiant*.

## What are they and why are they important?

Adjectives are describing words like 'green' or 'interesting'. Use them to give descriptions and opinions.

### Things to look out for

- In English, adjectives don't change: 'green' is always just 'green'. In French, most adjectives change their spelling depending on the noun they are describing. So if you are saying something is 'green' in French, you might need to use *vert*, *verte*, *verts* or *vertes*. This is called 'adjectival agreement'.
- But most French adjectives come after the noun (e.g. *le ballon rouge*).

Try for yourself, bring your work to be marked by your French teacher.

**1 Choose the correct form of the adjective to complete each sentence.**

1 Mon frère est **grand / grande**.

2 Ma sœur est **joli / jolie**.

3 Mes frères sont **absent / absents**.

4 Mes sœurs sont **amusants / amusantes**.

5 Nous sommes **contente / contents**.

6 J'ai les cheveux **blond / blonds**.

**2 Copy out the text, changing the adjectives in the description so that they agree.**

Ma prof (*préféré*) s'appelle Madame Black. Elle est (*amusant*) mais parfois (*sévère*): quand les élèves sont (*méchant*), elle devient (*furieux*). Mais en général, elle est (*compréhensif*) et (*aimable*). Ma copine Anna n'est pas très (*travailleur*) et de temps en temps, elle est (*agaçant*) mais elle est (*gentil*).



## Comparatives and superlatives

### What are these and when are they used?

The comparative form of adjectives is used to compare things, e.g. 'x is smaller than y'. The superlative is used to say something is 'the smallest', 'most popular', 'best', etc.

### Why are they important?

Comparatives and superlatives make descriptions more detailed and interesting.

### Things to look out for

When you are using the comparative or superlative forms of adjectives, you need to make the adjective agree with the noun as usual.

### How do comparatives work?

- Use *plus ... que* (more ... than) around the adjective.  
*L'anglais est **plus utile que** les maths.* English is more useful than maths.  
*La France est **plus grande que** l'Italie.* France is bigger than Italy.
- Just like in English ('good' → 'better'), *bon* is irregular: the comparative of *bon* (good) is *meilleur* (better).
- *Moins ... que* means less ... than.  
*Il est **moins fort que** moi.* He is less strong than me/not as strong as me.
- *Aussi ... que* means just as ... as.  
*Elle est **aussi grande que** moi.* She is just as tall as me.

## How do superlatives work?

- Use *le/la/les plus* (the most ...) + the adjective.  
*la ville **la plus importante*** the most important town    *le garçon **le plus bête*** the silliest boy
- *Le/la/les* agrees with the noun.  
*les animaux **les plus rapides*** the fastest animals
- If an adjective normally comes before the noun, the superlative also comes first.  
***le plus grand** problème* the biggest problem
- To say 'the best', use *le/la/les meilleur(e)(s)*  
*C'est **la meilleure** chanson.* It's the best song.

### 1 Translate these sentences into English, and note if they are true or false.

- 1 La France est plus grande que l'Irlande.
- 2 Les serpents sont plus dangereux que les chats.
- 3 Prince William est plus riche que moi.
- 4 Les carottes sont meilleures que les bonbons.
- 5 Londres est moins grand que Manchester.
- 6 Bart Simpson est aussi intelligent que Lisa.



## Possessive adjectives

### What are these, when are they used and why are they important?

Possessive adjectives are words like 'my', 'your' and 'his'. They are used to say who things belong to.

### Things to look out for

- In English, there is only one word for 'my': 'my brother', 'my sister', 'my parents'. In French, there are three different words for 'my': **mon** frère, **ma** sœur, **mes** parents. The possessive adjective needs to agree with the noun it comes before.
- Another thing to watch out for is that, in English, we use the words 'his' and 'her'. In French, there is one set of words which can mean either 'his' or 'her'.  
*Il aime son père.* He loves **his** father.    *Elle aime son père.* She loves **her** father.

### How do they work?

- Here are the possessive adjectives:

	<b>masculine</b>	<b>feminine</b>	<b>plural</b>
my	<i>mon</i>	<i>ma</i>	<i>mes</i>
your (friend)	<i>ton</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>tes</i>
his/her/one's	<i>son</i>	<i>sa</i>	<i>ses</i>
our	<i>notre</i>		<i>nos</i>
your (formal)	<i>votre</i>		<i>vos</i>
their	<i>leur</i>		<i>leurs</i>

**mon** papa my dad    **ma** maman my mum    **mes** parents my parents

- Before a singular noun starting with a vowel or *h*, you always use *mon/ton/son*, even if the noun is feminine:  
*mon amie* my friend    *son école* his school

Prepositions:  
Giving the location of  
someone or something

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z76b2sg/revision/1>

### What are these and when do I use them?

Prepositions are small words like 'in', 'after' and 'with'. They tell you where things are (e.g. '**on** the table', '**in** Ipswich') or give you some extra information (e.g. '**with** the man', '**after** the film', '**at** nine o'clock').

### Why are they important?

Prepositions help you give details and link elements of your sentences together.

### Things to look out for

Many prepositions are easy to use. Others, like *à* and prepositions that include *de*, need more care.

### How do they work?

- These prepositions just slot into your sentence before a noun:

<i>dans</i>	in	<i>sur</i>	on	<i>contre</i>	against	<i>avant</i>	before
<i>devant</i>	in front of	<i>sous</i>	under	<i>avec</i>	with	<i>après</i>	after
<i>derrière</i>	behind	<i>vers</i>	towards	<i>sans</i>	without	<i>pendant</i>	during
<i>entre</i>	between	<i>pour</i>	for	<i>chez</i>	at ...'s house	<i>depuis</i>	since

- The preposition *à* means 'at' or 'to'. With the name of a town, it can also mean 'in'. Be careful when *à* comes before *le* or *les*:

*à + le* → *au*    *Je vais **au** parc.* I go **to the** park.

*à + les* → *aux*    *Je suis **aux** magasins.* I am **at the** shops.

- Some prepositions consist of more than one word:

<i>à côté de</i>	<i>près de</i>	<i>en face de</i>	<i>à cause de</i>	<i>au lieu de</i>
next to	near	opposite	because of	instead of

Be careful when these prepositions come before *le* or *les*:

*de + le* → *du*    *Il est **en face du** restaurant.* It's **opposite the** restaurant.

*de + les* → *des*    *C'est **à cause des** enfants.* It's **because of** the children.

Try for yourself, bring your work to be marked by your French teacher.

### 1 Alex has lost his keys. Where has he looked for them? Write the six places in English.

J'ai cherché mes clefs derrière la télé, sur la table et dans le garage.  
J'ai cherché aussi sous le lit, devant la porte et entre les livres.

### 2 Complete each sentence with suitable prepositions from the ones listed above.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 J'habite [ ] un appartement [ ] ma famille.    | 5 Ce soir, elle va [ ] sa grand-mère [ ] le collège.    |
| 2 L'hôtel est [ ] cinéma et [ ] McDonald's.      | 6 Greenpeace est [ ] la nature et [ ] la déforestation. |
| 3 [ ] Noël, j'achète des cadeaux [ ] ma famille. |   |
| 4 [ ] les vacances, je vais [ ] la mer.          |   |

### 3 Translate these into French.

- |                 |                         |                |                        |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1 at the cinema | 2 next to the cinema    | 3 at the shops | 4 near the shops       |
| 5 to the cinema | 6 instead of the cinema | 7 to the shops | 8 because of the shops |

## Negative expressions

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zb8t47h/revision/1>

### What are these and when do I use them?

The key negative used in French is *ne ... pas*. It is used when you want to say what isn't the case or didn't happen. Other negative expressions are used to say things like 'nothing', 'never' and 'no longer'.

### Why are they important?

You need to be able to say that you don't like something or that you didn't do something. You also need to spot negatives when you are reading or listening to French: you don't want to confuse 'I love you' with 'I don't love you any more', for example!

### Things to look out for

In English, negative sentences include words like 'don't', 'haven't' or 'didn't'. But these sorts of word don't exist in French. Instead, you need to spot that these are examples of negative verbs, and use *ne ... pas* to translate what you want to say into French.

### How does *ne ... pas* work?

- Put *ne ... pas* around the verb to make it negative.  
*Elle **ne** travaille **pas** le samedi.* She doesn't work on Saturdays.  
Note that *ne* shortens to *n'* before a vowel or *h*.  
*Nous **n'**allons **pas** à Paris.* We are not going to Paris.
- After *pas*, the article used is *de* instead of *un* or *une*. *le/la/les* do not change.  
*Je n'ai **pas de** vélo.* I don't have a bicycle. *Je n'aime **pas le** rap.* I don't like rap music.
- In the perfect tense, *ne ... pas* forms a sandwich around the auxiliary verb.  
*Je **ne suis pas** allée à Édimbourg.* I didn't go to Edinburgh.
- These negative expressions work in the same way as *ne ... pas*:  
*ne ... jamais* (never) *ne ... rien* (nothing) *ne ... plus* (no longer)  
*Je **ne fume plus**.* I no longer smoke./I don't smoke any more.  
*Il **n'a jamais** visité Londres.* He has never visited London.



Try for yourself, bring your work to be marked by your French teacher.

## 1 Translate these sentences into English.

- 1 Je n'aime pas les maths.
- 2 Je ne fais pas de karaté.
- 3 Je ne bois pas d'alcool.
- 4 Je n'ai pas d'enfants.

- 5 Je n'habite plus en France.
- 6 Je ne mange rien à midi.
- 7 Je n'ai plus d'argent!
- 8 Je ne vais jamais au théâtre.

## 2 Put the words in each sentence in the right order. Then translate each sentence into English.

- 1 au je ne pas joue rugby
- 2 elle va ne Bordeaux pas à
- 3 chien nous n' pas avons de
- 4 ne famille la regarde ma pas télé

- 5 ne elles sont contentes jamais
- 6 ne rien vois je
- 7 plus fume elle ne
- 8 je ce ne rien fais soir

### How do they work?

- When you look up a verb, you find the original, unchanged form which is called **the infinitive**. Regular verbs have infinitives which end in **-er, -ir** or **-re**. To use the verb in the present tense:
  - 1 Remove the **-er/-ir/-re** from the end of the infinitive.
  - 2 Add the correct ending. The ending agrees with the subject of the verb.
- Here are the subject pronouns:

<b>je</b>	I	shortens to <i>j'</i> before a vowel or <i>h</i>
<b>tu</b>	you	for a child, young person, friend (or animal!)
<b>il</b>	he/it	means 'it' when replacing a masculine noun
<b>elle</b>	she/it	means 'it' when replacing a feminine noun
<b>on</b>	one/we/you	often used in French instead of <i>nous</i>
<b>nous</b>	we	
<b>vous</b>	you	used for more than one person, or someone you don't know very well
<b>ils</b>	they	used for masculine nouns or a mixed group
<b>elles</b>	they	used for feminine nouns



### What are these?

Regular verbs are verbs which follow the same pattern. In French, there are three types of regular verbs: *-er* verbs (the biggest group), *-ir* verbs and *-re* verbs.

### When do I use them?

You use the present tense of regular verbs to talk about what usually happens or what is happening now.

### Why are they important?

Verbs are crucial: every sentence contains a verb! The most common kind is the *-er* verb. When new verbs are invented, they are usually regular *-er* verbs e.g. *googler* (to google), *youtuber* (to watch videos on YouTube).

### Things to look out for

In French, there is only one present tense. So a verb like *je joue* can mean 'I play' or 'I am playing'. If a present tense verb is used with a negative (e.g. *je ne joue pas*), it can mean 'I don't play' or 'I am not playing'.

- Here are the verb endings for regular verbs in the present tense:

<b>-er</b> verbs e.g. <b>parler</b> (to speak)	<b>-ir</b> verbs e.g. <b>finir</b> (to finish)	<b>-re</b> verbs e.g. <b>attendre</b> (to wait for)
<i>je parle</i> <i>tu parles</i> <i>il/elle/on parle</i> <i>nous parlons</i> <i>vous parlez</i> <i>ils/elles parlent</i>	<i>je finis</i> <i>tu finis</i> <i>il/elle/on finit</i> <i>nous finissons</i> <i>vous finissez</i> <i>ils/elles finissent</i>	<i>j'attends</i> <i>tu attends</i> <i>il/elle/on attend</i> (no ending) <i>nous attendons</i> <i>vous attendez</i> <i>ils/elles attendent</i>

- Watch out for:

- verbs that end in *-cer*, like *commencer*: the *nous* form is *commençons*
- verbs that end in *-ger*, like *manger*: the *nous* form is *mangeons*
- verbs like *lever*: the *je/tu/il/ils* forms add a grave accent: *lève/lèvent*
- verbs like *s'appeler*: the *je/tu/il/ils* forms have *ll*: *m'appelle/s'appellent*.

- **Reflexive verbs** are verbs that have an extra reflexive pronoun in front of the verb. The verb itself might be regular or irregular, and is conjugated as usual. The reflexive pronoun agrees with the subject of the verb, e.g. **se** *disputer* (to argue):

*je* **me** *dispute*

*nous* **nous** *disputons*

*tu* **te** *disputes*

*vous* **vous** *disputez*

*il/elle/on* **se** *dispute*

*ils/elles* **se** *disputent*

NB *me/te/se* shorten to *m'/t'/s'* before a vowel or *h*: *Je m'appelle Yannick.*

**2 Choose the correct reflexive pronoun and add the verb ending in each sentence. Then translate the sentence into English.**

- 1 Je **me / te / se** disput[ ] avec mes parents.
- 2 Elle **me / te / se** repos[ ].
- 3 On **me / te / se** fâch[ ] souvent contre lui.
- 4 Nous **nous / vous / s'** entend[ ] bien.
- 5 Elles **s' / nous / vous** amus[ ].
- 6 Tu **te / se / vous** châtiaill[ ] avec ta mère.
- 7 Alex **me / te / se** couch[ ] à 21h.
- 8 Mes sœurs **me / te / se** réveill[ ] à 6h30.
- 9 Vous **se / nous / vous** lev[ ] à quelle heure?
- 10 Ma famille **me / se / vous** moqu[ ] de moi!

Try for yourself, bring your work to be marked by your French teacher.

### 1 Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb.

- 1 Elle  avec son papa. (*parler*)
- 2 Je  mes devoirs. (*finir*)
- 3 Nous  notre amie. (*attendre*)
- 4 Nous  au foot ce soir. (*jouer*)
- 5 Ils  en France. (*habiter*)
- 6 -tu le golf? (*aimer*)
- 7 Elle  très vite. (*grandir*)
- 8 Il  son professeur. (*entendre*)
- 9 Est-ce que vous  le président? (*admirer*)
- 10 Elles  la musique pop. (*adorer*)



## The near future

### What is this and when do I use it?

You use the near future tense (*le futur proche* in French) to talk about what is going to happen in the future.

### Why is it important?

You need to be able to understand when people talk about their future plans. You also need to be able to say what you are going to do in the future.

### Things to look out for

There are two French future tenses: the near future and the simple future. The near future is the easier of the two. It uses the verb *aller*, which makes it easy to translate because we use the verb 'to go' in the same way in English.

*Je vais faire un gâteau.* I am going to make a cake.

### How does it work?

You use the correct part of *aller* (in the present tense) + an infinitive.

*Nous allons sortir ce soir.* We are going to go out this evening.

## 1 Rearrange the words to make correct sentences. Then translate each one into English.

- 1 je faire vais shopping du
- 2 ma va Paris visiter famille
- 3 va un Maxime lire livre
- 4 allons nous vélo du faire
- 5 tu écrire vas e-mail un
- 6 finir ils leurs vont devoirs
- 7 les parler vont au professeur filles
- 8 on maison une va acheter



# The simple future tense

## What is this and when do I use it?

This tense, called *le futur* in French, is used to talk about what will happen in the future.

## Why is it important?

The near future (*aller* + infinitive) is an easier way to talk about the future, but you will hear and see this future tense all the time in French, and so you need to master this more elegant way of talking about the future.

## Things to look out for

In English, we use the word 'will' to indicate the future, e.g. 'I will go to university'. But there is no French word for 'will'. Instead, you have to spot that 'will go' is a verb in the future tense, and use the rules below to translate it.

## How does it work?

- The future tense is formed with the future stem of the verb + the future tense endings.

future tense stem		future tense endings
<b>-er/-ir</b> verbs	use the infinitive	<i>je travailler<b>ai</b></i>
<b>-re</b> verbs	remove the final <b>-e</b> from the infinitive	<i>tu travailler<b>as</b></i>
<i>avoir</i>	<b>aur-</b>	<i>il/elle/on travailler<b>a</b></i>
<i>être</i>	<b>ser-</b>	<i>nous travailler<b>ons</b></i>
<i>aller</i>	<b>ir-</b>	<i>vous travailler<b>ez</b></i>
<i>faire</i>	<b>fer-</b>	<i>ils/elles travailler<b>ont</b></i>

You can find the future stems for other irregular verbs in the verb tables on pages 236–240.

- When you use *si* with the present tense, the second part of the sentence may use the future tense.  
*S'il fait beau, on ira à la plage.* If the weather is good, we will go to the beach
- When you use *quand* to talk about the future, all the verbs in the sentence have to be in the future tense.  
*Quand je serai plus âgé, j'habiterai en Écosse.* When I am older, I will live in Scotland.



Try for yourself, bring your work to be marked by your French teacher.

## 1 Sofia is looking ahead. Complete each verb with the right ending, then translate what she says.

- 1 J'aur[ ] trois enfants.
- 2 Je ser[ ] agent de police.
- 3 J'habiter[ ] à Londres.
- 4 Je fer[ ] beaucoup de sport.
- 5 J'ir[ ] à la salle de gym régulièrement.
- 6 Mes enfants ser[ ] adorables.
- 7 Ma sœur travailler[ ] pour une grande banque.
- 8 Mon mari ser[ ] riche.
- 9 On aur[ ] une grande maison.
- 10 Nous passer[ ] nos vacances en Espagne.

## 2 Copy out the article, changing the infinitives in brackets into the future tense.

Then translate the text into English.

Dans le futur, il y (*avoir*) beaucoup de robots. Ces robots (*parler*) et (*penser*) comme nous, les humains. Un robot type (*être*) très pratique: il (*aider*) à faire le ménage, (*préparer*) nos repas et (*s'occuper*) de nos enfants. Le robot (*faire*) les devoirs et (*ranger*) la chambre des plus jeunes. Mais il ne nous (*aimer*) pas!

## 3 Copy and complete the text, choosing the correct verb from the box to fill each gap.

Si je **1** [ ] dur, j'**2** [ ] de bonnes notes et mes parents **3** [ ] très contents. Si j'**4** [ ] de bonnes notes, j'**5** [ ] à l'université de Nottingham où j'**6** [ ] le français. Si je **7** [ ], j'**8** [ ] chez ma tante car elle **9** [ ] à Nottingham. Si tout **10** [ ] bien, je **11** [ ] chez BT après l'université et je **12** [ ] acheter une petite maison.

peux pourrai aurai ai irai va étudierai habiterai habite travaille travaillerai seront

# The conditional

## What is this and when do I use it?

The conditional is used to talk about what would happen (if something else were the case). You use it to talk about what you would do and how things would be, for example if you were rich, or if you had more time.

## Things to look out for

As is often the case with tenses, you can't translate verbs word for word; there isn't a French word for 'would'. Instead, the word 'would' in English triggers that you need to use the conditional.

## How does it work?

- The conditional is formed with the future stem of the verb + the correct imperfect ending.  
*Mon compagnon idéal **serait** grand.* My ideal partner would be tall.
- When you are talking about how things would be if something else were the case, use the imperfect tense in the *si* (if) clause, and the conditional in the second part of the sentence.  
*Si j'étais riche, j'**achèterais** une Ferrari.* If I were rich I would buy a Ferrari.

## 1 Translate these sentences into English.

1 Je voudrais un chocolat chaud, s'il vous plaît.

2 J'aimerais visiter le Canada un jour.

3 Voudrais-tu un nouveau portable?

4 Ma sœur aimerait une Mercedes.

5 Ma chambre idéale serait énorme.

6 Ils feraient bien un gâteau mais ils n'ont pas de sucre.

## The imperfect

### What is this?

The imperfect tense (*l'imparfait* in French) is another tense used to talk about the past.

### When do I use it?

You use the imperfect tense to talk about what happened in the past over a period of time, rather than just one single event. You also use it to describe what was happening at a given time (e.g. just before a particular event happened) or what used to happen.

### Why is it important?

The imperfect tense is used in key phrases like 'it was' or 'there were'. You need it to describe what things were like or what people were doing, as well as to say what you used to be like or do.

### Things to look out for

- A verb in the imperfect tense can be translated in different ways, e.g. *elle regardait la télé* can mean 'she used to watch TV', 'she was watching TV' or 'she watched TV'.
- When you are talking about the past, you will probably need a combination of perfect tense verbs, for 'one-off' actions or events that happened and are now complete, and imperfect tense verbs, for things that were happening at that time or for describing what something was like.

*Elle **faisait** du yoga quand le téléphone a sonné.*

She was doing yoga when the phone rang.

*Je suis allé à Berlin l'année dernière. C'**était** génial.*

I went to Berlin last year. It was great.

Try for yourself, bring your work to be marked by your French teacher.

**1 Choose a suitable ending for each sentence. Then translate the sentence into English.**

- 1 J'avais intelligent / un journal / Paris.
- 2 J'étais intelligent / une table / Manchester.
- 3 Je faisais beau / mes devoirs / arriver.
- 4 Elle avait les yeux bleus / petite / boire.
- 5 C'était les yeux bleus / monter / super.
- 6 Il faisait beau / les yeux verts / pleut.
- 7 Il y avait intelligent / les cheveux marron / un concert.
- 8 C'était impossible / sortir / manger.
- 9 Il y avait impossible / beau / deux personnes.
- 10 Il faisait deux personnes / froid / être.

**2 Translate these sentences into French using the imperfect tense.**

- 1 I used to have a bike.
- 2 We were watching TV.
- 3 My parents used to live in London.
- 4 They were waiting for the bus.
- 5 He used to be a teacher.
- 6 My family was eating in the kitchen.
- 7 You (*vous*) were working in Bordeaux.
- 8 You (*tu*) used to arrive at 5 p.m.
- 9 It was excellent.



### What is this and when do I use it?

The perfect tense (called the *passé composé* in French) is used to talk about single events or actions that happened in the past.

### Why is it important?

Talking about what has already happened is something we do all the time in everyday speech. Mastery of tenses is vital, and the perfect tense is the key past tense you need to know.

### Things to look out for

- The perfect tense of French verbs has two parts: the auxiliary verb + the past participle. What is one verb in English (e.g. 'we walked') has two parts in French (e.g. *nous **avons marché***). Make sure you never miss out the auxiliary verb!
- The perfect tense has two meanings in English: *il **a joué** pour Arsenal* can mean 'he played for Arsenal' or 'he has played for Arsenal'.
- When used with a negative, it can also be translated in two ways: *il **n'a pas joué** pour Spurs* means 'he didn't play for Spurs' or 'he hasn't played for Spurs'.

## How does it work?

- The perfect tense is formed using an auxiliary verb and a past participle. Most verbs use *avoir* as the auxiliary.
- To form the past participle of a regular verb:

<b>-er</b> verbs e.g. <i>changer</i>	remove <i>-er</i> and add <b>é</b>	<i>changé</i>	<i>il a changé</i> he changed/has changed
<b>-ir</b> verbs e.g. <i>finir</i>	remove <i>-ir</i> and add <b>i</b>	<i>fini</i>	<i>on a fini</i> we finished/have finished
<b>-re</b> verbs e.g. <i>entendre</i>	remove <i>-re</i> and add <b>u</b>	<i>entendu</i>	<i>j'ai entendu</i> I heard/have heard

Here are some common examples:

infinitive	past participle	infinitive	past participle
<i>boire</i>	<b>bu</b>	<i>avoir</i>	<b>eu</b>
<i>voir</i>	<b>vu</b>	<i>dire</i>	<b>dit</b>
<i>lire</i>	<b>lu</b>	<i>écrire</i>	<b>écrit</b>
<i>croire</i>	<b>cru</b>	<i>mettre</i>	<b>mis</b>
<i>pouvoir</i>	<b>pu</b>	<i>prendre</i>	<b>pris</b>
<i>devoir</i>	<b>dû</b>	<i>être</i>	<b>été</b>
<i>vouloir</i>	<b>voulu</b>	<i>faire</i>	<b>fait</b>
<b>j'ai dit</b>	I said	<b>elle a vu</b>	she saw



Try for yourself, bring your work to be marked by your French teacher.

**1 Change these regular infinitives into the perfect tense, using the pronoun given.**

Example: je (*manger*) → j'ai mangé

- 1 je (*parler*)
- 2 vous (*grandir*)
- 3 ils (*googler*)
- 4 il (*entendre*)
- 5 tu (*attendre*)
- 6 nous (*oublier*)
- 7 mes parents (*apprécier*)
- 8 on (*écouter*)
- 9 je (*saisir*)
- 10 ma copine (*copier*)

**2 Maria has translated some sentences into French but has made a verb error in each one. Rewrite each sentence, correcting the verb error. Explain in English what her mistake is.**

Example: I saw the programme. *Je vu l'émission.*

*J'ai vu l'émission.* – She missed out the part of *avoir*.

- 1 I drank a cola. *J'ai boire un coca.*
- 2 We saw a film. *Nous vu un film.*
- 3 Alex and Fatou believed the story. *Alex et Fatou avons cru l'histoire.*
- 4 We had to come. *Nous avons du venir.*
- 5 You made a cake. *Tu fais un gâteau.*
- 6 I had a baby. *J'ai avoir un bébé.*
- 7 She read a book. *Elle a lit un livre.*
- 8 You put my drink here. *Tu mis ma boisson ici.*
- 9 He said that. *Il a dis ça.*
- 10 They took my bag. *Ils pris mon sac.*

## The perfect tense with ETRE

### What is this and when do I use it?

When you are talking about events in the past, you need to use the perfect tense. Some vital verbs don't use *avoir* as the auxiliary verb; instead, they use the verb *être*.

### Why is it important?

The auxiliary verb *être* is used with some vital verbs; you need to use the perfect tense with *être* to say things like 'I went', 'we stayed' or 'he has died'.

### Things to look out for

- All reflexive verbs use *être* as the auxiliary verb in the perfect tense.
- There are only a further 13 verbs that form their perfect tense with *être*. If you learn these, then you know that all other verbs go with *avoir*. You might find that a mnemonic like MRS VAN DER TRAMP helps you remember the 13 verbs plus reflexives.
- Compounds of these verbs also take *être*, so look out for one of these 13 verbs with an added prefix. For example, *venir* (to come) uses *être* as its auxiliary verb, and so do **re***venir* (to come back) and **de***venir* (to become).
- For *être* verbs in the perfect tense, the past participle agrees with the subject of the verb.

### How does it work?

- Take the part of the auxiliary (*être*) and add the past participle. Here are the 13 verbs which take *être* as the auxiliary, with their past participles:

<b>infinitive</b>	<b>past participle</b>	<b>infinitive</b>	<b>past participle</b>
<i>aller</i> (to go)	<i>allé</i>	<i>entrer</i> (to come in)	<i>entré</i>
<i>venir</i> (to come)	<i>venu</i>	<i>sortir</i> (to go out)	<i>sorti</i>
<i>arriver</i> (to arrive)	<i>arrivé</i>	<i>naître</i> (to be born)	<i>né</i>
<i>partir</i> (to leave)	<i>parti</i>	<i>mourir</i> (to die)	<i>mort</i>
<i>monter</i> (to go up, get in)	<i>monté</i>	<i>rester</i> (to stay)	<i>resté</i>
<i>descendre</i> (to go down, get out)	<i>descendu</i>	<i>tomber</i> (to fall)	<i>tombé</i>
		<i>retourner</i> (to return)	<i>retourné</i>

- For *être* verbs in the perfect tense, add an ending to the past participle if the subject of the verb is feminine or plural. Using *partir* (to leave) as an example:

<i>je suis parti(e)</i>	I left	add an <b>e</b> if you are a girl
<i>tu es parti(e)</i>	you (sg, familiar) left	add an <b>e</b> if <i>tu</i> refers to a girl/woman
<i>il est parti</i>	he left	
<i>elle est partie</i>	she left	
<i>on est parti(e)s</i>	we left	add an <b>e</b> if everyone covered by 'we' is a girl/woman
<i>nous sommes parti(e)s</i>	we left	add an <b>e</b> if everyone covered by 'we' is a girl/woman
<i>vous êtes parti(e)(s)</i>	you left	add an <b>e</b> if <i>vous</i> refers to one woman; add an <b>s</b> if it refers to more than one person; add <b>es</b> if it refers to two or more women.
<i>ils sont partis</i>	they left	<u>either</u> all boys/men <u>or</u> a mixed group of male and female
<i>elles sont parties</i>	they left	all girls/women

- For reflexive verbs in the perfect tense, put the auxiliary verb *être* after the reflexive pronoun:  
*Je me suis couché(e)*. I went to bed.

Try for yourself, bring your work to be marked by your French teacher.

**1 Write these in French. Remember to add -e to the past participle if you are a girl.**

- 1 I went
- 2 I arrived
- 3 I have fallen
- 4 I went up
- 5 I came
- 6 I stayed
- 7 I have left
- 8 I returned
- 9 I went out
- 10 I was born

**2 Change the verb in brackets into the perfect tense. Then translate each sentence into English.**

- 1 Je (*rester*) à la maison.
- 2 Vous (*arriver*) en retard.
- 3 Prince George (*naître*) à Londres.
- 4 Nous (*retourner*) à 20h.
- 5 Les filles (*aller*) au cinéma.
- 6 Tu (*se coucher*) à quelle heure?
- 7 Elle (*partir*) après moi.
- 8 On (*se disputer*) à cause de toi.
- 9 Il (*venir*) à la plage avec nous.
- 10 Nous (*s'amuser*) hier!
- 11 Nico et Lucille (*sortir*) mardi soir.
- 12 Vous (*partir*) sans moi!



### What are modal verbs and when do I use them?

*Pouvoir* (to be able to), *devoir* (to have to) and *vouloir* (to want to) are the three key modal verbs. You use modal verbs to talk about what people can, must or want to do. Like other verbs, modals are used in different tenses.

### Why are they important?

Modal verbs are extremely useful and come up in conversation all the time. Modals are often used when asking questions or making polite requests.

*Tu peux venir au cinéma?* Can you come to the cinema?

*Voulez-vous répéter, s'il vous plaît?* Do you mind repeating that, please?

### What is *il faut*?

The expression *il faut* means 'it is necessary to'/'you have to'. It is an impersonal verb: the subject of the verb is always *il*.

### Things to look out for

In English, the translation of the verb *pouvoir* is 'to be able to'. But *je peux* can be translated as 'I can'. Similarly, *devoir* means 'to have to', but you can translate *je dois* as 'I must'.



## How do modal verbs and *il faut* work?

- No matter which tense the modal verb or *il faut* is in, it is always followed by the infinitive. Here are the three modal verbs and *il faut* in different tenses:

	<b><i>pouvoir</i></b> (to able to)	<b><i>devoir</i></b> (to have to)	<b><i>vouloir</i></b> (to want to)	<b><i>il faut</i></b> (it is necessary to)
<b>present</b>	<i>je peux</i> (I can) <i>tu peux</i> <i>il peut</i> <i>nous pouvons</i> <i>vous pouvez</i> <i>ils peuvent</i>	<i>je dois</i> (I must) <i>tu dois</i> <i>il doit</i> <i>nous devons</i> <i>vous devez</i> <i>ils doivent</i>	<i>je veux</i> <i>tu veux</i> <i>il veut</i> <i>nous voulons</i> <i>vous voulez</i> <i>ils veulent</i>	<i>il faut</i>
<b>perfect</b>	<i>j'ai pu</i>	<i>j'ai dû</i>	<i>j'ai voulu</i>	<i>il a fallu</i>
<b>imperfect</b>	<i>je pouvais</i>	<i>je devais</i>	<i>je voulais</i>	<i>il fallait</i>
<b>future</b>	<i>je pourrai</i>	<i>je devrai</i>	<i>je voudrai</i>	<i>il faudra</i>
<b>conditional</b>	<i>je pourrais</i>	<i>je devrais</i>	<i>je voudrais</i>	<i>il faudrait</i>

Try for yourself, bring your work to be marked by your French teacher.

### À vos marques ...

#### **1 Rearrange the words to make correct sentences. Then translate each sentence into English.**

- 1 je ce peux soir sortir
- 2 nous aider nos devons parents
- 3 aller tu veux au avec cinéma ? moi
- 4 visiter peut des on historiques monuments
- 5 il l'uniforme porter faut
- 6 la voir pouvez Eiffel tour vous
- 7 dois tu devoirs tes faire
- 8 classe boire il ne pas faut en
- 9 soir mes ne copains doivent pas venir ce
- 10 ma veut famille ne partir en pas vacances

## Writing question 1: photo description (12 marks)

### Foundation Tier

#### Question 1 – Exemplar 1.1

1 Ecris une description de la photo **et** exprime ton opinion sur les restaurants.

Q01CC 6

Écris 20–30 mots environ **en français**.

Q01KL 5

Sur la photo, il y a deux hommes et deux femmes. Ils semblent très contents. Ils sont en train de manger du salade et un sandwich. Ils semblent vraiment sain. Je pense que c'est déjeuner parce que il y a beaucoup de soleil et ils ~~mange~~ sont manger la nourriture petite. Je crois que les restaurants sont quelquefois perte de l'argent mais est ~~très~~ vraiment bon quand tu va avec ~~ta~~<sup>à</sup> famille.

Food and Drink



#### Marks

Communication and content – 6 marks

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy – 5 marks

#### Commentary

This candidate has fulfilled both requirements of the task; the description of the photo and opinion on eating in restaurants. The candidate has been successful both in communicating clearly and with language that is more advanced than expected at this level giving some very nice detail about the time of day and the people eating as well as an opinion on restaurants. The only slight ambiguity is the reason given for it being lunchtime. It is important to note that this task can be achieved in the word limit of 20 – 30 words, so, whilst there is no need to write as much as this candidate has or use such sophisticated language, it is a very pleasing answer to read. An answer which fulfils the task in 20 – 30 words and, in simpler language, would score the same mark.

## Foundation Tier

### Writing question 2 : 50 words task (16 marks)

#### Question 2b – Exemplar 2.3

Monsieur/Madame,

• ~~Le semaine dernière je suis allé~~ Je voudrais aller au centre sportif le weekend prochain parce que je vais jouer au foot avec mes amis et ce sera ~~un~~ génial. Je voudrais aller le weekend prochain parce que c'est mon ami Luca anniversaire.

• Je vais aller avec mes amis et mon père parce que il adore le foot et j'adore mon père. Il y a ~~vingt~~<sup>Sept</sup> personnes moi et mon père et cinq de mes amis.

• Mon sport préféré est la foot parce que c'est amusant et j'adore regarder la foot sur mon télévision.

• Nous avons arrivé à dix heures parce que j'aime rester dans ma chambre ~~pour~~ ~~à~~ pour le longue heures.

Cordialement,

#### Marks

Communication and content – 8 marks

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy – 7 marks

#### Commentary

This candidate has fulfilled all the bullet points well though the last one is miscommunicated by the apparent use of the past tense rather than the future unless the 'avons' was read as 'allons'. There is some development of each bullet point, which are clearly communicated. The language used is effective with the present and future tense use solid for the most part. The piece could have been much clearer if the candidate hadn't expanded quite so much, as it is the last development for most of the bullet points, which has the most mistakes.



### Question 3a – Exemplanr 3.1

Pour aller droit au but, mon collègue est très grande et il y a une mille enfants ! C'est mixte mais je ne ~~regarde~~<sup>travaille</sup> jamais avec le garçon parce que ils sont très bavarde ! Mais selon mon ami Charlie ils sont amusante.

A mon avis, je pense que l'uniforme est très cher. Je dois porter une chemise rouge et c'est ~~très~~ belle. Cependant mon ami qui s'appelle Charlie porte une chemise blanc. ~~Je voudrais porter un basket mais~~. Il voudrait porter une basket mais je ne porte jamais une basket parce que c'est mal !

La semaine dernière, j'ai joué au foot à mon collègue et c'était ~~beaucoup~~ très drôle ~~après~~ ~~je dois travailler beaucoup maintenant~~ ~~maintenant~~ ~~je suis aller~~ et après j'ai mangé le frites et un hamburger et c'était délicieux. Mon ami qui s'appelle Tilly ne travaille jamais à une collègue et c'est mal pour sa !

Après mes examens, je vais jouer au foot de temps de temps ~~et~~ et je voudrais voyager avec ma famille parce que ~~je~~ nous aimons le soleil ! Nous allons nager avec le poulet parce que ~~ils~~ ils sont beau ! Aussi après mes examens, je peux aller la université mais je pense que c'est ennuyeux !

### Writing question 3 : 80 words task (20 marks)

#### Marks

Communication and content – 11 marks

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy – 7 marks

#### Commentary

This candidate has fulfilled all the bullet points in the correct tenses and developed each one. However there is a little ambiguity caused by such phrases as 'c'est mal pour sa' and 'nous allons nager avec le poulet'. The language is quite solid in terms its accuracy and there are some nice phrases such as 'pour aller droit au but, selon mon ami, à mon avis'. The tenses are also generally secure. On the whole a nice piece albeit a little overambitious.



# Chatty mat: GCSE French Photo card

## To start off:

Sur la photo...	In the photo
Il y a...	There is/are
Je vois...	I see
Je peux voir...	I can see
Vous pouvez voir...	You can see
La photo montre...	The photo shows...

## Be specific!

Au premier plan...	In the foreground
Au deuxième plan...	In the background
Au milieu...	In the middle
À gauche...	to the left
À droite...	to the right
Près de...	close to
Devant...	In front of

## Weather

Il y a du soleil	it's sunny
Il fait beau	it's nice weather
Il fait mauvais	it's bad weather
Il fait chaud/froid	it's hot/cold
Il fait frais/doux	it's cool/mild
Il pleut	it's raining
Il neige	it's snowing
Il gèle	it's icy
Il y a du vent	it's windy
Il y a du brouillard	it's foggy
C'est nuageux	it's cloudy
C'est brumeux	it's misty
C'est orageux	it's stormy
C'est givré	it's frosty
C'est sec	it's dry

## What's there?

Un homme/une femme	a man/woman
Un garçon/une fille	a boy/girl
Les enfants	children
Un vieil/jeune homme	an old/young man
Une vieille/jeune femme	an old/young woman
Les jeunes	young people
Des personnes	some people
Beaucoup de personnes	lots of people
tout le monde/tout	everyone/all
Des édifices	some buildings
Des arbres	some trees
Une forêt	a forest
Une rivière/Un lac	a river/lake
Une scène de...	a scene of

## Describing people

Il/elle a l'air ...	he/she seems...
Ils ont l'air...	they seem ....
Ils semblent...	they seem...
Content(e)(s)	happy
Triste(s)	sad
Fatigué(e)(s)	tired
Énervé(e)(s)	angry
Bouleverser(e)(s)	upset

## What are they doing?

Il/elle est en train de	He/she is...
Ils/elles sont en train de	They are...

parler (talking), sourire (smiling), rire (laughing), se disputer (arguing), marcher (walking), travailler (working), jouer (playing)

## Opinion phrases

**Je crois que...**  
I believe that

**Je pense que...**  
I think that...

**J'imagine que...**  
I imagine that...

**Je suppose que...**  
I suppose that...

**Je présume que**  
I presume that...

**Je dirais que...**  
I would say that

**Il me semble que..**  
It seems to me that..

**Cela me rappelle...**  
It reminds me of...

## Do you like it?

J'aime/j'adore la photo (I like/love the photo) → parce que (because) c'est (it is...) e.g. beau/joli/sympa (beautiful/pretty/nice)  
Je n'aime pas/je déteste la photo (I don't like/hate the photo) → car (because) → c'est plein de... (it is full of) → e.g. couleur (colour)

