



# 03. Common irregular verbs

Pesky (but important) verbs to learn by heart

## Irregular verbs

Given how irregular some verbs are we just have to memorise them until they come to us naturally. Here are five important verbs which you will not be able to avoid! So let's tackle them head-on! Here you will find full verb tables for the present tense complete with pronunciation sound bites.

### Faire – to do or to make

A very frequently used verb, *faire* crops up in everyday speech, expressions and, basically, you need to know it!

je fais	tu fais
il/ elle/ on fait	nous faisons
vous faites	ils/ elles font
<b>Past Participle</b>	fait



Listen to the verb *faire* in the present tense + past participle

### Useful!

- **Weather:** In English we use the verb 'to be' for describing the weather but in French we use *faire*.

Example sentence from Mini Life video *Il fait froid*: "*Dehors, il fait froid*" (Outside, it is cold)

- **Useful expressions:** There are MANY expressions using *faire* so here are just a few to get you thinking...

1. *Faire du bruit* To be noisy i.e. *Tu fais trop de bruit!*
2. *Faire la vaisselle* To do the washing-up i.e. *Nous faisons la vaisselle*
3. *Faire des courses* To do the shopping i.e. *Je fais les courses avec Maman*

### Mettre – to put

A useful verb which can be translated not only as *put* but also has other useful meanings such as *to put on* when discussing what you are wearing. Example sentence from Mini Life video *Le gâteau au chocolat*: "*Je mets mon tablier*" (I put on my apron)

je mets	tu mets
il/ elle/ on met	nous mettons
vous mettez	ils/ elles mettent
<b>Past Participle</b>	mis



Listen to the verb *mettre* in the present tense + past participle

### Useful!

- **Useful expressions:**

1. *Se mettre à* To start (to do something), to take up (an activity) and is followed by an infinitive i.e. *Il s'est mis à pleurer* He started to cry
2. *Mettre du temps à faire quelque chose* To take time to do something i.e. *le train mets deux heures pour le trajet* The train takes two hours (for the trip)

## Dire – to say

Very common and useful when reading stories, for example, 'he said/ she said'

je dis	tu dis
il/ elle/ on dit	nous disons
vous dites	ils/ elles disent
<b>Past Participle</b>	dit



Listen to the verb *dire* in the present tense + past participle

### Useful!

- **Useful expressions:**

1. *Dis-moi!* Tell me!
2. *Il m'a dit que...* He told me/ said to me that

## Venir – to come

A useful verb not only for translating as 'to come' but also to say 'I have just...' as explained below.

je viens	tu viens
il/ elle/ on vient	nous venons
vous venez	ils/ elles viennent
<b>Past Participle</b>	venu



Listen to the verb *venir* in the present tense + past participle

### Useful!

- **Venir de + infinitive:** This means to have just done something. Examples:

1. *Je viens de manger* I have just eaten

2. *Elle vient de tomber* She has just fallen

- **J'arrive:** It is important to note that 'I'm coming!' or 'Coming!', in the sense of 'I am on my way now', is not translated as *Je viens*. Instead say *J'arrive!*

## Aller – to go

A key verb to learn because as well as meaning *to go*, it is also used to talk about events happening in the near future and in giving commands. Examples from Mini Life Video *Le bus*: "*Je vais prendre le bus*" I am going to take the bus

je vais	tu vas
il/ elle/ on va	nous allons
vous allez	ils/ elles vont
<b>Past Participle*</b>	allé(e)(s)



Listen to the verb *aller* in the present tense + past participle

**\*Past tense:** *Aller* takes *être* to form the past tense and (as we will see in a separate *Grammar Boost*) the past participle therefore must agree with the subject i.e. *allé* for a masculine (singular), *allée* for feminine (singular). *S* is added for plural subjects i.e. *allés* and *allées*. Although all are pronounced the same. Examples:

1. *Je suis allé(e) à la gare* I went to the station

2. *Les filles sont allées à la gare* The girls went to the station

## Useful!

- **Useful expression:** *Où vas-tu?* Where are you going?
- **Near future tense with *aller*:** Formed by using *aller* in the present tense + the infinitive. Examples:
  1. *Je vais revenir* I'm going to come back
  2. *Attention, tu vas tomber!* Careful, you are going to fall!
- **Giving commands:** Useful for asking your child(ren) to do something for you. Examples:
  1. *Va chercher tes chaussures* Go and get your shoes (one child)
  2. *Allez ranger le salon* Go and tidy the living room (two + children)

By watching the Mini Life videos on the platform and practising your French you will become more familiar with these common verbs.