



Avoir – to have

Avoir is an irregular verb which is literally translated as ‘to have’ so you will need it regularly. Examples:

1. *As-tu un doudou?* Do you **have** a teddy?
2. *J’ai deux frères* I **have** two brothers

However, it is also used in many French expressions where you may not be expecting to find it (see below for a selection).

j’ai	tu as
il/ elle/ on a	nous avons
vous avez	ils/ elles ont
Past Participle	eu



Listen to the above *avoir* verb table + past participle

Useful!

- Expressions where *avoir* replaces ‘to be’:
 1. *Avoir faim* – to be hungry i.e. *As-tu faim?* Are you hungry?
 2. *Avoir soif* – to be thirsty i.e. *J’ai soif* I am thirsty
 3. *Avoir froid* – to be cold i.e. *Les enfants ont froid* The children are cold
 4. *Avoir chaud* – to be hot i.e. *J’ai trop chaud!* I am too hot!
 5. *Avoir peur* – to be scared/ get a fright i.e. *il a eu peur!* He got a fright!
 6. *Avoir X ans* – I am X years old i.e. *Quel âge as-tu?* What age are you? → *J’ai cinq ans* I am five years old
 7. *Il y a...* There is/ there are... i.e. *Il y a cinq pommes dans le sac* There are five apples in the bag

- Expressions where *avoir* replaces other key verbs:

1. *Avoir besoin de* – to need i.e. *J'ai besoin de mon doudou pour dormir* I need my teddy to sleep

2. *Avoir mal* – to be sore i.e. *J'ai mal au bras* My arm is sore/ I have a sore arm

3. *Avoir l'air* – to have the appearance/ to look i.e. *Ce gâteau a l'air délicieux* This cake looks delicious

Être – to be

As with *avoir*, *être* is a highly irregular verb across all tenses. It is an important *auxiliary verb* as we will see in Part 2 of this *Grammar Boost*.

je suis	tu es
il/ elle/ on est	nous sommes
vous êtes	ils/ elles sont
Past Participle	été



Listen to the above *être* verb table + past participle

Useful!

1. *C'est...* – it is/ this is/ that is i.e. *C'est super!* That's super!

2. *Est-ce que..* – one way to form a question (See *Grammar Boost* on Questions) i.e. *Est-ce que le chat dort?* Is the cat sleeping?

3. *Être en train de* – to be in the process of doing something. A helpful expression when you want to emphasise that the action is in progress i.e. *Je suis en train de mettre mes gants* – I am putting on/ in the middle of putting on my gloves

Move onto Part 2 for an exploration using *avoir* and *être*!