

# HIGHER FRENCH GRAMMAR BOOKLET

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## The tenses at Higher

Immediate future

Present

Gerund

Conditional

Simple future

Imperfect

Perfect

Pluperfect

Present Tense

Conditional Tense

Future Tense

Imperfect Tense

Preterite Tense

## Immediate future

The immediate future tense is used to as a method of describing actions that are right about to happen

The immediate future is normally translated as 'going to'

To form the present continuous we need to use the verb 'aller' in the present tense, then the verb action in its infinitive form

\*\* Remember 'aller' is an irregular verb in the present tense, we conjugate it as follows,

Je - vais

Tu - vas

Il, elle - va

Nous - allons

Vous - allez

Ils, elles - vont

### Examples:

Je vais acheter - I'm going to buy

Nous allons choisir - We're going to choose

## Present Tense

The present tense is used to as a method of describing actions that are currently happening (in the present)

The infinitive endings in the present tense are as follows:

	-ER	-IR	-RE
I	e	is	s
You	es	is	s
He/she/it	e	it	nothing
We	ons	issons	ons
You (plural)	ez	issez	ez
They	ent	issent	ont

Common irregulars:

<b><u>Avoir</u></b>	<b><u>Être</u></b>	<b><u>Pouvoir</u></b>	<b><u>Faire</u></b>	<b><u>Aller</u></b>	<b><u>Dire</u></b>
ai	suis	peux	fais	vais	dis
as	es	peux	fais	vas	dis
a	est	peut	fait	va	dit
avons	sommes	pouvons	faisons	allons	disons
avez	êtes	pouvez	faites	allez	dites
ont	sont	peuvent	font	vont	disent

To form it simply remove the -ER, -IR or -RE and add the appropriate ending

## Gerund

In French, we use the gerund to express the idea 'ing', for example doing, playing, going etc.

To form the gerund, we remove the -ER, -IR, -RE endings and conjugate the verb in the nous form

### How to form

Infinitive	Nous conjugation	Remove 'ons'	Add 'ant'
Manger (irregular)	Mange <b>e</b> ons	Mange	Mange <b>e</b> ant
Choisir	Choisissons	Choisiss	Choisissant
Comprendre	Comprendons	Comprend	Comprendant

## Conditional Tense

In French, we use the conditional tense to express probability, possibility or wonder.

The conditional tense is usually translated as would, could, must have or probably.

We conjugate verbs in the conditional by adding the following endings to the verb; (the verb stays the same, nothing is removed) and the endings are the same no matter what the verb is

- ais
- ais
- ait
- ions
- iez
- aient

The following are sentences in the conditional tense;

***Je pense que j'étudierais pour une heure plus.***

*I think that I could study for one hour more.*

***Nous voudrions trois pommes***

*We would like three apples*

The ten common verbs that are irregular in the conditional tense are also irregular in the future tense. Their endings are regular, but their stems change in the same way they change in the future tense. Because the endings are the same as all other conditional tense verbs, we show only the “je” form, and have underlined the irregular stem. If you also speak Spanish, you’ll notice that many of the French stems become the same as the Spanish ones

The irregulars are as follows;

**aller**

*J'irais*

**avoir**

*J'aurais*

**être**

*Je serais*

**faire**

*Je ferais*

**pouvoir**

*Je pourrais*

**devoir**

*Je devrais*

**venir**

*Je viendrais*

**voir**

*Je verrais*

**vouloir**

*Je voudrais*

## Simple Future Tense

The future tense is used to tell what “will” happen in the future, or what “shall” happen.

Regular verbs in the future tense are conjugated by adding the following endings to the infinitive form of the verb;

- ai
- as
- a
- ons
- ez
- ont

There are ten common verbs that are irregular in the future tense. Their endings are regular, but their stems change. Since the endings are the same as all other future tense verbs, we show only the “je” form, and have underlined the irregular stem. We have also grouped them according to their patterns of change.

The irregulars are as follows;

### ***aller***

*J'irais*

### ***avoir***

*J'aurais*

### ***être***

*Je serais*

### ***faire***

*Je ferais*

### ***pouvoir***

*Je pourrais*

### ***devoir***

*Je devrais*

### ***venir***



Je viendrais

**voir**

Je verrais

**vouloir**

Je voudrais

## Imperfect Tense

The imperfect tense is used to describe things that happened in the past and haven't got a specific time frame or continuously happened in the past. For example, we used to run together. It can also be used for actions that were interrupted in the past, I was looking at the photos, when I remembered our old house.

### Regular Imperfect Verb Endings

To form to the imperfect tense, we remove the -ER, -IR or -RE and add the following endings

	- <u>ER</u>	- <u>IR</u>	- <u>RE</u>
I	ais	ais	ais
You	ais	ais	ais
He/She/It	ait	ait	ait
We	ons	ions	ions
You (pl)	ez	iez	iez
They	ent	aient	aient

### The uses of the Imperfect Tense

1. Repeated actions
2. Actions that were in progress in the past
3. Times and dates
4. Age
5. Descriptions of characteristics, conditions and feelings

## Irregulars

Luckily, there is only one verb that is irregular in the imperfect tense in French, être

	<u>Être</u>
I	étais
You	étais
He/she/it	était
We	étions
You (pl)	étiez
They	étaient

## Perfect Tense

The perfect tense is used to describe things or actions that have been completed in the past. For example, I visited the zoo, we took the bus.

To form the perfect tense, we must first know whether to use the avoir or être to tell us who is doing the action, we then remove the -ER, -IR or -RE and add the appropriate endings

		<u>-ER</u>	<u>-IR</u>	<u>-RE</u>
I	I	é	i	u
You	You	é	i	u
He/she /it	He/She/It	é	i	u
We	We	é	i	u
You (pl)	You (pl)	é	i	u
They	They	é	i	u

### Être verbs

In French, there are fourteen verbs that are used with être in the imperfect tense, all other verbs are conjugated with avoir.

French verb	English translation	Past participle
Monter	To go up	monté
Retourner	To return	retourné
Rester	To stay	resté
Venir	To come	venu
Arriver	To arrive	arrivé

Naître	To be born	né
Sortir	To go out	sorti
Tomber	To fall	tombé
Rentrer	To go back in	rentré
Aller	To go	allé
Mourir	To die	mort
Partir	To leave	parti
Entrer	To enter	entré
Descendre	To go down/descend	descendu

### Irregulars

Four of the most common verbs that are irregular in the preterite are; Ser, Ir, Dar & Ver.

Verb	Past participle	English
Avoir	Eu	Had
Boire	Bu	Drunk
Comprendre	Compris	Understood
Connaître	Connu	Known
Croire	Cru	Believed
Devoir	Dû	Had to
Dire	Dit	Spoke
Écrire	Écrit	Written
Être	Été	Been
Faire	Fait	Made or Done

Lire	Lu	Read
Mettre	Mis	Put
Ouvrir	Ouvert	Opened
Pouvoir	Pu	Been able to
Prendre	Pris	Taken
Savoir	Su	Known
Voir	Vu	Seen
Vouloir	Voulou	Wanted

## Pluperfect

The pluperfect tense in French, is the furthest we can go back in time. It is used to describe actions that have happened before other actions in the past. The word pluperfect literally means more perfect, so the more 'perfect' you are in grammar, the further in the past you are. For example, they had lived in France before moving to Spain.

To form the pluperfect, we need to employ rules from the imperfect tense and perfect tenses and combine them.

First, we need to know whether the verb is part of the avoir or être group.

Second, we need to conjugate the avoir or être verb into the imperfect tense

Pronoun	Avoir	Être
J'	avais	étais
Tu	avais	étais
Il/Elle/On	avait	était
Nous	avions	étions
Vous	aviez	étiez
Ils/Elles	avaient	étaient

## How to improve your grammar

Grammar is an essential part of the Spanish language. It is used in all parts of the Higher exam.

You will need to know grammar for your writing element of the exam at Higher, but also having a strong understanding and knowledge of grammar can aid you in the reading and listening elements of the exam as well.

There are many websites you can use to improve your grammar such as:

- [spanishdict.com](http://spanishdict.com)
- [grammar.collinsdictionary.com](http://grammar.collinsdictionary.com)
- [fluentu.com](http://fluentu.com)

There are also lots of grammar worksheets available on the Google Drive shared area which you all have access to.

Grammar booklets such as Schaums Outline of Spanish Grammar are really helpful, as they contain notes for all tenses and activities all the way up to advanced level.