

## TENSES & REGULAR VERBS - e.g. AIMER (to like)

Although you will not have covered some of these tenses at GCSE, if you have a solid understanding of other 'foundation' tenses, you will be able to build these new tenses which will come up at A Level.

For example, you will notice that you can already build the passive just by knowing how to conjugate être in the present & imperfect tenses and knowing a selection of past participles. You also already know that if you use être as a helping verb in any tense, the past participle which follows **MUST** agree, just like an adjective.

Tense	Conjugation	English
Present	j'aime	I like/ I am liking / I do like
Perfect past	j'ai aimé	I (have) liked, I did like
Pluperfect	j'avais aimé	I had loved
Imperfect	j'aimais	I used to like (I was liking)
Passive (present) (A Level)	je suis aimé	I am loved
Passive (past) (A Level)	j'étais aimé	I was loved
Futur proche	je vais aimer	I am going to like
Futur simple	j'aimerai	I will / shall like
Conditional	j'aimerais	I would like
Conditional perfect (A Level)	j'aurais aimé	I would have like

Tense	Notes	Conjugation	English
PRESENT	3 verb families: er re ir  Remove infinitive ending & add the correct ending for each subject pronoun.	e, es, e, ons, ez, ent s, s,-, ons, ez, ent is, is, it, issons, issez, issent  Common irregulars: avoir, être, faire, aller, devoir, pouvoir, vouloir, prendre, voir, venir, sortir, partir	3 present tenses in English, only 1 in French e.g.  I wear (habit)  I am wearing (at this moment)  I do wear (emphasis)
PERFECT PAST	3 verb families - regular endings for past participles; er → é re → u ir → i	Most take <i>avoir</i> as their helping verb. (ai, as, a avons, avez, ont).  MR V DREAMPANTS have <i>être</i> as their helping verb.	3 possible translations in English e.g. I have worn I wore I did wear

		(suis, es, est, sommes, êtes, sont).  + past participle	
PLUPERFECT	<p>Take the imperfect form of avoir or être and add on the past participle.</p> <p>Choose avoir if the past participle takes avoir in the perfect past tense</p> <p>Choose être if the past participle takes être in the perfect past tense</p> <p>NB: just like when you use être in the perfect past, the past participle <b>MUST</b> agree in the pluperfect form i.e. with the gender &amp; quantity of the subject.</p>	<p>J'avais Tu avais Il/elle avait</p> <p>Nous avions Vous aviez Ils / elles avaient</p> <p>J'étais Tu étais Il/elle était</p> <p>Nous étions Vous étiez Ils / elles étaient</p> <p>+ past participle</p>	<p>J'avais porté = I had worn</p> <p>Elle avait porté = she had worn</p> <p>Nous avions porté = we had worn</p> <p>NO agreement with the past participle</p> <p>J'étais arrivé / J'étais arrivée = I had arrived</p> <p>Elle était arrivé<u>e</u> = she had arrived</p> <p>Nous étions arriv<u>és</u> / Nous étions arriv<u>ées</u> = we had arrived</p> <p>Agreement with the past participle due to the presence of être</p>
PASSIVE	<p>Present: Take the present tense conjugation of être and add on the past participle.</p> <p>Past: Take the imperfect tense conjugation of être and add on the past participle.</p>	<p>Je suis Tu es Il/elle/on est Nous sommes Vous êtes Ils /elles sont</p> <p>J'étais Tu étais Il/elle était</p> <p>Nous étions Vous étiez Ils / elles étaient</p> <p>+ past participle</p>	<p><u>la</u> maison est construite<u>e</u> par le gouvernement = the house is built by the government</p> <p><u>la</u> maison était vendue<u>e</u> en 1990 = the house = the house was sold in 1990.</p>

	NB: just like with être in the perfect past, the past participle <b>MUST</b> be treated like an adjective i.e. it must agree with the gender & quantity of the subject.	e.g. <u>la</u> maison était vendue en 1990 ; <u>les</u> maisons étaient construites au bord de la mer	
IMPERFECT	Take infinitive, remove ending (er, re, ir) and add the correct ending for each subject pronoun.	ais, ais, ait, ions, iez, aient  *the usual irregular verbs tend to be regular in this tense (& so look like their infinitive) e.g. j'allais = I used to go / I was going J'étais (I was) from être, j'avais (I had) from avoir	2 possible translations in English e.g. I used to wear (habit) I was wearing (ongoing past action)
NEAR FUTURE	Conjugate aller according to the subject pronoun and add the INFINITIVE	Je vais, tu vas, il/elle va, nous allons, vous allez, ils/elles vont + INFINITIVE e.g. porter, prendre, aller, faire, avoir	I AM GOING to wear
SIMPLE FUTURE	Take infinitive, KEEP ending (except re → r) and add the correct ending for each subject pronoun.	ai, as, a, ons, ez, ont  *Note that these endings are mostly the verb avoir in the present tense!	I WILL wear  Je serai = I will be J'aurai = I will have J'irai = I will go Je ferai = I will do
CONDITIONAL	Take infinitive, KEEP ending (except re → r) and add the correct ending for each subject pronoun.  Usually associated with si (if) clauses (si j'avais le choix).	ais, ais, ait, ions, iez, aient  *Irregular stems are the same for simple future & conditional; être = ser avoir = aur aller = ir faire = fer voir = verr venir = viendr pouvoir = pourr vouloir = voudr	I WOULD wear  i.e. it's not something that is going to / will happen - it's something you would like to happen if certain conditions were fulfilled e.g. if you had the money / time/ choice, etc  Je serais = I would be J'aurais = I would have

		devoir = devr savoir = saur	J'irais = I would go Je ferais = I would do
CONDITIONAL PERFECT	<p>Conditional form of avoir or être plus past participle</p> <p>Choose avoir if the past participle takes avoir in the perfect past tense</p> <p>Choose être if the past participle takes être in the perfect past tense</p> <p>NB: just like with être in the perfect past, the past participle <b>MUST</b> be treated like an adjective i.e. it must agree with the gender &amp; quantity of the subject.</p>	<p>J'aurais Tu aurais Il/elle aurait</p> <p>Nous aurions Vous auriez Ils/elles auraient</p> <p>Je serais Tu serais Il/elle serait</p> <p>Nous serions Vous seriez Ils/elles seraient</p> <p>+ past participle</p>	<p>J'aurais porté = I would have worn</p> <p>Il aurait porté = he would have worn</p> <p>Elles auraient porté = they would have worn</p> <p>NO agreement with the past participle</p> <p>Je serais arrivé / Je serais arrivée = I would have arrived</p> <p>Elle serait arrivée = she would have arrived</p> <p>Nous serions arrivés / Nous serions arrivées = we would have arrived</p> <p>Agreement with the past participle due to the presence of être</p>

Please go to the websites below to practise your French grammar (choose whichever tenses / grammar points YOU feel you need to work on):

<https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/frenchindex.html#Grammar>

<https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/>