

## The Imperfect Tense

The imperfect tense is used:

- To talk about what used to happen (a regular occurrence)
- To talk about what something was like
- To translate was-ing and were-ing

To form the imperfect tense:

- Take the nous form present tense eg. Nous regardons
- Get rid of the nous and knock off the -ons to get the stem
- Add the correct ending from the table below

Je	ais	Nous	ions
Tu	ais	Vous	iez
Il/elle/on	ait	Ils/elles	aient

The only irregular stem is for the verb être -**ét**

## The subjunctive

Is a mood which is used to:

- Follow certain expressions

Il est essentiel que. . - it is essential that. .  
 Afin que/ pour que. . - in order that  
 Il faut que - it is necessary that  
 Bien que - although

To form:

Regular -er verbs are the same as the present tense in the je form.

Il est essentiel que j'aille - it is essential that I go

Afin que je puisse - so that I can

Il faut que je fasse - I need to do

Bien que j'aime - although I like

## The Future Tense

### The Near Future ( going to)

The future tense is used to talk about something which is going to happen.

In French it is formed in the same way as in English.

We use the present tense of the verb 'to go' (aller) followed by the infinitive.

Eg. I am going to play  
 Je vais jouer

### The verb aller

je	vais	nous	allons
tu	vas	vous	allez
il/elle/on	va	ils/elles	vont

### The Real Future ( will)

Add the following endings to the infinitive of the verb (for -re verbs knock off the e)

je	ai	nous	ons
tu	as	vous	ez
il/elle/on	a	ils/elles	ont

### Irregular stems

Infinitive	stem
Etre	ser
Faire	fer
Aller	ir
Avoir	aur
Voir	ver
Pouvoir	pourr
Devoir	devr
Vouloir	voudr
Venir	viendr

## The Conditional Tense

The conditional tense is used when you want to say: would, should or could do something.

To form the conditional tense:

- Use the same stem as for the real future tense (mostly the infinitive)
- Add the correct ending (the same as the imperfect tense)

Je	ais	Nous	ions
Tu	ais	Vous	iez
Il/elle/on	ait	Ils/elles	aient

### The conditional tense +infinitive

Je devrais + inf - I should

Je pourrais + inf - I could

Je voudrais + inf - I would like

J'aimerais + inf - I would love

### The Conditional Perfect

Use the conditional form of avoir or être and a past participle.

J'aurais préféré - I would have preferred

On serait restés - we would have stayed

J'aurais cru - I would have thought

### Si clauses

Use in conjunction with the imperfect tense to translate "if" clauses.

(see complex structures sheet for examples of si clauses)