

The Present Simple («Le Présent Simple») (Thanks,Ryan Mason)

Preliminaries:

Before learning about the present tense, you all should first make sure you know about the subject of a sentence. The subject is the thing that does the action. So in the sentence, "The boy runs", the subject is the boy for it is he who is doing the running. The most basic subjects are as follows:

je - I
tu - You
il - he
elle - she
vous - You (formal)
nous - we
ils - they (males)
elles - they (females)

Learn them well for many dictionary and other language tools for french are organized in such a manner when dealing with french. It is also the format that the rest of this unit will follow.

As a general rule, the subject of the sentence will usually come at its beginning.

Lesson One:

Verbs are the essence of any language. Without them and every sentence, no matter how great or small falls apart into nothingness. This is because verbs are fundamentally responsible for conveying actions and meaning.

Most verbs in french fall into three groups and today we'll look at the most basic one of all - -er verbs.

In French, just like in english, verbs are conjugated depending on the subject of the sentence. -er verbs are verbs that end with "er" so to properly conjugate them, you locate the subject of the sentence, drop off the er and add the ending that properly corresponds to the subject. The list of those endings are as follows:

1er groupe:
je - e
tu - es
il - e
elle - e
vous - ez
nous - ons
ils - ent
elles - ent

Now lets take the verb parler - to speak. Its an -er verb (obvious from the -er ending) and conjugate it to show how its done.

je parle
tu parles
il parle
elle parle
vous parlez

nous parlons
ils parlent
elles parlent

So, to say that "She is speaking french" or " she speaks french", you would write Elle parle le français.