

FRE 122: FRENCH GRAMMAR II



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE CODE: FRE 122

COURSE TITLE: FRENCH GRAMMAR II

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COURSE GUIDE

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COURSE GUIDE

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FRE 122: FRENCH GRAMMAR II

This course is a one-semester course in the first year of B.A. (Hons) Degree in French Studies. It is three (3) credit course of twenty units. It intends to introduce you (students) to the Basic Grammar of French Language.

FRE 122 as GRAMMAR II, is like the Basic Grammar that prepares you for a more advanced grammar that will be taught in FRN 205: GRAMMAR III. Grammar, being the life wire of any human language is highly important for it allows the learners to read, understand and analyse the grammatical structure, with which the contents of other language courses are documented. This course is thus essential and will be beneficial to any French student because it will enhance your linguistic capability to cope with the grammatical structure of French Language. It will also enable you to put into practice the grammar of French you acquire in the course of this programme.

In this course guide, we hope to tell you briefly what the course is all about, the course materials you will use to achieve the objectives of the course, suggestions on some general guidelines for the amount of time you are likely to spend on each unit of the course in order to complete it successfully. We also provide a detailed separate Assignment File for you.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS COURSE

The general aim of FRE 122: FRENCH GRAMMAR II is to introduce you to the basic grammar of French language. This basic grammar is centred around conjugation of French verbs. It will expose you to various techniques of how to conjugate various groups of French verbs into various tenses.

Course Aims

The aims of this course are:

- To let you know the importance of verbs in the grammar of any human language like French.
- To identify various types of verbs in French Language.
- To teach you various techniques, through which you can conjugate French verbs into various tenses, taking into consideration their mood (mode) and aspects.

These aims will be achieved through:

- A detailed introduction of verbs as the most important aspect of parts of speech.
- Presentation of various types of verbs in French language.
- Provision of some grammatical traits that could help you in identifying some verbs and their conjugation groups.

Introduction of techniques and grammatical rules that will help you in conjugating French verbs of various conjugation groups.

Course Objectives

It is on completion of the entire units of this course that the aims set above could be completely achieved. Each unit has its specific objectives. The unit objectives are found at the beginning of each unit. You need to read them before you start working on the unit. You may want to refer to them during your study of the unit to check on your progress in the course. There is need for you to always look at the unit objectives after completing a unit to ensure that you have done what is required.

We would like to itemise the objectives of the course in an explicit and methodical manner. If you are able to meet these objectives as stated below, you would have achieved the aims of this course.

On successful completion of the course, you should be able to:

1. State the importance of verbs in the grammar of any natural language.
2. Identify the three types of French verbs (according to their endings)
3. Classify French verbs into regular and irregular groupings
4. State the techniques and steps to follow when conjugating French regular and irregular verbs into various tenses
5. Stating the modal conditions that set indicative, subjunctive, imperative and conditional moods apart.
6. Identifying the endings and other grammatical traits with which one could classify the conjugation of each of these verbs on consideration of their tenses and moods.

WORKING THROUGH THIS COURSE

To complete this course you are required to read the study unit, read set books and other materials related to French grammar. Each unit contains self-assessment exercises. You will also have to submit your Tutor-Marked Assignments to your tutors.

The course will take you between 20 and 25 weeks to complete find below the components of the course, what you have to do and how you should allocate your time to each unit in order to complete the course successfully on time.

Course Materials

Major components of the course are:

1. Course Guide
2. Study Units

3. Textbooks
4. Assignments File

There are twenty study units in this course. They are:

- Unit 1: Identification of conjugation groups
- Unit 2: Conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*
- Unit 3: Conjugation of **re** irregular verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*
- Unit 4: Conjugation of **ir/oir** irregular verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*
- Unit 5: Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*
- Unit 6: Conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *futur simple*
- Unit 7: Conjugation of irregular verbs into *futur simple*
- Unit 8: Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into *futur simple*
- Unit 9: Conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*
- Unit 10: Conjugation with auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*
- Unit 11: Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into *passé composé*
- Unit 12: Agreement of *passé composé*
- Unit 13: Conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*
- Unit 14: Conjugation of irregular verbs into *présent de l'imparfait*
- Unit 15: Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into *l'imparfait*
- Unit 16: Conjugation of verbs into imperative (positive and negative)
- Unit 17: Conjugation of verbs into *conditionnel présent*
- Unit 18: Conjugation of verbs into *conditionnel passé*
- Unit 19: Conjugation of verbs into *subjonctif présent*
- Unit 20: Conjugation of verbs into *subjonctif passé*

As it could be seen above, Units 1 to 5 are based on the simple conjugations of various verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*. Units 6-12 talk on more technical conjugations such as *futur simple* and *passé composé*. As from Units 13 to 20, the

conjugations become tougher. But if you follow the simplified manner with which we present the conjugations, you will find them easier to comprehend. Each unit can be studied in one to two weeks. Each unit has its specific objective, reading materials, explanation and set of reading materials. It also contains self-assessment exercises and Tutor-Marked Assignments. All these will assist you in achieving the learning objectives of the unit and the whole course.

Set Textbooks

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.
- Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.

Assignment File

There is an Assignment File where more than twenty assignments are provided. The assignments carry 40% of total mark for the course. The mark you obtain in assignment will count towards the final mark you obtain for this course.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment of this course is divided into two main parts. The first parts are the tutor-marked assignments and the second part is a written examination. The assignments must be submitted to your tutor for formal assessment in accordance with the deadline stated by the tutor.

The work submitted to your tutor for assessment will count for 40% of your total course mark. You will sit for a final examination of three hours duration at the end of the course. This examination will also count for 60% of your total course mark.

TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT (TMAs)

There are twenty tutor-marked assignments in this course. You need to submit only six of the twenty assignments of which the highest four marks will be counted. Each assignment counts 10% toward your total course mark.

When you have completed your assignment, send it together with a TMA (tutor-marked assignment) form, to your tutor. Make sure that each assignment reaches your tutor on or before the deadline.

Final Examination and Grading

The final examination for FRN 108 will be of three hours' duration and carry a total mark of 60% of the total course grade. The examination will reflect the types of self-testing, and tutor-marked assignments. You need to revise before you sit for the examination.

You may also need to revise the self-assessment tests and tutor marked assignments and comments on them before the examination. The examination covers information from all parts of the course.

Course Marking Scheme

The table below shows the breakdown of the course marking.

Assessment	Marks
Assignment 1-6	Six assignments, best four marks of the six count @ 10% each =40 of course marks
Final examination	60% of overall course marks
Total	100% of course marks

Course Overview

There are twenty (20) units in this Course. You are to spend one week on each unit. Assignment 1 will come at the end of the unit 3. Assignment 2 at the end of unit six. Assignment 3 after finishing unit nine. Assignment 4 at the end of unit 12. Assignment 5 at the end of unit sixteen and assignment 6 comes up after completing unit 20.

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM THIS COURSE

The advantage of distance learning is that, you can read and work through specially designed study materials at your own pace, and at your convenient time and place. The course material replaces the lecturer that stands before you in a face of face situation.

Each of the units has a common format. The first item is an introduction to the subject matter of the unit and how a particular unit is integrated into the other units and the course as a whole. You also have a set of learning objectives of the units. Those objectives tell you what you should be able to know on completion of the unit. Having finished the unit, you need to go back to those objectives to confirm whether you have achieved these objectives.

The main body starts with a explanation and techniques on how to conjugate French verbs. Self-assessment tests are spread all over the units. Working through these tests will help you tremendously to achieve the objectives of the units and prepare you for the assignments and examination. Do each as you meet them in the unit.

SUMMARY

FRN 108: GRAMMAR II intends to introduce you to the basic techniques of how to conjugate various French verbs. On successful completion of this course, you will be equipped with the basic knowledge of French grammar as it affects conjugations of various verbs to various tenses, moods and aspects.

You will be able to:

- State the importance of verbs in the grammar of any natural language.
- Identify the three types of French verbs (according to their endings)
- Classify French verbs into regular and irregular groupings
- State the techniques and steps to follow when conjugating French regular and irregular verbs into various tenses
- State the modal conditions that set indicative, subjunctive, imperative and conditional moods apart.
- Identify the endings and other grammatical traits with which one could classify the conjugation of each of these verbs on consideration of their tenses and moods.

FRE 108: FRENCH GRAMMAR II

UNIT ONE

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IDENTIFICATION OF CONJUGATION GROUPS

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This unit will introduce you to this course. You will read to know about French verbs, their conjugation groupings and their endings. This unit will teach you the general introduction into what French verb is all about. You will also learn some basic techniques of how to identify each of the verbs that belong to various groupings. Knowledge gained from this unit will facilitate your proper understanding of how to conjugate French verbs. It is important to note that your understanding this course better depends on the way and manner with which you handle this unit. Therefore, we implore you to learn to identify these groupings well through their identification traits.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- state the importance of verbs in French language grammar
- list correctly the conjugation groupings of French verbs
- identify some verbs with **er** ending
- identify some verbs with **re** ending
- identify some verbs with **ir/oir** ending

You are now invited into the world of French verbs.

3.0 IMPORTANCE OF VERBS IN FRENCH GRAMMAR

Verbs in French language, just like in any other languages of the world, are the most important linguistic elements. There is no other part of speech that could exist alone as a sentence and have meaning without a verb in it. Whereas a sentence can be formed by a verb alone. If we should say “Go!”, it is a complete sentence that could portray a full meaning that a sentence with a subject, verb and object could have. A verb could be defined as a grammatical word that states the action(s) performed or the relationship that exists between a subject and an object of a given sentence. As the link and the presenter of the actions performed or the relationship that exist between the ‘performer’ and the ‘action performed’, verbs is then the most important aspect of the nine grammatical parts of speech in French grammar. Any of your sentences in French grammar will be incomplete if you should fail to add at least a verb to it.

3.1. IDENTIFICATION OF CONJUGATION GROUPS

French verbs are classified into three conjugation groups, in consonance with the ending of their infinitive. They are the **er** verbs, the **re** verbs and the **ir/oir** verbs. The possibility of each of these verbs to be conjugated in

accordance with a rule that is applicable to a whole group introduces another sub-division of regular and irregular verbs. A regular verb is a verb whose conjugation follows the normal and general rule established for its group while an irregular verb violates and contradicts the general principle of conjugation of verbs in its group (or a group of verbs that does not have a definite and appropriate way of conjugation). You should therefore note that there are three conjugation groups of verbs in French Language namely the **er** verbs, the **re** verbs and the **ir/oir** verbs. The **er** verbs are verbs that have **er** letters at their tail end, the **re** verbs are the verbs that contain **re** at their tail ending while the **ir/oir** verbs are the verbs that end in **ir/oir**.

3.2 **ER GROUPINGS AND THEIR EXAMPLES**

As earlier said, the **er** verbs are verbs that have **er** letters at their tail end. In French grammar, the ending of a verb is called 'terminaison'. Therefore a verb that has the **er** 'terminaison' is so far tagged the **er** verb in French grammar. Most verbs in this group are regular verbs. It is only the verb **aller** that has the **er** ending that could be noted to be irregular in conjugation. Apart from the verb **aller** (to go) which is irregular, almost all the verbs in this group are regular verbs. You should also note that the group contains the largest number of French verbs. Most of the borrowed verbs (from another language) as well as newly formed or coined verbs are also part of this group. Examples of these verbs could be found in:

abandonner (to abandon – to leave – to give up etc ...)

abîmer (to damage – to spoil)

accepter (to accept – to agree to)

Acclamer (to cheer – to acclaim)

Accompagner (to go with) - to accompany)

Accuser (to accuse)

Agresser (to attack)

Agacer (to irritate – to tease)
Aider (to help)
Aimer (to like/love)
Ajouter (to add)
Bavarder (to talk)
Caresser (to caress – to stroke)
Commencer (to start)
Danser (to dance)
Effacer (to clean – to erase – to wipe off)
Fabriquer (to make – to produce - to manufacture)
Gêner (to disturb – to hamper)
Habiter (to live in)
Identifier (to identify)
Jurer (to swear)
Kidnapper (to kidnap)
Labourer (to plough)
Manger (to eat)
Nager (to swim)
Oublier (to forget)
Parler (to speak – to talk)
Quitter (to leave)
Rester (to stay)
Semer (to sow)
Tricher (to cheat)
Uriner (to urinate)
Viser (to aim at)
Zigzaguer (to zigzag (along))

3.3 **RE GROUPINGS AND THEIR EXAMPLES**

As explained in our introduction, you have been told that the **re** verbs are verbs that have **re** letters at their tail end. Apart from the **er** group that contain the largest number of verbs generally and largest number of regular verbs in particular, most verbs in this group (as well as the third group) are irregular verbs. Examples of these verbs could be seen in:

- abattre (to cut down – to knock down)
- accroître (to increase)
- dire (to say)
- faire (to do – to make)
- fendre (to split – to crack – to break)
- mordre (to bite)
- pondre (to lay)
- répondre (to answer)
- tendre (to tighten – to stretch – to set etc)
- vendre (to sell)

3.4 IR/OIR GROUPINGS AND THEIR EXAMPLES

As a follow up to our explanation at the beginning of this unit, the **ir/oir** verbs are verbs that have **ir/oir** letters at their tail end. You should remember also that most verbs in this category are irregular verbs. Examples of these verbs could be seen in:

- Abolir (to abolish – to do away with)
- Accomplir (to carry out – to achieve – to perform)
- Affermir (to consolidate)
- Affranchir (to free – to stamp)
- Anéantir (to annihilate)
- Applaudir (to clap – to applaud)
- Arrondir (to round – to round up)
- Accomplir (to accomplish – to perform – to achieve)
- Asservir (to enslave – to subjugate)

Attendrir (to soften – to melt)

Faiblir (to weaken – to wane)

Gémir (to moan – to groan)

Haïr (to hate – to detest)

Jaillir (to spurt out)

Languir (to languish)

Maudire (to curse)

Mourir (to feed)

Obscurcir (to darken)

Pâler (to go pale)

Ralentir (to slow down)

Saisir (to seize – to grasp)

Trahir (to betray)

Unir (to unite - to bind)

Vomir (to vomit)

3.5 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Give the three group of verbs in French, and conjugate any two in the “ présent de l’indicatif”.

Possible Answers:

- i) 1^{er} group = er
2^{ème} group = ir
3^{ème} group – re
- ii) Verbe **Manger** au présent de l'indicative.
Je mange Nous Mangeons
tu manges vous managez
il/elle mange ils/elles Managent
- iii) Verbe Prendre au Présent de l'indicative
Je prends Nous Prenons
Tu Prends Vous Prenez
il/elle Prend ils/elles Prennent

4.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have learned the importance of verbs in French language grammar. You have also learned how you can list correctly the conjugation groupings of French verbs. By now we believe you can identify some verbs with **er** ending, some verbs with **re** ending and some other verbs with **ir/oir** ending.

5.0 SUMMARY

This unit has equipped you with the basic techniques of how to identify the conjugation grouping of French verbs. You have learned how you can identify some verbs with **er** ending, some verbs with **re** ending and some other verbs with **ir/oir** ending. By now we believe that your vocabulary should have been enriched through the translated examples of verbs we gave you under each group. We intentionally did this so as to enrich your vocabulary. A good grammarian needs to store many vocabularies in his/her memory.

6.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

1. What is a verb and of what importance a verb to the grammar of French language?
2. With at least ten example par group, identify the three groups of verbal conjugation in French grammar.

7.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.
- Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.

UNIT TWO

CONJUGATION OF *ER* AND OTHER REGULAR VERBS INTO PRESENT DE L'INDICATIF

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6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This unit will introduce you to the conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into 'présent de l'indicatif'. In this unit, you will read to know about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French verbs into 'présent de l'indicatif'. It is in this unit also that we would like to expose you to some minor peculiarities that

are known for some **er** verbs (irrespective of the notion of their being regular). Knowledge gained from this unit will initiate your properly into how to conjugate French verbs in the ‘présent de l’indicatif’. We would like to sound a warning that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle this unit. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating **er** verbs as they will be taught here.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the Stem/Radical of **er** verbs
- Identify the **er** ending/terminaison of **er** verbs
- identify the morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation
- identify some verbs that are noted as being regular but have some peculiarities

You are now invited into the world of conjugation of **er** verbs into ‘présent de l’indicatif’.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF *ER* AND OTHER REGULAR VERBS INTO ‘*PRESENT DE L’INDICATIF*’

Apart from the verb aller (to go) (conjugated below) which is irregular, almost all the verbs in the **er** group are regular verbs:

Aller

Je vais – I am going/I go

Tu vas - You are going/You go

Il/elle va – He /she is going/ He/she goes

Nous allons –We are going/we go

Vous allez – you are going/you go

Ils/elles vont – They are going/they go

The general rule of the conjugation of these other **er** verbs is getting the infinitive divided or separated into the stem/radical and the ending. You then replace the ending, by adding these underlisted new endings to the stem or radical so as to form our conjugated verbs:

- e** for 1st person singular
- es** for 2nd person singular
- e** for 3rd person singular
- ons** for 1st person plural
- ez** for 2nd person plural
- ent** for 3rd person plural

For example, we want you to follow this technique and conjugate the verb **parler** (to speak) into ‘présent de l’indicatif’:

Parl



Verbal stem/Radical

er



Verbal ending/terminaison.

The radical/stem of the infinitive **parler** is **parl** while the ending is **er**. The rule says that we drop this **er** ending and replace it as follow:

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| e | for 1 st person singular | = | Je Parle |
| es | for 2 nd person singular | = | Tu Parles |
| e | for 3 rd person singular | = | Il/Elle Parle |
| ons | for 1 st person plural | = | Nous Parlons |
| ez | for 2 nd person plural | = | Vous Parlez |
| ent | for 3 rd person plural | = | Ils/Elles Parlent |

(Note 1: We implore you to please note that verb conjugated into the French present indicative tense has two meanings cum grammatical functions in English. It could function as simple present - **Je parle = I speak** – and it could be present continuous tense – **Je parle = I am**

speaking. Care should be taken when translating from English to French or vice versa.

Note 2: Although the 2nd person plural form – **vous** – is for two or more people. It is allowed in French to be used as a mark of respect for a single person also. So you could say:

--- *Où allez – vous monsieur? Where are you going sir?*

Another example of the **er** group verbs is Verb **Aimer** (to like/to love)

The radical/stem of the infinitive **aimer** is **aim** while the ending is **er**. The rule says that we drop this **er** ending and replace it as follow:

J'**aime**: I like/love

Tu **aimes**: You like/love

Il/elle **aime**: He/she likes/loves

Noun **aimons**: We like/love

Vous **aimez**: You like/love

Ils/elles **aiment**: They like/love

A lot of verbs are conjugated in this form.

(Note 3: You will discover that we wrote **J'aime** instead of **Je aime**. In French when a verb to be conjugated has initial vowel, there will be an assimilation of a vowel whereby the vowel ending the pronoun would be dropped for that of the verb. And the vowel that is omitted is represented by an apostrophe (').

3.1. EXCEPTIONALITIES IN THE CONJUGATION OF *ER* AND OTHER REGULAR VERBS INTO PRESENT DE L'INDICATIFS

Although verbs in the **er** group are said to be regular, there are some small peculiarities you have to know for some sections of these verbs. These sets are special and they need to be treated thus. Their examples are as follow:

3.1.1 The **-cer** verbs:

In French, letter **c** plays a dual phonological role when you use it in words. It sounds like /k/ when it precedes vowels **a, o, u**. Whereas it sounds /s/ when it is in front of vowels **i, e**. In case it precedes any of the vowels **a, o, u** and you want it to be pronounced /s/ instead of its normal /k/, phonological rule says that you must put ‘cedille’ (ç) at the bottom of the **c**. So you should not be surprised to see this ‘strange’ mark in the conjugation of verbs like (placer – to place):

Je place	Nous plaçons
Tu places	Vous placez
Il/elle place	Ils/elles placent

3.1.2 The **-ger** verbs:

Like letter **c**, letter **g** plays a dual role also in the French phonology. It sounds /g/ when it precedes vowels like **a, o, u**. But it sounds /ʒ/ when it precedes vowels **i, e**. In a situation where the infinitive dictates that the **g** must have / ʒ/ sound even when it is to be followed by either **a, o, or u**, the French phonological cum grammatical rule says that you must add an additional **e** before you write the **a, o, or the u**. So in verbs like **manger** – (to eat), you normally have **nous mangeons**:

Je mange	Nous mangeons
Tu manges	Vous mangez
Il/elle mange	Ils/elles mangent

Note: The **-guer** verbs (such as blaguer) are not affected by this rule.

3.1.3 **The e-er verbs:** The **-ecer, -emer, -ener, -eper, -erer, -eser, -ever, -evrer** verbs have one peculiarity. In their infinitive, they have closed silence **e** in the last syllable of their stem. It is this **e** that is next to the single or double consonants that end their stem/radical: **lev/er**. When conjugating, this **e** changes its silence **e** sound to an opened **è** sound in the first person, second

person, third person singular and third person plural. And to mark this change in pronunciation, you must put an accent ‘grave’ on the e so as to become è that falls in this category: **lever – to rise**.

Je lève	Nous levons
Tu lève	Vous levez
Il/elle lève	Ils/elles lèvent.

3.1.4 The é: er Verbs

There are some other verbs in French grammar whose letter e in the last syllable of the infinitive is carrying an acute accent (aigu) – é - already in the infinitive. This acute accent, (/), when the verb is conjugated, normally changes to a grave accent (\) – è - in the first person, second person, third person singular and third person plural. This peculiarity is found among the -ébrer, -écer, -écher, -écrer, -éder, -égler, -égner, éguer, -éler, -émer, -éner, -éper, -équér, -érer, -éser, -éter, -étrer, -éver verbs.

Example: ***célébrer*** to celebrate:

Je célèbre	Nous célébrons
Tu célèbres	Vous célébrez
Il/elle célèbre	Ils/elles célèbrent

(Note: You will discover that this peculiarity does not affect the 1st and 2nd person plural of groups’ 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 of our exceptions. There is no problem of change in the pronunciation of e at these levels).

3.1.5 The eler and eter verbs

When conjugating the eler or eter verbs, the single l or t in the infinitive is doubled in the first person, second person, third person singular and third person plural. This change becomes inevitable so as to allow for easy pronunciation. you must note that the e before the l or t is pronounced /ə/ in the infinitive. Whereas you would want it pronounced /Σ/ when used in the

1st, 2nd, 3rd persons singular and 3rd person plural. In order to facilitate this pronunciation, you must double l or the t. And that is why the pronunciation of e would not change from being /e/ in the 1st and 2nd persons plural where we do not normally double these consonants.

Examples are:

Appeler – to call

J'appelle	Nous appelons
Tu appelles	Vous appelez
Il/elle appelle	Ils/elles appellent

Jeter - to throw

Je jette	Nous jetons
Tu jettes	Vous jetez
Il/elle jette	Ils/elles jettent

(Note: There are some exceptions to this general rule. Some -eler and -eter verbs do not double their l or t in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons singular and 3rd person plural, so as to enhance the evolution of the pronunciation of the vowel e, before the consonant t or l from /ə/ to /Σ/ sound. They are verbs like **modeler, celer, déceler, receler, ciseler, démanteler, écarteler, geler, congeler, surgeler, marteler, peler, acheter, racheter, bégueter, and corseter**. They only take accent grave (̀) on the e at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons singular and 3rd person plural. Example is acheter: to buy:

J'achète	Nous achetons
Tu achètes	Vous achetez
Il/elle achète	Ils/elles achètent

3.1.6 The -yer verbs: You must have been taught that in phonetics (as well as in French phonology), consonant y is taken to be a semi-vowel or semi-

consonant. It is also viewed by some linguists as the variant of /i/ sound. That is to say it could easily change to vowel 'i' or the vowel 'i' changes to y. That explains why the semi-owel y in the infinitive of yer verbs changes to i in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons singular and 3rd persons plural. A better example of this peculiarity could be seen in the conjugation of the infinitive envoyer (to send) in the present tense:

J'envoie	Nous envoyons
Tu envoies	Vous envoyez
Il/elle envoie	Ils/elles envoient

(Note: You must note that the y do not change in the 1st and 2nd persons plural. It is retained so as to maintain a good and balanced pronunciation at these levels. And you should have been noting also that any peculiarity introduced into any of the verbs do not normally affect these sections of the conjugation. This is as a result of special and different way these two sets are pronounced. They differ in pronunciation from the other four).

3.1.7 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Conjugate the verb “Mager” and “Célébrer” in the “Présent de l’indicatif”

Je Célèbre	Nous Célébrons
Tu Célèbres	Vous Célébrez
Il/Elle Célèbre	Ils/elles Célèbrent

6.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have learned the rules governing the conjugation of **er** verbs into ‘présent de l’indicatif’. Although this group of conjugation is said to have the largest number of regular verbs, yet you have discovered some peculiarities in the conjugation of some verbs in this category. By now we believe you can conjugate different categories of verbs with **er** ending.

7.0 SUMMARY

You must have been adequately informed in this unit on the basic techniques of how to conjugate **er** verbs into 'présent de l'indicatif'. You must have learned also some peculiarities in the conjugation of some verbs in this category. By now we believe that your verbal vocabulary and technique of conjugation of verbs should have been enriched through the explanation and examples of verbs we gave you under each classification.

8.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

3. Conjugate the following verbs into présent de l'indicatif:
 - a. Parler, b. Nager, c. Balayer, d. Lancer, e. Surlever, f. Célébrer, g. Monter, h. Rejeter, i. Payer, j. Blaguer.

9.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.
- Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.

UNIT THREE

CONJUGATION OF RE IRREGULAR VERBS INTO PRÉSENT DE L'INDICATIF

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
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3.2.1	The ' ttre ' verbs
3.2.2	The ' NDRE ' Irregular verbs'
3.2.3	The ' AINCRE ' Verbs
3.2.4	The group of ' faire ' and ' dire '
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3.2.6	Self Assessment Exercise
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6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This unit will introduce you to the conjugation of **re** as irregular verbs into 'présent de l'indicatif'. In this unit, you will read to know about the modern techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French **re** irregular verbs into 'présent de l'indicatif'.

Knowledge gained from this unit will initiate you properly into how to conjugate **re** irregular verbs in the ‘présent de l’indicatif’. We would like to repeat our warning that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle this unit. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating irregular verbs as they will be taught here.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the Stem/Radical of **re** irregular verbs.
- Identify the **re** ending/terminaison of these irregular verbs
- identify the morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of **re** irregular verbs into ‘présent de l’indicatif’.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF **RE** IRREGULAR VERBS INTO PRESENT DE L’INDICATIF

As you have been told earlier, only the **er** verbs have the largest number of regular verbs. Apart from these **er** verbs, other verbs, such as the **re** verbs that we are about to treat for you in this unit, are irregular. The general rule of conjugating the **re** verbs is that you break the infinitive into two: the stem/radical and the ending. You then replace the ending **er** with s, s, t, ons, ez, ent. But we must sound a warning that all verbs in this category, being irregular, change their radical/stem. They only end in these s, s, t, ons, ez, ent.

A verb is said to be irregular when its stem (and even the endings in some other cases like infinitive faire, dire) changes from one person to the other. Compare these two conjugations (of parler – to speak and être – to be):

Parler:

Je Parle

Nous Parlons

Tu Parles	Vous Parlez
Il/Elle Parle	Ils/Elles Parlent

être

Je suis	Nous sommes
Tu es	Vous êtes
Il/Elle est	Ils/Elles sont

You will observe that while the **parl** stem of the infinitive **parler** are invariable in the first person, second person and third person singular and plural, the same thing cannot be said of the stem of the infinitive **être**. It changes from person to person hence the classification of irregularity. Before we go further, you can go through the conjugation of these three common irregular verbs often used by French speakers:

3.1 THE 3 COMMON IRREGULAR VERBS:

There are three common irregular verbs that we frequently use in our day-to-day discussion. They are être (to be), avoir (to have) and aller (to go):

(a) Etre		(b) Avoir	
Je suis	Nous sommes	J'ai	Nous avons
Tu es	Vous êtes	Tu as	Vous avez
Il est	Ils sont	Il a	Ils ont
(c) Aller			
Je vais	Nous allons		
Tu vas	Vous allez		
Il va	Ils vont		

NOTE: Although there is similarity in the conjugation of the 3rd person plural of these 3 verbs, you should note that the 3rd person plural of être takes a consonant 's' while that of **avoir** has none and there is a v in the place of the 's' in the conjugation of aller.

3.2 TECHNIQUES AND EXAMPLES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF *RE* VERBS INTO PRÉSENT DE L'INDICATIF

The general rule established for conjugating verbs in this group state that you divide the infinitive into the stem and ending. You will then drop the **re** ending of the infinitive and replace it by s, s, t/d, ons, ez, ent, endings. The **t/d** in the 3rd person singular is saying that in case the infinitive concerned is among the dre, andre, endre, ondre, ordre groups, you will not add the consonant '**t**' of the 3rd person singular to the consonant **d** that ends the radical. Instead, you will use the consonant **d** to stand – in for the consonant **t** that ends the 3rd person singular in the conjugation of other groups. For example: *rend/re*, *prend/re*.

(a) *Rendre* – to give back

Je rends	Nous rendons
Tu rends	Vous rendez
Il rend	Ils rendent

(b) *Prendre* – to take

Je prends	Nous prenons
Tu prends	Vous prenez
Il prend	Ils prennent

NOTE: In the case of **prendre** and other verbs in its group, you should drop the consonant **d** in the plural form and you double the **n** in the stem of the 3rd person plural.

3.2.1 The 'ttre' verbs:

You should note when conjugating that this set of verbs drops one of the double **t** in their singular form but maintain them in plural.

(a) *Battre* – to beat

Je bats	Nous battons
Tu bats	Vous battez
Il bat	Ils battent

(b) Mettre – to put

Je mets	Nous mettons
Tu mets	Vous mettez
Il met	Ils mettent

3.2.2 The ‘NDRE’ Irregular verbs’

You should take into cognizance that this group of verbs drops the **d** that ends their radical/stem in all facets of conjugation. They take additional **gn** before their verbal endings in the plural form. This strange addition is to facilitate pronunciations.

(a) Peindre – to paint

Je peins	Nous peignons
Tu peins	Vous peignez
Il peint	Ils peignent

(b) Joindre – to join

Je joins	Nous joignons
Tu joins	Vous joignez
Il joint	Ils joignent

3.2.3 The ‘AINCRE’ Verbs

You need to know that this group maintains the **c** that ends the stem of their infinitive in the plural form. But this single consonant **c** is replaced by **qu** in the plural form. And the **t** is dropped in the 3rd person singular form:

(a) Vaincre – to conquer

Je vains	Nous vainquons
Tu vains	Vous vainquez
Il vainc	Ils vainquent

(b) Convaincre – to convince

Je convaincs	Nous convainquons
Tu convaincs	Vous convainquez

Il convainc Ils convainquent

3.2.4 The group of 'faire' and 'dire'

We want you to be aware also that these two verbs have a similar peculiarity; their ending in the 2nd person plural is completely different from that of the others. Even the 3rd person plural of **faire** is also different.

They are irregular:

(a) Faire – to do /make

Je fais Nous faisons

Tu fais Vous faites

Il fait Ils font

(b) Dire – to say/tell

Je dis Nous disons

Tu dis Vous dites

Il dit Ils disent

3.2.5 The AIRE, AITRE, OITRE, OIRE Verbs and others.

You must learn to master it that this group encompasses a lot of irregular verbs. Some allow their vowel **i** that ends the stem to change to **y** in the 1st and 2nd persons plural, some do not only maintain the vowel **i**, they take an addition **s** after it before taking the verbal ending, some go to the extent of duplicating the additional **s**, whereas some change their radical (stem) completely:

(a) Distraire – to entertain

Je distrais Nous distrayons

Tu distrais Vous distrayez

Il distrait Ils distraient

(b) Plaire – to please

Je plais Nous plaisons

Tu plais Vous plaisez

Il plait Ils plaisent

(c) Connaître – to know (object)

Je connais Nous connaissons

Tu connais Vous connaissez

Il connaît Ils connaissent

(d) Naitre – to be born

Je nais Nous naissons

Tu nais Vous naissez

Il nait Ils naissent

(e) Croire – to believe

Je crois Nous croyons

Tu crois Vous croyez

Il croit Ils croient

(f) Boire – to drink

Je bois Nous buvons

Tu bois Vous buvez

Il boit Ils boivent

(g) Conclure – to conclude

Je conclus Nous concluons

Tu conclus Vous concluez

Il conclut Ils concluent

(h) Absoudre – to absolve

J'absous Nous absolvons

Tu absous Vous absolvez

Il absout Ils absolvent

(i) Suivre – to follow

Je suis Nous suivons

Tu suis Vous suivez

Il suit Ils suivent

(j) Vivre – to live

Je vis	Nous vivions
Tu vis	Vous vivez
Il vit	Ils vivent

(k) Lire – to read

Je lis	Nous lisons
Tu lis	Vous lisez
Il lit	Ils lisent

(g) Rire – to laugh

Je ris	Nous rions
Tu ris	Vous riez
Il rit	Ils rient

(h) Cuire – cook

Je cuis	Nous cuisons
Tu cuis	Vous cuisinez
Il cuit	Ils cuisent

3.2.6 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Conjugate the following verbs into the “Présent l’indicatif.”

(a) Plaire, (b) descendre, (c) battre.

Verbe Plaire au Présent de l’indicatif.

a)	Je Plais	Nous Plaisons
	Tu Plais	Vous Plaisez
	il/elle Plait	Ils/elles Plaisent

b) Verbe descendre au présent de l’indicatif.

Je descends	Nous descendons
Tu descends	Vous descendez
il/elle descend	Ils/elles descendent

c) Verbe battre au présent de l'indicatif.

Je bats	Nous battons
Tu bats	Vous battez
il/elle bat	Ils/elles battent

8.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have learned the rules governing the conjugation of **re** verbs into 'présent de l'indicatif'. And like we warned you from the beginning of the unit, all verbs in this category are irregular. By now we believe you can conjugate different categories of verbs with **re** ending.

9.0 SUMMARY

You must have adequately acquired in this unit some basic techniques of how to conjugation of **re** verbs into 'présent de l'indicatif'. You must have also learned some peculiarities in the conjugation of some verbs in this category. By now we believe that your verbal vocabulary and technique of conjugation of **re** verbs should have been enriched through the explanation and examples of verbs we gave you under each classification.

10.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

4. Conjugate the following verbs into présent de l'indicatif:
- lire, b. dire, c. faire, d. descendre, e. pendre, f. cuire, g. distraire, h. connaître, i. suivre, j. battre.

11.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.
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UNIT FOUR

CONJUGATION OF IR/OIR IRREGULAR VERBS INTO PRESENT DE L'INDICATIF

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3.1.1	The ir verbs with double s in their plural form
3.1.2	Second sets of ' ir ' verbs
3.1.3	The ' ir ' verbs that take endings of ' er ' verbs
3.1.4	Other ' ir ' verbs
3.1.5	THE OIR VERBS
3.1.6	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This unit will introduce you to the conjugation of other irregular verbs, such as **ir** and **oir** verbs into 'présent de l'indicatif'. In this unit, you will learn about the modern techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French irregular verbs into 'présent de l'indicatif'. The knowledge you gain from this unit will initiate your properly into how to conjugate all French irregular verbs in the 'présent de l'indicatif'. We would like to insist on our warning that your better

understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle these first three units. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating irregular verbs as they will be taught here.

5.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the Stem/Radical of irregular verbs such as **ir** and **oir**.
- Identify the **ir** and **oir** ending/terminaison of these irregular verbs
- identify the morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of irregular verbs into 'présent de l'indicatif'.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF IR/OIR IRREGULAR VERBS INTO PRESENT DE L'INDICATIF

You need to know from the onset that the **ir** verbs could be divided into two groups. Those that belong to a group that has double **s** in the plural form when conjugated and the others that do not normally double their consonant at these levels.

The general rule of conjugating the **ir/oir** verbs, as it is done for the **re** verbs, is that you break the infinitive into two: the stem/radical and the ending. You then replace the ending **ir/oir** with **s**, **s**, **t**, **ons**, **ez**, **ent**. But we must repeat our warning that all verbs in this category, being irregular, change their radical/stem. They only end in these **s**, **s**, **t**, **ons**, **ez**, **ent**.

3.1.1 The **ir** verbs with double **s** in their plural form. You should note that these verbs follow the general rule in the conjugation of their singular form. But they introduce double **s** before taking the verbal endings in the plural form.

Their examples are finir – to finish, haïr – to hate:

Je finis	Nous finissons
Tu finis	Vous finissez
Il/elles finit	Ils/elles finissent

3.1.2 Second sets of ‘ir’ verbs

We would like you to remember that the other ‘ir’ verbs, although their stem may change, do not have double g or double any of their consonants in all their plural form except the 3rd person plural of some of their conjugation. Verbs in this group are very numerous than that of the first type. Examples could be found in:

(a) Tenir – to hold

Je tiens	Nous tenons
Tu tiens	Vous tenez
Il/elle tient	Ils/elles tiennent

(b) Venir – to come

Je viens	Nous venons
Tu viens	Vous venez
Il/elle vient	Ils/elles viennent

(c) Sentir – to smell/taste

Je sens	Nous sentons
Tu sens	Vous sentez
Il sent	Ils sentent

(d) Vêtir – to clothe/to dress

Je vêts	Nous vêtons
Tu vêts	Vous vêtez
Il vêt	Ils vêtent

3.1.3 The ‘ir’ verbs that take endings of ‘er’ verbs

You should also take cognizance of the fact that there are some ‘ir’ verbs, although they belong to the group conjugated above, that end in **e, es, e,**

ons, ez, ent as if they are **er** verbs. The infinitive of these verbs only drops the **'ir'** from their radical to take the **e, es, e, ons, ez, ent** endings. Examples of this set could be found in verbs like:

(a) Offrir – to offer

J'offre	Nous offrons
Tu offres	Vous offrez
Il offre	Ils offrent

(b) Couvrir – to cover

Je couvre	Nous couvrons
Tu couvres	Vous couvrez
Il couvre	Ils couvrent

(c) Cueillir – to pluck

Je cueille	Nous cueillons
Tu cueilles	Vous cueillez
Il cueille	Ils cueillent

(d) Assaillir – to attack

J'assaille	Nous assaillons
Tu assailles	Vous assaillez
Il assaille	Ils assaillent

3.1.4 Other 'ir' verbs:

You should learn about other forms of **ir** verbs. These sets belong to a group whose peculiarities are difficult to explain. Sometimes their radical changes completely from what is given in the infinitive. And in some other cases, you only modify the radical. But they all belong to the s, s, t, ons, ez, ent, endings.

Their examples could be found in verbs like:

(a) Bouillir – to Boil

Je bous	Nous bouillons
Tu bous	Vous bouillez

- | | | |
|--|---------|---------------|
| | Il bout | Ils bouillent |
|--|---------|---------------|
- (b) Dormir – to sleep
- | | | |
|--|---------|--------------|
| | Je dors | Nous dormons |
| | Tu dors | Vous dormez |
| | Il dort | Ils dorment |
- (c) Courir – to run
- | | | |
|--|----------|--------------|
| | Je cours | Nous courons |
| | Tu cours | Vous courez |
| | Il court | Ils courent |
- (d) Mourir – to die
- | | | |
|--|----------|--------------|
| | Je meurs | Nous mourons |
| | Tu meurs | Vous mourez |
| | Il meurt | Ils meurent |
- (e) Servir – to serve
- | | | |
|--|---------|--------------|
| | Je sers | Nous servons |
| | Tu sers | Vous servez |
| | Il sert | Ils servent |
- (f) Fuir – to run away
- | | | |
|--|---------|-------------|
| | Je fuis | Nous fuyons |
| | Tu fuis | Vous fuyez |
| | Il fuit | Ils fuient |

(NOTE: As the semi-vowel **y** in the **yer** verb changes to **ï** in the singular form and 3rd person plural, so also the **ï** in the group of **fuir** changes to **y** in the 1st and 2nd persons plural form here)

3.1.5 THE OIR VERBS

Like we have been drumming it into your hears from unit three, the ‘oir’ verbs are purely irregular. So you should learn to accept and treat them that way. Like the **re** and **ir** verbs, each of the **oir** verbs contains two or more peculiarities that we have

treated in verbs of the other groups. It is therefore difficult for us to reclassify them again for detailed discussion on them.

We could only give you examples and insight into the conjugation of some of them:

(a) Recevoir – to receive

Je reçois Nous recevons

Tu reçois Vous recevez

Il reçoit Ils reçoivent

(b) Voir – to see

Je vois Nous voyons

Tu vois Vous voyez

Il voit Ils voient

(c) Pouvoir – to be able

Je peux Nous pouvons

Tu peux Vous pouvez

Il peut Ils peuvent

(d) Savoir – to know (knowledge)

Je sais Nous savons

Tu sais Vous savez

Il sait Ils savent

(e) Devoir – to be obliged

Je dois Nous devons

Tu dois Vous devez

Il doit Ils doivent

(f) Mouvoir – to move

Je meus Nous mouvons

Tu meus Vous mouvez

Il meut Ils meuvent

(g) Valoir – to be worth

Je vau	Nous valons
Tu vau	Vous valez
Il vaut	Ils valent

(h) Vouloir – to want: wish

Je veu	Nous voulons
Tu veu	Vous voulez
Il veut	Ils veulent

(i) Asseoir – to sit

J’assieds	Nous asseyons
Tu assieds	Vous asseyez
Il assied	Ils asseyent

(j) Asseoir – to sit

J’assois	Nous assoyons
Tu assois	Vous assoyez
Il assoit	Ils assoient

3.1.6 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Conjugate the following verbs into “Présent de l’indicatif”

a) Sortir, b) Valoir c) Asseoir.

Possible answers :

(a) Verbe “Sortir au Présent de l’indicatif”.

Je sors	Nous Sortons
Tu sors	Vous Sortez
il/elle sort	Ils/Elles Sortent

(b) Verbe “Vouloir au Présent de l’indicatif”.

Je veux	Nous voulons
Tu veux	Vous voulez
Il veut	Ils veulent

(c) Verbe “Asseoir au présent de l’indicatif”.

J’assois	Nous assoyons
Tu assois	Vous assoyez
Il assoit	Ils assoient

10.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have been taught the rules governing the conjugation of **ir** and **oir** verbs into ‘présent de l’indicatif’. This group, as you should have discovered, has the largest number of irregular verbs. With our simplified explanation, we are convinced that the complication in understanding irregular verbs, which is a common problem to French learners like you would have been alleviated. By now we believe you can conjugate different categories of verbs with **ir** and **oir** ending.

11.0 SUMMARY

Having gone this far in the conjugation of verbs, we are sure that you must have been adequately informed in this unit on the basic techniques of how to conjugation of **ir** and **oir** verbs into ‘présent de l’indicatif’. Your knowledge of conjugation of irregular verbs must have been enriched also. By now we are confident that you should have acquired enough verbal vocabulary as well as simple techniques of conjugation of irregular verbs into *présent de l’indicatif*.

12.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

5. Conjugate the following verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*:
- a. savoir, b. venir, c. courir, d. offrir, e. partir, f. finir, g. sortir, h. pouvoir,
 - i. valoir, j. tenir.

13.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.
- Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.

UNIT FIVE

**CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL AND REFLEXIVE VERBS INTO
PRESENT DE L'INDICATIF**

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7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This unit will present to you the technique of conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs. In this unit, you will learn about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs. These impersonal, as well as Reflexive verbs are common in French language. You will see them as either **er**, **re**, **ir** or even **oir** verbs. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units two to four will be useful in this unit. What we will do mostly in this unit is to teach you how to identify French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs, then teach you the peculiarities of these verbs so that you could apply your already gained knowledge in the conjugation of simple **er**, **re**, **ir** and **oir** verbs to them thus conjugating them correctly. You can then understand why we have continuously been

warning you that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle these first four units. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs as they will be taught here.

6.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the French Impersonal verbs.
- Identify the French Reflexive verbs
- Explain the peculiarities of these two verbs.
- Demonstrate the techniques of conjugating these two verbs.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of Impersonal and reflexive verbs into '*présent de l'indicatif*'.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL VERBS INTO PRESENT DE L'INDICATIF

Impersonal verbs are verbs that could not be conjugated into numerous persons and classes, such as first, second, third persons, singular and plural form, like the others. They are verbs that could not be used for human beings. And being that they are for abstract things, they could only be conjugated into the 3rd person singular form. Even their conjugation into the third person singular form is limited to masculine personal pronoun, **il**, alone. This explanation is to warn you that you cannot use the third person singular of feminine form to conjugate it! We would like to note also that it is not every other verb that you can conjugate using this method. This type of conjugation is only noted for impersonal verbs alone.

Examples could be found in:

- (a) Pleuvoir – to rain
Il pleut
- (b) Falloir – to be necessary
Il faut
- (c) Advenir – to happen
Il advient
- (d) S’agir de – to be about
Il s’agit de
- (e) Brûmer – to mist (hazy)
Il brume
- (f) Venter – to blow wind
Il vente

3.1 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF REFLEXIVE OR PRONOMINAL VERBS INTO PRESENT DE L’INDICATIF

Reflexive verbs are what the French grammarian call “Les verbes pronominaux’ hence our calling them reflexive or pronominal verbs in English so as to facilitate the ease of reference for French learners like you. Reflexive or pronominal verbs are verbs used to refer to an action that the subject does to himself/herself. In a situation whereby you want account for an action that you do to yourself or the action that another person does to himself or herself, you express this action through the use of reflexive or pronominal verbs in French grammar.

In order to conjugate these verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*, this set of verbs takes additional (direct/personal) pronoun in their conjugation. The pronouns **me te se nous vous** and **se** are used to mark this action of reflexive or pronominal of the verbs. For example, if the subject or the speaker wants to say that *I bath myself*, he would say: *Je me lave*.

NOTE: We would like you to note that in the normal conjugation of the infinitive **lave**, you are to conjugate it as **Je lave** (meaning I wash..... /I am washing ...) But in the case of reflexive or pronominal action whereby you want to say that you perform the action to yourself, another reflexive pronoun of the same person and grammatical class with that of the subject (personal pronoun) will be inserted to denote that action of reflexive in the sentence, hence the inclusion of the reflexive pronoun, **me**, in the given example.

- (a) Se laver – to take ones bath
Je me lave – I bath myself
Tu te laves – You bath yourself
Il/elle se lave – he/she baths himself/herself
Nous nous lavons – we bath ourselves
Vous vous lavez – you bath yourselves
Ils se lavent – They bath themselves
- (b) Se taire – to keep quiet
Je me tais – I keep quiet
Tu te tais – You keep quiet
Il/elle se tait – he/she keeps quiet
Nous nous taisons – we keep quiet
Vous vous taisez – you keep quiet
Ils se taisent – They keep quiet
- (c) Se convertir – to convert oneself

Je me convertis – I convert myself
Tu te convertis – You convert yourself
Il/elle se convertit – he/she convert himself/herself
Nous nous convertissons – we convert ourselves
Vous vous convertissez – you convert yourselves
Ils se convertissent – They convert themselves

(d) S'asseoir – to take ones seat

Je m'assois – I sit down/take my seat
Tu t'assois – You sit down/take your seat
Il/elle s'assoit – he/she sits down/take him/her seat
Nous nous assoyons – we sit down/take our seat
Vous vous assoyez – you sit down/take your seat
Ils s'assoient – They sit down/take their seat

Or

(d) S'asseoir – to take ones seat

Je m'assieds – I sit down/take my seat
Tu t'assieds – You sit down/take your seat
Il/elle s'assied – he/she sits down/take him/her seat
Nous nous asseyons – we sit down/take our seat
Vous vous asseyez – you sit down/take your seat
Ils s'asseyent – They sit down/take their seat

NOTE: We would like you to note that there are two grammatically accepted form of conjugation of the verb *S'asseoir* in French. Which ever form you chose is correct.

(e) S'appeler – to call oneself

Je m'appelle – I call myself (I am called)
Tu t'appelles – You call yourself
Il/elle s'appelle – He/She calls himself/herself

Nous nous appelons – We call ourselves
Vous vous appelez – You call yourselves
Ils/elles s'appellent – They call themselves

(NOTE: You should please not that the contraction in the conjugation of **s'appeler** comes as a result of the contact in-between the vowel **e** of pronouns **me, te, se** and the infinitive of the verb **appeler** that has initial vowel **a**.

3.2 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Conjugate the following verbs into “Présent de l'indicatif”

a) Se taire, (b) se laver (c) se convertir

(a) Verbe “Se taire’ au Présent de l'indicatif”

Je me tais	Nous nous taisons
Tu te tais	Vous vous taisez
il /elle se tait	ils/elles se taisent

b) Verbe “Se Laver au Présent de l'indicatif”

Je me lave	Nous nous lavons
Tu te laves	Vous vous lavez
il/elle se lave	ils/elles se lavent

(c) Verbe “Se convertir au Présent de l'indicatif”

Je me convertis	Nous nous Convertissons
Tu te Convertis	Vous vous convertissez
il /elle se convertit	ils/elles se Convertissent

12.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have been taught the rules governing the conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into ‘présent de l'indicatif’. As you should

have discovered, the impersonal verb is a verb that you can only conjugate with third person masculine pronoun thus making the verb to refer to inanimate things that are not human beings. You have been taught also that a reflexive verb refers to an action that the subject does to himself. With the way and manner that we simplified the explanation in this unit, we are convinced that the complication in understanding the impersonal and reflexive verbs, which is a common problem to French learners like you would have been alleviated. By now we believe you can conjugate impersonal and reflexive verbs into *présent de l'indicatif* in French.

13.0 SUMMARY

With this unit tackling the conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*, we have completed the cycle of conjugation of verbs into *présent de l'indicatif* in French. You should remember that having used the unit one to do the general classification of French verbal conjugation groupings, we treated the Conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *présent de l'indicatif* in your Unit 2. The Unit 3 treated the Conjugation of **re** irregular verbs into *présent de l'indicatif* while the Unit 4 explained the Conjugation of **ir/oir** irregular verbs into *présent de l'indicatif* to you. It is in this Unit 5 that we taught you the Conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*.

Having gone this far in the conjugation of verbs into '*présent de l'indicatif*', we are sure that you must have been adequately informed in all these five units on the basic techniques of how to conjugate different verbs into '*présent de l'indicatif*'.

14.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

6. Conjugate the following verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*:

a. Se comprendre, b. Se taire, c. Se voir, d. S'offrir, e. falloir, f. pleuvoir, g. venter, h. S'agir, i. Se lever, j. Se balancer.

15.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.

AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.

Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.

UNIT SIX

CONJUGATION OF *ER* AND OTHER REGULAR VERBS INTO FUTUR SIMPLE

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of er and other regular verbs into <i>futur simple</i> .
3.1.	Exceptionalities to these general rules.
3.2.	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In this unit, you will be taught the method of conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *futur simple*. We hope to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French **er** and other regular verbs into *futur simple*. You will recall that in the last five units we have been talking of conjugation of verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*. The significance of that is that we have been teaching you how to conjugate French verbs to express actions that one is doing at present, doing habitually or doing in present continuous manners.

We have now got to a stage whereby you have to learn how to express actions that will be done in the future. *Futur simple* could be translated as

(simple) future tense in English. It is used to express any action that will be done in the future or at a later date or time that exceeds the present.

Although we are talking of future tense here, it is a methodical development on the conjugation of verbs into present tense. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units two to five will also be useful in this unit. Let us insist on our warning you that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle all these units we have been teaching you earlier. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating **er** and other regular verbs into *futur simple* of French grammar as they will be taught here.

7.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the *futur* Stem/Radical of **er** verbs
- Identify the *futur er* ending/terminaison of **er** verbs
- identify the *futur* morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation of *futur simple* tense
- Demonstrate the techniques of conjugating these verbs.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *futur simple*.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF ER AND OTHER REGULAR VERBS INTO FUTUR SIMPLE

Like we have told you in our introduction to this unit, the *Futur simple* could be translated as (simple) future tense in English. We use it to express

any action that will be done in the future or at a later date or time that exceeds the present. When you want to talk about what you will do or what any other person will do later than when you are talking, we use the future tense in grammar. It is the French grammar's equivalent of future tense that we call *Futur simple*.

Just like in the conjugation of present de l'indicatif, there are slight differences in the conjugation of this tense to different types of verbal groupings. It is in realization of these dissimilarities in their conjugation that we decided to teach the conjugation **er** and other regular verbs into *futur simple* in this unit.

To conjugate **er** and other regular verbs, such as **manger**, into future tense, you should identify the infinitive of the verb concerned (e.g. **manger**), you then add the following endings (**ai**, **as**, **a**, **ons**, **ez**, **ont**) to the *entire* infinitive of the verb concerned:

ai	for 1 st person singular
as	for 2 nd person singular
a	for 3 rd person singular
ons	for 1 st person plural
ez	for 2 nd person plural
ont	for 3 rd person plural

Manger

Je manger ai	(I shall eat/I will eat)
Tu manger as	(You will eat)
Il manger a	(He will eat)
Nous manger ons	(We shall eat/We will eat)
Vous manger ez	(You will eat)

Ils manger**ont** (They will eat)

NOTE: We would like to call your attention to these *futur simple* endings (**ai**, **as**, **a**, **ons**, **ez**, **ont**). If you could recollect very well and quickly, they look like the verbal conjugation of the verb **avoir** into présent de l'indicatif. You can quickly compare these endings and the présent de l'indicatif conjugated form of the verb **avoir** for ease of reference:

(b) Avoir

J' ai	Nous av ons
Tu as	Vous av ez
Il a	Ils ont

If you consider the highlighted ending parts of the futur simple conjugation of **manger** as well as that of the verb **avoir** conjugated into present de l'indicatif, you will realize very close similarities in them. The differences you could note could be at the level of 1st and 2nd persons plural whereby the verb **avoir** is written as **avons** and **avez** respectively. You can through this enlightenment on the similarities to postulate a method for yourself that future tense could be formed in French language by adding completely the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Person singular and 3rd Person plural of auxiliary **avoir**, while the stem **av** will be removed from the 1st and 2nd persons plural form leaving only the **ons** and **ez** form of the verb **avoir** conjugated into present de l'indicatif, to the ending of the infinitive of the **er** and other regular verb you want to conjugate into *futur simple*.

Let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some **er** verbs into the *futur simple*:

a. **Parler**

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je Parler ai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu Parler as
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle Parler a
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous Parler ons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous Parler ez

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles Parler**ont**

b. **Commencer**

ai for 1st person singular = Je Commencer**ai**

as for 2nd person singular = Tu Commencer**as**

a for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle Commencer**a**

ons for 1st person plural = Nous Commencer**ons**

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous Commencer**ez**

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles Commencer**ont**

c. **Aimer**

ai for 1st person singular = J'aimer**ai**

as for 2nd person singular = Tu aimer**as**

a for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle aimer**a**

ons for 1st person plural = Nous aimer**ons**

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous aimer**ez**

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles aimer**ont**

d. **Appeler**

ai for 1st person singular = J'appeller**ai**

as for 2nd person singular = Tu appeller**as**

a for 3rd person singular = Il/Elle appeller**a**

ons for 1st person plural = Nous appeller**ons**

ez for 2nd person plural = Vous appeller**ez**

ont for 3rd person plural = Ils/Elles appeller**ont**

3.1 EXCEPTIONALITIES TO THESE GENERAL RULES

We would like you to note that although **er** verbs are said to be regular at most of the conjugation groupings, just as we have some verbs in this category at the present de l'indicatif level that have some peculiarities noted for them, so also we have some **er** verbs that take exceptions to these

general rules in the conjugation of their *futur simple*. In as much as we cannot because of these minor dissimilarities categorize them as being irregular, we then decided to treat them as peculiarities under this category. Better examples of these **er** verbs with peculiarities could be seen in verbs such as **aller, payer, balayer, rudoyer, envoyer, renvoyer** etc. We need to implore you that you should take their peculiarities that we are about to treat as irregularities and learn them as presented to you:

e. **Aller**

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	J'irai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu iras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle ira
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous irons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous irez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles iront

f. **Payer**

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je paierai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu paieras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle paiera
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous paierons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous paierez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles paieront

(**Balayer, Rudoyer** are conjugated like **Payer**)

g. **Envoyer**

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	J'enverrai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu enverras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle enverra
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous enverrons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous enverrez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles enverront

(**Renvoyer** is conjugated like **Envoyer**)

3.2 SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Conjugate the following verbs into “futur simple”

a) Aller (b) Manger (c) Parler.

(a) Verbe “Aller au Futur simple”

J'irai	Nous irons
Tu iras	Vous irez
Il/Elle ira	Ils/Elles iront

(b) Verbe “Manger au Futur simple”

Je mangerai	Nous mangerons
Tu mangeras	Vous mangerez
il/elle mangera	ils/elles mangeront

(c) Verbe “ Parler au Futur simple”

Je parlerai	Nous parlerons
Tu Parleras	Vous Parlerez
il /elle Parlera	ils/elles parleront.

14.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *futur simple*. You have also been told of some exceptionalities to these general rules. We believe by now you can conjugate **er** and other regular verbs into *futur simple*.

15.0 SUMMARY

Having laid our foundation for the teaching of conjugations through the simplified presentation of conjugation of present de l'indicatif in Units two to five, this Unit six has gone a little further in the conjugation techniques by tackling the conjugation **er** and other regular verbs into *futur simple*. Much as we discussed the **er** verbs, in this unit, as regular verbs, we were

quick in identifying and treating some elements of irregularities of these **er** verbs at the *futur simple* level; these irregularities are what we treated as peculiarities.

16.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

7. Conjugate the following verbs into *futur simple*:
- Aller, b. Rudoyer, c. Monter, d. Nager, e. Recommencer, f. Renvoyer, g. Blaguer, h. Balayer, i. Laver, j. Discuter.

17.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.
- Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.

UNIT SEVEN

CONJUGATION OF IRREGULAR VERBS INTO FUTUR SIMPLE

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of irregular verbs to <i>futur simple</i> .
3.1.	Conjugation of re verbs to <i>futur simple</i> .
3.2.	Conjugation of ir verbs to <i>futur simple</i> .
3.3.	Conjugation of oir verbs to <i>futur simple</i> .
3.4.	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

You will recall that in Unit Six, we taught you the method of conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *futur simple*. In this unit, you will be taught how to conjugate other irregular verbs into *futur simple*. Like we did in the previous unit, we hope to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French irregular verbs into *futur simple*.

8.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the *futur* Stem/Radical of the irregular verbs
- Identify the *futur* ending/terminaison of irregular verbs

- identify the *futur* morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation *future simple* tense
- Demonstrate the techniques of conjugating these irregular verbs.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of irregular verbs into *futur simple*.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF **RE** AND OTHER IRREGULAR VERBS INTO FUTUR SIMPLE

Like we have told you in unit six, the *Futur simple* could be translated as (simple) future tense in English. We use it to express any action that will be done in the future or at a later date or time that exceeds the present. When you want to talk about what you will do or what any other person will do later than when you are talking, we use the future tense in grammar. It is the French grammar's equivalent of future tense that we call *Futur simple*.

You will recall that in Unit six, we have treated how to conjugate **er** and other regular verbs into *Futur simple*. If you recall very well in our Unit One where we told you that verbs in French language could be divided into three groups according to their endings. And if we have treated the conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *Futur simple* in Unit Six, the onus is then on us in this unit to treat the conjugation of **re, ir/oir** into *Futur simple*. It is the combination of verbs with **re, ir/oir** endings that we put together to be treated as irregular verbs in this unit.

3.1 CONJUGATION OF **RE** VERBS INTO FUTUR SIMPLE

To conjugate **re** verbs, such as **prendre**, into future tense, you should identify the infinitive of the verb concerned (e.g. **prendre**), you drop the last vowel **e** of the infinitive and you then add the following endings (**ai, as, a, ons, ez, ont**) to the *entire* infinitive of the verb concerned:

ai	for 1 st person singular
as	for 2 nd person singular
a	for 3 rd person singular
ons	for 1 st person plural
ez	for 2 nd person plural
ont	for 3 rd person plural

Prendre = Prendre

Je prendrai	(I shall take/I will take)
Tu prendras	(You will take)
Il prendra	(He will take)
Nous prendrons	(We shall take /We will take)
Vous prendrez	(You will take)
Ils prendront	(They will take)

Let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some **re** verbs into the *futur simple*:

a. **Battre** (to beat)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je Battrai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu Battras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle Battra
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous Battrons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous Battrez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles Battront

(Conjugation of **débattre, combattre, mettre, soumettre, plaie, connaître, paraître, naître, croître, croire, boire, conclure,**

absoudre, coudre, moudre, suivre, vivre, revivre, survivre, revivre, lire etc, follow this pattern.)

b. **Craindre** (to be afraid/to fear)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je craindrai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu craindras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle craindra
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous craindrons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous craindrez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles craindront

(Conjugation of **rendre, joindre, plaindre, contraindre, comprendre, rompre, corrompre, interrompre, vaincre, convaincre, dire, contredire, prédire, redire, dedire, rire, sourire, écrire, récrire, inscrire, cuire** etc, follow this pattern.)

c. **Faire** (to do/to make)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je ferai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu feras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle fera
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous ferons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous ferez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles feront

(Conjugation of **défaire, refaire** etc, follow this pattern.)

d. **Etre** (to be)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je serai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu seras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle sera
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous serons

ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous serez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles seront

3.2 CONJUGATION OF IR VERBS INTO FUTUR SIMPLE

We need to tell you that, among the irregular verbs of French language, apart from **re** verbs, **ir** verbs are the verbs that contain more verbs that follow the same pattern of conjugation into *futur simple*. To conjugate **ir** verbs, such as **finir**, into future tense, you should identify the infinitive of the verb concerned (e.g. **finir**), you then add the following endings (**ai, as, a, ons, ez, ont**) to the *entire* infinitive of the verb concerned:

a. **Finir** (to finish)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je finirai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu finiras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle finira
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous finirons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous finirez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles finiront

(Conjugation of **obéir, désobéir, haïr, partir, sortir, sentir, mentir, partir, repartir, répartir, vêtir, dévêtir, revêtir, couvrir, ouvrir, offrir, souffrir, accueillir, cueillir, bouillir, dormir, servir, revivre, lire** etc, follow this pattern.)

b. **Tenir** (to hold)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je tiendrai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu tiendras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle tiendra
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous tiendrons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous tiendrez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles tiendront

(Conjugation of **venir, revenir, parvenir, subvenir** etc, follow this pattern.)

c. **Courir** (to run)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je courrai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu courras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle courra
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous courrons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous courrez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles courront

(Conjugation of **mourir** etc, follow this pattern.)

3.3 CONJUGATION OF OIR VERBS INTO FUTUR SIMPLE

You need to know that, among the irregular verbs of French language, the **oir** verbs have the largest number of irregular verbs that do not follow the same pattern of conjugation into *futur simple*. It is thus difficult to proffer a general rule that could cover all of them. You are hereby advised as a learner that you master their stem in the future and other forms of the conjugation could be done easily. It is this *futur* stem of these irregular verbs that you add the following endings (**ai, as, a, ons, ez, ont**) to:

a. **Avoir** (to have)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	J'aurai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu auras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle aura
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous aurons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous aurez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles auront

b. **Recevoir** (to receive)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je recevrai
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as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu recevras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle recevra
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous recevrons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous recevrez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles recevront

(Conjugation of **apercevoir**, **concevoir**, **décevoir**, **percevoir**, etc, follow this pattern.)

c. **Voir** (to see)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je verrai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu verras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle verra
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous verrons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous verrez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles verront

(Conjugation of **entrevoir**, **revoir** etc, follow this pattern.)

d. **Savoir** (to Know how)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je saurai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu sauras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle saura
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous saurons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous saurez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles sauront

e. **Devoir** (to be compelled)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je devrai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu devras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle devra

ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous devrons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous devrez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles devront

f. **Pouvoir** (to be able)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je pourrai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu pourras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle pourra
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous pourrons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous pourrez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles pourront

g. **Vouloir** (to wish)

ai	for 1 st person singular	=	Je voudrai
as	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu voudras
a	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle voudra
ons	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous voudrons
ez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous voudrez
ont	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles voudront

(Conjugation of **valoir, équivaloir, prévaloir, revaloir** etc, follow this pattern.)

3.4 SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Conjugate the following verbs into “Future Simple”

(a) Vouloir (b) Avoir (c) Prendre

Verbe “Vouloir au Future simple”

Je Voudrai	Nous Voudrons
Tu Voudras	Vous Voudrez
il/elle voudra	ils/elles voudront

Verbe “avoir au Futur simple”

J’aurai	Nous aurons
Tu auras	Vous aurez
il/elle aura	ils/elles auront

Verbe “avoir au Futur simple”

Je prendrai	Nous Prendrons
Tu Prendras	Vous prendrez
il/elle Prendra	ils/elles Prendront

16.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have learned the rules governing the conjugation of **re, ir** and **oir** verbs into *futur simple*. You have also been told that most verbs in this category are irregular verbs and that you should be careful in learning the future stem of these infinitives so as to end the future endings to them. We believe by now you can conjugate **re, ir** and **oir** verbs into *futur simple*.

17.0 SUMMARY

As a follow up to Unit six, this Unit seven has gone a little further in the conjugation techniques by tackling the conjugation of **re, ir** and **oir** verbs into *futur simple*. We also laid emphasis on the fact that most verbs in this category are irregular verbs and that you should be careful in learning the future stem of these infinitives so as to end the future endings to them.

18.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

8. Conjugate the following verbs into *futur simple*:
 - a. Rendre, b. Refaire, c. Plaire, d. Sortir, e. Revenir, f. Mourir, g. Valoir, h. Revoir, i. Concevoir, j. être.

19.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.
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UNIT EIGHT
CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL AND REFLEXIVE VERBS INTO
FUTUR SIMPLE

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of Impersonal verbs into <i>futur simple</i>
3.1.	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of Reflexive verbs into <i>futur simple</i>
3.2.	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This unit will present to you the technique of conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *futur simple*. In this unit, you will learn about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs. Like we said it in Unit five, these impersonal, as well as Reflexive verbs are common in French language. You will see them as either **er**, **re**, **ir** or even **oir** verbs. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units two to seven will be useful in this unit. What we will do mostly in this unit is to teach you how to identify French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs, then teach you the peculiarities of these verbs so that you could apply your already gained knowledge in the *futur simple* conjugation of simple **er**, **re**, **ir** and **oir** verbs to them thus conjugating them correctly. You can then understand why we have continuously been warning you that your better

understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle all the previous units. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *futur simple* as they will be taught here.

9.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the French Impersonal verbs.
- Identify the French Reflexive verbs
- Explain the peculiarities of these two verbs.
- Demonstrate the techniques of conjugating these two verbs into *futur simple*.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of irregular verbs into '*futur simple*'.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL VERBS INTO FUTUR SIMPLE

As we have told you in Unit five, Impersonal verbs are verbs that could not be conjugated into numerous persons and classes, such as first, second, third persons, singular and plural form, like the others. They are verbs that could not be used for human beings. And being that they are for abstract things, they could only be conjugated into the 3rd person singular form. Even their conjugation into the third person singular form is limited to masculine personal pronoun, **il**, alone. This explanation is to warn you that you cannot use the third person singular of feminine form to conjugate it! We would like to note also that it is not every other verb that you can

conjugate using this method. This type of conjugation is only noted for impersonal verbs alone!

Examples could be found in:

- (g) Pleuvoir – to rain
Il pleuvra
- (h) Falloir – to be necessary
Il faudra
- (i) Advenir – to happen
Il adviendra
- (j) S’agir de – to be about
Il s’agira de
- (k) Brûmer – to mist (hazy)
Il brumera
- (l) Venter – to blow wind
Il ventera

3.1 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF REFLEXIVE OR PRONOMINAL VERBS INTO FUTUR SIMPLE

Like we explained in Unit five, the Reflexive verbs are what the French grammarian call “Les verbes pronominaux’ hence our calling them reflexive or pronominal verbs in English so as to facilitate the ease of reference for French learners like you. Reflexive or pronominal verbs are verbs used to refer to an action that the subject does to himself/herself. In a situation whereby you want account for an action that you do to yourself or

the action that another person does to himself or herself, you express this action through the use of reflexive or pronominal verbs in French grammar.

In order to conjugate these verbs into *futur simple*, this set of verbs takes additional (direct/personal) pronoun in their conjugation. The pronouns **me** **te** **se** **nous** **vous** and **se** are used to mark this action of reflexive or pronominal of the verbs. The *futur simple* endings are then added to the stem of the main verb so as to complete the conjugation of the verb concerned into *futur simple*. For example, if the subject or the speaker wants to say that *I will/shall bath myself*, he would say: *Je me laverai*.

NOTE: We would like you to note that apart from the introduction of another reflexive pronoun of the same person and grammatical class with that of the subject (personal pronoun) that you will insert so as to denote that action of reflexive in the sentence, You will be expected to bring into use also your knowledge of conjugation of **er, re, ir, oir** into *futur simple* that you have acquired in Units six and seven.

(e) Se laver – to take ones bath

Je me laver**ai** – I will/shall bath myself

Tu te laver**as** – You will bath yourself

Il/elle se laver**a** – he/she will bath himself/herself

Nous nous laver**ons** – we will bath ourselves

Vous vous laver**ez** – you will bath yourselves

Ils/Elles se laver**ont** – They will bath themselves

(f) Se taire – to keep quiet

Je me tair**ai** – I will/shall keep quiet

Tu te tair**as** – You will keep quiet

Il/elle se tair**a** – he/she will keep quiet

Nous nous tair**ons** – we will keep quiet

Vous vous tair**ez** – you will keep quiet

Ils/Elles se tair**ont** – They will keep quiet

(g) Se convertir – to convert oneself

Je me convertirai – I will/shall convert myself

Tu te convertiras – You will convert yourself

Il/elle se convertira – he/she will convert himself/herself

Nous nous convertirons – we will convert ourselves

Vous vous convertirez – you will convert yourselves

Ils/Elles se convertiront – They will convert themselves

(h) S'asseoir – to take ones seat

Je m'assoierai – I will/shall sit down/take my seat

Tu t'assoieras – You will sit down/take your seat

Il/elle s'assoiera – he/she will sit down/take him/her seat

Nous nous assoierons – we will sit down/take our seat

Vous vous assoierez – you will sit down/take your seat

Ils/Elles s'assoieront – They will sit down/take their seat

Or

(f) S'asseoir – to take ones seat

Je m'assiérai – I will/shall sit down/take my seat

Tu t'assiéras – You will sit down/take your seat

Il/elle s'assiéra – he/she will sit down/take him/her seat

Nous nous assiérons – we will sit down/take our seat

Vous vous assiérez – you will sit down/take your seat

Ils/Elles s'assiéront – They will sit down/take their seat

NOTE: We would like you to note that, just like in the conjugation of present de l'indicatif that we did in Unit five, there are two grammatically accepted form of

conjugation of the verb *S'asseoir* into *futur simple* of French grammar. Which ever form you chose is correct.

- (i) S'appeler – to call oneself
Je m'appellerai – I will call myself (I will be called)
Tu t'appelleras – You will call yourself
Il/elle s'appellera – He/She will call himself/herself
Nous nous appellerons – We will call ourselves
Vous vous appellerez – You will call yourselves
Ils/elles s'appelleront – They will call themselves

3.2 SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Conjugate the following verbs into “Futur simple”

- (a) Voir (b) Se taire (c) s'agir

- (a) Verbe “voir au futur simple”

Je verrai	Nous verrons
Tu verras	Vous verrez
il verra	ils/elles verront

- (b) Verbe “Se tairai au Future Simple”

Je me tairai	Nous nous tairons
Tu te tairas	Vous vous tairez
il/elle se taira	il / elles se tairont

- (c) Verbe “S'agir au Futur Simple

Il S'agira

18.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have been taught the rules governing the conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into ‘*futur simple*’. As you should have

discovered, the impersonal verb is a verb that you can only conjugate with third person masculine pronoun of *futur simple* thus making the verb to refer to inanimate things that are not human beings. You have been taught also that the *futur simple* of reflexive verb refers to an action that the subject will do to himself. With the way and manner that we simplified the explanation in this unit, we are convinced that the complication in understanding the *futur simple* form of impersonal and reflexive verbs, which would have been a problem to French learners like you would have been alleviated. By now we believe you can conjugate impersonal and reflexive verbs into *futur simple* in French.

19.0 SUMMARY

With this unit tackling the conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into *futur simple*, we have completed the cycle of conjugation of verbs into *futur simple* in French.

Having gone this far in the conjugation of verbs into '*futur simple*', we are sure that you must have been adequately informed in all these eight units on the basic techniques of how to conjugate different verbs into 'présent de l'indicatif' and the *futur simple*.

20.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

9. Conjugate the following verbs into *futur simple*:
- Advenir,
 - Se voir,
 - Se taire,
 - S'offrir,
 - falloir,
 - pleuvoir,
 - g. venter,
 - h. S'agir,
 - i. Se lever,
 - j. Se comprendre.

21.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.

FRE 122: FRENCH GRAMMAR II

AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.

Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.

UNIT NINE
**CONJUGATION OF VERBS WITH AUXILLIARY AVOIR INTO PASSE
 COMPOSE**

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of verbs with auxiliary <i>avoir</i> into <i>passé composé</i> .
3.1	Techniques guiding the Conjugation of er verbs with auxiliary <i>avoir</i> into <i>passé composé</i> .
3.2	Techniques guiding the Conjugation of re verbs with auxiliary <i>avoir</i> into <i>passé composé</i> .
3.3	Techniques guiding the Conjugation of ir/oir verbs with auxiliary <i>avoir</i> into <i>passé composé</i> .
3.4	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

We hope to teach you in this unit, the method of conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*. We would like to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into French *passé composé*. You will recall that in the first five units we have been talking of conjugation of verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*. While in Units six to eight, we have been teaching you about how to conjugate verbs into *futur simple*. The significance of all these previous lessons is that while we have been

teaching you how to conjugate French verbs to express actions that one is doing at present, doing habitually doing in present continuous manners with the conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif*, we have also been using the conjugation of *futur simple* to teach you how French learners like you can express actions that one is doing in the future.

Now we have just got to a stage where you will be taught how to express actions that are done in the past. Any action that has been done in the past, before the time that you are reporting the action, is expressed in French through *passé composé*. A *passé composé* tense expresses an action that has been done and concluded a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year or even a decade in the past before the time the speaker is reporting it. Although we are talking of *passé composé* here, it is a methodical development on the conjugation of verbs into present tense as well as future tense. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units two to eight will also be useful in this unit. Let us insist on our warning you that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle all these units we have been teaching you earlier. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé* of French grammar as they will be taught here.

10.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the auxiliary *avoir*.
- Identify the past participle of various verb groupings
- Demonstrate how to conjugate the *passé composé* by adding the auxiliary *avoir* to the past participle of the verb concerned..

You are now invited to follow the method that could facilitate the conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*.

11.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF VERBS WITH AUXILIARY AVOIR INTO PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

Like we have told you in our introduction to this unit, we use *passé composé* to express actions that are done in the past, any action that has been done in the past, before the time that you are reporting the action. It is a tense that expresses an action that has been done and concluded a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year or even a decade in the past before the time the speaker is reporting it

Unlike the conjugations of *présent de l'indicatif* and *future simple* whereby the conjugation centres on the single major verb, the conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* entails the usage of an auxiliary and the past participle of the main verb. It is the combination of this auxiliary and the main verb that gives the tense its name: *passé composé*. *Composé* is a French word that means *compounded, that contains more than one linguistic element*. *Passé composé* could thus be literally translated as *compound past* that relates past actions/tense i.e. the past perfect tense. We also need to warn you at this level also that '*Le passé composé*' is used in French as the simple past in English. A lot of Anglophone Students make the mistake of translating the tense as being perfect tense: **J'ai été** means **I was** but not *I have been*.

The general rule of conjugating this tense says that you add, the past participle of the verb we want to conjugate, to the present tense of the auxiliary avoir or être (as the case may be): - (Auxilliaire **avoir** ou **être** + participle passé du verbe concerné)

If the rule insists on your adding auxiliary *avoir*, conjugated into the *présent de l'indicatif*, to the past participle of the main verb, you then need

to recollect your knowledge of conjugating the verb *avoir* into *présent de l'indicatif*:

Avoir

J'ai **Nous avons**

Tu as **Vous avez**

Il a **Ils ont**

Let us then follow this pattern and the rules governing it to conjugate the verb **manger** into *passé composé*:

ex: **Manger** - to eat

J'ai mangé Nous avons mangé

Tu as mangé Vous avez mangé

Il a mangé Ils ont mangé

11.1 TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF ER VERBS WITH AUXILIARY AVOIR INTO PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

To form the past participle of all er verbs is easy; you drop the r at the end of the infinitive and put an acute accent (/) on the final 'é'. **Manger** becomes **mangé**. It is this past participle that you precede with the personal pronoun and the auxiliary *avoir* in order to form your *passé composé*. You can see examples in **er** verbs such as:

(a) **Parler** - to speak

J'ai parlé (I spoke)

Tu as parlé (You spoke)

Il/Elle a parlé (He/She spoke)

Nous avons parlé (We spoke)

Vous avez parlé (You spoke)

Ils/Elles ont parlé (They spoke)

(b) **Commencer** - to start

J'ai commencé	(I started)
Tu as commencé	(You started)
Il/Elle a commencé	(He/She started)
Nous avons commencé	(We started)
Vous avez commencé	(You started)
Ils/Elles ont commencé	(They started)

11.2 TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF RE VERBS WITH AUXILIARY AVOIR INTO PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

Majority of verbs in this category form their past participle by replacing the **re** ending by **t** or **s**. Apart from some irregular verbs such as **être** that has **été** as its past participle, most other **re** verbs end in **t** or **s** as their past participle. Example could be seen in **faire** whose past participle is **fait**, **dire** whose past participle is **dit**.

(a) **Être** - to be

J'ai été	(I was)
Tu as été	(You were)
Il/Elle a été	(He/She was)
Nous avons été	(We were)
Vous avez été	(You were)
Ils/Elles ont été	(They were)

(b) **Faire** - to do/make

J'ai fait	(I did/made)
Tu as fait	(You did/made)
Il/Elle a fait	(He/She did/made)
Nous avons fait	(We did/made)
Vous avez fait	(You did/made)
Ils/Elles ont fait	(They did/made)

- (c) **Dire** - to say
- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| J'ai dis | (I said) |
| Tu as dis | (You said) |
| Il/Elle a dis | (He/She said) |
| Nous avons dis | (We said) |
| Vous avez dis | (You said) |
| Ils/Elles ont dis | (They said) |

11.3 TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF IR/OIR VERBS WITH AUXILIARY AVOIR INTO *PASSÉ COMPOSÉ*

Having told you that majority of verbs, apart from the **er** verbs are irregular, this irregularity also affects the formation of their past participle. As **finir** has **fini**, partially following the **er** verbs pattern to form its past participle, the same could not be said of **voir** whose past participle is **vu**. You are then advised to learn the irregular past participle as you acquire your vocabularies.

- (a) **Finir** - to finish
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| J'ai fini | (I finished) |
| Tu as fini | (You finished) |
| Il/Elle a fini | (He/She finished) |
| Nous avons fini | (We finished) |
| Vous avez fini | (You finished) |
| Ils/Elles ont fini | (They finished) |
- (b) **Voir** - to see
- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| J'ai vu | (I saw) |
| Tu as vu | (You saw) |
| Il/Elle a vu | (He/She saw) |
| Nous avons vu | (We saw) |

Vous avez vu (You saw)

Ils/Elles ont vu (They saw)

3.4 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Conjugate the following Verbs into “Passe’ Compose’”: Regarder , Dire, Vouloir.

(1) Verbe “ regarder au Passé composé”

J'ai regardé	Nous avons regardé
Tu as regardé	Vous avez regardé
il/elle a regardé	ils/elles ont regardé

(2) Verbe Dire au Passé composé”

J'ai dis	Nous avons dis
Tu as dis	Vous avez dis
il/elle a dis	ils/elles ont dis

(3) Verbe “Vouloir au Passé composé”

J'ai voulu	Nous avons voulu
Tu as Voulu	Vous avez voulu
il/elle a voulu	ils/elles ont voulu

20.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, you have been taught the rules governing the conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*. You have also been told of how to form the auxiliary *avoir* as well as how to identify the past participle of **er**, **re ir** and **oir** verbs. We believe by now you can conjugate most verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*.

21.0 SUMMARY

With the solid foundation for the teaching of conjugations through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* that we have laid for you in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future*

simple that we methodically handled in Unit six to eight, this Unit nine has gone a little further in the conjugation techniques by tackling the conjugation verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*.

22.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

10. Conjugate the following verbs into *passé composé*:
- Mentir,
 - Noter,
 - Discuter,
 - Regarder,
 - Savoir,
 - Vouloir,
 - g. Prendre,
 - h. Refaire,
 - i. Définir,
 - j. Dire.

23.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

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AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.

Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.

UNIT TEN
**CONJUGATION OF VERBS WITH AUXILLIARY *ETRE* INTO PASSE
 COMPOSE**

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of verbs with auxiliary <i>être</i> into <i>passé composé</i> .
3.1	Techniques guiding the Conjugation of er verbs with auxiliary <i>être</i> into <i>passé composé</i> .
3.2	Techniques guiding the Conjugation of re verbs with auxiliary <i>être</i> into <i>passé composé</i> .
3.3	Techniques guiding the Conjugation of ir/oir verbs with auxiliary <i>être</i> into <i>passé composé</i> .
3.4	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

You will recall that we introduced you into the world of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* in Unit 9 where we initiated you into the method of conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*. In this Unit, we hope to teach you the method of conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*. We would like to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating verbs with auxiliary *être* into French *passé composé*.

Just like we explained to you in Unit nine, any action that has been done in the past, before the time that you are reporting the action, is expressed in French through *passé composé*. A *passé composé* tense expresses an action that has been done and concluded a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year or even a decade in the past before the time the speaker is reporting it. In as much as we will be talking on how to conjugate verbs with auxiliary *être* into *passé composé* here, it is a methodical development on the conjugation of verbs into present tense as well as future tense. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units two to nine will also be useful in this unit. Let us insist on our warning you that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle all these previous units we have been teaching you. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating verbs with auxiliary *être* into *passé composé* of French grammar as they will be taught here.

12.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the auxiliary *être*.
- Identify the past participle of various verb groupings
- Demonstrate how to conjugate the *passé composé* by adding the auxiliary *être* to the past participle of the verb concerned..

You are now invited to follow the method that could facilitate the conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*.

13.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF VERBS WITH AUXILIARY *ETRE* INTO *PASSÉ COMPOSÉ*

Like we said in Unit nine as well as our introduction to this unit, we use *passé composé* to express actions that are done in the past, any action that

has been done in the past, before the time that you are reporting the action. It is a tense that expresses an action that has been done and concluded a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year or even a decade in the past before the time the speaker is reporting it

Unlike the conjugations of *présent de l'indicatif* and *future simple* whereby the conjugation centres on the single major verb, the conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* entails the usage of an auxiliary and the past participle of the main verb. It is the combination of this auxiliary and the main verb that gives the tense its name: *passé composé*. *Composé* is a French word that means *compounded, that contains more than one linguistic element*. *Passé composé* could thus be literally translated as *compound past* that relates past actions/tense i.e. the past perfect tense. We also need to warn you at this level also that '*Le passé composé*' is used in French as the simple past in English. A lot of Anglophone Students make the mistake of translating the tense as being perfect tense: **J'ai été** means **I was** but not *I have been*.

We would like to call your attention to the general rule we provided in Unit 9 which says that you add, the past participle of the verb we want to conjugate, to the present tense of the auxiliary avoir or être (as the case may be): - (Auxiliaire **avoir** ou **être** + participe passé du verbe concerné).

Before you start asking the question so as to know the rationale behind the choice of auxiliary to be used with one particular verb or the other, we decided to provide a possible solution to your 'could be' problem. Please note that while we used auxiliary **avoir** for the verb **manger**, in Unit 9, the auxiliary **être** is what we will use for such verbs as **aller**, **venir** in this unit.

Although some grammarians came with some 'academic jargons' that could be used in deciding on this area of conjugation, this argument would be too bookish for our level. We would thus want to suggest that the

following verbs when they are to be conjugated, should take auxiliary être: Aller (to go), descendre (to come down), rester (to rest), monter (to climb), tomber (to fall), naître (to be born), sortir (to go out), partir (to go) venir (to come), so also all other verbs that have something to do with **venir** like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return). **Most other verbs, apart from these ones and their variants, are conjugated with auxiliary avoir.** The implication of this explanation here is that if there are well over twelve thousand verbs in French grammar and only about less than thirty of them are conjugated with auxiliary **être**, the easier method then is to memorise those verbs conjugated with auxiliary **être** so that you will know that any verb not in that category will be conjugated with auxiliary **avoir**.

If this new rule insists on your adding auxiliary **être**, conjugated into the *présent de l'indicatif*, to the past participle of the main verb, you then need to recollect your knowledge of conjugating the verb **être** into *présent de l'indicatif*:

Etre

Je suis	Nous sommes
Tu es	Vous etes
Il est	Ils sont
Elle est	Elles sont

Let us then follow this pattern and the rules governing it to conjugate the verb **aller** into *passé composé*:

ex: **aller** - to go

Je suis allé(e)	Nous sommes allé(e)s
Tu es allé(e)	Vous etes allé(e)s
Il est allé	Ils sont allés
Elle est allé(e)	Elles sont allées

NOTE: You would have noted that additional vowel **e** or consonant **s** or both **es** are added to the ending of some past participle when we used the auxiliary **être**. The French grammatical rules compel all the verbs that take auxiliary **être** to agree with gender and the number of the Subject (either pronoun or noun) that precedes it. These agreement rules shall be explained to you better in Unit twelve.

13.1 TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF ER VERBS WITH AUXILIARY *ETRE* INTO *PASSÉ COMPOSÉ*

To form the past participle of all er verbs is easy; just like you were taught in Unit 9, you drop the r at the end of the infinitive and put an acute accent (/) on the final 'é'. **Monter** becomes **Monté**. It is this past participle that you precede with the personal pronoun and the auxiliary **être** in order to form your *passé composé*. You can see examples in **er** verbs such as:

- (a) **Monter** - to climb
- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Je suis monté(e) | (I climbed) |
| Tu es monté(e) | (You climbed) |
| Il est monté | (He climbed) |
| Elle est monté(e) | (She climbed) |
| Nous sommes monté(e)s | (We climbed) |
| Vous etes monté(e)s | (You climbed) |
| Ils sont montés | (They climbed) |
| Elles sont montées | (They climbed) |

{**Er** verbs such as *Aller* (to go), *rester* (to rest), *tomber* (to fall), *retomber* (to fall again), *entrer* (to enter), *rentrer* (to enter again), *arriver* (to come/arrive), *retourner* (to return) are conjugated following this pattern.

13.2 TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF RE VERBS WITH AUXILIARY *ETRE* INTO *PASSÉ COMPOSÉ*

As we told you in Unit nine, majority of verbs in this category form their past participle by replacing the **re** ending by **t** or **s**. But some irregular verbs

such as **naître** has **né** as its past participle. You could note that this grouping of verb is not common in the category of verbs that take auxiliary **être**, that is why we will provide you with the past participle of all the verbs of this category that take auxiliary **être**. Example could be seen in **descendre** whose past participle is **descendu**.

- (a) **Descendre** - (to come down)
- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Je suis descendu(e) | (I came down) |
| Tu es descendu(e) | (You came down) |
| Il est descendu | (He came down) |
| Elle est descendu(e) | (She came down) |
| Nous sommes descendu(e)s | (We came down) |
| Vous etes descendu(e)s | (You came down) |
| Ils sont descendus | (They came down) |
| Elles sont descendues | (They came down) |

13.3 TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF IR/OIR VERBS WITH AUXILIARY *ETRE* INTO *PASSÉ COMPOSÉ*

Like we told you in Unit nine, majority of verbs, apart from the **er** verbs are irregular, this irregularity also affects the formation of their past participle. As **Sortir** has **Sorti**, partially following the **er** verbs pattern to form its past participle, the same could not be said of **venir** whose past participle is **venu**. You are then advised to learn the irregular past participle as you acquire your vocabularies.

- (a) **Sortir** - to go out
- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Je suis sorti(e) | (I went out) |
| Tu es sorti(e) | (You went out) |
| Il est sorti | (He went out) |
| Elle est sorti(e) | (She went out) |
| Nous sommes sorti(e)s | (We went out) |

Vous **etes** sorti(e)s (You went out)

Ils **sont** sortis (They went out)

Elles **sont** sorties (They went out)

{**Ir** verbs such as sortir (to go out), ressortir (to go out again), partir (to go), repartir (to go again) are conjugated following this pattern.

(b) **Venir** - to come

Je **suis** venu(e) (I came)

Tu **es** venu(e) (You came)

Il **est** venu (He came)

Elle **est** venu(e) (She came)

Nous **sommes** venu(e)s (We came)

Vous **etes** venu(e)s (You came)

Ils **sont** venus (They came)

Elles **sont** venues (They came)

{**Ir** verbs such as venir (to come), so also all other verbs that have something to do with **venir** like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, are conjugated following this pattern.

3.4 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Conjugate the following verbs into passé composé: Partir, Retourner.

(i) Verbe “Partir au Passé Composé”

Je suis Partie(e) Nous sommes Parti(e)s

Tu es Parti(e) Vous êtes Parti(e)s

il est Parti ils sont Partis

elle est Partie Elles sont Parties

(2) Verbe “Retourner au Passé”

Je suis retourné(e) Nous sommes retourné(e)s

Tu es retourné(e) Vous êtes retourné(e)s

il est retourné ils sont retournés
Elle est retournée Elles sont retournés

22.0 CONCLUSION

You have been taught, in this unit, the rules governing the conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*. You have also been told of how to form the auxiliary *être* as well as how to identify the past participle of **er**, **re ir** and **oir** verbs. We believe by now you can conjugate most verbs with auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*.

23.0 SUMMARY

With the solid foundation for the teaching of conjugations through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* that we have laid for you in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* that we methodically handled in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé* that we taught in Unit nine, this Unit ten has gone further in the conjugation techniques by tackling the conjugation verbs with auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*.

24.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

11. Conjugate the following verbs into *passé composé*:
- Venir,
 - Aller,
 - Retomber,
 - Rentrer,
 - Partir,
 - Resortir,
 - Retourner,
 - Renaître,
 - Devenir,
 - Descendre.

25.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.

FRE 122: FRENCH GRAMMAR II

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UNIT ELEVEN
**CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL AND REFLEXIVE VERBS INTO
 PASSE COMPOSE**

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of Impersonal verbs into <i>passé composé</i>
3.1.	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of Reflexive verbs into <i>passé composé</i>
3.2.	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In this unit, you will be taught the technique of conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *passé composé*. You will also learn about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *passé composé*. Like we said it in Units five and eight, these impersonal, as well as Reflexive verbs are common in French language. You will see them as either **er, re, ir** or even **oir** verbs. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units two to ten will be useful in this unit. What we will do mostly in this unit is to teach you the peculiarities of these verbs so that you could apply your already gained knowledge in the *passé composé* conjugation of simple **er, re, ir** and **oir** verbs to them thus conjugating them correctly. Therefore, we implore you to learn the

rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *passé composé* as they will be taught here.

14.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the French Impersonal verbs.
- Identify the French Reflexive verbs
- Explain the peculiarities of these two verbs.
- Demonstrate the techniques of conjugating these two verbs into *passé composé*.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of irregular verbs into '*passé composé*'.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL VERBS INTO PASSE COMPOSE

As we have told you in Units five and eight, Impersonal verbs are verbs that could not be conjugated into numerous persons and classes, such as first, second, third persons, singular and plural form, like the others. They are verbs that could not be used for human beings. And being that they are for abstract things, they could only be conjugated into the 3rd person singular form. Even their conjugation into the third person singular form is limited to masculine personal pronoun, **il**, alone. This explanation is to warn you that you cannot use the third person singular of feminine form to conjugate it! We would like to note also that it is not every other verb that you can conjugate using this method. This type of conjugation is only noted for impersonal verbs alone! When you want to conjugate this type of verbs to *passé composé* then, you should apply the *passé composé* rules as applicable to verbs with auxiliary *avoir* or *être* at the third person singular

level only. The *passé composé* rules for this type of verbs could then be modified as follow: Third person singular of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* plus the past participle of the verb concerned. The implication of this rule is that there are some of these verbs that are either conjugated with auxiliary *avoir* while very few others are conjugated with auxiliary *être*. The *venir* oriented verbs as well as impersonal reflexive verbs in this category, such as *advenir* and *s'agir (de)* respectively, are conjugated with auxiliary *être*, while a lot of other impersonal verbs are conjugated with auxiliary *avoir*. Examples could be found in:

- (m) Pleuvoir – to rain
Il a plu

- (n) Falloir – to be necessary
Il a fallu

- (o) Advenir – to happen
Il est advenu

- (p) S'agir de – to be about
Il s'est agi de

- (q) Brûmer – to mist (hazy)
Il a brumé

- (r) Venter – to blow wind
Il a venté

3.1 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF REFLEXIVE OR PRONOMINAL VERBS INTO PASSE COMPOSE

Just like we explained in Units five and eight, the Reflexive verbs are what the French grammarian call “Les verbes pronominaux’ hence our calling them reflexive or pronominal verbs in English so as to facilitate the ease of reference for French learners like you. Reflexive or pronominal verbs are verbs used to refer to an action that the subject does to himself/herself. In a situation whereby you want account for an action that you do to yourself or the action that another person does to himself or herself, you express this action through the use of reflexive or pronominal verbs in French grammar.

In order to conjugate these verbs into *passé composé*, this set of verbs takes additional (direct/personal) pronoun in their conjugation. The pronouns **me** **te** **se** **nous** **vous** and **se** are used to mark this action of reflexive or pronominal of the verbs. The *passé composé* rules are then applicable to these doubled pronouns. As for the *passé composé* rules as applicable to reflexive verbs, the rule allows all reflexive verbs to be conjugated with only auxiliary *être*. The *passé composé* rules for this type of verbs could then be modified as follow: auxiliary *être* that is preceded by the two personal pronouns plus the past participle of the verb concerned. For example, if the subject or the speaker wants to say that ***I bathed myself***, he would say: ***Je me suis lavé(e)***.

NOTE: You should please note that apart from the introduction of another reflexive pronoun of the same person and grammatical class with that of the subject (personal pronoun) that you will insert so as to denote that action of reflexive in the sentence, you will be expected to bring into use also your knowledge of conjugation of **er, re, ir, oir** into *passé composé* that you have acquired in Units nine and ten.

- (j) Se laver – to take ones bath
 Je me suis lavé(e) – I bathed myself

Tu t'es lavé(e) – You bathed yourself
Il s'est lavé – He bathed himself
Elle s'est lavée – She bathed herself
Nous nous sommes lavé(e)s – we bathed ourselves
Vous vous êtes lavé(e)s – you bathed yourselves
Ils se sont lavés – They bathed themselves
Elles se sont lavées – They bathed themselves

- (k) Se taire – to keep quiet
Je me suis tu(e) – I kept quiet.
Tu t'es tu(e) – You kept quiet.
Il s'est tu – He kept quiet.
Elle s'est tue – She kept quiet.
Nous nous sommes tu(e)s – we kept quiet.
Vous vous êtes tu(e)s – you kept quiet.
Ils se sont tus – They kept quiet.
Elles se sont tues – They kept quiet.

- (l) Se convertir – to convert oneself
Je me suis converti(e) – I converted myself
Tu t'es converti(e) – You converted yourself
Il s'est converti – He converted himself
Elle s'est convertie – She converted herself
Nous nous sommes converti(e)s – we converted ourselves
Vous vous êtes converti(e)s – you converted yourselves
Ils se sont convertis – They converted themselves
Elles se sont converties – They converted themselves

- (m) S'asseoir – to take one's seat

Je me suis assis(e) – I sat down
Tu t’es assis(e) – You sat down
Il s’est assis – He sat down
Elle s’est assise – She sat down
Nous nous sommes assis(e)s – we sat down
Vous vous êtes assis(e)s – you sat down
Ils se sont assis – They sat down
Elles se sont assises – They sat down

(n) S’appeler – to call oneself

Je me suis appelé(e) – I was called/ I called myself
Tu t’es appelé(e) – You were called/ you called yourself
Il s’est appelé – He was called/ He called himself
Elle s’est appelée – She was called/ She called herself
Nous nous sommes appelé(e)s – we were called/ We called ourselves
Vous vous êtes appelé(e)s – You were called/ You called yourselves
Ils se sont appelés – They were called/ They called themselves
Elles se sont appelées – They were called/ They called themselves

3.2 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Conjugate the following verbs into passé composé: Se voir, venter

(1) Verbe “Retourner au Passé composé ”

Je me suis vu(e)	Nous nous sommes vu(e)s
Tu t’es vu(e)	Vous vous êtes vu(e)s
il s’est vu	ils se sont vus
Elle s’est vue	Elles se sont vues

(2) Verbe “Venter au Passé composé ”

Il a venté

24.0 CONCLUSION

You have been taught, in this unit, the rules governing the conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into '*passé composé*'. As you should have discovered, the impersonal verb is a verb that you can only conjugate with third person masculine pronoun of *passé composé* thus making the verb to refer to inanimate things that are not human beings. You have been taught also that the *passé composé* of reflexive verb refers to an action that the subject did to himself. With the method and technique that we simplified the explanation in this unit, we are convinced that the complication in understanding the *passé composé* form of impersonal and reflexive verbs, which would have been a problem to French learners like you would have been alleviated. By now we believe you can conjugate impersonal and reflexive verbs into *passé composé* in French.

25.0 SUMMARY

With this unit tackling the conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into *passé composé*, we have completed the cycle of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* in French. What is left now is to teach the agreement rules of the *passé composé*. This is what we will tackle well in Unit twelve.

Having gone this far in the conjugation of verbs into '*passé composé*', we are sure that you must have been adequately informed in all these eleven units on the basic techniques of how to conjugate different verbs into '*présent de l'indicatif*', *futur simple* and the *passé composé*.

26.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

12. Conjugate the following verbs into *passé composé*:

a. Advenir, b. Se voir, c. Se taire, d. S'offrir, e. falloir, f. pleuvoir, g. venter, h. S'agir, i. Se lever, j. Se comprendre.

27.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.

AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.

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UNIT TWELVE
**CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL AND REFLEXIVE VERBS INTO
 PASSE COMPOSE**

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Agreement of <i>passé composé</i>
3.1	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In this unit, you will be taught the technique of the Agreement of *passé composé*. You will also learn about the techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in identifying areas that need the Agreement of *passé composé* in French grammar.

You will recall that we introduced you into the world of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* in Unit 9 where we initiated you into the method of conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *avoir* into *passé composé*. In Unit 10 we also taught you the method of conjugation of verbs with auxiliary *être* into *passé composé*. In this Unit, we would like to teach you about the Agreement of *passé composé* in French grammar.

Just like we explained to you in Units nine and ten, any action that has been done in the past, before the time that you are reporting the action, is expressed in French through *passé composé*. A *passé composé* tense

expresses an action that has been done and concluded a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year or even a decade in the past before the time the speaker is reporting it.

In as much as we will be talking on the agreement of *passé composé* here, it is a methodical development on various conjugations of verbs that you have learned. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units two to eleven will also be useful in this unit. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of properly according the agreement rules of *passé composé* of French grammar as they will be taught here.

15.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the grammatical level of French *passé composé* that needs agreement.
- Identify the French lexical items with which the agreement could be accorded.
- Effectively accord these agreements correctly.

You are now invited to follow the method of according the agreement of '*passé composé*' in French grammar.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE AGREEMENT OF PASSE COMPOSE

Like we said in Units nine to eleven as well as our introduction to this unit, we use *passé composé* to express actions that are done in the past, any action that has been done in the past, before the time that you are reporting the action. It is a tense that expresses an action that has been done and

concluded a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year or even a decade in the past before the time the speaker is reporting it

Conjugation of *passé composé* is different from that of the conjugations of *présent de l'indicatif* and *future simple* whereby their conjugation centres on the single major verb. The conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* entails the usage of an auxiliary and the past participle of the main verb. It is the combination of this auxiliary and the main verb that gives the tense its name: *passé composé*. *Composé* is a French word that means *compounded, that contains more than one linguistic element*. *Passé composé* could thus be literally translated as *compound past* that relates past actions/tense i.e. the past perfect tense.

The general rule we provided in Units 9 and ten says that you add, the past participle of the verb we want to conjugate, to the present tense of the auxiliary avoir or être (as the case may be): - (Auxiliaire **avoir** ou **être** + participe passé du verbe concerné). We also explained the rationale behind the choice of auxiliary to be used with one particular verb or the other by providing a possible solution to your 'could be' problem by saying that the following verbs when they are to be conjugated, should take auxiliary être: Aller (to go), descendre (to come down), rester (to rest), monter (to climb), tomber (to fall), naître (to be born), sortir (to go out), partir (to go) venir (to come), so also all other verbs that have something to do with **venir** like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return). **Most other verbs, apart from these ones and their variants, are conjugated with auxiliary avoir.**

We also alerted that you would have noted that additional vowel **e** or consonant **s** or both **es** are added to the ending of some past participle when we used the auxiliary **être**. We tried to explain then that the French

grammatical rules compel all the verbs that take auxiliary **être** to agree with gender and the number of the Subject (either pronoun or noun) that precedes it. It is the combination of these agreement rules that we would like to teach in this unit:

AGREEMENT OF PASSE COMPOSE

1. There must be no agreement in between the subject and the past participle if the auxiliary **avoir** is used in a direct and simple sentence:

- J'ai mangé de la viande.

2. But in a situation where the complement of the direct object comes before the verb that has **avoir** as its auxiliary verb, the past participle of this main verb must agree in gender and in number with the object. The feminine object therefore introduces an additional e to the ending of the past participle while the plurality is marked by an additional s (if it is masculine plural) or additional es (if it is feminine plural):

----- **La viande** que j'ai mangée.

----- **Les livres** que vous m'avez donnés.

----- j'ai vu **des filles**. → Je **les** ai vues.

3. When an auxiliary être is used, the past participle must agree in gender and in number with the subject. The feminine subject introduces an additional e to the ending of the past participle while the plurality is marked by an additional s (if it is masculine plural) or additional es (if it is feminine plural):

--- Il est parti. → Elle est partie.

--- Elles sont sorties. → Ils sont sortis.

--- Nous sommes sorti(e)s.

4. Pronominal or reflexive verbs will agree in gender and in number if the reflexive pronoun used with the verb has its antecedent in the (main) subject thus referring to the subject also:
 - Yetunde s'est lavée.
 - Nous nous sommes lave(e)s.

5. But there will be no agreement if the action is not referring to the subject but to a direct object placed after the past participle of the sentence:
 - Elle s'est lavé la main.
 - Elles se sont lavé les vêtements.

6. In a situation where the complement of direct object '**en**' comes before the auxiliary *avoir* there will be no accord:
 - Les hommes célèbres, j'en ai connu.

7. The past participle of the verb **faire (fait)** followed by an infinitive does not agree in gender and in number with the subject, nor with the object:
 - Je les ai fait comprendre

8. The past participle of verbs like **couru, coûté, valu** are invariable when they are used in their real sense but they agree in gender and in number when they are used in a figurative sense:
 - Les cinq Naira que ce pantalon m'a coûté.
 - Les efforts que ce travail m'a coûtés.
 - Combien de Kilomètres avez-vous couru avant de le rattraper?
 - Combien de commissions avez-vous courues pour le Président?
 - Ce sont les dix Naira que ce travail a valu.
 - Vous pensez que ma vie n'a value que celle de chien?

3.1 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Rewrite the following sentences by conjugating the verbs in them into *passé composé* thus laying emphasis on the agreement (accord) where necessary.

1 les branches (rayer) ma voiture. – 2. ils (bondir) de joie lorsqu'ils (savoir) leur note. – 3. j'(commencer) à réaliser un herbier. – 4. mes grands-parents (aller) en Iran ; ils m'(rapporter) un vase craquelé. – 5. l'équipe de France (trionpher) en demi-finale.

Possible answer :

1 les branches ont rayé ma voiture. – 2. ils ont bondi de joie lorsqu'ils ont su leur note. – 3. j'ai commencé à réaliser un herbier. – 4. mes grands-parents sont allés en Iran ; ils m'ont rapporté un vase craquelé. – 5. L'équipe de France a triomphé en demi-finale.

26.0 **CONCLUSION**

You have been taught, in this unit, the rules governing the agreement of *passé composé*. You have also been told of how to recognize the sentences that need the grammatical agreement of *passé composé*. We believe by now you can accord the agreement rules of *passé composé*.

27.0 **SUMMARY**

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* that we have laid for you in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* that we methodically handled in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation verbs with auxiliaries *avoir* and *être* into *passé composé* that we taught in Units nine to eleven, this Unit twelve has gone further in the conjugation techniques by tackling the agreement of *passé composé*. We believe by now that you can accord the agreement when you stumble on them in French language structure.

28.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

13. Accord the *passé composé* to these sentences where necessary:
- a. Fatima a mangé de la viande.
 - b. Voilà la viande que Fatima a mangé.
 - c. Funsho et Yetunde se sont lavé.
 - d. Ils se sont lavé les vêtements.
 - e. Les femmes célèbres, j'en ai connu.
 - f. Olu les a fait comprendre.
 - g. Les dix Naira que cette chemise m'a coûté.
 - h. Les efforts que ce travail m'a coûté.
 - i. Combien de Kilomètres as-tu couru avant de le rattraper?
 - j. Combien de commissions as-tu couru pour le Président?

29.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.
- Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.

UNIT THIRTEEN
**CONJUGATION OF *ER* AND OTHER REGULAR VERBS INTO
*L'IMPARFAIT***

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of er and other regular verbs to <i>L'imparfait</i> .
3.1	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In this unit, you will be taught the method of conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*. We hope to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French **er** and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*. You will recall that in the last twelve units we have been talking of conjugation of verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*, *futur simple* and *passé composé*. The significance of that is that we have been teaching you how to conjugate French verbs to express actions that one is doing at present, doing in the future and one is doing in past.

We have now got to a stage whereby you have to learn how to express actions that we do in the past but in a continuous manner: what one has the habit of doing in the past. *L'imparfait* could be translated as past continuous tense in English. It is used to express any action that is done in the past but in a continuous manner. We implore you to learn the

rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating **er** and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait* of French grammar as they will be taught here.

16.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify *l'imparfait* Stem/Radical of **er** verbs
- Identify the *l'imparfait* **er** ending/terminaison of **er** verbs
- identify the *l'imparfait* morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation *l'imparfait* tense
- Demonstrate the techniques of conjugating these verbs.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation **er** and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF *ER* AND OTHER REGULAR VERBS INTO *L'IMPARFAIT*

Like we have told you in our introduction to this unit, *l'imparfait* could be translated as past continuous tense in English. We use it to express any action that is done in a past continuous manner or that one has the habit of doing in the past. When you want to talk about what you have done or what you usually do in the past, you are to express yourself in *l'imparfait* tense in French grammar.

Just like in the conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif*, there are slight differences in the conjugation of this tense to different types of verbal groupings. It is in realization of these dissimilarities in their conjugation that we decided to teach the conjugation **er** and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait* in this unit.

To conjugate **er** and other regular verbs, such as **parler**, into *l'imparfait*, you should identify the infinitive of the verb concerned (e.g. **parler**), you should also know how the verb is conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif*. It is at the level of the 1st person plural (nous) of the said conjugation that you will pick the stem of the verb concerned (parl). You then drop its usual *ons* ending, added to it before, so as to add the following endings (**ais**, **ais**, **ait**, **ions**, **iez**, **aient**) to this new special stem/radical:

ais	for 1 st person singular
ais	for 2 nd person singular
ait	for 3 rd person singular
ions	for 1 st person plural
iez	for 2 nd person plural
aient	for 3 rd person plural

Parler-	Nous parl/ons
Je parl ais	(I was speaking)
Tu parl ais	(You were speaking)
Il/Elle parl ait	(He/She was speaking)
Nous parl ions	(We were speaking)
Vous parl iez	(You were speaking)
Ils/Elles parl aient	(They were speaking)

Manger -	Nous mange/ons
Je mang eais	(I was eating)
Tu mang eais	(You were eating)
Il/Elle mang eait	(He/She was eating)
Nous mang ions	(We were eating)
Vous mang iez	(You were eating)
Ils/Elles mang aient	(They were eating)

(NOTE: We dropped the vowel e before i in the 1st and 2nd person plural forms because the vowel i could perform the same function of softening the ‘g’ as does by the vowel e).

Let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some **er** verbs into the *l'imperfait*:

a. **Nager - to swim**

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je nageais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu nageais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle nageait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous nagions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous nageiez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles nageaient

b. **Commencer**

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je commençais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu commençais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle commençait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous commençons
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous commençiez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles commençaient

c. **Aimer**

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	J'aimais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu aimais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle aimait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous aimions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous aimiez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles aimaient

d. **Appeler**

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	J'appelais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu appelais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle appelait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous appelions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous appeliez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles appelaient

3.1 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Conjugate the following verbs into “L'imparfait”.

a) Renvoyer (b) Blaguer (c) Parler.

1) Verbe “ Renvoyer á l'imparfait”.

Je renvoyais	Nous renvoyions
Tu renvoyais	Vous renvoyiez
il/Elle renvoyait	ils/Elles renvoyaient

(2) Verbe “ blaguer á l'imparfait”

Je blaguais	Nous blaguions
Tu blaguais	Vous blaguiez
il/Elle blaguait	ils/Elles blaguaient

(3) Verbe “Parler á l'imparfait”

Je parlais	Nous Parlions
Tu Parlais	Vous Parliez
il/ Elle Parlait	ils/ Elles Parlaient

28.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*. You have also been told how to get the special stem/radical with which you could conjugate this tense. We

believe by now you can conjugate **er** and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*.

29.0 SUMMARY

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* that we have laid for you in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* that we methodically handled in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* that we taught in Units nine to eleven, this Unit thirteen has gone further in the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the world of conjugation of *l'imparfait* in French grammar.

30.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

14. Conjugate the following verbs into *l'imparfait*:

a. Aller, b. Rudoyer, c. Monter, d. Nager, e. Recommencer, f. Renvoyer

31.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.

AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.

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UNIT FOURTEEN
CONJUGATION OF IRREGULAR VERBS INTO *L'IMPARFAIT*

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of irregular verbs to <i>l'imparfait</i>
3.1.	Conjugation of re verbs to <i>l'imparfait</i>
3.2.	Conjugation of ir/oir verbs to <i>l'imparfait</i> .
3.3.	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

You will recall that in Unit Thirteen, we taught you the method of conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*. In this unit, you will be taught how to conjugate other irregular verbs into *l'imparfait*.. Like we did in the previous unit, we hope to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French irregular verbs into *l'imparfait*..

Like we told you in Unit thirteen, we have now got to a stage whereby you have to learn how to express actions that we do in the past but in a continuous manner: what one has the habit of doing in the past. *l'imparfait* could be translated as past continuous tense in English. It is used to express any action that is done in the past but in a continuous manner. We then

implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating **ir** and other irregular verbs into *l'imparfait* of French grammar as they will be taught here.

17.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the *l'imparfait* Stem/Radical of the irregular verbs
- Identify the *l'imparfait* ending/terminaison of irregular verbs
- identify the *l'imparfait* morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation *l'imparfait* tense
- Demonstrate the techniques of conjugating these irregular verbs.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of irregular verbs into *l'imparfait*.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF **RE** AND OTHER REGULAR VERBS INTO **L'IMPARFAIT**

Like we have told you in unit thirteen, *l'imparfait* could be translated as past continuous tense in English. We use it to express any action that is done in a past continuous manner or that one has the habit of doing in the past. When you want to talk about what you have done or what you usually do in the past, you are to express yourself in *l'imparfait* tense in French grammar.

You will recall that in Unit thirteen, we have treated how to conjugate **er** and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait*. If you recall very well in our Unit One where we told you that verbs in French language could be divided into three groups according to their endings. And if we have treated the conjugation of **er** and other regular verbs into *l'imparfait* in Unit thirteen,

the onus is then on us in this unit to treat the conjugation of **re, ir/oir** into *l'imparfait*. It is the combination of verbs with **re, ir/oir** endings that we put together to be treated as irregular verbs in this unit.

3.1 CONJUGATION OF RE VERBS INTO L'IMPARFAIT

Just like we said in Unit thirteen, when you want to conjugate **re** and other irregular verbs into *l'imparfait*, you should identify the infinitive of the verb concerned, you should also know how the verb is conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif*. It is at the level of the 1st person plural (nous) of the said conjugation that you will pick the stem of the verb concerned. You then drop its usual *ons* ending, added to it before, so as to add the following endings (**ais, ais, ait, ions, iez, aient**) to this new special stem/radical:

ais for 1st person singular
ais for 2nd person singular
ait for 3rd person singular
ions for 1st person plural
iez for 2nd person plural
aient for 3rd person plural

Prendre	=	Nous pren/ons
Je pren ais		(I was taking)
Tu pren ais		(You were taking)
Il/Elle pren ait		(He was taking)
Nous pren ions		(We were taking)
Vous pren iez		(You were taking)
Ils/Elles pren aient		(They were taking)

Let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some **re** verbs into the *l'imparfait*:

a. **Battre** (to beat) = Nous batt/ons

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je battais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu battais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle battait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous battions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous battiez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles battaient

(Conjugation of **débattre**, **combattre**, **mettre**, **soumettre**, etc, follow this pattern.)

b. **Craindre** (to be afraid/to fear)

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je craignais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu craignais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle craignait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous craignons
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous craigniez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles craignaient

(Conjugation of **joindre**, **peindre**, **plaindre**, **contraindre**, etc, follow this pattern.)

c. **Convaincre** (to convince)

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je convainquais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu convainquais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle convainquait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous convainquions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous convainquiez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles convainquaient

(Conjugation of **vaincre** etc, follow this pattern.)

d. **Faire** (to do/to make)

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je faisais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu faisais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle faisait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous faisons
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous faisiez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles faisaient

(Conjugation of **défaire, refaire** etc, follow this pattern.)

e. **Etre** (to be)

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	J'étais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu étais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle était
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous étions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous étiez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles étaient

(NOTE : We would like you to note that *être* is the only Known verb that does not follow this general rule of conjugation into *l'imparfait*.)

3.2 CONJUGATION OF IR/OIR VERBS INTO L'IMPARFAIT

Just like we said above, when you want to conjugate **ir** and other **oir** verbs into *l'imparfait*, you should identify the infinitive of the verb concerned, you should also know how the verb is conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif*. It is at the level of the 1st person plural (nous) of the said conjugation that you will pick the stem of the verb concerned. You then drop its usual *ons* ending, added to it before, so as to add the following endings (**ais**, **ais**, **ait**, **ions**, **iez**, **aient**) to this new special stem/radical:

a. **Finir** (to finish) = Nous finiss/ons

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je finissais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu finissais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle finissait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous finissions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous finissiez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles finissaient

b. **Tenir** (to finish) = Nous ten/ons

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je tenais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu tenais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle tenait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous tenions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous teniez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles tenaient

(Conjugation of most **ir** verbs such as **venir, sentir, vêtir** etc, follow this pattern.)

c. **Avoir** (to have) = Nous av/ons

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	J'avais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu avais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle avait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous avions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous aviez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles avaient

d. **Voir** (to have) = Nous voy/ons

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je voyais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu voyais

ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle voyait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous voyions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous voyiez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles voyaient

e. **Devoir** (to be obliged/ compelled) = Nous dev/ons

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je devais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu devais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle devait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous devions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous deviez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles devaient

3.3 SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Conjugate the following verbs into “L’imparfait”.

a) Prendre, b) Courir, c) savoir

(1) Je Prenais Nous Prenions
 Tu Prenais Vous Preniez
 il /Elle Prenait ils/Elles Prenaient

(2) Verbe Courir à l’imparfait

Je courrais Nous Courrions
 Tu Courrais Vous courriez
 il /Elle Courrait ils/Elles Courraient

(3) Verbe tenir á l’imparfait

Je Savais Nous Savions
 Tu Savais Vous Saviez
 Il /Elle Savait ils/Elles Savaient

30.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of **re** and other irregular verbs into *l'imparfait*. You have also been told how to get the special stem/radical with which you could conjugate this tense. We believe by now you can conjugate **re** and other irregular verbs into *l'imparfait*.

31.0 SUMMARY

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* that we have laid for you in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* that we methodically handled in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* that we taught in Units nine to eleven, this Unit fourteen has gone further in the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the method of conjugation of **ir** and other irregular verbs into *l'imparfait* in French grammar.

32.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

15. Conjugate the following verbs into *l'imparfait*:
- a. savoir, b. venir, c. courir, d. offrir, e. partir, f. finir, g. sortir, h. pouvoir,
 - i. valoir, j. tenir.

33.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.
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UNIT FIFTEEN
**CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL AND REFLEXIVE VERBS INTO
*L'IMPARFAIT***

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of Impersonal verbs into <i>L'imparfait</i>
3.1.	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of Reflexive verbs into <i>L'imparfait</i>
3.2.	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This unit will present to you the technique of conjugation of Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *l'imparfait*. In this unit, you will learn about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *l'imparfait*. Like we told you in Unit five, these impersonal, as well as Reflexive verbs are common in French language. You will see them as either **er, re, ir** or even **oir** verbs. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units five to fourteen will be useful in this unit. What you will do mostly in this unit is to identify French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs, then apply the peculiarities of these verbs so that you could apply your already gained knowledge in the conjugation of *l'imparfait* of **er, re, ir** and **oir** verbs to them thus conjugating them correctly. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and

methods of conjugating French Impersonal and Reflexive verbs into *l'imparfait* as they will be taught here.

18.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the French Impersonal verbs.
- Identify the French Reflexive verbs
- Explain the peculiarities of these two verbs.
- Demonstrate the techniques of conjugating these two verbs into *l'imparfait*.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of Impersonal and reflexive verbs into '*l'imparfait*'.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL VERBS INTO *L'IMPARFAIT*

Just like we told you in Unit five, Impersonal verbs are verbs that could not be conjugated into numerous persons and classes, such as first, second, third persons, singular and plural form, like the others. They are verbs that could not be used for human beings. And being that they are for abstract things, they could only be conjugated into the 3rd person singular form. Even their conjugation into the third person singular form is limited to masculine personal pronoun, **il**, alone. We insist that this explanation is to warn you that you cannot use the third person singular of feminine form to conjugate it! We would like to note also that it is not every other verb that you can conjugate using this method. This type of conjugation is only noted for impersonal verbs alone.

Examples could be found in:

- (s) Pleuvoir – to rain
Il pleuvait

- (t) Falloir – to be necessary
Il fallait
- (u) Advenir – to happen
Il advenait
- (v) S’agir de – to be about
Il s’agissait de
- (w) Brûmer – to mist (hazy)
Il brumait
- (x) Venter – to blow wind
Il ventait

3.1 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF REFLEXIVE OR PRONOMINAL VERBS INTO *L’IMPARFAIT*

Like we said in Unit five, Reflexive verbs are what the French grammarians call “Les verbes pronominaux” hence our calling them reflexive or pronominal verbs in English so as to facilitate the ease of reference for French learners like you. Reflexive or pronominal verbs are verbs used to refer to an action that the subject does to himself/herself. In a situation whereby you want account for an action that you do to yourself or the action that another person does to himself or herself, you express this action through the use of reflexive or pronominal verbs in French grammar.

In order to conjugate these verbs into *l’imparfait*, this set of verbs takes additional (direct/personal) pronoun in their conjugation. The pronouns **me** **te** **se** **nous** **vous** and **se** are used to mark this action of reflexive or

pronominal of the verbs. We then add *l'imparfait* ending to the main verb, as explained in Units 13 and 14. For example, if the subject or the speaker wants to say that *I was bathing myself*, he would say: *Je me lavais*.

NOTE: We would like you to note that in the normal conjugation of the infinitive **laver** into *l'imparfait*, you are to conjugate it as **Je lavais** (meaning I was washing) But in the case of reflexive or pronominal action whereby you want to say that you perform the action to yourself, another reflexive pronoun of the same person and grammatical class with that of the subject (personal pronoun) will be inserted to denote that action of reflexive in the sentence, hence the inclusion of the reflexive pronoun, **me**, in the given example.

(o) Se laver – to take ones bath

Je me lavais – I was bathing myself

Tu te lavais – You were bathing yourself

Il/elle se lavait – he/she was bathing himself/herself

Nous nous lavions – we were bathing ourselves

Vous vous laviez – you were bathing yourselves

Ils se lavaient – They were bathing themselves

(p) Se taire – to keep quiet

Je me taisais – I was keeping quiet

Tu te taisait – You were keeping quiet

Il/elle se tait – he/she was keeping quiet

Nous nous taisions – we were keeping quiet

Vous vous taisiez – you were keeping quiet

Ils se taisaient – They were keeping quiet

(q) Se convertir – to convert oneself

Je me convertissais – I was converting myself

Tu te convertissais – You were converting yourself

Il/elle se convertissait – he/she was converting himself/herself
Nous nous convertissions – we were converting ourselves
Vous vous convertissiez – you were converting yourselves
Ils se convertissaient – They were converting themselves

(r) S'asseoir – to take ones seat

Je m'assoiais – I was sitting down/taking my seat
Tu t'assoiais – You were sitting down/ taking your seat
Il/elle s'assoyait – he/she was sitting down/ taking him/her seat
Nous nous assoyions – we were sitting down/ taking our seat
Vous vous assoyiez – you were sitting down/ taking your seat
Ils s'assoiaient – They were sitting down/ taking their seat

Or

(g) S'asseoir – to take ones seat

Je m'assieds – I was sitting down/ taking my seat
Tu t'assieds – You were sitting down/ taking your seat
Il/elle s'assied – he/she was sitting down/ taking him/her seat
Nous nous asseyons – we were sitting down/ taking our seat
Vous vous asseyez – you were sitting down/ taking your seat
Ils s'asseient – They were sitting down/ taking their seat

NOTE: We would like you to note that there are two grammatically accepted form of conjugation of the verb *S'asseoir* in French. Which ever form you chose is correct.

(h) S'appeler – to call oneself

Je m'appelais – I was calling myself (I wss called)
Tu t'appelais – You were calling yourself
Il/elle s'appelait – He/She was calling himself/herself
Nous nous appelions – We were calling ourselves
Vous vous appeliez – You were calling yourselves

Ils/elles s'appelaient – They were calling themselves

(NOTE: You should please not that the contraction in the conjugation of **s'appeler** comes as a result of the contact in-between the vowel **e** of pronouns **me, te, se** and the infinitive of the verb **appeler** that has initial vowel **a**.

3.2 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Conjugate the following verbs into “L'imparfait”.

a) S'offrir, b) Se lever, c) Brumer

(1) Verbe “s'offrir á l'imparfait”.

Je m'offrais	Nous nous offrions
Tu t'offrais	Vous vous offriez
il/Elle s'offrait	ils/Elles s'offraient

(2) Verb “Se lever á l'imparfait”

Je me levais	Nous nous levions
Tu te levais	Vous vous leviez
il/Elle se levait	ils/Elles se levaient

(3) **Verb “ Brumer”**

il brumait

32.0 **CONCLUSION**

In this unit, you have been taught the rules governing the conjugation of Impersonal **and** Reflexive verbs into ‘*l'imparfait*’. As you should have discovered, the impersonal verb is a verb that you can only conjugate with third person masculine pronoun thus making the verb to refer to inanimate things that are not human beings. You have been taught also that a reflexive verb refers to an action that the subject does to himself. With the method

that we used in simplifying the explanation in this unit, we are convinced that the complication in understanding the impersonal and reflexive verbs, which is a common problem to French learners like you would have been alleviated. By now we believe you can conjugate impersonal and reflexive verbs into *l'imparfait* in French.

33.0 SUMMARY

With this unit tackling the conjugation of impersonal and reflexive verbs into *l'imparfait*, we have completed the cycle of conjugation of verbs into *l'imparfait* in French. In consonance with our general classification of verbs and what to expect in the course that we did in our Guide, we are now moving from simple conjugation to fairly complex ones. But no matter their difficulties, the moment you read what has been taught earlier and you follow the step by step of our presentation, we believe you will easily catch up with whatever we are going to teach in subsequent units.

34.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

16. Conjugate the following verbs into *l'imparfait*:
- Se comprendre,
 - Se taire,
 - Se voir,
 - S'offrir,
 - falloir,
 - pleuvoir,
 - g. venter,
 - h. S'agir,
 - i. Se lever,
 - j. Se balancer.

35.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.
- Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.

UNIT SIXTEEN
**CONJUGATION OF VERBS INTO *IMPÉRATIF PRÉSENT* (POSITIVE
 AND NEGATIVE)**

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of verbs into <i>impératif présent</i> (positive)
3.1	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of verbs into <i>impératif présent</i> (negative)
3.2	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This unit will introduce you to the conjugation of **all** verbs into ‘*impératif présent* (positive and negative)’. In this unit, you will read to know about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French verbs into ‘*impératif présent* (positive and negative)’. Knowledge gained from this unit will initiate your properly into how to conjugate French verbs in the ‘*impératif présent* (positive and negative)’. We would like to sound a warning that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle other units we have taught earlier. Therefore, we implore you to revise the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating all verbs as they were taught earlier so as to understand better this unit.

19.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the Stem/Radical of all verbs
- Identify the ending/terminaison that could be used in conjugating verbs into ‘*impératif présent* (positive and negative)’
- Demonstrate how various verbs could be conjugated into ‘*impératif présent* (positive and negative)’

You are now invited into the world of conjugation of verbs into ‘*impératif présent* (positive and negative)’.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF VERBS INTO IMPÉRATIF PRÉSENT (POSITIVE)

The imperative is used in French, just like in English language, to give out command (order) to others. It has only three forms. You could form it by taking the present tense form of the 2nd person singular, 1st and 2nd persons plural of the verb concerned. You will then eliminate the pronoun earlier attached to these conjugated verbs. If the verb belongs to the **er** group, the rule compels us to drop the **s** ending the 2nd person singular. Its rule is always called 2-1-2, meaning 2nd person singular, 1st and 2nd persons plural. Examples could be seen in Parler and Prendre:

Parler:	2 parle!	Prendre:	2 prends!
	1 parlons!		1 prenons!
	2 Parlez!		2 prenez!

NOTE: In the case of irregular verbs, their imperative form is sometime borrowed

from the subjunctive form: Etre	savoir	vouloir
2 sois	2 sache!	2 veuille (veux)
1 soyons	1 sachons!	1 voulons
2 soyez	2 sachez!	2 veuillez (voulez)

NOTE: When you are dealing with the verb vouloir, you could either use the veuille/veillez or the veux/voulez (in brackets) option. However, the 1st person plural form is homogenous for the two options.

In the case of reflexive verbs, apart from the application of this 2-1-2 rules to conjugate the verbs into positive imperative, we also add a personal pronoun in the Compliment of Direct Object (COD) class, of the same grammatical number and person of the verb concerned; as suffix to the verb concerned: **moi, nous, vous.**

e.g.	Se regarder	S'appeler
	2 regarde-moi!	2 appelle-moi!
	1 regardons-nous!	1 appelons-nous!
	2 regardez-vous!	2 appelez-vous!

3.1 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF VERBS INTO IMPERATIF PRESENT (POSITIVE)

As said earlier, if the imperative is used in French, just like in English language, to give out command (order) to others, it must have the positive as well as the negative forms. In as much as orders could be given positively in any natural language, so can it be given negatively. Just like in the positive form, it has only three forms too. You could also form it by taking the present tense form of the 2nd person singular, 1st and 2nd persons plural of the verb concerned. You will then eliminate the pronoun earlier attached to these conjugated verbs. If the verb belongs to the **er** group, the rule compels us to drop the **s** ending the 2nd person singular. Its rule is always called 2-1-2, meaning 2nd person singular, 1st and 2nd persons plural. The only difference that distinguishes positive from negative is the introduction of some adverbs of negation such as:

----	ne	pas	- not
----	ne	point	- not at all

----	ne	nulle	-not in any way
----	ne	plus	- no more
----	ne	guère	- hardly
----	ne	jamais	- never
----	ne	rien	- nothing
----	ne	personne	- nobody
----	ne	que	-only, not more than

These negation adverbs are used to change a sentence into a negative form.

These adverbs are split ones; on splitting them into two, as indicated by the dotted lines, the necessary *imperative* verb in that sentence is thus inserted into the space provided in-between them (to replace the dotted lines in the middle) e.g.

Parler:	2 ne parle pas!	Prendre:	2 ne prends jamais!
	1 ne parlons guère!		1 ne prenons nulle!
	2 ne parlez point!		2 ne prenez rien!
	2 ne sois là		2 ne veuille (veux) que
	1 ne soyons personne		1 ne voulons pas
	2 ne soyez que		2 ne veuillez (voulez) rien
	2 ne sache rien!		
	1 ne sachons que!		
	2 ne sachez guère!		

We would like you to note also that in the case of reflexive verbs, if you want to conjugate them into negative imperative, apart from the application of this 2-1-2 rules, you will also add a personal pronoun (but not in the Compliment of Direct Object (COD) class this time around) of the same grammatical number and person of the verb concerned; **me, nous, vous**. But instead of their coming at the end of

the verb as done in the positive categorization, these pronouns will come before the verb (immediately after the **ne**, the first part of the adverb of negation.

e.g. Se regarder

2 ne me regarde pas!
1 ne nous regardons plus!
2 ne vous regardez guère!

S'appeler

2 ne m'appelle plus!
1 ne nous appelons pas!
2 ne vous appelez jamais!

3.2 **SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

Conjugate the following verbs into 'l'impératif présent positif "first and then négatif.

a) Savoir, b) Se regarder.

(1) Verbe "Savoir à l'impératif positif et négatif"

Sache !	Ne sache pas !
Sachons !	Ne sachons pas !
Sachez !	Ne sachez pas !

(2) Verbe "Se regarder à l'impératif positif et négatif".

Regarde-moi !	Ne me regarde pas !
Regardons-nous !	Ne nous regardons pas !
Regardez-vous !	Ne vous regardez point !

34.0 **CONCLUSION**

In this unit, you have learned the rules governing the conjugation of '*impératif présent*'. You have also discovered the positive form as well as negative form in the conjugation of some verbs in this category. By now we believe you can conjugate different verbs '*impératif présent* (positive and negative)'.

35.0 SUMMARY

You must have been adequately informed in this unit on the basic techniques of how to conjugate most verbs into '*impératif présent*'. You must have learned also some peculiarities in the conjugation of the positive and the negative forms of these conjugations. By now we believe that your verbal vocabulary and technique of conjugation of verbs should have been enriched through the explanation and examples of verbs we gave you under each classification. And we believe that you can handle any conjugation of imperative, be it positive or negative, that comes your way.

36.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

17. Conjugate the following verbs into '*impératif présent positif*' first and then *negatif*:
- a. Parler, b. Nager, c. Balayer, d. Lancer, e. Surlever, f. Célébrer, g. Monter, h. Rejeter, i. Payer, j. Blaguer.

37.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.
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UNIT SEVENTEEN
CONJUGATION OF VERBS INTO CONDITIONNEL PRÉSENT

TABLE OF	CONTENTS
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Objectives
3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of er verbs into <i>conditionnel présent</i> .
3.1.	Exceptionalities to these general rules as they affect the er verbs.
3.2	Conjugation of re verbs into <i>conditionnel présent</i> .
3.3	Conjugation of ir/oir verbs into <i>conditionnel présent</i> .
3.4	Conjugation of impersonal verbs into <i>conditionnel présent</i> .
3.5	Conjugation of reflexive verbs into <i>conditionnel présent</i> .
3.6	Self Assessment Exercise
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In this unit, you will be taught the method of conjugation of French verbs into *conditionnel présent*. We hope to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French regular and other irregular verbs into *conditionnel présent*. You will recall that in the last fifteen units we have been talking of conjugation of verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*, *futur simple*, *passé composé*, *l'imparfait* and *impératif* (positive and negative). The significance of that is that we have been teaching you how to conjugate French verbs to express actions

that one is doing at present, doing in the future, one is doing in the immediate past as well as continuous past and what one commands to be done.

We have now got to a stage whereby you have to learn how to express actions that will be done on conditions. *Conditionnel présent* could be translated as Present Conditional Tense in English. It is used to express any action that will be done in the present, if all necessary conditions are fulfilled.

Although we are talking of *Conditionnel présent* here, it is a methodical development on the conjugation of verbs into *futur simple*. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units six to eight will also be useful in this unit. Let us insist on our warning you that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle all these units we have been teaching you earlier. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French verbs into *Conditionnel présent* of French grammar as they will be taught here.

20.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the *Conditionnel présent* Stem/Radical of verbs
- Identify the *Conditionnel présent* ending/terminaison of verbs
- identify the *Conditionnel présent* morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation of *Conditionnel présent* tense
- Demonstrate the techniques of conjugating these verbs.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of verbs into *Conditionnel présent*.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF *ER* AND OTHER VERBS INTO CONDITIONNEL PRÉSENT

Like we have told you in our introduction to this unit, the *Conditionnel présent* could be translated as Present Conditional Tense in English. It is used to express any action that will be done in the present, if all necessary conditions are fulfilled.

The conditional tense looks much like the future tense. It is used to express conditional statements. Its formation also looks like that of future tense. What you are expected to do is to take the stem of verbs conjugated to future tense, you remove the future endings and you then add the following conditional endings (**ais**, **ais**, **ait**, **ions**, **iez**, **aient**) to the stem thus replacing the future tense endings with these new conditional endings:

ais for 1st person singular

ais for 2nd person singular

ait for 3rd person singular

ions for 1st person plural

iez for 2nd person plural

aient for 3rd person plural

e.g. **Manger**

Je mangerais I would/should eat

Tu mangerais You would eat

Il mangerait He would eat

Nous mangerions We would eat

Vous mangeriez You would eat

Ils mangeraient They would eat

NOTE: You will observe that the endings of this conjugation look like that of *l'imparfait*. But we would like you to be careful and remember that while *l'imparfait* uses the stem derived from *present de l'indicatif*, the *Conditionnel présent* uses, on the other hand, the stem of verbs conjugated into future tense (*futur simple*)

Let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some verbs into the *Conditionnel présent*:

a. **Parler**

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je Parler ais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu Parler ais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle Parler ait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous Parler ions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous Parler iez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles Parler aient

b. **Aimer**

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	J'aimer ais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu aimer ais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle aimer ait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous aimer ions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous aimer iez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles aimer aient

3.2 EXCEPTIONALITIES TO THESE GENERAL RULES AS THEY AFFECT THE *ER* VERBS

Just like in the case of *futur simple*, we would like you to note that although **er** verbs are said to be regular at most of the conjugation groupings, just as

we have some verbs in this category at the *futur simple* level that have some peculiarities noted for them, so also we have some **er** verbs that take exceptions to these general rules in the conjugation of their *Conditionnel présent*. In as much as we cannot because of these minor dissimilarities categorize them as being irregular, we then decided to treat them as peculiarities under this category. Better examples of these **er** verbs with peculiarities could be seen in verbs such as **aller, payer, balayer, rudoyer, envoyer, renvoyer** etc. We need to implore you that you should take their peculiarities that we are about to treat as irregularities and learn them as presented to you:

c. **Aller**

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	J'irais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu irais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle irait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous irions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous iriez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles iraient

d. **Envoyer**

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	J'enverrais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu enverrais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle enverrait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous enverrions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous enverriez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles enverraient

(**Renvoyer** is conjugated like **Envoyer**)

3.2 CONJUGATION OF RE VERBS INTO *CONDITIONNEL PRESENT*

e. **Battre** (to beat)

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je Battrais
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ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu Battrais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle Battrait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous Battrions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous Battriez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles Battraient

(Conjugation of **débattre, combattre, mettre, soumettre, plaire, connaître, paraître, naître, croître, croire, boire, conclure, absoudre, coudre, moudre, suivre, vivre, revivre, survivre, revivre, lire** etc, follow this pattern.)

f. **Etre** (to be)

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je serais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu serais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle serait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous serions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous seriez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles seraient

3.3 CONJUGATION OF IR/OIR VERBS INTO *CONDITIONNEL PRESENT*

g. **Finir** (to finish)

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je finirais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu finirais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle finirait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous finirions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous finiriez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles finiraient

(Conjugation of **obéir, désobéir, haïr, partir, sortir, sentir, mentir, partir, repartir, répartir, vêtir, dévêtir, revêtir, couvrir,**

ouvrir, offrir, souffrir, accueillir, cueillir, bouillir, dormir, servir, revivre, lire etc, follow this pattern.)

h. **Avoir** (to have)

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	J'aurais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu aurais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle aurait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous aurions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous auriez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles auraient

i. **Voir** (to see)

ais	for 1 st person singular	=	Je verrais
ais	for 2 nd person singular	=	Tu verrais
ait	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il/Elle verrait
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Nous verrions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Vous verriez
aient	for 3 rd person plural	=	Ils/Elles verraient

(Conjugation of **entrevoir, revoir** etc, follow this pattern.)

3.4 CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL VERBS INTO

CONDITIONNEL PRESENT

j. Pleuvoir – to rain

Il pleuvrait

k. Falloir – to be necessary

Il faudrait

l. Advenir – to happen

Il adviendrait

m. S'agir de – to be about

Il s'agirait de

n. Brûmer – to mist (hazy)

Il brumerait

o. Venter – to blow wind

Il venterait

3.5 CONJUGATION OF REFLEXIVE OR PRONOMINAL VERBS INTO *CONDITIONNEL PRESENT*

p. Se laver – to take ones bath

Je me laver**ais** – I would/should bath myself

Tu te laver**ais** – You would bath yourself

Il/elle se laver**ait** – he/she would bath himself/herself

Nous nous laver**ions** – we would bath ourselves

Vous vous laver**iez** – you would bath yourselves

Ils/Elles se laver**aient** – They would bath themselves

q. Se convertir – to convert oneself

Je me convertir**ais** – I would /should convert myself

Tu te convertir**ais** – You would convert yourself

Il/elle se convertir**ait** – he/she would convert himself/herself

Nous nous convertir**ions** – we would convert ourselves

Vous vous convertir**iez** – you would convert yourselves

Ils/Elles se convertir**aient** – They would convert themselves

3.6 SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Conjugate the following verbs in the Conditionnel present: a) manger, b) envoyer, c) Aller.

(1) Verbe “ manger au conditionnel présent”

Je mangerais	Nous mangerions
Tu mangerais	Vous mangeriez
il/Elle enverrait	ils/Elles mangeraient

(2) Verbe “ envoyer au conditionnel présent”.

J'enverrais	Nous enverrions
Tu enverrais	Vous enverriez
il/Elle enverrait	ils/Elles enverraient

(3) Verbe “Aller au conditionnel présent”.

J'irais	Nous irions
Tu irais	Vous iriez
il/ Elle irait	ils/Elles iraient

36.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of **er**, **re**, **ir/oir** as well as **impersonal** cum **reflexive verbs** into *Conditionnel présent*. You have also been told of some exceptionalities to these general rules. We believe by now you can conjugate **er**, **re**, **ir/oir** as well as **impersonal** and **reflexive verbs** into *Conditionnel présent*.

37.0 SUMMARY

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* that we have laid for you in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* that we methodically handled in Unit six to eight as well as the method of

conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* that we taught in Units nine to eleven, the conjugation of *l'imparfait* that we taught in Units thirteen to fifteen and the conjugation of *imperative* (positive and negative) that we taught in Unit sixteen, we decided to bring you further into the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the world of conjugation of *conditionnel présent* in French grammar.

38.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

18. Conjugate the following verbs into *conditionnel présent*:
- a. Rudoyer, b Voir., c. Prendre, d. S'appeler, e. Recommencer, f. Rendre, g. Pleuvoir, h. savoir, i. Se laver, j. Brumer.

39.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
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UNIT EIGHTEEN
CONJUGATION OF VERBS INTO CONDITIONNEL PASSE

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3.0	General techniques guiding the Conjugation of auxiliary avoir verbs into <i>conditionnel passé</i> .
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3.2	Conjugation of impersonal verbs into <i>conditionnel passé</i> .
3.3	Conjugation of reflexive verbs into <i>conditionnel passé</i> .
3.4	Conjugation of reflexive verbs into <i>conditionnel passé</i> .
4.0	Conclusion
5.0	Summary
6.0	Tutor Marked Assignment
7.0	References and Other Resources

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In this unit, you will be taught the method of conjugation of French verbs into *conditionnel passé*. We hope to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French regular and other irregular verbs into *conditionnel passé*. You will recall that in the last unit, we have taught you the conjugation *Conditionnel présent*. We have now got to a stage whereby you have to learn how to express actions that will be done on conditions but in the past. *Conditionnel présent* could be translated as Past Conditional Tense in English. It is used

to express any action that would have been done in the past, if all necessary conditions were fulfilled.

Armed with the Knowledge of *Conditionnel présent* that we have just taught you, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French verbs into *Conditionnel passé* of French grammar as they will be taught here.

21.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être*.
- Identify the past participle of various verb groupings
- Demonstrate how to conjugate the *Conditionnel passé* by adding the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to the past participle of the verb concerned..

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of verbs into *Conditionnel passé*.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF AUXILLIARY AVOIR VERBS INTO CONDITIONNEL PASSE

Like we have told you in our introduction to this unit, the *Conditionnel passé* could be translated as Past Conditional Tense in English. It is used to express any action that would have been done in the past, if all necessary conditions were fulfilled.

The general rule of conjugating this tense says that you add, the past participle of the verb we want to conjugate, to the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* (as the case may be): - (Auxilliaire de *Conditionnel présent* de verbe **avoir** ou **être** + participle passé du verbe concerné). If

you look at these rules closely, you will observe that they resemble the rules of *passé composé*. The only difference is where the *passé composé* is asking for the auxiliary *avoir* or *être* conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif*, the *conditionnel passé* is asking for the auxiliary *avoir* or *être* conjugated into *conditionnel présent*. We therefore implore you to please revise all the Units on *passé composé*, most especially, Units nine to ten, so as to comprehend this Unit better.

If the rule insists on your adding the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to the past participle of the main verb, you then need to recollect, at this level, your knowledge of conjugating the verb *avoir* into *Conditionnel présent* :

Avoir

J'aurais	Nous aurions
Tu aurais	Vous auriez
Il aurait	Ils auraient

Let us then follow this pattern and the rules governing it to conjugate the verb **manger** into *Conditionnel passé*:

- a. **Manger** - to eat
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| J'aurais mangé | Nous aurions mangé |
| Tu aurais mangé | Vous auriez mangé |
| Il aurait mangé | Ils auraient mangé |
- b. **Parler** - to speak
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| J'aurais parlé | (I would have spoken) |
| Tu aurais parlé | (You would have spoken) |
| Il/Elle aurait parlé | (He/She would have spoken) |
| Nous aurions parlé | (We would have spoken) |

	Vous auriez parlé	(You would have spoken)
	Ils/Elles auraient parlé	(They would have spoken)
c.	Etre - to be	
	J'aurais été	(I would have been)
	Tu aurais été	(You would have been)
	Il/Elle aurait été	(He/She would have been)
	Nous aurions été	(We would have been)
	Vous auriez été	(You would have been)
	Ils/Elles auraient été	(They would have been)
d	Dire - to say	
	J'aurais dit	(I would have said)
	Tu aurais dit	(You would have said)
	Il/Elle aurait dit	(He/She would have said)
	Nous aurions dit	(We would have said)
	Vous auriez dit	(You would have said)
	Ils/Elles auraient dit	(They would have said)
e.	Finir - to finish	
	J'aurais fini	(I would have finished)
	Tu aurais fini	(You would have finished)
	Il/Elle aurait fini	(He/She would have finished)
	Nous aurions fini	(We would have finished)
	Vous auriez fini	(You would have finished)
	Ils/Elles auraient fini	(They would have finished)
f.	Avoir - to have	
	J'aurais eu	(I would have had)

Tu aurais eu	(You would have had)
Il/Elle aurait eu	(He/She would have had)
Nous aurions eu	(We would have had)
Vous auriez eu	(You would have had)
Ils/Elles auraient eu	(They would have had)

3.1 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF VERBS WITH AUXILIARY *ETRE* INTO *CONDITIONNEL PASSÉ*

Just like we told you under the conjugation of verbs with auxiliary être into *passé composé* in Unit ten, the following verbs when they are to be conjugated into *conditionnel passé*, should take auxiliary être: Aller (to go), descendre (to come down), rester (to rest), monter (to climb), tomber (to fall), naître (to be born), sortir (to go out), partir (to go) venir (to come), so also all other verbs that have something to do with **venir** like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return). **Most other verbs, apart from these ones and their variants, are conjugated with auxiliary avoir.**

If the general rule of conjugating this tense says that you add, the past participle of the verb we want to conjugate, to the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* (as the case may be): - (Auxiliaire de *Conditionnel présent* de verbe **avoir** ou **être** + participe passé du verbe concerné). And that we have applied the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* in the first part of this unit, we have now got to the point of applying the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *être*.

If the rule insists on your adding the *Conditionnel présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to the past participle of the main verb, you then need to recollect, at

this level, your knowledge of conjugating the verb *être* into *Conditionnel présent* :

être

Je serais	Nous serions
Tu serais	Vous seriez
Il serait	Ils seraient

Let us then follow these rules and the rules governing it to conjugate the following verbs into *Conditionnel passé*:

g. **aller** - to go

Je serais allé(e)	Nous serions allé(e)s
Tu serais allé(e)	Vous seriez allé(e)s
Il serait allé	Ils seraient allés
Elle serait allé(e)	Elles seraient allées

NOTE: Just like it happened in Unit ten, you would have noted that additional vowel **e** or consonant **s** or both **es** are added to the ending of some past participle when we used the auxiliary **être**. The French grammatical rules compel all the verbs that take auxiliary **être** to agree with gender and the number of the Subject (either pronoun or noun) that precedes it. These agreement rules have been explained to you better in Unit twelve. We implore you to please go and revise them.

h. **Monter** - to climb

Je serais monté(e)	(I would have climbed)
Tu serais monté(e)	(You would have climbed)
Il serait monté	(He would have climbed)
Elle serait monté(e)	(She would have climbed)
Nous serions monté(e)s	(We would have climbed)

Vous **seriez** monté(e)s (You would have climbed)

Ils **seraient** montés (They would have climbed)

Elles **seraient** montées (They would have climbed)

{**Er** verbs such as Aller (to go), rester (to rest), tomber (to fall), retomber (to fall again), entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return) are conjugated following this pattern.

i. **Descendre** - (to come down)

Je **serais** descendu(e) (I would have come down)

Tu **serais** descendu(e) (You would have come down)

Il **serait** descendu (He would have come down)

Elle **serait** descendu(e) (She would have come down)

Nous **serions** descendu(e)s (We would have come down)

Vous **seriez** descendu(e)s (You would have come down)

Ils **seraient** descendus (They would have come down)

Elles **seraient** descendues (They would have come down)

j. **Sortir** - to go out

Je **serais** sorti(e) (I would have gone out)

Tu **serais** sorti(e) (You would have gone out)

Il **serait** sorti (He would have gone out)

Elle **serait** sorti(e) (She would have gone out)

Nous **serions** sorti(e)s (We would have gone out)

Vous **seriez** sorti(e)s (You would have gone out)

Ils **seraient** sortis (They would have gone out)

Elles **seraient** sorties (They would have gone out)

{**Ir** verbs such as sortir (to go out), ressortir (to go out again), partir (to go), repartir (to go again) are conjugated following this pattern.

k	Venir -	to come	
	Je serais	venu(e)	(I would have come)
	Tu serais	venu(e)	(You would have come)
	Il serait	venu	(He would have come)
	Elle serait	venu(e)	(She would have come)
	Nous serions	venu(e)s	(We would have come)
	Vous seriez	venu(e)s	(You would have come)
	Ils seraient	venus	(They would have come)
	Elles seraient	venues	(They would have come)

{**ir** verbs such as venir (to come), so also all other verbs that have something to do with **venir** like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, are conjugated following this pattern.

3.3 CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL VERBS INTO *CONDITIONNEL PASSE*

- l. Pleuvoir – to rain
Il aurait plu

- m. Falloir – to be necessary
Il aurait fallu

- n. Advenir – to happen
Il serait advenu

- o. Brûmer – to mist (hazy)
Il aurait brumé

- p. Venter – to blow wind
Il aurait venté

3.5 CONJUGATION OF REFLEXIVE OR PRONOMINAL VERBS INTO *CONDITIONNEL PASSE*

q. Se laver – to take ones bath

Je me serais lavé(e)	– I would have bathed myself
Tu te serais lavé(e)	– You would have bathed yourself
Il se serait lavé	– He would have bathed himself
Elle se serait lavée	– She would have bathed herself
Nous nous serions lavé(e)s	– we would have bathed ourselves
Vous vous seriez lavé(e)s	– you would have bathed yourselves
Ils se seraient lavés	– They would have bathed themselves
Elles se seraient lavées	– They would have bathed themselves

r. Se taire – to keep quiet

Je me serais tu(e)	– I would have kept quiet.
Tu te serais tu(e)	– You would have kept quiet.
Il se serait tu	– He would have kept quiet.
Elle se serait tue	– She would have kept quiet.
Nous nous serions tu(e)s	– we would have kept quiet.
Vous vous seriez tu(e)s	– you would have kept quiet.
Ils se seraient tus	– They would have kept quiet.
Elles se seraient tues	– They would have kept quiet.

3.4 SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Conjugate the following into "Conditionnel Pasé."

a) Brumer , b) Recommencer.

(1) Verbe "Brumer au Conditionnel Passé"

Il aurait brumé

(2) Verbe “ Recommencer au Conditionnel Passé”

J'aurais recommencé	Nous aurions recommencé
Tu aurais recommencé	Vous auriez recommencé
il/Elle aurait recommencé	ils/Elles auraient recommencé

38.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of **er, re, ir/oir** as well as **impersonal** cum **reflexive verbs** into *Conditionnel passé*. You have also been told of some exceptionalities to these general rules. We believe by now you can conjugate **er, re, ir/oir** as well as **impersonal** and **reflexive verbs** into *Conditionnel passé*.

39.0 SUMMARY

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* that we have laid for you in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* that we methodically handled in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* that we taught in Units nine to eleven, the conjugation of *l'imparfait* that we taught in Units thirteen to fifteen and the conjugation of *imperative* (positive and negative) that we taught in Unit sixteen and then the conjugation of *conditionnel present* that we taught in Unit seventeen, we decided to bring you further into the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the world of conjugation of *conditionnel passé* in French grammar.

40.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

19. Conjugate the following verbs into *conditionnel passé*:

- a. Rudoyer, b Voir., c. Prendre, d. S'appeler, e. Recommencer, f. Rendre, g. Pleuvoir, h. savoir, i. Se laver, j. Brumer.

41.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.

AKEUSOLA, OLU (1995): FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS.

Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.

UNIT NINETEEN

CONJUGATION OF VERBS INTO *SUBJONCTIF PRÉSENT*

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3.6	Conjugation of reflexive verbs into <i>subjonctif présent</i> .
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In this unit, you will be taught the method of conjugation of French verbs into *subjonctif présent*. We hope to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French regular and other irregular verbs into *subjonctif présent*. You will recall that in the last eighteen units we have been talking of conjugation of verbs into *présent de l'indicatif*, *futur simple*, *passé composé*, *l'imperfait* and *imperatif* (positive and negative) and *conditionnels* (présent and passé).

The significance of that is that we have been teaching you how to conjugate French verbs to express actions that one is doing at present, doing in the future, one is doing in the immediate past as well as continuous past, what one commands to be done and what one could do hypothetically if all necessary conditions are met.

We have now got to a stage whereby you have to learn how to express actions of wish or supposition. *Subjonctif présent* could be translated as Present Form of Subjunctive Tense in English. It is used to express statements of doubt in French language. When a speaker wants to talk about a personal wish, emotion, doubt and things that could not be real in life, he uses the subjunctive tense:

- *Je souhaite que je sois professeur. - I wish I could be a teacher.*

In as much as we are talking of *Subjonctif présent* here, it is a methodical development on the conjugation of verbs into *futur simple* and *Conditionnel présent*. The knowledge you have gained from other units, most especially Units six to eighteen will also be useful in this unit. Let us insist on our warning you that your better understanding of conjugation generally depends on the way and manner with which you handle all these units we have been teaching you earlier. Therefore, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French verbs into *Subjonctif présent* of French grammar as they will be taught here.

22.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the *Subjonctif présent* Stem/Radical of verbs

- Identify the *Subjonctif présent* ending/terminaison of verbs
- identify the *Subjonctif présent* morphemes (suffixation) with which the endings could be replaced thus facilitating grammatically correct conjugation of *Subjonctif présent* tense
- Demonstrate the techniques of conjugating these verbs.

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of verbs into *Subjonctif présent*.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF *ER* AND OTHER VERBS INTO CONDITIONNEL PRESENT

Like we have told you in our introduction to this unit, the *Subjonctif présent* could be translated as Present Form of Subjunctive Tense in English. It is used to express statements of doubt, personal wish, emotion and things that could not be real in life in French language.

To form the conjugation of *Subjonctif présent*, of regular and some irregular verbs, you are to take the stem/radical from the 3rd person plural (ils/elles) conjugated form of the verb in the *présent de l'indicatif*, you remove its **ent** ending and then add the following subjunctive endings, (**e, es, e, ions, iez, ent**) to this special radical or stem. And in order to properly express this wish or doubt, a clause using the verb *falloir* (to be necessary), conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif*, is introduced at the beginning of the sentence:

- e** for 1st person singular
- es** for 2nd person singular
- e** for 3rd person singular
- ions** for 1st person plural
- iez** for 2nd person plural
- ent** for 3rd person plural

e.g. **Manger = Ils/Elles mang/ent**

Il faut que je mange	It is necessary, I eat
Il faut que tu manges	It is necessary, you eat
Il faut qu'il mange	It is necessary, he eats
Il faut que nous mangions	It is necessary, we eat
Il faut que vous mangiez	It is necessary, you eat
Il faut qu'ils mangent	It is necessary, they eat

Let us then follow these patterns to conjugate some verbs into the *Subjonctif présent*:

a. **Parler = Ils parl/ent**

e	for 1 st person singular	=	Il faut que je parle
es	for 2 nd person singular	=	Il faut que tu parles
e	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il faut qu'il parle
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Il faut que nous parlions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Il faut que vous parliez
ent	for 3 rd person plural	=	Il faut qu'ils parlent

b. **Aimer**

e	for 1 st person singular	=	Il faut que j'aime
es	for 2 nd person singular	=	Il faut que tu aimes
e	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il faut qu'il aime
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Il faut que nous aimions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Il faut que vous aimiez
ent	for 3 rd person plural	=	Il faut qu'ils aiment

3.3 EXCEPTIONALITIES TO THESE GENERAL RULES AS THEY AFFECT THE *ER* VERBS

Just like in the case of *présent de l'indicatif* and *futur simple*, we would like you to note that although **er** verbs are said to be regular at most of the conjugation groupings, just as we have some verbs in this category at these levels that have some peculiarities noted for them, so also we have some **er** verbs that take exceptions to these general rules in the conjugation of their *Subjonctif présent*. In as much as we cannot because of these minor dissimilarities categorize them as being irregular, we then decided to treat them as peculiarities under this category. Better examples of these **er** verbs with peculiarities could be seen in verb such as **aller**. We need to implore you that you should take these peculiarities that we are about to treat as irregularities and learn them as presented to you:

c. **Aller**

e	for 1 st person singular	=	Il faut que j'aille
es	for 2 nd person singular	=	Il faut que tu ailles
e	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il faut qu'il aille
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Il faut que nous allions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Il faut que vous alliez
ent	for 3 rd person plural	=	Il faut qu'ils aillent

3.2 CONJUGATION OF RE VERBS INTO *SUBJONCTIF PRESENT*

d. **Battre** (to beat)

e	for 1 st person singular	=	Il faut que je batte
es	for 2 nd person singular	=	Il faut que tu battes
e	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il faut qu'il batte
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Il faut que nous battions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Il faut que vous battiez
ent	for 3 rd person plural	=	Il faut qu'ils battent

(Conjugation of **débattre**, **combattre**, **mettre**, **soumettre** etc, follow this pattern.)

e.	Etre (to be)		
	e	for 1 st person singular	= Il faut que je sois
	es	for 2 nd person singular	= Il faut que tu sois
	e	for 3 rd person singular	= Il faut qu'il soit
	ions	for 1 st person plural	= Il faut que nous soyons
	iez	for 2 nd person plural	= Il faut que vous soyez
	ent	for 3 rd person plural	= Il faut qu'ils soient

NOTE : We will need to warn you that **être**, being an exceptionally irregular verb, does not follow the general pattern. Hence the difference in stem formation and conjugation.

3.3 CONJUGATION OF IR/OIR VERBS INTO *SUBJONCTIF PRESENT*

f.	Finir (to finish)		
	e	for 1 st person singular	= Il faut que je finisse
	es	for 2 nd person singular	= Il faut que tu finisses
	e	for 3 rd person singular	= Il faut qu'il finisse
	ions	for 1 st person plural	= Il faut que nous finissions
	iez	for 2 nd person plural	= Il faut que vous finissiez
	ent	for 3 rd person plural	= Il faut qu'ils finissent

(Conjugation of **obéir, désobéir, haïr, partir, sortir, sentir, mentir, partir, repartir, répartir, vêtir, dévêtir, revêtir, couvrir, ouvrir, offrir, souffrir, accueillir, cueillir, bouillir, dormir, servir, revivre, lire** etc, follow this pattern.)

g.	Avoir (to have)		
	e	for 1 st person singular	= Il faut que j'aie
	es	for 2 nd person singular	= Il faut que tu aies
	e	for 3 rd person singular	= Il faut qu'il aie

ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Il faut que nous ayons
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Il faut que vous ayez
ent	for 3 rd person plural	=	Il faut qu'ils aient

NOTE : We will need to warn you also that **avoir**, being an exceptionally irregular verb, does not follow the general pattern. Hence the difference in stem formation and conjugation.

h. **Voir** (to see)

e	for 1 st person singular	=	Il faut que je voie
es	for 2 nd person singular	=	Il faut que tu voies
e	for 3 rd person singular	=	Il faut qu'il voie
ions	for 1 st person plural	=	Il faut que nous voyions
iez	for 2 nd person plural	=	Il faut que vous voyiez
ent	for 3 rd person plural	=	Il faut qu'ils voient

(Conjugation of **entrevoir**, **revoir** etc, follow this pattern.)

3.4 CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL VERBS INTO *SUBJONCTIF PRESENT*

i. Pleuvoir – to rain

Il faut qu'il pleuve

r. Falloir – to be necessary

Il faut qu'il faille

s. Advenir – to happen

Il faut qu'il advienne

t. S'agir de – to be about

Il faut qu'il s'agisse de

u. Brûmer – to mist (hazy)

Il faut qu'il brume

v. Venter – to blow wind

Il faut qu'il vente

3.5 CONJUGATION OF REFLEXIVE OR PRONOMINAL VERBS INTO *SUBJONCTIF PRESENT*

w. Se laver – to take ones bath

e for 1st person singular = Il faut que je me lave

es for 2nd person singular = Il faut que tu te laves

e for 3rd person singular = Il faut qu'il se lave

ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous nous lavions

iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous vous laviez

ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils se lavent

x. Se convertir – to convert oneself

e for 1st person singular = Il faut que je me convertisse

es for 2nd person singular = Il faut que tu te convertisses

e for 3rd person singular = Il faut qu'il se convertisse

ions for 1st person plural = Il faut que nous nous convertissions

iez for 2nd person plural = Il faut que vous vous convertissiez

ent for 3rd person plural = Il faut qu'ils se convertissent

3.6 SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Conjugate the following into "Subjonctif Présent.:

a) finir , b) Etre c) Se laver.

1. Verbe “finir au subjonctif présent”

- (1) Il faut que je finisse
Il faut que tu finisses
Il faut qu’il/Elle finisse
Il faut que nous finissions
Il faut que vous finissiez
Il faut qu’ils/Elles finissent

(2) Verbe “ Etre au subjonctif présent”.

Il faut que je sois
Il faut que tu sois
Il faut qu’il/Elle soit
Il faut que nous soyons
Il faut que vous soyez
Il faut qu’ils/Elles soient.

(3) Verbe “Se laver au Subjonctif présent”.

Il faut que je me lave
Il faut que tu te laves
Il faut qu’il/elle se lave
Il faut que nous nous lavions
Il faut que vous vous laviez
Il faut qu’ils/elles se lavent

40.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of **er**, **re**, **ir/oir** as well as **impersonal** cum **reflexive verbs** into *subjonctif présent*. You have also been told of some exceptionalities to these general rules. We believe by now you can conjugate **er**, **re**, **ir/oir** as well as **impersonal** and **reflexive verbs** into *subjonctif présent*.

41.0 SUMMARY

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l’indicatif* that we have laid for you in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple*

that we methodically handled in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* that we taught in Units nine to eleven, the conjugation of *l'imparfait* that we taught in Units thirteen to fifteen, the conjugation of *imperative* (positive and negative) that we taught in Unit sixteen and the conjugation of *conditionnels présent* and *passé* that we taught in Units seventeen and eighteen , we decided to bring you further into the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the world of conjugation of *subjonctif présent* in French grammar.

42.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

20. Conjugate the following verbs into *subjonctif présent*:
- Plaidoyer, b Savoir., c. Rendre, d. S'appeler, e. Recommencer, f. Pendre, g. Pleuvoir, h. Valoir, i. Se laver, j. Brumer.

43.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
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NIT TWENTY
CONJUGATION OF VERBS INTO *SUBJONCTIF PASSE*

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3.4	Self Assessment Exercise
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In this unit, you will be taught the method of conjugation of French verbs into *subjonctif passé*. We hope to teach you about the easier techniques with which a French grammar learner like you could apply in conjugating French regular and other irregular verbs into *subjonctif passé*. You will recall that in the last unit, we have taught you the conjugation of *subjonctif présent*. We have now got to a stage whereby you have to learn how to express actions of wish or supposition in the past. *Subjonctif passé*

could be translated as Past Form of Subjunctive Tense in English. It is used to express statements of doubt in the past. When a speaker wants to talk about a personal wish, emotion, doubt and things that could not be real in life but which he would have loved to do in the past, he uses the past form of subjunctive tense:

- *J'ai souhaité que j'aie été professeur.* - *I wished I could have been a teacher.*

Armed with the Knowledge of *subjonctif présent* that we have just taught you, we implore you to learn the rudiments, techniques and methods of conjugating French verbs into *subjonctif passé* of French grammar as they will be taught here.

23.0 OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this unit, you should be able to:

- Identify the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être*.
- Identify the past participle of various verb groupings
- Demonstrate how to conjugate the *subjonctif passé* by adding the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to the past participle of the verb concerned..

You are now invited to follow the method of conjugation of verbs into *subjonctif passé*.

3.0 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF AUXILLIARY AVOIR VERBS INTO SUBJONCTIF PASSE

Like we have told you in our introduction to this unit, the *subjonctif passé* could be translated as Past Form of Subjunctive Tense in English. It is used

to express any action of wish or doubt that would have been done in the past.

The general rule of conjugating this tense says that you add, the past participle of the verb we want to conjugate, to the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* (as the case may be): - (Auxiliaire de *subjonctif présent* de verbe **avoir** ou **être** + participe passé du verbe concerné). If you look at these rules closely, you will observe that they resemble the rules of *passé composé* and *conditionnel passé*. The only difference is where the *passé composé* is asking for the auxiliary *avoir* or *être* conjugated into *présent de l'indicatif* and the *conditionnel passé* is asking for the auxiliary *avoir* or *être* conjugated into *conditionnel présent*, the *subjonctif passé* will be asking for the auxiliary *avoir* or *être* conjugated into *subjonctif présent*. And in order to properly express this wish or doubt, a clause using the verb *falloir* (to be necessary), conjugated into *passé composé*, is introduced at the beginning of the sentence. We therefore implore you to please revise all the Units on *passé composé* and *conditionnel passé*, most especially, Units nine, ten and eighteen, so as to comprehend this Unit better.

If the rule insists on your adding the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to the past participle of the main verb, you then need to recollect, at this level, your knowledge of conjugating the verb *avoir* into *subjonctif présent* as we taught you in Unit nineteen:

Avoir

Que j' aie	Que nous ayons
Que tu aies	Que vous ayez
Qu'il ait	Qu'ils aient

Let us then follow this pattern and the rules governing it to conjugate the verb **manger** into *subjonctif passé*:

- a. **Manger** - to eat
Il a fallu que j'aie mangé
Il a fallu que tu aies mangé
Il a fallu qu'il ait mangé
Il a fallu que nous ayons mangé
Il a fallu que vous ayez mangé
Il a fallu qu'ils aient mangé
- b. **Parler** - to speak
Il a fallu que j'aie parlé
Il a fallu que tu aies parlé
Il a fallu qu'il ait parlé
Il a fallu que nous ayons parlé
Il a fallu que vous ayez parlé
Il a fallu qu'ils aient parlé
- c. **Etre** - to be
Il a fallu que j'aie été
Il a fallu que tu aies été
Il a fallu qu'il ait été
Il a fallu que nous ayons été
Il a fallu que vous ayez été
Il a fallu qu'ils aient été
- d. **Dire** - to say
Il a fallu que j'aie dit

Il a fallu que tu aies dis
Il a fallu qu'il ait dis
Il a fallu que nous ayons dis
Il a fallu que vous ayez dis
Il a fallu qu'ils aient dis

e. **Finir** - to finish

Il a fallu que j'aie fini
Il a fallu que tu aies fini
Il a fallu qu'il ait fini
Il a fallu que nous ayons fini
Il a fallu que vous ayez fini
Il a fallu qu'ils aient fini

f. **Avoir** - to have

Il a fallu que j'aie eu
Il a fallu que tu aies eu
Il a fallu qu'il ait eu
Il a fallu que nous ayons eu
Il a fallu que vous ayez eu
Il a fallu qu'ils aient eu

3.2 GENERAL TECHNIQUES GUIDING THE CONJUGATION OF VERBS WITH AUXILIARY *ETRE* INTO *SUBJONCTIF PASSÉ*

Just like we told you under the conjugation of verbs with auxiliary être into *passé composé* and *conditionnel passé* in Units ten and eighteen, the following verbs when they are to be conjugated into *subjonctif passé*, should take auxiliary être: Aller (to go), descendre (to come down), rester (to rest), monter (to climb), tomber (to fall), naître (to be born), sortir (to go

out), partir (to go) venir (to come), so also all other verbs that have something to do with **venir** like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return). **Most other verbs, apart from these ones and their variants, are conjugated with auxiliary avoir.**

If the general rule of conjugating this tense says that you add, the past participle of the verb we want to conjugate, to the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* (as the case may be): - (Auxiliaire de *subjonctif présent* de verbe **avoir** ou **être** + participe passé du verbe concerné). And that we have applied the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *avoir* in the first part of this unit, we have now got to the point of applying the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *être*.

If the rule insists on your adding the *subjonctif présent* of auxiliary *avoir* or *être* to the past participle of the main verb, you then need to recollect, at this level, your knowledge of conjugating the verb *être* into *subjonctif présent* :

être

Que je **sois** Que nous **soyons**

Que tu **sois** Que vous **soyez**

Qu'il **soit** Qu'ils **soient**

Let us then follow these rules and the rules governing it to conjugate the following verbs into *subjonctif passé*:

g. **aller** - to go

Il a fallu que je **sois** allé(e) Il a fallu que nous **soyons** allé(e)s

Il a fallu que tu **sois** allé(e) Il a fallu que vous **soyez** allé(e)s

Il a fallu qu'il **soit** allé Il a fallu qu'ils **soient** allés

Il a fallu qu'elle **soit** allé(e) Il a fallu qu'elles **soient** allées

NOTE: Just like it happened in Units ten and eighteen, you would have noted that additional vowel **e** or consonant **s** or both **es** are added to the ending of some past participle when we used the auxiliary **être**. The French grammatical rules compel all the verbs that take auxiliary **être** to agree with gender and the number of the Subject (either pronoun or noun) that precedes it. These agreement rules have been explained to you better in Unit twelve. We implore you to please go and revise them.

h. **Monter** - to climb

Il a fallu que je **sois** monté(e) Il a fallu que nous **soyons** monté(e)s

Il a fallu que tu **sois** monté(e) Il a fallu que vous **soyez** monté(e)s

Il a fallu qu'il **soit** monté Il a fallu qu'ils **soient** montés

Il a fallu qu'elle **soit** monté(e) Il a fallu qu'elles **soient** montées

{**Er** verbs such as Aller (to go), rester (to rest), tomber (to fall), retomber (to fall again), entrer (to enter), rentrer (to enter again), arriver (to come/arrive), retourner (to return) are conjugated following this pattern.

i. **Descendre** - (to come down)

Il a fallu que je **sois** descendu(e) Il a fallu que nous **soyons** descendu(e)s

Il a fallu que tu **sois** descendu(e) Il a fallu que vous **soyez** descendu(e)s

Il a fallu qu'il **soit** descendu Il a fallu qu'ils **soient** descendus

Il a fallu qu'elle **soit** descendu(e) Il a fallu qu'elles **soient** descendues

j. **Sortir** - to go out

Il a fallu que je **sois** sorti(e) Il a fallu que nous **soyons** sorti(e)s

Il a fallu que tu **sois** sorti(e) Il a fallu que vous **soyez** sorti(e)s

Il a fallu qu'il **soit** sorti Il a fallu qu'ils **soient** sortis

Il a fallu qu'elle **soit** sorti(e) Il a fallu qu'elles **soient** sorties

{**Ir** verbs such as sortir (to go out), ressortir (to go out again), partir (to go), repartir (to go again) are conjugated following this pattern.

k **Venir** - to come

Il a fallu que je **sois** venu(e) Il a fallu que nous **soyons** venu(e)s

Il a fallu que tu **sois** venu(e) Il a fallu que vous **soyez** venu(e)s

Il a fallu qu'il **soit** venu Il a fallu qu'ils **soient** venus

Il a fallu qu'elle **soit** venu(e) Il a fallu qu'elles **soient** venues

{**ir** verbs such as venir (to come), so also all other verbs that have something to do with **venir** like advenir, provenir, devenir etc, are conjugated following this pattern.

3.2 CONJUGATION OF IMPERSONAL VERBS INTO *SUBJONCTIF PASSE*

s. Pleuvoir – to rain

Il a fallu qu'il ait plu

t. Falloir – to be necessary

Il a fallu qu'il ait fallu

u. Advenir – to happen

Il a fallu qu'il soit advenu

v. Brûmer – to mist (hazy)

Il a fallu qu'il ait brumé

w. Venter – to blow wind

Il a fallu qu'il ait venté

3.3 CONJUGATION OF REFLEXIVE OR PRONOMINAL VERBS INTO *SUBJONCTIF PASSE*

x. Se laver – to take ones bath

Il a fallu que je me sois lavé(e)	Il a fallu que nous nous soyons lavé(e)s
Il a fallu que tu te sois lavé(e)	Il a fallu que vous vous soyez lavé(e)s
Il a fallu qu'il se soit lavé	Il a fallu qu'ils se soient lavés
Il a fallu qu'elle se soit lavé(e)	Il a fallu qu'elles se soient lavées

y. Se taire – to keep quiet

Il a fallu que je me sois tu(e)	Il a fallu que nous nous soyons tu(e)s
Il a fallu que tu te sois tu(e)	Il a fallu que vous vous soyez tu(e)s
Il a fallu qu'il se soit tu	Il a fallu qu'ils se soient tus
Il a fallu qu'elle se soit tu(e)	Il a fallu qu'elles se soient tues

3.4 SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE

Conjugate the following verbs into *subjonctif Passé*

a) Monter b) Etre c) Avoir

(1) Verbe monter au *subjonctif Passé*.

Il a fallu que je sois monté(e)
Il a fallu que tu sois monté(e)
Il a fallu qu'il soit monté
Il a fallu qu'elle soit montée
Il a fallu que nous soyons monté(e)s
Il a fallu que vous soyez monté(e)s
Il a fallu qu'ils soient montés
Il a fallu qu'elles soient montées

(2) Verbe Etre au *subjonctif Passé*.

Il a fallu que j'aie été
Il a fallu que tu aies été
Il a fallu qu'il ait été

Il a fallu que nous ayons été
Il a fallu que vous ayez été
Il a fallu qu'ils aient été

(3) Verbe Avoir au subjonctif Passé.

Il a fallu que j'aie eu
Il a fallu que tu aies eu
Il a fallu qu'il ait eu
Il a fallu que nous ayons eu
Il a fallu que vous ayez eu
Il a fallu qu'ils aient eu

42.0 CONCLUSION

In this unit, we have taught you the rules governing the conjugation of **er**, **re**, **ir/oir** as well as **impersonal** cum **reflexive verbs** into *subjonctif passé*. You have also been told of some exceptionalities to these general rules. We believe by now you can conjugate **er**, **re**, **ir/oir** as well as **impersonal** and **reflexive verbs** into *subjonctif passé*.

43.0 SUMMARY

Having taught you the conjugations of verbs through the simplified presentation of conjugation of *présent de l'indicatif* that we have laid for you in Units two to five and the techniques of conjugation of *future simple* that we methodically handled in Unit six to eight as well as the method of conjugation of verbs into *passé composé* that we taught in Units nine to eleven, the conjugation of *l'imparfait* that we taught in Units thirteen to fifteen and the conjugation of *imperative* (positive and negative) that we taught in Unit sixteen, the conjugation of *conditionnels présent* and *passé* that we taught in Units seventeen and eighteen and then we decided to bring you further into the conjugation techniques by introducing you into the world of conjugation of *subjonctifs présent* and *passé* in French grammar as taught in Units nineteen and twenty. With this unit twenty, we

have now come to the end of our lectures of FRE 108 that centre on conjugation of verbs into various tenses of French grammar.

44.0 TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

21. Conjugate the following verbs into *subjonctif passé*:

a. Rudoyer, b Voir., c. Prendre, d. S'appeler, e. Recommencer, f. Rendre, g. Pleuvoir, h. savoir, i. Se laver, j. Brumer.

45.0 REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES

- AKEUSOLA, OLU (1992): BASIC FRENCH GRAMMAR FOR BEGINNERS, TOBAK PUBLISHERS, LAGOS. Reviewed in 2004.
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- Bescherelle (1990): La Conjugaison 12,000 Verbes, Paris, Hâtier.