

3 MINUTE FRENCH COURSE 9 **RECAP NOTES**



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THE PAST TENSE

VERBS OF MOVEMENT

A DIFFERENT AUXILIARY VERB

We learnt that the auxiliary verb for forming the past tense is “**avoir**”. However, for the verbs of movement, we have to use a different auxiliary verb: **être**

je suis	I have (<i>I am</i>)
tu es	you have (<i>you are</i>)
il est	he has (<i>he is</i>)
elle est	she has (<i>she is</i>)
nous sommes	we have (<i>we are</i>)
vous êtes	you have (<i>you are</i>)
ils sont	they have (<i>they are</i>)

You can then put any verb of movement past participle onto the end of the auxiliary verb “**être**”. Here are the verbs of movement. You can remember them by using the acronym “**Mrs & Dr Van der Tramp**”

Monter (to) go up	Descendre (to) descend
Rentrer (to) go back	Entrer (to) enter
Sortir (to) go out	Retourner (to) return
& Devenir (to) become	Tomber (to) fall
Revenir (to) come back	Rester (to) stay
Venir (to) come	Aller (to) go
Arriver (to) arrive	Mourir (to) die
Naître (to) be born	Partir (to) leave



PAST PARTICIPLES

Here are the past participles of the verbs of movement:

Monte went / gone up	Descendu descended
Rentré went / gone back	Entré entered
Sorti went / gone out	Retourné returned
& Devenu became / become	Tombé fell / fallen
Revenu came / come back	Resté stayed
Venu came / come	Allé went / gone
Arrivé arrived	Mort died
Né was born	Parti left

With verbs of movement, the past participle has to agree to the subject (add an **e** for feminine and an **s** for plural)

il est allé - he went
elle est allée - she went
ils sont allés - they went
elles sont allées - they went (feminine)

MUST / HAVE TO

You can use the verb **"devoir"** to mean **"must"** or **"have to"**

je dois - *I must / I have to*

nous devons - *we must / we have to*

ils doivent - *they must / they have to*

If you put **"devoir"** in the **negative**, it means **"must not"**

je ne dois pas - *I must not*

nous ne devons pas - *we must not*

ils ne doivent pas - *they must not*

If you want to say **"I don't have to"** instead of **"I must not"**, you can use the phrase **"avoir à"** in the **negative**

je n'ai pas à - *I don't have to*

nous n'avons pas à - *we don't have to*

ils n'ont pas à - *they don't have to*

You can put any infinitive on the end of **"devoir"** and **"avoir à"**.

ILS VS. ELLES

Both the words **"ils"** and **"elles"** mean **"they"**, but you only use **"elles"** when you're talking about only **feminine nouns**.

les livres sont ici - *the books are here*

ils sont ici - *they are here*

les voitures sont ici - *the cars are here*

elles sont ici - *they are here*

ON

The word **"on"** literally means **"one"**, as in the way the Queen used it. In English, it might sound a little posh to say, **"one is here tomorrow"**, but in French, it's a very common alternative to using **"nous"**.

"On" takes the same conjugation as **"il"** and **"elle"**

on est ici demain

one is / we are here tomorrow

on habite à Paris, en France

we live in Paris, in France

on voit notre famille tous les jours

we see our family every day

You can use the phrase **"peut-on"**, which means, **"can one"**, to ask if you're allowed to do something.

Peut-on fumer ici?

Can you smoke here?

Que peut-on faire en France?

What can you do in France?

ON DIT QUE...

There are two useful phrases that use **"on"**

on m'a dit que...

I was told that... (literally: one told me that...)

on dit que...

it is said that... (literally: one says that...)

on m'a dit que Pierre était mort

I was told that Pierre was dead

I'VE BEEN TO

If you want to say that you've been to a place, in French, you don't say, "I've been to"; you say, "I've gone to"

je suis allé à Paris

I've been to Paris / I went to Paris

es-tu allé en France?

have you been to France?

Où est-il allé?

Where has he been? / Where did he go?

WHAT

There are a few different ways to say, "what" in French, and they're all used differently.

QUE

You can use "que" at the start of a question to mean "what"

QUEL EST...? / QUELLE EST...?

This means "what is...?"

CE QUE

You use "ce que" in the middle of a sentence to mean "what"

Que voulez-vous faire?

What do you want to do?

Quelle est l'adresse?

What is the address?

Je ne comprends pas ce que tu veux

I don't understand what you want

VOULOIR TO WANT

In this course, we learnt all about the verb "vouloir", which means "to want". We've seen it in the present tense, the past tense, and now the conditional.

PRESENT TENSE

je veux - I want

tu veux - you want

il veut - he wants

elle veut - she wants

nous voulons - we want

vous voulez - you want

ils veulent - they want

PAST TENSE

je voulais - I wanted

tu voulais - you wanted

il voulait - he wanted

elle voulait - she wanted

nous voulions - we wanted

vous vouliez - you wanted

ils voulaient - they wanted

CONDITIONAL

je voudrais - I would like

tu voudrais - you would like

il voudrait - he would like

elle voudrait - she would like

nous voudrions - we would like

vous voudriez - you would like

ils voudraient - they would like

TO SPEND



There are two ways to say, "to spend" in French:

passer - to spend (time)

dépenser - to spend (money)

je vais passer deux semaines en France

I'm going to spend two weeks in France

je ne veux pas dépenser trop d'argent

I don't want to spend too much money

SEULEMENT

The word "**seulement**" means "**only**". In English, we tend to put the word "**only**" in front of the verb. However, in French, the word "**seulement**" goes **after the verb**:

je passe seulement une semaine ici

I'm only spending one week here
(literally: I spend only one week here)

nous voudrions seulement un petit peu

we would only like a little bit
(literally: we would like only a little bit)

J'ESPÈRE VS. J'ESPÈRE QUE

"J'espère" means "I hope", and you can put verbs on the end of it to say what it is you hope to do:

j'espère aller en France

I hope to go to France

j'espère finir aujourd'hui

I hope to finish today

However, if you want to say that you hope somebody else does something or that something else happens, you use the phrase "j'espère que" instead. Literally, it means "I hope that", although the "that", in English, is optional.

j'espère que tu vas en France

I hope (that) you go to France

j'espère que tout va bien pour vous

I hope (that) everything goes well for you

j'espère que c'est bon

I hope (that) it's good



QUESTION WORDS

Most of the question words are pretty easy to understand, and they work identically to how their English counterparts work. However, there are a couple of question words that need a little bit of further explanation.

COMBIEN

The word “**combien**”, by itself, can either mean “**how much**” or “**how many**”. However, if you want to use it with a noun, you need to use an extra word: **de**

combien de vin
how much wine

combien de fromage
how much cheese

combien de personnes
how many people

combien de voitures
how many cars

POUR COMBIEN DE TEMPS

The phrase “**pour combien de temps**” literally means “**for how much time**”, but you can use it to mean “**how long ... for**”

pour combien de temps es-tu allé?
how long did you go for?

pour combien de temps attend-il?
how long is he waiting for?

QUEL

The word “**quel**” means “**which**”, and it changes depending on what noun comes after it.

quel vin - *which wine* (masc. singular)
quelle voiture - *which car* (fem. singular)
quels vins - *which wines* (masc. plural)
quelles voitures - *which cars* (fem. plural)

LEQUEL

A cousin of “**quel**” is “**lequel**”. It can be used by itself to mean “**which one**”. Again, just like “**quel**”, you have to change “**lequel**” depending on the noun you have:

lequel - *which one* (masc. singular)
laquelle - *which one* (fem. singular)
lesquels - *which ones* (masc. plural)
lesquelles - *which ones* (fem. plural)

lequel voulez-vous acheter?
which one do you want to buy?

lesquels veut-il prendre?
which ones does he want to take?

laquelle devrions-nous essayer?
which one should we try?

lesquelles ont-ils mangé?
which ones did they eat?