

## Cultural Facts

Each date in the French calendar is linked to a saint. People with the same name as the saint celebrate their 'name day' (*fête*) on that day. Modern first names can often be linked back to older, more traditional ones.

Can your first name be linked to a saint's day? Search for the complete **calendrier des fêtes** online to find the date of your **fête**.

You may need to look for the French equivalent of your name, which has a slightly different spelling.

**Carnaval** is a very popular festival in the French-speaking world. **Mardi gras** marks the start of Lent, 40 days before Easter. Many towns have parades on that day.

Millions of visitors go to the **fête des Lumières** (Festival of Lights) in Lyon every year. For four days around 8 December, houses and buildings all over the city are decorated with lights.

The **fête de la musique** is one of France's most popular festivals. 10 million people all over France enjoy the free musical events in every town.

Colmar is in **Alsace**, a region in the east of France. Since 1871, Alsace has sometimes been part of France and sometimes part of Germany. Alsace retains some German traditions such as Christmas markets and **la choucroute** (sauerkraut).

To say 'some' in French, use the partitive article:

masculine	<b>du</b> thon
feminine	<b>de la</b> pâte
vowel or h	<b>de l'</b> eau
plural	<b>des</b> olives

You always need an article before a food item in French:


*Il y a **du** thon et **des** olives.*

When you translate into English, you can translate the partitive article by using the word 'some', or by leaving it out:

There is **some** tuna and **some** olives. or There is tuna and olives.

Here are the different words for 'some' (the partitive article)

masculine	<b>du</b> fromage
feminine	<b>de la</b> pâte
vowel or silent h	<b>de l'</b> eau
plural	<b>des</b> pommes

 French nouns always need an article (e.g. 'the' / 'a' / 'some') in front of them. But when you are translating into English, you don't always need to translate the partitive article.

*Il y a **du** fromage et **des** olives dans la tarte.*  
There is cheese and olives in the tart.

## Grammar

Opinion phrases are often followed by an **infinitive**, which is translated by '-ing'.

*Je n'aime pas **danser**.*  
I don't like **dancing**.

When buying food, you can use:

- the indefinite article: **une** banane
- a number: **six** bananes
- a quantity followed by **de**:  
*deux kilos **de** bananes.*

Questions with a question word use a question word + **est-ce que** + verb

*Comment **est-ce que tu vas voyager?***

How are you going to travel?



**Que** means 'what'.

***Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire?***

What are you going to do?

*je **vais acheter*** I am going to buy  
*tu **vas acheter*** you are going to buy  
*il/elle **va acheter*** he/she is going to buy

You use the near future tense to talk about what is going to happen in the future. It is formed with part of the verb **aller** + an **infinitive**.

*je **vais jouer*** I am going **to play**  
*tu **vas jouer*** you are going **to play**  
*il/elle/on **va jouer*** he/she is going / we are going **to play**  
*nous **allons jouer*** we are going **to play**  
*vous **allez jouer*** you are going **to play**  
*ils/elles **vont jouer*** they are going **to play**  
*Je **vais manger** une crêpe.* I am going **to eat** a pancake.  
*Il **va chanter** et **danser**.* He is going **to sing** and **dance**.

Questions using the near future tense look like this:

question word + **est-ce que** + verb

*Comment **est-ce que tu vas voyager?***

How are you going to travel?

*Où **est-ce que tu vas aller?***

Where are you going to go?

**que** means 'what':

***Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire?***

What are you going to do?

Remember the **four Ws** – they help with describing photos:

- a Who** is in the photo
- b Where** he/she is
- c What** he/she is **wearing / doing**
- d** what the **Weather** is like

## Tips

Do you remember **TRAPS** from Module 1? These are things which could trip you up when you are reading or listening.

- T** = Tense / Time frame
- R** = Reflect, don't Rush
- A** = Alternative words / synonyms
- P** = Positive or negative?
- S** = Subject (person involved)

In exercises 4, 5 and 6, the **S** is important. You need to be able to spot who is being talked about.

- Look out for names and pronouns (*je, il/elle, nous*).
- Phrases in the *je* form sometimes start with *Moi, je ...* ('As for me, I ...').

To say prices, give the number of euros followed by the word *euros*, then the number of cents.  
**quatre euros cinquante-cinq** 4€50

Buying food at a market is an example of a **formal situation**. To be polite:

- use the formal word for you: **vous**
- address the stallholder as **monsieur** or **madame**
- use **je voudrais** (I would like), **s'il vous plaît** and **merci**.

When you are taking part in a role play, you have to **answer unexpected questions**.  
**!** means you have to answer an **unexpected question** like the ones in exercise 7. Try to answer in a full sentence.

Most French verbs are regular **-er** verbs, e.g. *manger, aimer*. There are two more types of **regular verbs**: **-ir** (e.g. *choisir*) and **-re** (e.g. *attendre*).  
To conjugate these verbs in the present tense, take **-ir** or **-re** off the end of the **infinitive**, and add these endings:

<b>-ir verbs</b> e.g. <i>choisir</i> (to choose)	<b>-re verbs</b> e.g. <i>attendre</i> (to wait (for))
<i>je chois</i> <b>is</b>	<i>J'</i> <b>attends</b>
<i>tu chois</i> <b>is</b>	<i>tu att</i> <b>ends</b>
<i>il/elle/on chois</i> <b>it</b>	<i>il/elle/on att</i> <b>end</b>
<i>nous chois</i> <b>issons</b>	<i>nous att</i> <b>endons</b>
<i>vous chois</i> <b>issez</b>	<i>vous att</i> <b>endez</b>
<i>ils/elles chois</i> <b>issent</b>	<i>ils/elles att</i> <b>endent</b>

- The *il/elle/on* form of **-re** verbs has **no ending**.
- Some verb forms are spelled differently but sound the same, e.g. *choisis / choisit; attends / attend*.
- Present tense verbs can be translated in two ways, e.g. *J'attends* means 'I wait (for)' or 'I am waiting (for)'.

## Verb Paradigms

Most French verbs have an infinitive which ends in **-er**. In the present tense, the verb has different endings according to the subject.

<b>danser</b>	<b>to dance</b>
<i>je dan</i> <b>se</b>	I dance
<i>tu dan</i> <b>ses</b>	you (singular) dance
<i>il/elle/on dan</i> <b>se</b>	he/she dances / we dance
<i>nous dan</i> <b>sons</b>	we dance
<i>vous dan</i> <b>sez</b>	you (plural or polite) dance
<i>ils/elles dan</i> <b>sent</b>	they dance

The present tense is used to talk about what **usually** happens or what **is** happening **now**: *je danse* means 'I dance' or 'I am dancing'.

To talk about what is going to happen in the future, use part of the verb **aller** followed by the **infinitive**.  
*je vais manger*  
*tu vas manger*  
*il/elle/on va manger*  
*nous allons manger*  
*vous allez manger*  
*ils/elles vont manger*

Most French verbs are **-er** verbs, e.g. *écouter* (to listen to). There are two more types of regular verbs:

- **-ir** verbs, e.g. *finir* (to finish)
- **-re** verbs, e.g. *vendre* (to sell)

	<b>finir</b> to finish	<b>vendre</b> to sell
<i>je</i>	<i>fin</i> <b>is</b>	<i>ven</i> <b>d</b>
<i>tu</i>	<i>fin</i> <b>is</b>	<i>ven</i> <b>d</b>
<i>il/elle/on</i>	<i>fin</i> <b>it</b>	<i>ven</i> <b>d</b>
<i>nous</i>	<i>fin</i> <b>issons</b>	<i>ven</i> <b>don</b> s
<i>vous</i>	<i>fin</i> <b>issez</b>	<i>ven</i> <b>dez</b>
<i>ils/elles</i>	<i>fin</i> <b>issent</b>	<i>ven</i> <b>dent</b>

Examples: **-ir** verbs: *finir* (to finish), *choisir* (to choose)  
**-re** verbs: *vendre* (to sell), *attendre* (to wait (for))