

The table predicts the inflections (other than orthographic adjustments) of any “regular” or “irregular” French verb with up to six independent **principal parts (PPs)**, given those parts, namely the **infinitive, 1st singular, 1st plural (3rd plur.), past simple (past participle)**, where the listed person & number are for the present indic., “past simple” is for 1st sing., and a parenthesized form is needed only if its stem differs from the one before. These PPs correspond to stems **1, 2, 3, 3a, 4, 4a** in their *defining* positions (**red**) in the table. Participles are tabulated under the columns for their tenses. Vertical bars separate stems from endings. A slash separates alternative endings (only one is correct).

Infin.	Future	Pres. indic.	Pres. subj.	Impf. indic.	Past simple	Imperfect subj.
1 r oir	1st s. 1+r ai	2 e /s /x	3a e	3 ais	4 ai /s	4 asse /sse
	2nd s. . as	. es /s /x	. es	. ais	. as /s	. asses /sses
	3rd s. . a	. e /t	. e	. ait	. a /t	. ât / [^] t
	1st p. . ons	3 ons	→ 3 ions	→ 3 ions	. âmes / [^] mes	. assions /ssions
	2nd p. . ez	. ez	→ . iez	→ . iez	. âtes / [^] tes	. assiez /ssiez
	3rd p. . ont	3a ent	→ 3a ent	. aient	. èrent /rent	. assent /ssent
Partic.		3 ant			4a	

Strings that recur in the same row are highlighted. An arrow indicates that the stem and at least the *blue italic* part of the ending are copied.

Future stem: *Rule in table:* Add ‘r’ to stem 1. *Exceptions:* Listed in square brackets after the infinitive (see below); stem still ends in r.

Present indicative: The **lt** ending is dropped after -c, -d, or -t. Stem 3a, if distinct, usually combines vowel(s) of 2 with consonant of 3.

Imperative (2nd sing. and 1st & 2nd plural; *not tabulated*): Same as indicative, except that **s** is dropped from **ies** (but returns before appended ‘-y’ or ‘-en’). *Exceptions:* See “**True irregulars**” below; use stems marked with asterisks.

Present participle: *Rule:* Use stem 3. *Exceptions* (*être, avoir, savoir, faillir*): See “**True irregulars**”; use stem marked with dagger (†).

Imperfect indicative: *Rule:* Use stem 3. *Exceptions:* *être* & *faillir* (far below). In old literature, *oi* might be found in endings in place of *ai*. *Without exception*, the **conditional** (not tabulated) has the future stem with imperfect indicative endings.

Past (or passive) participle: To the stem (4a), add *e* if it's feminine, then *s* if it's plural (and doesn't already end in *s*); in compound tenses, participle takes gender & number from subject if auxiliary is *être*, or from any preceding direct object if auxiliary is *avoir*.

Imperfect subjunctive: Both endings in the table are covered by one rule: add the *second* ending to the stem obtained by dropping the last letter from the 1st singular past simple, and add the circumflex to the 3rd singular.

For “**regular**” verbs, and many others, *some* of stems 1, 2, 3, 4 merge. The following list of patterns is not exhaustive, but comprehensive:

- **1st conjugation:** *Regular:* Stem 1 ends in *e*. Infinitive adds *r* (so future stem is whole infinitive). Stems 2,3,4 (merged) drop *e* from 1; past participle and some endings put *e* back. PPs are **-e|r**, **-|e**, **-|ons**, **-|ai** (-é). Variant *envoyer* (to send) has irregular future: **env-oye|r** [future: **env-err|ai**], **-o|e**, **-oy|ons**, **-oy|ai** (-oyé); the *y/i* change is purely orthographic.
- **2nd conjugation:** Stems 1 & 4 end in *i* and merge. Infinitive adds *r* (again future stem is whole infinitive).
ag-ir/chois-ir/fin-ir group (“regular”, ~330 verbs): Stem 2 merges with 1 & 4; stem 3 adds *ss*; PPs are **-i|r**, **-i|s**, **-iss|ons**, **-i|s**.
 Variants: **fr-ire/suff-ire** group: **-i|re**, **-i|s**, **-is|ons**, **-i|s**; **cond-uire** group: **-ui|re**, **-ui|s**, **-uis|ons**, **-uis|s** (-uit).
dormir group: Stem 3 drops *i* of 1 & 4; stem 2 drops *i* & preceding letter. So *dor-mir* (sleep) has PPs **-m|i|r**, **-|s**, **-m|ons**, **-m|i|s**, and *ser-vir* has **-v|i|r**, **-|s**, **-v|ons**, **-v|i|s**, and *par-tir* (depart), *sor-tir* (go out), *men-tir* (lie), & *sen-tir* (feel) have **-t|i|r**, **-|s**, **-t|ons**, **-t|i|s**; but the derivatives *asservir* (enslave) & *assortir* (match), and sometimes *répartir* (not *repartir*) & *ressortir*, are in the *agir* group.
assaillir/défaillir group forms present indic. **as if** infinitive ended in -er: PPs are **-i|r** **-|e**, **-|ons**, **-i|s**. Variants *cueillir*, *saillir* extend this rule to future: **-i|r** **[-er|ai]**, **-|e**, **-|ons**, **-i|s**. Variant **ouvrir/souffrir/offrir** group has irreg. past part.: **-ri|r** **-r|e**, **-r|ons**, **-ri|s** (-ert).
- **3rd conjugation:** Infinitive adds *re* to stem 1 (so future stem is whole infinitive minus *e*).
romp|re/vend|re group (“regular”): Stems 1 to 3 merge. Stem 4 adds *i*, but 4a adds *u* instead. PPs are **-|re**, **-|s**, **-|ons**, **-i|s** (-u).
 Variants: *vain-cre* (vanquish) has PPs **-c|re**, **-c|s**, **-qu|ons**, **-qui|s** (-cu); *cou-dre* (sew) has **-d|re**, **-d|s**, **-s|ons**, **-si|s** (-su). Cf. *drink*: **boi|re**, **boi|s**, **bu|ons** (boi|vent), **bu|s**; *read*: **li|re**, **li|s**, **lis|ons**, **lu|s**; *say*: **di|re**, **di|s**, **dis|ons** (2nd plur. **dit|es**), **di|s** (**dit**); *take*: **prend|re**, **prend|s**, **pren|ons** (prenn|ent), **pri|s** (**pris**); *follow*: **su-iv|re**, **-i|s**, **-iv|ons**, **-ivi|s**; *live*: **viv|re**, **vi|s**, **viv|ons**, **véc|u|s**.
crai-ndre/joi-ndre/pei-ndre group: Consonants change; stems fail to merge; but PPs are **-nd|re**, **-n|s**, **-gn|ons**, **-gni|s** (-nt).
vêt-ir (dress) forms other stems **as if** infinitive ended in -re not -ir: PPs are **-i|r**, **-|s**, **-|ons**, **-i|s** (-u). **cou-rir** (run) extends this rule to future, but merges 4 with 4a: **-ri|r** [future: **-rr|ai]**, **-r|s**, **-r|ons**, **-ru|s**. **mourir** (die) differs from *courir* by irregularities in 2 & 4a: **mou-ri|r** [**mou-rr|ai**], **meu-r|s**, **mou-r|ons** (**meu-r|ent**), **mou-ru|s** (**mo-rt**). **acquérir** group is slightly more regular than *mourir*: **acqu-éri|r** **[-err|ai]**, **-ier|s**, **-ér|ons** (-iè|ent), **-i|s** (-is). Cf. *believe*: **cr-oil|re**, **-o|s**, **-oy|ons** (-o|ent), **-u|s**; see next group.
ch-oir/pourv-oir group forms stems 2,3,4a **as if** infinitive had appended *e*: **-oi|r**, **-o|s**, **-oy|ons** (-o|ent), **-u|s** (where *i/y* change is purely orthographic). *Variant*: **voil|r** [**verr|ai**], **voil|s**, **voy|ons**, **vi|s** (**vu**); *choir* (fall) optionally follows *voir* (see) in future.
- **d-ev|oir/rec-ev|oir** group: Stems 1 and 3 merge; 3a forms as usual. PPs are **-ev|oir**, **-o|s**, **-ev|ons** (-oiv|ent), **-u|s**.
 Variants: *move*: **mouv|oir**, **meu|s**, **mouv|ons** (meuv|ent), **mu|s**; *rain* (3rd pers. only): **pl-euv|oir**, **-eu|t**, (-euv|ent), **-u|t**.

True irregulars: Using square brackets for departures from the table, we can show up to *nine* PPs:

infinitive [fut.], **1st sing.**, **1st plural (3rd plur.) [1st plur. pres. subj. (3rd plur. pres. subj.)]**, **past simple (past participle)**.

Simpler cases: **asseoir** [assiér|ai or assoir|ai], **assied|s** or **assois|s**, **assey|ons** or **assoy|ons**, **assil|s** (**assis**);

faillir [fer|ai], **fail|s**, **fais|ons** (f|ont, 2nd pl.: **fait|es**) [**fass|ions**], **fi|s** (**fait**); **valloir** [vau|dr|ai], **vau|x**, **vall|ons** [vall|ions (vaill|ent)], **valu|s**;

pouvoir [pou|rr|ai], **peu|x** [or **pui|s** in 1st pers.], **pouv|ons** (peuv|ent) [**puiss|ions**], **pu|s**;

venir/tenir: **-eni|r** [-iend|r|ai], **-ien|s**, **-en|ons** (-ienn|ent), **-in|s** (-enu); 3rd sing. only: **fall|oir** [fau|dr|a], **fau|t**, stem **fall-** [fai|ll|e], **fallu|t**.

Extreme cases: Up to 12 PPs can be shown using asterisks for imperative stems and a dagger for the present participle stem:

faillir can follow *agir* or **faill|ir** [fau|dr|ai], **faill|s**, **failliss|ons** [**†faill|ions**, also impf. indic. stem], **faill|s**;

sav|oir [sau|r|ai], **sai|s**, **sav|ons** [**†sach|ions**], **su|s**; **vouloir** [vou|dr|ai], **veu|x**, **voul|ons** (veul|ent) [**voullions** (*veuil|ent)], **voulu|s**;

have: **av|oir** [aur|ai], **ai** [fut. endings in pres.], **av|ons** (ont) [**†ay|ons** (*ai|ent, 3rd singular: **ait**)], **eu|s**;

go: **alle|r** [ir|ai], **v|ais**, **all|ons** (v|ont) [**all|ions** (aill|ent)], **all|ai** (allé), where v|ais has impf. ending and other present indic's take future endings (so 2nd singular ***vas** drops *s* in imperative). Finally, *be*: **êt|re** [ser|ai], **sui|s**, **sommes** (s|ont) [***soy|ons** (*soi|ent)], **fu|s** (été), but full pres. indic. is **sui|s**, **e|s**, **es|t**, **sommes**, **êt|es**, **s|ont**, pres. subj. is **soi|s**, **soi|s**, **soi|t**... and stem for pres. part. and impf. indic. is **êt|†**.