



Les verbes réguliers en -er au présent

Talking about people's activities

1. A word that expresses an action or a state is a verb. **Parler** (*to speak*), **écouter** (*to listen to*), and **aimer** (*to like*) are verbs in the infinitive form. They are called regular verbs because they all follow a regular pattern. Their infinitives end in **-er**.
2. French verbs change endings with each subject. To form the stem to which the endings are added, you drop the **-er** from the infinitive.

Infinitive	Stem
parler	parl-
écouter	écout-
aimer	aim-

3. You add the ending for each subject to the stem. Note that, although the endings for the **je**, **tu**, **il**, and **ils** forms are spelled differently, they are pronounced the same.

	PARLER	AIMER
je parl -e	je parle	j' aime
tu parl -es	tu parles	tu aimes
il/elle parl -e	il/elle parle	il/elle aime
nous parl -ons	nous parlons	nous _z aimons
vous parl -ez	vous parlez	vous _z aimez
ils/elles parl -ent	ils/elles parlent	ils _z /elles _z aiment

-ent is silent!

4. You will see and hear the word **on** a great deal. **On** has several meanings, such as "we," "they," and "people." **On** always takes the **il/elle** form of the verb. In spoken French, people use **on** more often than **nous**.

On parle français en France.
On travaille beaucoup.
On arrive à l'école le matin.

★ Remember the three possible meanings of the present tense;

e.g. Je parle; I talk
 I am talking
 I do talk

5. When a verb begins with a vowel or a silent **h**, **je** is shortened to **j'**.

J'aime Paris.
 J'habite à Lyon.

6. In the negative, you shorten the **ne** to **n'** before a vowel or a silent **h**.

Je n'aime pas les maths.
 Je n'habite pas à Paris.

7. With all verbs beginning with a vowel or a silent **h** there is a **liaison** between the subject and the verb with the plural forms **nous**, **vous**, **ils**, and **elles**. The **s** is pronounced like a **z**.

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