

G Job nouns

These often change according to gender.

- ien** → **-ienne**: *mécanicien/mécanicienne* (mechanic)
- eur** → **-euse**: *coiffeur/coiffeuse* (hairdresser)
- teur** → **-trice**: *acteur/actrice* (actor/actress)
- er** → **-ère**: *boulangier/boulangère* (baker)
- on** → **-onne**: *patron/patronne* (boss)

Professeur (teacher) and nouns like *dentiste* and *secrétaire* that end in **-e** don't have a separate feminine form, but use **le** if the person is male and **la** if the person is female.

Agent de police (police officer), *médecin* (doctor) and *soldat* (soldier) are the same for both genders, so always use **le** for these words.

G The conditional

> Page 219

Remember, you use the conditional to say 'would':

J'aimerais travailler comme ...

I would like to work as a ...

Je ne voudrais pas travailler dans un bureau.

I would not like to work in an office.

Je préférerais travailler seul(e).

I would prefer to work alone.

Ce serait bien/affreux/super/parfait pour moi.

That would be good/terrible/great/perfect for me.

G Saying 'better/worse' and 'the best thing/worst thing'

> Page 227

Mieux means 'better' and **pire** means 'worse'.

Mon nouveau boulot est plus créatif. C'est mieux.
My new job is more creative. It's **better**.

Mon ancien boulot était très monotone. C'était pire.
My former job was very monotonous. It was **worse**.

You can also use **le mieux** to say 'the best thing' and **le pire** to say 'the worst thing'.

Le mieux, c'est les vacances; **le pire**, c'est ma patronne!

The best thing is the holidays; **the worst thing** is my boss!

★ When referring to jobs that you do or would like to do, you don't need the indefinite article (*un/une*) in French:

Je voudrais être programmeur/-euse.
I'd like to be a computer programmer.

★ To really impress with your French, try including a subjunctive:

Il faut que je (fasse) ... I have to (do) ...

Mes parents veulent que (j'aille) ...

My parents want me to (go) ...

G The perfect infinitive

> Page 234

To say 'after doing/having done something', use **après avoir/être** + the past participle of the verb:

Après avoir pris une année sabbatique ...

After doing/having done a gap year ...

If the verb takes *être*, the past participle must agree with the subject:

Après être allé(e) à la fac ...

After having been to university ...

Remember, to say 'before doing something', use **avant de** + the infinitive:

Avant de continuer mes études ...

Before continuing my studies ...

G en + the present participle

> Page 234

This can mean 'by doing something':

En apprenant une autre langue, on comprend mieux sa propre langue.

By learning another language, you understand your own language better.

G Adverbs

> Page 227

You use adverbs to say *how* you do something. Most adverbs are formed from adjectives and end in **-amment**, **-emment** or **-ement**:

- courant* (fluent) → **couramment** (fluently)
 - évident* (obvious) → **évidemment** (obviously)
 - actuel* (current) → **actuellement** (currently)
 - seul* (alone) → **seulement** (only)
 - vrai* (real) → **vraiment** (really)
- Irregular adverbs include *bien* (well), *mal* (badly) and *mieux* (better).

G Verbs followed by à or de

> Page 228

Some verbs are followed by *à* or *de* before the infinitive.

- apprendre à* ... (to learn to ...)
- commencer à* ... (to start to ...)
- consister à* ... (to consist of/to involve ...)
- réussir à* ... (to succeed in/at ...)
- décider de* ... (to decide to ...)
- essayer de* ... (to try to ...)
- rêver de* ... (to dream of ...)

★ Other useful expressions:

Mon frère ne parle aucune langue étrangère.

My brother doesn't speak **any** foreign languages.

Ma grand-mère parle seulement le hindi.

My grandmother **only** speaks Hindi.

★ **Dont** usually means 'of whom'/'of which' and refers back to something previously mentioned. It can also mean 'including': *Je parle trois langues étrangères, dont l'espagnol.*

G The subjunctive

> Page 235

This form of the verb is used to express wishes, thoughts, possibility or necessity. It is often used after a verb followed by *que*. E.g.

il faut que ... (it is necessary to .../I/you/we must ...)

vouloir que ... (to want someone to ...)

To form the subjunctive, take the third person plural in the present tense. Remove the **-ent** and add the following endings:

finir → *ils finissent* → **finiss-**
je finisse *nous finissions*
tu finisses *vous finissiez*
il/elle/on finisse *ils/elles finissent*

Some key verbs are irregular in the subjunctive:

aller (j'aille) *avoir (j'aie)* *être (je sois)* *faire (je fasse)*

G Complex sentences in the future tense

> Page 218

You can create more complex sentences by using:

- **Si** + a verb in the **present tense** + a verb in the **future tense**:
Si je réussis mes examens, je travaillerai à l'étranger.
If **I pass** my exams, **I will work** abroad.
- **Quand** or **lorsque** + a verb in the **future tense** + another **future tense**:
Lorsque je serai directeur, je gagnerai plus d'argent.
When **I am** (literally: **will be**) the manager, **I will earn** more money.

G Direct object pronouns in the perfect tense

> Page 230

In the perfect tense, direct object pronouns go in front of the part of *avoir* or *être*. The past participle must agree with *la* or *les*.

J'ai appris le français. → *Je l'ai appris.*

I learnt **French**. → I learnt **it**.

Il a accompagné sa sœur. → *Il l'a accompagnée.*

He accompanied **his sister**. → He accompanied **her**.

Nous avons accompagné les enfants. → *Nous les avons accompagnés.*

We accompanied **the children**. → We accompanied **them**.

Nous avons accompagné les filles. → *Nous les avons accompagnées.*

We accompanied **the girls**. → We accompanied **them**.