

Rosa's French Adventure: Verbs and Tenses

Learning objective: To identify and understand the use of present and past tense verbs within a short French text.

Read the passage carefully, paying attention to how the verbs change depending on when the action happens. Then, answer the questions below.

Rosa the parrot loves to teach her friends about French verbs. 'Look at the difference between today and yesterday!' she squawks cheerfully. Today, in the present tense, Leo the lion says, 'Je mange une pomme,' which means he is eating an apple right now. Rosa explains that for regular -er verbs, we add an 'e' to the end for 'je'. But when we talk about the past, everything changes. Yesterday, Leo said, 'J'ai mangé une pomme.' Rosa points out the special helper verb 'ai' and the accent on the 'e'. It is like a secret code for things that are finished! Meanwhile, Max the monkey is busy in the garden. Today, he plays games, saying, 'Je joue.' If he tells us about his afternoon yesterday, he will say, 'J'ai joué.' Whether we are describing what we are doing at this very moment or looking back at our favorite memories, French verbs help us tell our story clearly. Practising these tenses is the best way to become a brilliant French speaker.

Word bank: manger (to eat) · jouer (to play) · hier (yesterday) · aujourd'hui (today) · le passé (the past) · le présent (the present)

1. According to the text, what ending is added to the verb when using 'je' in the present tense for regular -er verbs? (2 marks)

2. What two things does Rosa identify as the 'secret code' for the past tense when Leo talks about his apple? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that French verbs are like a 'secret code' for the reader? (2 marks)

4. Based on the passage, what might Max say if he played in the park today versus yesterday? (2 marks)

5. Do you think learning the past tense is more important than learning the present tense? Justify your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen picture of Max the monkey. On the left side, label it 'Aujourd'hui' and show him playing a game. On the right side, label it 'Hier' and show him remembering the game he played.



Extension challenge: Write three sentences in French about your own day. One sentence should be in the present tense (e.g., 'Je regarde la télé') and two should be in the past tense using the 'J'ai...' structure.