

Rosa's Language Lab: Mastering French Verb Tenses

Learning objective: To identify, conjugate, and apply French verbs in the present, past, and near future tenses, understanding how verb endings change according to the subject.

Join Rosa the parrot as she explores how French verbs change over time. Use this template to document three different verbs. For each verb, you must identify the infinitive, conjugate it in the present tense, and explain how the tense changes the meaning of the sentence. Use your knowledge of subject pronouns (je, tu, il/elle, nous, vous, ils/elles) to ensure your endings are accurate.

Word bank: Infinitive · Conjugation · Présent · Passé composé · Futur proche · Sujet · Terminaison · Auxiliaire

1. Verb 1: The Present Tense (Le Présent). Choose a regular -er verb. Write the infinitive and conjugate it for 'je' and 'nous'. Explain why the ending changes. (3 marks)

2. Verb 2: The Near Future (Le Futur Proche). Form a sentence using 'aller' + infinitive. Justify why this construction is used instead of the simple present. (3 marks)

3. Verb 3: The Past Tense (Le Passé Composé). Select an action verb that uses 'avoir'. Write the past participle and explain what might happen to the meaning of the sentence if you used the wrong auxiliary verb. (4 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare the structure of the 'Futur Proche' with the 'Passé Composé'. What are the key differences in how they are constructed? (3 marks)

5. Critical Thinking: Explain why French verbs require different endings based on the subject pronoun. What would happen to communication if these rules did not exist? (4 marks)

6. Creative Extension: Rosa wants to describe her day. Write three sentences in French—one in the past, one in the present, and one in the future—about her adventures in the language lab. (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Research a common 'irregular' French verb (such as 'être' or 'avoir'). Create a mini-poster demonstrating how its conjugation defies the standard rules you have used today. Justify why irregular verbs are essential to the complexity of the French language.