



How to Talk About the Future in French

KS4 FRENCH

GRAMMAR

TENSES

Ages 13-16 ⌚ 3 min read

What is the Future Tense?

In **French**, just like in **English**, we need special words to talk about things that haven't happened yet. When you say "I will eat pizza tomorrow" in English, you're using the future tense. **French** does something similar, but the grammar works quite differently.

The **future tense** in **French** is used to describe actions or events that will happen at a later time. It's one of the most important ways to talk about what's coming next.

Think of it like having a calendar in your sentences. Just as you mark events on a calendar to show they're coming up, the future tense marks words to show they belong to the future, not the present.

The Regular Future Tense

In **French**, the **future tense** is formed by taking the whole infinitive verb (the base form of the verb) and adding special endings. For example, "parler" (to speak) becomes "je parlerai" (I will speak). The **-ai** ending tells us it's future tense.

Here are the main endings for regular verbs: **-ai**, **-as**, **-a**, **-ons**, **-ez**, **-ont**. These endings attach to the infinitive form. So "manger" (to eat) becomes "je mangerai" (I will eat), "tu mangeras" (you will eat), and "il mangera" (he will eat).

Think of it like adding a special stamp to a letter. The stamp shows where the letter is going (the future). Similarly, these endings are like stamps that show the verb is going into the future.

Irregular Future Verbs

Some **French** verbs don't follow these rules—they're called **irregular verbs**. Common ones include "aller" (to go), which becomes "j'irai" (I will go), and "être" (to be), which becomes "je serai" (I will be). These verbs use a different stem instead of the full infinitive, but the same endings still apply.

Other Ways to Talk About the Future

You can also use "**aller**" + **infinitive** to describe the near future. For example, "Je vais manger" means "I am going to eat." This is more informal and feels like something happening very soon.

Think of it like saying "I'm about to do something" in English. It feels closer and more immediate than saying "I will do something" next year.

Learning these patterns helps you describe your plans, make predictions, and talk about what you hope will happen. With practice, these future forms become automatic!