



The Most Common Irregular Verbs in French

KS4 FRENCH

GRAMMAR

Ages 13-16 ⌚ 4 min read

What Are Irregular Verbs?

Most **French verbs** follow predictable patterns when you change them based on who is doing the action. These are called **regular verbs**. But some very common verbs don't follow the rules at all—these are called **irregular verbs**. They're like the rebels of the French language!

Think of it like traffic lights: most cars follow the same rules, but some special vehicles (like ambulances) ignore the normal patterns and do their own thing.

The Big Three: Être, Avoir, and Aller

The three most important irregular verbs in French are **être** (to be), **avoir** (to have), and **aller** (to go). You'll use these constantly in French, so they're worth learning really well.

Être changes like this: je suis (I am), tu es (you are), il/elle est (he/she is), nous sommes (we are), vous êtes (you all are), ils/elles sont (they are).

Avoir changes like this: j'ai (I have), tu as (you have), il/elle a (he/she has), nous avons (we have), vous avez (you all have), ils/elles ont (they have).

Aller changes like this: je vais (I go), tu vas (you go), il/elle va (he/she goes), nous allons (we go), vous allez (you all go), ils/elles vont (they go).

Other Common Irregular Verbs

Other irregular verbs you'll meet include **faire** (to do/make), **pouvoir** (can/to be able to), **vouloir** (to want), and **devoir** (must/to have to). These all change in their own unique ways too.

Think of it like learning to spell tricky words: words like 'because' and 'friend' don't follow normal spelling rules, so you just have to memorise them.

How to Use Them in Sentences

Once you know how these verbs change, you can use them like any other verb. You pick the form that matches your subject (who is doing the action), then build your sentence around it. For example: 'Je suis heureux' (I am happy), 'Il a un chat' (He has a cat), 'Nous allons à l'école' (We go to school).

The key to mastering irregular verbs is practice and repetition. Write them down, say them out loud, and use them in real sentences as much as you can!