

There are 5 main kinds of French verbs: **-er**, **-ir**, **-re**, **stem-changing**, and **irregular**. Firstly, we must practise on the rules of conjugation first kind of verb, **-re verbs**, the smallest category of regular verbs.

Here are some of the **-re verbs** to conjugate:

attendre	to wait (for)
défendre	to defend
descendre	to descend
entendre	to hear
perdre	to lose
prétendre	to claim
rendre	to give back, to return something
répondre	to answer
vendre	to sell

The verb form that **ends in -re** is called the **infinitive** (in English, the infinitive is the verb preceded by the word "to"). **-re** is the **infinitive ending**. The verb **without the -re** is called the **stem** or **radical**. To conjugate an -re verb, remove the infinitive ending and then add the appropriate endings, as follows:

		Singular	Plural
1st person	je	-s	nous -ons
2nd person	tu	-s	vous -ez
3rd person	il	(nothing)	ils -ent

Thus to conjugate **descendre**, you would remove the infinitive ending to find the radical **descend-** and then add the appropriate endings:

descendre		Singular	Plural
1st person	je	descends	nous descendons
2nd person	tu	descends	vous descendez
3rd person	il	descend	ils descendent

All **regular -re verbs** are conjugated according to this pattern. The French verbs **dire**, **écrire**, and **lire** are irregular, but in the present tense their conjugations are very similar.

	Dire (to say, tell)	Écrire (to write)	Lire (to read)
je	dis		lis
j'		écris	
tu	dis	écris	lis
il, elle, on	dit	écrit	lit
nous	disons	écrivons	lisons
vous	dites	écrivez	lisez
ils, elles	disent	écrivent	lisent

Dire can mean to **say** or to **tell**.

Je dis 'bonjour' à Fatima chaque matin.	I say 'hello' to Fatima every morning.
Nous voulons dire une prière dimanche.	We want to say a prayer on Sunday.
Dit-il la vérité ?	Is he telling the truth?
Je dois te dire quelque chose.	I need to tell you something.

Écrire means to **write**.

Ils écrivent seulement en français.
À qui écris-tu ?
Je vais écrire une lettre ce soir.

They only write in French.
Who are you writing to?
I'm going to write a letter tonight.

Lire means to **read**.

Elle lit très vite.
Nous lisons le même livre.
Aimez-vous lire les journaux ?

She reads very quickly.
We're reading the same book.
Do you like to read newspapers?

Irregular verbs are the bane of every French student's existence, but there are some patterns in the irregularities - once you learn the conjugations for one verb in a group, one doesn't have any trouble with the other verbs in that group. The bad news is that the majority of irregular verbs end in -RE, so there are a lot of patterns to learn.

There are seven kinds of **-RE verbs**

1. [prendre](#) and its derivatives
2. [battre](#) and its derivatives
3. [mettre](#) and its derivatives
4. [rompre](#) and its derivatives
5. verbs that end in -aindre, -eindre, and -oindre
6. completely irregular verbs ([faire](#), [connaître](#), etc.)

1. The first group of irregular -RE verbs includes [prendre](#) and all of its derivatives (comprendre, etc). The endings for these verbs are as follows:

Singular		Plural	
je	-s	nous	-ons
tu	-s	vous	-ez
il	-	ils	-ent

These verbs **drop the d in the radical** in the 1st and 2nd person plural forms and **double the n** in the 3rd person plural form.

PRENDRE			
je	prends	nous	prenons
tu	prends	vous	prenez
il	prend	ils	prennent

2. The second group of irregular -RE verbs includes [battre](#) and all of its derivatives (débatte, etc.) The endings for these verbs are as follows:

je	-s	nous	-ons
tu	-s	vous	-ez
il	-	ils	-ent

These verbs **drop a t** in the singular forms.

BATTRE			
je	bats	nous	battons
tu	bats	vous	battez
il	bat	ils	battent

3. The third group of irregular -RE verbs includes [mettre](#) and all of its derivatives (promettre, etc.) These verbs are conjugated just like group 2 (the battre verbs) in the **present** tense, but have a different [passé simple](#) and [past participle](#).

4. The fourth group of irregular -RE verbs includes [rompre](#) and its derivatives (corrompre, interrompre) The endings for these verbs are as follows:

je	-s	nous	-ons
tu	-s	vous	-ez
il	-t	ils	-ent

These verbs are conjugated exactly like regular -RE verbs with the single exception of the third person singular present tense, which adds a **t** after the stem.

ROMPRE

je	romps	nous	rompons
tu	romps	vous	rompez
il	rompt	ils	rompent

5. The fifth group of irregular -RE verbs includes

- [craindre](#) and all verbs that end in -aindre (plaindre, etc.)
- [peindre](#) and all verbs that end in -eindre (ceindre, etc.)
- [joindre](#) and all verbs that end in -oindre (rejoindre, etc.)

The endings for these verbs are as follows:

je	-s	nous	-ons
tu	-s	vous	-ez
il	-t	ils	-ent

These verbs **drop the d** in the root in all forms, and **add a g in front of the n** in the plural forms.

PEINDRE

je	peins	nous	peignons
tu	peins	vous	peignez
il	peint	ils	peignent

6. **Completely irregular -RE verbs:** These verbs have unique or difficult conjugations that it would be nearly impossible to describe, so you have to memorize each one separately. Try working on one verb a day until you've mastered them all. Click on each verb for a table of its conjugations. Any derivatives conjugated the same way are listed under the conjugation table for each verb.

[absoudre](#)
[conduire](#)
[croire](#)
[inscrire](#)
[plaire](#)

[boire](#)
[confire](#)
[dire](#)
[lire](#)
[rire](#)

[clore](#)
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