

Module 2: Enchanté!
Topic 4 Content: Using Verbs

Introduction



Click the **NEXT** button to discover ways to use verbs to discuss actions and activities you do.

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Expressing Present Time

Present Time	
English	French
I play tennis.	Je joue au tennis.
I am playing tennis.	
I do play tennis.	

In the English language, you can express present time in various ways. For example, you can say, *I play tennis*; *I am playing tennis*; or *I do play tennis*. In the French language, however, only one form exists in the present tense: *Je joue au tennis*. Notice how in French there are no helping verbs, only verb endings.

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Infinitives



What do the following have in common? *To like, to dance, to love, to play, and to speak.*

If you said they are verbs with “to” in front of them, then you are correct. These phrases are infinitives, which means they begin with “to” and are followed by the verb. More than eighty percent of all French infinitives end in *-er*.

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Personal Pronouns and Verb Endings

Personal Pronouns and Verb Endings

Je joue	Nous jouons
Tu joues	Vous jouez
Il, Elle, On joue	Ils, Elles jouent

Jouer = To play
I play = ?

Remember the personal pronouns you learned about in the previous topic. Specifically, *je, tu, il, elle, on, nous, vous, ils, and elles*. Now, consider your new vocabulary list. What does the verb *jouer* mean?

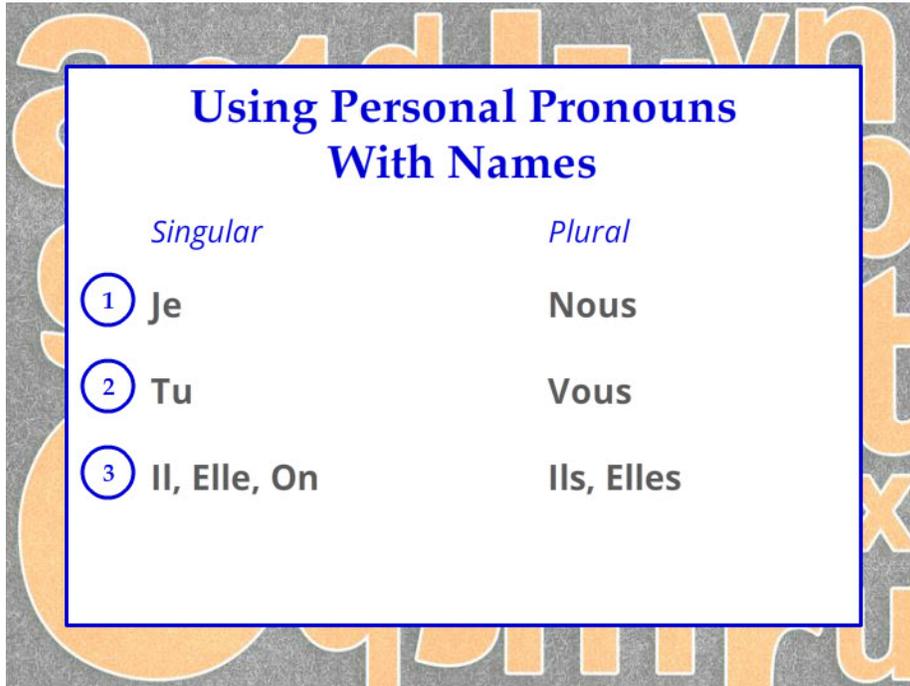
Jouer means “to play.” If you want to say, “I play,” you need to first recall what French word means *I*. If you thought of, *je*, then you are correct. Next, combine the personal pronoun *je* with the verb *jouer*. There is a bit more to this step, however, than simply putting *je* in front of *jouer*. To do this properly, you must drop the *-er* from *jouer*, and give the verb different present tense ending. Every personal pronoun has a specific ending that goes on an associated verb. Take a moment to look at the various endings associated with each personal pronoun.

Je joue
Tu joues
Il, Elle, On joue
Nous jouons
Vous jouez
Ils, Elles jouent

Now you can successfully figure out that “I play” is “Je joue.” By reading the remainder of the list, you know that “You play” (said to someone familiar) is “Tu joues,” “He plays” is “Il joue,” “We play” is “Nous jouons,” “You play” (said to someone formal) is “Vous jouez,” and “They play” (said to a mixed group) is “Ils jouent.”

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Using Personal Pronouns with Names



<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
① Je	Nous
② Tu	Vous
③ Il, Elle, On	Ils, Elles

Recall that *il* and *elle* are third person singular. Therefore, when constructing sentences, you should use these personal pronouns to replace someone's name. For example, *il* becomes *Jean*; and *elle* becomes *Marie*. Remember, if you say a sentence such as, "Marie and me," or "Marie et moi," you are actually referring to the English word, *we*, and the French word, *nous*, because it is in first person plural. Similarly, if you say a sentence such as, "Marie and you," or "Marie et toi," you are actually referring to the English word, *you*, and the French word, *vous*, because it is in the second person plural.

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Practice One

Practice #1

aimer = to like or to love
Translate: "I like to dance."

Je _e	Nous __ons
Tu _es	Vous _ez
Il, Elle, On _e	Ils, Elles __ent

Je aime
danser.

J' aime
danser.

J' aimer
danse.

Je aimer
danse.

Take a moment to practice forming the present tense of verbs that end in -er, and are from the topic vocabulary.

Recall that *aimer* means to like or to love. How would you say the sentence, "I like to dance"? You can use the table provided to help you figure out the answer. Select the correct answer, and then click **SUBMIT**.

Feedback: "J'aime danser" means "I like to dance." The personal pronoun for *I* is *j'*. You do not use *je* because the word *aimer* begins with a vowel. To form the present tense of *aimer*, first drop the -er. Then, add the first person singular ending of e. The infinitive in the sentence, *to dance*, is *danser*.

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Practice Two

Practice #2

détester = to dislike or to hate
Translate: "I hate to play baseball."

Je _e	Nous _ons
Tu _es	Vous _ez
Il, Elle, On _e	Ils, Elles _ent

J' déteste jouer au baseball. **J' détester joue au baseball.** **Je détester joue au baseball.** **Je déteste jouer au baseball.**

Recall that *détester* means to dislike or to hate. How would you say the sentence, "I hate to play baseball"?

Feedback: "Je déteste jouer au baseball" means "I hate to play baseball." The personal pronoun for *I* is *je*. To form the present tense of *détester*, first drop the *-er*. Then, add the first person singular ending of *e*. The infinitive in the sentence, *to play*, is *jouer*.