

Regular French Verbs Ending in -IR

Present, Past, Future

A high percentage of verbs in French end in -IR. These are for the most part regular verbs, and their conjugation in the present tense follows a set pattern.

In this lesson we will focus on three verbs ending in -IR:

FINIR	to finish
CHOISIR	to choose
RALENTIR	to slow down

Present tense conjugation: **FINIR**

je finis	nous finissons
tu finis	vous finissez
il finit	ils finissent
elle finit	
on finit	

NOTES:

3 ways to translate verbs in the present tense:

je finis I finish I do finish I am finishing

You may be tempted to translate “I am finishing” like this:

Je suis finir.

Don't do that....

You don't need *suis* because remember that *Je finis* means *I am finishing*.

This will be the same for all French verbs.

Example:

Ils finissent leur dessert. They are finishing their dessert.

NOTES:

Past Tense of Regular -IR Verbs: Le Passé Composé

When speaking in the past about things that happened, things that had a beginning and an ending, you need to use the *passé composé* tense. When using the *passé composé* you need a *helping verb*.

Most regular IR verbs use the verb *avoir* as a helping verb. *AVOIR* means *TO HAVE*.

Conjugation of the verb *avoir*:

J'ai	I have
Tu as	You have
Il a	He has
Elle a	She has
On a	One has / We have
Nous avons	We have
Vous avez	You have
Ils ont	They have (masculine)
Elles ont	They have (feminine)

Forming past participles of regular -IR verbs

Begin with the infinitive: FINIR

Take off the -R: FINI-

FINIR in the passé composé

J' ai fini	I finished - I have finished
Tu as fini	You finished - You have finished
Il a fini	He finished - He has finished
Elle a fini	She finished - She has finished
On a fini	We finished - We have finished
Nous avons fini	We finished - We have finished
Vous avez fini	You finished - You have finished
Ils ont fini	They finished - They have finished
Elles ont fini	They finished - They have finished

Example

<i>Ils ont fini de travailler.</i>	They finished working.
	They have finished working.

NOTES:

Future Tense of Regular -IR Verbs: Le Futur Simple

You've already learned the conjugation of the verb *AVOIR*:

J'ai	I have
Tu as	You have
Il a	He has
Elle a	She has
On a	One has / We have
Nous avons	We have
Vous avez	You have
Ils ont	They have (masculine)
Elles ont	They have (feminine)

Forming the future tense of regular -IR verbs

Begin with the infinitive:	FINIR
Add the AVOIR endings:	JE <u>FINIRAI</u>
	TU <u>FINIRAS</u>
	IL <u>FINIRA</u>
	ELLE <u>FINIRA</u>
	ON <u>FINIRA</u>
	NOUS <u>FINIRONS</u>
	VOUS <u>FINIREZ</u>
	ILS <u>FINIRONT</u>
	ELLES <u>FINIRONT</u>

Notes about pronouncing the *futur simple*:

Example

*Ils finir**ont** de ranger la maison.*
They will finish cleaning up the house.

Present tense conjugation: CHOISIR

je chois is	nous chois issons
tu chois is	vous chois issez
il chois it	ils chois issent
elle chois it	
on chois it	

3 ways to translate verbs in the present tense:

je chois is	I choose	I do choose	I am choosing
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Example:

*Nous chois**issons** des légumes au marché.*
We are choosing vegetables at the market.

NOTES:

CHOISIR in the passé composé

J' ai choisi	I chose - I have chosen
Tu as choisi	You chose - You have chosen
Il a choisi	He chose - He has chosen
Elle a choisi	She chose - She has chosen
On a choisi	We chose - We have chosen
Nous avons choisi	We chose - We have chosen
Vous avez choisi	You chose - You have chosen
Ils ont choisi	They chose - They have chosen
Elles ont choisi	They chose - They have chosen

Example

*Nous **avons** choisi une nouvelle voiture.*

We chose a new car.

We have chosen a new car.

NOTES:

CHOISIR in the Future Tense

Begin with the infinitive: CHOISIR

Add the AVOIR endings: JE CHOISIRAI

TU CHOISIRAS

IL CHOISIRA

ELLE CHOISIRA

ON CHOISIRA

NOUS CHOISIRONS

VOUS CHOISIREZ

ILS CHOISIRONT

ELLES CHOISIRONT

Notes:

Example

*Nous choisir**ons** une bonne université.*

We will choose a good university.

Present tense conjugation: RALENTIR

je ralentis nous ralent**issons**

tu ralentis vous ralent**issez**

il ralentit ils ralent**issent**

elle ralentit

on ralentit

3 ways to translate verbs in the present tense:

je ralentis I slow down I do slow down I am slowing down

Example:

*Nous ralent**issons** devant l'école.*

We slow down in front of the school.

NOTES:

RALENTIR in the passé composé

J' ai ralenti	I slowed down - I have slowed down
Tu as ralenti	You slowed down - You have slowed down
Il a ralenti	He slowed down - He has slowed down
Elle a ralenti	She slowed down - She has slowed down
On a ralenti	We slowed down - We have slowed down
Nous avons ralenti	We slowed down - We have slowed down
Vous avez ralenti	You slowed down - You have slowed down
Ils ont ralenti	They slowed down - They have slowed down
Elles ont ralenti	They slowed down - They have slowed down

Example

*Nous **avons** ralenti sur l'autoroute.*
We slowed down on the highway.

NOTES:

RALENTIR in the Future Tense

Begin with the infinitive: **RALENTIR**

Add the AVOIR endings: **JE RALENTIRAI**
 TU RALENTIRAS
 IL RALENTIRA
 ELLE RALENTIRA
 ON RALENTIRA
 NOUS RALENTIRONS
 VOUS RALENTIREZ
 ILS RALENTIRONT
 ELLES RALENTIRONT

Notes:

Example

*Nous ralenti**rons** si vous voulez.*

We will slow down if you like.