

Regular French Verbs Ending in -ER

Present Tense

A very high percentage of verbs in French end in -ER. 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 -ER:

REGARDER to watch

VOYAGER to travel

COMMENCER to begin

Present tense conjugation: **REGARDER**

je regarde**e** nous regard**ons**

tu regard**es** vous regard**ez**

il regard**e** ils regard**ent**

elle regard**e**

on regard**e**

NOTES:

3 ways to translate verbs in the present tense

je regarde	I watch	I do watch	I am watching
	I look at	I do look at	I am looking at

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

Je suis regarder.

Don't do that....

You don't need *suis* because remember that *Je regarde* means *I am watching*.

This will be the same for all French verbs.

Example:

Je regarde un film. I am watching a film.

NOTES:

Voyager - To travel

Regular verbs ending in **GER** are special. There's one little thing that makes them slightly irregular. Have a look at the **NOUS** form and you'll notice an extra **E** before the **ONS** ending.

The **E** is there to soften the pronunciation of the letter **G**. This will be the same for all verbs ending in **GER**. You'll see more on my list of common ER verbs. The verb MANGER is an example.

Conjugation of the verb *voyager*

Je voyage e	I travel - I am traveling
Tu voyage s	You travel - You are traveling
Il voyage e	He travels - He is traveling
Elle voyage e	She travels - She is traveling
On voyage e	We travel - We are traveling
Nous voyage ons	We travel - We are traveling
Vous voyage ez	You travel - You are traveling
Ils voyage ent	They travel - They are traveling
Elles voyage ent	They travel - They are traveling

Example

<i>Je voyage en France.</i>	I am traveling to France.
	I am traveling in France.

Notes

Commencer - To begin

Regular verbs ending in **CER** are also special. Just like **GER** verbs, there's one little thing that makes them slightly irregular. Have a look at the **NOUS** form and you'll notice **Ç** before the **ONS** ending.

The Ç is there to soften the pronunciation of the letter C. This will be the same for all verbs ending in CER.

Conjugation of the verb *commencer*

Je commence e	I begin / I am beginning
Tu commences es	You begin / You are beginning
Il commence e	He begins / He is beginning
Elle commence e	She begins / She is beginning
On commence e	We begin / We are beginning
Nous commen çons	We begin / We are beginning
Vous commence ez	You begin / You are beginning
Ils commencent ent	They begin / They are beginning
Elles commencent ent	They begin / They are beginning

Example

Je commence à faire mes bagages. I am beginning to pack my bags.

Remember: COMMENCER + À + INFINITIVE