

# SHOULD - COULD - WOULD

## PRESENT CONDITIONAL LESSON GUIDE

When you want to say that you *should* do something, *could* do something, or *would* do something in French you need to use the **present conditional** tense.

Remember that to form the *present conditional tense* you usually begin with the **complete infinitive form** of the verb and you add the **imperfect endings**. When you have a verb that ends in the letter **E**, be sure to take it off before adding the endings. There is a fairly short list of verbs that have irregular stems in the conditional, and they are exactly the same ones that are irregular in the **futur simple**.

### Irregular conditional & future stems

infinitive	stem
aller	-ir
avoir	-aur-
courir	courr-
devoir	devr-
envoyer	enverr-
être	ser-
faire	fer-
falloir	faudr-
mourir	mourr-
obtenir	obtiendr-
pleuvoir	pleuvr-
pouvoir	pourr-
recevoir	recevr-
savoir	saur-
tenir	tiendr-
venir	viendr-
voir	verr-
vouloir	voudr-

### Imperfect Endings

(je) -ais	(nous) -ions
(tu) -ais	(vous) -iez
(il - elle - on) -ait	(ils - elles) -aient

## Lesson Highlights

You'll notice that I have highlighted the **DEVOIR** and **POUVOIR** forms as they're very important in this particular lesson. These are the verbs you will use to say **SHOULD** and **COULD**.

Should do something	Devoir in the conditional + infinitive
Could do something	Pouvoir in the conditional + infinitive
Would do something	Main verb in the conditional

### EXAMPLES FROM THE LESSON

- I **should** eat.  
Je **devrais** manger.
- You **could** travel.  
Tu **pourrais** voyager.
- He **would** go there.  
Il y **irait**.
- We **should** take action.  
Nous **devrions** agir.
- You **could** come downstairs.  
Vous **pourriez** descendre.
- They **would** gain weight.  
Ils **prendraient** du poids.
- I **should** study.  
Je **devrais** étudier.
- You **could** slow down.  
Tu **pourrais** ralentir.
- She **would** know better.  
Elle **saurait** mieux.
- We **should** choose.  
Nous **devrions** choisir.
- You **could** lose everything.  
Vous **pourriez** tout perdre.
- They **would** be happy.  
Ils **seraient** heureux.

### ASTUCE DE JENNIFER

The word "would" does not exist all by itself in the French language, and when you want to use "would" or "could" in the past, you must use the imperfect tense.



Your French teacher in the South of France