

LESSON 1: PARLER



parler *vt ou i* /paʁ.le/ proférer,
prononcer, articuler des mots;
exprimer sa pensée en articulant des
mots d'une langue; adresser la
parole, avoir un entretien,
converser...

PARLER

- This first lesson introduces the verb **parler**, which means "to speak" or "to talk".
- **Parler** is an example of a regular **-er** verb. This means that the patterns you learn for **parler** can also be applied to literally hundreds, if not thousands, of other **-er** verbs in French.

CONJUGATION

PRESENT

je **parle**
tu **parles**
il/elle/on **parle**
nous **parlons**
vous **parlez**
ils/elles **parlent**

PERFECT

j' **ai parlé**
tu **as parlé**
il/elle/on **a parlé**
nous **avons parlé**
vous **avez parlé**
ils/elles **ont parlé**

IMPERFECT

je	parlais
tu	parlais
il/elle/on	parlait
nous	parlions
vous	parliez
ils/elles	parlaient

FUTURE

je	parlerai
tu	parleras
il/elle/on	parlera
nous	parlerons
vous	parlerez
ils/elles	parleront

CONDITIONAL

je	parlerais
tu	parlerais
il/elle/on	parlerait
nous	parlerions
vous	parleriez
ils/elles	parleraient

PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE

je	parle
tu	parles
il/elle/on	parle
nous	parlions
vous	parliez
ils/elles	parlent

PAST HISTORIC

je	parlai
tu	parlas
il/elle/on	parla
nous	parlâmes
vous	parlâtes
ils/elles	parlèrent

PLUPERFECT

j'	avais parlé
tu	avais parlé
il/elle/on	avait parlé
nous	avions parlé
vous	aviez parlé
ils/elles	avaient parlé

FUTURE PERFECT

j'	aurai parlé
tu	auras parlé
il/elle/on	aura parlé
nous	aurons parlé
vous	 aurez parlé
ils/elles	auront parlé

CONDITIONAL PERFECT

j'	aurais parlé
tu	aurais parlé
il/elle/on	aurait parlé
nous	aurions parlé
vous	auriez parlé
ils/elles	auraient parlé

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

parlant

PAST PARTICIPLE

parlé

IMPERATIVE

parle
parlons
parlez

EXAMPLE SENTENCES

Michael ne parle pas français.

Michael doesn't speak French.

Je n'ai rien compris parce que l'homme parlait trop vite.

I didn't understand a thing because the man was speaking too quickly.

EXERCISES

QUIZ

Look at the following four sentences. Try to translate the sentences from French into English and identify the correct tense of the verb.

1. Si j'avais travaillé à l'école, je parlerais mieux espagnol.

2. Parlez plus doucement, s'il vous plaît.

3. La secrétaire ne parlait jamais pendant une réunion.

4. Si tu as un problème, je parlerai avec ton professeur de maths.

ANSWER KEY

1. *If I'd worked at school, I would speak better Spanish.*
parlerais = conditional tense
2. *Speak more quietly, please.*
parlez = imperative, vous form
3. *The secretary never spoke / never used to speak during a meeting.*
parlait = imperfect tense
4. *If you have a problem, I will speak with your Maths teacher.*
parlerai = future tense

TRANSLATION

Translate the following sentences from English into French, taking care to use the correct form of the verb **parler**:

1. She has not spoken to me for more than a year.
2. Don't worry, they will speak French with you. (*Use the formal form of "you"*)
3. Has he always spoken so quickly?
4. By speaking English and French, it is easy to find a job.

ANSWER KEY

1. *She has not spoken to me for more than a year.*
Elle ne m'a pas parlé depuis plus d'un an.
2. *Don't worry, they will speak French with you.*
Ne vous inquiétez pas, ils parleront en français avec vous.
3. *Has he always spoken so quickly?*
A-t-il toujours parlé aussi vite?
4. *By speaking English and French, it is easy to find a job.*
En parlant l'anglais et le français, il est facile de trouver un travail.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Remember that **parler** is a regular **-er** verb and the patterns you have learned in this lesson can easily be applied to other regular **-er** verbs. Using the verb **chanter** meaning “to sing”, you can now say “he was singing”: **il chantait** - using the imperfect ending **-ait**. Using the verb **danser**, meaning “to dance”, you can say “she will dance”: **elle dansera**, using the future ending. The verb **bavarder** means “to chat”, so we can say “we chat with our friends”: **nous bavardons avec nos amis**.

Here are some other common **-er** verbs with their English equivalents:

accepter to accept

adapter to adapt

aider to help

aimer to love

apporter to bring

attraper to catch

brosser to brush

cache to hide

casser to break

chercher to look for

collectionner to collect

comparer to compare

déchirer to tear

déranger to disturb

donner to give

échanger to exchange

enterrer to bury

féliciter to congratulate

gagner to win, to earn

habiter to live

insister to insist

jouer to play

laver to wash

marcher to walk

montrer to show

noter to note

observer to observe

penser to think

pleurer to cry

recycler to recycle

remarquer to notice

ronfler to snore

sauver to save

téléphoner to telephone

toucher to touch

trouver to find

utiliser to use

voler to steal

zigzaguer to zigzag