

Grammaire

Remember that the present tense has various meanings in English. *Je travaille* means 'I work', 'I am working', 'I do work', or even, when used with *depuis*, 'I've been working'.

Regular verbs belong to one of three groups: *-er* verbs, *-ir* verbs, *-re* verbs. Their endings in the present tense are:

-er verbs: *-e, -es, -e, -ons, -ez, -ent.*

-ir verbs: *-is, -is, -it, -issons, -issez, -issent.*

-re verbs: *-s, -s, -, -ons, -ez, -ent.*

Other verbs you can test yourself on: *tenir* (to hold), *écrire* (to write), *lire* (to read), *recevoir* (to receive), *connaître* (to know someone), *jeter* (to throw), *partir* (to leave), *sortir* (to go out).

Test yourself or another student on some of them.

1 Complete sentences a–e with an appropriate common regular verb in the present tense.

- a Il ne _____ pas d'un instrument de musique.
- b Tous les matins, j'_____ le car à l'arrêt d'autobus.
- c Les cours _____ à neuf heures et _____ à seize heures.
- d A mon avis, on nous _____ trop de devoirs.
- e Quand mon professeur de français nous _____ une question, en général, c'est moi qui y _____.

2 Remind yourself of common irregular verbs in the present tense: complete this grid.

	avoir	être	aller	venir	faire	prendre	dire	mettre	voir
je/j'	ai								
tu	as								
il/elle/on	a								
nous	avons								
vous	avez								
ils/elles	ont								

3 Write a–e in French.

- a I don't understand what you are saying.

- b My parents allow me to go out until midnight.

- c You see – I am learning fast!

- d I don't recognise her.

- e I admit that I am wrong.

Astuce

Apply your knowledge of irregular verbs to other verbs: if you know, for instance, the present tense of *prendre*, you will also know the present tense of *apprendre* (to learn), *comprendre* (to understand), *surprendre* (to surprise). Similar links exist between *venir*, *devenir* and *revenir*; and between *mettre*, *admettre*, *permettre* and *remettre*.