Non-Negotiables: *The main things you need to remember for French are the grammar rules and structures*

1. How do I form the perfect tense (past tense) with regular verbs?

Use:

Subject + avoir + past participle

Examples:

- J'ai parlé = I spoke / I have spoken
- J'ai regardé = I watched
- J'ai fini = I finished
- J'ai vendu = I sold

Regular past participles:

- **-er → -é** (parler → parlé)
- **-ir → -i** (finir → fini)
- **-re → -u** (vendre → vendu)

2. How do I form the imperfect tense (used to do / was doing)?

Take the **nous** form of the present tense, remove **-ons**, then add:

- je **-ais**
- tu **-ais**
- il/elle **-ait**
- nous **-ions**
- vous **-iez**
- ils/elles **-aient**

Example with **parler**:

- je parlais = I used to speak / I was speaking
- tu parlais
- il parlait
- nous parlions
- vous parliez
- ils parlaient

3. How do I form the present tense with regular -er verbs?

Remove **-er** and add:

- je **-e**
- tu **-es**
- il/elle **-e**
- nous **-ons**
- vous **-ez**
- ils/elles **-ent**

Example: **parler**

- je parle
- tu parles
- il parle
- nous parlons
- vous parlez
- ils parlent

4. How do I form the near future tense in French?

Use:

aller (present tense) + infinitive
Examples:

- Je vais manger = I am going to eat
- Tu vas regarder = You are going to watch
- Nous allons jouer = We are going to play

5. How do I form the simple future tense in French?

Use the **full infinitive** (for -er and -ir verbs) and add:

- je **-ai**
- tu **-as**
- il/elle **-a**
- nous **-ons**
- vous **-ez**
- ils/elles **-ont**

Example: **parler**

- je parlerai = I will speak
- tu parleras
- il parlera
- nous parlerons
- vous parlerez
- ils parleront

6. How do I form the conditional tense in French?

Use the **future stem** and add the imperfect endings:

- je **-ais**
- tu **-ais**
- il/elle **-ait**
- nous **-ions**
- vous **-iez**
- ils/elles **-aient**

Example:

- je parlerais = I would speak
- tu parlerais
- il parlerait
- nous parlerions
- vous parleriez
- ils parleraient

7. What are the verbs which use être in the perfect tense?

These are commonly remembered as **Dr & Mrs Vandertramp**:

- aller (to go)
- arriver (to arrive)
- descendre (to go down)
- devenir (to become)
- entrer (to enter)
- monter (to go up)
- mourir (to die)
- naître (to be born)
- partir (to leave)
- revenir (to come back)
- rentrer (to return home)

- rester (to stay)
- retourner (to return)
- sortir (to go out)
- tomber (to fall)
- venir (to come)

Example:

- Je suis allé(e) = I went

All other verbs usually take avoir.

8. How do you say "I have" in French?

J'ai

Example:

- J'ai un chien. = I have a dog.

9. How do I say "I am" in French?

Je suis

Example:

- Je suis fatigué(e). = I am tired.

10. How do I say "I am going" in French?

Je vais

Example:

- Je vais au cinéma. = I am going to the cinema.

11. How do I say "I do" or "I make" in French?

Je fais

Example:

- Je fais mes devoirs. = I do my homework.
- Je fais un gâteau. = I make a cake.