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**Step by Step**  
**Simplified FRENCH**  
**GRAMMAR Booklet 3**

**Le Présent de l'Indicatif.**  
**Qu'est-Ce que C'est?**

By

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# Grammar Booklet

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## Introduction: A Word about Grammar

*Grammar.* Just saying or reading the word makes most of the learners panic! People have a negative feeling about French grammar. They have heard about irregular verbs, weird tenses, nouns and gender...

That's why this booklet concentrates only on one grammar subject and is compiled with only very simplified grammatical points.

You will be guided step by step and all the points are defined and explained.

At the end of each mini lesson, you will be able to test your knowledge and learn new vocabulary by working with cultural and authentic literary texts.

*Grammar, which knows how to control even kings." Molière*

Le présent in French is the equivalent of the present tense in English.

### *When is the present tense used?*

**1. For on-going actions or current situations.**

➡ Je suis malade. *I'm sick.*

**2. To state general truths.**

➡ Le soleil se lève à l'Est. *The sun rises at the east.*

**3. To describe a habitual action.**

➡ Je prends le train tous les matins. *I take the train every morning.*

**4. For an action that is going to happen immediately.**

➡ Je descends! *I am going downstairs!*

### *How do you conjugate at the present tense a regular verb of the -ER group (premier groupe)?*

The first group verbs are all the ones which end up with **-ER** at the infinitive.

To conjugate an **-ER verb** at the present tense, remove the ending **-ER** and add the appropriate endings:

**-e**

**-es**

**-e**

**-ons**

**-ez**

**-ent**

**TIP:** When the subject is **tu**, the verb always ends with an **S**  
 (exceptions: *tu vaux you are worth, tu veux you want, tu peux you can*)

Let's take the verb **louer** (to rent): remove the infinitive ending **-ER** to get **lou** and add the endings:

	Singulier	Pluriel
<b>LOUER</b>		
1 <sup>ere</sup> personne	Je loue	Nous louons
2 <sup>eme</sup> personne	Tu loues	Vous louez
3 <sup>eme</sup> personne	Il/ Elle/On loue	Ils/Elles louent

*How do you conjugate at the present tense a regular verb of the -IR group (deuxième groupe)?*

The second group verbs are all the ones which end up with **-IR** at the infinitive and that have a present participle ending in **-issant**.

To conjugate an **-IR** verb at the present tense, remove the ending **-IR** and add the appropriate endings: **-is**

- is**
- it**
- issons**
- issez**
- issent**

Let's take the verb **grandir** (to grow up): remove the infinitive ending **-IR** to get **grand** and add the endings:

	Singulier	Pluriel
<b>GRANDIR</b>		
1 <sup>ere</sup> personne	Je grandis	Nous grandissons
2 <sup>eme</sup> personne	Tu grandis	Vous grandissez
3 <sup>eme</sup> personne	Il/ Elle/On grandit	Ils/Elles grandissent

*How do you conjugate at the present tense a regular verb of the -RE group (troisième groupe)?*

The third group verbs are all the verbs not belonging either to the first or the second group and that are not auxiliary verbs (être & avoir). Most of them are irregular verbs.

✘ The verbs that end with **-DRE** have the following endings:

- ds -
- ds -
- d -
- ons
- ez -
- ent

Let's take the verb **vendre** (to sell):

VENDRE	Singulier	Pluriel
1 <sup>ere</sup> personne	Je vends	Nous vendons
2 <sup>eme</sup> personne	Tu vends	Vous vendez
3 <sup>eme</sup> personne	Il/ Elle/On vend	Ils/Elles vendent

**Exceptions with the following irregular verbs:**

**Prendre** (to take): nous **prenons**, vous **prenez**, ils ou elles **prennent**

**Coudre** (to sew): nous **cousons**, vous **cousez**, ils ou elles **cousent**

✘ The verbs that end with **-TRE** have the following endings:

- ts -
- ts -t -
- tons
- tez -
- tent

