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**Step by Step
Simplified FRENCH
GRAMMAR Booklet 1**

**Le Verbe.
Qu'est-Ce que C'est?
Sample**

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Grammar Booklet

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published by myFrench.ie

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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

What is a verb?

In French, a verb is called **un verbe**.

- 1.** **Un verbe** could be the most important part of a sentence. **Je pleure** = I cry
- 2.** The verb asserts, tells something about the subject of the sentence.
- 3.** A verb expresses feelings, state of beings, actions or events.
- 4.** The verb represents the **chronology** and the **temporality** of the action.
- 5.** A verb has to be conjugated to do its work properly. It indicates if the action was in the past, if the action is finished or starting, if the action is on-going, if the action is repeated and if the action will take place in the future.

What is an infinitive verb/un verbe à l'infinitif?

- We could say that **l'infinitif** is the surname of the verb, its identity.
- In English, the infinitive of a verb starts with **to + the verb**: **to eat**. It's also called **full verb**.
- In French, **l'infinitif** is a single word with one of the following endings:
 - ER** → **manger** (to eat)
 - IR** → **finir** (to finish)
 - RE** → **rendre** (to give back)

3 Ways to Use the Infinitive

1. After a conjugated verb:

This one is very important to remember:

In French, the second, third, etc... verb that comes after the first conjugated verb is **always** an infinitive.

➔ Je veux **danser**. **-ER ending** because **veux** is the **conjugated** verb vouloir

! You will find an infinitive verb after a conjugated verb but **not after an auxiliary** / un auxiliaire (avoir or être).

➔ J'ai **aimé** ce film. **NO -ER ending** because **ai** is the auxiliaire avoir.

2. After a preposition :

➔ C'est difficile **de se concentrer** avec tout ce bruit! *It's hard to concentrate with all this noise!*

➔ Il y aura **à boire** et **à manger**. *There will be food and drinks.*

3. As a noun:

➔ **Prendre** une décision importante ce n'est jamais facile. *Making an important decision is never easy.*

What is an auxiliary verb?

2 Auxiliary Verbs in French: ETRE and AVOIR

1. **ETRE**

☑ The verb **être** as an auxiliary is used to conjugate **all the verbs at the passive voice**.

Voix active: Elsa mange un gâteau au chocolat. *Elsa eats a chocolate cake.*

Voix passive: Le gâteau au chocolat **est** mangé par Elsa. *The chocolate cake is eaten by Elsa.*

