

Parler, aimer, habiter

To speak, to like/love,
to live

parl / er

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

to speak

I speak
you speak
he/she speaks
we speak
you speak
they speak

The "nt" in "ils parlent" reminds us of "nt" in "ils ont".

The letters "ons" at the end of "nous parlons" are found in "nous".

These are all pronounced the same way:
(je) parle (tu) parles
(il) parle (ils) parlent

"Tu parles" has an "s" because "s" is close to "t" and "u" in the alphabet.

The "z" in "vous parlez" reminds us of the sound the "s" makes in "vous avez" (you have).

aim / er

j'	aim e
tu	aim es
il/elle	aim e
nous	aim ons
vous	aim ez
ils/elles	aim ent

to like/love

I like/love
you like/love
he/she likes/loves
we like/love
you like/love
they like/love

We use "j'" in "j'aime", instead of "je", because "aimer" starts with a vowel.



habit / er

j'	habite
tu	habites
il/elle	habite
nous	habitons
vous	habitez
ils/elles	habitent

to live

I live
you live
he/she lives
we live
you live
they live

We use "j'" in "j'habite" instead of "je" because the "h" in "habiter" is silent.



Les verbes en “er” (1)

Verbs ending in “er” (1)

Some more useful verbs ending in “er”

The following verbs conjugate in the same way as “parler”, “aimer” or “habiter”: e, es, e, ons, ez, ent.

accompagner

(to take someone somewhere)



Accompagner: when someone takes you somewhere, he/she offers you his/her **company**.

aider

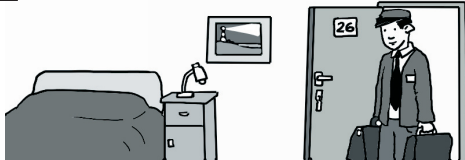
(to help)



Aider: when someone helps you, he/she brings some **aid**.

apporter

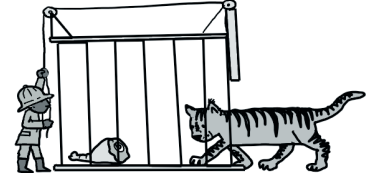
(to bring)



Apporter: in a hotel, a **porter** brings your luggage.

attraper

(to catch)



Attraper: when you want to catch an animal, you **trap** it.

bouger

(to move)



Bouger: to “**boogie**” means to dance and when you dance you move a lot.

cacher

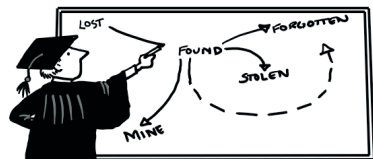
(to hide)



Cacher: you must hide your **cash**.

enseigner

(to teach)



Enseigner: imagine a teacher doing **signs** to help explain what he/she is teaching.

envoyer

(to send)



Envoyer: when you send a letter, you put it in an **envelope** which goes on a **voyage**.

essayer

(to try)



Essayer: you try your best when you write an **essay**.

étudier

(to study)



The French and English words have three letters in **étudier** **study** common:

Les verbes en “er” (2)

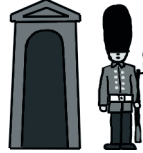
Verbs ending in “er” (2)

Some more useful verbs ending in “er”

The following verbs conjugate in the same way as “parler”, “aimer” or “habiter”: e, es, e, ons, ez, ent.

garder

(to keep)



Garder: at Buckingham Palace, the **guards** keep the Palace safe.

donner

(to give)



Donner: we give **donations** to charities.

jouer

(to play)



Jouer: it is a **joy** to play.

oublier

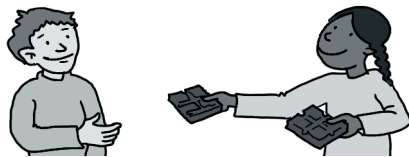
(to forget)



Oublier: remember the English expression, “to fall into **oblivion**” and the adjective “**oblivious**”.

partager

(to share)



Partager: when you share with someone else, you each have a **part**.

penser

(to think)



In the English word “**think**” there is “**ink**”, but in the French word “**penser**” there is “**pen**”. Also think of the English word “**pensive**”.

rêver

(to dream)



Rêver: when you dream you have **revelations**.

sauter

(to jump)



Sauter: **sauté** potatoes are cooked in a pan where the hot oil makes them jump.

tomber

(to fall)



Tomber: remember not to fall into a **tomb**.

trouver

(to find)



Trouver: it would be nice to find a treasure **trove**.

Hexagonie story: Verbes en “er”

Verbs ending
in “er”

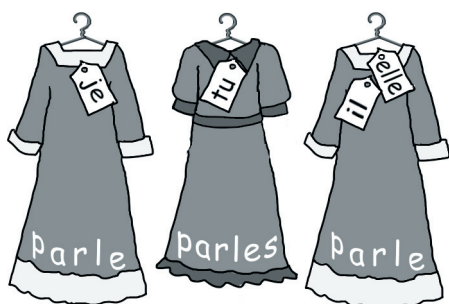
Read this story about the imaginary land of **Hexagonie**, told by the great traveller, Voyager, about his encounter with Madame Parler.

The verbs' outfits

The verbs are Hexagonie's busiest inhabitants by far and, if it wasn't for all their hard work, nothing would ever get done. Many verbs ended in “er” like me, Voyager.

It was amazing to see how active the verbs were. What surprised me most was how often they changed the outfits they wore. Each time an “er” verb was next to a different subject, such as “je”, “tu”, “il”, “elle”, “nous”, “vous”, “ils” and “elles”, it changed outfit – always making sure that it was perfectly suited to the occasion.

One of the “er” verbs I liked the best was called Madame Parler (to speak). She was very chatty and only too happy to show me all her different outfits.



When seen with a single subject such as “je”, “il” and “elle”, Madame Parler told me that she would choose a simple outfit. She just took off her final “r” and ended with an “e” (je parle, il parle, elle parle). However, with “tu” she liked to add a special letter, because “tu” was a close friend. She chose the letter “s” as it was close to “t” and “u” in the alphabet (tu parles).

When seen with plural subjects such as “nous”, “vous”, “ils” and “elles”, Madame Parler liked to wear more sophisticated outfits. With “nous” (nous parlons) she chose to wear the outfit “ons” as it had letters in common with “nous”. With “vous” (vous parlez), Madame Parler wore the letter “z” which reminded her of the “z” sound Queen Avoir made when she pronounced the “vous” in “vous avez”. And finally, with “ils” and “elles” she wore the outfit “nt” (ils/elles parlent), which is similar to the one King Être wears with “ils” and “elles” in “ils/elles sont” and Queen Avoir wears with “ils” and “elles” in “ils/elles ont.”



Now I have heard that some people find these verbs tiring with all their changes of outfit – but not me. I just admire their great sense of fashion!