

# **RAPID METHOD FOR FRENCH VERBS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649435203

Rapid Method for French Verbs by Roch-Alphonse de Massabielle

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ROCH-ALPHONSE DE MASSABIELLE**

**RAPID METHOD  
FOR FRENCH VERBS**



# RAPID METHOD FOR FRENCH VERBS

BY

Roch-Alphonse de Massabielle

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

NEW YORK  
SCHWARTZ, KIRWIN & FAUSS  
42 Barclay Street

Copyright, 1917, 1918, 1919  
By V. RASKIN

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN  
ANSONIA

## PREFACE.

The purpose of this little book is entirely practical; it is to aid pupils in learning the structure and use of French verbs. The method here set forth has been thoroughly tried and has proved to be unusually successful. Its fundamental idea is to group together those verb forms in which the stem is common, disregarding for this purpose the order of persons and tenses, as they appear in the usual conjugations.

In applying the method, therefore, the pupil should not be asked to "conjugate" a verb, viz.: *je lis, tu lis, il lit, etc.*; but having been given the stem and taught the endings, he should be asked to translate a variety of English verb forms into French; care being taken in each question to change verb, person and tense.

Questioning in this way keeps the pupils alert and easily holds their attention.

It is also well to have pupils write the answers, to familiarize them with the appearance of the forms as well as with their pronunciation.

In oral recitation (or drill) in verbs, to avoid monotony and the distraction of pupils, teachers must avoid the naming of tenses. Never say, for example, "Give me the Imperfect of this verb or the Pluperfect of that one."

Demonstration on the blackboard of pages 7, 10, 19, 20 is of the greatest importance.

Well demonstrated, the pupils are able to recite and to write by themselves the 16 tenses most used in conversation.

In the drills give the Infinitive and the two tenses derived from it; then the Present Indicative and the four verb forms derived from its first person plural; then the Past Participle and all the compound tenses formed by it. In conjunction with each lesson give some time to the auxiliary verb *avoir*, and although the pupils do not know its different tenses read it aloud and have the pupils repeat it after you. It will take only two minutes and very soon the pupils will be so familiar with it that they will not find any difficulty in using it in the compound tenses.

If the method proves to be of any help to teachers and to pupils, I will be greatly pleased.

THE AUTHOR, R. A. DE MASSABIELLE.

415772

## PRONUNCIATION.

French.	English.
a has the sound of	ah
e has the sound of	u in pleasure
o has the sound of	o
i has the sound of	i in finish
y has the sound of	ee in bee
u has no similar sound in English.	
é has a short sound, like	a in A Boy
è or ê has an open sound like	ai
ai, ay, ei, ey has the sound of	ay
in, im, ain, aim, ein, eim, like	an in angry
an, am en, em pronounced like	an in swan
au or eau pronounced like	ø
eu or oeu pronounced like	o in word
oi	whah
ou pronounced like	oo in wood
un or um pronounced like	un in lunch
on, om pronounced like	om in comb
j pronounced like	s in pleasure
ch pronounced like	sh
one s between two vowels	z

In words ending in e the final e is not pronounced, but the consonant before the e must be pronounced.

A final accented e (é) is always pronounced.

With the exceptions of a few words, final consonants are never pronounced.



## PRESENT INDICATIVE.

The Present of the Indicative may be expressed in English in three different ways: For example—

I speak — I am speaking — I do speak.

In French there is but one form: *Je parle*.

The French pronouns used with the verb forms are as in English—three in the Singular, and three in the Plural.

### SINGULAR

1st Person     *Je*—*I*  
2nd  "         *Tu*—*Thou*  
3rd  "     *Il* or *Elle*—*He* or *She*

### PLURAL

1st Person     *Nous*—*We*  
2nd  "         *Vous*—*You*  
3rd  "     *Ils* or *Elles*—*They*

*Tu*—*Thou*, is used only in very familiar conversation, as among members of the same family, or among intimate friends. It is wiser for pupils in general to use *Vous*.

## PARLER—To speak.

The final "r" indicates the Infinitive and stands for "to".

In all the verbs ending in the Infinitive in "er", the Present of the Indicative ends in—

<i>Je</i> —e	<i>Nous</i> —ons
<i>Tu</i> —es	<i>Vous</i> —ez
<i>Il</i> or <i>Elle</i> —e	<i>Ils</i> or <i>Elles</i> —ent

The ending "ent" is always silent.

The three persons singular and the third person plural are pronounced the same.

### Present Indicative of *Parler*:

*Je parle*     —I am speaking, I do speak, I speak.  
*Tu parles*  —Thou art speaking, thou dost speak, thou speakest.  
*Il parle*     —He is speaking, he does speak, he speaks.  
*Nous parlons*—We are speaking, we do speak, we speak.  
*Vous parlez*—You are speaking, you do speak, you speak.  
*Ils parlent*  —They are speaking, they do speak, they speak.

*Ils parlent* is pronounced like "*Il parle*".

### Interrogative.

The interrogative is made in French by placing "Est-ce-que" before the Affirmative form of the verb:

- Est-ce que je parle? —Am I speaking, or do I speak?  
 Est-ce que tu parles? —Art thou speaking, or dost thou speak?  
 Est-ce qu'il parle? —Is he speaking, or does he speak?  
 Est-ce que nous parlons? —Are we speaking, or do we speak?  
 Est-ce que vous parlez? —Are you speaking, or do you speak?  
 Est-ce qu'ils parlent? —Are they speaking, or do they speak?

The Interrogative form is also made in French by placing the Pronoun Subject after the verb, and joining them by a hyphen. When the Third Person ends with a vowel, a "t" between hyphens (-t-) is inserted between the verb and Il or Elle.

If the First Person Singular ends with an "e" mute, an acute accent (') is put over the "e" for the sake of euphony.

- Parlé-je? —Am I speaking, or do I speak?  
 Parles-tu? —Art thou speaking, or dost thou speak?  
 Parle-t-il? —Is he speaking, or does he speak?  
 Parle-t-elle? —Is she speaking, or does she speak?  
 Parlons-nous? —Are we speaking, or do we speak?  
 Parlez-vous? —Are you speaking, or do you speak?  
 Parlent-ils? —Are they speaking, or do they speak?

### Negatives.

The Negative is expressed in French by two words: **Ne--pas**. **Ne** is placed before the verb, and **pas** after the verb.

- Je ne parle pas —I am not speaking, I do not speak.  
 Tu ne parles pas —Thou art not speaking, thou dost not speak.  
 Il ne parle pas —He is not speaking, he does not speak.  
 Nous ne parlons pas —We are not speaking, we do not speak.  
 Vous ne parlez pas —You are not speaking, you do not speak.  
 Ils ne parlent pas —They are not speaking, they do not speak.

If the Verb begins by a vowel or a silent "h", the **Ne** drops the "e" and takes (') for the sake of euphony. For example:

- Je n'aime pas —I do not like, I do not love.  
 Il n'aime pas —He does not like, he does not love.  
 Nous n'aimons pas —We do not like, we do not love.  
 Vous n'aimez pas —You do not like, you do not love.  
 Ils n'aiment pas —They do not like, they do not love.

Write the above verb in the three forms in French and in English.

### FORMATION OF TENSES.

Very important page to demonstrate on the blackboard.

The First Person Plural of the Present Indicative is very important, because several verb forms are derived from it.

I. The **PRESENT PARTICIPLE** is formed by dropping the ending "ons," and replacing it by "ant". For example:

**Nous parlons**—We speak.    **Parlant**—Speaking.

A verb ending in "ing" is in the Present Participle when **in**, or **by**, or **while**, or **when**, etc., can be placed before that verb.

II. The Present Indicative forms also the **IMPERATIVE** by leaving out the pronouns **Je**, **Nous**, **Vous**. For example:

Present Ind.: <b>Je</b> parle	Imperative: <b>Parle</b> —Speak (thou)
<b>Nous</b> parlons	<b>Parlons</b> —Let us speak
<b>Vous</b> parlez	<b>Parlez</b> —Speak (you)

III. The First Person Plural of the Present Indicative also forms the **IMPERFECT Tense**, which is used when

Used to ....., or was ....., or were ..... are before the English verb.

By replacing the "ons" by the following endings:

<b>Je</b> —ais	<b>Nous</b> —ions
<b>Tu</b> —ais	<b>Vous</b> —iez
<b>Il</b> —ait	<b>Ils</b> —aient

The Third Person Plural of the Imperfect is always pronounced like the three Persons Singular.

<b>Je parlais</b> —Was speaking.	<b>Nous parlions</b> —Were speaking.
<b>Tu parlais</b> —Wast speaking.	<b>Vous parliez</b> —Were speaking.
<b>Il parlait</b> —Was speaking.	<b>Ils parlaient</b> —Were speaking.

IV. The First Person Plural of the Present Indicative also forms the Present of Subjunctive, which is the equivalent of "If I may.... etc., preceding an English verb, by replacing the "ons" by the following endings:

<b>Je</b> —e	<b>Nous</b> —ions
<b>Tu</b> —es	<b>Vous</b> —iez
<b>Il</b> —e	<b>Ils</b> —ent