

How to say “in”

There is more than one word for “in” in French.

J’habite... (I live...)

dans une ville/un village (in a town/village)

au centre-ville (in the town centre)

en ville (in town)

à la campagne/montagne (in the countryside/mountains)

NB: **au** bord de la mer (at the seaside)

Feminine countries use **en** (e.g. **en** Angleterre, **en** France, **en** Italie)

Masculine countries use **au** (e.g. **au** Canada, **au** Maroc, **au** Pays de Galles)

Plural countries use **aux** (e.g. **aux** États-Unis)

Towns and cities use **à** (e.g. **à** Paris, **à** Shrewsbury, **à** Church Stretton)

Counties use **dans le** (e.g. **dans le** Shropshire, **dans le** Yorkshire)

Points of the compass use **dans** (e.g. **dans** l’est, **dans** le nord)

Cultural top tip



un fleuve a river that flows into the sea

une rivière a river that flows into another river

il y a

- there is a... **il y a un/une...**
- there are some... **il y a des...**
- there isn’t a/aren’t any... **il n’y a pas de/d’**

Asking questions using *quel*

To ask “which...?” or “what...?”, use the **quel...?** It must agree with the subject of the sentence.

masc sg.	quel
fem sg.	quelle
masc pl.	quels
fem pl.	quelles

The imperative

You use the imperative form to give instructions. Take the **tu** or **vous** form of the verb in the present tense and drop the pronoun:

- *Tu prends* (you take) → *Prends...* (Take...)
 - *Vous prenez* (you take) → *Prenez...* (Take...)
- Drop the final ‘s’ from **–er** verbs in the **tu** form:
- *Tu vas* (you go) → *Va...* (Go...)
 - *Tu tournes* (you turn) → *Tourne...* (Turn...)

Negatives

Most negative expressions are in two parts and go **around** the verb:

- ne...pas** (not)
 - ne...rien** (nothing)
 - ne...jamais** (never)
 - ne...personne** (nobody, not anyone)
 - ne...plus** (no longer, not anymore)
 - ne...que** (only)
 - ne...aucun(e)** (no, not any, not a single...)
- NB: **aucun** agrees with the noun.
- ne...ni...ni...** (neither...nor...) is in three parts: put a noun after each **ni**.

Cultural top tip



Make your speaking sound more authentic by using expressions like:

- Tant mieux !** So much the better! / That’s good!
- Tant pis !** Too bad! / What a shame!
- Ce n’est pas la peine.** It’s not worth it.
- Ça ne fait rien.** It doesn’t matter. / Never mind.
- Je vous en prie.** It’s a pleasure.

Cultural top tip



- une ville fleurie** a flowery town (like “Britain in bloom”)
- une ville étoilée** a starry town (like “dark sky discovery sites”)

The pronoun *y*

The pronoun **y** means “there”. It replaces **à** + a noun.

- In the present tense, **y** goes in front of the verb: *On y vas tous les ans.* We go **there** every year.
- If the verb is followed by an infinitive, **y** goes in front of the infinitive: *Tu peux y faire la voile.* You can go sailing **there**.
- In the perfect (past) tense, **y** goes in front of the part of *avoir* or *être*: *J’y suis allé(e) l’année dernière.* I went **there** last year.

The simple future tense

Use the **simple future tense** to say “will” or “shall” do something.

To form this tense, use the **simple future stem** plus the appropriate **ending**.

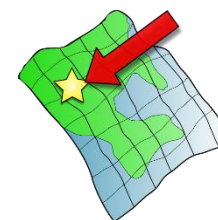
For **–er** and **–ir** verbs, the future stem is the infinitive.

- je resterai* (I will stay)
- tu resteras* (you will stay)
- il/elle/on restera* (he/she/one will stay)
- nous resterons* (we will stay)
- vous resterez* (you will stay)
- ils/elles resteront* (they will stay)

Some key verbs have **irregular future stems**, but use the same endings as above:

- aller – j’irai* (I will go)
- avoir – j’aurai* (I will have)
- être – je serai* (I will be)
- faire – je ferai* (I will make/do)
- venir – je viendrai* (I will come)

Key Vocabulary



Using three tenses: the present, perfect and future tenses

How to form different types of verbs across key tenses:

verb type	infinitive	present	perfect	future
regular -er	collecter	je collecte	j'ai collecté	je collecterai
regular -ir	finir	je finis	j'ai fini	je finirai
regular -re	vendre	je vends	j'ai vendu	je vendrai *
key irregulars	aller avoir être faire	je vais j' ai je suis je fais	je suis allé(e) j' ai eu j' ai été j' ai fait	j' irai j' aurai je serai je ferai

*In the future tense, **-re** verbs drop the final 'e' from the infinitive before adding the future endings:
vendre → *je vendrai, tu vendras, il/elle/on vendra, nous vendrons, vous vendrez, ils/elles vendront.*

Extra vocab & info

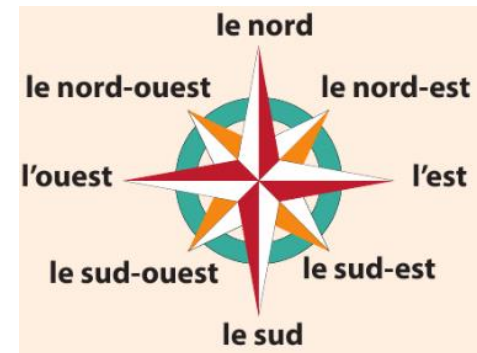
augmenter to increase
déménager to move (house/home)
je voudrais I would like
la peinture paint
la Tour de l'Horloge clock tower
lancer to launch
le dépliant leaflet
le maïs corn
le requin shark
les alentours the surroundings
les Antilles the West Indies
partager to share
pas tellement mon truc not really my thing
propre own/clean
un endroit a place
un étage a floor/level/stage
un tremplin a springboard

Opinion phrases

je pense que I think that
à mon avis in my opinion
selon moi in my opinion
pour moi for me
je trouve que I find that
je crois que I believe that
personnellement personally
pour moi... mais pour d'autres... for me... but for others...
ce qui me plaît (ici), c'est... what pleases me (here) is...

Connectives

et and
mais but
aussi also/too
parce que because
car as (because)
puisque since (because)
quand when
ou or
où where
lorsque when
donc therefore/so
alors so/therefore
cependant however
pourtant however
toutefois however
c'est pour ça que... it's for that (reason) that...
en outre furthermore
de plus in addition
en plus in addition
ce qui est plus what is more



Present tense



Perfect tense



Future tenses



Negatives

