

MFLE French Reference Grammar

Introduction

'Grammar is the way that words make sense. It is a code or set of rules accepted by any community who share a language.' (Language into Languages Teaching, University of Glasgow, Scottish Executive Education Department, 2001)

What follows is an attempt to set out the rules of grammar for the structures which are often used in the teaching of French for P6 and P7.

It is not intended for use by pupils, unless perhaps as a spell-check for the months of the year, for example.

Why use this resource?

It is appreciated that a number of teachers who have completed their MLPS training may feel a little insecure in their knowledge of basic French grammar. This is understandable, and this reference grammar attempts to be a resource to help. It is by definition very restricted, but closely tied to the requirements of teachers offering French in the primary school.

The fact that it has been produced does not mean that primary school teachers will now be expected to teach grammar formally as it is laid out in this booklet. There is no expectation that pupils should work through this grammar resource. As noted above, it is a reference resource for teachers, to try to make them more comfortable with the rules behind the communicative language which they are offering in class.

It is felt that a degree of security about the rules of grammar will make teachers more comfortable in their use of French.

How should I use this resource?

As will be seen throughout the course, we do not shy away from explaining simple rules of grammar to the pupils. However, such explanations should be done in a sensitive way. There is nothing to be gained in foreign language teaching from leaving pupils unsure and insecure when a simple explanation, where possible drawing analogies with English, would remove doubts and make the picture clearer.

Any explanation of grammar given to pupils should not be taken directly from this resource and projected on the whiteboard. Instead, teachers can use the resource to find out the correct form before going on to explain, in their own words, any basic rules of grammar. These explanations will vary according to the needs of the pupils, some of whom will benefit from a sharper exposure to grammar.

Verb forms

Introduction

'Verbs are used to assert or state what is happening, or what is the case. They are sometimes called 'doing words' or 'action words', but they do not always show action: if we say 'he is bone idle' or 'he has stopped' there is not much action going on.

Verbs also show the time when things are happening: this is called the tense of the verb.' (Language into Languages Teaching, University of Glasgow, Scottish Executive Education Department, 2001)

The subject pronouns are

je - I nous - we
tu - you vous - you
il/elle - he/she ils/elles - they
on - one

'Je', 'tu' and 'il/elle/on' are first, second and third persons singular respectively.

'Nous', 'vous' and 'ils/elles' are first, second and third persons plural respectively.

Notes on the subject pronouns

- 'Tu' is traditionally used to address close friends, members of the immediate family, close relatives, children and animals and pets. Otherwise its use can be considered condescending.
- 'Vous', although strictly speaking second person plural, is the polite form of address to another person when the speakers are not closely acquainted. It is the formal mode of address to a single person. It is also the plural mode of address used when speaking to more than one close friend, member of the immediate family etc and to more than one person who is not closely acquainted.

In school, teachers would address individual pupils by 'tu', and groups of pupils by 'vous'.

Pupils should address the teacher by 'vous'.

- 'On', which is translated here as 'one', is used much more frequently in French than in English, and does not carry the hint of a certain social stratum as it does in English. It is used to express 'we', or 'you' when that 'you' is being used in a very general sense, and also 'they' in a

general sense. It can even be used to express 'I'. However, young children should be encouraged to use it in its restricted meaning of 'we'. 'On' can be used to indicate one or several people.

The present tense

Some English tenses have various forms to represent the single French tense. One of the most striking is the present tense, which can have three different forms in English, but always only one form in French.

Affirmative

Je regarde la télévision	I watch the television I am watching the television
Oui, je regarde la télévision tous les soirs.	Yes, I do watch television every evening.

Negative

Je ne regarde pas la télévision.	I'm not watching television. I don't watch television
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Interrogative

Est-ce que tu regardes la télévision?	Are you watching television? Do you watch television?
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Form of the present tense of verbs ending in -er

The present tense form of verbs whose infinitive ends in -er is given below. (The infinitive form of a verb is the one which appears in a dictionary, and which is indicated in English by the use of the word to in front. Thus, 'to look' is an infinitive in English. The French form is 'regarder'. Infinitives in French end in -er, -ir or -re.)

Structurally and analytically, to form the present tense of an -er verb:

- take the infinitive
- remove the ending -er
- add the first, second and third person endings, singular and plural.

These endings are:

Je e nous ons

Tu es vous ez
il/elle/on e ils/elles ent

So, the full present tense of the verb 'regarder' is:

je regarde nous regardons
tu regardes vous regardez
il/elle/on regarde ils/elles regardent

This is called the **paradigm** of the present tense.

- Note: the endings -e, -es, -e and -ent are silent. The only endings in the present tense of -er verbs which can be heard are the first and second persons plural (-ons and -ez).

Form of the present tense verbs ending in -ir

The present tense form of verbs whose infinitive ends in -ir is given below. (The infinitive form of a verb is the one which appears in a dictionary, and which is indicated in English by the use of the word to in front. Thus, 'to finish' is an infinitive in English. The French form is 'finir'. Infinitives in French end in -er, -ir or -re.)

Structurally and analytically, to form the present tense of an -ir verb:

- take the infinitive
- remove the ending -ir
- add the first, second and third person endings, singular and plural.

These endings are:

je is nous issons
tu is vous issez
il/elle/on it ils/elles issent

So, the full present tense of the verb 'finir' is:

je finis nous finissons
tu finis vous finissez
il/elle/on finit ils/elles finissent

- Note: the endings -is, -is, -it are all pronounced without sounding the final consonant. Their pronunciation is like that of the English letter E. As in -er verbs, the ending -ent is silent, and the third person plural ending sounds like 'eece' in English (like fleece without the first two letters).

Form of the present tense of verbs ending in -re

The present tense form of verbs whose infinitive ends in -re is given below. (The infinitive form of a verb is the one which appears in a dictionary, and which is indicated in English by the use of the word to in front. Thus, to sell is an infinitive in English. The French form is vendre. Infinitives in French end in -er, -ir or -re.)

Structurally and analytically, to form the present tense of an -re verb:

- take the infinitive
- remove the ending -re
- add the first, second and third person endings, singular and plural.

These endings are:

je s nous ons
tu s vous ez
il/elle/on - ils/elles ent

So, the full present tense of the verb 'vendre' is:

je vends nous vendons
tu vends vous vendez
il/elle/on vend ils/elles vendent

- Note: the endings -s, -s, and -ent are silent. The only endings in the present tense of -re verbs which can be heard are the first and second persons plural (-ons and -ez).

Irregular verbs

Unfortunately, a number of verbs are irregular, and, equally unfortunately, they tend to be ones which are commonly used. This is not a case of French being awkward - it's the same in all languages. Think of the present tense of the verb 'to be' in English, for example.

This section gives the full present tense of the irregular verbs which appear in the MLPS course outline. In most cases, teachers will not actually be using the full present tense, but they are included for reference - and for security!

aller: to go

je vais	nous allons
tu vas	vous allez
il/elle/on va	ils/elles vont

appeler: to call

j'appelle
tu appelles
il/elle/on appelle

nous appelons
vous appelez
ils/elles appellent

avoir: to have

j'ai
tu as
il/elle/on a

nous avons
vous avez
ils/elles ont

commencer: to begin, to start, to commence

je commence
tu commences
il/elle/on commence

nous commençons
vous commencez
ils/elles commencent

écrire: to write

j'écris
tu écris
il/elle/on écrit

nous écrivons
vous écrivez
ils/elles écrivent

enlever: to take off

j'enlève
tu enlèves
il/elle/on enlève

nous enlevons
vous enlevez
ils/elles enlèvent

faire: to do, to make (also used in third person singular for some weather expressions)

je fais
tu fais
il/elle/on fait

nous faisons
vous faites
ils/elles font

lire: to read

je lis
tu lis
il/elle/on lit

nous lisons
vous lisez
ils/elles lisent

mettre: to put, to place

je mets
tu mets
il/elle/on met

nous mettons
vous mettez
ils/elles mettent

ouvrir: to open

j'ouvre	nous ouvrons
tu ouvres	vous ouvrez
il/elle/on ouvre	ils/elles ouvrent

pouvoir: to be able (and therefore expresses 'can', ie being physically able to)

je peux	nous pouvons
tu peux	vous pouvez
il/elle/on peut	ils/elles peuvent

préférer: to prefer

je préfère	nous préférons
tu préfères	vous préférez
il/elle/on préfère	ils/elles préfèrent

venir: to come

je viens	nous venons
tu viens	vous venez
il/elle/on vient	ils/elles viennent

voir: to see

je vois	nous voyons
tu vois	vous voyez
il/elle/on voit	ils/elles voient

'geler': to freeze

Generally used in the third person singular, 'il gèle': 'it's freezing'.

The interrogative (question form)

There are three ways to construct a question:

- use 'est-ce que' before the affirmative form
- invert the subject and the verb, ie turn subject and verb around so that the verb comes first
- use a raised intonation at the end of the statement, thus turning it into a question.

The interrogative by using est-ce que

Literally, this expression means 'is it that?' This formula can be used in English, though it is a bit clumsy. 'Is it that the sun is a vast cloud of hydrogen?' is a perfectly understandable question, though one not likely to be encountered often!

In French, the simplest and very frequently used way of formulating a question is to put 'est-ce que' in front of the verb form. For example: 'Est-ce que tu regardes le livre, Michel?': 'Are you looking at the book, Michael?'

- *Remember: in front of a vowel, the expression will be abbreviated: 'Est-ce qu'il pleut?': 'Is it raining?'

The interrogative by using inversion

This can also be done in English.

'Stands the church clock at ten to three? And is there honey still for tea?'

Inversion in French can only be used when the subject is a pronoun. When that is the case, simply invert the verb - put the subject pronoun after the verb.

'Regardes-tu le livre, Michel?': 'Are you looking at the book, Michael?'

'Regardez-vous les livres, les enfants?': 'Are you looking at your books, children?'

- However, you cannot invert the first person singular form. You must always use 'est-ce que' with 'je'.

For example, 'Est-ce que je signe ici?': 'Do I sign here?'

- Note also, with 'il', 'elle' and 'on' you must insert the letter 't' for ease of pronunciation. It also stays in the written form.
 - 'Regarde-t-il?'
 - 'Regarde-t-elle?'
 - 'Regarde-t-on?'

The interrogative by intonation

This formula for asking a question is also very frequently used. It is only applicable in spoken form, though it will appear in dialogue in novels. It simply means that a normal statement is turned into a question by raising the voice at the end.

Note that raising the voice does not mean increasing the volume; it is an upturn in the stress pattern of the sentence which turns the statement into a question.

The negative

To make a verb negative, the particles 'ne' and 'pas' are placed around the verb. For example:

'Je ne vais pas en ville': 'I'm not going into town'

Nothing can come between the verb and 'pas' except a subject pronoun when the verb is in the interrogative form. For example,

'Ne regardez-vous pas le match de football?': 'Aren't you watching the football match?'

- In speech the 'ne' is often elided or omitted completely, particularly by younger people and children. It is never omitted formally.

Remember that 'ne' will be shortened to 'n' before a vowel.

The immediate future

This tense is so called because it implies that something is going to be done or is going to happen in the near future, rather than at some indeterminate point in the future.

'I'm going to wash the dishes' is more immediate than 'I will wash the dishes'.

Nonetheless, it can be used with reference to events which are a long way away: 'At Christmas I'm going to Canada.'

In English, and in French, the immediate future is formed by using the present tense of the verb 'to go' - 'aller' - followed immediately by an infinitive.

'Je vais regarder la télévision.': 'I'm going to watch television.'

'Nous allons aller en France.': 'We're going to go to France.'

In this construction, the infinitive never changes.

Note that the present tense can be used to express futurity if it is accompanied by an appropriate adverb or adverbial expression.

If, for example, you are travelling by train, it is 5 pm, and you say 'on arrive à six heures', you are expressing futurity although you are using the present tense.

The imperative mood (commands)

The imperative exists basically in three forms - second person singular and plural, and first person plural -though the latter might be considered an exhortation rather than a command.

To form the imperative, take the second person singular and plural forms of the present tense and omit the 'tu' and the 'vous'. Do likewise with the first person plural form, omitting the 'nous'.

Some examples

'vous allez' - 'you are going'

'allez!' - 'go!'

'vous regardez' - 'you are looking at'

'regardez!' - 'look at...!'

Note: in addition, in the written form, omit the final 's' of the second person singular of -er verbs, or verbs which are conjugated like -er verbs. Thus: the present tense form is 'tu regardes': 'you are looking at'; the imperative is 'regarde!': 'look at!'

'nous regardons' - 'we are looking at...'

'regardons!' - 'let's look at...!'

Some useful imperative forms

Singular form	Plural form
colorie: colour (in)	coloriez: colour (in)
dessine: draw	dessinez: draw
écoute: listen	écoutez: listen
écris: write	écrivez: write
enlève: take off	enlevez: take off
ferme: close, shut	fermez: close, shut
mets: put	mettez: put
montre: show	montrez: show
montre-moi: show me	montrez-moi: show me
ouvre: open	ouvrez: open
pose: put, place	posez: put, place
regarde: look (at)	regardez: look (at)
sois: be	soyez: be
sois sage: be good	soyez sages: be good

Nouns, articles and adjectives

Nouns

'Nouns are the types of words which give the names of things, people, places, happenings and ideas ... Nouns can be **singular** (referring to one thing) or **plural** (referring to many). (Language into Languages Teaching, University of Glasgow, Scottish Executive Education Department, 2001)

All nouns in French are either masculine or feminine. In some other languages, including English, nouns can also be neuter.

In English the situation has more or less resolved itself into the use of the masculine for male humans or animals, feminine for female humans or animals, and neuter for objects or things. But things are not quite as simple as they seem. For example, in English we readily say:

'Look at that child. It's going to run across the road.'

'The ship is on time. She will arrive at noon.'

In French, nouns which refer to objects or things are either masculine or feminine.

Nouns which refer to male humans or animals are, as in English, masculine; nouns which refer to female humans or animals are feminine.

Some exceptions

- Even though a teacher may be a woman, the correct term is 'le professeur'. There is some debate about whether or not a female doctor should be referred to as 'Madame le médecin'. If a woman is elected mayor ('mayoress?'), the traditional form of address is 'Madame le Maire'. Many nouns denoting occupations or characteristics originally associated with men are still masculine even when applied to women, though, as you might expect, some sections of modern French society are not happy with that situation.
- **Note:** when referring to the gender of nouns, the correct grammatical terms must be used. They are masculine and feminine. It is not correct to refer to nouns as male and female, which are terms from biology, botany and zoology, not grammar.

Plurals

The general rule is to add an 's', as in English. There are, however, exceptions. Some words which have irregular plurals are:

animal animaux
armoire de pharmacie armoires de pharmacie

armoires de toilette	armoires de toilette
bureau	bureaux
cheval	chevaux
gâteau	gâteaux
genou	genoux
grand-mère	grandes-mères (recommended thus by the Académie)
grand-père	grands-pères
hôpital	hôpitaux
lave-vaisselle	lave-vaisselle (invariable)
Madame	Mesdames
Mademoiselle	Mesdemoiselles
Monsieur	Messieurs
nez	nez (invariable)
nom de famille	noms de famille
rendezvous	rendezvous (invariable)
rez de chaussée	rez de chaussée (invariable)
salle à manger	salles à manger
salle de bains	salles de bains
salle de séjour	salles de séjour
table de nuit	tables de nuit
taille-crayon	taille-crayons
taureau	taureaux
terrain de football	terrains de football
terrain de golf	terrains de golf
veau	veaux

Are there any rules?

It can be observed that there are certain rules, but it is not necessary to develop the rules fully at this stage.

Some, simply stated, are:

- nouns ending in -s, -x or -z in the singular do not change in the plural
- nouns ending in -al in the singular change to -aux in the plural
- nouns ending in -au, -eau or -eu in the singular take an 'x' in the plural.

Articles

“ ‘The’ and ‘a’ are ... called the definite article (the) and the indefinite article (a, an). In modern grammar, both are called determiners.’ (Language into

Languages Teaching, University of Glasgow, Scottish Executive Education Department, 2001)

The definite article is the word 'the' in English.

In French, the definite article is 'le' if the noun is masculine and 'la' if the noun is feminine.

Both of these are shortened to 'l' if the noun begins with a vowel, to make pronunciation easier.

'Le', 'la' and 'l' all become 'les' if the noun is plural.

The contracted forms of the definite article

In French, you cannot use 'à' together with the definite article 'le' or 'les'. Instead, the two words contract to form 'au' ('à' + 'le') and 'aux' ('à' + 'les'), both meaning 'to the'.

Similarly, you cannot use de together with the definite article 'le' or 'les'. Instead, the two words contract to form 'du' ('de' + 'le') and 'des' ('de' + 'les'), both meaning 'of the'.

The indefinite article

The indefinite article in English is 'a', 'an' or 'some'.

In French, the indefinite article is 'un' if the noun is masculine and 'une' if the noun is feminine.

'Un' and 'une' become 'des' if the noun is plural.

- However, if the plural noun is preceded by an adjective, 'des' is shortened to 'de'. For example, 'un jardin' becomes 'des jardins' in the plural.

If there is an adjective, 'un beau jardin' becomes 'de beaux jardins' in the plural.

Non-omission of the article

The article can be omitted in English. For example, we can say 'I love cakes'. In French, the article cannot normally be omitted. Therefore, if we wish to express in French the sentence 'I love cakes', we have to decide whether the speaker means 'I love (all) cakes' or 'I love (some) cakes'. If we agree that the statement is a general statement referring to 'all cakes', then in French we would use the definite article and the sentence becomes: 'J'adore les gâteaux'.

If we were to say: 'J'adore des gâteaux', it would mean that the speaker loves some, but not all, cakes.

- Note that, in expressions such as 'beaucoup de', the 'de' is invariable, and an article is not used. Therefore, we say 'beaucoup de crayons'.

Adjectives

'Adjectives qualify nouns, that is give us more detail about them. A noun such as 'man' is nondescript, but if we add words (to) the noun, a transformation occurs.' (Language into Languages Teaching, University of Glasgow, Scottish Executive Education Department, 2001)

Adjectives are used to describe, or in grammatical terms to qualify, nouns and other expressions.

In English, adjectives precede the noun unless for special effects.

In French, the general rule is that most adjectives follow the noun.

However, the commonly used and generally short adjectives precede nouns. Adjectives which precede the noun are:

- beau/belle
- bon/bonne
- ce/cette/ces
- grand
- gros/grosse
- joli/jolie
- mauvais/mauvaise
- petit/petite
- quel/quelle
- vieux/vieille

In addition, all of the possessive adjectives such as 'mon/ma/mes' naturally precede the noun.

Agreement of the adjective

Adjectives agree with the noun which they qualify. If a noun is feminine singular, the adjective which qualifies it must be made feminine singular. If a noun is masculine plural, any adjective in agreement must also be masculine plural.

The form of the adjective which appears in a dictionary is the masculine singular form. If an adjective has an irregularly formed feminine, that is usually given too - hence, 'beau/belle' above.

To make the adjective feminine, add 'e' to the masculine singular. If the masculine singular already ends in -e, do not add anything. 'Adorable' is both the masculine singular and the feminine singular form.

To make the adjective masculine plural, add -s to the masculine singular. (But note the comments on forming plurals earlier.)

To make the adjective feminine plural, add -es to the masculine singular.

Irregular adjectives

Here are some adjectives which have irregular feminines:

Masculine singular Feminine singular

actif	active
beau	belle
blanc	blanche
bon	bonne
ce	cette
gros	grosse
mignon	mignonne
paresseux	paresseuse
quel	quelle
quel	quelle
vieux	vieille

Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives are the words 'my', 'your', 'his/her' etc in English. In French they too have to agree with the noun. They are arranged here as first, second and third person, singular and plural.

- Note that the plural forms are both masculine and feminine.

Masculine singular Feminine singular Plural English translation

mon	ma	mes	my
ton	ta	tes	your
son	sa	ses	his, her, one's
notre	notre	nos	our
votre	votre	vos	your
leur	leur	leurs	their

Date, numbers and weather

Days of the week

The days of the week are all masculine.

They are:

dimanche	Sunday
lundi	Monday
mardi	Tuesday
mercredi	Wednesday
jeudi	Thursday
vendredi	Friday
samedi	Saturday

- Note that they do not start with a capital letter unless they appear at the beginning of a sentence.

To say 'on Sunday', you do not use a preposition in French. 'On Sunday' is 'dimanche'.

'Every Sunday' is 'tous les dimanches'.

Months of the year

The months of the year are all masculine.

They are:

janvier	January
février	February
mars	March
avril	April
mai	May
juin	June
juillet	July
août	August
septembre	September
octobre	October
novembre	November
décembre	December

- Note that they do not start with a capital letter unless they appear at the beginning of a sentence.

To say 'in' with a month, you use the expression 'au mois de' - literally, 'in the month of'. Therefore, 'in January' is 'au mois de janvier'. You can also use 'en', and so you can say 'en janvier'.

The date

Apart from 'le premier' ('the first'), ordinal numbers* are not used for dates. Instead, cardinal numbers are used. There is no word for 'of' when giving the date in French. Thus:

'le premier mars'

'le deux mars'

'le dix-sept mars'

'le trente mars' etc.

To say 'on' with a date, simply use the forms given above. French does not use a word for 'on' in expressions which give the date. Thus, 'le premier avril' can also mean 'on the first of April'.

* **Note:** Cardinal numbers are 'one', 'two', 'three', etc. Ordinal numbers are 'first', 'second', 'third', etc.

Numbers

Numbers are of two kinds:

- cardinal - giving the number of articles in question (one, two, three, etc)
- ordinal - giving the place of each article in numerical order (first, second, third, etc)

Cardinal numbers

zero - 0	dix - 10	vingt - 20	trente - 30
un/une - 1	onze - 11	vingt et un - 21	trente et un - 31
deux - 2	douze - 12	vingt-deux - 22	trente-deux - 32
trois - 3	treize - 13	vingt-trois - 23	quarante etc - 40
quatre - 4	quatorze - 14	vingt-quatre - 24	cinquante etc - 50
cinq - 5	quinze - 15	vingt-cinq - 25	soixante etc - 60
six - 6	seize - 16	vingt-six - 26	soixante-six - 66
sept - 7	dix-sept - 17	vingt-sept - 27	
huit - 8	dix-huit - 18	vingt-huit - 28	
neuf - 9	dix-neuf - 19	vingt-neuf - 29	

soixante-dix - 70	quatre-vingts - 80
soixante et onze - 71	quatre-vingt-un - 81
soixante-douze - 72	quatre-vingt-deux - 82
soixante-treize - 73	quatre-vingt-trois - 83
soixante-quatorze - 74	quatre-vingt-quatre - 84
soixante-quinze - 75	quatre-vingt-cinq - 85
soixante-seize - 76	quatre-vingt-six - 86
soixante-dix-sept - 77	quatre-vingt-sept - 87
soixante-dix-huit - 78	quatre-vingt-huit - 88
soixante-dix-neuf - 79	quatre-vingt-neuf - 89

quatre-vingt-dix - 90	cent - 100
quatre-vingt-onze - 91	cent un - 101
quatre-vingt-douze - 92	cent deux etc - 102 etc
quatre-vingt-treize - 93	mille - 1000
quatre-vingt-quatorze - 94	mille un - 1001
quatre-vingt-quinze - 95	mille cinq cents - 1500
quatre-vingt-seize - 96	mille cinq cent dix-neuf - 1519
quatre-vingt-dix-sept - 97	deux mille - 2000
quatre-vingt-dix-huit - 98	un million - 1 000 000
quatre-vingt-dix-neuf - 99	

Ordinal numbers (from 1st - 10th)

premier/premiere (can be abbreviated to '1er/1ère') - first

deuxième (2e) - second

troisième (3e) - third

quatrième (4e) - fourth

cinquième (5e) - fifth

septième (7e) - seventh

huitième (8e) - eighth

neuvième (9e) - ninth

dixième (10e) - tenth

Notes on numbers

- A hyphen is used between the numbers when they are used to build up in the teens, twenties etc, but not for 21, 31, 41, 51, 61 and 71.
- In these numbers the word 'et' without hyphens joins the two numbers; thus: 'vingt et un', 'trente et un', 'quarante et un', 'cinquante et un', 'soixante et un' and 'soixante et onze'.

- From 60, the numbers 1 to 19 are used to build up from 61 to 79, and from 80 they are used to build up from 81 to 99.
- 'Quatre-vingts' is 80, and has a final 's' - just like 'four twenties'.
- From then on, when 'quatre-vingt' is followed by another number in the building up process, there is no 's', nor is there an 'et' at 81 or 91. Thus, 'quatre-vingt-un', 'quatre-vingt-cing', 'quatre-vingt-dix', 'quatre-vingt-onze', 'quatre-vingt-douze'.
- From 100, there is no hyphen or 'et' between the word 'cent' and the next number, but the previous rules still hold with the numbers used to build up from the hundred. Thus, 'cent', 'cent un', 'cent deux', 'cent dix-huit', 'cent quatre-vingt-dix-neuf'.
- 200, 300, 400, etc have an 's' on the 'cent', thus 'deux cents', 'trois cents' etc, but there is no 's' if another number follows. Thus, 'deux cents', but 'deux cent un'.
- 'Mille' meaning 'thousand' never has an 's'. Thus, 'deux mille'. If you add an 's' and write 'deux milles', it means 'two miles'.
- The ordinal number most likely to be needed is 'first', which is premier/première. It is used in dates.
- Relax: how often do you ever need to write the numbers out in full?

Weather

The verb used with general weather statements is 'faire' in the third person singular.

Il fait beau.	It's fine weather, it's lovely weather.
Il fait mauvais.	It's bad weather.
Il fait chaud.	It's warm.
Il fait très chaud.	It's hot.
Il fait froid.	It's cold.
Il fait frais.	It's cool.
Il fait du soleil.	It's sunny.
Il fait du brouillard.	It's foggy.
Il fait du vent.	It's windy.
Il fait de la tempête.	It's blowing a gale.
Il fait de l'orage.	It's a thunderstorm.

Some verbs are used in their own right:

Il gèle.	It's freezing.
Il neige.	It's snowing.
Il pleut.	It's raining.