



The simple future

How it is formed, the irregular stems, and how not to confuse it with the conditional.

THE 5 RULES

1

Infinitive plus the endings of AVOIR

Take the infinitive and add -ai, -as, -a, -ons, -ez, -ont. Parler: je parlerai, tu parleras, il parlera, nous parlerons, vous parlerez, ils parleront. The endings are the present tense of avoir.

2

Verbs in -RE drop the E

Prendre: je prendrai · Attendre: j'attendrai · Écrire: j'écrirai · Dire: je dirai. Same rule as in the conditional.

3

The irregular stems are the conditional ones

être: je serai · avoir: j'aurai · aller: j'irai · faire: je ferai · voir: je verrai · pouvoir: je pourrai · vouloir: je voudrai · devoir: je devrai · venir: je viendrai.

4

One letter separates it from the conditional

Futur: je parlerai (I will speak) · Conditionnel: je parlerais (I would speak). One S, barely audible, that changes the whole meaning.

5

The near future: ALLER + infinitive

Spoken French often prefers the futur proche: Je vais partir (I'm going to leave) rather than Je partirai. Exactly your going to + verb.

Which future when

Futur proche (aller + infinitive): near, certain, conversational — Je vais manger.

Futur simple: further off, more formal, plans and promises — Je mangerai chez mes parents dimanche.

Written French favours the futur simple; spoken French favours the futur proche.

Both are correct — the difference lies in distance and register.

Future time expressions

Demain (tomorrow) · Après-demain (the day after tomorrow) · La semaine prochaine · L'année prochaine · Bientôt (soon)

Quand + future: Quand j'aurai le temps, je viendrai. English says "when I have time" with the present; French requires the future.

After QUAND for a future action, French uses the future — English uses the present. Classic mistake.