



# 50 ESSENTIAL VERBS FOR EVERYDAY FRENCH



***Learn smarter, not  
harder !***

In real life, you don't need to know every French verb to speak confidently and get by in everyday situations.

According to **the Pareto principle**, 20% of the verbs are used in 80% of daily conversations — and this guide gives you exactly those essential 20%.

These 50 verbs are **the most frequently used** in spoken French. Mastering them will allow you to express yourself in most real-life situations: at the bakery, at work, at the doctor's, with friends, on the phone...

- ✓ Clear examples
- ✓ English translations
- ✓ Real-life contexts

**Start with the verbs that matter. Speak French smarter.**



## THE SUPER ESSENTIALS

### 1. ETRE

Je **suis** prof. / Tu **es** prêt ?  
I am a teacher. / Are you ready?

### 2. AVOIR

Il **a** une voiture. / J'**ai** faim.  
He has a car. / I'm hungry.

### 3. FAIRE

Je **fais** du sport. / Tu **fais** quoi ?  
I do sports. / What are you doing?

### 4. ALLER

On **va** au marché ? / Je **vais** bien.

Are we going to the market? / I'm fine.

## 5. POUVOIR

Je **peux** t'aider ? / Tu **peux** venir ?

Can I help you ? / Can you come ?

## MODAL VERBS AND COMMON ACTIONS

## 6. VOULOIR

Je **veux** un café. / Tu **veux** sortir ?

I want a coffee. / Do you want to go out?



## 7. DIRE

Il **dit** toujours la vérité. / **Dis**-moi !

He always tells the truth. / Tell me!

## 8. DEVOIR

Je **dois** partir. / Tu **dois** faire attention.

I have to leave. / You must be careful.

## 9. PRENDRE

Je **prends** le train. / Tu **prends** quoi ?

I take the train. / What are you having?

## 10. METTRE

Je **mets** mon manteau. / **Mets** la table, s'il te plaît.

I put on my coat. / Set the table, please.

# UNDERSTANDING, MOVEMENT, COMMUNICATION

## 11. SAVOIR

Je ne **sais** pas. / Tu **sais** nager ?  
I don't know. / Can you swim?

## 12. VOIR

Tu **vois** la différence ? / J'ai **vu** ça hier.  
Do you see the difference? / I saw that yesterday.

## 13. VENIR

Tu **viens** ? / Elle est **venue** avec nous.  
Are you coming? / She came with us.



## 14. FALLOIR

Il **faut** parler. / Il **faut** un visa ?  
It is necessary to speak. / Do you need a visa?

## 15. DONNER

**Donne**-moi ça ! / Il m'a **donné** son numéro.  
Give me that! / He gave me his number.

# SPEAKING, LOVING, THINKING...

## 16. PARLER

Je **parle** français. / Tu **parles** de quoi ?  
I speak French. / What are you talking about?

## 17. AIMER

J'**aime** le fromage. / Tu **aimes** voyager ?  
I like cheese. / Do you like to travel?

## 18.PASSER

Je **passe** chez toi. / Le temps **passe** vite.  
I'm coming by your place. / Time flies.

## 19.CROIRE

Je **crois** que oui. / Tu **crois** en toi ?  
I think so. / Do you believe in yourself ?

## 20.TROUVER

Tu **trouves** ça normal ? / J'ai **trouvé** la solution.  
Do you find that normal? / I found the solution.



## ASKING, HOLDING, STAYING...

## 21. DEMANDER

Je **demande** l'addition. / Tu peux **demander** ?  
I ask for the bill. / Can you ask?

## 22.TENIR

**Tiens** bien ! / Je **tiens** à toi.  
Hold tight! / I care about you.

## 23. COMPRENDRE

Je ne **comprends** pas. / Tu **comprends** cette règle ?  
I don't understand. / Do you understand this rule?

## 24. RESTER

Je **reste** à la maison. / **Reste** avec moi.  
I'm staying at home. / Stay with me.

## 25. ENTENDRE

T'as **entendu** ça ? / J'**entends** rien.

Did you hear that? / I don't hear

anything. **REACTIONS AND**

## **FEEDBACK**

## 26. RÉPONDRE

**Réponds** à la question. / Elle m'a **répondu**.

Answer the question. / She answered me.

## 27. RENDRE

**Rends-moi** mes clés ! / Ça me **rend** heureux.

Give me back my keys! / That makes me happy.



**pense** que oui. What are you thinking about? / I think so.

## 28. CONNAÎTRE

Tu **connais** ce film ? / Je **connais** bien Paris. Do you know this movie? / I know Paris well.

## **GOING OUT, READING, WRITING...**

## 29. ARRIVER

Il **arrive** ! / Je suis **arrivé** en retard.

He is arriving! / I arrived late.

## 31. SORTIR

On **sort** ce soir ? / Il est **sorti** du bureau. Are we going out tonight? / He left the office.

## 30. PENSER

Tu **penses** à quoi ? / Je

## 32. PARTIR

Je **pars** demain. / Tu **pars** déjà ?

I'm leaving tomorrow. / Are

you leaving already?

### 33. LIRE

Je **lis** un roman. / Tu aimes ?

**lire** ?

I'm reading a novel. / Do you like reading?

like reading?



### 34. ÉCRIRE

Il **écrit** un email. / Tu m'**écris**

He is writing an email. / Are

you writing to me?

### 35. TRAVAILLER

Je **travaille** demain. / Tu **travailles** dans quoi ?

### WAITING, OPENING, CALLING.....

### 36. ATTENDRE

**Attends-moi** ! / Je t'**attends** depuis 1h.

Wait for me! / I've been waiting for you for 1 hour.

### 37. OUVRIR

**Ouvre** la fenêtre. / C'est **ouvert** ?

Open the window. / Is it open?

### 38. APPELER

**Appelle-moi** ! / Je m'**appelle** Muriel.

Call me! / My name is Muriel.

### 39. VIVRE

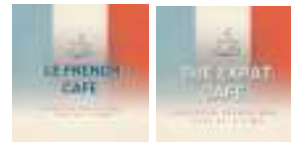
Je **vis** à Lyon. / Tu **vis** bien ?

I live in Lyon. / Are you living well?

### 40. JOUER

Il **joue** au foot. / Tu **joues** d'un instrument ?  
He plays soccer. / Do you play an instrument?

Come in! / He came in.



## SHOWING, ENTERING, WALKING...

### 41. MONTRER

**Montre-moi** ! / Tu peux me **montrer** ? Show me! / Can you show me?

### 42. COMPTER

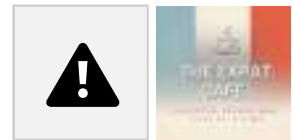
Je **compte** sur toi. / Tu sais **compter** ? I'm counting on you. / Can you count?

### 43. MARCHER

Je **marche** beaucoup. / Ça **marche** ? I walk a lot. / Does it work?

### 44. ENTRER

**Entre** ! / Il est **entré**.



### 45. PORTER

Je **porte** une robe. / Tu **portes** ça souvent ? I'm wearing a dress. / Do you wear that often?

## EXPLAINING, TRYING, USING...

### 46. EXPLIQUER

Tu peux **expliquer** ? / Il a bien **expliqué**. Can you explain? / He explained well.

### 47. REPRENDRE

On **reprend** ? / J'ai **repris** mon travail. Shall we start again? / I resumed my work.

### 48. ESSAYER

**Essaie** encore ! / Je vais **essayer**.  
Try again! / I will try.

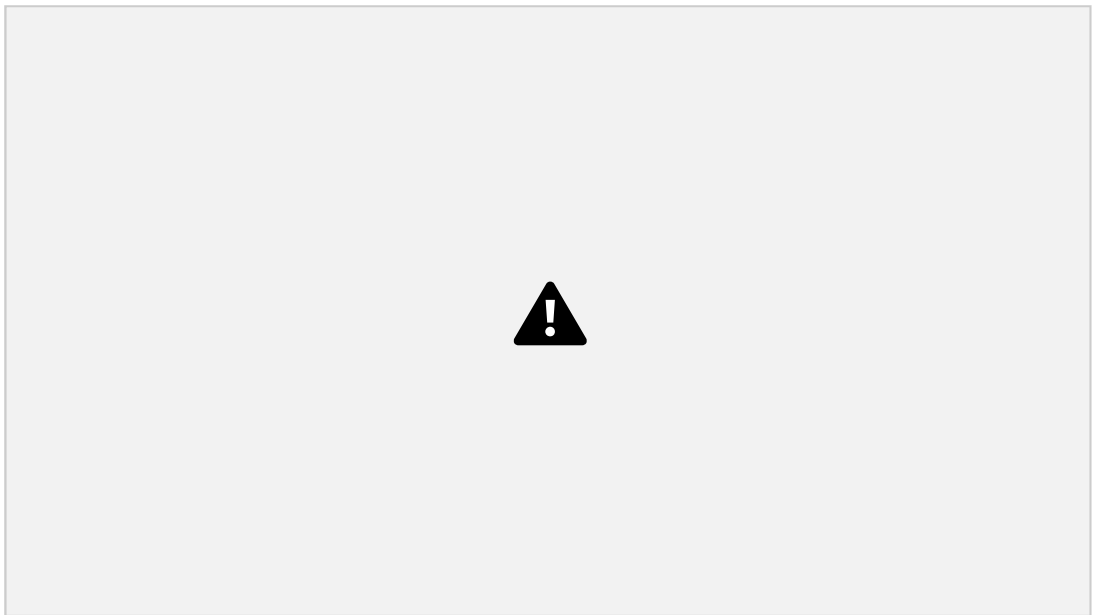
### 49. UTILISER

Tu sais **utiliser** ce truc ? / Je l'**utilise** tous les jours.  
Do you know how to use this thing? / I use it every day.

## 50. GARDER

**Garde** le ticket. / Je **garde** ça pour toi.  
Keep the ticket. / I keep this for you.

Watch the video : [here](#)



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## Want to improve faster ?

Feeling stuck with your French ? You're putting in the effort, but not seeing results. The problem ? You're not focusing on the 20% of French you actually use 80% of the time. Let's cut the fluff and learn what truly matters — so you can finally make real progress.

My method is:

based on the **Pareto Principle** (20/80) : 20% of the language covers 80% of daily interactions.

designed for expats

focused on spoken French, not textbook French

practical, friendly, and stress-free

◆◆ Learn at your own pace, from home, with real-life examples and guidance.

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**Have questions or want to share your experience ?** Feel free to reach out: [murielfrenchteacher@gmail.com](mailto:murielfrenchteacher@gmail.com)