My Guide to French Verbs.

Name _____

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Present Tense Regular Verbs

Complete the grids for regular -er, -ir and -re verbs.

-er regarder

je		*nous*	
tu		*vous*	
il		*ils*	
elle		*elles*	

-ir finir

je		*nous*	
tu		*vous*	
il		*ils*	
elle		*elles*	

-re attendre

je		*nous*	
tu		*vous*	
il		*ils*	
elle		*elles*	

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Present Tense Irregular Verbs

Some important irregular present tense verbs:

Infinitive	English	je	il/elle	vous	ils/elles
boire					
acheter					
connaître					
croire					
devoir					
dire					
dormir					
écrire					
faire					
mettre					
partir					
pouvoir					
prendre					
voir					
venir					
vouloir					

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The Perfect Tense

This is used to refer to one completed action in the past. eg I went into town on Friday.
It uses the present tense of *avoir* or *être* and the *past participle*.

Perfect tense with avoir

je		*nous*	
tu		*vous*	
il		*ils*	
elle		*elles*	

Regular past participles

To get the past participle of regular verbs used with avoir:

- verbs ending -er - take off -er and add -é, eg parlé (spoke)
- verbs ending -ir - take off -ir and add -i, eg choisi (chose)
- verbs ending -re - take off -re and add -u, eg vendu (sold)

Irregular past participles

Infinitive	English	Past participle
avoir		
boire		
comprendre		
connaître		
croire		
devoir		
dire		
écrire		
être		

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faire		
lire		
mettre		
ouvrir		
pouvoir		
prendre		
savoir		
voir		
vouloir		

Perfect tense with être.

je		*nous*	
tu		*vous*	
il		*ils*	
elle		*elles*	

These verbs use être to form the perfect tense

	Infinitive	English	Past Participle
M	monter		
R	retourner		
S	sortir		
V	venir		
A	arriver		
N	naître		

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D	descendre		
E	entrer		
R	rester		
T	tomber		
R	rentrer		
A	aller		
M	mourir		
p	partir		

The past participle of these verbs has to agree with the subject of the sentence

- add -e to the past participle for feminine singular --> allée
- add -s for masculine plural --> allés
- add -es for feminine plural --> allées

So the perfect tense of aller (to go) is:

- je suis allé(e)
- tu es allé(e)
- il est allé
- elle est allée
- on est allé(e)(s)
- nous sommes allé(e)s
- vous êtes allé(e)(s)
- ils sont allés
- elles sont allées

The Imperfect Tense

This is used to describe things in the past and talk about things that used to happen. Eg we used to eat ice cream.

It is formed using the nous form of the present tense
Take off the –ons and add the imperfect endings

Endings:

je		*nous*	
tu		*vous*	
il		*ils*	
elle		*elles*	

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Imperfect Tense Irregulars:

Être

j'étais	nous étions
tu étais	vous étiez
il/elle/on était	ils/elles étaient

Verbs like manger: add an extra -e before -a, -o, -u.
Nous mangeons = je mangeais
Verbs like commencer: the last -c becomes -ç before -a, -o, -u.
Nous commençons = je commençais

The Immediate Future Tense

This is formed using the auxiliary verb *aller* (an irregular verb!) and the infinitive.

Je vais regarder la télévision ce soir (I'm going to watch TV tonight)

Aller

je		*nous*	
tu		*vous*	
il		*ils*	
elle		*elles*	

The Future Tense

This is formed using the stem and the following endings:

je		*nous*	
tu		*vous*	
il		*ils*	
elle		*elles*	

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To get the stem:
With regular -er and -ir vebs it is the infinitive of the verb:
Regarder --> je regarderai (I will watch)
Finir --> je finirai (I will finish)
With regular -re verbs, take the final -e off the infinitive and add the endings:
Prendre --> je prendrai (I will take)

Irregular stems:

Infinitive	English	Stem	je
aller			
avoir			
être			
faire			
pouvoir			
devoir			
savoir			
venir			
voir			
vouloir			

The Conditional Tense

Future stem with imperfect endings

je		*nous*	
tu		*vous*	
il		*ils*	
elle		*elles*	

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