

LES VERBES DU DEUXIEME GROUPE (IR) / French VERBS OF THE 2ND GROUP

Goal: By the end of this lesson, you should be able to conjugate the French verbs of the 2nd group in the present simple.

Several months ago, in Week 3 – Leçon 1, we learned how to conjugate the verbs of the 1st group, also called ER verbs [because their infinitive forms end in ER – except for the verb ALLER, which belongs to the 3rd group]. Now, it's time to study the verbs of the 2nd group.

We can call the verbs of the 2nd group IR verbs, but let's be a little careful here when using this expression because some verbs in the 3rd group also end in IR such as the verb vêtir (to dress). But you can without any risk of being wrong affirm that ALL verbs in the 2nd group end in IR, while in the 3rd group, they can have many more different endings. But we will study this last group another time.

Tip: As a rule of thumb, you differentiate 2nd group verbs from 3rd group verbs by looking at their present participles. Those of the 2nd group will end in ISSANT (as in finISSANT for finir) while those of the 3rd one will end in ANT (as in vêtANT for vêtir)

To master the IR verbs in the simple present, you should only memorize 6 endings:
is – is – it – issons – issez – issent

Examples:

Choisir (To choose)

Je chois IS	Nous chois ISSONS
Tu chois IS	Vous chois ISSEZ
Il/Elle chois IT	Ils/Elles chois ISSENT

Bâtir (To build)

Je bât IS	Nous bât ISSONS
Tu bât IS	Vous bât ISSEZ
Il/Elle bat IT	Ils/Elles bât ISSENT

Finir (To finish)

Je fin IS	Nous fin ISSONS
Tu fin IS	Vous fin ISSEZ
Il/Elle fin IT	Ils/Elles fin ISSENT

Now it's your turn! Based on the previous examples, will you be able to conjugate Punir (to punish) and Périr (to perish). Visit <http://frenchtasticpeople.com/exercises.html> for more practice. Merci!