

LEÇON 1: LES PRONOMS PERSONNELS SUJETS

Goal: By the end of this lesson, you should be able to know (mostly by memorization, sorry 😊) all the 6 *pronoms personnels* in French.

Is there anything wrong with these 2 sentences in English: “**is going to Paris**”? And this one: “**drank water**”. Obviously, something is definitely missing in both sentences. Can you guess what? Yes, you’re right: they have no SUBJECTS and you feel tempted to ask “Who drank water?”, “Who is going to Paris?” In French, either, you just can’t say: “**s’en va à Paris**” or “**a bu de l’eau**”. They will sound incomplete and somebody will be tempted to ask: “Qui s’en va à Paris?” “Qui a bu de l’eau?” (Qui=Who). That’s why we will begin our first chapter by **Les Pronoms Personnels (Sujets)** (subject pronouns/personal pronouns), which are one of the basic components of a sentence. They are inevitable, so we should study them first. (**Future lessons will be made on the assumption that you already know them!**).

	Les Pronoms Personnels Singuliers	Singular Subject Pronouns	Pronombres Personales Singulares
1ère personne	Je	I	Yo
2ème personne	Tu	You	Tú – Usted
3è personne	Il / Elle (Masc/Feminine sing.)	He/She/It	Él/Ella
	Les Pronoms Personnels Pluriels	Plural Subject Pronouns	Pronombres Personales Plurales
1ère personne	Nous	We	Nosotros
2ème personne	Vous	You	Vosotros – Ustedes
3è personne	Ils / Elles (masc. /feminine plural)	They	Ellos/Ellas

Un exemple

Je parle français. (I speak French/ (Yo) hablo francés)

Tu parles français (You speak French/ (Tú) hablas francés)

Il/Elle parle français. (He/She speaks French. (Él/Ella) habla francés)

Nous parlons français. (We speak French/ (Nosotros) hablamos francés)

Vous parlez français. (You speak French/(Vosotros) habláis francés)

Ils parlent français. (They speak French/ (Ellos/Ellas) hablan francés)

Here are some very important things you want to know about les *Pronoms Personnels* (sujets) (adding *sujets* can be optional).

- 1- We call them *pronoms personnels* (*personal pronouns*) simply because they replace actual *noms* (*nouns*). Lola boit du café. (Lola drinks coffee). Elle boit du café. (She drinks coffee). Elle (pronom personnel) replaces the actual nom Lola. That's why it is called a pronom. It **replaces** a nom.
- 2- Always use **VOUS** instead of **TU** in French when talking to
 - a- someone of greater status (job, authority, age, etc)
 - b- someone you don't know (as a sign of respect and modesty)
 - c- in formal situations (when writing a letter to the president, for example)
- 3- When **TU** is the subject of a sentence (as in example above "Tu parle**S** français"), make sure you add s at the end of that verb. It works for ANY verb, and for ANY tense.
- 4- When **NOUS** is the subject of a sentence (as in example above "Nous parl**ONS** français"), make sure you add ons at the end of that verb. [The verb "être" (to be) at the present tense + le passé simple (tense) are the only exceptions].
- 5- When **VOUS** is the subject of a sentence (as in example above "Vous parl**EZ** français"), make sure you add ez at the end of that verb. Of all 17 tenses in French, there is only 1 exception to this rule. [The verb "être" (to be) at the present tense + le passé simple (tense) are the only exceptions].
- 6- When **ILS/ELLES** are the subjects of a sentence (as in example above "Ils/Elles parl**ENT** français"), make sure you add ent (or sometimes ont) at the end of that verb. It's either one of these endings for ANY tense in French.

Well, that's the end of **Week 1-Leçon 1**! Perhaps you may want to spend just another 5-10 minutes and make sure you've mastered these important **pronoms personnels**. Now, it's time to practice! Please visit <http://frenchtasticpeople.com/exercices.html> to download your exercises. Thanks!