**Overview of language in ‘first encounter’ verb resources  
French: 25 most common (or ‘highest frequency’) verbs**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Infinitive** | **English** | **Short form** | **English** | **Short form sentence** | **English** | **Infinitive sentence** | **English** |
| être | to be | being | est | is | Elle est sportive. | She is sporty. | Elle aime être sportive. | She likes being sporty. |
| avoir | to have | having | a | has | Il a un animal. | He has an animal. | Il aime avoir un animal. | He likes having an animal. |
| faire | to do | doing | fait | does | is doing | Zara fait le lit. | Zara makes |  is making the bed. | Zara aime faire le lit. | Zara likes making the bed. |
| aller | to go | going | va | goes | is going | Elle va en ville. | She goes |  is going to town. | Elle aime aller en ville. | She likes going to town. |
| trouver | to find | finding | trouve | finds | is finding | Amélie trouve la solution. | Amélie finds |  is finding the solution. | Amélie aime trouver la solution. | Amélie likes finding the solution. |
| venir | to come | coming | vient | comes | is coming | On vient ici. | One comes |  We come here. | On aime venir ici. | We like coming here. |
| passer | to pass | spend (time), passing | spending (time) | passe | passes | spends, is passing | is spending | Elle passe une semaine. | She spends |  is spending a week. | Elle aime passer une semaine. | She likes spending a week. |
| donner | to give | giving | donne | gives | is giving | On donne beaucoup. | We give |  are giving a lot. | On aime donner beaucoup. | We like giving a lot. |
| dire | to tell | say,  telling | saying | dit | says | tells,  is saying | is telling | Il dit la vérité. | He tells |  is telling the truth. | Il aime dire la vérité. | He likes telling the truth. |
| prendre | to take | taking | prend | takes | is taking | Chantal prend le train. | Chantal takes |  is taking the train. | Chantal aime prendre le train. | Chantal likes taking the train. |
| mettre | to put | putting | met | puts | is putting | Nicolas met la chemise. | Nicolas puts on |  is putting on the shirt. | Nicolas aime mettre la chemise. | Nicolas likes putting on the shirt. |
| porter | to wear, carry | wearing, carrying | porte | wears, carries | is wearing, is carrying | Il porte une chemise. Elle porte un sac. | He wears | is wearing a shirt. She carries | is carrying a bag. | Il aime porter une chemise. Elle aime porter un sac. | He likes wearing a shirt. She likes carrying a bag. |
| demander | to ask | asking | demande | asks | is asking | On demande la raison. | One asks |  We ask the reason. | Demander la raison est important. | Asking the reason is important. |
| rester | to stay | staying | reste | stays | is staying | Eric reste un jour. | Eric stays | is staying one day. | Eric aime rester un jour. | Eric likes staying one day. |
| penser | to think | thinking | pense | thinks | is thinking | On pense que c'est vrai. | One thinks |  We think that it's true. | Penser, c'est important. | Thinking is important. |
| pouvoir | to be able | being able to | peut | is able | can | On peut rester ici. | One can |  We can stay here. | Pouvoir rester ici est super! | Being able to stay here is great! |
| vouloir | to want |  wanting to | veut | wants | Il veut sortir. | He wants to go out. | Vouloir parler, c'est important. | Wanting to speak is important. |
| devoir | to have to | having to | doit | has to | must | Monique doit travailler. | Monique has to work. | Devoir travailler, c'est la vie. | Having to work, that's life. |
| voir | to see | seeing | voit | sees | is seeing | Elle voit le problème. | She sees the problem. | Elle aime voir le problème. | She likes seeing the problem. |
| savoir | to know | knowing | sait | knows |  is knowing | On sait la réponse. On sait parler français. | One knows | We know the answer. One knows | We know (how) to speak French. | On aime savoir la réponse. On aime savoir parler français. | One likes | We like to know the answer. One likes | We like knowing (how) to speak French. |
| tenir | to hold | holding | tient | holds | is holding | Elle tient un animal. | She holds | is holding an animal. | Elle aime tenir un animal. | She likes holding an animal. |
| montrer | to show | showing | montre | shows | is showing | Marie montre la photo. | Marie shows | is showing the photo. | Marie aime montrer la photo. | Marie likes showing the photo. |
| parler | to speak | speaking | parle | speaks | is speaking | Elle parle français. | She speaks | is speaking French. | Elle aime parler français. | She likes speaking French. |
| falloir | to be necessary | having to | faut | is necessary | Il faut commencer. | It is necessary to start. |  |  |
| comprendre | to understand | understanding | comprend | understands |  is understanding | Fabien comprend la question. | Fabien understands |  is understanding the question. | Comprendre la question est important. | Understanding the question is important. |

**French: 15 high-frequency prototype verbs**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FQ** | **Infinitive** | **Short form** | **Short form sentence** | **Short form sentence with gap** | **Infinitive sentence** | **Infinitive sentence with gap** |
| 219 | jouer | joue | Louise joue au tennis. | Louise \_\_\_\_ au tennis. | Louise aime jouer au tennis. | Louise aime \_\_\_\_ au tennis. |
| 1338 | manger | mange | On mange des fruits. | On \_\_\_\_ des fruit. | On aime manger des fruits. | On aime \_\_\_\_ les fruits. |
| 429 | écouter | écoute | Il écoute des chansons. | Il \_\_\_\_ des chansons. | Écouter, c'est important. | \_\_\_\_, c'est important. |
| 1820 | chanter | chante | Elle chante très bien. | Elle \_\_\_\_ très bien. | Elle aime chanter dans la douche. | Elle aime \_\_\_\_ dans la douche. |
| 960 | étudier | étudie | Arthur étudie tout seul. | Arthur \_\_\_\_ tout seul. | Arthur aime étudier le français. | Arthur aime \_\_\_\_ le français. |
| 425 | regarder | regarde | Nicolas regarde la télévision. | Nicolas \_\_\_\_ la télévision . | Nicolas aime regarder des films. | Nicolas aime \_\_\_\_ des films. |
| 382 | écrire | écrit | Elle écrit en noir. | Elle \_\_\_\_ en noir. | Elle sait écrire espagnol. | Elle sait \_\_\_\_ espagnol. |
| 327 | apprendre | apprend | Elle apprend l'anglais. | Elle \_\_\_\_ l'anglais. | Elle aime apprendre l'anglais. | Elle aime \_\_\_\_ l'anglais. |
| 1836 | dormir | dort | On dort mal parfois. | On \_\_\_\_ mal parfois. | Il n'aime pas dormir tout seul. | Il n'aime pas \_\_\_\_ tout seul. |
| 290 | travailler | travaille | Il travaille tard. | Il \_\_\_\_ tard. | Il aime travailler tard. | Il aime \_\_\_\_ tard. |
| 201 | préparer | prépare | Il prépare le dîner . | Il \_\_\_\_ le dîner . | Il aime préparer le dîner. | Il aime \_\_\_\_ le dîner. |
| 413 | aider | aide | Marie aide ses parents. | Marie \_\_\_\_ ses parents. | Aider les autres, c'est gentil. | \_\_\_\_ les autres, c'est gentil. |
| 309 | sortir | sort | Il sort avec ses amis. | Il \_\_\_\_ avec ses amis. | Il veut sortir ce weekend. | Il veut \_\_\_\_ ce weekend. |
| 1447 | courir | court | Elle court très vite. | Elle \_\_\_\_ très vite. | Courir ici, c'est super! | \_\_\_\_ ici, c'est super! |
| 1532 | marcher | marche | On marche à la montagne. | On \_\_\_\_ à la montagne. | On aime marcher à la montagne. | On aime \_\_\_\_ à la montagne. |

Source: Londsale, D., & Le Bras, Y. (2009). A Frequency Dictionary of French: Core vocabulary for learners London: Routledge.