**Midterm Study Guide**

**French I Grammar Notes:**

1. **Possessive Pronouns:**

Possessive pronouns agree with the nouns that follow in masculine, feminine, singular and plural:

My = mon,ma,mes

your = ton,ta,tes

his/her = son, sa,ses

our = notre, nos

your plural = votre, vos

their = leur, leurs

**Example:**

mon chien or ma chienne

mes chiens or mes chiennes

Use the masculine form when the feminine noun begins with a vowel;

Example: mon ami or mon amie

1. **Definite and Indefinite Articles:**

*Definite article*: le, la, l', les = the

Use this for something specific, or previously mentioned, or if there is only one of them

*Indefinite article*: un, une, des

Use this for something general

Examples:

J'aime la chemise. (a specific shirt) Je porte une chemise (any shirt)

1. **Questions:**

qui = who

quand = when

que/quoi = what

ou = where

why = pourquoi

how = comment

how much = combien

which = quel, quelle, quels, quelles

The following questions do not use inversion:

1) Est-ce que… = Do/Does

Est-ce que tu aimes la pizza? = Do you like pizza?

2) Qu’est-ced que = what

Qu’est-ce que tu aimes faire? = What do you like to do?

Inversion questions:

Aimes-tu la pizza? = Do you like pizza?

If the verb ends in a vowel, the il and elle form need to add “-t-“

Aime-t-il la pizza? Aime-t-elle la pizza?

1. **Partitives:**

Use this when talking about eating, drinking, or buying amounts of things.

Use de la, du, de l' or des when having just some or a part of something ad use le, la, l' , les when have the whole thing

**Examples:**

Je mange du pain. Je bois de l'eau. Je bois une verre de jus.

**French II Grammar Notes:**

1. **Demonstrative Adjectives: This, that, these, those**

In French, they use ce, cet, cette, and ces as demonstrative adjectives.

Unlike in English where we have a different word for “this” versus “that”, and “these” versus “those”, in French, the word stays the same, and just adds “-ci” or “-là”, to differentiate between the object being close or far.

Cette fille-ci est grande, mais cette fille-là est petite.

Demonstrative adjectives also must agree with the noun that follows, in masculine or feminine. If the noun is masculine and begins with a vowel or an 'h', then "ce" changes to "cet".

**Examples:**

ce livre

cet homme

cette femme

ces livres

ces femmes et ces hommes.

Ce livre-ci est bleu, mais ce livre-là est rouge. = This book is blue, but that book is red.

1. **Indirect Object Pronouns**

The indirect object = to or for whom/what. These pronouns are used for people not things. They are usually preceded by a preposition (for her, to him...)(à, for example). Note: if the indirect object is a thing (after à), you would use the adverbial pronoun "y" instead (and it can also refer to a place), and if de is used, the pronoun would be "en."

The indirect object pronouns are:

me (m') = me nous = us

te (t') = you vous = you

lui = him/her leur = them

*One Verb:*

1. Je parle à Marc. --Je lui parle. // Je ne lui parle pas.

(I'm talking to Marc.) (I'm talking to him.) (I'm not talking to him.) The negative goes around the pronoun and the verb.

*Two Verbs:*

---Il va me donner la clé. // Il ne va pas me donner la clé.

(He's going to give the key to me./He's going to give me the key.) //(He's not going to give me the key.)

The negative goes around the first verb, the verb aller.

1. **Direct Object Pronouns:**

Direct objects are the people or things in a sentence which receive the action of the verb. To find the direct object in a sentence, ask the question Who? or What?

I see Pierre. Je vois Pierre. Who do I see? Pierre.

I'm eating the bread. Je mange le pain. What am I eating? - Bread.

The direct object pronouns are:

me / m' = me

te / t' = you

le / l' = him, it

la / l' = her, it

nous us,

vous you

les them

Me and te change to m' and t', respectively, in front of a vowel or mute H.

Le and la both change to l'.

Like indirect object pronouns, French direct object pronouns are placed in front of the verb.

I'm eating it. Je le mange.

He sees her. Il la voit

2. If you're having trouble deciding between direct and indirect objects, the general rule is that if the person or thing is preceded by a preposition, that person is an indirect object. If it's not preceded by a preposition, it is a direct object. For more information, please see direct vs indirect objects.

**IV. The Passé Composé with Avoir**

1. Using “avoir” as the helping verb is a logical choice in a tense that expresses an action that has occurred. Although English usage often omits the use of “have” when it is implied (You may say, “I lost my keys” and not, “I have lost my keys”), in French, you must always use the helping verb:

J'ai couru au parc. = I ran to the park.

2. To form the passé composé of verbs using avoir, conjugate avoir in the present tense:

(j'ai, tu as, il a, nous avons, vous avez, ils ont) and add the past participle of the verb expressing the action.

3. How to form the past participle (the second verb)

a) -ar verbs: drop the r, and add é

Manger – mange

Parler – parlé

b) -ir verbs: drop the r

Finir – fini

Choisir – choisi

c) irregular verbs: (the only ones you need to know for the test, but there are many more)

Avoir - eu

Être – été

Faire – fait

Boire – bu

Courir – couru

Pleuvoir - plu

Prendre – pris

Comprendre – compris

Surpendre – surprise

Apprendre – appris

d) Put the words together this way: subject + helping verb (usually avoir) + past participle.

J’ai mangé. = I ate, or I have eaten.

4. The passé composé, a compound past tense, is formed by combining two elements: when (the action has taken place and, therefore, requires the helping verb avoir) and what (the action that has happened and, therefore, requires the past participle of the regular or irregular verb showing the particular action).

Here are some examples of the passé composé.

Elle a expliqué son problème. (She explained her problem.)

Ils ont réussi. (They succeeded.)

J'ai entendu les nouvelles. (I heard the news.)

5. Forming the negative in the passé composé with avoir

In a negative sentence in the passé composé, ne precedes the helping verb, and the negative word (pas, rien, jamais, and so on follows it:

Je n'ai rien préparé. (I didn't prepare anything.)

Nous n'avons pas fini le travail. (We didn't finish the work.)

Il n'a jamais répondu à la lettre. (He never answered the letter.)

6. Questions in the passé composé with avoir

To form a question in the passé composé using inversion, invert the conjugated helping verb with the subject pronoun and add a hyphen. Then place the negative around the hyphenated helping verb and subject pronoun:

As‐tu mangé? (Did you eat?)

N'as‐tu rien mangé? (Didn't you eat anything?)

A‐t‐il attendu les autres? (Did he wait for the others?)

N'a‐t‐il pas attendu? (Didn't he wait for the others?)

**V**. **Le Passé Composé with être**

In French, the passé compose (past tense) is used with either avoir or être. Most French verbs use avoir. The following is a list of verbs (and their derivatives) that require être:

aller to go: allé(e( (s)

arriver to arrive” arrivé (e)(s)

descendre to descend / go downstairs: descendu(e)(s)

(redescendre to descend again)

entrer to enter: entré(e)(s)

(rentrer to re-enter)

monter to climb: monté(e)(s)

(remonter to climb again)

mourir to die: mort(e)(s)

naître to be born: né(e)(s)

(renaître to be reborn, born again)

partir to leave: parti(e)(s)

(repartir to leave again)

passer to pass: passé(e)(s)

rester to stay: resté(e)(s)

retourner to return: retourné(e)(s)

sortir to go out: sorti(e)(s)

(resortir to go out again)

tomber to fall: tombé(e)(s)

(retomber to fall again)

venir to come:venu(e)(s)

(devenir to become

parvenir to reach, achieve

revenir to come again, come back)

These are all verbs that involve a certain kind of movement.

Verb agreement:

1) When you use avoir, the past participle does not have to agree with the subject (except when the direct object is before the verb; we will learn about this in Unit 7B).

For all verbs conjugated with être, the past participle MUST agree with the subject in gender and number.

Examples:

Il est allé. - He went. Elle est allée. - She went.

Ils sont allés. - They went. Elles sont allées. - They went.

2) Verbs are conjugated with être because they are intransitive (have no direct object). However, six of these verbs can be used transitively (with a direct object), and when this happens, they need avoir as the auxiliary verb. (We will learn these six verbs in a later chapter)

Here are various ways to remember/memorize which verbs use être:

1) La Maison d'être

The French teach être verbs with a visual: La Maison d'être. Draw a house with a door, stairs, windows, etc. and then label it with the être verbs. For example, put someone on the stairs going up (monter) and another going down (descendre). Or look at the picture on the next page. The ٤tre verbs all involve motion to and from a house, and within the house.

There are three acronyms that are commonly used to remember être verbs. Strangely, none of them includes passer, which is an être verb when used intransively.

2) DR & MRS VANDERTRAMP

This is perhaps the most popular mnemonic device for être verbs in the United States. Personally, I find DR & MRS VANDERTRAMP redundant since it includes some derivatives, but if it works for you, go for it.

Devenir

Revenir

&

Monter

Rester

Sortir

Venir

Aller

Naître

Descendre

Entrer

Rentrer

Tomber

Retourner

Arriver

Mourir

Partir