

French A1 Grammar Cheat Sheet

A fast-reference sheet for building simple French sentences with confidence.

Essential sentence building

- Subject pronouns: je, tu, il/elle, nous, vous, ils/elles.
- Basic order: subject + verb + object. Spoken French often links words smoothly in connected speech.
- Articles: le/la = the, un/une = a/an, des = some.

Core verbs

- Etre: identity, profession, description. Example: Je suis etudiant.
- Avoir: possession, age, and common expressions. Example: J'ai vingt ans.
- Aller: movement and near future. Example: Je vais travailler.
- Il y a: there is / there are. Example: Il y a un cafe ici.

Present tense patterns

- -er verbs: parler -> je parle, tu parles, il parle, nous parlons, ils parlent.
- -ir verbs: finir -> je finis, tu finis, il finit, nous finissons, ils finissent.
- -re verbs: vendre -> je vends, tu vends, il vend, nous vendons, ils vendent.
- Key irregulars to memorize early: etre, avoir, aller, faire.

Questions and negation

- Question words: qui, que, ou, quand, pourquoi, comment, combien.
- Negation frame: ne + verb + pas. Example: Je ne comprends pas.
- Common spoken shortcut: drop ne in fast speech, but keep it in writing practice.

Useful beginner frames

- J'aime + noun / infinitive: J'aime le cafe. J'aime lire.
- Je veux + infinitive: Je veux apprendre le francais.
- Je peux + infinitive: Je peux venir.
- Je vais + infinitive for near future: Je vais etudier ce soir.

Use this sheet as a fast review tool. Pair it with graded reading, short listening practice, and daily retrieval drills.