

French 1

Chapter 8.1 Grammar Review

The Verbs *Pouvoir* & *Devoir*

1. **Pouvoir** means “to be able to / can”, and **Devoir** means “to have to / must”. Like all –OIR verbs, their conjugations are irregular. *Pouvoir* has a very similar conjugation to the verb *Vouloir*.

POUVOIR			
SINGULAR		PLURAL	
je	peux	nous	pouvons
tu	peux	vous	pouvez
il / elle / on	peut	ils / elles	peuvent

DEVOIR			
SINGULAR		PLURAL	
je	dois	nous	devons
tu	dois	vous	devez
il / elle / on	doit	ils / elles	doivent

2. These verbs are often followed directly by another verb, or used alone in response to a question:
 Ex: Est-ce que tu **peux** sortir le chien → **Can** you take out the dog?
 Ex: Oui, bien sûr, je **peux**. → Yes, of course I **can**.

Passé Composé of –IR and –RE Verbs

1. Just like with –ER verbs, to create the past participle of –IR and –RE verbs, drop the verb ending and add the following letters per verb group:

VERB GROUP	PAST PARTICIPLE	EXAMPLE		
- ER	- é	parler	→	parlé
- IR	- i	choisir		choisi
- RE	- u	perdre		perdu

2. **DON'T FORGET:** A past participle alone does NOT make the past tense. The *Passé Composé* requires a conjugation of a *Helping Verb (Avoir)* + *the past participle*.

CHOISIR / PERDRE					
SINGULAR			PLURAL		
<i>Subject</i>	<i>Avoir</i>	<i>Past Participle</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Avoir</i>	<i>Past Participle</i>
je (j')	<i>ai</i>	choisi / perdu	nous	<i>avons</i>	choisi / perdu
tu	<i>as</i>	choisi / perdu	vous	<i>avez</i>	choisi / perdu
il / elle / on	<i>a</i>	choisi / perdu	ils / elles	<i>ont</i>	choisi / perdu

3. **DON'T FORGET:** Negations **ONLY** go around the *Helping Verb*; **NEVER*** the past participle.
 Ex: Nous n'*avons pas* choisi → *correct* placement of **ne... pas**
 Ex: Nous n'*avons* choisi **pas** → *incorrect* placement of **ne... pas**

Negative Expressions

1. There are many negative expressions that can be used with verbs, just like *ne...pas*. The following are a list of common Negative Expressions to be used with verbs:

NEGATION	MEANING
ne... pas	<i>not</i>
ne...ni	<i>neither...nor</i>
ne...jamais	<i>never</i>
ne...pas encore	<i>not yet</i>
ne...plus	<i>no longer</i>
ne...personne	<i>no one/anyone</i>
ne...rien	<i>nothing/anything</i>

- Ex: Je **ne** lave **pas** la vaisselle → I'm **not** washing the dishes.
Je **ne** lave **ni** la vaisselle **ni** la voiture → I wash **neither** the dishes **nor** the car.
Je **ne** lave **jamais** la vaisselle → I **never** wash the dishes.
Je **ne** lave **plus** la vaisselle → I **no longer** wash the dishes

2. **ATTENTION!**: The negations **rien** (nothing) and **personne** (no one) come before the “**ne**” and the verb when they're the subject:

- Ex: **Personne n'**aime vider balayer → **No one** likes to sweep
Ex: **Rien n'**est parfait! → **Nothing** is perfect!

3. **ATTENTION!**: In the Passé Composé, negations goes immediately after the *Helping Verb*, but the negative pronoun **personne*** is the **ONLY** negation that goes after the Past Participle!

- Ex: Je **n'**ai **rien** fait au parc → I didn't do **anything** at the parc
Ex: Tu **n'**as vu **personne**? → You didn't see **anyone**?