

### 1 - Celebrations in France

le Jour de l'An	New Year's Day	1 janvier
la fête des Rois	Epiphany	6 janvier
la Saint Valentin	Valentine's Day	14 février
Pâques	Easter	mars/avril
le poisson d'avril	April Fool's day	1 avril
la fête du travail	Labour day/May day	1 mai
la fête des mères	Mother's Day	juin
la fête nationale	Bastille Day	14 juillet
la Toussaint	All Saints' Day	1 nov
la veille de Noël	Christmas Eve	24 déc
le Noël	Christmas	25 déc
la Saint-Sylvestre	New Year's Eve	31 déc

France has many national celebrations and shares some of these with the rest of the world e.g. Christmas, Easter, and Eid. However, France has its own twist on these celebrations and has its own national festivals such as Bastille Day and May Day. There are also many regional festivals.

### 2 - Celebrations Vocabulary

le billet	ticket	s'amuser	to have fun
le cadeau	present	célébrer	to celebrate
le défilé	parade	chercher	to look for
le feu d'artifice	firework	se déguiser	to dress up
le jeu	game	dîner	to dine
le jouet	toy	donner	to give
le jour férié	bank holiday	fêter	to celebrate
le repas	meal	s'habiller	to dress
		ouvrir	to open
la blague	joke	recevoir	to receive
l'église	church	se réveiller	to wake up
la dinde	turkey		
la fête	celebration	chrétien	Christian
la messe	Mass	juif/juive	Jewish
la mosquée	mosque	musulman	Muslim
la réunion	meeting	religieux	religious
le veille	day before	religieuse	religious

### 3 - Near Future Tense

To form the near future tense we use the verb **aller** plus an **infinitive verb**. For example:

je **vais utiliser** mon portable = I am going to use my phone  
 nous **allons chatter** = we are going to chat  
 je **ne vais pas lire** un livre = I'm **not** going to read a book

We can also use a range of other structures to express the near future tense. These are also followed by an **infinitive verb**. For example:

j'espère (I hope to)  
 j'ai l'intention de (I intend to)  
 j'ai envie de (I want to)

e.g. j'espère **recevoir** un cadeau = I hope to get a present

We use **ce sera** (it will be) to give opinions in the near future.

### 4 - Conditional Tense

We use the conditional tense to talk about what we **would like** or what **would happen** in the future.

**je voudrais** - I would like  
**j'aimerais** - I would like  
**je préférerais** - I would prefer

These are typically followed by an **infinitive verb**. For example:  
**Je voudrais recevoir** un cadeau - I would like to get a present  
**Je préférerais fêter** chez moi - I'd prefer to celebrate at home

The conditional tense is formed by adding these endings to the future tense stem of the verb:

pronoun	ending	pronoun	ending
je	-ais	nous	-ions
tu	-ais	vous	-iez
il/elle/on	-ait	ils/elles	-aient

### 5 - Perfect Tense (avoir and être)

We use the perfect tense to describe what has happened in the past. It is made up of three parts:

1. A pronoun or noun (e.g. je, nous, or a name)
2. The auxiliary verb (usually avoir, but sometimes être)
3. A past participle (e.g. regardé, fait)

#### Past participles

Verb ending	ER	IR	RE
Past participle ending	é	i	u

Some past participles are irregular, for example:

dire → dit (said) faire → fait (did)  
 écrire → écrit (wrote) voir → vu (saw)

For verbs which take **être** the past participle must agree with the subject. For example:

elle est **allée** – she went  
 nous sommes **allés** - we went

### 6 - Dates in French

janvier	January	lundi	Monday
février	February	mardi	Tuesday
mars	March	mercredi	Wednesday
avril	April	jeudi	Thursday
mai	May	vendredi	Friday
juin	June	samedi	Saturday
juillet	July	dimanche	Sunday
août	August	le weekend	the weekend
septembre	September		
octobre	October	le lundi	every Monday
novembre	November	le premier	the first
décembre	December	chaque année	every year

**Remember:** months and days of the week in French **do not** have capital letters. For example:

Mon anniversaire, c'est **le six mai**.

La Saint-Sylvestre, c'est **le trente-et-un décembre**.