**KS3 French: A Guide to Improving your Extended Writing**

**Nouns**

Nouns refer to a person, place, thing or concept. They are listed in the dictionary together with their gender (**masculine** or **feminine**) – collège **MASC** (school) and maison **FEM** (house).

***Hint!*** Whenever you learn a new noun, remember to learn the gender of this noun too: **un frère** – a brother **une** **sœur** – a sister

***Remember: Make sure that your nouns, adjectives and verbs agree with each other! (See the adjectives section below)***

**Adjectives**

Adjectives describe **nouns** and can refer to condition, colour, emotions etc. Remember to check your **agreements** – adjectives always agree with nouns in **gender** (masculine or feminine) and **number** (singular and plural) – for example: le**s** chemise**s** vert**es**.

***Hint!*** Use the dictionary to look up some unusual adjectives to include in your writing!

**Qualifiers**

Qualifiers explain or further describe adjectives or how an action (verb) occurs. They come **before the adjective** that they describe or **after the verb** that they describe.

Some qualifiers you should use:

**très** – very (with **adjectives**) **beaucoup** – a lot (with **verbs**)

**un peu** – a bit **assez** – quite **trop** – too **vraiment** – really

**Verbs**

Verbs are doing words and can be found in the dictionary in their **infinitive** form (e.g. **habiter**, **vendre**, **finir**). In French, they can end in three ways - **–er**, **–re** and **–ir**.

***Hint! If you are expressing an opinion, the verb which follows is an infinitive e.g. j’aime jouer au foot.***

To make a verb **negative** – just put ‘**ne**’ in front of the conjugated verb followed by ‘**pas**’. You can also add on the following words **after** the verb instead of using ‘**pas**’:

**personne** – nobody **jamais** – never **rien** – nothing

E.g. je **ne** joue **jamais** au foot – I never play football

**Opinions**

It’s always important to express opinions in French, in order to access higher levels.

* To introduce your opinions:

**À mon avis / Pour ma part / Selon moi** –In my opinion…

**J’estime que** – I consider that…

**Je pense que / Je crois que / Il me semble que / Il me paraît que** – I think that…

**Concernant** **/** **En ce qui concerne** – Regarding…

* Opinions you can express (followed by **verb** **infinitives**):

**J’adore** – I love **J’aime beaucoup** – I really like

**J’aime** – I like **Je préfère** – I prefer

**Je n’aime pas du tout** – I really don’t like **Je déteste** – I hate

***Hint!*** To score a higher level, justify your opinions with **parce que + c’est + adjective**!

**Connectives**

Connectives (also known as conjunctions) can be divided into two main categories in French – words that we use **to start new sentences** and words that we use **to join sentences**:

**To start sentences: To join sentences:**

**D’abord / Premièrement** – Firstly **et** – and

**Deuxièmement** – Secondly **parce que / car** – because

**Néanmoins** – Nevertheless **aussi** – also or as well

**Pourtant / Cependant** – However **ansi** – thus

**De plus / En addition** – Moreover **ou** (🡪 **ou bien**) – or (🡪 rather)

**Donc** – Therefore **mais** – but

**D’une part** – On one hand **puis** – then

**Par contre** – On the other hand **après** – afterwards

**Étant donné que** – Given that **avant** – before

**Puisque** – Then / Since **quand** – when

**Par conséquent** – As a result **avec** – with

**Time phrases**

These can be used to express **when or how often** you do a particular activity:

1. Referring to the **past**:

**Hier** – yesterday

**Hier soir** – last night

**Le weekend dernier** – last weekend

**La semaine dernière** – last week

**Le mois dernier** – last month

**L’année dernière** – last year

**Il y a deux / trois jours / semaines / mois** – Two / three days / weeks / months ago

2. Referring to the **present**:

**Tous les jours** – every day

**Les weekends** – at weekends

**Chaque …** – every …

**Une fois / deux fois par** –once / twice a …

3. Referring to the **future**:

**Demain** – tomorrow

**Après-demain** – the day after tomorrow

**La semaine prochaine** – next week

**Pendant les vacances** – in the holidays

**L’année prochaine** – next year

4. Referring to **frequency**:

**Toujours / tout le temps** – always

**Normalement** – normally

**Generalmente** – generally

**Regulièrement** – regularly

**Souvent** – often

**Quelquefois** – sometimes

**De temps en temps** – from time to time

**Rarement** – rarely

**Jamais** – never

***Hint!*** You need to include your time phrases **next to the verb** you’re using – before or after!

***Remember: Only use a dictionary to look up occasional words that you don’t know. Use your books, textbooks and folders to help you before you check the dictionary!***



**The Present Tense**

An **infinitive** is a verb found in its original form, which is located in the dictionary. They can end in either **–er**, **–re** or **–ir**. To **conjugate** means that you need to change the verb from the infinitive to the person doing the action. Remove the ending from the infinitive and add the new ending following the patterns listed below.

Regular verb conjugations follow this pattern:

**–er –re –ir \***

***I - je*** -e - (none) -is

***you (s) - tu*** -es -s -is

***he/she – il/elle*** -e - (none) -it

***we - nous*** -ons -ons -issons

***you (pl) - vous*** -ez -ez -issez

***they – ils/elles*** -ent -ent -issent

**\*** *- there are lots of irregular ‘****–ir’*** *verbs in French, so it is always best to check for irregulars!*

**Examples:**

1. habiter (**–er** verb)

*we live 🡪 nous habitons*

1. vendre (**–re** verb)

*he sells 🡪 il vend*

1. remplir (**–ir** verb)

*they fill 🡪 ils remplissent*

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infinitive

e.g. regarder

**Examples:**

1. I am going to play football🡪

*Je vais jouer au foot.*

1. We are going to watch TV 🡪 *Nous allons regarder la téle.*

**The Near Future Tense**

The near future tense is used to say something that you are going to do. You should use a **future time phrase** with this tense.

To form the future tense:

1. Take the present tense of the verb ‘**aller**’
2. Add the infinitive

**aller**

***I am going*** je vais

***you (s) are going*** tu vas

***he/she is going*** il /elle va

***we*** ***are going*** nous allons

***you (pl)*** ***are going*** vous allez

***they*** ***are going*** ils/ells vont