

# THE VERB AIMER

The verb aimer means to like. It is a regular –er verb. Just to show you, here are the conjugations:

J'aime\*  
Tu aimes  
Il aime  
Elle aime  
Nous aimons  
Vous aimez  
Ils aiment  
Elles aiment

\* Note the change here. It is not written as “je aime” because in French you typically do not have two vowels written together. Instead, you drop the first vowel (in this case the “e”) and add an apostrophe (‘)

If I wanted to say we like music, I would say “Nous aimons la musique”.

## AIMER + INFINITIVE

What if I wanted to specify that we like listening to music?

In French, I would say “Nous aimons écouter de la musique”.

In the second sentence, I have two verbs: to like and to listen.

When you have two verbs in the same sentence in French, only the first verb is conjugated. The second verb is left in the infinitive (the form with the –er, -ir, or –re).

Let's recap:

When talking about things people like, we use aimer in its conjugated form; when we are talking about things that people like to do, we use aimer (conjugated) and the infinitive of the other verb.

Here are some more examples with aimer and/or the infinitive underlined.

Elle aime les animaux.  
She likes animals.

Il aime jouer aux sports.  
He likes to play (playing) sports.

Vous aimez danser.  
You (group) like to dance (dancing)

Nous aimons parler.  
We like to talk (talking)

Ils aiment la crème glacée.  
They (boys) like ice cream.

J'aime la photographie.  
I like photography.

Tu aimes le drame.  
You like drama.

## **THE NEGATIVE : NE...PAS**

Now that we know how to say things we like, what about things we do not like?

To make a sentence negative you add ne...pas around the verb aimer. Let's go back to the examples above.

Nous aimons la musique (We like musique).

If I wanted to say « We do not like music » I would say : Nous n'aimons pas la musique (Notice again the ' because of the two vowels coming together).

Again if I wanted to specify that we do not like listening to music, I would say: Nous n'aimons pas écouter de la musique. (The ne pas surrounds the verb aimer).

Let's look at the rest of the examples from above :

Elle n'aime pas les animaux  
She does not like animals.

Il n'aime pas jouer aux sports.  
He does not like to play (playing) sports.

Vous n'aimez pas danser.  
You (group) do not like to dance (dancing)

Nous n'aimons pas parler.  
We do not like to talk (talking)

Ils n'aiment pas la crème glacée.  
They (boys) do not like ice cream.

Je n'aime pas la photographie. (Notice that the « e » is added back on to « je » because there is an “n” after it. The apostrophe is now between the “e” in “ne” and the “a” in aimer)  
I do not like photography.

Tu n'aimes pas le drame.  
You do not like drama.