

# French Grammar Express- the verb AVOIR

## AVOIR [ahvwar]- to have



A key verb

Memorise how it is conjugated in the PRESENT TENSE

I	j'	ai	[jeh]
You (one person)	tu	as	[t ah]
He, it	il	a	[eelah]
She, it	elle	a	[ehlah]
One, we	on	a	[õnah]
we	nous	avons	[noozahvõ]
You (all)	vous	avez	[voozahvõ]
They (m.)	ils	ont	[eelzõ]
They (f.)	elles	ont	[ehlzõ]

## Using AVOIR [ahvwar]- to have

### To say what you or other people have

J'**ai** un frère. - I **have** a brother.  
 Nous **avons** une maison. - We **have** a house.  
 Il **a** de l'argent. - He **has** money.



### In useful common expressions

#### Avoir...

besoin de...	[buhzwẽ]	to need...
confiance en...	[kõfeeäsã]	to trust...
du mal à + infinitive verb	[d mahlah]	to have trouble ...
envie de + infinitive verb	[ãveeduh]	to want, feel like...
horreur de...	[oruhduh]	to detest/loathe...
lieu	[leeuh]	to take place
l'impression que...	[lẽprehseeõkuh]	to be under the impression that...
l'intention de + infinitive verb	[lõtãseeõduh]	to intend/plan to...

- J'**ai** besoin de vacances. - I **need** a holiday.
- Il **a** confiance en moi. - He **trusts** me.
- Mes parents **ont** envie de voyager. - My parents **want** to travel.
- Noël **a** lieu le 25 décembre. - Christmas **takes place** on 25<sup>th</sup> Decembre.

### Avoir...

__ ans	[ã]	to be __ (years old)
chaud	[shoh]	to be hot
de la chance	[duhlahshãs]	to be lucky
faim	[fẽ]	to be hungry
froid	[frwah]	to be cold
honte	[õt]	to be ashamed
peur	[puhr]	to be afraid
raison	[rehzõ]	to be right
soif	[swahf]	to be thirsty
tort	[tohr]	to be wrong

Always use the verb **avoir** when mentioning age

I am 15  
 Je suis 15  
 J'ai 15 ans

- Vous **avez** de la chance. - you **are** lucky.
- Il **a** chaud. - He's **hot**.

### Another couple of very common expressions

en [ãn] avoir marre [mahr] (de)      en [ãn] avoir assez [ahsõ] (de)  
 To be fed up (with)      To have had enough (with)

J'**en ai** marre! - I am **fed up!**  
 Nous **en avons** assez! - We've **had enough!**  
 Mon frère **en a** marre **de** son travail. - My brother is **fed up** with his job.

## Another key use of AVOIR

AVOIR can be used as an auxiliary verb in **compound tenses**

Auxiliary verb + Past participle

Imperfect tense

For other tenses, change the tense of the auxiliary

j'	ai
tu	as
il	a
elle	a
on	a
nous	avons
vous	avez
ils	ont
elles	ont

mangé - **eaten**  
 fini - **finished**  
 vendu - **sold**  
 fait - **done**

PERFECT TENSE

- J'**ai** mangé- I **have** eaten / I ate
- Ma soeur **a** fini - my sister **has** finished/ finished
- Vous **avez** vendu - you **have** sold/ you sold
- Ils **ont** fait - they **have** done/ they did