

6. The present tense (2) - semi-irregulars

1 Semi-irregulars are *-er* verbs that are broadly regular, but where there are minor differences between the *nous* and / or *vous* forms and the other forms:

1.1 Verbs ending in *-cer* like *commencer*, *forcer*, *lancer* and *remplacer* take a *c* cedilla (ç) in the *nous* form:

Je **commence** / nous **commençons** le travail à 9 heures
I / We start work at 9 o'clock

1.2 Verbs ending in *-ger* like *bouger*, *changer*, *manger* and *voyager* retain the *e* after the *g* in the *nous* form:

Je **mange** / Nous **mangeons** rarement la viande
I / We rarely eat meat

1.3 With verbs such as *peser*, *lever* and *mener* the *e* in the stem changes to *è* in all forms except *nous* and *vous*:

Je me **lève** / Nous nous **levons** à 7 heures le matin
I / We get up in the morning at 7 o'clock

1.4 With verbs such as *céder*, *espérer*, *inquiéter* and *posséder* the *é* in the stem changes to *è* in all forms except *nous* and *vous*:

J'**espère** / Nous **espérons** revoir bientôt
I / We hope to see you again soon

1.5 Verbs ending in *-eler* or *-eter* like *jeter*, *appeler*, *projeter* and *rejeter* double the consonant *l* or *t* in all forms except *nous* and *vous*:

Je ne **jette** jamais / Nous ne **jetons** jamais les bouteilles avec les ordures
I / We never throw bottles out with the rubbish

Exceptions to this include verbs like *acheter* and *geler* which conjugate like the verbs in listed 1.3 above:

J'**achète** / Nous **achetons** tous mes vêtements dans ce magasin
I / We buy all our clothes from this shop