

# Synthèse de grammaire

## 1. Describing What People Can and Want to Do: *les verbes vouloir, pouvoir, choisir et finir*

When talking about volunteering, you will want to express what you want to do (*vouloir*), can do (*pouvoir*), choose to do (*choisir*), as well as the work you are finishing (*finir*). Here are the present tense forms of these four verbs:

je <b>veux</b>	nous <b>voulons</b>	je <b>peux</b>	nous <b>pouvons</b>
tu <b>veux</b>	vous <b>voulez</b>	tu <b>peux</b>	vous <b>pouvez</b>
il/elle/on <b>veut</b>	ils/elles <b>veulent</b>	il/elle/on <b>peut</b>	ils/elles <b>peuvent</b>

je <b>choisis</b>	nous <b>choisissons</b>	je <b>finis</b>	nous <b>finissons</b>
tu <b>choisis</b>	vous <b>choisissez</b>	tu <b>finis</b>	vous <b>finissez</b>
il/elle/on <b>choisit</b>	ils/elles <b>choisissent</b>	il/elle/on <b>finit</b>	ils/elles <b>finissent</b>

Although *vouloir*, *pouvoir*, *choisir* and *finir* have different endings from the *-er* verbs you might be used to, they still have a few recognizable patterns that you should notice:

1. The *je* and *tu* forms of each verb are identical to each other, but the *il/elle/on* form is different. It is also common that verbs that end in *-x* or *-s* in the *je* and *tu* forms will change to a *-t* ending in the *il/elle/on* form.
2. There are two variations of the beginnings of the verbs *vouloir* and *pouvoir*: *eu* vs. *ou*.
3. *Choisir* and *finir* have longer endings in common than just *-ons*, *-ez*, *-ent*.



## 2. Asking “What” and “Which” Questions: *les mots interrogatifs “qu’est-ce que” et “quel”*

When asking an open-ended *what* question, use *qu’est-ce que*:

**Qu’est-ce que** tu préfères?

**Qu’est-ce que** nous faisons après l’école?

When asking a “what/which” question, where the answer you are looking for is a specific kind of noun, use a form of the word *quel* with the specific noun:

	masculin	féminin
singulier	<b>Quel</b> projet est-ce que tu choisis?	<b>Quelle</b> tâche est-ce que tu préfères?
pluriel	<b>Quels</b> bénévoles vont au refuge?	<b>Quelles</b> idées est-ce que tu vas lancer?

## 3. Connecting Phrases with *Qui, Que, and Où*: *quelques pronoms relatifs*

The words *qui*, *que*, and *où* are connectors you can use to create sentences that are longer and more sophisticated. They allow you to give more information about a person, place or thing mentioned earlier in the same sentence. You may recognize the words *qui* and *où* as question words, but, when used in the middle of a sentence to connect ideas, their meanings are less important than the role that they serve.

Use *où* when you want to give more information about **a place** or **a time** in the same sentence:

C’est **l’hôpital où** je fais du bénévolat.

C’est **l’heure où** nous commençons à travailler.

Notice that *où* in the second example does not mean *where* but *when*.

Use *qui* when the word that comes next is a **verb**:

C’est un bénévole **qui est** compréhensif.

C’est un organisme **qui aide** les personnes âgées.

Notice that *qui* in the second example does not really mean *who*.

Use *que* when the word that comes next is a **subject**:

C’est une tâche **que monsieur Gassama** fait bien.

C’est un projet **qu’elles** lancent au mois de décembre.

Notice that *que* becomes *qu’* before a vowel sound.