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The verb **être** is an irregular verb in the present tense. Listen carefully to its forms in the present. Do you hear the **liaison** or linking in the pronunciation of the **-s** in the **vous** form? It is pronounced as a /z/ to link with the vowel **ê** in **êtes**.

être 'to be'	
je <b>suis</b> 'I am'	nous <b>sommes</b> 'we are'
tu <b>es</b> 'you are'	vous <b>êtes</b> 'you are'
il/elle/on <b>est</b> 'he/she/one is'	ils/elles <b>sont</b> 'they are'
past participle: <b>été</b>	



- Edouard: Mais non, Joe-Bob, tu **n'es** pas un tatou!      Edouard: But no, Joe-Bob, you are not an armadillo!
- Tex **est** un tatou. Tex et Tammy **sont** des tatous.      Tex is an armadillo. Tex and Tammy are armadillos.
- Toi et moi, nous ne **sommes** pas des tatous.      You and I, we are not armadillos.
- Toi, tu **es** un écureuil et moi, je **suis** un escargot, un escargot français.      You are a squirrel and I am a snail, a French snail.



**tex's french grammar**  
avoir 'to have'

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The verb **avoir** is irregular in the present tense. Listen carefully to the pronunciation of the **-s** in the plural pronouns **nous**, **vous**, and **ils/elles**. This **-s** is pronounced as a /z/ to link with the vowel sound in the plural forms of **avoir**. This **liaison**, or linking, is especially important in distinguishing **ilsont** (they have) from the third person plural of être **ilssont** (they are).

avoir 'to have'	
j' <b>ai</b>	nous <b>avons</b>
tu <b>as</b>	vous <b>avez</b>
il/elle/on <b>a</b>	ils/elles <b>ont</b>
past participle: <b>eu</b>	

**Avoir** is also used as an auxiliary in compound tenses (**passé composé with avoir**, **plus-que-parfait**, **futur antérieur**, etc.) Besides ownership, the verb **avoir** expresses age in French, unlike the English equivalent, which uses the verb 'to be.'

Tex, tu **as** des frères et des soeurs?

Tex: Oui, j'**ai** une soeur et un frère.

Quel âge **ont**-ils?


Tex: Ma soeur Rita **a** 30 ans et mon frère Trey **a** 16 ans.

Tex, do you have brothers and sisters?

Tex: Yes, I have a sister and a brother.

How old are they?

Tex: My sister Rita is 30 and my brother Trey is 16.



**IL A UNE SOEUR ET UN FRÈRE**