le FUTUR SIMPLE: une Révision

LA CONJUGAISON
The 'simple' future (**le future simple**) is so-named because it is a one-word tense. In other words, there is no auxiliary.

Les terminaisons du FB sont:

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| ai | ons |
| as | ez |
| a | ont |

The future **stem** for **-er** and **-ir** verbs is the **infinitive**. For regular **-re** verbs, the stem is the infinitive minus the final e. In all cases, the future stem ends in –R. This is the same stem for [**le conditionnel**](http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/tac1.html). The French simple future tense is generally translated into English with 'will \_\_\_.'

L’USAGE
The simple future is used to refer to future events, that is, to make predictions. It is more formal than the immediate future, although both tenses may be used in most contexts.

**futur proche vs. futur simple**
The two tenses are virtually interchangeable in most contexts, especially in spoken French. So what is the difference? In general, the two tenses differ in their level of formality; the future proche is used in more informal contexts and the simple future in more formal contexts. Thus, the futur proche is primarily used in speech and less frequently in writing. According to traditional grammars, the two tenses also differ in their relative distance to the present moment. The future proche, also called the futur immédiat, typically refers to a time very close to the present moment, i.e., the near or immediate future. The futur simple, on the other hand, is often used for events in the more distant future. Because the futur simple is associated with distant future events, it often takes on a detached, objective quality making it the preferred tense for future events that represent general truths.


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| Qui vivra, verra. |   | Whoever will live, will see. |
| L'homme sera toujours l'homme. |   | Man will always be man.(Boys will be boys.) |


The two tenses also indicate a difference in the speaker's perception of the future event. The futur proche indicates that the speaker is relatively certain that the future event will actually happen. In contrast, the futur simple indicates that the speaker is less certain of the future event coming to pass. Let's imagine a context to make this distinction more clear. Suppose that a very disturbed man has just climbed out onto the ledge of a skyscraper. The man begins to lose his balance. A horrified onlooker sees the man beginning to teeter and screams:


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| Il va tomber! |   | He's going to fall! |
| Il tombera! |   | He will fall! |

**LES DIFFÉRENCES ENTRE L’ANGLAIS ET LE FRANÇAIS**

In general, the future tenses in French and in English are used similarly. However, there is *one major difference* in future tense usage between the two languages. French requires the future tense after certain conjunctions where English usage calls for the present tense.




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| Joe-Bob: **Dès que** Tex et Tammy **seront** en vacances, ils **iront** à la Nouvelle-Orléans. |   | Joe-Bob: As soon as Tex and Tammy **are** on vacation, they will go to New Orleans. |
| Corey: Mais ils nous **téléphoneront** **aussitôt qu'**ils **arriveront** à la Nouvelle-Orléans. |   | Corey: But they will call us as soon as they **arrive** in New Orleans. |
| Joe-Bob: **Lorsque** Tex et Tammy **rentreront**, ils **passeront** quelques jours à Opelousas. |   | Joe-Bob: When Tex and Tammy **come back**, they will spend a few days in Opelousas. |
| Corey: Et **quand** ils **reviendront** à Austin, on **fera** la fête! |   | Corey: And when they **return** to Austin, we'll have a party! |

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In the French examples above, the subordinate clauses starting with…

**dès que**

**aussitôt que**

**lorsque**

**quand**

…are in the simple future because the main clauses are in the future. The action in the subordinate clause implies future tense since it will take place at around the same time as the action in the main clause. Note the use of the present tense in the subordinate clause of the English translations.

Source: <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/taf4.html>