

What Is Inversion in French?

Worksheet

Inversion reverses subject-verb word order in French — primarily for questions ('Parlez-vous?') or formal style ('Said he loudly'). It's a hallmark of formal, literary, or emphatic French.

Questions

1. Invert this question: 'Vous comprenez l'anglais?'
A) L'anglais comprenez-vous?
B) Comprenez-vous l'anglais?
C) Vous comprenez-anglais?
D) Comprenez l'anglais vous?
2. Why is -t- added in 'Parle-t-il'?
A) It's a rule
B) Pronunciation aid between vowels
C) Tense marker
D) Gender marker
3. Which sentence uses inversion correctly?
A) Pourquoi il part?
B) Pourquoi part-il?
C) Pourquoi part il?
D) Pourquoi il-part?
4. Formal inverted question from 'Tu aimes la musique'?
A) Tu aimes-la musique?
B) Aimes-tu la musique?
C) Tu-aimes la musique?
D) Aimes la musique tu?
5. Transform to inverted question: 'Vous parlez français.'
6. Convert to formal inversion: 'Elle arrive demain.'
7. Write the inverted question: 'On va au cinéma ce soir?'
8. Define: What is inversion in French?
9. Define: Example of a simple inversion?
10. Define: When do you use inversion?

Answer Key

1. B) Comprenez-vous l'anglais? — Inversion swaps subject and verb: Comprenez-vous...?
2. B) Pronunciation aid between vowels — Between vowel-ending verb and vowel-starting pronoun, -t- eases flow.
3. B) Pourquoi part-il? — After interrogative words, invert: Pourquoi part-il? (Why does he leave?)
4. B) Aimes-tu la musique? — Invert to: Aimes-tu la musique? (Do you like music?)
5. Normal order: Vous parlez français. Invert subject and verb: Parlez-vous français? Connect with hyphen when needed.
6. Normal order: Elle arrive demain. Invert to: Arrive-t-elle demain? Note: add -t- for pronunciation between vowels.
7. Normal: On va au cinéma ce soir? Inverted formal version: Va-t-on au cinéma ce soir? Use on → t-on in inversion.
8. Reversing the subject-verb order, mainly for formal questions or stylistic effect.
9. 'Parlez-vous français?' instead of 'Vous parlez français?' (Do you speak French?)
10. In formal questions, after certain introductory words, or for literary/emphatic style.

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