# **VERBS**

MOODS AND TENSES

MOODS

Romanian verb has 5 **finite moods** which change their form according to the person of the speaker and 4 **non-finite moods** which do not change their form.The finite moods are: indicative, subjunctive, presumptive, conditional and imperative. The non-finite moods are: infinitive, gerund or present participle, past participle and supine. All the moods will be dealt with later in this chapter.

TENSES

Romanian verb has 3 main tenses in the indicative, i.e. the present tense, the past tense (compound past, simple past tense, past continuous tense and past perfect) and the future tense (with three forms and a future in the past tense). In the subjunctive, the presumtive and the conditional it has a present and a past tense. The imperative has only a present tense. In the non-finite moods only the participle has a present tense and a past tense. The other non-finite moods have only one form.

THE INDICATIVE MOOD

THE PRESENT TENSE

TYPES OF VERB

According to the new Romanian grammar published by the Romanian Academy in 2006, Romanian has 11 conjugations. Traditionally it used to have only 4.

See the table below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Conjugation | 1 | 2 | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|  | **-a (Ø)** | | **-a (ez)** | **-î (Ø)** | **-i (Ø)** | **-i (Ø)** | **-i (esc)** | **-î (ăsc)** | **-ea (Ø)** | **-e (Ø)** | **-e (Ø)** | **-e (Ø )** |
|  | A PLECA  (to go, leave) | | A VIRA  (to turn) | A COBORÎ  (to go down) | A DIFERI  (to differ) | A FUGI  (to run) | A IUBI  (to love) | A URÎ  (to hate) | A PLĂCEA  (to like) | A FACE  (to do, make) | A MERGE  (to go) | A FRIGE |
| EU  TU  EL/EA  NOI  VOI  EI/ELE | plec  plec**i**  pleac**ă**  plec**ăm**  plec**aţi**  pleac**ă** | | vir**ez**  vir**ezi**  vir**ează**  vir**ăm**  vir**aţi**  vir**ează** | cobor  cobor**i**  coboar**ă**  cobor**âm**  cobor**âţi**  coboar**ă** | difer  difer**i**  *difer****ă***  difer**im**  difer**iţi**  *difer****ă*** | *fug*  fug**i**  fug**e**  fug**im**  fug**iţi**  *fug* | iub**esc**  iub**eşti**  iub**eşte**  iub**im**  iub**iţi**  iub**esc** | ur**ăsc**  ur**ăşti**  ur**ăşte**  ur**âm**  ur**âţi**  ur**ăsc** | plac  plac**i**  plac**e**  plac**em**  plac**eţi**  plac | fac  fac**i**  fac**e**  fac**em**  fac**eţi**  fac | merg  merg**i**  merg**e**  merg**em**  merg**eţi**  merg | frig  frig**i**  frig**e**  frig**em**  frig**eţi**  frig |

CONJUGATION 1

As illustrated in the above table, verbs belonging to conjugation 1 end in **–a** in the infinitive. They are called zero suffix (Ø) verbs, i.e. there is no suffix attached to the root.( Compare with suffixes **–esc, -ăsc** and **–ez**.) This is common to several other conjugations as well. There are endings for each person, which are highlighted in bold in the table.

Many verbs in Romanian belong to this conjugation: *a căra* ( to carry)*, a spăla* (to wash)*, a aduna*(to add)*, a asculta*(to listen)*, a termina*(to finish)*, a cânta*(to sing)*, a întreba*(to ask)*, a discuta* (to discuss)*, a accepta* (to accept)*, a ierta*( to forgive)*, a supăra*(to upset)*, a se muta*(to move), etc.

Examples:

*a asculta a aduna*

ascult adun

asculţi aduni

ascultă adună

ascultăm adunăm

ascultaţi adunaţi

ascultă adună

Here are some verbs which have some irregularities in the conjugation, i.e. the first two forms are identical and sometimes the 3rd person ends in **–e** rather than **-ă**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **a întârzia**  (to be late) | **a încuia**  (to lock) | **a continua**  (to continue) |
| întârzii | încui | continui |
| întârzii | încui | continui |
| întârzie | încuie | continuă |
| întârziem | încuiem | continuăm |
| întârziaţi | încuiaţi | continuaţi |
| întârzie | încuie | continuă |

Below we have listed more verbs that follow one of the four examples above:

**a întârzia**: *a apropia* (to bring closer), *a împrăştia* (to scatter), *a înfuria* (to anger), *a învia* (to resurect), *a mânia* (to anger), *a peria* (to brush), *a speria* (to scare), *a zgâria* (to scratch).

**a încuia:** *a descuia* (to lock), *a descheia* (to unbutton), *a încheia* (to complete, button up), *a înmuia* (to soften), *a mângâia* (to caress), *a tăia* (to cut).

NOTE! Verbs that have the root ending in *–bl-, -fl-, -pl-, -rl-, -cr-, -tr-* will take the letter **–u** in the 1st person singular as shown here.

Infinitive 1st person singular

a umbla umblu

a sufla suflu

a contempla contemplu

a urla urlu

a consacra consacru

a intra intru

CONJUGATION 2

Verbs belonging to conjugation 2 end in **–a** in the infinitive just like conjugation 1 verbs, but they also receive the verbal suffix **–ez.** All persons retain the suffix **–ez** as well as the endings for each person, except for the 1st and 2nd person plural.

Here we have listed some of the most common **–ez** verbs:

*a cerceta* (to search), *a cina* (to dine), *a cita* (to quote), *a dansa* (to dance), *a deranja* (to disturb), *a dezarma* (to disarm), *a dicta* (to dictate), *a dura* (to last), *a examina* (to examine), *a exagera* (to exagerrate), *a exersa* ( to exercise), *a forma* ( to form), *a fuma* (to smoke), *a îmbrăţişa* ( to hug), *a înainta* ( to go forward), *a înapoia* (to return), *a întrista* (to upset), *a lumina* ( to lighten), *a micşora* ( to reduce), *a nota* ( to take notes), *a ofta* (to sigh), *a păstra* (to keep), *a păta* (to spot), *a reglementa* (to regulate), *a reproşa* (to reproach), *a salva* (to save), *a săra* (to add salt), *a scurta* (to shorten), *a semna* (to sign), *a telefona* (to telephone), *a trata* (to treat), *a traversa* (to cross), *a trişa* (to cheat), *a ura* (to wish), *a urma* (to follow), *a visa* ( to dream).

Examples

*a cerceta a cina*

cercetez cinez

cercetezi cinezi

cercetează cinează

cercetăm cinăm

cercetaţi cinaţi

cercetează cinează

Here are some verbs which have several irregularities in their conjugation dictated by orthographic rules for Romanian:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **a fotografia**  (to take photos) | **a supraveghea**  (to supervise) | **a parca**  (to park) |
| fotografiez | supraveghez | parchez |
| fotografiezi | supraveghezi | parchezi |
| fotografiază | supraveghează | parchează |
| fotografiem | supraveghem | parcăm |
| fotografiaţi | supravegheaţi | parcaţi |
| fotografiază | supraveghează | parchează |

Below we have listed more verbs that follow the examples above:

**a fotografia**: *a abrevia* (to abreviate), *a aprecia* ( to appreciate), *a beneficia* (to benefit), *a copia* (to copy), *a expedia* (to send), *a iniţia* (to initiate), *a închiria* (to let), *a negocia* (to negotiate), *a studia* (to study), *a sublinia* (to underline).

**a supraveghea:** *a desperechea* (to separate (i.e. a pair)), *a împerechea* (to pair up), *a îngenunchea* (to kneel), *a veghea* (to guard, to keep vigil).

**a parca**: *a dialoga* (to debate), *a bloca* (to block), *a diagnostica* (to diagnose), *a marca* (to mark), *a masca* (to mask), *a şoca* (to shock), *a droga* (to drug), *a interoga* (to interogate), *a investiga* (to investigate), *a monologa* (to give a monologue).

CONJUGATION 3

The verbs belonging to conjugation 3 end in **–î** in the infinitive and have the  **Ø** suffix when conjugated.

There are very few verbs that belong to this conjugation. Here are some more examples: *a vârî* ( to thrust), *a pogorî* (to descend), *a doborî* ( to knock down ), *a omorî* ( to kill).

Examples

*a vârî a pogorî*

vâr pogor

vâri pogori

vâră pogoară

vârâm pogorâm

vârâţi pogorâţi

vâră pogoară

CONJUGATION 4

Verbs belonging to conjugation 4 end in **–i** in the infinitive and are **Ø** suffix verbs. In conjugation 4, the 3rd person singular and plural have the same form. (Compare this to conjugation 5 where the 1st person singular and the 3rd person plural have the same form.)

More examples of such verbs:  *a acoperi* (to cover), *a descoperi* (to discover), a *referi (* to refer), *a suferi* ( to suffer), *a oferi* ( to offer).

Examples

*a acoperi a suferi*

acopăr sufăr

acoperi suferi

acoperă suferă

acoperim suferim

acoperiţi suferiţi

acoperă suferă

NOTE: Please remember that all the conjugation 4 verbs ending in **–ăi, -îi, -ui** in the infinitive will have the same form for the 1st person singular (eu) and the 2nd person singular (tu).

**a pipăi a mârâi a hurui**

(to touch) (to snarl) (to rattle)

pipăi mârâi hurui

pipăi mârâi hurui

pipăie mârâie huruie

pipăim mârâim huruim

pipăiţi mârâiţi huruiţi

pipăie mârâie huruie

More examples of verbs that follow these patterns:

***a pipăi:*** *a molfăi* ( to chew)*, a mormăi* (to grumble)*, a năzări* (to loom up)*, a plescăi* (to smack)*, a pufăi* (to puff)*, a ronţăi* (to crunch)*, a şovăi* (to hesitate)*.*

***a mârâi:*** *a se bâlbâi* (to stutter)*, a pâlpâi* (to flicker)*, a pârâi* (to crackle)*, a râgâi* (to belch)*, a scârţâi* (to squick)*, a târâi* (to drag)*, a ţârâi* (to ring)*.*

***a hurui:*** *a contribui*(to contribute)*, a mântui* (to save religiously)*, a se nărui* (to collapse)*, a reconstitui* (to reconstruct)*, a sui* (to climb)*, a zgudui* (to shake)*.*

CONJUGATION 5

Verbs belonging to conjugation 5 end in **–i** in the infinitive and are **Ø** suffix verbs. In conjugation 5, the 1st person singular and the 3rd person plural have the same form. (Compare this to conjugation 4 where the 3rd person singular and plural have the same form.)

Here are some more verbs belonging to this conjugation: *a ascuţi* (to sharpen), *a auzi* (to hear), *a deveni* ( to become), *a dormi* ( to sleep), *a fugi* ( to run), *a ieşi* (to exit), *a împărţi* ( to share), *a înghiţi* (to swallow), *a minţi* ( to tell a lie), *a mirosi* ( to smell), *a muri* ( to die), *a oferi* ( to offer), *a presimţi* (to have a premonition), *a preveni* (to prevent), *a răsări* (to rise ), *a repezi* (to rush s.o.), *a reveni* (to return), *a sări* (to jump), *a simţi* (to feel), *a suferi* (to suffer), *a şti* (to know), *a veni* (to come).

Examples

*a ascuţi a auzi*

ascut aud

ascuţi auzi

ascute aude

ascuţim auzim

ascuţiţi auziţi

ascut aud

CONJUGATION 6

Verbs belonging to conjugation 6 end in **–i** in the infinitive and take the verbal suffix **–esc.**

More examples of verbs from this conjugation: *a înăbuşi* (to steam)*, a îngrămădi* (to cram)*, a tuşi* (to cough)*, a învălui*( to veil)*, a citi* (to read)*, a fugări* (to chase)*, a isprăvi* (to complete)*, a mări* (to enlarge)*, a nimeri* (to guess)*.*

Examples

*a înăbuşi a îngrămădi*

înăbuşesc îngrămădesc

înăbuşeşti îngrămădeşti

înăbuşeşte îngrămădeşte

înăbuşim îngrămădim

înăbuşiţi îngrămădiţi

înăbuşesc îngrămădesc

CONJUGATION 7

Verbs belonging to conjugation 7 end in **–î** in the infinitive and take the verbal suffix **–ăsc**. There are very few verbs in this conjugation.

More examples of verbs from this conjugation: *a pârî* (to tell on someone)*, a hotărî* (to decide)*, a zăvorî* (to lock)*.*

Examples

*a pârî a hotărî*

pârăsc hotărăsc

pârăşti hotărăşti

pârăşte hotărăşte

pârâm hotărâm

pârâţi hotărâţi

pârăsc hotărăsc

CONJUGATION 8

Verbs belonging to conjugation 8 end in **–ea** in the infinitive and are **Ø** suffix verbs. Here are some examples of verbs from this conjugation: *a vedea* (to see)*, a părea* (to seem)*, a apărea* (to appear)*, a zăcea* (to lie down)*, a tăcea* (to keep quiet)*.*

Examples

*a vedea a părea*

văd par

vezi pari

vede pare

vedem părem

vedeţi păreţi

văd par

CONJUGATION 9

Verbs belonging to conjugation 9 end in **–e** in the infinitive and differ from verbs in conjugations 10 and 11 because of the way they form the past participle. Verbs in this conjugation have past participles that end in **–ut.** See section 7.8 on past participles.

More verbs belonging to this conjugation: *a începe* (to start)*, a concepe* (to conceive)*, a aşterne* (to lay)*, a trece* (to pass)*, a vinde* (to sell)*, a străbate* (to ramble)*, a aparţine* (to belong)*, a ţine* (to keep)*.*

Examples

*a începe a aşterne*

încep aştern

începi aşterni

începe aşterne

începem aşternem

începeţi aşterneţi

încep aştern

CONJUGATION 10

Verbs belonging to conjugation 10 end in **–e** in the infinitive and differ from verbs in conjugations 9 and 11 because of the way they form their past participles. Verbs in this conjugation have past participles that end in **–s.** See section 7.8 on past participles.

More verbs belonging to this conjugation: *a arde* (to burn)*, a prinde* (to catch)*, a şterge* (to wipe)*, a trage* (to pull)*, a răspunde* (to answer)*, a plânge* (to cry)*, a râde* (to laugh)*, a scrie* (to write)*, a zice* (to say)*, a deschide*(to open)*, a închide* (to close)*.*

Examples

*a arde a răspunde*

ard răspund

arzi răspunzi

arde răspunde

ardem răspundem

ardeţi răspundeţi

ard răspund

CONJUGATION 11

Verbs belonging to conjugation 11 end in **–e** in the infinitive and differ from verbs in conjugations 9 and 10 because of the way they form the past participle. Verbs in this conjugation have past participles that end in **–t.** See section 7.8 on past participles.

More verbs belonging to this conjugation: *a coace* (to bake)*, a fierbe* (to boil)*, a frânge* (to break)*, a înfige* (to stick)*, a rupe*(to tear)*, a sparge* (to break)*, a suge* (to suck)*.*

Examples

*a coace a fierbe*

coc fierb

coci fierbi

coace fierbe

coacem fierbem

coaceţi fierbeţi

coc fierb

### The negative

The negative form in the present is formed by placing the word **nu** in front of the verb: *nu mănânc* ( I don’t eat), *nu bei* ( you don’t drink), *nu visează* (he doesn’t dream), *nu iubim* (we don’t love), *nu urâţi* ( you don’t hate), *nu pleacă* ( they don’t go).

IRREGULAR VERBS IN ROMANIAN

There are a number of irregular verbs which are listed below.

**a fi a avea a vrea a da a sta a lua a bea**

(to be) (to have) (to want) (to give) (to stay) ( to take) ( to drink)

sunt am vreau dau stau iau beau

eşti ai vrei dai stai iei bei

este are vrea dă stă ia bea

suntem avem vrem dăm stăm luăm bem

sunteţi aveţi vreţi daţi staţi luaţi beţi

sunt au vor dau stau iau beau

**a mânca a şti**

(to eat) ( to know)

mănânc ştiu

mănânci ştii

mănâncă ştie

mâncăm ştim

mâncaţi ştiţi

mănâncă ştiu

NOTE!

Some verbs ending in **–ne** or **–ni** in the infinitive, lose the consonant **–n** in the 2nd person singular.

Please see some examples below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a ţine | a veni |
| ţin | vin |
| *ţii* | *vii* |
| ţine | vine |
| ţinem | venim |
| ţineţi | veniţi |
| ţin | vin |

More examples of verbs like **a ţine**: a reţine, a întreţine, a susţine, a pune, a supune, a expune, a suprapune.

More examples of verbs like **a veni**:a preveni, a surveni, a interveni, a deveni.