Creole Louisianne

Verb Conjugation

Infinitive 20

| Travaille | to work |

Imperative 8

| Travaille! Annou travaille! | Work! Let's work! |

Present 0

mo travaille	I work	nous travaille	we work
to travaille	you work	vous travaille	you work
li travaille	he speaks	yè travaille	they work

Present Progressive 10

m' apé travaille	I am working	n' apé travaille	we are working
t' apé travaille	you are working	v' apé travaille	you are working
l' apé travaille	he is speaking	y' apé travaille	they are working

Past 4

mo travaille	I worked	nous travaille	we worked
to travaille	you worked	vous travaille	you worked
li travaille	he worked	yè travaille	they worked

Future 5

m' a travaille	I will work	n' a travaille	we will work
t' a travaille	you will work	v' a travaille	you will work
l' a travaille	he will work	y' a travaille	they will work

Future with ale 10

m'ale travaille	I am going to work	n' ale travaille	we are going to work
t'ale travaille	you are going to work	v' ale travaille	you are going to work
l' ale travaille	he is going to work	y ale travaille	they are going to work

Perfect 14

mo tè travaille	I have worked	nous tè travaille	we have worked
to tè travaille	you have worked	vous tè travaille	you have worked
li tè travaille	he has worked	yè tè travaille	they have worked

Conditional 7

mo sé travaille	I would work	nous sé travaille	we would work
to sé travaille	you would work	vous sé travaille	you would work
li sé travaille	he would work	yè sé travaille	they would work
Imperfect 2			
mo t'ape travaille	I used to work I was working	nous t'ape travaille	we used to work we were working
to t'ape travaille	you used to work you were working	vous t'ape travaille	you used to work you were working
li t'ape travaille	he used to work he was working	yè t'ape travaille	they used to work they were working

Questions or Comments

Verbix: Louisiana Creole notes

Louisiana Creole

Grammar

Click here for an online **English-Louisiana Creole Vocabulary.**
Updated 2/3/99

Pronunciation
Go here to learn about pronunciation.

Common Expressions
Go here to learn some useful Louisiana Creole sentences..

Articles
Indefinite article is placed before the noun.........*ein*
Definite article is attached by hyphen to the end of the noun
To nouns ending in a consonant add *-la*.
latab = table
ein latab = a table
latab-la = the table
latab-yè = the tables

2. after a pronounced vowel add -a
ri = street
ein ri = a street
ri-a = the street
ri-yè = the streets

Nouns
Nouns have no gender

Plurals
for plural hyphenate the plural article yè to the end of the noun.
bèf = cow
bèf-yè = (the) cows

Possession
Cajun doesn't use **'s** to show possession, nor does it use "of". To express possession or "of the", you place the thing possessed in front of the possessor.
chomme Jean. Jean's room.

Comparison
trop = too (much)
plis = more, most
place plis before the adjective = -er, more

Li vie = He is old.
Li plis vie = He is older.
Li plis vie. = He is oldest.

more..... than	plis .... pase
less .... than	mo ... pase

Li plis vie pase so frè. = He is older than his brother.
Li mo belle pase so sè. = He is less pretty than his sister.

Adverbs
In making adverbs from adjectives, -man is like the English -ly.
ra = rare
rarement = rarely
conplète = whole
conplètement = wholly

Ga icite=Here is/are
Ga (la)=There is/are (Voila)
Enna=There is/are (Il y a)

Verbs

The base verb is used as infinitive, as imperative, as simple present and simple past with time being learned from context. Other tenses are made by adding verbal particles.

For "to be" use *c'est* between nouns in present, use *t_* for past tense, *sa* for future, and *sé* for conditional..

Go here to see the complete conjugation of a Louisiana Creole verb. There should be no irregular verbs.

To Be
The linking verbs c'est / yè connects two nouns in a "to be" statement. *C'est* is not needed if there is a noun and an adjective. *Yè* is used for emphasis. See below for details.

Types of Sentences.
A. To be sentences with a noun and verbal adjective.
Mo las. = I am tired.
Yè en marchè. = They are at the market.

In this sentence, you may still use the verb particles even though the verb is understood (or missing).

B. To be sentences with sè.
Use *c'est* if
1. predicate is a noun (it is a ...)
John c'est ein jadinnie. = John is a gardener.

2. subject is *qui _a* (that)
Qui ça c'est bon. = That is good.
http://www.angelfire.com/ky/LeCorde/cajun.html

choual nomme-la. the man's horse. / the horse of the man

Pronouns

There is only one form of the pronoun. Any change is caused for liaison and not for case.

	singular	*plural*
1st	m' / mo	nous
2nd	t'/to	' / vous
3rd	l / li	y / yè

When the pronoun precedes a verb, it is the subject.
When it follows a verb, it is the direct object.
When two pronouns follow a verb, the first is the indirect object and the second is the direct object.
When the pronoun precedes a noun, it is the possessive adjective.
For the subject of a verb, you usually use the abbreviated form.
For the subject of an adjective or linking verb, use the full form.
For the object of the verb, hyphenate the full form to the end of the verb. For *mo* use *moin*.br>

Possessive Pronouns

mo-quenne (motchen)	mine	nous-quenne (nutchen)	ours
to-quenne	yours	vous-quenne	
so-quenne	his, hers, its	yè-quenne	theirs

C'est mo liv. = It's my book.
C'est mo-quenne. = It's mine.
C'est li choual. = It's his horse.
C'est so-quenne. = It's his.

Demonstratives

To use the demonstrative as an adjective, hyphenate it to the noun.
To use the demonstrative as an pronoun with the meaning this one",etc., you the demonstrative alone.

for "that" add *la* to the noun
for "this" add *cila*
for "those" add *yè*
for "these" add *cilayè*

ein choual = a horse
choual-an = the horse
choual-la =that horse
choual-cilaa = this horse
choual-yè = the horses
choual-yè = those horses
choual-cilayè = these horses

M' oua choual-saa. = I see that horse.
M' oua cila. = I see that one.

Adjectives

Adjectives require no verb and are translated as "to be..."
Adjectives follow their nouns.
malade = sick
Moin malade. = I am sick.
Nous malade. = We are sick.

3. predicate is non-inherent adjective/noun
4. emphatic statements with *yè*
C'est cajun mo yè. = I am Cajun
move predicate to second position with subject in third and add *yè*

C. To be sentence without the subject noun.
C'est ein lamaison. = It's a house.

D. Transitive sentences.
These follow the "subject - verb - indirect object - direct object" format.
Vous a oua ein gros bateau. = You will see a big boat.
Li montre nomme-yè liv-la. = She showed the men the book.(or the book to the children).
Li montre-yè liv-la. = He showed them the book.
Li montre-yè li. = He showed it to them.

E. Transitive/ Intransitive sentence.
Contains a noun phrase subject, a predicate containing an intransitive verb, and, sometimes, one or more adverbials.
Li vini jordi. = He came today.
Anita descend Nouvo Olean. = Anita is going down to ew Orleans.

For To (..Do) Phrases
Use *pou*, for.
Mo gain temp pou fait cila.
I have time to do this. (pou = for to...)

Relative Sentences.
For (that) relative make two sentences
or add *que* between the sentences

Li di-li que li prale. = He told him that he's going.

For the meaning "that which" or "what", you the same format and *qui ça* in place of *ke*
Li di-li qui ça li we. = He said what he knows

If/Then Statements
In if/then statements the if part uses *tè*
the then part uses *ta*

Si mo tè konnen qui ça, mo pa ta fait-li. = If I had known that, I would not have done it.

Ability Use *ca, cap,* or *capab* (to be able)

Preference
Temporal subordination
Quand vous a vini, mo a travaille. = When you come, I'll be working.
Quand vous tè dormi, mo tè travaille. = While you slept, I worked.

Negative
To make a statement negative place *pas* before the verb.

pas	not
jamain	never
plis	no more/longer
pas ____ arien	not ____ anything (nothing)
pas ____ pèsonn	not ____ anybody (nobody)

M' oua ein nomme. = I see a man.
M' pa oua ein nomme. = I don't see a man.
Mo jamain oua nomme-yè. = I never see men.
M' pa oua arien. = I don't see anything.
M' pa oua pèsonn. = I don't see anyone.

Questions?
To make a question without the use of question words, raise your tone at the end of the sentence as in English.

Vous pele Paul. = Your name is Paul.
Vous pele Pal? = Is your name Paul?
Here are the question words.

qui	who
ou	where
qui ça, qui	what
commien	how much
què	which, who
cofè	wky

Counting
Go <u>here</u> for the numbers in Kreyol.

Telling Time

Què l'hè li yè? = What time is it?
Li ein l'hè. = It's 1:00.
Què l'hè li fenmen? = What time does it close?
Li fenmen a dè l'hè. = It closes at 2:00.

1:00 = *ein 'hè*
2:00 = *dè 'hè*
3:00 = *trois 'hè*
4:00 = *quatre 'hè*
11:00 = *onze 'hè*
matin = morning
du matin = in the morning
midi=noon
a midi = at noon
laprèsmidi = afternoon
d laprèsmidi = in the afternoon

Conjunctions of Time
quand = when

Verbix: Louisiana Creole notes

quand = while
anvan = before
après = after
jisque=until

plein=a lot

Paj-la d Istoi Gumbo-yè.
The Louisian Creole Story Page

Lien-yè pou lòt paj-yè en Crèole
Creole Links

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Questions or Comments
Be sure to note which Creole you are asking about.