

Vouloir, Pouvoir, and Devoir

Note : these are three very irregular verbs with big similarities!

Vouloir – to want

Je veux
Tu veux
Il/elle/on veut
Nous voulons
Vous voulez
Ils/elles veulent

*Follow this verb with another verb in the infinitive form OR follow the verb with what it is you want (don't forget the article).

Normally, you want **some of** something: I want some fish: Je veux du poisson.
You would then use the indefinite article (du, de la, des).

Pouvoir – to be able, to have the power, “to can” (do something)

Je peux
Tu peux
Il/elle/on peut
Nous pouvons
Vous pouvez
Ils/elles peuvent

Follow this verb with another verb in the infinitive form.

I can sing: Je peux chanter. Remember that the infinitive form means “to... (do something)”

Devoir – to ought (to do something) or to owe (like money)

Je dois
Tu dois
Il/elle/on doit
Nous devons
Vous devez
Ils/elles doivent

Follow this verb with another verb in the infinitive form OR follow it with that item you owe to someone else, then add to whom you owe it. i.e., Je dois cinq euros à ma mère. I owe 5 euros to my mother.