

A slight spelling modification is made to facilitate pronunciation. Generally, in the **tu** form of the imperative of **-er** verbs, the **-s** ending is dropped: **parle**, **pense**, **achète**. But the **-s** is restored when followed by **y** or **en**.

Penses-**y**!  
*Think about it!*

Parles-**en**!  
*Talk about it!*

Achètes-**en**!  
*Buy some!*

Another exception that makes grammar all the more fun: **En** can replace nouns referring to human beings, but only when used in a general sense.

Avez-vous **des cousins** à Paris?  
*Do you have cousins in Paris?*  
Oui, j'**en** ai.  
*Yes, I have some.*

On a toujours besoin **d'amis**.  
*One always needs friends.*  
On **en** a toujours besoin.  
*One always needs some.*

### The Pronoun **en** and Expressions of Quantity

Expressions of quantity also use the pronoun **en**. The number is repeated at the end of the sentence, as is a modifier such as **beaucoup**, **trop**, and **assez**. The noun it modifies, however, is replaced by **en**. This is discussed in more depth in Unit 13.

J'ai besoin **d'un livre**.  
*I need a book.*  
J'**en** ai besoin **d'un**.  
*I need one.*

J'ai acheté **quatre** pamplemousses.  
*I bought four grapefruit.*  
J'**en** ai acheté **quatre**.  
*I bought four.*

Nous n'avons pas **beaucoup vacances**.  
*We do not have a lot of vacation.*  
Nous n'**en** avons pas **beaucoup**.  
*We do not have a lot.*