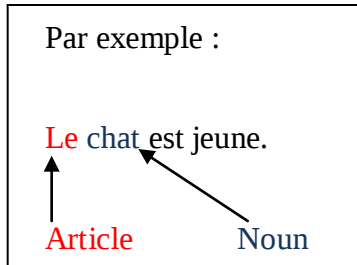


Les Articles

In French, there are three different types of articles; definite articles, indefinite articles, and partitive articles. Each type of article comes before a noun in a sentence.



Les articles définis

The first type of article is the definite article. Definite articles describe a noun that refers to an object or a person. In English, definite articles refer to the word “the”.

In French, there are four different ways to signify the word “the” as a definite article:

- Le → used with masculine, singular nouns
- La → used with feminine, singular nouns
- Les → used with plural nouns
- L' → used with nouns when the next word begins with a vowel or “h”

For Example :

Les garçons mangent tout le gâteau.

The boys eat all the cake.

→ Les and le are the definite articles

Les articles indéfinis

The secondary category of articles in French are known as indefinite articles. Indefinite articles refer to a precise object or person. Any noun that can be counted is an indefinite article. In English, the word “a” or “an” are used.

In French, there are three different articles used to signify “a” or “an”:

Un	→	used with singular masculine nouns
Une	→	used with singular feminine nouns
Des	→	used with plural nouns

For Example:

Un homme a couru pour une association caritative hier.

A man ran for a charity yesterday. → Un and une are the indefinite articles.

Les articles partitifs :

The last category of articles in French are partitive articles. Partitive articles refer to nouns that cannot be counted. When translated, they refer to the words “some” or “any” in English.

In French there are four partitive articles:

Du	→	used with singular masculine nouns
De la	→	used with singular feminine nouns
Des	→	used with plural nouns
De l'	→	used when the next word begins with a vowel or an “h”

For Example :

Nous avons acheté **de l'**ail, **du** pain, et **de la** laitue pour dîner ce soir.

We bought **garlic**, **bread**, and **lettuce** for dinner tonight. → **De l'**, **du**, and **de la** are the partitive articles.

Attention ! Sometimes in English articles are omitted when speaking or writing. Usually, in English, “the” and “some” are left out; however in French, you cannot leave out any articles. All nouns must be preceded by an article.

Par exemple :

Il a acheté **de la** crème Chantilly hier.

He bought **whipped cream** yesterday. → The word “some” is omitted in English, but in French it must be present.

La négation :

When you use a negative phrase in French; ne...pas, you must use the article “de”. However, you only change indefinite and partitive articles in negative phrases. Definite articles are never changed, regardless if the phrase is a negation.

Un, une, des, du, de la, de l' → de

For Example :

Elle boit **une** limonade. → Elle ne boit pas **de** limonade.

Nous mangeons **de la** crème caramel après diner. → Nous ne mangeons pas **de** crème caramel après diner.

Les mères aiment **l'**école nouvelle. → **Les** mères n'aiment pas **l'**école nouvelle.

Les verbes de préférence :

In French, certain words do not ever change their article. These verbs, verbs of preference, use definite articles each time, including negative sentences.

Aimer, adorer, détester, préférer use definite articles each time.

Les expressions des quantités :

When referring to quantities of a thing, the article “de” takes the place of the other articles.

Beaucoup de	→	a lot of
Assez de	→	enough
Une livre de	→	a pound of
Un verre de	→	a glass of
Un peu de	→	a little
Trop de	→	too much
Un kilo de	→	a kilo of
Une douzaine de	→	a dozen of
Une tasse de	→	a cup of
Un litre de	→	a liter of

For Example :

Tu as bu un verre de vin rouge avec dîner.

You drank a glass of red wine with dinner. → De” is used because there is a quantity, in this case a glass.

Les contractions :

Lastly, certain articles become contractions when a preposition is used before the article.

à + le	→	au
à + les	→	aux
de + le	→	du
de + les	→	des

For Example :

Les femmes vont aller au cinéma le samedi prochain.

The women are going to the movies next Saturday. → Because “cinéma” would have “à” + “le” before it, “le” is dropped, and “au” is used in its place.

My Experience :

While learning French, the articles for me are easy to make small mistakes with. It is easy to miss a preposition, or a quantity. These little words change the article in a sentence. While the rules are fairly simple and easy to understand, they are easy to miss. For me, when learning the articles and writing French, I take time to look at the sentence, and its components. This way, by taking my time, I can pick out when there are certain identifier words such as “beaucoup” or “aimer” which will change my answer. While it may take more time, the extra effort can help in the long run.

Exercice : Utiliser le article correct.

1. J'ai apporté ____ bifteck pour ____ barbecue.
2. ____ semaine dernière, elle a acheté ____ jupes pour ____ Saint-Valentin.
3. Hier, elles ont vu ____ film sur les animaux ____ désert.
4. Il n'est pas adorer ____ fille.
5. J'ai mangé trop ____ gâteau après déjeuner.

Les noms, les articles et les accents – Français 1 – DELF niveau A1



French Nouns, Articles, and Accents – French 1 – A1

This French 1 lesson is part of Anne's French progressive course for the total beginner student. It's designed to introduce you to the basics of French - how to pronounce French sounds, learn numbers, how to order in a restaurant, how to introduce yourself... - and to move your French forward to the next level. Take every task in this lesson one day at a time. The assignments in this lesson are meant to keep you busy **for a week**.

Liens pour cette fiche

1. Retrouvez la leçon sur French Hour

- <https://frenchhour.com/blog/french-nouns-articles-and-accents/>

2. Téléchargez l'audio

- <https://frenchhour.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/french-nouns-articles-and-accents.mp3>

3. Retrouvez le cours **French 1 – A1**

- <https://frenchhour.com/french-1-a1/>



French Gender – General Rules



Le genre en français – Règles générales

Print this lesson and download the recording.
Read and practice several times in a short period of time.
That's the key to success to bring your French to the next level!

Imprimez cette fiche et téléchargez l'enregistrement.
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Liens pour cette fiche

1. Retrouvez la leçon sur French Hour

- <https://frenchhour.com/blog/french-gender-general-rules/>

2. Téléchargez l'audio

- <https://frenchhour.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/french-gender-general-rules-frenchhour.mp3>

3. Voici le lien du cours

- <https://frenchhour.com/masculine-and-feminine-in-french/>

The Gender of Nouns

French nouns are often paired with an article and figuring out its gender is not always logical.

Why do you say *un livre* (a book) and *une livre* (half a pound)? Just because, I'm afraid. Therefore, it's important to memorize the gender with every new noun you learn.

The gender is shown in the article: **le, la, un or une** or in adjectives such as **ce, cette...** You'll see the gender of nouns in front of each word in all of the FRENCH HOUR lists.

Let's see how this works.

Nouns you can count

- when the noun is masculine

the = le --> the chicken = le poulet

a/an = un --> a hamburger = un steak haché

- when the noun is feminine

the = la --> the salad = la salade

a/an = une --> an appetizer = une entrée

- when the noun starts with a vowel

the = l' --> the orange = l'orange

[some] = de l' --> [some] water = de l'eau

- when the noun is plural, no matter the gender

the = les --> the drinks = les boissons

[some] = des --> [some] desserts = des desserts



Nouns you can't count

(~~one water~~, ~~one milk~~)

When you want "some" of something (some water), when you want a piece/slice of something, when the number of the noun is approximate.

- [some] + masculine = du --> [some] wine = du vin
- [some] + feminine = de la --> [some] soda = de la limonade
- [some] + plural = des --> [some] drinks = des boissons

	masculine	feminine	before a vowel	plural
the	le	la	l'	les
a/an	un	une	de l'	des
[some]	du	de la	de l'	des

Remember my 'trick' to learn the gender of nouns: let's take the first word on the French Alphabet list. Don't just learn "addition", but learn **'une** addition' instead.

Prenez des notes – Your notes

Spotting if a word masculine or feminine

Even though knowing if a word is masculine or feminine is not always logical, there are a few tricks you can hang onto to spot a gender.

- nouns ending in **-tion are feminine**
- nouns ending in **-ade -aison -ale -ance -ence -ette -ie -ode -ole -sion -té -tée -ude -ure tend to be feminine**
- nouns ending in **-acle -age -asme -eau -isme -ment -phone -scope and nouns that come from a Foreign language tend to be masculine**
- **foreign words** - words coming from another language - **tend to be masculine**

1. -acle m spectacle
2. -ade f chiffonade
3. -age m fromage
4. -aison f maison
5. -ale f rafale
6. -ance f
accoutumance
7. -asme m sarcasme
8. -eau m couteau
9. -ence f prudence
10. -ette f serviette
11. -ie f minutie
12. -isme m romantisme
13. -ment m sentiment

14. -ode f ode
15. -ole f école
16. -phone m
microphone
17. -scope m télescope
18. -sion f contusion
19. -té f fierté
20. -tée f nuitée
21. -tion f information
22. -ude f habitude
23. -ure f culture
24. foreign words m
parking

Exercice – Practice

Quiz - French Gender – General Rules

Décidez entre le masculin ou féminin, d'après la fin du mot. Choisissez a. ou b.

Decide between the masculine or feminine form, according to the ending of the word. Choose a. or b.

1. spectacle

- a. féminin
- b. masculin

2. fromage

- a. féminin
- b. masculin

3. nuitée

- a. féminin
- b. masculin

4. information

- a. féminin
- b. masculin

5. couteau

- a. masculin
- b. féminin

6. contusion

- a. féminin
- b. masculin

7. minutie

- a. féminin
- b. masculin

8. sarcasme

- a. féminin
- b. masculin

9. serviette

- a. féminin
- b. masculin

10. parking

- a. masculin
- b. féminin

Réponses en vert – Answers in green

1) spectacle

- a) féminin
- b) masculin**

2) fromage

- a) féminin
- b) masculin**

3) nuitée

- a) féminin**
- b) masculin

4) information

- a) féminin**
- b) masculin

5) couteau

- a) masculin**
- b) féminin

6) contusion

- a) féminin**
- b) masculin

7) minutie

- a) féminin**
- b) masculin

8) sarcasme

- a) féminin
- b) masculin**

9) serviette

- a) féminin**
- b) masculin

10) parking

- a) masculin**
- b) féminin



LE, LA, LES, UN, UNE DES - Articles Définis et Indéfinis



LE, LA, LES, UN, UNE DES - French Definite and Indefinite Articles

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Liens pour cette fiche

1. Retrouvez la leçon sur French Hour

- <https://frenchhour.com/blog/le-la-les-un-une-des-french-definite-and-indefinite-articles/>

2. Téléchargez l'audio

- <https://frenchhour.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/le-la-les-un-une-des-french-definite-and-indefinite-articles.mp3>

3. Voici le lien du cours

- <https://frenchhour.com/masculine-and-feminine-in-french/>

Definite articles – THE

THE has 4 translations in French: LE, LA, L', LES. French words have a gender. For instance, a cheese is masculine and a baguette is feminine. The gender shows up in the article, but also in the adjective, so it's important to know them:

the fresh baguette and the fresh cheese

--> **la** baguette **fraîche** et **le** fromage **frais**

Sometimes, the gender is obvious (a man, a woman); sometimes, there is no logic to it – why do you say *le* somme (the nap) and *la* somme (the amount)? Therefore, it is necessary to memorize the gender with every new noun you are learning.

Rule for the definite article THE

- when the noun is masculine
the = le --> the chicken = le poulet
- when the noun is feminine
the = la --> the salad = la salade
- when the noun starts with a vowel
the = l' --> the check = l'addition
- when the noun is plural, no matter the gender
the = les --> the drinks = les boissons



Exercice – Practice

Les articles définis

Fill in the blanks with LE, LA or LES. Review the gender of the noun on the first lesson "French Alphabet". The answers are in the last column.

the kilo	___ kilo	le kilo
the Euro	___ euro	l'euro
the quarter	___ quart	le quart
the strawberry	___ fraise	la fraise
the check	___ addition	l'addition
the apple	___ pomme	la pomme
the hotels	___ hôtels	les hôtels
the salads	___ salades	les salades
the Tuesdays	___ mardis	les mardis
the teas	___ thés	les thés

Prenez des notes – Your notes

Indefinite articles - A & AN

A/AN has 3 translations in French: UN, UNE, DES. Here is how it works. French words have a gender. For instance, a blouse is masculine and a men's shirt is feminine (Go figure!). The gender shows up in the article, but also in the adjective:

a small shirt --> un**e** petit**e** chemise

Sometimes, the gender is obvious (a man, a woman); sometimes, there is no logic to it – why do you say *un* manche (a handle) and *une* manche (a sleeve)? Therefore, it is necessary to memorize the gender with every new noun you are learning.

Rule for the indefinite article A and AN

- when the noun is masculine

a/an = un --> a hat = un chapeau

- when the noun is feminine

a/an = une --> an earring = une boucle d'oreille

- when the noun is plural, no matter the gender

some = des --> some coats = des manteaux



Exercice – Practice

Exercice sur les articles indéfinis

Fill in the blanks with UN, UNE or DES. Review the gender of the noun on the first lesson "French Alphabet". The answers are in the last column.

a kilo	___ kilo	un kilo
a Euro	___ euro	un euro
a quarter	___ quart	un quart
a strawberry	___ fraise	une fraise
a check	___ addition	une addition
an apple	___ pomme	une pomme
(some) hotels	___ hôtels	des hôtels
(some) salads	___ salades	des salades
(some) Tuesdays	___ mardis	des mardis
(some) teas	___ thés	des thés



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Prenez des notes – Your notes

Les accents en français : é, è, ê, ç et autres œ



French Accents: é, è, ê, ç and other œ

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Liens pour cette fiche

1. Retrouvez la leçon sur French Hour

- <https://frenchhour.com/blog/french-accents-e-e-e-c-and-other-oe/>

2. Téléchargez l'audio

- <https://frenchhour.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/french-accents-e-e-e-c-and-other-oe-frenchhour.mp3>

3. Voici le lien du cours

- <https://frenchhour.com/course/it-s-so-french/>

Les accents en français : é, è, ê, ç et autres œ

The French alphabet has 26 letters, just like in English.

However, some letters have accents, which makes it a longer alphabet.

Accents in French serve two main purposes:

1. to modify the sound of a word
 - dés = dice / dès = as soon as
 - lés = widths of fabric/wallpaper / lès = next to
2. to distinguish the meaning of two words that would otherwise be spelled the same way
 - la = the / là = there
 - ou = or / où = where

Be careful, an accent in writing doesn't mean a stress in speaking.

Where do French accents come from?

In the Middle Ages, the French language started losing certain sounds, such as its Ss. Then, French writers started to replace the Ss with an accent. However, not all Frenchmen were writing accents with the same consistency. It is only later on and little by little that the accents became popular in France. However, there was no general rule. As a result, written French of today is not consistent in terms of accents.

In the meantime, English has kept an older form of spelling, keeping Ss. As a result, often – not always – when you see an accent on a French word, the English translation often has kept the original S.

Examples

- | | |
|---|---|
| • beast f bête | • master m maître |
| • castle m château | • oyster f huître |
| • cost m coût | • pasta f pâte |
| • disgusting m/f dégoûtant/e | • school f école |
| • fest f fête | • stall m étal |
| • haste f hâte | • student m/f étudiant/e |
| • hospital m hôpital | • study f étude |
| • island f île | • task f tâche |

Most common accents

type of accent	where	name	purpose	example
'	é	accent aigu (acute)	/e/ becomes /é/	été - summer
`	à è ù	accent grave (grave)	distinguishing the meaning	la - the // là - there
^	â ê î ô û	accent circonflexe (circumflex)	replaces an old S + vowel	pâte - pasta
ç	ç+a, o, u	cédille (cedilla)	/k/ becomes /s/	Ça va ? – How are you?
¨	ë ï ü	tréma (dieresis)	keep two vowel-sound separate	Noël – Christmas
œ	mostly in front of i, u and s	oe collés or e dans l'o	tends to be pronounced /eu/ + vowel and pronounced /é/ + consonant	œuf – egg œstrogène

1. Accent aigu (acute)

Looks like: '
 Goes over the E → é
 Example: été – summer

2. Accent grave (grave)

Looks like: `
 Goes over the A, E and U → à è ù
 Example: là – there

3. Accent circonflexe (circumflex)

Looks like: ^
 Goes over the A, E, I, O, U → â ê î ô û
 Example: pâte – pasta

4. Cédille (cedilla)

Looks like: ç
 Goes under the C and only before an A, O, U → ça, ço, çu
 Example: Ça va ? – How are you?

5. Tréma (dieresis or umlaut)

Looks like: ¨
 Goes over the E, I, U → ë ï ü
 Example: Noël – Christmas

6. And there is also the œ (oe collés or e dans l'o), which is not an accent, but a letter used in the French alphabet. It tends to be pronounced /eu/ in front of a vowel and it's pronounced /é/ in front of a consonant.

Looks like: œ
 Generally goes before the I, U, S
 → œi, œu, œs
 Example: œuf – egg

Exercice – Practice

Exercice 1

Look back at the words in the two left column and write its correct spelling in the right column. The first word 'bonjour' is already filled-in as an example.

bonjour	bonjôur	bonjour
genial	génial	
hotel	hôtel	
ici	ïçi	
rouge	roüge	
salade	sâlade	
the	thé	
vert	vèrt	
Xeres	Xérès	
zut	züt	

Answers – Réponses

bonjour	bonjôur	bonjour
genial	génial	génial
hotel	hôtel	hôtel
ici	ïçi	ici
rouge	roüge	rouge
salade	sâlade	salade
the	thé	thé
vert	vèrt	vert
Xeres	Xérès	Xérès
zut	züt	zut

Exercice 2

Fill in the blanks with one of the two words provided.

_____ (La, Là) fête était _____ (à, à) Loguivy-_____ (les, lès)-Lannion, _____ (ou, où) les grands-parents avaient la maison familiale. _____ (Les, Lès) fêtes se faisaient toujours _____ (la, là). La _____ (tache, tâche) de France était de mettre la table. Lorsqu'elle _____ (à, à) sorti la nappe _____ (du, dû) buffet, elle s'est aperçue qu'il y avait une _____ (tache, tâche). Elle aurait _____ (du, dû) vérifier avant _____ (ou, où) en choisir une autre.

In English

The party was at *Loguivy-lès-Lannion*, where the grandparents had a family house. Parties were always there. France's task was to set the table. When she took the tablecloth out from the dresser, she realized there was a stain. She should have checked beforehand or picked another one.

Réponses – Answers

La fête était **à** Loguivy-**lès**-Lannion, **où** les grands-parents avaient la maison familiale. **Les** fêtes se faisaient toujours **là**. La **tâche** de France était de mettre la table. Lorsqu'elle **a** sorti la nappe **du** buffet, elle s'est aperçue qu'il y avait une **tache**. Elle aurait **dû** vérifier avant **ou** en choisir une autre.

Ensuite – Next

Free quiz

<https://frenchhour.com/blog/quiz-homophones-1/>

in the Homophones Course

<https://frenchhour.com/course/french-homophones/>



Beach time!

Color Adjective exercise

IN FRENCH, when you are using adjectives to describe or tell about something, most color adjectives should match and follow the word THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DESCRIBE. For example, le chien brun or the brown dog.

Adjectives usually match the gender of a word, which is either masculine or feminine.

These are the basic rules:

- For feminine words, add an “e” to the end of the color adjective
i.e. la boîte bleue – the blue box
- For feminine plural words, add an “e” and an “s” to the end of the color adjective
i.e. les salades vertes – the green salads
- for masculine plural words, add an “s” to the end of the color adjective
i.e. les cercles noirs – the black circles

copy the phrase into your book and
translate from English to French

1. the brown sand
2. the blue sea
3. the white cloud
4. the yellow sun
5. the gray sky



copy the phrase into your book and
translate from French to english

1. le sable blanc
2. la lune jaune
3. le ciel noir
4. les nuages gris
5. la mer violette

Big & little things in the garden

Size Adjective exercise

! IN FRENCH, when you are using adjectives about size to describe or tell about something, the adjective should match and usually is before the word THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DESCRIBE. For example, le petit chien or the small dog.

Adjectives usually match the gender of a word, which is either masculine or feminine.

These are the basic rules:

- For feminine words, add an “e” to the end of the adjective
i.e. la petite fille – the small girl
- For feminine plural words, add an “e” and an “s” to the end of the adjective
i.e. Les grandes voitures – the big cars
- for masculine plural words, add an “s” to the end of the adjective
i.e. les petits cercles– the small circles

copy the phrase into your book and
translate from English to French

1. the small flower
2. the big sun
3. the little garden
4. the big roses
5. the little flower pot

copy the phrase into your book and
translate from French to English

1. la petite rose
2. le grand jardin
3. Les grands pots de fleurs
4. les petits nuages
5. le grand ciel

