

FRENCH ADJECTIVES

Most adjectives add *e* to the masculine singular form to get the feminine singular. Be careful when you see masculine adjectives ending in *-e*, *-eux*, *-f*, and *-er*, because for those, you do not simply add *e*. (Note that adding this *e* to a previously silent consonant causes that consonant to be pronounced. No pronunciation changes, however, occur when adding *e* to a vowel.) The table below is a list of common adjectives in their masculine and feminine form.

Common Adjectives	
américain (American)	américaine
amusant (fun)	amusante
bleu (blue)	bleue
brun (brunette)	brune
blond (blonde)	blonde
charmant (charming)	charmante
content (happy)	contente
court (short)	courte
élégant (elegant)	élégante
fort (strong)	forte
français (French)	française
grand (big)	grande
haut (tall, big)	haute
intelligent (intelligent)	intelligente
intéressant (interesting)	intéressante
joli (pretty)	jolie
lourd (heavy)	lourde
ouvert (open)	ouverte
parfait (perfect)	parfaite
petit (small)	petite
poli (polite)	polie
prochain (next)	prochaine
vrai (true)	vraie

Masculine adjectives that end in a silent *e*

Singular adjectives that end in a silent *e* do not change in the feminine. Masculine and feminine forms are spelled and pronounced in the same manner, as follows:

- *aimable* (kind, pleasant)
- *bizarre* (weird, strange)
- *calme* (calm)
- *célèbre* (famous)
- *comique* (comical)
- *confortable* (comfortable)
- *drôle* (funny)
- *facile* (easy)
- *faible* (weak)
- *honnête* (honest)
- *jeune* (young)
- *magnifique* (magnificent)
- *maigre* (thin)
- *malade* (sick)
- *mince* (thin)
- *moderne* (modern)
- *pauvre* (poor)
- *propre* (clean)
- *riche* (rich, wealthy)
- *sale* (dirty)
- *sincère* (sincere)
- *splendide* (splendid)
- *sympathique* (nice)
- *triste* (sad)

FRENCH ADJECTIVES

Masculine adjectives that end in *é*

Form the singular feminine of singular masculine adjectives ending in *é* by adding *-e*, as shown below:

Common Adjectives	
âgé (old, aged)	âgée
dévoué (devoted)	dévouée
fatigué (tired)	fatiguée
occupé (busy)	occupée
situé (situated)	située

Masculine adjectives that end in *eux*

Masculine singular adjectives ending in *eux* form the feminine by changing *-x* to *-se*, as shown below:

Common Adjectives	
affectueux (affectionate)	affectueuse
ambitieux (ambitious)	ambitieuse
chanceux (lucky)	chanceuse
conscientieux (conscientious)	consciencieuse
courageux (courageous)	courageuse
curieux (curious)	curieuse
dangereux (dangerous)	dangereuse
délicieux (delicious)	délicieuse
furieux (furious)	furieuse
généreux (generous)	généreuse
heureux (happy)	heureuse
malheureux (unhappy)	malheureuse
paresseux (lazy)	paresseuse
peureux (fearful)	peureuse
sérieux (serious)	sérieuse

FRENCH ADJECTIVES

Masculine adjectives that end in *f*

Form the feminine singular of masculine singular adjectives ending in *f* by changing *-f* to *-ve*.

Common Adjectives	
actif (active)	active
attentif (attentive)	attentive
imaginatif (imaginative)	imaginative
impulsif (impulsive)	impulsive
intuitif (intuitive)	intuitive
naïf (naïve)	naïve
sportif (athletic)	sportive

Masculine adjectives that end in *er*

Masculine singular adjectives ending in *-er* form the feminine by changing *-er* to *-ère*, as shown below:

Common Adjectives	
cher (dear, expensive)	chère
dernier (last)	dernière
entier (entire)	entière
fier (proud)	fière
léger (light)	légère
premier (first)	première

Masculine adjectives that end in consonants

Some masculine singular adjectives form the feminine by doubling the final consonant before the *-e* ending.

Common Adjectives	
ancien (ancient, old)	ancienne
bas (low)	basse
bon (good)	bonne
cruel (cruel)	cruelle
européen (European)	européenne
gentil (nice, kind)	gentille
gros (fat, big)	grosse
mauvais (bad)	mauvaise

FRENCH ADJECTIVES

Masculine irregular adjectives

The irregular adjectives shown below have no rules and must be memorized.

Common Adjectives	
beau (handsome, beautiful)	belle
blanc (white)	blanche
complet (complete)	complète
doux (sweet, gentle)	douce
faux (false)	fausse
favori (favorite)	favorite
frais (fresh)	fraîche
franc (frank)	franche
inquiet (worried)	inquiète
long (long)	longue
nouveau (new)	nouvelle
sec (dry)	sèche
vieux (old)	vieille

The French use special forms of *beau* (*bel*), *nouveau* (*nouvel*), and *vieux* (*vieil*) before masculine nouns beginning with a vowel or vowel sound. If, however, the adjective comes after the noun, the regular masculine form is used:

- *un bel arbre* (a beautiful tree); *L'arbre est beau*. (The tree is beautiful.)
- *un nouvel appartement* (a new apartment); *L'appartement est nouveau*. (The apartment is new.)
- *un vieil avion* (an old airplane); *L'avion est vieux*. (The airplane is old.)

FRENCH ADJECTIVES

Position

In English, adjectives tend to go before the noun they describe (my new house, my old grandmother etc).

In French, they almost all go after the noun (*les plats italiens, les chaussures noires, la langue française*).

There is a small group of adjectives, however, that normally precede the noun. These adjectives may be categorized as adjectives of **B**eauty, **A**ge, **N**umbers **G**oodness, and **S**ize (**BANGS**) (!)

Beauty	Age	Numbers	Goodness	Size
joli (jolie), pretty	jeune, young	premier (première), first	mauvais (mauvaise), bad	grand (grande), tall, big
beau (belle), beautiful	nouveau (nouvelle), new	deuxième, second	bon (bonne), good	petit (petite), little
	vieux (vieille), old	troisième, third		gros (grosse), big, fat
		dernier (dernière), last		long (longue), long
				court (courte), short

un petit garçon – a little boy

un vieil arbre – an old tree

un nouveau gazon – a new lawn

un beau jour d'été – a beautiful summer day