

## 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.  
Lisez et révissez plusieurs fois en peu de temps.  
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- <https://frenchhour.com/blog/french-gender-general-rules/>

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- <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

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## 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       | 14.-ode .... f .... ode                 |
| 2. -ade .... f .... chiffonade       | 15.-ole .... f .... école               |
| 3. -age .... m .... fromage          | 16.-phone .... m ....<br>microphone     |
| 4. -aison .... f .... maison         | 17.-scope .... m .... télescope         |
| 5. -ale .... f .... rafale           | 18.-sion .... f .... contusion          |
| 6. -ance .... f ....<br>accoutumance | 19.-té .... f .... fierté               |
| 7. -asme .... m .... sarcasme        | 20.-tée .... f .... nuitée              |
| 8. -eau .... m .... couteau          | 21.-tion .... f .... information        |
| 9. -ence .... f .... prudence        | 22.-ude .... f .... habitude            |
| 10.-ette .... f .... serviette       | 23.-ure .... f .... culture             |
| 11.-ie .... f .... minutie           | 24.foreign words .... m ....<br>parking |
| 12.-isme .... m .... romantisme      |   |
| 13.-ment .... m .... sentiment       |   |

## 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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- <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

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## 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 --> **une** **petite** 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



### Prenez des notes – Your notes

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



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

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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**
- **castle** .... m .... **château**
- **cost** .... m .... **coût**
- **disgusting** .... m/f .... **dégoûtant/e**
- **fest** .... f .... **fête**
- **haste** .... f .... **hâte**
- **hospital** .... m .... **hôpital**
- **island** .... f .... **île**
- **master** .... m .... **maître**
- **oyster** .... f .... **huître**
- **pasta** .... f .... **pâte**
- **school** .... f .... **école**
- **stall** .... m .... **étal**
- **student** .... m/f .... **étudiant/e**
- **study** .... f .... **étude**
- **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
ˆ	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: ˆ  
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 → ç a, ç o, ç u  
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/>





**Prenez des notes – Your notes**

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