

# 17 Minute Languages

# French Grammar in a Nutshell

# What is essential to know about the article in French?

As soon as you start out to learn French, you have to get acquainted with one major difference: French nouns have a grammatical gender. They are either feminine or masculine. Same goes for the article that escorts a noun.

# The definite article

Feminine nouns in French take the definite article «**la**». Masculine French nouns come together with «**le**»as the definite article.

For example: le pain – the bread la lune – the moon

If the noun starts with a **vocal (a/e/i/o/u)** or the **consonant 'h'**, both definite articles are shortened to «**l'**». But you should always know the grammatical gender of the noun – we therefore like to suggest: Please, pay extra attention to the grammatical gender of these words nevertheless.





# ↔ For example: l' hôtel (m) – the hotel l' héroïne (f) – the heroine l' exposition (m) – the exhibition l' abeille (f) – the (honey)bee

Please note:

There are some exceptions to the above mentioned rule. You should learn these by heart:

la <u>h</u>aine – the hatred le <u>h</u>éros – the hero le <u>h</u>ibou – the owl

Synopsis: French definite article			
singular		plural	
masculine	le/ l'	masculine	les
feminine	la/ l'	feminine	les

For example:

 $\rightarrow$  L'Inde (f) est un beau pays.

– India is a beautiful country.

# 17 Minute Languages: French Grammar in a Nutshell

As the table above shows, the definite article in French is «**les**» – for both genders. → Les grenouilles (f, pl) sont au bord de l'étang.

– The frogs are by the pond.





# The indefinite article in French

Indefinite articles, as well as definite articles, refer to their compound noun. Thus they also depend on the gender of the noun:

Indefinite French articles			
singular		plural	
masculine	un	masculine	dee
feminine	une	feminine	des

As the table above shows, the indefinite article plural is **«des**» - it applies for both genders.

↔ For Example:
un oiseau (a bird):
oiseau – masculine → un (m)
des oiseaux – the birds

une voiture(a car): voiture – feminine → une (f) des voitures– the cars

# Note!

- Don't confuse un/une with a/an in English.
   A/an refers to whether the following noun starts with a <u>vocal</u>.
   Un/une just correlates with the gender of the noun.
- 2. The indefinite article (un/une) turns into **«de/ d'**» if followed by a vowel and if the preceding verb is negated.

The verb **«être**» (en. to be) doesn't apply to this rule.

↔ For Example:
→ Je n'ai pas de voiture.
- I do not have a car.

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#### What is essentials to know about French nouns:

# **The gender of French nouns**

Other than English articles there are two articles in French: French substantives are either masculine or feminine.

#### Note!

1. Since French knows two grammatical genders you should learn the substantive together with the article. This way it will be easier for you to keep the right gender in mind.

← For example: →  $\underline{la}$  (f) pomme (the apple) → le (m) travail (the job)

2. Nouns ending in «**e**», are mostly feminine.

↔ For example:
 → <u>la</u> santé (the health)
 → <u>la</u> baguette (the baguette)

Exceptions to this rule of thumb are nouns ending in «-isme, -age and -ège». They are usually masculine.

↔ For example:
→ le fromage (the cheese)
→ le tourisme (the tourism)

By changing the ending of a noun, the gender can be adjusted and thereby changed from masculine into feminine (and vice versa).

> masculine endings: -eur, -er, -teur, -e, -i, -e, -in, -ien, -ais

feminine endings: -euse, -ère, -trice, -esse, -ie, -èe, ine, -ienne, -aise

For example: un cousin (a cousin, m) une cousine (a cousin, f)

un acteur (an actor) une actrice (an actress)

un chanteur (a singer) une chanteuse (a songstress)

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# **Plural of French nouns**

# Rule of thumb:

The plural of most substantives are formed by adding a **«s»** to the words' ending (**«s»** is only written but never pronounced!). You might wonder how to tell singular and plural apart. You will notice it by the changed article, which is pronounced differently.

# **For example:**

le (pronounced as lə) supermarché (the supermarket) → les (pronounced as [le]) supermarchés (the supermarkets)

le voyage [lə vwajaʒ] (the trip, the journey) → les voyages [les vwajaʒ] (the trips, the journeys)

# Exceptions:

Singular «-al»/ Plural «-aux»:
 For example:
 un animal → des animaux (animals)
 un oiseau → des oiseaux

2. Singular «-au, -eau, -eu» / Plural«-x»:
Sor example:
un bateau→ des bateaux(ship);
un vœu → des voeux (wish)

# Pluraliatantum:

Similar to English, there are French nouns which only ever appear in plural form.

↔ For example:
→ les toilettes (pl) (lavatory)
→ les épinards (pl) (the spinach)
→ les environs (pl) (the environment)



# What is essential to know about the French case system?

( :: ) For example:  $joli(m)(pretty) \rightarrow jolie(f)$ 

The French language does not decline their nouns. The case in nouveau (m) (new)  $\rightarrow$  nouvelle (f) which a noun is translated is only to be figured out via context. There are, however, hints of the function of a noun in The plural formation of adjectives complies to the plural a sentence e.g. the system of direct and indirect object as well formation of substantives. as the addition of a genitive. This is expressed through prepositions, which will be discussed later on. For now you can be relieved not learning the case system.

# What is essential to know about French adjectives?

In French there are feminine and masculine adjectives, just as there are feminine and masculine nouns. An adjective must have the same grammatical gender as its object.

# Formation of the feminine adjective form

masculine form + «e»

(Exception: if the adjective already ends in **«e**».)

• For example:  $jolis(m, pl) \rightarrow jolies(f, pl)$ nouveaux (m, pl)  $\rightarrow$  nouvelles (f, pl)



#### Adjectives and their position within the sentence

Commonly the adjective is to be found after the substantive.

# 💬 For example:

La couleur bleue est très belle. - The colour blue is very beautiful.

The following adjectives are exceptions to this rule:

- → petit, grande, gros (small, big, thick):
  - For example:
  - une petite femme (she's a small woman)
- → vieux, jeune (old, young): un vieil arbre (an old tree)
- $\rightarrow$  mauvais, bon (bad, good)
- $\rightarrow$  long, court, bref (long, short, brief)
- $\rightarrow$  beau, joli, vilain (beautiful, pretty, ugly)

# **Particularities of adjectives**

1. Differences in meaning are expressed through the position of the adjective. It is either preceding or postpositioning the noun.

postpositioned: literal sense preceding: metaphorical sense

Literal sense	Metaphorical sense	Translation
big	significant	grand
alone	lonely	seul

• For example:

 $\rightarrow$  une voiture <u>vieille</u>

– an old car

"old" in the sense of: "This car is vintage"

- $\rightarrow$  une <u>vieille</u> voiture
- an old car

**«old**» in the sense of: "We've been driving this car for a long time."



2. If an adjective refers to either a group of mixed gender or two substantives with both gender types the masculine plural form of the adjective is used.

# $\bigcirc$ For example:

Les filles et les garçons assidus seront récompensés par l'école.

– Hard-working girls and boys will be rewarded in school.



# **Degree of comparison**

1. Formation of the comparative

aussi (also)/ plus (more)/ moins (lesser) + adjective

# 💬 For example:

- → Je suis moins grande que ma sœur.
- (I am «**less taller**» smaller than my sister.)
- $\rightarrow$  Elle porte une jupe plus longue.
- (She wears a longer skirt.)
- → Ta soeur a toujours été aussi curieuse que toi.
- (Your sister has always been as curious as you are.)

# 2. Formation of the superlative

definite article (le/la) + plus (more) / moins (lesser) + adjective

💬 For example:

- $\rightarrow$  La plus grande piscine se trouve dans la capitale.
- The biggest public swimming pool can be found in the capital

→ L'enfant le plus gentil a reçu une glace.

-The dearest child has gotten ice cream.



#### Exceptions:

<u>good</u>: bon/bonne – meilleur/meilleure – le meilleur/la meilleure

<u>bad/terrible</u>: mauvais/mauvaise – pire – le pire/la pire <u>minimal/slight</u>: petit/petite – moindre – le moindre/la moindre

# What is essential to know about French adverbs?

Similar to English there are adverbs with different tasks. Adverbs can be modal, causal, temporal or local. In simple adverbs can be one of two forms:

Adverbs, deriving from adjectives
 Grow For example:
 poli- → poliment (polite, adv)

2. Simple / ordinary adverbs, which are not derived
↔ For example:
très (very) → souvent (often)

You should take a closer look at the simple/ ordinary adverbs which are often used. Some of the most common ones are compiled in the table below:



Adverb	Translation
lentement	slowly
rapidement	quickly
joyeusement	happily
élégamment	elegantly
profondément	deeply

Formation of adverbs deriving from adjectives:

Adjectives ending in a consonant: feminine form + ending «-**ment**»

Adjectives ending in a vowel:

masculine form + ending «-ment»

Adjective (m/f)	Adverb	Translation
simple	simple <b>ment</b>	easy
difficile	difficile <b>ment</b>	difficult

# What is essential to know about the French verb system?

As in any language, verbs are the backbone of a conversation. French verbs can be categorized in 4 main different conjugational groups which differ in their ending:

-er	-re	-ir	-oir
envoy <b>er</b> (to send)	li <b>re</b> (to read)	reven <b>ir</b> (to come back)	v <b>oir</b> (to see)
travaill <b>er</b> (to work)	di <b>re</b> (to say, to speak)	ment <b>ir</b> (to lie)	devo <b>ir</b> (to have to)



# **French verbal tenses**

#### Simple present:

How to form the simple present tense in French

#### <u>1. Verbs ending in -er</u>

(The verbs in this group make up for almost 90% of all French verbs.)

	voyager (to travel)		
-е	je voyag <b>e</b>	I travel	
-es	tu voyag <b>es</b>	you travel	
-е	il, elle, on voyag <b>e</b>	he/she/it travels	
-(e)ons	nous voyag <u>e</u> ons *	we travel	
-ez	vous voyag <b>ez</b>	you travel	
-ent	ils, elles voyag <b>ent</b>	they travel	

# 2. Verbs with -re ending

	attendre (to wait)		
	-S	j'attend <b>s</b>	l wait
	-S	tu attend <b>s</b>	you wait
)	-	il, elle, on attend*	he/she/it waits
	-ons	nous attend <b>ons</b>	we wait
	-ez	vous attend <b>ez</b>	you wait
	-ent	ils, elles attend <b>ent</b>	they wait

\*Third person singular equals the word stem of **«attend»**.

#### <u>3. Verbs ending in -ir</u>

Verbs with the ending «-ir» are divided into two groups according to the following rules:

**Group 1** contains verbs with **«ss**» between word stem and word ending. The **«i»** of **«-ir**» is also kept.

\*The «<u>e</u>» between word stem and word ending ensures the correct pronunciation from first person singular to third person plural.



finir (to finish, to end)		
-S	je fini <b>s</b>	l finish
-S	tu fini <b>s</b>	you finish
-	il, elle, on finit	he/she/it finishes
-ons	nous finiss <b>ons</b>	we finish
-ez	vous finiss <b>ez</b>	you finish
-ent	ils, elles finiss <b>ent</b>	they finish

**Group 2** applies to the same principle as verbs with «-**er**» ending. There is no «**i**» in the conjugation.

	mentir (to lie)		
-S	je men <b>s</b>	I lie	
-S	tu men <b>s</b>	you lie	
-	il, elle, on ment	he/she/it lies	
-ons	nous ment <b>ons</b>	we lie	
-ez	vous ment <b>ez</b>	you lie	
-ent	ils, elles ment <b>ent</b>	they lie	

# 4. Verbs with -oir ending

Verbs with «-oir» ending are mostly built irregularly. It is best to learn the forms while learning the vocabulary.

devoir (to have to)		
je dois	I have to	
tu dois	you have to	
il, elle, on doit	he/she/it has to	
nous devons	we have to	
vous devez	you have to	
ils, elles doivent	they have to	



Attention: **«vouloir**» (to want) is an exception even within the conjugation group of **«-oir**» verbs

vouloir (to want)		
je veux	l want	
tu veux	you want	
il, elle, on veut	he/she/it wants	
nous voulons	we want	
vous voulez	you want	
ils, elles, veulent	they want	

Of course there are many irregular verbs that don't apply to this scheme but by following the above mentioned guidelines you will be handling the simple present with ease.



# Auxiliary verbs «avoir» (to have) and «être» (to be)

être (	to be)	avoir (to have)	
je suis	l am	j'ai	I have
tu es	you are	tu as	you have
il, elle, on est	he/she/it is	il, elle, on a	he/she/it have
nous sommes	we are	nous avons	we have
vous êtes	your are (formal, sg) you are (informal,	vous avez	you have (formal, sg) you have (informal,
	sg/pl)*		sg/pl)*
ils, elles sont	they are	ils, elles ont	they have

\*Most Roman languages use a 'formal' polite version used in specific settings and situations like professional surroundings or in order to address someone you meet for the first time, the polite version of 'you' is used.

Whereas private surroundings commonly don't require the polite version of 'you'.



-ais

-ais

-ait

-ions

-iez

-aient

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# Formation of the «imparfait»

The first past tense is built for all four verb groups according to the following rule:

Basic form – 1st person plural present tense + 'imparfait'-ending

parler (to speak)

je parl**ais** 

tu parl**ais** 

il, elle, on parl**ait** 

nous parlions

vous parliez

ils, elles parlaient

I spoke

you spoke

he/she/it spoke

we spoke

you spoke (informal, pl)/

you spoke (formal, sg/pl)

they spoke

#### Participle

The participle of the past (participle passé) is needed for building the past tense *passé composé*. The participle is built as shown in the following rules:

#### <u>Verbs with -er ending:</u>

Infinitive without **«-er**» (**regard**er , en. to regard, to look at) + **«-é**» ➡ regardé (m), regardée (f)

<u>Verbs with -re ending:</u>

Infinitive without «-**re**» (**attend**re, en. to wait) + «-**u**» → attendu (m), attendue (f)

Verbs with -ir ending:

Infinitive without **«-r**» (**menti**r , en. to lie ) ➡ menti (m), mentie (f)

For example:

Ils **mangeaient** le dîner lorsque je suis venu rendre visite. -They **ate** dinner when I came to visit. To build the plural simply add a «-s» after the participle ending.



# The «passé composé»

The *passé composé* is either built with the auxiliary verb **«avoir»** (to have) or **«être»** (to be) and the participle of the verb. Most verbs use the auxiliary verb **«avoir»** to form, so it is advised to learn those verbs which use **«être»**. Generally spoken, verbs that indicate a direction of movement or a dwelling use **«être»**. A list of common ones is compiled below:

aller	to go	descendre	to get off
venir	to come	entrer	to enter
rester	to stay	retourner	to return

The participle orientates on its object to form either male or female:

# Formation of the passé composé:

conjugated form of **«avoir/ être**» + participle of the verb

Passé composé - perfect tense					
voir (en. to see), a verb that		aller (en. to go), a verb that			
conjugates with avoir		conjugates with être			
j'ai vu	i have seen	je suis allé(e)	i was going		
tu as vu	you have seen	tu es allé(e)	you were going		
il, elle, on a	he/she/it has	il, elle, on est	he/she/it was		
vu	seen	allé(e)	going		
nous avons vu	we have seen	nous sommes allé(e)s	we were going		
vous avez vu	You have	vous êtes	You were		
	seen	allé(e)s	going		
ils, elles ont	they have	ils, elles sont	they were		
vu	seen	allé(e)s	going		

Of course there is the Past perfect tense as well but to keep it manageable this chapter will be skipped.



# **The French future tenses**

French and English use the future tense in a very similar way. French also uses its <u>simple present</u> in order to describe actions that are planned to be done in the near future. In this case, English would use the present progressive.

There are two future tenses in the French language:

→ futur composé

→ futur simple

The usage of both future tenses are mainly similar.

The French '<u>futur simple</u>' is commonly used in a more colloquial, everyday way/manner, whereas the '<u>futur</u> <u>composé'</u> (also referred to as 'futur proche') is more likely to be used if an action <u>in the close future</u> is described. Even if it is not 100% translatable it might be best to think of it according to the distinction between the 'going to' and 'will future'.

# 💬 For example:

 $\rightarrow$  Futur simple:

Demain, je rangerai les dossiers.

– Tomorrow I'm going to put away the paperwork/files.

# → Futur composé:

Demain, je vais manger des spaghettis.

– Tomorrow I will eat spaghetti.

# Please note:

The main difference between these two French future tenses is in which form they are used.

Written (futur simple) or spoken (futur proche) form.



#### Formation of the French future tenses:

# 'futur composé'

The 'futur composé' is formed as follows:

conjugated form of **«aller**» (to go) in present simple + infinitive of the verb

chanter (to sing) – futur composé			
je <b>vais</b> chanter	I am going to sing		
tu <b>vas</b> chanter	you are going to sing		
il, elle <b>va</b> chanter	he/she is going to sing		
nous <b>allons</b> chanter	we are going to sing		
vous <b>allez</b> chanter	you are going to sing		
ils, elles <b>vont</b> chanter	they are going to sing		

# 'futur simple'

# Verbs with -er ending:

Infinitive without «-**r**» (**regarde**r , en. to regard, to look at) + future-ending

# <u>Verbs with -re ending:</u>

Infinitive without «-re» (attendre, en. to wait) + future-ending

# Verbs with -ir ending:

Infinitive without «-r» (mentir, en. to lie) + future-ending

chanter (to sing) – future simple			
je chante <b>rai</b>	I will sing		
tu chante <b>ras</b>	you will sing		
il, elle chante <b>ra</b>	he/she will sing		
nous chante <b>rons</b>	we will sing		
vous chante <b>rez</b>	you will sing		
ils, elles chante <b>ront</b>	they will sing		



# **Conditional I**

This chapter centres around a verb tense that is new to us as English natives – the "condicional".

It is used to politely ask for something or state a polite phrase.

It's also used to talk about probabilities or make a wish or give <u>Verbs with -er ending</u>:

someone advice (modal use) or to say something in the past

# regarding the future (temporal).

# Formation of the Conditional I

Building the Conditional I is similar to the French future tense only with different endings.

Infinitive without «**-r**» (**regarde**r , en. to regard, to look at) + conditional-ending

Make a Wish / ask politely		Verbs with -re ending:
J'aimerais bien aller au cinéma ce soir.	I'd like to go to the cinema tonight.	Infinitive without « <b>-re</b> » ( <b>attend</b> re, en. to wait) +
Temporal (past regarding the future)		conditional-ending
Si nous <b>étions</b> plus jeunes, nous <b>payerions</b> moins pour le billet.	If we <b>were</b> younger, we <b>would pay</b> less for the ticket.	<u>Verbs with -ir ending:</u> Infinitive without « <b>-r</b> » ( <b>menti</b> r , en. to lie ) + conditional-ending



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The Conditional endings are:

# **Conditional II**

lire ( en. to read) - Conditional 1		The Conditional II has similar Areas of responsibility as the Conditional I. It is built as follows:	
je li <b>rais</b>	I would like to read		
tu li <b>rais</b>	You would like to read	<u>Conditional II:</u>	
il, elle, on li <b>rait</b>	He/She/It would like to read	Conditional I of « <b>être</b> / <b>avoir</b>	» + perfect participle of verb
nous li <b>rions</b>	We would like to read	venire (en. to come) - Conditional II	
vous li <b>riez</b>	You would like to read	je <b>serais</b> venu(e)	I would have come
ils, elles li <b>raient</b>	They would like to read	tu <b>serais</b> venu(e) You would have come	
		il, elle, on <b>serait</b> venu(e)	He/She/It would have come
		nous <b>serions</b> venu(e)s	We would have come
		vous <b>seriez</b> venu(e)s	You would have come
		ils, elles <b>seraient</b> venu(e)s	They would have come



# The French «subjunctif»

The French subjunctive corresponds with the English subjunctive.

In contrast to the English subjunctive, the French subjunctive is used on a more regular basis.

The speaker intends to express a desire or a personal expression of necessity, possibility or judgement.

The subjunctive is used in two different cases/situations:

# Case 1:

The subject of the main clause and the subject of the dependent clause must differ, otherwise the indicative can be Il est important de faire tes devoirs.  $\rightarrow$  here, the indicative is used as usual.

• For example: Je veux que tu ailles à la banque.  $\rightarrow$  subjunctive - I want you to go to the bank.

# False:

Je veux aller à la banque  $\rightarrow$  here, the <u>indicative</u> is needed!

#### Case 2:

Dependent clauses starting with «que» or «qui» require the subjunctives if certain idioms are used before «que» or «qui». If there is an **«de**» instead of **«que**» or **«qui**» an indicative clause is required.

# • For example:

Il est important <u>que</u> tu fasses tes devoirs.  $\rightarrow$  <u>subjunctive</u> - It is important for you to do your homework.

# False:

needed

Il faut que... (I have to, you have to...):

 $\rightarrow$  Il faut que tu sois là ce soir.

- You have to be here tonight.



# Formation of the present subjunctive

Stem of 3<sup>rd</sup> person plural + subjunctive-ending

entendre (to hear) – <u>subjonctif présent</u>				
que j'entende	(that) I hear			
que tu entendes	(that) you hear			
qu'il/elle/on entende	(that) he/she/it hears			
que nous entendions	(that) we hear			
que vous entendiez	(that) you hear			
qu'ils, elles entendent	(that) they hear			

# How to use the subjunctive:

The following expressions, words, idioms etc. are followed by the subjunctive:

to want s.th./ to demand s.th.:

→ vouloir que

to feel about s.th./ to personally rate or estimate s.th.:

→ trouver étonnant que

to say/to mean (opinion)/to believe/to think in negated sentences

→ je ne pense pas/ je ne crois pas/ je ne trouve pas to doubt:

 $\rightarrow$  douter que (to doubt, that)

statements about things possible/likely, eventual or certain:

→ probable que, possible que (likely that, possible that) after the superlative

Some examples:

Je ne crois pas que Christine soit en retard. – I don't think Christine is late.

Je doute que le temps soit beau demain.

- I doubt that the weather will be nice tomorrow.

Marie veut que son fils devienne acteur de théâtre. – Marie wants her son to become a theatre actor.

Aujourd'hui je pars plus tôt pour que j'arrive à l'heure à la fête. – Today I'm leaving early so that I can arrive on time for the party.



# What is essential to know about French pronouns?

**Personal pronouns** 

you

The French personal pronouns are:

je

tu

il, elle, on

nous

vous

ils, elles

Direct and	d ind	irect	persona	l pronouns
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These personal pronouns can have the function of a subject, a direct object and an indirect object. You can find more information on this in the chapter on sentence structure. Here you can see an overview of the (connected) personal pronouns in the respective functions they can take in the sentence.

he/she/it						
, ,	Singular					
we	subject	je (I)	tu (you)	il (he)	elle	
you/ You*	(Nom)	Je (1)	tu (you)	it (iie)	(she)	
they	indir.	me (me)	te (you)	lui (him)	lui (her)	
	object (Dat)	· · ·		、 <i>,</i>	. ,	
ed with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> person	dir. object (Acc)	me (me)	te (your)	le (him)	la (her)	

\* Note:

The formal polite form in French is formed with the 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural.

• For example:

Madame Dubois, vous avez reçu une lettre!

– Ms. Dubois, you have received a letter!



		Plural		
subject (Nom)	nous (we)	vous (you)	ils (m) (they)	elles (f) (they)
indir. Objekt (Dat)	nous (us)	vous (you)	leur (m) (them)	leur (f) (them)
dir. Objekt (Acc)	nous (us)	vous (you)	les (m) (them)	les (f) (them)

If a personal pronoun acts as a direct or indirect Object in a sentence it is referred to as a so-called **object pronoun**. You may come across this term and now you know what it means.

# The pronoun «on»

The pronoun **«On**» is frequently used in French. **«On**» is part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular and therefore is conjugated as such (il/elle/on).

«**On**» could be translated as 'you', 'we', 'they' or 'one' \*.

\* These are the so-called generic pronouns.

# 💬 For example:

On dit que la France est un pays très joli.

– They say that France is a very beautiful country.

«**On**» is used to create a feeling of bonding and unity which is why it is often translated as 'we'.

💬 For example:

On fait du sport tous les jours. – We exercise every day.



#### The French possessive pronouns

Possessive pronouns are used to indicate a possessive relationship (possibly a connection, affiliation, assignment):

Possessive pronouns				
Singular Object Plural Objects				
mon, ma	my(m) my(f)	mes	my	
ton, ta	your (m) your (f)	tes	yours (m) yours (f)	
son, sa	his(m) her (f)	ses	his(m) her (f)	
notre	our	nos	ours	
votre	your	VOS	yours	
leur	their (m) their (f)	leurs	theirs(m) theirs (f)	

 $\bigcirc$  For example:

Rends-moi **mes** disques. - Give me my records back.

# The French demonstrative pronouns

A demonstrative pronoun points to an object or a person. It can accompany the noun or take its place. In the overview table you can see the two variants of the pronoun in its feminine and masculine form in the singular and in the plural.

French demonstrative pronouns				
	Singular		Plural	
	male	female	male	female
Accompany of the noun	ce/cet	cette	ces	ces
Replacement of the noun	celui	celle	ceux	celles

# • For example:

**Celui de nous** qui mange une pomme par jour vivra le plus longtemps. - The one of us who eats an apple a day will live the longest.



# What is essential to know about French sentence structure?

In French there are two very commonly used sentence structures.

1. Sentences initiated with «voilà»:

• For example:

**Voilà** mon chien qui m'apporte le journal. Possible translations are:

 $\rightarrow$  Here is my dog bringing me my newspaper.

- $\rightarrow$  So, this is my dog...
- $\rightarrow$  Here comes...

# 2. Sentences with «c'est...qui/que» or «ce sont...qui/que...»

**For example:** 

C'est mon chien qui m'apporte le journal.

- Now my dog is the one that brings me the newspaper. (every single morning)
- It's my dog that brings me the newspaper.

# **Negating French phrases**

In addition to affirmative statements, there are of course also negative statements. Negation works according to a slightly different system in French than in English. In order to say 'not', French use the term «**ne...pas** »

# 💬 For example:

Je peux entendre la musique - I can hear the music Je **ne** peux **pas** entendre la musique - I can not hear the music

There are other expressions for the negation of a sentence besides "not", which in French are all formed with the particle «**ne**» and another particle:

	ne pas non plus ne plus	- not either - not anymore
	ne jamais	- never
	ne rien	- nothing
•	ne personne	- no one



#### **French question sentences**

The most common way of French questions is the so-called **intonation question**. This interrogative sentence has the same sentence structure as the "normal" declarative sentence. The question is only made clear by intonation, i.e. the speaker raises his voice a little at the end of the sentence.

In Addition there are some Interrogative pronouns that induce a Question:

Interrogative pronouns		
Pourquoi?	Why?	
Quoi? / Que?	What?	
Lequel(m) / Laquelle(f)? Lesquels (m, pl) / Lesquelles (f,pl)?	Which?	

# Let's learn how to count in French

French numbers from zero to twenty			
zéro	zero		
un	one	onze	eleven
deux	two	douze	twelve
trois	three	treize	thirteen
quatre	four	quatorze	fourteen
cinq	five	quinze	fifteen
six	six	seize	sixteen
sept	seven	dix-sept	seventeen
huit	eight	dix-huit	eighteen
neuf	nine	dix-neuf	nineteen
dix	ten	vingt	twenty

💬 For example:

**Qui** a vu le voleur? - Who saw the thief? **Qu**'est-ce qu'il y aura à manger? - What will there be to eat? Now, it's your turn.

Write down the following numbers in French: 35, 41, 46, 51, 55, 56, 68, 78, 84, 93



21 - 100	
21	
22	Ľ
30	
31	
32	
40	
50	
60	
70	
71	
72	
80	
81	
82	
	21 - 100         21         22         30         31         32         40         50         60         70         71         72         80         81

French numbers from 21 - 100

quatre-vingt-dix	90
quatre-vingt-onze	91
quatre-vingt-douze	92
cent	100



# Days of the week in French

Maybe you need to schedule a meeting with your French colleagues or with your learning partner? Let's consult your calendar and learn the names of the days of the week in French.

Weekdays in French		
lundi	Monday	
mardi	Tuesday	
mercredi	Wednesday	
jeudi	Thursday	
vendredi	Friday	
samedi	Saturday	
dimanche	Sunday	

• For example:

Je vais au cinéma lundi. – I go to the cinema on Monday. Nous n'avons pas besoin de travailler le samedi et le dimanche. – On Saturdays and Sundays we don't have to work.

