

# FRENCH ARTICLES

## INDEFINITE ARTICLES

The words “a” and “an” are called **INDEFINITE ARTICLES** and in French, there are two different words. There’s a masculine and a feminine version.

Masculine	un
Feminine	une

The version you use depends on whether the noun it goes in front of is a masculine or a feminine noun. This is called the “gender” of the noun.

You always put the word “un” in front of nouns that are masculine and the word “une” goes in front of nouns that are feminine. The best way to know whether a noun is masculine or feminine is simply to learn its gender when you first learn the word; that way you’ll always know that “restaurant” is masculine but “table” is feminine in French.

### MASCULINE NOUNS

un café	a coffee
un thé	a tea
un restaurant	a restaurant
un garçon	a boy

### FEMININE NOUNS

une table	a table
une réservation	a reservation
une dinde	a turkey
une fille	a girl

## DEFINITE ARTICLES & THE PLURAL

The word “the” is called a **DEFINITE ARTICLE** and in French, there are three different words. There’s a masculine version, a feminine version and a plural version.

Masculine	le
Feminine	la
Plural	les

It’s the same as the indefinite articles in the first section of these notes in that the one you use is dependent on the noun it goes in front of. If it’s a masculine noun you use “le”, a feminine noun uses “la” and for plural nouns you use “les”. To make a French noun plural, most of the time you simply add an “s” to the end.

### MASCULINE NOUNS

le café	the coffee
le thé	the tea

### FEMININE NOUNS

la table	the table
la réservation	the reservation

### PLURAL NOUNS

les tables	the tables
les restaurants	the restaurants



There's just one extra thing to remember with definite articles. If you take a noun that starts with a vowel (A, E, I, O or U) or the letter H, then the words **LE** and **LA** become shortened to **L'**. This is simply because it makes it easier to say

l'hôtel      *the hotel*  
l'addition      *the bill*  
l'éléphant      *the elephant*

## POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

The word "my" is called a **POSSESSIVE PRONOUN** and in French, there are three different versions. There's a masculine, feminine and plural version.

Masculine	mon
Feminine	ma
Plural	mes

Again, the possessive pronoun you use depends on the noun. If it's a singular noun you use "**mon**" or "**ma**" and for plural nouns you use "**mes**".

One thing to remember, however, is that if you have a feminine noun in French that starts with a vowel (A, E, I, O or U) or the letter H, you must use "**mon**" for "my" instead of "**ma**". This is simply because it makes it easier to say.

mon addition      *my bill*

## ADJECTIVAL AGREEMENT

Adjectives describe nouns and in French, nouns can be either singular or plural and masculine or feminine. The adjective has to change its ending slightly depending on the type of noun it's describing. This is called "agreeing the adjective"

### MASCULINE SINGULAR NOUN

adjective doesn't change

### MASCULINE PLURAL NOUN

add an **S** to the end of the adjective

### FEMININE SINGULAR NOUN

add an **E** to the end of the adjective

### FEMININE PLURAL NOUN

add an **ES** to the end of the adjective

Below is an example of how the adjective **PARFAIT** changes depending on the noun it's describing

### MASCULINE SINGULAR

le poulet est **parfait**

### MASCULINE PLURAL

les poulets sont **parfaits**

### FEMININE SINGULAR

la dinde est **parfaite**

### FEMININE PLURAL

les dindes sont **parfaites**

## CONDENSED KEY

	MASCULINE	FEMININE	IN FRONT OF VOWEL/H	PLURAL
THE	LE	LA	L'	LES
A/AN	UN	UNE	UN/UNE	/
MY	MON	MA	MON	MES