

A Complete and Easy Guide to French Adjectives

Part 1. FRENCH VS. ENGLISH ADJECTIVES

- I. Adjectives are words which describe a subject and answer the question: *what kind of..?*
- II. The main difference between English and French adjectives are:
 - a. The changes in form. English adjectives change only when used to compare while French adjectives have to “agree” with the word they are describing according to its gender and quantity.
 - b. The placement in a sentence. French adjectives are *usually* placed AFTER the noun, while English adjectives come BEFORE it.

Part 2 HOW TO MAKE FRENCH ADJECTIVES “AGREE”

- I. The basic rule in changing a masculine adjective into its feminine form is simply to add an -e to its ending. If it already ends with an -e, usually you do not need to add another one.
- II. A lot of adjectives that end in a consonant can be changed to feminine by doubling the consonant and adding an -e towards the end.
- III. Some irregular masculine adjectives have another set of masculine forms which are used when describing words that begin with a vowel or an h.
- IV. To change an adjective into its plural form, the basic rule is to add an -s. But if it already ends in -s or -x, no additional suffix is needed.

- V. For adjectives that end in -eau or -al, the plural form is -eaux or -aux.
- VI. A few adjectives never change their form no matter what kind of noun they are describing

Part 3 WHERE TO PLACE FRENCH ADJECTIVES IN A SENTENCE

There are four kinds of adjectives in French based on where they appear in a sentence:

- I. Adjectives that come AFTER the subject they are describing – this is the most common case.
- II. A small group of adjectives that come BEFORE the subject.
- III. Another small group of adjectives could come BEFORE or AFTER the noun, but the meaning changes depending on where they are placed; and
- IV. The last group – adjectives that could be placed either BEFORE or AFTER and their meanings won't change.
- V. Multiple adjectives can be connected using **et** which means and in English.