

Gender, Plurals & Articles in French

French A1 Grammar · 35 cards



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Rules

Can you reliably guess the gender of a French noun?

No. Learn each noun with its article.

un livre, une table (a book, a table)

What are the French definite articles?

le (masculine), la (feminine), l' (before a vowel or silent h), les (plural)

le livre, la table, l'école, les livres (the book, the table, the school, the books)

Which definite article is used before a singular noun beginning with a vowel or a silent h?

l', for both masculine and feminine

l'ami (masculine), l'école (feminine) (the friend, the school)

Which article is normally used with « aimer » when talking about something in general?

The definite article: le, la, l' or les

J'aime les animaux. (I like animals.)

What are the French indefinite articles?

un (masculine), une (feminine), des (plural)

un livre, une table, des livres (a book, a table, books)

How do most nouns form the plural?

Add -s. The final -s is usually silent.

un livre → des livres (a book → books)

How do most nouns ending in -eau form the plural?

Add -x

un bateau → des bateaux (a boat → boats)

How do most nouns ending in -al form the plural?

Replace -al with -aux

un cheval → des chevaux (a horse → horses)

What happens to nouns already ending in -s, -x or -z in the plural?

The noun does not change.

un bus → des bus (a bus → buses)



How do many nouns for people become feminine?

Add -e

un cousin → une cousine (a male cousin → a female cousin)

Exercises

Write your answer on the line. The answers are at the end.

1. Complete with le, la, l' or les: ____ enfants jouent dans le jardin.

2. Complete with le, la, l' or les: ____ école est fermée.

3. Complete with le, la, l' or les: ____ hôtel est près de la gare.

4. Complete with le, la, l' or les: ____ livre est sur la table.

5. Complete with le, la, l' or les: ____ maison est grande.

6. Complete with le, la, l' or les: J'aime ____ musique.

7. Complete with un, une or des: Elle a ____ voiture rouge.

8. Replace the definite article with an indefinite article: l'hôtel

9. Complete with un, une or des: C'est ____ amie de Paul.

10. Choose: J'ai ____ frère et ____ sœur. (un / une)

11. Complete with un, une or des: Je cherche ____ hôtel.

12. Replace the definite article with an indefinite article: l'école

13. Complete with un, une or des: J'ai ____ chat.

14. Complete with un, une or des: Il y a ____ pommes sur la table.

15. Change to plural: le bus

16. Change to plural: l'oiseau

17. Change to plural: la fenêtre

18. Change to plural: Je prends un croissant.

19. Change to plural: un animal

20. Change to plural: un gâteau

21. Change to plural: le chat

22. Change to feminine: un ami

23. Change to feminine: le cousin

24. Change to feminine: un étudiant

25. Change to feminine: un voisin



Answer key

1. Les enfants jouent dans le jardin.
(The children are playing in the garden.)
2. L'école est fermée.
(The school is closed.)
3. L'hôtel est près de la gare.
(The hotel is near the station.)
4. Le livre est sur la table.
(The book is on the table.)
5. La maison est grande.
(The house is big.)
6. J'aime la musique.
(I like music.)
7. Elle a une voiture rouge.
(She has a red car.)
8. un hôtel
(the hotel → a hotel)
9. C'est une amie de Paul.
(She's a friend of Paul's.)
10. J'ai un frère et une sœur.
(I have a brother and a sister.)
11. Je cherche un hôtel.
(I'm looking for a hotel.)
12. une école
(the school → a school)
13. J'ai un chat.
(I have a cat.)
14. Il y a des pommes sur la table.
(There are apples on the table.)
15. les bus
(the bus → the buses)
16. les oiseaux
(the bird → the birds)
17. les fenêtres
(the window → the windows)
18. Je prends des croissants.
(I'll have a croissant. → I'll have croissants.)
19. des animaux
(an animal → animals)
20. des gâteaux
(a cake → cakes)
21. les chats
(the cat → the cats)



22. une amie

(a male friend → a female friend)

23. la cousine

(the male cousin → the female cousin)

24. une étudiante

(a male student → a female student)

25. une voisine

(a male neighbour → a female neighbour)

