

G Definite and indefinite articles

	masculine	feminine	plural
'the'	<i>le</i>	<i>la</i>	<i>les</i>
'a' or 'some' (pl)	<i>un</i>	<i>une</i>	<i>des</i>

If a noun begins with a vowel or *h*, **le** or **la** shortens to **l'**, e.g. **l'église** (the church).

G Adjectival agreement

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Most adjectives work like this:

masculine	feminine	masc plural	fem plural
no ending e.g. <i>charmant</i>	add -e e.g. <i>charmante</i>	add -s e.g. <i>charmants</i>	add -es e.g. <i>charmantes</i>

Some adjectives follow a different pattern

(e.g. *travailleur* → *travailleuse*, *heureux* → *heureuse*, *gentil* → *gentille*).

Some adjectives never change (e.g. *cool*, *sympa*).

G Prepositions

<i>dans</i>	in
<i>derrière</i>	behind
<i>devant</i>	in front of
<i>entre</i>	between
<i>en face de</i>	opposite
<i>à côté de</i>	next to
<i>près de</i>	near

de + le → **du**, e.g. *en face du cinéma*

de + les → **des**, e.g. *près des magasins*



Adjectives are used to describe somebody, e.g. *il est honnête* (he is **honest**).

Abstract nouns are used to talk about qualities, e.g. *l'honnêteté est importante* (**honesty** is important).

G Irregular verbs

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Many French verbs are irregular and don't follow the usual pattern, e.g.

prendre (to take) → **il prend**

faire (to do/make) → **il fait**

dire (to say) → **il dit**

voir (to see) → **il voit**

croire (to believe) → **il croit**

rire (to laugh) → **il rit**

mettre (to put) → **on met**

sortir (to go out) → **on sort**

G The relative pronoun qui

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Qui means 'who', 'which' or 'that'. It is a relative pronoun that refers to the **subject** of a sentence.

It is very useful for creating longer, more complex sentences, e.g.

Un bon ami est quelqu'un qui croit en moi.

A good friend is someone **who believes** in me.

Il a des yeux qui inspirent confiance.

He has eyes **that inspire** confidence.

G The present tense

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Most French verbs are **-er** verbs. The **je** form ends in **-e**.

The most useful irregular verbs are **avoir** (to have) and **être** (to be).

	-er verbs (e.g. porter to wear)	avoir to have	être to be
je/j'	porte	ai	suis
tu	portes	as	es
il/elle/on	porte	a	est
nous	portons	avons	sommes
vous	portez	avez	êtes
ils/elles	portent	ont	sont

G The preposition à

The preposition **à** means 'at' or 'to'.

à + le → **au**, e.g. **au cinéma** (at/to the cinema)

à + la → **à la**

à + l' → **à l'**

à + les → **aux**, e.g. **aux magasins** (at/to the shops)

à 8 heures/20 heures (at 8 p.m.)

G Possessive adjectives

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	masc	fem	plural
my	<i>mon</i>	<i>ma</i>	<i>mes</i>
your	<i>ton</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>tes</i>
his/her	<i>son</i>	<i>sa</i>	<i>ses</i>

G The verb aller

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aller (to go)

je vais

tu vas

il/elle/on va

nous allons

vous allez

ils/elles vont

G Reflexive verbs

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These verbs have a reflexive pronoun in front of the verb.
Example: **se** *disputer* (to argue)

je me dispute	nous nous disputons
tu te disputes	vous vous disputez
il/elle/on se dispute	ils/elles se disputent

The reflexive pronoun can be used to mean 'each other', e.g. *ils s'aiment* (they love each other).

Some of these reflexive verbs are followed by a preposition. This is not always the same preposition that is used in English:

<i>s'entendre bien</i> avec	to get on well with
<i>s'intéresser à</i>	to be interested in
<i>se confier à</i>	to confide in
<i>s'occuper de</i>	to look after
<i>se fâcher contre</i>	to get angry with

G The near future tense

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The near future tense is formed with the present tense of the verb *aller* followed by an **infinitive**.

je vais	aller au match
tu vas	voir un spectacle
il/elle/on va	faire du patin à glace/ du skate/les magasins
nous allons	jouer à des jeux vidéo
vous allez	
ils/elles vont	

G Emphatic pronouns

These are used after prepositions like *avec*, *de* and *à*.

<i>avec</i> moi	with me	<i>avec</i> nous	with us
<i>avec</i> toi	with you	<i>avec</i> vous	with you
<i>avec</i> lui	with him	<i>avec</i> eux	with them
<i>avec</i> elle	with her	<i>avec</i> elles	with them

G The perfect tense

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You use the perfect tense to talk about the past.

It is formed of two parts:

- 1 the auxiliary verb (part of **avoir** or **être**)
- 2 the past participle.

J'ai mangé (I ate) *je suis entré(e)* (I entered)

For verbs with *être*, the past participle must agree with the subject.

nous sommes allés (we went)

★ Pay special attention to your perfect tense verbs. Check that:

- each perfect tense verb has two parts: part of *avoir* or *être* + the past participle.
- for *être* verbs, the past participle agrees with the subject. This is particularly important when using the pronoun *je* if you are a girl.

G Using a variety of tenses

Use the **imperfect tense** to say what somebody **used to do**, or what they **were** like when they were alive, e.g. *elle était courageuse*.

Use the **perfect tense** to say what somebody **did** or **has done**, e.g. *il a travaillé très dur*.

Use the **present tense** to talk about **now**, e.g. *J'admire sa créativité*.

G The imperfect tense

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The imperfect tense is used to describe what things **were like** in the past/what **used to** happen.

To form the imperfect tense:

- take *-ons* off the present tense *nous* form of the verb, e.g. *aimons*
- add the **imperfect endings**:

<i>j'aimais</i>	<i>nous aimions</i>
<i>tu aimais</i>	<i>vous aimiez</i>
<i>il/elle/on aimait</i>	<i>ils/elles aimaient</i>

The verb *être* has the stem **ét-**, e.g. *j'étais* (I was).