

French Grammar Primer  
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## **ARTICLES**

1. Indefinite articles: un (m), une (f), des (plural) are used when talking about a thing or a person not previously mentioned. "Des" indicates an undetermined number of a countable item. Ex: un livre (a book), une cassette (a tape), des crayons (pencils).

2. Definite articles: le (m), la (f), l' (before vowel sound), les (pl.) are used when talking about a specific thing or person known to the listener, or when the noun referred to is taken in a general sense. Ex: J'aime les oranges. Ex: Je prends la clé. (I am taking the key.)

3. Partitive articles: du (m), de la (f), de l' (before vowel sound) are used to indicate an indefinite quantity of something which cannot be counted with numbers, or an indefinite portion of a whole. Ex: de la crème (some cream). Ex: du poulet (some chicken) N.B. Ind.+ part. art. = de in a neg.sentence except after c'est + ce sont.

### REGULAR ADJECTIVES

1. The feminine is formed by adding an e at the end of the masculine form except when the masculine form already ends with a silent e ( an e with no accent on top of it). Ex: un exercice compliqué/une théorie compliquée. Ex: un chandail jaune/une robe jaune.

2. The plural is formed by adding an s to the masculine or feminine form except when the adjective already ends with an s in the singular. Ex: un stylo rouge/des stylos rouges. Ex: un film français/des films français.

3. The first letter of adjectives which indicate a nationality is not capitalized. Ex: une actrice anglaise.

### ADJECTIVES: SPECIAL CASES

1. Adjectives ending in "eux" have a feminine form ending in "se". Ex: un étudiant sérieux/une étudiante sérieuse.

2. Adjectives ending in "ien" have a feminine form ending in "ienne". Ex: un acteur italien/une actrice italienne.

3. Adjectives ending in "er" have a feminine form ending in "ère". Ex: le dernier exercice/la dernière page.

4. Masculine adjectives ending in "al" have a plural form ending in "aux", except "fatal" and "banal". Ex: un rapport médical/des rapports médicaux. Ex: un exemple banal/des exemples banals.

5. Compound adjectives never agree with the noun, they remain invariable. Ex: une chemise bleu ciel/des gants vert foncé.

6. Adjectives which are also the name of a fruit, a nut or a flower never agree with the noun, except "rose" and "violet". Ex: J'ai les yeux noisette. Ex: des draps orange. Ex: des gants roses.

### IRREGULAR ADJECTIVES

Masculin singulier	Feminen singulier
bas	basse
blanc	blanche
bon	bonne
complet	complète
épais	épaisse
gras	grasse
gros	grosse
gentil	gentille
long	longue
roux	rousse
violet	violette

	beau	nouveau	vieux
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Masc. sing. before consonant	beau	nouveau	vieux
Masc. sing. before vowel	bel	nouvel	vieil
Fem. sing.	belle	nouvelle	vieille
Masc. plural	beaux	nouveaux	vieux
Fem. plural	belles	nouvelles	vieilles

### POSITION OF ADJECTIVES

1. Adjectives are placed after the noun they modify. Ex: C'est un livre intéressant.
  2. There are exceptions to the above rule; the following adj. precede nouns: beau, grand, long, petit, bon, gros, mauvais, premier, dernier, jeune, nouveau, vieux.
- N.B. "Dernier" is placed after the noun when opposed to now; it is placed before the noun when it indicates the last in a series. Ex: la semaine dernière/Ex: la dernière page.
- N.B. "Long" can be found before or after the noun. Ex: de longs cils noirs. Ex: C'est le mot le plus long.
- N.B. The indefinite article "des" is changed to "de" when the adjective precedes the noun. Ex: des fleurs/de belles fleurs.

### POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

	Masculine singular	Feminine singular	Plural
<b>my</b>	mon	ma	mes
<b>your</b>	ton	ta	tes
<b>his, her, its</b>	son	sa	ses
<b>our</b>	notre	notre	nous
<b>your</b>	votre	votre	vos
<b>their</b>	leur	leur	leurs

1. Possessive adjectives agree in gender and in number with the things or things possessed. Ex: C'est ma clé. Ex: Ce sont tes papiers.
2. The masculine forms "mon", "ton" and "son" are used before a feminine noun which begins with a vowel sound. Ex: C'est son auto (feminine).

### DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES

Feminine singular: cette Ex: cette étudiante

Masculine singular before a consonant: ce Ex: ce livre

Masculine singular before a vowel sound: cet Ex: cet ami Ex: cet homme

Plural: ces Ex: ces étudiantes. Ex: ces livres. Ex: ces avions.

N.B. To put things or persons of the same kind into opposition, we may add the expressions - ci and - là to a noun preceded by a demonstrative adjective. Ex: Quels crayons veux-tu ? Ces crayons-ci ou ces crayons-là? These pencils or those pencils?



### POSITION OF PRONOUNS IN THE IMPERATIVE

1. In an affirmative sentence, pronouns are placed after the verb in the imperative, with a hyphen, if they are the objects of that verb. The pronouns "me" and "te" are changed to "moi" and "toi" respectively, except when they are followed by another pronoun also attached to the verb in the imperative. When two pronouns are used, they come in the following order: la-moi, m'en, m'y

Direct Object la-nous or Indirect Object nous-en or Direct Object l'y or Reflexive t'en + la-lui + lui-en + nous-y + nous-en

Indirect Object la-leur en, leur-en, y, les-y, en, vous-en°

2. In the negative imperative, pronouns are placed before the verb as follows:

me/le

ne/te/la/lui/y/en (verb in the past imperative)

nous/les/leur

vous

3. Disjunctive pronouns are always placed after the verb and the preposition.

### RELATIVE PRONOUNS

1. The relative pronoun "qui" (who, which) stands for a noun representing a person or a thing which is the subject of the subordinate verb. Ex: C'est la maison qui est là-bas. Ex: Comment s'appelle la jeune fille qui parle à Henri?

2. The relative pronoun "que" (whom, which) stands for a noun representing a person or a thing which is the direct object of the subordinate verb. Ex: Il m'a présenté un de ses amis que je ne connaissais pas.

N.B. The past participle of a verb conjugated with "avoir" and the past participle of a reflexive verb agree with "que" when the latter is their direct object.

3. The relative pronoun "dont" stands for a noun representing a person or a thing when the subordinate verb takes the preposition "de"; it also corresponds to the English forms "whose" and "of which". Ex: Je m'occupe de cette affaire./C'est l'affaire dont je m'occupe.

### DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

Feminine singular: celle	Feminine plural: celles
Masculine singular: celui	Masculine plural: ceux

1. To put things or persons of the same kind into opposition, we may add the expressions -ci and -là to a demonstrative pronoun. Ex: ceux-ci ou ceux-là? (These or those?) Ex: Celui-ci ou celui-là? (This one or that one?)

2. To put things or persons of the same kind into opposition, we may use a structure with "de" indicating possession. Ex: L'auto de Pierre est toute neuve, mais celle de Marc est d'occasion./Pierre's car is brand new, but Marc's is second-hand.

3. When distinguishing between things or persons of the same kind, we may use a demonstrative pronoun with a relative pronoun. Ex: C'est celle qui est debout./She is the one who is standing.

## VERBS WHICH TAKE INDIRECT OBJECTS

1. The following verbs take indirect objects (designating persons):

défendre	interdire	plaire	rendre visite
dire	manquer	poser des questions	répondre
écrire	ordonner promettre	sourire	
faire plaisir	proposer	suggérer	
parler	permettre	rendre service	téléphoner
falloir	arriver à (to happen to)	devoir à (to owe)	

2. Generally speaking, when we do something to or for someone, the someone in question is an indirect object. The following verbs take two objects, a direct object (thing) and an indirect object (person):

acheter	envoyer	lancer	prendre (to take sth.from s.o.)	raconter
apporter	expliquer	lire	rendre	
demander	faire	montrer	préparer	renvoyer
donner	faire voir	offrir	présenter	servir

N.B. The dir.object and the ind. obj. of "présenter"(to introduce) are persons.

## LIST OF PREPOSITIONS

dans = in	à côté de = next to
derrière = behind	au bout de = at the end of
devant = in front of	au milieu de = in the middle of
parmi = among	en face de = opposite
sous = under	loin de = far from
sur = on	près de = near
vers = towards	

à = at, to, in, by	avec = with
chez (indicates someone's house or office)	en = made of, in, by
de = of, from, about	sans = without

## PREPOSITIONS AND NOUNS

I. Prepositions are used to link two nouns to convey specific characteristics.

1. The preposition "en" with no article indicates what things are entirely made of. Ex: un sac en cuir/a leather bag
2. The preposition "à" with no article indicates the use of something. Ex: une tasse à thé/a teacup
3. The preposition "à" with a definite article indicates: a) the principal ingredient that gives the flavour to something. Ex: un gâteau au chocolat b) what food accompanies another food on a menu. Ex: du boeuf aux carottes
4. The preposition "de" with no article indicates: a) what things contain. Ex: une tasse de café b) what edible items consist entirely of. Ex: de l'huile de tournesol/sunflower oil.

II. The following verbs take the preposition "de" to introduce a noun: avoir besoin de, avoir envie de, avoir peur de, se moquer de, s'occuper de, parler de (to talk about), se plaindre de, se souvenir de.  
N.B. à + le = au , à + les = aux , de + le = du , de + les = des

### PREPOSITIONS AND VERBS

1. The following verbs take the preposition "de" to introduce an infinitive: s'arrêter, ça m'ennuie, demander, interdire, se plaindre, attendre, ça me fait plaisir, se dépêcher, s'occuper, promettre, avoir besoin, choisir, dire, offrir, proposer, avoir envie, continuer, douter, ordonner, regretter, avoir peur, craindre, essayer, permettre, répondre, défendre, finir, suggérer

2. The following verbs take the preposition "à" to introduce an infinitive: aider, continuer, réussir, avoir, se mettre, commencer, penser

### THE COMPARATIVE WITH ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS, NOUNS AND VERBS

1. Degree of superiority:

Adjective: Ce texte-ci est plus long que celui-là.

Adverb: Pierre conduit plus vite que moi.

Noun: Paul a plus de travail que son collègue.

Verb: Tu manges plus que nous.

N.B. plus + bon = meilleur plus + bien = mieux plus + mauvais = pire

2. Degree of inferiority:

Adjective: Tu es moins grande que moi.

Adverb: Sophie tape moins bien que Marie.

Noun: Paul gagne moins d'argent que Pierre.

Verb: Nous travaillons moins que toi.

3. Degree of equality:

Adjective: Cette fleur-ci est aussi belle que celle-là.

Adverb: Tu marches aussi lentement que moi.

Noun: Paul a autant de problèmes que Pierre.

Verb: Annie voyage autant que Sophie.

### THE SUPERLATIVE WITH ADJECTIVES

If we use an adjective which follows the noun, the entire structure of the superlative also follows the noun. If we use an adjective which precedes the noun, the entire structure of the superlative also precedes the noun. The noun must be preceded by a definite article.

1. Superlative of superiority: the expressions le plus, la plus and les plus (the most) are placed before the adjective. Note: le plus + bon = le meilleur le plus + mauvais = le pire Ex: C'est la plus petite pièce de la maison. Ex: C'est l'exercice le plus difficile du programme.

2. Superlative of inferiority: the expressions *le moins*, *la moins* and *les moins* (the least) are placed before the adjective. Ex: *C'est le moins beau quartier de la ville.* Ex: *C'est l'immeuble le moins moderne de la ville.*

### INTERROGATIVE WORDS

1. *Combien de* (how many, how much): The noun following "*combien de*" is put in the singular if it designates an item that cannot be counted with numbers; it is put in the plural if it designates an item that can be counted with numbers. Ex: *Combien d'argent avez-vous?* Ex: *Combien d'oranges veux-tu?* Also: a) *Combien mesures-tu?* (How tall are you?) b) *Combien pèses-tu?* (How much do you weigh?) c) *Du combien chausse-tu?* (What size shoe do you wear?).

2. *Comment* (how): Ex: *Comment vas-tu?* (How are you?) Ex: *Comment est-ce arrivé?* (How did it happen?) Also: *Comment vous appelez-vous?* (What is your name?)

3. *Où* (where): Ex: *Où vas-tu?* (Where are you going?) When the verb takes the preposition "*de*", the question is formulated with "*d'où*"(where from). Ex: Question: *D'où sors-tu?* Answer: *Je sors de la bibliothèque.*

4. *Pourquoi* (why): *Pourquoi n'est-elle pas là?* (Why isn't she here?)

5. *Quel, quels, quelle, quelles* (which) Ex: *Quels livres veux-tu?* (Which books do you want?) Also: a) *Quel âge as-tu?* (How old are you?) b) *Quel temps fait-il?* (What is the weather like?)

### "QUE" AND "QUOI" TO TRANSLATE "WHAT" IN DIRECT QUESTIONS

1. "*Que*" or *qu*" (before a vowel sound) is used when there are no prepositions. Ex: Answer: *Je veux un stylo.* Question: *Que voulez-vous?* (what do you want?)

2. "*Quoi*" is used with a preposition.

a) *à quoi*: Question: *A quoi penses-tu?* Answer: *Je pense à mes vacances.*

b) *avec quoi*: Question: *Avec quoi as-tu coupé la viande?* Answer: *J'ai coupé la viande avec un couteau électrique.*

c) *de quoi*: Question: *De quoi avez-vous besoin?* (What do you need?) Answer: *Nous avons besoin d'un projecteur.*

### THE INTERROGATIVE WORD "QUI" (WHO)

1. "*Qui*" alone is used when there are no prepositions. Ex: Answer: *C'est Marie.* Question: *Qui est-ce?* (Who is she?) Ex: Ans.: *J'attends Marc.* Quest.: *Qui attends-tu?* (Who are you waiting for?)

2. When there is a preposition, it must be placed before "*qui*".

a) *à qui* Question: *A qui téléphones-tu?* Answer: *Je téléphone à ma mère.*

b) *avec qui* Question: *Avec qui travaillez-vous?* Answer: *Nous travaillons avec Paul.*

c) *chez qui* Question: *Chez qui vas-tu?* Answer: *Je vais chez mon oncle.*

d) *de qui* Question: *De qui parlez-vous?* (Who are you talking about?) Answer: *Nous parlons de Monsieur Dumas.*



## QUESTIONS ABOUT TIME AND DURATION

1. Quand (when): Question: Quand arrivent-ils? Answer: Ils arrivent la semaine prochaine.
2. A quelle heure (at what time): Question: A quelle heure vas-tu partir? Answer: Je vais partir à huit heures.
3. Quelle heure (what time): Quelle heure est-il? (What time is it?) Quelle heure as-tu? (What time do you have?)
4. Dans combien de temps (when) to inquire about the duration which separates now from the moment when the action will start in the future. Ex: Question: Dans combien de temps reviens-tu? (When will you be back?) Answer: Je reviens dans une heure. (I'll be back in an hour.)
5. Depuis quand (since when): Question: Depuis quand les connais-tu? Answer: Je les connais depuis 1985.
6. Depuis combien de temps (for how long): Question: Depuis combien de temps étudies-tu? Answer: J'étudie depuis un an.

## DIRECT QUESTIONS

Any question can be formulated in two different ways:

1. With "est-ce que" or "est-ce qui" (when "que" (what) and "qui" (who) are the subjects of the verb). Ex: Qu'est-ce qui est arrivé? (What happened?) Ex: Quand est-ce que tu pars? (When are you leaving?)
2. Without "est-ce que", by placing the subject pronoun immediately after the verb with a hyphen. Ex: Que fais-tu? (What are you doing?) In a compound tense, e.g. the "passé composé", the subject pronoun is placed immediately after the auxiliary verb - before the past participle. Ex: Avez-vous étudié cette leçon? (Did you study this lesson?) In the third person singular, with "il", "elle" and "on" as subjects, a "t" is inserted between the verb and the subject, with two hyphens, whenever the verb ends with a vowel. Ex: Que regarde-t-il? (What is he looking at?) In the third persons, if the subject is in the form of a noun or name, it is often necessary to make it appear in two different forms: a noun or name and a subject pronoun. Ex: Paul vous a-t-il répondu? (Did Paul reply to you?)

## INDIRECT SPEECH STRUCTURES

1. To report a statement, the subordinate clause is introduced by "que" or "qu". Ex: Elle me dit qu'elle est malade. (She tells me that she is sick.)
2. To report a question with no interrogative element (what, who, etc.), the subordinate clause is introduced by "si" (if) which is shortened to "s" before "ils" or "il" (not before "elle", "elles" or "on"). Ex: Je te demande si tu es prêt. (I am asking you if you are ready.)
3. If the interrogative element in the direct question is "que" (what), it must be changed to "ce que" (what, object of the verb) or "ce qui" (what, subject). Ex: Elle te demande ce que tu fais. (She asks you what you are doing.)
4. All other interrogative elements are kept unchanged to introduce the subordinate clause. Ex: Je te demande avec qui tu sors.
5. "Est-ce que" and "est-ce qui" must be dropped, since these expressions exist only to formulate direct questions. The words must be placed in their normal order (to put the subject after the verb is a way to formulate a direct question; this form cannot appear in indirect speech structures).

## INDIRECT SPEECH IN THE PAST

1. A verb in the present indicative in a direct question or statement always takes the "imparfait" form in indirect speech in the past. Ex: "Qu'est-ce que tu fais?" Qu'est-ce que Sophie a demandé à son frère? Elle lui a demandé ce qu'il faisait.

N.B. If the verb is already in the "imparfait" in the direct question or statement, it remains in the "imparfait" in indirect speech in the past.

2. A verb in the "passé composé" in a direct question or statement always takes the "plus-que-parfait" form in indirect speech in the past. Ex: "Est-ce que tu es allé à la bibliothèque?" Qu'est-ce que Marie a demandé à Marc? Elle lui a demandé s'il était allé à la bibliothèque.

N.B. If the verb is already in the "plus-que-parfait" in the direct question or statement, it remains in the "plus-que-parfait" in indirect speech in the past.

3. A verb in the simple future in a direct question or statement always takes the present conditional form in indirect speech in the past. Ex: "Je t'attendrai à la cafétéria." Qu'est-ce que Pierre a dit à Annie? Il lui a dit qu'il l'attendrait à la cafétéria.

N.B. If the verb is already in the present conditional in the direct question or statement, it remains in the present conditional in indirect speech in the past.

4. In spoken French and in the "normal" written language, a verb in the present subjunctive in a direct question or statement remains in the present subjunctive in indirect speech in the past. Ex: "Il faut que j'aille chez le dentiste. Qu'est-ce que Sophie a dit à sa mère? Elle lui a dit qu'il fallait qu'elle aille chez le dentiste.

## REFLEXIVE VERBS

1. The following verbs are intrinsically reflexive: s'amuser, se battre, s'endormir, se marier, se passer, se réveiller, s'appeler, se coucher, s'excuser, se mettre à, se plaindre de, se souvenir de, s'arrêter, se dépêcher, s'installer, se moquer de, se promener, se taire, s'asseoir, s'en aller, se lever, s'occuper de, se reposer, se tromper

2. Most verbs which take a grammatical object (direct or indirect) can be made reflexive:

a) to indicate a reciprocal action. Ex: Ils se parlent. (They are talking to each other)

b) to indicate that the subject does something for himself. Ex: Je vais me trouver un appartement. (I am going to find myself an apartment.)

c) to indicate that the subject does something to himself. Ex: Paul se brosse les dents. (Paul is brushing his teeth.) (French requires a reflexive verb and a definite article.)

## NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS

1.ne..pas (not) Ex: Tu pars? Non, je ne pars pas.

2.ne..pas non plus (not..either) Ex: Il n'y a pas de café. Il y a du thé? Non, il n'y a pas de thé non plus.

3.ne..plus (no longer, no more) Ex: Est-ce qu'il pleut encore? Non, il ne pleut plus.

4.ne..pas encore (not yet) Ex: Tu as déjà fini? Non, je n'ai pas encore fini.

5.ne..rien (nothing) Ex: Tu as pris quelque chose? Non, je n'ai rien pris.

6.ne..personne (nobody) Ex: Quelqu'un t'a vu? Non, personne ne m'a vu.

7.ne..jamais (never) Ex: Tu vas parfois au gymnase? Non, je ne vais jamais au gymnase.

8.ne..pas souvent (not often) Ex: Tu sors souvent? Non, je ne sors pas souvent.

9.ne..pas toujours (not always) Ex: Paul a toujours habité à la campagne? Non, il n'a pas toujours habité à la campagne.

10.ne..ni..ni (neither..nor) Ex: Tu as ton livre et ta cassette? Non, je n'ai ni mon livre ni ma cassette.

## POSSESSION

There are three ways to indicate possession:

1. With the preposition "de" and the definite article (to indicate possession by persons or things). In this structure, French requires the expressions "c'est" and "ce sont". Ex: C'est le père de Marie. (He is Marie's father.) Ex: C'est la clé du bureau du directeur. (It is the director's office key.) N.B. de + le = du and de + les = des
2. With the verb "être à" (to belong to) Ex: Ces livres sont aux enfants. (These books belong to the children. Ex: Il est à moi. (It belongs to me.) N.B. à + le = au and à + les = aux
3. With possessive adjectives: mon ma mes (my), ton ta tes (your), son sa ses (his or her), notre nos (our), votre vos (your), leur leurs (their). Ex: Ce sont mes amis. (They are my friends.) In this structure: he is or she is = c'est and they are = ce sont

## TO KNOW

1. The verb "savoir" is used:
  - a) to indicate that someone knows a fact or is aware of a situation. In this case, "savoir" can be followed by a subordinate clause or stand alone with its subject. Ex: Je ne sais pas. (I don't know.) Ex: Nous savons ce que tu fais. (We know what you are doing.)
  - b) to indicate that one has learned to do something. In this case, "savoir" is followed by an infinitive and is translated by "can". Ex: Je sais nager. (I can swim.)
2. The verb "connaître" is used to indicate that one knows a person or is aware of the existence of something. The verb takes a direct object and is followed by a noun. Ex: Je connais les voisins de Pierre. (I know Pierre's neighbours.) Ex: Je connais une bonne recette. (I know a good recipe.)

## TO NEED

"Falloir" or "avoir besoin de" can be used to translate "to need".

1. "Falloir" is an impersonal verb. Its grammatical subject is always "il". The true subject appears in the form of an indirect object (noun or name in the third person, pronouns in all persons).
2. After "avoir besoin de", partitive articles and the indefinite article "des" are dropped. In an affirmative sentence, the indefinite articles "un" and "une" are kept ; in a negative sentence they are dropped.  
Il me faut du sucre = J'ai besoin de sucre  
Il te faut des crayons = Tu as besoin de crayons  
Il faut le projecteur à Paul = Paul a besoin du projecteur  
Il nous faut une salle = Nous avons besoin d'une salle  
Il vous faut les documents = Vous avez besoin des documents  
Il leur faut leurs notes = Elles ont besoin de leurs notes  
N.B. de + le = du de + les = des

## EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY

1. The following expressions of quantity with the preposition "de" can be used in front of a noun, in place of an article (Ex: un verre de lait): assez de, un peu de, une boîte de, un kilo de, un sac de, beaucoup de, trop de, une bouteille de, un litre de, une tasse de, peu de, cent grammes de, une livre de, un verre de, une douzaine de, un paquet de

2. The following adverbs of quantity can be used to modify adjectives and other adverbs. They are placed immediately before the adjectives or the adverbs they modify: trop, très, assez, peu Ex: Je marche très lentement. Ex: Elle est peu enthousiaste.

3. The following adverbs of quantity can be used to modify verbs. In a simple tense, they are placed immediately after the verb. In a compound tense, they are placed before the past participle: trop, beaucoup, assez, peu Ex: Tu travailles beaucoup. Tu as beaucoup travaillé.

## L'HEURE

1. Normal time is based on 12 hours: 12:20 p.m. Il est midi vingt/12:05 a.m. Il est minuit cinq/12:45 Il est une heure moins le quart/8:30 Il est huit heures et demie/7:15 Il est sept heures et quart/5:50 Il est six heures moins dix/11:25 Il est onze heures vingt-cinq/8:40 Il est neuf heures moins vingt/1:55 Il est deux heures moins cinq/3:10 Il est trois heures dix

2. Administrative time is based on 24 hours: 12:15 a.m. zéro heure quinze/3:20 p.m. quinze heures vingt/12:40 p.m. douze heures quarante/8:35 p.m. vingt heures trente-cinq/7:50 a.m. sept heures cinquante/11:05 a.m. onze heures cinq/6:10 p.m. dix-huit heures dix/5:55 a.m. cinq heures cinquante-cinq/2:45 a.m. deux heures quarante-cinq/4:00 p.m. seize heures/9:30 a.m. neuf heures trente/2:15 p.m. quatorze heures quinze

## DAYS, MONTHS, YEARS AND DATES

1. Days: lundi/mardi/mercredi/jeudi/vendredi /samedi/dimanche  
Quel jour est-ce? C'est mardi. Je pars lundi. (I am leaving on Monday.) J'étudie le lundi. (I study on Mondays.)

2. Months: janvier/février/mars/avril/mai/juin/juillet/août/septembre/octobre/novembre/décembre  
Je vais partir en avril. Or: Je vais partir au mois d'avril (in April). Quel jour est-ce? C'est le premier novembre. C'est le trois mars. C'est le onze juillet. C'est le vingt et un mai.

3. Years and dates: There are two ways to indicate years: Quel jour est-ce?: 28/06/87  
C'est le mardi vingt-huit juin dix-neuf cent quatre-vingt-sept.  
C'est le mardi vingt-huit juin mil neuf cent quatre-vingt-sept.  
N.B. With years 1000 is spelled "mil" ; with numbers it is spelled "mille".

## NUMBERS

1 = un  
2 = deux  
3 = trois  
4 = quatre  
5 = cinq  
6 = six

7 = sept  
 8 = huit  
 9 = neuf  
 10 = dix  
 11 = onze  
 12 = douze  
 13 = treize  
 14 = quatorze  
 15 = quinze  
 16 = seize  
 17 = dix-sept  
 18 = dix-huit  
 19 = dix-neuf  
 20 = vingt  
 21 = vingt et un  
 22 = vingt-deux  
 31 = trente et un  
 33 = trente-trois  
 41 = quarante et un  
 44 = quarante-quatre  
 51 = cinquante et un  
 55 = cinquante-cinq  
 61 = soixante et un  
 66 = soixante-six  
 70 = soixante-dix  
 71 = soixante et onze  
 80 = quatre-vingts  
 81 = quatre-vingt-un  
 90 = quatre-vingt-dix  
 91 = quatre-vingt-onze  
 100 = cent  
 1000 = mille  
 1,000,000 = un million

A hyphen is inserted between tens and units, and 70, 80 and 90. In multiples of "cent" an s is added; if there is a number after "cent" the s is dropped. "Mille" is always invariable.

Ex: 75,600 = soixante-quinze mille six cents

Ex: 2,134,526 = deux millions cent trente-quatre mille cinq cent vingt-six

## THE WEATHER

Quel temps fait-il?

Il fait beau	Il neige
Il fait chaud	Le temps est orageux
Il fait du soleil	Il y a un orage
Il fait doux	Il y a une tempête de neige
Il fait frais	Il grêle
Il fait froid	Il tombe de la pluie glacée
Il fait mauvais	Le ciel est nuageux

Il fait du vent	Il y a des nuages
Il vente	Le ciel est couvert
Il pleut	Le temps est couvert

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION WITH "AVOIR"

The verb "avoir" can be used to make a physical description with adjectives in two different structures, according to the position that the adjective takes: before or after the noun.

1. With adjectives which follow the noun, French requires a definite article before the noun indicating a part of the body. Ex: J'ai les cheveux blonds.
2. With adjectives which precede the noun, French requires an indefinite article before the noun indicating a part of the body. Ex: Annie a un petit nez.
3. When using two adjectives to modify one noun, French requires an indefinite article if one of the adjectives is placed before the noun - even if the other adjective follows the noun. Ex: Paul a de beaux yeux bleus.  
N.B. The ind. art. "des " becomes "de" when an adjective precedes the noun.

### EXPRESSIONS WITH "AVOIR"

1. avoir mal à la tête, avoir mal au dos, avoir mal aux jambes, avoir mal aux dents, avoir mal au coeur, avoir mal aux pieds, avoir mal à la gorge, avoir mal à l'estomac, avoir mal aux bras, avoir mal aux oreilles, avoir mal au ventre, avoir mal aux yeux
2. avoir chaud ( to be warm, hot), avoir sommeil (to be sleepy), avoir froid ( to be cold), avoir raison (to be right), avoir faim ( to be hungry), avoir tort (to be wrong), avoir soif ( to be thirsty), avoir de la chance (to be lucky)
3. avoir besoin de (to need), avoir envie de ( to feel like), avoir peur de ( to be afraid of)

### EXPRESSIONS WITH "FAIRE"

faire du bateau = to go boating	faire du patin = to skate
faire de la bicyclette = to ride a bike	faire de la planche à voile= to wind-surf
faire du camping = to camp	faire du ski = to ski
faire de l'équitation = to ride a horse	faire du ski nautique = to water-ski
faire de la gymnastique = to do gymnastics	faire de la voile = to sail
faire du jogging = to jog	faire un pique-nique = to picnic
faire de la marche = to hike	
faire de la moto = to ride a motorcycle	
faire de la natation = to swim	

Il fait jour = It is light (daylight)

Il fait nuit = It is dark (night)