**ADJECTIVES**

**1)** **Regular adjectives**

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Un jean vert | Des jeans verts |
| Feminine | Une jupe verte | Des jupes vertes |

**2) Adjectives that end in an un accented -e**

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Un cahier rouge | Des cahiers rouges |
| Feminine | Une trousse rouge | Des trousses rouges |

**3) Adjectives that end in -s**

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Un sac gris | Des sacs gris |
| Feminine | Une robe grise | Des robes grises |

**4) Adjectives that end in -eux**

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Un garçon heureux | Des garçons heureux |
| Feminine | Une fille heureuse | Des filles heureuses |

**5) Adjectives that end in -if**

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Un garçon sportif | Des garçons sportifs |
| Feminine | Une fille sportive | Des filles sportives |

**6) Adjectives that end in -ien**

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Un garçon canadien | Des garçons candiens |
| Feminine | Une fille canadienne | Des filles canadiennes |

**7) Adjectives that double the last consonant**

| **Singular** |
| --- |
| Masculine bon gentil gros mignon nul violet |
| Feminine bonne gentille grosse mignonne nulle violette |

| **Plural** |
| --- |
| Masculine bons gentils gros mignons nuls violets |
| Feminine bonnes gentilles grosses mignonnes nulles violettes |

**8) Invariable adjectives**

Some adjectives are invariable. They never change form. **Cool, marron, orange,** and **super** are examples.

Il me faut une montre marron et des baskets orange.

**9) Irregular adjectives**

Some adjectives must have their forms memorized. **Blanc, sympa,** and **roux**

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Blanc | Blancs |
| Feminine | Blanche | Blanches |

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Roux | Roux |
| Feminine | Rousse | Rousses |

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Sympa | Sympas |
| Feminine | Sympa | Sympas |

**10) Position of adjectives**

In French, adjectives are usually placed after the noun they modify.

C'est une femme **inteligente.**

Certain adjectives precede the noun. Some of these are **bon, jeune, joli, grand,** and **petit.**

C'est un **petit** village.

**11) Demonstrative Adjectives**

*This, that, these*, and *those* are demonstrative adjectives. There are two masculine singular forms: **ce** and **cet. Cet** is used with masculine singular nouns that begin with a vowel sound: **cet ordinateur** and **cet homme.**

**Cette fille = This girl**

**Ces filles = These girls.**

Demonstrative adjectives always precede the noun they modify.

|  | **Singular**  **Before a consonant** | **Singular**  **Before a vowel**  **sound** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Ce livre | Cet ordinateur | Ces posters |
| Feminine | Cette montre | Cette école | Ces gommes |

**12) Possessive adjectives**

Possessive adjectives come before the noun that they modify and agree in gender and number with that noun. All nouns that begin with a vowel sound use the masculine singular form: **mon ami(e), ton ami(e), son ami(e)**

**Mon frère est Colton. = My brother is Colton.**

**Mes frères sont Graham et Jack. = My brothers are G and J.**

**Colton est intelligent.**

**C'est mon frère. = It is brother.**

**Il est intelligent. = He is intelligent. Est = is**

**Ce sont mes frères. = They are my brothers.**

**Ils sont gentils. = They are nice. Sont = are**

|  | **Masculine singular** | **Feminine singular** | **Masc/Fem. sing. before**  **a vowel** | **Masc/Fem**  **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| My | Mon | Ma | Mon | Mes |
| Your | Ton | Ta | Ton | Tes |
| Hs, her, its | Son | Sa | Son | Ses |

The possessive adjectives for *our, your*, and *their* have only two forms, singular and plural.

|  | **Masc/Fem. Singular** | **Masc/Fem Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Our | Notre frère | Nos tantes |
| Your | Votre classeur | Vos amis |
| Their | Leur copain | Leurs trousses |

**13) Adjectives as nouns**

To use an adjective as a noun, add a definite article before the adjective. The article you use agrees in gender and number with the noun that the adjective is replacing.

- Tu aimes les chemises rouges ou les blanches?

- J'aime les blanches.

**ADVERBS**

**Position of adverbs**

Most adverbs follow the conjugated verb. In the **passé composé,** they usually precede the past participle.

- Nathalie fait **souvent** des photos.

- Je n'ai pas **bien** mangé ce matin.

Adverbs that are made up of more than one word can be placed at the beginning or at the end of a sentence. When you use **ne (n')...jamais,** place it around the conjugate verb.

- **D'habitude**, je fais du tennis le soir.

- J'aime faire de l'aérobic **deux fois par semaine.**

**-** Je **n**'ai **jamais** fait du ski.

**ARTICLES**

**1) Definite Articles**

French has four definite articles: **le, la, l',** and **les.** The form you use depends on the gender and number of the noun it modifies.

Use **le** with masculine, singular nouns: **le livre**

Use **la** with feminine, singular nouns: **la chemise**

Use **les** with both masculine and femenine nouns that are plural: **les crayons**

Use **l'** with both masculine and femenine nouns that begin with a vowel sound:

**L'ami, L'aimes, l'homme**

J'aime **le** chocolat et toi, tu préfères **le** café.

|  | **Singular before a consonant** | **Singular before a vowel sound** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Le professeur | L'ami | Les livres |
| Feminine | La pharmacie | L'école | Les pommes |

**2) Indefinite Articles**

In French, there are three indefinite articles: **un, une,** and **des.** The indefinite articles agree in number and gender with the nouns they modify.

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | Un poisson | Des chats |
| Feminine | Une orange | Des lunettes |

**3) Partitive Articles**

To say that you want *part* or *some* of an item, use the partition articles. Use **du** with a masculine noun and **de la** with a feminine noun. Use **de l'** with singular nouns that begin with a vowel sound whether they are masculine or feminine.

- Je veux **de la** tarte aux pommes.

To indicate the whole as opposed to a part of the item, use the indefinite articles **un, une** and **des.**

- Pour la fête, Il me faut **des** tartes.

**Negation and the articles**

When the main verb of a sentence is negated, the indefinite and the partitive articles change to **de/d'.** Definite articles remain the same after a negative verb.

- J'ai **le** livre de maths. Je n'ai pas **le** livre de maths.

- J'ai **des** stylos. Je n'ai pas **de** stylos.

- J'ai mangé **de la** pizza. Je n'ai pas mangé **de** pizza.

**INTERROGATIVES**

**1) Question formation**

There are several ways to ask yes-no questions. One of these is to raise the pitch of your voice at the end of a statement. The other is to place **Est-ce que** in front of a statement.

**Tu aimes le chocolat?** (intonation)

**Est-ce que tu aimes le chocolat?**

**Aimes-tu le chocolat?**

**2) Negative questions**

The answer to a yes-no question depends on the way the question was stated. If the verb in a question is positive, then the answer is **oui** if you agree and **non** if you don't. If the verb in a question is negative, then **non**  is used to agree with the question and **si** to disagree.

| **Question** | **Agreeing with the question** | **Disagreeing with the question** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tu aimes lire? | **Oui**, j'ai me lire. | **Non**, je n'aime pas lire. |
| Tu n'aimes pas lire? | **Non**, je n'aime pas lire. | **Si**, j'aime lire. |

**3) Information questions**

To ask for specific kinds of information, use the following question words:

**A quelle heure?** At what time? **Où?** Where?

**Avec qui?** With whom? **Quand?** When?

These words can be used by themselves, at the beginning of a question, or at the beginning of a question followed by **est-ce que**, or at the end of a question.

**Avec qui? Avec qui,** est-ce qu'on va au cinéma?

**Avec qui** on va au cinéma? On va au cinéma **avec qui?**

**NOUNS**

**Plural forms of nouns**

In French, you make must nouns plural by adding an -**s** to the end of the word, unless they already end in an -**s** or -**x.** Nouns that end in -**eau** are made plural by adding an -**x**, and nouns at end in -**al** are generally made plural by replacing the -**al** with **-aux.**

|  | **Regular nouns** | **-s or -x** | **-eau** | **-al** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Singular | Table | Bus | Manteau | Hôpital |
| Plural | Tables | Bus | Manteaux | Hôpitaux |

**Exception: récital becomes récitals.**

**PREPOSITIONS**

**The prepositions à and de**

The preposition **à** means *to, at,* or *in,* and **de** means *from* or *of.* When **à** and **de** are used in front of the definite articles **le** and **les,** they form contractions. If they precede any other definite article, there is no contraction.

Il va **à l**'école et **au** musée.

Nous sommes loin **du** musée.

|  | **Masculine article** | **Femenine article** | **Vowel sound** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| à | à + le = **au** | à + la = **à la** | à + l' = **à l'** | à + les = **aux** |
| de | de + le = **du** | de + la = **de la** | de + l' = **de l'** | de + les = **des** |

De can also indicate possession or ownership or family relationship.

C'est le livre **de** Laurent.

C'est le stylo **du** prof.

Marie est la sœur de Alain.

**Prepositions and places**

To say that you are at or going to a place, you need to use a preposition. With cities, use **à:à Paris (**except **en Arles).** When speaking about masculine countries, use **au: au Maroc.** With plural names of countries, use **aux:aux Etats-Unis.** Most countries ending in -**e** are feminine; in those cases use **en: en France (**except **Le Mexique).** If a country begins with a vowel, like I**sraël,** use **en Israël.**

| **Cities** | **Masculine countries** | **Fem. countries or Masc. countries that begin with a vowel** | **Plural countries** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **à** Nantes | **au** Canada | **en** Italie | **aux** Etats-Unis |
| **à** Paris | **au** Maroc | **en** Espagne | **aux** Philippines |
| **en** Arles | **au** Mexique | **en** Israël | **aux** Pays-Bas |

**PRONOUNS**

In French, as in English, can refer to a person, place, or thing. Pronouns are used to avoid repetition. In French, pronouns agree in gender and number with the noun that they replace.

1. **Subject pronouns**

| **Subject Pronouns** |  |
| --- | --- |
| **je (J')** = I | **nous** = we |
| **tu** = you(familiar) | **vous** = you (plural or formal) |
| **il** = he | **ils** = they |
| **elle** = she | **elles** = they |
| **on =** we/one/they |  |

**2) The impersonal pronoun il**

Many statements in French begin with the personal pronoun **il.** In these statements, **il** does not refer to any particular person or thing. For this reason, those statements are called impersonal statements.

**Il fait beau.**  *It's nice out.*

**Il est huit heures.** *It's eight o'clock.*

**Il me/te faut.***.. I/You need...*

**Il y a...***There is/There are...*

**3) Direct object pronouns: le, la, les**

A direct object is a noun that receives the action of the verb. It answers the question *What?* or *Whom?* To say *him, her, it,* or *them,* use the pronouns **le, la,** and **les.** In French, you place the direct object pronoun in front of the conjugated verb.

Il regarde **la télé.** Il **la** regarde.

If there is an infinitive in the sentence, the direct object pronoun comes before the infinitive.

Je vais attendre **Pierre.** Je vais **l'**attendre.

In an affirmative command, the direct object pronoun follows the verb and is connected to it with a hyphen.

Regarde **la télévision.** Regarde-**la!**

|  | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Masculine | **le/l'** | **les** |
| Femenine | **la/l'** | **les** |

**4) Indirect object pronouns: lui, leur**

The indirect object answers the question *To whom?* and refers only to people. In French an indirect object follows the preposition **à: Il parle à Marie.** The indirect object pronoun replaces the prepositional phrase **à + a person,**and precedes the conjugated verb.

Nous téléphonons **à Mireille.** Nous **lui** téléphonons.

If there is an infinitive in the sentence, the indirect object pronoun comes before the infinitive.

Il n'aime pas parler **à ses parents.** Il n'aime pas **leur** parler.

In an affirmative command, the indirect object follows the verb and is connected to it with a hyphen.

Téléphone **à ta sœur.** Téléphone-**lui!**

**5) The pronoun Y**

To replace a phrase meaning *to, on, at,* or *in* any place that had already been mentioned, you can use the pronoun **y.** It can replace phrases beginning with prepositions of location such as **à, sur, chez, dans,** and **en** + **a place or thing.** Place **y** before the conjugatd verb.

Elle va **à la pharmacie.** Elle **y** va.

If there is an infinitive, place **y** before the infinitive.

Elle va aller **à la poste** demain. Elle va **y** aller demain.

**6) The pronoun en**

The pronoun **en** replaces a phrase beginning with **de, du, de la, de l',** or **des.** It usually means *about it, some (of it/of them),* or simply *it/them,* and is placed before the conjugated verb.

Tu achètes **des haricots verts?** Oui, j'**en** achète pour le dîner.

**En** in a negative sentence means *not any* or *none.*

Tu ne bois pas **de café.** Tu n'**en** bois pas.

**En** is placed before the conjugated verb.

Je parle **de mes vacances. J'en** parle.

If there is an infinitive, place **en** before the infinitive.

Vous aimez manger **des fruits.** Vous avez **en** manger.

Notice that with the **passé composé**, **en** precedes the helping verb.

Il a mangé **du pain.** Il **en** a mangé.

**VERBS**

1. **Present tense of regular verbs**

To conjugate a verb in French, use the following formulas. Which formula you choose depends on the ending of the infinitive. There are three major verb categories: -**er, -ir,**  and **-re.** Each one has a different conjugation. Within these categories, there are regular and irregular verbs. To conjugate regular verbs, you drop the infinitive endings and add these endings.

|  | **aimer**  (*To love,to like*) | **choisir**  (*To choose)* | **vendre**  **(***To sell)* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **Stem/Ending** | **Stem/Ending** | **Stem/Ending** |
| je/j' | -**e** | -**is** | -**s** |
| tu | -**es** | -**is** | -**s** |
| il/elle/on | -**e** | -**it** | ---- |
|  | aim | chois | vend |
| nous | -**ons** | -**issons** | -**ons** |
| vous | -**ez** | -**issez** | -**ez** |
| ils/elles | -**ent** | -**issent** | -**ent** |

**2) Verbs with stem and spelling changes**

Verbs listed in this section are not irregular, but they do have some stem and spelling changes.

With **acheter** and **promener,** add an **accent grave** over the second-to-last **e** for all forms except **nous** and **vous.** Notice that the accent on the second **e** in **prérérer** changes from **é** to **è** in all forms except the **nous** and **vous** forms.

|  | **Acheter**  *(To buy)* | **Préférer**  *(To prefer)* | **Promener**  *(To walk - an animal)* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| je/j' | **achète** | **préfère** | **promène** |
| tu | **achètes** | **préfères** | **promènes** |
| il/elle/on | **achète** | **préfère** | **promène** |
| nous | **achetons** | **préférons** | **promenons** |
| vous | **achetez** | **préférez** | **promenez** |
| ils/elles | **achètent** | **préfèrent** | **promènent** |
| **Past Participle** | **acheté** | **préféré** | **promené** |

The following verbs have different stems for **nous** and **vous.**

|  | **Appeler**  *(To call)* | **Essayer**  *(To try)* |
| --- | --- | --- |
| je/j' | **appelle** | **essaie** |
| tu | **appelles** | **essaies** |
| il/elle/on | **appelle** | **essaie** |
|  |  |  |
| nous | **appelons** | **essayons** |
| vous | **appelez** | **essayez** |
| ils/elles | **appellent** | **essaient** |
| **Past Participle** | **appelé** | **essayé** |

The following verbs show a difference only in the **nous** form.

|  | **Commencer**  *(To start)* | **Manger**  *(To eat)* |
| --- | --- | --- |
| je/j' | **commence** | **mange** |
| tu | **commences** | **manges** |
| il/elle/on | **commence** | **mange** |
|  |  |  |
| nous | **commençons** | **mangeons** |
| vous | **commencez** | **mangez** |
| ils/elles | **commencent** | **mangent** |
| **Past Participle** | **commencé** | **mangé** |

|  | **Nager**  *(To swim)* | **Voyager**  *(To travel)* |
| --- | --- | --- |
| je/j' | **nage** | **voyage** |
| tu | **nages** | **voyages** |
| il/elle/on | **nage** | **voyage** |
|  |  |  |
| nous | **nageons** | **voyageons** |
| vous | **nagez** | **voyagez** |
| ils/elles | **nagent** | **voyagent** |
| **Past Participle** | **nagé** | **voyagé** |

**3) Verbs like dormir**

These verbs follow a different pattern from the one for regular -**ir** verbs. These verbs have two stems: one for the singular subjects, and one for the plural ones.

|  | **Dormir**  *(To sleep)* | **Partir**  *(To leave)* | **Sortie**  *(To go out, to take out)* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| je/j' | dor**s** | par**s** | sor**s** |
| tu | dor**s** | par**s** | sor**s** |
| il/elle/on | dor**t** | par**t** | sor**t** |
|  |  |  |  |
| nous | dorm**ons** | part**ons** | sort**ons** |
| vous | dorm**ez** | part**ez** | sort**ez** |
| ils/elles | dorm**ent** | part**ent** | sort**ent** |
| **Past Participle** | **dormi** | **parti** | **sorti** |

**4) Verbs with irregular forms**

Verbs listed in this section do not follow the pattern of verbs like **aimer, choisir,** or **vendre.** Therefore, they are called *irregular verbs.* The following four irregular verbs are used frequently.

|  | **Aller**  *(To go)* | **Avoir**  *(To have)* |
| --- | --- | --- |
| je/j' | **vais** | **ai** |
| tu | **vas** | **as** |
| il/elle/on | **va** | **a** |
|  |  |  |
| nous | **allons** | **avons** |
| vous | **allez** | **avez** |
| ils/elles | **vont** | **ont** |
| **Past Participle** | **allé(e)** | **eu** |

|  | **Être**  *(To be)* | **Faire**  *(To do, to make, to play)* |
| --- | --- | --- |
| je/j' | **suis** | **fais** |
| tu | **es** | **fais** |
| il/elle/on | **est** | **fait** |
|  |  |  |
| nous | **sommes** | **faisons** |
| vous | **êtes** | **faites** |
| ils/elles | **sont** | **font** |
| **Past Participle** | **été** | **fait** |

**Devoir, pouvoir,** and **vouloir** are also irregular. They are usually followed by an infinitive.

**Je peux chanter.**  *I can sing.*

|  | **Devoir**  (must, to have to) | **Pouvoir**  *(to be able to, can)* | **Vouloir**  *(to want)* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| je/j' | **dois** | **peux** | **veux** |
| tu | **dois** | **peux** | **veux** |
| il/elle/on | **doit** | **peut** | **veut** |
|  |  |  |  |
| nous | **devons** | **pouvons** | **voulons** |
| vous | **devez** | **pouvez** | **voulez** |
| ils/elles | **doivent** | **peuvent** | **veulent** |
| **Past Participle** | **du** | **pu** | **voulu** |

These verbs also have irregular forms.

|  | **Dire**  *(To say)* | **Écrire**  *(To write)* | **Lire**  *(To read)* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| je/j' | **dis** | **écris** | **lis** |
| tu | **dis** | **écris** | **lis** |
| il/elle/on | **dit** | **écrit** | **lit** |
|  |  |  |  |
| nous | **disons** | **écrivons** | **lisons** |
| vous | **dites** | **écrivez** | **lisez** |
| ils/elles | **disent** | **écrivent** | **lisent** |
| **Past Participle** | **dit** | **écrit** | **lu** |

|  | **Mettre**  *(To put, put on, to wear)* | **Prendre**  *(To take, to have food/drink)* | **Voir**  *(To see)* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| je/j' | **mets** | **prends** | **vois** |
| tu | **mets** | **prends** | **vois** |
| il/elle/on | **met** | **prend** | **voit** |
|  |  |  |  |
| nous | **mettons** | **prenons** | **voyons** |
| vous | **mettez** | **prenez** | **voyez** |
| ils/elles | **mettent** | **prennent** | **voient** |
| **Past Participle** | **mis** | **pris** | **vu** |

**5) The near future (futur proche)**

Like the past tense, the near future is made of two parts. The future tense of a verb consists of the present tense of **aller** plus the infinitive.

Vous **allez sortir** avec vos copains demain.

**6) The past tense (passé composé)**

The past tense of most verbs is formed with two parts: the present tense of the helping verb **avoir** and the past participle of the main verb. To form the past participle, use the formulas below. To make a sentence in the past, place the **ne...pas** around the helping verb **avoir.**

| **Infinitive** | **Aimer**  *(To love, to like)* | **Choisir**  *(To choose)* | **Vendre**  *(To sell)* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Stem. Ending** | **Stem. Ending** | **Stem. Ending** |
| **Past Participle** | aim -é  aimé | chois -i  choisi | vend -u  vendu |
| **Passé Composé** | **J'ai aimé** | **J'ai choisi** | **J'ai vendu** |

J**'ai mangé** de la pizza. Nous **avons choisi** le livre.

Elle n'**a** pas **vendu** sa voiture. Nous n'**avons** pas **mangé** de pizza.

Some verbs have irregular past participles.

**Faire - fait. Prendre - pris. Avoir - eu**

**Lire - lu. Voir - vu. Mettre - mis**

With some verbs such as **aller**, you use the helping verb **être** instead of **avoir.** The past particple of these verbs agrees in gender and number with the subject of the sentence.

Je **suis allé(e)** à l'école. Ils **sont allés** à la poste. Elle **est allée** au café.

**7) The Imperative (commands)**

To make a request or a command of most verbs, use the **tu, nous,** or **vous** form of the present tense of the verb without the subject. Remember to drop the final

-**s** in the **tu** form of an -**er** verb.

**Mange!**

**Ecoute** le professeur!

**Faites** vos devoirs!

**Prenons** un sandwich!

| **Aimer**  *(To love, to like)* | **Choisir**  *(To choose)* | **Vendre**  *(To sell)* |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stem Ending** | **Stem Ending** | **Stem Ending** |
| -e  aime -ons  -ez | -is  chois -issons  -issez | -s  vend -ons  -ez |

Mange-le!

Prends-la!

J'ai besoin de tomates. = I have need of tomatoes.

J'ai besoin d'œfs.= = I need eggs.

J'ai besoin d'étudier. = I need to study.