

1 Basic Expressions

Bonjour, madame.	Good morning, ma'am.
Comment allez-vous, monsieur?	How are you, sir?
Assez bien, merci.	Fairly well, thank you.
Comment vous appelez-vous?	What's your name?
Je m'appelle Jacques.	My name is Jack.
Où habitez-vous?	Where do you live?
J'habite à San Francisco.	I live in San Francisco.
Puis-je vous aider?	May I help you?
Oui, s'il vous plaît.	Yes, please.
Où sont les toilettes?	Where are the restrooms?
Là-bas à gauche.	Over there to the left.
En face du cinéma.	In front of the movie theater.
Comment dit-on <i>on the right</i> en français?	How do you say <i>on the right</i> in French?
On dit à <i>droite</i> .	We say <i>à droite</i> .
À bientôt.	See you soon.
À demain.	See you tomorrow.
Au revoir.	Goodbye.

PRACTICE THE FOLLOWING EXPRESSIONS

Answers for
Lesson 1,
pp. 52-53

1. How do you say *Good morning* in French? _____.
2. How do you say *My name is*? _____.
3. How do you say *Where do you live*? _____.
4. How do you reply to *Comment allez-vous*? _____.
5. How do you reply to *Où sont les toilettes*? _____.
6. How do you say *to the left*? _____.

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7. What is the opposite of *à droite*? _____.
8. How do you say *please*? _____.
9. *À bientôt* is translated into English as _____.
10. How do you say *in front of*? _____.
11. Two ways of answering to *au revoir* are _____ and _____.
12. *À demain* is translated into English as _____.

MOTS NOUVEAUX (New Words)

Try to memorize these words. They will be repeated in exercises and future lessons. Pronounce each word aloud.

après	after	l'homme (masc.)	man
l'arbre (masc.)	(the) tree	le jour	day
l'arc-en-ciel (masc.)	rainbow	la leçon	lesson
aujourd'hui	today	le livre	book
avant	before	la lumière	light
la bougie	candle	le lundi	Monday
la chaise	chair	la maison	house
le chat	cat	le matin	morning
le chien	dog	la mer	sea
la couleur	color	la mère	mother
le crayon	pencil	le mot	word
demain	tomorrow	la nuit	night
l'enfant	child	l'oiseau (masc.)	bird
la famille	family	le papier	paper
la femme	woman	le parapluie	umbrella
la fille	girl	le père	father
le frère	brother	le soleil	sun
le garçon	boy	le stylo	pen
le goût	taste	le temps	time; weather
hier	yesterday	la tête	head
		la vérité	truth

PRACTICE THE VOCABULARY

Match the two columns by writing the appropriate letters in the spaces provided.

Example: 1. F

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|----------------|----------|
| 1. ____ arbre | A. pen |
| 2. ____ chaise | B. head |
| 3. ____ papier | C. chair |

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|----------------------|--------------|
| 4. ____ stylo | D. woman |
| 5. ____ parapluie | E. paper |
| 6. ____ femme | F. tree |
| 7. ____ tête | G. umbrella |
| 8. ____ demain | H. taste |
| 9. ____ mot | I. tomorrow |
| 10. ____ matin | J. house |
| 11. ____ goût | K. word |
| 12. ____ maison | L. morning |
| 13. ____ soleil | M. light |
| 14. ____ lumière | N. rainbow |
| 15. ____ arc-en-ciel | O. sun |
| 16. ____ nuit | P. mother |
| 17. ____ vérité | Q. night |
| 18. ____ mère | R. book |
| 19. ____ hier | S. truth |
| 20. ____ livre | T. yesterday |
| 21. ____ père | U. cat |
| 22. ____ bougie | V. father |
| 23. ____ homme | W. man |
| 24. ____ chat | X. candle |
| 25. ____ crayon | Y. time |
| 26. ____ oiseau | Z. bird |
| 27. ____ temps | a. dog |
| 28. ____ garçon | b. pencil |
| 29. ____ fille | c. girl |
| 30. ____ chien | d. boy |

GRAMMAR I Definite Articles • Gender of Nouns

- A. The definite article *the* is translated into French by *le, la, les,* and *l'*. We use *le* before masculine singular nouns, *la* with feminine singular nouns, and *les* with plural nouns, both masculine and feminine. *L'* is the contraction of *le* and *la* when followed by a noun starting with a vowel or a mute *h* as in: *l'homme,* *l'avion,* and *l'hôtel*.
- B. In French, *nouns* are either masculine or feminine. There is no neuter gender of nouns as in English. Articles in French must agree with the nouns they precede, as in: *la table, le garçon, la chaise, la maison, le matin, le stylo, le père,* and *la mère*.

- C. Although there is no way to know the gender of a noun without memorizing it, there are patterns that will help you distinguish the feminine nouns from the masculine nouns. Be aware, however, that these are patterns only, with numerous exceptions; there are no hard and fast rules. The only sure way to know the gender of each noun is to memorize.
1. Females are always feminine, and males are always masculine.
EXAMPLE: *l'homme* (the man) masc.
la femme (the woman) fem.
le garçon (the boy) masc.
la fille (the girl) fem.
 2. Most nouns ending in *on*, *in*, *o*, *ier*, *al*, and *ot* are masculine, as in: *le bouillon*, *le matin*, *le métro*, *le papier*, *le cheval* (the horse), and *le gigot* (the leg of lamb).
 3. Most nouns ending in *ion*, *eur*, *ance*, *ence*, *te*, *ie*, and *ude* are feminine, as in: *l'aviation*, *la passion*, *la grandeur*, *la chance*, *la présence*, *la bonté*, *la biologie*, and *la latitude*.

NOTE:

About 2 percent of the nouns contained in this book do not belong to the preceding categories. The following is a small sample of those nouns: *le livre* (the book), *le soleil* (the sun), *le parapluie* (the umbrella), *l'ordinateur* (masc., the computer), *le chat* (male cat), *la chatte* (female cat), *le chien* (male dog), *la chienne* (female dog).

PRACTICE THE ARTICLES

1. List four translations of *the* _____.
2. Things in French are either _____ or _____.
3. List two masculine definite articles _____.
4. What does *l'* stand for? _____ and when? _____.
5. What is the definite article for _____ *splendeur* (the splendor)?
_____ *santé* (the health)?
6. What are two feminine definite articles? _____.
7. Write the definite articles of _____ *arbre* (the tree) _____,
homme (the man), _____ *papier* (the paper).
8. Write the definite articles of _____ *location* (the rent, the rental),
_____ *patience* (the patience), _____ *zoologie* (the zoology),
_____ *attitude* (the attitude), _____ *longueur* (the length).

EXERCISE

Fill in the correct article *le*, *la*, or *l'*. Then say each word aloud.

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|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. _____ matin | 7. _____ femme | 13. _____ hôtel |
| 2. _____ professeur | 8. _____ garçon | 14. _____ papier |
| 3. _____ bonté | 9. _____ homme | 15. _____ bougie |
| 4. _____ vérité | 10. _____ crayon | 16. _____ arc-en-ciel |
| 5. _____ fille | 11. _____ grandeur | 17. _____ parapluie |
| 6. _____ journal | 12. _____ avion | 18. _____ chance |

GRAMMAR II Indefinite Articles

- A. The indefinite articles in French are *un* for masculine singular nouns and *une* for feminine singular nouns—for example, *un garçon* (a boy) and *une fille* (a girl). Both indefinite and definite articles must agree in gender with the nouns they precede. All nouns are either masculine or feminine, even when they are objects or things.
- B. The neuter gender *it*, used with things and objects in English, does not exist in French.
- C. In French, every effort is made to avoid the “hiatus” or the juxtaposition of two consecutive vowels, one at the end of a word followed by another at the beginning of the next word. (A silent *h* is considered a vowel in such a case.) One of the largest exceptions to this rule occurs with *une*, the indefinite feminine article. Thus, there is no problem with saying *une addition*, *une abréviation*, *une histoire*, *une altitude*, etc.

PRACTICE THE INDEFINITE ARTICLES

1. What are the indefinite articles in French? _____.
2. What is the gender of *un*? _____.
3. What is the gender of *une*? _____.
4. What is the gender of *un garçon*? _____.
5. Which nouns are always masculine? _____.
6. Which nouns are always feminine? _____.
7. What is the meaning of “hiatus”? _____.
8. Are there neuter nouns in French? _____.
9. Objects in French are either _____ or _____.
10. What is a major exception to the hiatus? _____.

EXERCISE

Write the appropriate indefinite article (*un* or *une*) before each noun. Then say each combination aloud.

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|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. _____ action | 7. _____ chat | 13. _____ tête |
| 2. _____ jour | 8. _____ crayon | 14. _____ oiseau |
| 3. _____ livre | 9. _____ couleur | 15. _____ chaise |
| 4. _____ garçon | 10. _____ matin | 16. _____ goût |
| 5. _____ papier | 11. _____ soleil | 17. _____ mot |
| 6. _____ chien | 12. _____ nuit | 18. _____ parapluie |

GRAMMAR III Subject Pronouns and the Verbs *être* and *avoir* • The Interrogative

A. Memorize the verbs *être* (to be) and *avoir* (to have).

Subject	<i>Être</i>	Subject	To Be
je	suis	I	am
tu (sing. familiar)	es	you	are
il (masc.), elle (fem.), on	est	he, she, it, one	is
nous	sommes	we	are
vous	êtes	you	are
ils (masc. pl.), elles (fem. pl.)	sont	they	are

Subject	<i>Avoir</i>	Subject	To Have
je = j'	ai	I	have, am having, do have
tu (familiar)	as	you	have
il (masc.), elle (fem.), on	a	he, she, it, one	has
nous	avons	we	have
vous	avez	you	have
ils (masc. pl.), elles (fem. pl.)	ont	they	have

B. The interrogative form, or question, in French is expressed in two ways. The first is by beginning the question with the phrase *est-ce que*.

EXAMPLE: *Est-ce que* tu es un garçon? (Are you a boy?)
Est-ce que vous avez des stylos? (Do you have pens?)

The second way is by inverting the pronoun subject and verb as in English, except that French adds a hyphen between the words.

EXAMPLE: *Es-tu* un garçon? (Are you a boy?)
Avez-vous des stylos? (Do you have pens?)

Note that French adds the letter *-t-* between two vowels in the interrogative form in order to avoid the “hiatus.”

EXAMPLE: *A-t-il?* Has he?
A-t-elle? Has she?
Mange-t-on? Are we eating? (Does one eat?)
Aide-t-elle? Is she helping?
Commande-t-il? Is he ordering?

NOTES:

1. In French, *je* is not capitalized as is the English *I*; *tu* (*you*, singular) is used with friends and relatives and in informal situations.
2. *Vous* (*you*) is used in formal situations when speaking with one person and in formal and informal situations when speaking with more than one person.

EXAMPLE: Monsieur, *vous* mangez bien.
 Mesdames et messieurs, *vous* mangez bien.

3. *Il* is the masculine singular (*he*), and *elle* is the feminine singular (*she*).
4. *Ils* is used for *they* (plural masculine) and *elles* for *they* (plural feminine). *Ils* and *elles* have the same sound as *il* and *elle*: the last consonant (*s*) is mute.

EXAMPLE: *Ils* (les garçons) sont ici.
Elles (les filles) sont ici.

5. *Ils* refers also to a mixed group of people, people in general, as in *ils* (les garçons et les filles) *sont ici*. *Il* is also used in what is called “impersonal expressions” such as *il fait chaud* (it is warm) and *il fait froid* (it is cold). This is the only time we encounter the impersonal equivalent of the English *it*. French also has another third-person singular construction, which is *on*. This *on* translates as the English *one*, as in *on dit* (one says, we say, people say), *on fait* (one does, we do, people do).
6. *Il*, *elle*, *ils*, and *elles* also refer to animals and to things that are either masculine or feminine, singular or plural. *Le chat est blanc* (the cat is white), *il est blanc* (he is white); *la table est grande* (the table is big), *elle est grande* (it is big).
7. Note that *j’ai* can convey the equivalent of the English expressions “I have,” “I’m having,” or “I do have.”

PRACTICE THE SUBJECT PRONOUNS

1. Which pronoun is always capitalized in English and not in French?_____.
2. The pronoun *you* has two equivalents in French. What are they?_____.
3. The pronoun *tu* is used in_____.

4. What is the singular formal equivalent of *you*? _____.
5. What is the plural formal equivalent of *you*? _____.
6. What are two ways in which *il* is used? _____.
7. What is the feminine form of *il*? _____.
8. What is the plural of *elle*? _____.
9. What are two uses of *ils* (they)? _____.
10. How do you say *it is cold* in French? _____.
11. When is the impersonal *it* used in French? _____.
12. Write the English for *il fait chaud*. _____.

EXERCISES

A. Write the French pronouns with the correct form of *être* (to be).

Example: you are—*vous êtes*

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. you (formal) are _____ | 8. he is _____ |
| 2. you (familiar sing.) are _____ | 9. she is _____ |
| 3. I am _____ | 10. they (all females) are _____ |
| 4. we are _____ | 11. they (mixed male and female) are _____ |
| 5. you (pl.) are _____ | 12. they (things in general) are _____ |
| 6. they (masc. pl.) are _____ | 13. they (people in general) are _____ |
| 7. they (fem. pl.) are _____ | 14. they (animals in general) are _____ |

B. Write the correct form of the verb for each pronoun.

Example: 1. *Je suis* (to be) une fille. 2. *Nous avons* (to have) le temps aujourd'hui.

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. J (e) _____ (to have) une maison. | 6. Ils _____ (to have) le temps aujourd'hui. |
| 2. Ils _____ (to have) deux frères. | 7. Tu _____ (to be) le père. |
| 3. Je _____ (to be) une fille. | 8. Vous _____ (to have) des bougies. |
| 4. Elles _____ (to have) des crayons. | 9. Elles _____ (to be) des chattes. |
| 5. Vous _____ (to be) une mère. | 10. Tu _____ (to have) des stylos. |

C. Change the following to the interrogative (question) form, as in *avez-vous*?

Remember to add the *-t-* when necessary to avoid the hiatus.

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|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. vous avez _____ | 5. nous sommes _____ | 9. elles ont _____ |
| 2. il a _____ | 6. vous êtes _____ | 10. nous parlons _____ |
| 3. il est _____ | 7. ils sont _____ | |
| 4. nous avons _____ | 8. vous étudiez _____ | |