

# Grammar Reference

## 1 Articles

English	Plural	Vowel	Masculine	Feminine
<i>a, one</i>			un	une
<i>the</i>	les	l'	le	la
<i>at/to the</i>	aux	à l'	au	à la
<i>of/from the, some</i>	des	de l'	du	de la
<i>this, that, these...</i>	ces	cet (m.)	ce	cette

- A.** Every French noun is masculine or feminine, whether it's living or not. You have to learn or look up the gender of non-living things.
- B.** Vowel forms are used when the next word starts with *a, e, i, o, u, h* or *y* that sounds like /ee/. Sometimes there's a special form (like *cet*) and sometimes a word is joined to the next with an apostrophe (like *l'* as in *l'ami*). Vowel forms are never used in the plural, and some (like *cet*) are only used in front of masculine *or* feminine words.
- C.** The words *un/une/du/de la/de l'/des* all become *de (d')* after *pas* "not".

## 2 Possessives

English	Plural	Vowel / Masculine	Feminine
<i>my</i>	mes	mon	ma
<i>your (fam.)</i>	tes	ton	ta
<i>his/her</i>	ses	son	sa
<i>our</i>	nos	notre	notre
<i>your (pl.)</i>	vos	votre	votre
<i>their</i>	leurs	leur	leur

- D.** Feminine nouns that start with a vowel use the masculine form. Words for "our", "your (pl.)" and "their" have only one singular form.

## 3 Irregular Adjectives

English	Vowel (m.)	Masculine	Feminine
<i>beautiful</i>	bel	beau(x)	belle(s)
<i>new</i>	nouvel	nouveau(x)	nouvelle(s)
<i>old</i>	vieil	vieux	vieille(s)

- E.** These vowel forms are only used in front of masculine singular words. For the plural, add *-s* to the feminine form or *-x* to the masculine.

## 4 Subject Pronouns & Regular Verb Endings

English	Subject	Reflexive	-ER	-RE	-IR
<i>I</i>	je (j')	me (m')	-e	-s	-is
<i>you (fam.)</i>	tu	te (t')	-es	-s	-is
<i>he/she/pl</i>	il/elle/on	se (s')	-e	-	-it
<i>they</i>	ils/elles	se (s')	-ent	-ent	-issent
<i>we</i>	nous	nous	-ons	-ons	-issons
<i>you (pl.)</i>	vous	vous	-ez	-ez	-issez

- F.** The infinitive (-er, -ir, -re) means "to" as in "I like to play". Replace it with another ending to tell what a person is doing: *je marche* "I'm walking".
- G.** Reflexives mean "self", for example *je m'appelle* "I call myself".
- H.** Put *ne (n') ... pas* around a verb to make it negative (not, doesn't, don't).
- I.** Use *elles* for "they" when referring to an all-feminine group.
- J.** Use *tu* for "you" when speaking to one person that you know well (familiar). Use *vous* in all other cases (polite/plural).
- K.** The pronoun *on* means "people in general" and is also slang for "we".

## 5 Irregular Verbs

	to be	être	to have	avoir
	<i>I am</i>	je suis	<i>I have</i>	j'ai
	<i>you are (fam.)</i>	tu es	<i>you have (fam.)</i>	tu as
	<i>he/she is</i>	il/elle est	<i>he/she has</i>	il/elle a
	<i>people are</i>	on est	<i>people have</i>	on a
	<i>they are</i>	ils/elles sont	<i>they have</i>	ils/elles ont
	<i>we are</i>	nous sommes	<i>we have</i>	nous avons
	<i>you are (pl.)</i>	vous êtes	<i>you have (pl.)</i>	vous avez
	to go	aller	to do	faire
	<i>I go</i>	je vais	<i>I do</i>	je fais
	<i>you go (fam.)</i>	tu vas	<i>you do (fam.)</i>	tu fais
	<i>he/she goes</i>	il/elle va	<i>he/she does</i>	il/elle fait
	<i>they go</i>	ils/elles vont	<i>they do</i>	ils/elles font
	<i>we go</i>	nous allons	<i>we do</i>	nous faisons
	<i>you go (pl.)</i>	vous allez	<i>you do (pl.)</i>	vous faites

## Chapter 1

- Words for “a/one” *un, une* ①Ⓐ
- Words for “the” *le, la, l’* ①ⒶⒺ ladies & gentlemen ①ⒶⒺ
- Add –e to words that describe feminine nouns ①Ⓐ girl–e.
- Most descriptive words come *after* what they describe.
- Forms of *être*: *je suis, tu es, il/elle est, être* ⑤
- Using “not” *ne (n’) ... pas* ① think of making a NOT sandwich where *ne (n’) ... pas* is the bread and the verb is the filling ①
- Use “of” *de (d’)* to show possession: John’s dog = the dog of John.

## Chapter 2

- Plural words for “the” *les* and “some” *des* ①Ⓐ someday ①
- Add –s to plural nouns *and* to words that describe them. Words that end in –s/x/z don’t change. Words that end in –u often use –x ① use–x.
- Forms of *être*: *ils/elles sont, nous sommes, vous êtes* ⑤
- Using *ils* or *elles* ① and *tu* or *vous* ①

## Chapter 3

- Subject pronouns and endings for –er verbs ④Ⓐ

I and he/she all take –e, you –es, y’all –ez  
We, that’s nous, take –ons, and they take –ent

- Using the infinitive ending –er to mean “to...” ⑥
- Using *on* ⑥
- Review *ne (n’) ... pas* from Chapter 1 ①
- Using “not a/any” *pas de (d’)* ① Pa ain’t got no undies ⑤
- Use *chez* to say “to/at the house of”: *chez moi* “to/at my house”, *chez toi* “to/at your house”, *chez lui* “to/at her house”, *chez eux* “to/at their house”, other forms are regular (*chez elle, chez elles, chez nous, chez vous*).

## Chapter 4

- Forms of *avoir* ⑤
- Use forms of “have” to tell age: *j’ai ... ans* “I have ... years” ⑤
- Use *il y a* “there is/are” and *il n’y a pas* “there isn’t/aren’t”.
- Review *pas de (d’)* from Chapter 3 ①
- Possessives ②Ⓐ
- Irregular adjectives and ① USE-X from Chapter 1 ③Ⓐ
- Most descriptive words come *after* the word they describe, except those describing beauty, age, number, goodness and size ① BANGS.

## French 2 General Knowledge

- We’ll work with –re and –ir verbs ④ throughout the year. This song will help you apply the endings for regular and irregular verbs.

–s or –x for you and me, –d or –t for “he” and “she”  
All the rest get ISS or keep their MTV

- Use *imparfait* for past descriptions (was doing): *-ais, -ait, -aient, -ions, -iez*.

*était* was, *avait* had, *allait* was going, *il y avait* there was

- Use the *passé composé* for past actions (did). The format is the same as English “he has walked” *il a mangé*, but common verbs involving a change of location use “is” instead of “has” as the helping verb.

Regular endings: –er → –é, –re → –u, –ir → –i

Irregulars: *a été* has been, *a eu* has had, *a fait* did, *est allé(e)* went

## Chapter 5

- Forms of *aller* ⑤
- Use a form of *aller* followed by an infinitive to tell what you’re going to do: *je vais manger* “I’m going to eat” ⑥
- Use *y* to say “there” as in *nous y allons* “we’re going there”, *il y a* “there is”.
- Words for “at/to the” and “of/from the” ①
- Forms of *prendre* “to take”, also used for “get, have” with food and drinks: *prends, prend, prennent, prennent, prenez, past a pris*.

## Chapter 6

- Forms of *faire* ⑤
- Distinguishing “some” (D-words), “a/one” (U-words), “the” (L-words) or things in general (L-words) + “not a(ny)” *pas de* ① DULL ①Ⓐ
- Forms of *pouvoir* “to be able, can”: *peux, peut, peuvent, pouvons, pouvez*.
- Forms of *vouloir* “to want”: *veux, veut, veulent, voulons, voulez*.

## Chapter 7

- Forms of *mettre* “to put”: *met, met, mettent, mettons, mettez, past a mis*.
- Forms of *voir* “to see”: *vois, voit, voient, voyons, voyez, past a vu*.
- Comparisons: *plus...que* “more/-er...than”, *moins...que* “less/not as...as”, *aussi...que* “as...as”. Used stressed forms after *que*: *que moi* “than me”, *que toi* “than you”, *que lui* “than him”, *qu’eux* “than them” (cf. Chapter 3).

## Chapter 8

- Endings for –ir verbs ④
- MTV verbs: verbs like *dormir, sortir, servir* use –re endings for all subjects (–t for he/she forms) and drop their –m/t/v– for singular subjects.