

Review of Articles

As we have seen in previous lessons, there are different ways to say *the* and *a*. Below is a review on how to translate these two articles into French.

A

If the French noun is masculine, you use **un**.

If the French noun is feminine, you use **une**.

If the French noun is plural (meaning more than one), you use **des**. Note that this translates as *some*. Weird to think that the plural form of *a* is *some*.

The

If the French noun is masculine, you use **le**.

If the French noun is feminine, you use **la**.

If the French noun is plural, you use **les**.

*If the French noun is singular and begins with a vowel or letter h, you use **l'**.

This last sentence is something I haven't mentioned before. It's a unique characteristic involving the word *the*. If a french noun is singular you know that you have to write either **le** or **la**.

However, if that noun starts with the letter h or a vowel, guess what, you have to use **l'**. Let me give you some examples below.

l'homme = **the** man

l'oncle = **the** uncle

l'appartement = **the** apartment

Intro to Adjectives

So far in our course we have covered articles, nouns, verbs, pronouns, and objects. What else are we missing? One thing is adjectives. Adjectives describe a person, place, or thing. Fast, fat, bald, short, tall, red, and fluffy are ALL adjectives. A few quick examples...

fast man.

tall tree.

fluffy pillow.

In French, adjectives are different. For one, you have to know the noun's gender (masculine or feminine) and whether if it is singular or plural in order to write/say the adjective. Why do you have to know all this stuff about the noun if you are just writing an adjective? In French, you add a letter or two at the end of the adjective so that it connects with the noun. Of course you could not add the ending, but people would consider your French incorrect. So remember, adjectives have endings and these endings are dependent on what noun the adjective is describing.

There is another thing about French adjectives. Instead of having the adjective go BEFORE the noun that it is describing, almost all French adjectives go AFTER the noun. So instead of writing...

fast man

in French it would be...

man fast

Here are some examples of adjectives that go after the noun...

un livre noir - a black book

une guitare bruyante - a loud guitar

une jupe chère - an expensive skirt

Ok, so I get that most adjectives go after the noun, but when do they go before the noun? There

is an acronym we can use. **B-A-G-S**

Beauty

Age

Good or Bad

Size

If you have an adjective that describes beauty, age, whether something is good or bad, or its size, then we put the adjective before the noun. Want some examples...

une jolie fille - a pretty girl

un bon enfant - a good child

une petite voiture- a small car

The point of the adjective lesson is twofold, first to let you know that the endings will be different depending on the noun and second, the adjective can be placed before or after the noun. There are many rules that comes with adjectives. It's recommended that you learn each rule one at a time. The links below introduces you to some of these rules. Don't expect to get it all in one night. Looking through examples, building up the list of words you know, and practice will help you master adjectives. Below is your homework/reading assignments. Bonne chance!

[A more in-depth breakdown of adjectives](#)

[Another introduction to adjectives](#)

In the Collins French Dictionary, check out pages 148-151 for more info.