



Subject pronouns

En anglais

In English, the subject pronoun *you* is used with anyone, regardless of their age or relationship to you.

Do you use the pronoun *you* to talk to one person, more than one person, or both?

In French, there are two different words for *you*. You'll learn the appropriate use of each word depending on the situation.

1. These are the subject pronouns in French.

je (j')	nous	we
tu	vous	you (plural or formal)
il	ils	they (all male or mixed)
elle	elles	they (all female)
on	one	(people in general)

2. Je changes to j' before a verb beginning with a vowel sound.

J'ai quinze ans.

I am 15 years old.

3. The subject pronouns *tu* and *vous* both mean *you*. Either of these pronouns could be used to address one person depending on your relationship with him or her. *Vous* is used to address more than one person.

a friend, a family member or someone your own age } *tu*

} *vous* { more than one person or an adult who is not a family member

4. The pronoun *on* has no direct equivalent in English. It can mean *we*, *they* as in *people in general* or *one*. The meaning of *on* will depend on the context.

En France, *on* parle français.

In France, *they* (people in general) speak French.

Subjects and verbs

1. In English, sentences have a **subject** and a **verb**. The **subject** is the person or thing that is doing the action or that is being described. The **verb** is the action word, like *jump* or *sing*, or a linking word, like *are* or *is*, that links the subject to a description.

subject verb
Denise sings well.

subject verb
Simon is blond.

2. French sentences also have a **subject** and **verb**.

subject verb
Denise chante bien.

subject verb
Simon est blond.

3. Both English and French use **nouns** as subjects. Nouns can be replaced by **pronouns**. Some of the French **pronouns** you've already seen are *je*, *tu*, *il*, *elle*, and *vous*.

Denise is a friend. She is fifteen years old.

Denise est une amie. Elle a quinze ans.

- indefinite articles and plural of nouns
- the verb *avoir* and negation

Grammaire



Grammavision

Indefinite articles and plural of nouns



- 1 In French, there are two words that mean *a* or *an*: **un** and **une**. Use **un** with **masculine** nouns and **une** with **feminine** nouns. Use **des** (*some*) with plural nouns. In general, to make a noun plural, add an **"s"** at the end of the word. The final **"s"** is not pronounced when you say the word.

un garçon une fenêtre des posters

- 2 Some nouns have plurals that are formed differently:

un tableau → **des tableaux**

un bureau → **des bureaux**

un CD/DVD → **des CD/DVD** (*no change*)

un lecteur de CD/DVD → **des lecteurs de CD/DVD**

- 3 To say there aren't any of an item, remember to use **Il n'y a pas de**.
Il y a des cartes dans la classe. → Il n'y a pas de cartes dans la classe.

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En anglais

In English, most nouns do not have gender. We use the pronoun *it* for an object like a desk or a chair.

What nouns do we often refer to as **he** or **she** instead of **it**?

In French, all nouns have gender, whether they refer to people or inanimate objects. You'll have to learn a noun's gender as you learn its meaning.

En anglais

In English, when you form a verb in the present tense, most subject pronouns take the same form except for the third person singular: e.g., *I have, she has, we have, they have*.

Can you think of a verb that has more than one different form in the present tense?

In French, verbs often have at least five different forms in a given tense.

The verb *avoir* and negation



- 1 Here are the forms of the verb *avoir* (*to have*):

avoir	
j' ai	nous avons
tu as	vous avez
il/elle/on a	ils/elles ont

- 2 Noun subjects (for example, Suzanne or Pierre et Jean) use the same verb form as the pronouns you would use to replace them.
Pierre et Jean **ont** deux chaises. → Ils **ont** deux chaises.
- 3 To make any sentence negative, add **ne... pas** around the verb. Notice that **ne** becomes **n'** before a verb that begins with a vowel sound. **Un, une, and des** all change to **de** in a negative sentence.

Ça va.
It's going fine.

Cléa a un poster.
Cléa has a poster.

Ça ne va pas.
It's not going fine.

Cléa n'a pas de poster.
Cléa doesn't have any posters.

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