



## Definite articles

In French, there are four different words, *le*, *la*, *l'* and *les*, that mean *the*. You'll choose one of these four words depending on the gender and number of the noun it goes with.

	MASCULINE (BEGINNING WITH A CONSONANT)	FEMININE (BEGINNING WITH A CONSONANT)	MASCULINE OR FEMININE (BEGINNING WITH A VOWEL)
SINGULAR	le	la	l'
PLURAL	les	les	les

Nathalie aime bien l'école.

Patrick adore les bandes dessinées.

There are no set rules to determine which nouns are masculine and which are feminine, so you'll need to memorize the gender of new words as you learn them.

Vocabulaire et grammaire, pp. 16-17  
Cahier d'activités, pp. 11-13



### À la francophonie

In spoken language, French speakers will often leave out the *ne* in a negative sentence.

**Moi, j'aime pas chanter.**

In writing, you should always include the *ne* in negative sentences.

## -er verbs

- There are three groups of verbs in French: verbs that end in **-er**, **-ir**, and **-re**. To form regular verbs that end in **-er**, drop the **-er** and add the appropriate ending that goes with each subject. Notice that you need to pronounce the *s* in **nous**, **vous**, **ils** and **elles** when the verb form begins with a vowel sound.

aimer (to like)	
j' aime	nous aimons
tu aimes	vous aimez
il/elle/on aime	ils/elles aiment

Tu **aimes** la glace?

Ils **téléphonent** à des amis.

Nous ne **regardons** pas la télé.

- Use the appropriate form of *aimer* plus the infinitive of another verb to say what you and others *like* or *don't like to do*.

Elle aime lire.  
*She likes to read.*

Vous n'aimez pas travailler?  
*You don't like to work?*

Vocabulaire et grammaire, pp. 16-17  
Cahier d'activités, pp. 11-13



### En anglais

**In English**, when you say that you like something in general, you omit the article before the noun.

I like music.

Can you think of instances where you need to use the definite article before the noun?

**In French**, you must always use the definite article before a noun.

J'aime la musique.

- contractions with à
- conjunctions

# Grammaire

## à l'écrit 2



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### Contractions with à

The preposition à usually means *to* or *at*.

- 1 When you use à with the definite articles *le* or *les*, make the following contractions.

à + le → au

J'aime aller au cinéma.

à + les → aux

Tu aimes parler aux professeurs?

- 2 When à appears before *la* or *l'*, there is no contraction.

à + la → à la

Tu aimes aller à la piscine?

à + l' → à l'

Marie adore aller à l'école.

Vocabulaire et grammaire, pp. 22-23  
Cahier d'activités, pp. 15-17



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### En anglais

In English, conjunctions like *and* and *but* are used to link ideas together. You use conjunctions to create longer, more sophisticated sentences.

I like to play chess,  
*but* I hate to play cards.

What other conjunctions can you think of in English?

In French too, conjunctions are used to link ideas together.

J'aime jouer aux échecs  
*mais* je déteste jouer  
aux cartes.

### Conjunctions

Use conjunctions like *et* (*and*), *mais* (*but*), and *ou* (*or*) to link two ideas or two sentences together.

J'aime le football. J'aime le base-ball.

J'aime le football *et* le base-ball.

J'aime chanter. Je préfère dessiner.

J'aime chanter *mais* je préfère dessiner.

Tu préfères danser? Tu préfères regarder la télé?

Tu préfères danser *ou* regarder la télé?

Vocabulaire et grammaire, pp. 22-23  
Cahier d'activités, pp. 15-17



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