

French 1

Chapter 2 Grammar Review

Definite Articles

1. Unlike Indefinite Articles (*un, une, des*) which reference one object out of potentially many, the Definite Articles (*le, la, les, l'*) reference a specific or defined object:

Ex: J'ai **un** livre (*I have a book*) vs. J'ai **le** livre (*I have the book*)

2. In French, you **MUST ALWAYS** use the definite article before a noun.

Ex: J'aime **la** music = I like music (notice there is no definite article used in English)

	MASCULINE	FEMININE	BEFORE A VOWEL SOUND
SINGULAR	le	la	l'
PLURAL*	les	les	les

* Notice that the plural form **never** changes

-ER Verbs

1. To conjugate an -ER verb, drop the -ER to get the “*Verb Stem*.”

Ex: *aimer* → -er → *aim* (the “*Verb Stem*”)

2. Just like we did with the verb *AVOIR*, a conjugation depends on the Subject (the person, place or thing that is “doing” or “being”). Your Subject dictates what ending you add to your *Stem*.

3. Below is a sample conjugation of the -ER verb *AIMER* with the appropriate **Verb Endings**:

AIMER			
SINGULAR		PLURAL	
je	<i>aime</i>	nous	<i>aimons</i>
tu	<i>aimes</i>	vous	<i>aimez</i>
il / elle / on	<i>aime</i>	ils / elles	<i>aiment</i>

4. **REMEMBER:** “je” and “ne” contract when the next word begins with a vowel sound.

Ex: je + aime = j'aime (I like) → je + ne + aime + pas = je n'aime pas (I don't like)

5. You **ONLY** ever *conjugate* one verb in a phrase. Additional verbs will be the **infinitive** form.

Ex: Il *aime manger* = He *likes to eat* (Notice that English also acts the same way!)

6. **REMEMBER:** The negations (*ne ... pas*) **ONLY** go around the *conjugated* verb.

Ex: Il *aime manger*. → Il *n'aime pas manger*.

Irregular Plural Nouns

1. **REGULAR:** To make a noun plural add an **-s** to the end of the nouns. EX: garçon → garçons
2. **IRREGULAR:** If the noun ends in **-eu** or **-au**, then add an **-x** instead. EX: tableau → tableaux
3. **IRREGULAR:** If a singular noun ends in **-al**, it changes to **-aux**. EX: journal → journaux

Contractions with “à”

1. The preposition “à” usually means “to” or “at” in English.
2. In French, “à” contracts with the definite articles **le** and **les** that follow it. There is no contraction with **la** or **l’**.

Contractions with “à”			
	Before	→	After
Masculine	à + le		au
Feminine	à + la		à la
Before Vowel	à + l’		à l’
Plural	à + les		aux

3. Unlike English, where contractions are optional, in French they are **REQUIRED!**
Ex: J’aime aller à le café (*ungrammatical*) → J’aime aller au café (*grammatical*)

Conjunctions

1. You may use conjunctions to connect ideas, such as the following:
 - et** (*and*): J’aime le foot. J’aime le base-ball. → J’aime le foot **et** le base-ball.
 - mais** (*but*): J’aime chanter. Je préfère danser. → J’aime chanter **mais** je préfère danser.
 - ou** (*or*): Il préfère chanter? Il préfère danser? → Il préfère chanter **ou** danser?

Est-ce que...

1. Instead of raising your voice at the end of a sentence to ask a question, you can add “*est-ce que*” to the beginning of an affirmative or negative sentence to make it a question.
2. The “que” in “est-ce que” will contract with any vowel:
Ex: Est-ce **que il** danse? → Est-ce **qu’il** danse?
3. Adding “est-ce que” to a statement turns it into a “**DO**” question.
Ex: Tu aimes la musique? (You like music?)
Est-ce que tu aimes la musique? (**DO** you like music?)

Ex: Il nage bien? (He swims well?)
Est-ce qu’il nage bien? (**DOES** he swim well?)