

LA RENTREE

LES ARTICLES

SUBJECT : FRENCH
CHAPTER NUMBER: 1
CHAPTER NAME :LA RENTREE

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ARTICLES

What is an article?

In French, nouns are almost always preceded by an article or a determiner. This indicates the gender of the noun (masculine or feminine) and its number (singular or plural). There are two types of articles: definite articles (articles définis) (le, la, les) and indefinite articles (article indéfinis) (un, une, des)

DEFINITE ARTICLES

The French definite articles (articles définis) are le in the masculine singular, la in the feminine singular, l' for singular nouns that start with a vowel, and les in the plural (both genders). They correspond to the English article the.

We use the definite article in the following cases:

to talk about a specific person or thing

Example: Léna est la copine de François.

to refer to a person or thing that has already been mentioned or is already known to the listener/reader

Example: Elle éteint la lumière.

after the verbs aimer, adorer, préférer, détester

Example: Elle adore les chevaux.

DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ARTICLES

INDEFINITE ARTICLES

When to use the indefinite article in French

In French, the indefinite articles (articles indéfinis) are un (masculine singular), une (feminine singular) and des (plural for both genders). We use the indefinite article in the following cases:
to talk about something non-specific

Example:Léna est une copine de Lara. (one of many)

in an introductory capacity to mention something for the first time in a text

Example:Léna a acheté une glace.

ARTICLE CONTRACTES

- Le and les contract with the prepositions à and de into articles composés, but la and l' do not.
- à + le = **au**
- à + les = **aux**
- à + la = **à la**
- à + l' = **à l'**
- Je vais **au** cinéma. I'm going to the cinema.
- Je vais **aux** États-Unis. I'm going to the United States.
- Je vais **à l'**hôtel. I'm going to the hotel.
- Nous allons **à la** boulangerie. We are going to the bakery.
- Je vais **au** cinéma. I'm going to the cinema.

ARTICLE CONTRACTES

- Je vais **au** cinéma. I'm going to the cinema.
- Je vais **aux** États-Unis. I'm going to the United States.
- Je viens **du** marché. I'm coming from the market.
- Je viens **des** Pays-Bas. I come from the Netherlands.
I am from the Netherlands.
- Je vais **à la** poste. I'm going to the post office.
- Je vais **à l'**hôtel. I'm going to the hotel.
- Je viens **de la** piscine. I come from the swimming pool.
- Je viens **de l'**auberge de jeunesse. I'm coming from the hostel.

ARTICLE CONTRACTES

French Articles			
	<i>Definite</i>	<i>Indefinite</i>	<i>Partitive</i>
masculine	le	un	du
feminine	la	une	de la
in front of a vowel	l'	un/une	de l'
plural	les	des	des

ARTICLES PARTITIFS

The partitive article refers to an unspecified quantity of food, liquid, or some other uncountable noun. English has no equivalent article – the partitive is usually translated by the adjectives “some” or “any,” or may be left out entirely.

Achète des épinards.

Buy some spinach.

J’ai mangé du pain hier.

I ate bread yesterday.

Characteristics of partitive articles

Used with uncountable nouns like chocolate, water, and money*

Placed directly in front of a noun

Agree with the noun in number and sometimes gender

* As opposed to countable nouns like bars of chocolate, glasses of water, and euros, which take the indefinite article.

PARTITIVE ARTICLES

French partitive articles

- *du* (masculine)
- *de la* (feminine)
- *de l'* (masculine or feminine in front of vowel or mute h)
- *des* (plural)

Using partitive articles

- The partitive article is needed when talking about an unknown or unspecified quantity of something uncountable.

For example

- *J'ai acheté du pain.* - I bought (some) bread.
- *Je veux de l'eau.* - I want some water.
- *Il y a des épinards sur la table.* - There's (some) spinach on the table.

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