**ARTICLES**

1. Definite articles (le, la, les)

The definite article is the word for “the” which appears before a noun. It is often left out in English, but it must not be left out in French (except in a very few cases).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **masculine** | **Singular**  **masculine** | **Before a vowel** | **Plural**  **(all forms)** |
| ***Le*** *village* | ***La*** *ville* | ***L****’épicerie* | ***Les*** *touristes* |

Main uses:

- to refer to a particular thing or person, in the same way as we use “the” in English:

*Voici* ***l’****hôtel où nous sommes descendus*

There’s the hotel where we stayed

- to make general statements about likes and dislikes:

*J’aime* ***les*** *pommes mais je n’aime pas* ***les*** *prunes*

I like apples but I don’t like plums

- to refer to things as a whole, e.g. dogs:

***Les*** *chiens me font peur*

I am afraid of dogs

- with titles:

**Le** Président de la France, **la** Reine Elizabeth

- with parts of the body:

*Il s’est brossé* ***les*** *dents* He brushed his teeth

*Elle a mal à* ***la*** *tête* She has a headache

- with days of the week to give an idea of “every”:

*je joue au tennis* ***le*** *samedi matin*

I play tennis on Saturday mornings

- with different times of the day to mean “in” or “during”:

***Le*** *matin, j’ai cours de 9 heures jusqu’à midi et demi*

In the morning, I have lessons from 9 o’clock until 12.30

- with prices, to refer to a specific quantity:

*C’est 2 euros* ***la*** *pièce* They’re 2 euros each

1. Indefinite articles (un, une, des)

These are words for “a”, “an” or “some” in French

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| --- | --- |
| **Singular**  **Masculine feminine** | **Plural**  **(all forms)** |
| *Un appartement une maison* | *Des appartements*  *Des maisons* |

No article is used in French when describing a person’s occupation:

*Elle est dentiste*  She is a dentist

*Il est employé de bureau* He works in an office

Note: if there is an adjective before the noun, *des* changes to *de*:

*On a vu* ***de*** *beaux châteaux au Pays de Galles*

We saw some fine castles in Wales

1. Partitive articles (some, any)

The word for “some” or “any” changes according to the noun it is used with:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Singular masculine** | **Singular feminine** | **Before**  **A vowel** | **Plural**  **(all forms)** |
| ***du*** *pain* | ***de la*** *viande* | ***de*** *l****’****eau* | ***des*** *poires* |

Use de (d’) instead of du/de la/de l’/des in the following cases:

- after a negative (ne…pas, ne…plus, ne…jamais, etc)

*je n’ai pas* ***d’****argent* I haven’t got any money

*il n’y a plus* ***de*** *legumes* There are no veg left

- after expressions of quantity:

*Un kilo* ***de*** *poires* a kilo of pears

But not with the verb être or after ne…que:

*Ce n’est pas du sucre, c’est du sel* It’s not sugar, it’s salt

*Il ne reste que du café* there’s only coffee left

1. demonstratives & indefinite

* *ce, cet, cette, ces*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Singular**  **masculine** | **Singular before**  **a vowel (masc. only)** | **feminine** | **Plural**  **(all forms)** |
| Ce chapeau | Cet anorak | Cette jupe | Ces chaussures |

Ce can mean either “this” or “that”. Ces can mean either “these” or “those”. To make it clearer which you mean, you can also add –ci and –la to distinguish between this object and that object:

*Est-ce que tu préfères ce pull-ci ou ce pull-là?*

Do you prefer this pullover or that pullover?

*Je vais acheter cette robe-là*

I’m going to buy that dress

* *indefinite adjectives and pronouns*

*autre* other

*certain* certain, some

*chacun* each one

*chaque* each

*quelque(s)* few

*Chaque personne a une carte d’identité*

Every person has an identity card

*Chacun est venu*

Each (person) came

* *tout*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **singular** | | **plural** | |
| **masculine** | **feminine** | **masculine** | **feminine** |
| tout | toute | tous | toutes |

Tout meaning “all”, “the whole” or “every” is usually used as an adjective and agrees with the noun that follows:

*On a mangé tout le pain*  We’ve eaten all the bread

*On va en France tous les ans* We go to France every year