

Shells

GRAMMAR Notes

Contents

1. PRESENT TENSE 3

1.1 Present tense – regular 3

1.2 Present tense - Avoir expressions 3

1.3 Present tense – irregulars 4

1.4 Reflexive verbs 6

2. PERFECT 8

3. FUTURE 9

4. INFINITIVES 12

5. NEGATIVES 16

6. INTERROGATIVES 17

7. NOUNS 18

7.1 Masculine and feminine 18

7.2 Singular and plural 19

8. ADJECTIVES 20

8.1 Agreement 20

8.2 Irregular adjectives 21

8.3 Position of adjectives 21

8.4 Adjectives – comparatives and superlatives 21

8.5 Adjectives – possessives 22

9. ADVERBS 23

10. ARTICLES 24

10.1 Definite articles (le, la, les) 24

10.2 Indefinite articles (un, une, des) 25

10.3 Partitive articles (some, any) 25

11. PRONOUNS 26

11.1 Pronouns – subjects & reflexive 26

11.2 Pronouns – relative 26

11.3 Pronouns – direct object 27

12. PREPOSITIONS 28

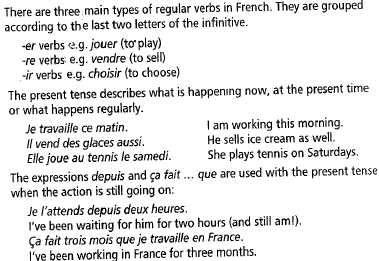
13. CONJUNCTIONS 30

14. NUMBERS, DATES AND TIMES 30

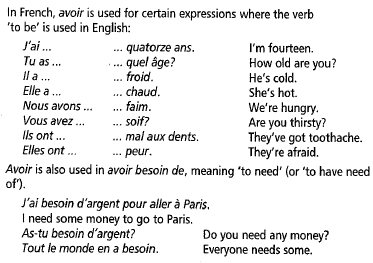
15. QUANTITIES 33

# 1. PRESENT TENSE

# 1.1 Present tense – regular



# 1.2 Present tense - *Avoir* expressions



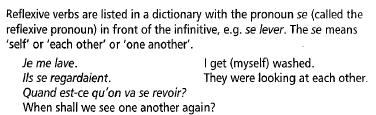
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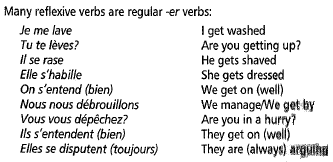
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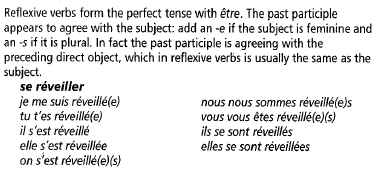
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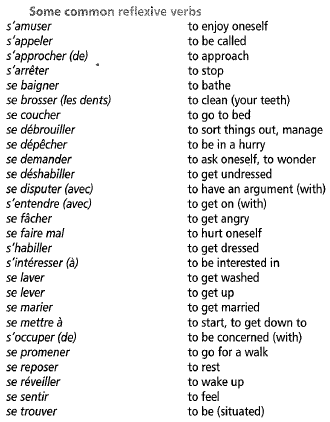
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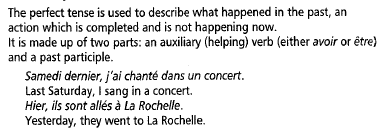
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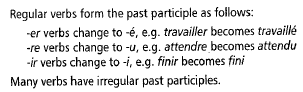
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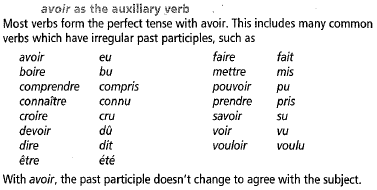
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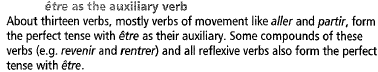
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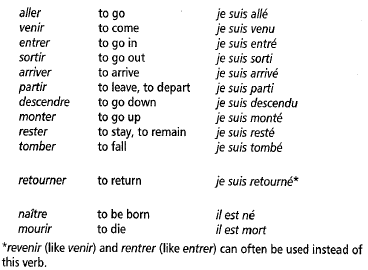
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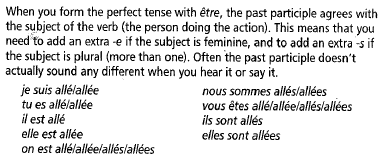








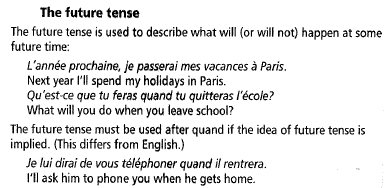


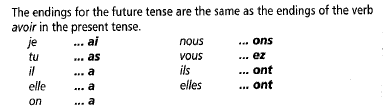


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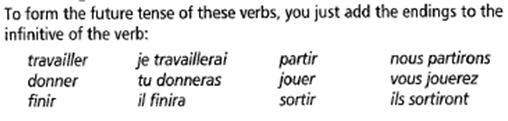
**The near future**

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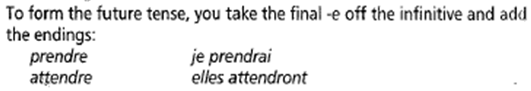




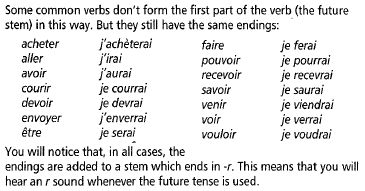
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* *regular –re verbs:*



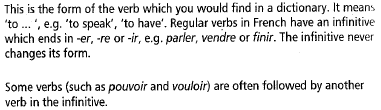
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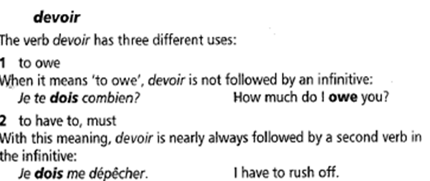


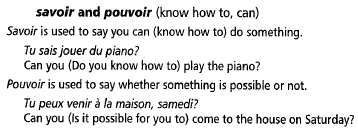
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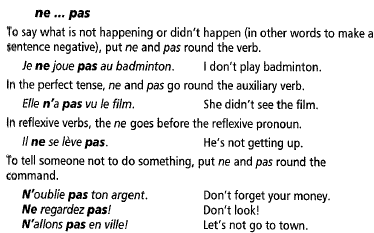
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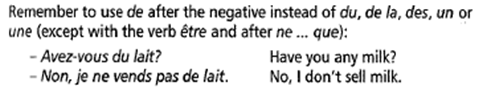
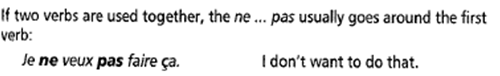


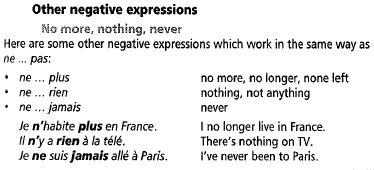




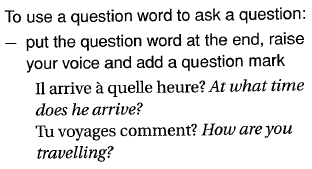
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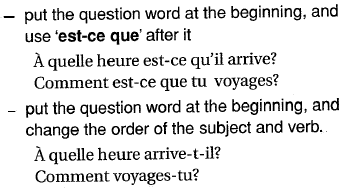
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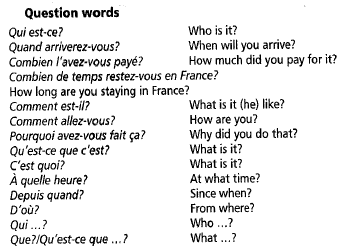




# 6. INTERROGATIVES







# 7. NOUNS

# 7.1 Masculine and feminine

A noun is the name of someone or something or the word for a thing (eg a box, a pencil, a laughter). All nouns in French are either masculine or feminine (this is called their gender).

Masculine singular feminine singular

*Le garçon la fille*

*Un village une ville*

*L’appartement l’épicerie*

Nouns which refer to people often have a special feminine form. Most follow one of these patterns:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **masculine** | **Feminine** |
| Add -e | *Un ami* | *Une amie* |
| -er -> ère | *Une ouvrier* | *Une ouvrière* |
| -eur -> -euse | *Un vendeur* | *Une vendeuse* |
| -eur -> -rice | *Un instituteur* | *Une institutrice* |
| -en -> -enne | *Un lycéen* | *Une lycénne* |
| Stay same | *Un touriste*  *Un élève*  *Un enfant* | *Un touriste*  *Un élève*  *Un enfant* |
| No pattern | *Un copain* | *Une copine* |

Is it masculine or feminine?

Sometimes the ending of a word can give you a clue as to whether it’s masculine or feminine. Here are some guidelines:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **endings**  **normally**  **masculine** | **exceptions** |
| -age  -aire  -é  -eau  -eur  -ier  -in  -ing  -isme  -ment  -o | Une image  L’eau  La fin  La météo |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **endings**  **normally**  **feminine** | **exceptions** |
| -ade  -ance  -ation  -ée  -erie  -ette  -que  -rice  -sse  -ure | Un lycée  Un squelette  Le plastique  Le dentifrice |

# 7.2 Singular and plural

Nouns can also be singular (referring to just one thing or person) or plural (referring to more than one thing or person)

*Une chambre des chambres*

In many cases, it is easy to use and recognise plural nouns because the last letter is an –s. (remember that an –s on the end of a French word is often silent)

*Un livre des livres*

Some common exceptions:

* most nouns which end in –eau or –eu add an –x:

*un château des châteaux*

*un jeu des jeux*

* most nouns which end in –al change this to –aux in the plural

*un animal des animaux*

* nouns which already end in –s, -x or –z don’t change in the plural

*un repas des repas*

*le prix les prix*

# 8. ADJECTIVES

# 8.1 Agreement

Adjectives, or describing words (eg tall, important) tell you more about a noun. In French, adjectives are masculine, feminine, singular or plural to agree with the noun.

Look at the patterns in the tables below to see how adjectives agree.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sing masc** | **Sing fem** | **Plural masc** | **Plural fem** |
| *grand* | *grande* | *grands* | *grandes* |

A lot of adjectives follow the above pattern

Ajectives which end in –u, -I, or –é change in spelling, but sound the same

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *bleu*  *joli*  *fatigué* | *bleue*  *jolie*  *fatiguée* | *bleus*  *jolis*  *fatigués* | *bleues*  *jolies*  *fatiguées* |

Adjectives which already end in –e (with no accent) have no different feminine form:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *jaune* | *jaune* | *jaunes* | *jaunes* |

Adjectives which already end in –s have no different masculine plural form:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *français* | *française* | *français* | *françaises* |

Adjectives which end in –er follow this pattern:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *cher* | *chère* | *chers* | *chères* |

Adjectives which end in –eux follow this pattern:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *délicieux* | *délicieuse* | *délicieux* | *délicieuses* |

Some adjectives double the last letter before adding an –e for the feminine form:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Gros*  *bon* | *grosse*  *bonne* | *gros*  *bons* | *grosses*  *bonnes* |

# 8.2 Irregular adjectives

Many common adjectives are irregular, and you need to learn each one separately. Here are some you have already met:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *blanc*  *long*  *vieux (vieil)*  *nouveau (nouvel)*  *beau (bel)* | *blanche*  *longue*  *vieille*  *nouvelle*  *belle* | *blancs*  *longs*  *vieux*  *nouveaux*  *beaux* | *blanches*  *longues*  *vieilles*  *nouvelles*  *belles* |

*Vieil, nouvel, bel* are used before masculine nouns which begin with a vowel.

A few adjectives are invariable (inv.) and do not change at all:

|  |
| --- |
| *marron*  *bleu marine*  *vert foncé*  *gris clair* |

# 8.3 Position of adjectives

Adjectives normally follow the noun

*J’ai vu un film tres intéressant à la télé*

*Regarde cette jupe noire*

Some common adjectives go before the noun e.g. **grand, petit, bon, mauvais, beau, jeune, vieux, joli, gros, premier, court, long, haut**

*C’est un petit garcon*

*Il prend le premier train pour Paris*

# 8.4 Adjectives – comparatives and superlatives

1. ***comparisons***

To compare one person or thing with another, you use plus (more), moins (less) or aussi (as) before the adjective, followed by que (than/as):

*Plus* riche que richer than

*Il est moins riche que mon pere* less rich than

*aussi* as rich as

Remember to make the adjective agree in the usual way:

*Mattéo est plus âgé que Sarah*

*Sarah est plus âgée que Adam*

*Lucas et Noémie sont plus âgés que Jordan*

Notice these special forms:

*bon -> meilleur* (better)

*mauvais -> pire* (worse)

*Ce livre est meilleur que l’autre*

*Cet article est pire que l’autre*

1. ***The superlative***

You use the superlative when you want to say something is the best, the biggest, the most expensive, etc.

*La tour Eiffel est le plus célèbre monument de Paris*

The Eiffel tower is the most famous monument in Paris

*Paris est la plus belle ville du monde*

Paris is the most beautiful city in the world

*Les TGV sont les trains français les plus rapides*

The TGV are the fastest French trains

Notice that:

-you use *le plus, la plus, les plus* and the correct form of the adjective, depending on whether you are describing something which is masculine, feminine or plural.

-you usually use *le/la/les plus* (meaning “the most”) but you can also use *le/la/les moins* (meaning “the least”):

*J’ai acheté ce gâteau parce que c’était le moins cher*

I bought this cake because it was the least expensive

# 8.5 Adjectives – possessives

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **singular** | | | **Plural**  **(all forms)** |
|  | **masculine** | **feminine** | **Before a vowel** |  |
| *my*  *your*  *his/her/its*  *our*  *your*  *their* | *mon*  *ton*  *son*  *notre*  *votre*  *leur* | *ma*  *ta*  *sa*  *notre*  *votre*  *leur* | *mon*  *ton*  *son*  *notre*  *votre*  *leur* | *mes*  *tes*  *ses*  *nos*  *vos*  *leurs* |

These words show who something or somebody belongs to. They agree with the noun that follows them, NOT the person.

This means that *son, sa, ses* can mean “his”, “her” or “its”. The meaning is usually clear from the context

*Paul mange son déjeuner* Paul eats his lunch

*Marie mange son déjeuner* Marie eats her lunch

*Le chien mange son déjeuner* the dog eats its lunch

Before a feminine noun beginning with a vowel, you can use *mon, ton* or *son*:

*Mon amie s’appelle Nicole*

*Où habite ton amie?*

*Son école est fermée aujourd’hui.*

# 9. ADVERBS

- adverbs usually tell you how, when or where something happened, or how often something is done.

Many adverbs in English end in *–ly*, e.g. quietly. Similarly, many adverbs in French end

in *–ment*, e.g. *doucement*.

To form an adverb in French you can often add *–ment* to the feminine singular of the adjective:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Masculine**  **sungular** | **Feminine**  **singular** |  | **Adverb** |
| *malheureux* | *malheureuse* | *+ ment* | *malheureusement* |
| *lent* | *lente* | *+ ment* | *lentement* |

If a masculine singular adjective ends in a vowel, just add –*ment*:

*vrai + ment vraiment* (= really, truly)

If a masculine singular adjective ends in –*ent*, change to –*emment*:

*évident évidemment* (=obviously)

Notice these special forms:

*bien* (well) *mieux* (better)

*mal* (badly) *pire* (worse)

Common adverbs

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *alors* then  *à l’heure* on time  *au début de* at the start of  *assez de* enough of  *l’année dernière* last year  *l’année prochaine* next year  *aujourd’hui* today  *autrefois* in the past  *aussi* also, as well, too  *aussitôt* straight away  *bientôt* soon  *demain* tomorrow  *dernièrement* recently  *d’abord* first, first of all  *déjà* already  *d’habitude*  usually  *en ce moment* now  *en fait* in fact  *de temps en temps* from time to time  *en même temps* at the same time  *ensuite* afterwards, next, then  *environ* about, roughly  *encore* again, still, yet  *enfin* at last, finally  *ensemble* together  *finalement* finally  *généralement* generally | *heureusement* fortunately  *la semaine dernière* last week  *la semaine prochaine* next week  *lentement* slowly  *longtemps* for a long time  *parfois* sometimes  *hier (soir)* yesterday (evening)  *il y a deux jours* two days ago  *le lundi* on Mondays  *maintenant* now  *malheureusement* unfortunately  *normalement* normally, usually  *par exemple* for example  *pas du tout* not at all  *peut-être* perhaps, maybe  *puis* then  *quelquefois* sometimes  *toujours* always  *rapidement* quickly  *tout de suite* straight away  *vite* quickly, fast  *vraiment* really  *récemment* recently  *tous les jours* every day |

# 10. ARTICLES

# 10.1 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).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 restés*

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

- 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

# 10.2 Indefinite articles (un, une, des)

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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

# 10.3 Partitive articles (some, any)

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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*** *légumes* There are no veg left

- after expressions of quantity:

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

# 11. PRONOUNS

# 11.1 Pronouns – subjects & reflexive

The subject of a verb is the person or thing performing the action or being described. In the sentence *Jean regarde la télé*, the subject is *Jean* because it is *Jean* who is watching TV.

Subject pronouns are pronouns like « I », « you », etc which usually come before the verb.

In French the subject pronouns are :

*Je* I

*Tu* you (to a young person, close friend or relative)

*Il* he, it

*Elle* she, it

*On* one, you, we (often used in place of nous in spoken French), they (people in general)

*Nous* we

*Vous* you (to an adult you don’t know well), you (to more than one person)

*Ils* they (masculine plural, or mixed group)

*Elles* they (feminine plural)

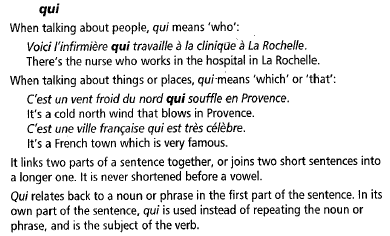
The reflexive pronouns are added after the subject pronoun with reflexive verbs. Reflexive verbs are written with *« se »* before the infinitive, e.g. *se coucher*

*Je me couche nous nous couchons*

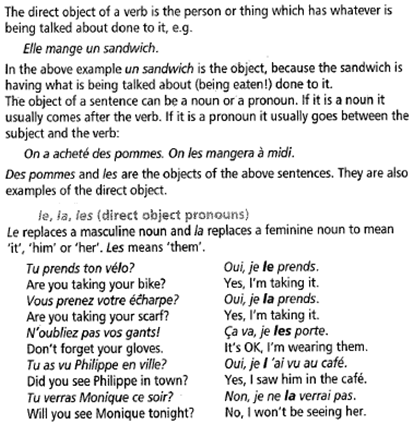
*Tu te couches vous vous couchez*

*Il/elle/on se couche ils/elles se couchent*

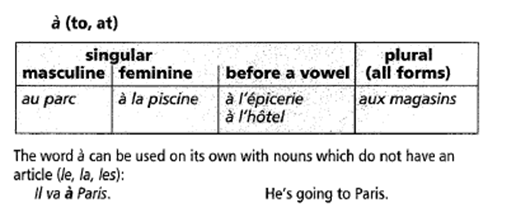
# 11.2 Pronouns – relative

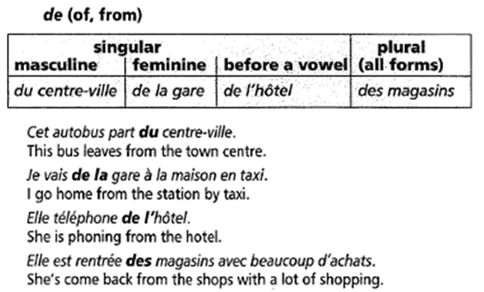


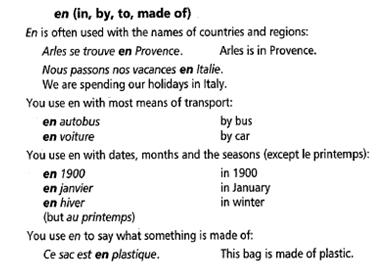
# 11.3 Pronouns – direct object

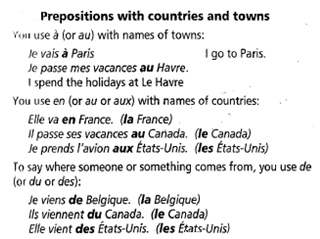


# 12. PREPOSITIONS









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# 13. CONJUNCTIONS

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# 14. NUMBERS, DATES AND TIMES

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# 15. QUANTITIES

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