

FRENCH INDEFINITE ARTICLES

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- To learn about the **indefinite articles** in French
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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- What is an indefinite article? A word used to designate an object which is not specific.
 - In French, the indefinite articles are:
 - **un** (masculine singular)
 - **une** (feminine singular).
 - **des** (plural)
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PART 2: UNE & UN

EXAMPLES OF WORDS USING "UNE":

- Tip: many words ending with **e** are feminine, but there are exceptions. See examples below.
- **une table** (a table)
- **une carotte** (a carrot)
- **une lampe** (a lamp)
- **une flûte** (a flute)
- **une caméra** (a camera)
- **une télévision** (a television)
- **une fleur** (a flower)

EXAMPLES OF WORDS USING "UN":

- **un éléphant** (an elephant)
 - **un train** (a train)
 - **un car** (a coach)
 - **un chariot** (a trolley)
 - **un robinet** (a tap)
 - **un livre** (a book)
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PART 3: HOW TO USE "DES"

- **des** is used in front of a plural noun.
 - It expresses an unknown quantity and can be translated by "some" in English, or not included at all. However, in French, we do need the article.
 - Example:
Il y a **des** pommes sur la table.
There are apples on the table.
There are some apples on the table.
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PART 4: A LITTLE GAME

Guess whether the word below should be used with **un** or **une**:

- ordinateur (a computer)
- crayon (a pencil)
- pain (a bread)
- photo (a photograph)
- feuille (a leaf)
- sofa (a sofa)
- araignée (a spider)

Answer: un ordinateur, un crayon, un pain, une photo, une feuille, un sofa, une araignée.

If you wanted to say "some computers, some crayons", etc., you would need to add "**des**": "des ordinateurs", "des crayons", etc.

PART 5: ANOTHER GAME

Transform the following words into their plural:

- un parapluie (an umbrella)
- un banc (a bench)
- un vélo (a bicycle)
- une orange (an orange)
- une balle (a ball)

Answers: des parapluies, des bancs, des vélos, des oranges, des balles

PART 6: SUMMARY

- un = masculine singular
- une = feminine singular
- des = plural