

DEFINITE ARTICLES

PRACTICE

OBJECTIFS DE LA LEÇON

1. to revise the rules around definite articles in French
 2. to practise using these articles in simple sentences
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NIVEAU

A1 - [niveau découverte](#) (beginner)

RAPPEL

A **definite article** is a word used to define a specific object or person.

In English, there is one definite article: **the**.

In French, there are four:

- **le** is used in front of a masculine noun.
e.g: **le cinéma** (the cinema), **le sac** (the bag), **le vélo** (the bicycle), **le stylo** (the pen)
- **la** is used in front of a feminine noun.
e.g: **la table** (the table), **la chaise** (the chair), **la trousse** (the pencil case)
- **l'** is used in front of a noun starting with a vowel or an h, regardless of its gender.
e.g: **l'arbre** (the tree), **l'hôpital** (the hospital), **l'école** (the school)
- **les** is used in front of a **plural** noun, regardless of its gender.
e.g: **les tables** (the tables), **les chaises** (the chairs), **les arbres** (the trees)

The article agrees in gender and number with the noun it qualifies.

MASCULIN OU FÉMININ ?

Words which end in **-e*** or **-ion** are in majority feminine.

e.g: la nature**e** (nature), la bouteille**e** (the bottle), la tasse**e** (the mug), la nation**ion** (the nation),

l'organisat**ion** (the organisation)

Words which end in anything else are in majority masculine*.

*Unfortunately, there are words ending in -e which are masculine, such as le livre (the book), l'arbre (the tree), le téléphone (the telephone). Besides, most words ending in -age, -ège or -isme, such as le nettoyage (the cleaning), le manège (the merry-go-round), l'organisme (the organism), are also masculine.