

French Gender Rules to Keep in Mind

There are no hard and fast rules. Almost all rules have some exceptions. With that said, remembering the general rule will greatly improve your fluency and the exceptions can be learned later.

In addition, there are some nouns that have both masculine and feminine forms that coincide with whether or not that being referred to is female or male. Many professions have masculine and feminine forms, as do the words 'dog' and 'cat'. Also remember that in groups where there is at least one male present, you would use the masculine plural form. Likewise, when a word has both female and male forms, you always use the male form unless referring to a specific female.

Common Endings and Their Genders

Masculine Endings	Feminine Endings
-age	-ace
-b	-ade
-c	-ale
-cle	-ance
-d	-be
-de	-ce
-é	-cé
-eau	-e
-ège	-ee
-et	-ée
-eur	-esse
-f	-eur
-i	-fe
-ing	-ie
-isme	-ière
-k	-ine
-l	-ion
-m	-ique
-me	-ire
-ment	-ise
-n	-ite
-o	-lle
-oir	-mme
-one	-nde
-ou	-nne
-p	-ole
-r	-rre
-s	-se

Masculine Endings	Feminine Endings
-ste	-sé
-t	-sion
-tre	-son
-u	-té
-x	-tié
	-tion
	-ude
	-ue
	-ule
	-ure

Nouns Lists With Gender and Translation

If you are learning French, memorizing the gender of the nouns you are learning is a must. Below are some of the most popular nouns in the French language.

Notice that the indefinite article is included to indicate gender (*le* is for masculine nouns and *la* is for feminine nouns). Note that for nouns that begin with vowels, or nouns that are plural, the gender is noted in parentheses after the word. (Example: l'eau, f.)

School Vocabulary

Noun	Pronunciation	Translation
l'affiche (f.)	lah feesh	poster
le bureau	luh byuh roh	desk
le cahier	luh ki yay	notebook
la carte	lah kart	map
la chaise	lah shez	chair
le crayon	luh crah yohn	crayon
les devoirs (m.)	lay duh vwahr	homework
l'école (f.)	lay kohl	school
la gomme	lah gohm	eraser (for a pencil)
le livre	luh lee vruh	book
l'ordinateur (m.)	lohr deen ah turh	computer
la règle	lah reh gluh	ruler
le stylo	luh stee loh	pen

Calendar Vocabulary

l'an (m.)	lah nay	year
l'après-midi (m.)	lah pray mee dee	afternoon
l'automne (m.)	lah tome	autumn
l'été (m.)	lay tay	summer
l'hiver (m.)	lee vair	winter
le jour	luh zhoor	day
le matin	luh mah tehn	morning
le mois	luh mwah	month
le printemps (m.)	luh prehn tehm	spring
la semaine	lah seh men	week
le week-end	luh week end	weekend

House Vocabulary

la chambre	lah shohm bruh	bedroom
la cuisine	lah kwee zeen	kitchen
les escaliers (m.)	lez es kah lee yay	stairs
la fenêtre	lah fuh net ruh	window
le four	luh foor	oven
l'horloge (f.)	lohr lozh	clock
le lit	luh lee	bed
la maison	lah meh zhon	house
le mur	luh muhr	wall
la poubelle	lah poo bell	trash
la porte	lah port	door
le réfrigérateur	luh ray free zhay rah tur	refrigerator
la salle de bain	lah sahl duh behn	bathroom

Getting Ready for the Day

la brosse à cheveux	lah brohs ah shuh vuh	hairbrush
la brosse à dents	lah brohs ah dehn	toothbrush
les chaussettes (f.)	lay show set	socks
la chemise	lah shuh meez	shirt
la cravate	lah crah vaht	tie
les gants (m.)	lay gahn	gloves

la jupe	la zhoop	skirt
les lunettes (f.)	lay loo net	glasses
le manteau	luh mahn toe	coat
la montre	lah mohn truh	watch
le parapluie	luh pah rah ploo wee	umbrella
la peigne	lah pehn yuh	comb
la robe	lah roh	dress
le sac	luh sah	purse
le savon	luh sah vohn	soap

Out and About

l'aéroport m.	lair oh pore	airport
l'ascenseur (m.)	lah sehn sur	elevator
l'avion (m.)	lah vee ohn	plane
le bateau	luh bah toe	boat
l'étage (m.)	lay tazh	floor of a building
la gare	la gair	train station
la mer	lah mair	sea
la plage	la plahzh	beach
le portefeuille	luh port uh foyuh	wallet
le prix	luh pree	price
la rue	lah roo	street
le taxi	luh tah ksee	taxi
la valise	lah vah leez	suitcase

Food and Eating

l'addition (f.)	lah dee see ohn	bill
le beurre	luh burr	butter
le déjeuner	luh day zhuhn ay	lunch
le dîner	luh dee nay	dinner
le fromage	luh froh mahzh	cheese
le gâteau	luh gah toe	cake
le légume	luh lay goom	vegetable
le pain	luh pehn	bread
le petit déjeuner	luh puh tee day zhuhn ay	breakfast
le poisson	luh pwah ssohn	fish
le poivre	luh pwah vruh	pepper (seasoning)

la pomme	lah pumm	apple
le poulet	luh poo lay	chicken
le sel	luh sell	salt
la viande	lah vee ahnd	meat

The Body

la bouche	la boosh	mouth
le bras	luh brah	arms
les cheveux (m.)	lay shuh vuh	hair
le cœur	luh curr	heart
la jambe	lah zhahmb	leg
l'oreille (f.)	l'ohr ayuh	ear
le pied	luh pee yay	foot
la tête	la tet	head
le visage	luh vee sajh	face
les yeux (m.)	layz yuh	eyes

Places to Go

le château	luh shah toe	castle
le concert	luh con sair	concert
le jardin	luh zhar dehn	garden
la ferme	lah fairm	farm
l'hôpital (f.)	loe pee tahl	hospital
l'hôtel (m.)	loe tell	hotel
le magasin	luh mah gah zehn	store
le musée	lah moo say	museum
la rue	lah roo	street
le théâtre	luh tay ah truh	theatre