



FRENCH ADJECTIVES

Fifteenth lesson – Quinzième leçon

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1. USES

- Adjectives agree in **gender** and **number** with the **noun or pronoun** they modify.

- *Un garçon brilliant.*
- *Une fille brillante.*

A brilliant boy.
A brilliant girl.



2. SINGULAR FORMS

2.1 Adjective of one form

- Generally, if the masculine of an adjective ends in **-e**, the feminine will be identical.
 - Il est **solitaire** et **timide**.
 - *He is solitary and shy.*
 - Elle est **solitaire** et **timide**.
 - *She is solitary and shy.*



2. SINGULAR FORMS

2.2 Adjectives of two forms.

- If a masculine adjective ends in any **vowel other than -e**, or in **-ent** or in **-ant**, a silent **-e** is added to the feminine.

- *Il est **solitaire**, **timide** mais **intéressant**.*
 - *He is solitary, shy but interesting.*

- Elle est **solitaire**, **timide** mais **intéressante**.*
- *She is solitary, shy but interesting.*



2. SINGULAR FORMS

2.3 Adjectives ending in vowel + l, n, s or t.

- They generally **double** the **consonnant** and **add** a silent **-e**:
 - Il est **gros** et **gentil**.
 - *He is fat and nice.*
 - Elle est **grosse** et **gentille**.
 - *She is fat and nice.*



2. SINGULAR FORMS

- *Paul habite dans un immeuble **ancien**.*
- *Paul lives in an old/ancient building.*
- *Marie habite dans une maison **ancienne**.*
- *Marie lives in an old/ancient house.*



2. SINGULAR FORMS

2.4 Other common endings :



Masculine ending	Feminine ending	Examples	Translations
-c	-che	Blanc (m.) blanche (f.)	White
-er	-ère	Régulier (m.) Régulière (f.)	Regular
-eur	-euse	Menteur (m.) Menteuse (f.)	Lier
-eux	-euse	Heureux (m.) Heureuse (f.)	Happy
-ic	-ique	Public (m.) Publique (f.)	Public
-oux	-ouse	Jaloux (m.) Jalouse (f.)	Jealous
-teur	-trice	Dévastateur (m.) Dévastatrice (f.)	Devastating
-f	-ve	Neuf (m.) Neuve (f.)	New

2. SINGULAR FORMS

2.5 Adjectives of three forms

- A few adjectives **have two forms for masculine**
- **one** used **in front of** nouns beginning with **consonnant**
- **another** used **in front of** nouns beginning with a **vowel or silent -h:**



2. SINGULAR FORMS

Masculine preceding a consonant	Masculine preceding a vowel	feminine	Translations
Beau	Bel	Belle	Beautiful
Fou	Fol	Folle	Crazy
Mou	Mol	Molle	Soft
Nouveau	Nouvel	Nouvelle	New
Vieux	Vieil	Vieille	Old



2. SINGULAR FORMS

○ Exemples:

- *Un beau jour* *a beautiful day*
- *Un vieux journal* *an old newspaper*
- *Un bel homme* *a beautiful man*
- *Un vieil homme* *an old man*
- *Une belle femme* *a beautiful woman*
- *Une vieille femme* *an old woman*



3. ABOUT COLOURS

Observe the singular and the plural forms of colours



Masc. Sing.	Fem. Sing.	Masc. Pl.	Fem. Pl.	translations
Violet	Violette	Violets	Violettes	Purple
Bleu	Bleue	Bleus	Bleues	Blue
Vert	Verte	Verts	Vertes	Green
Jaune	Jaune	Jaunes	Jaunes	Yellow
Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Rouge	Rouge	Rouges	Rouges	Red
Noir	Noire	Noirs	Noires	Black
Blanc	Blanche	Blancs	Blanches	White
Gris	Grise	Gris	Grises	Grey
Marron	Marron	Marron	Marron	Brown
Rose	Rose	Roses	Roses	Pink

3. ABOUT COLOURS

But certain nouns are used as names for colours

Ex.: **Orange** (*orange*), **marron** (*brown*), **abricot** (*apricot*) and these always have the same form regardless of number and gender.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • <i>Une robe marron.</i> | <i>A brown dress.</i> |
| • <i>Un pantalon marron.</i> | <i>A brown pair of pants.</i> |
| • <i>Des robes marron.</i> | <i>Brown dresses</i> |
| • <i>Des pantalons marron.</i> | <i>Brown pants.</i> |



3. ABOUT COLOURS

- Also, when used with modifiers such as **clair** (*light*) or **foncé** (*dark*), the name of the colour does not vary:

- *Une robe vert clair* *A light green dress*

- *Un pantalon vert foncé* *A light green pair of pants*

- *Des robes vert clair* *Light green dresses*

- *Des pantalons vert foncé* *Light green pants*



3. ABOUT COLOURS

- The plural and singular of French colours have the same pronunciation. This means the final -s is not pronounced.



4. PLURAL FORMS

- Generally, the **plural** of the **adjective** follows the pattern of the **plural** of the **nouns**.



4. PLURAL FORMS

4.1 The plural of feminine adjectives

- Add an **-s** to the **singular** form:
 - Grande (sg.), grandes (pl.)
 - *Big/tall*
 - Intelligente (sg.), intelligentes (pl.)
 - *Clever*



4. PLURAL FORMS

4.2 The plural of masculine adjectives

- Add an **-s** to the **singular** form:
 - Grand (sg.), grands (pl.)
 - *Big/tall*
 - Intéressant (sg.), intéressants (pl.)
 - *Interesting*



4. PLURAL FORMS

4.3 Adjectives that end in **-s**, **-x** in the singular **do not change** in the plural.

- *Gros* (sg./pl.)
 - *Thick / fat*
- *Heureux* (sg./pl.)
 - *Happy*



4. PLURAL FORMS

4.4 Adjectives ending in **-al** generally **change** their ending to **-aux** in the plural form.

- **National** (sg.), nation**aux** (pl.)
 - *National*
- **Radical** (sg.), radica**ux** (pl.)
 - *Radical*



4. PLURAL FORMS

4.5 Adjectives ending in **-eau** in the **singular** form have an **-x** added to their plural.

- *Beau* (sg.) *beaux* (pl.)
 - *Beautiful/handsome*
- *Nouveau* (sg.), *nouveaux* (pl.)
 - *New*



5. POSITION

- French adjectives usually **follow the noun** they modify:

- *Un garçon **brilliant*** *a brilliant boy*

- *Une fille **brillante*** *a brilliant girl*



5. POSITION

- But when it comes to characteristics such as **beauty, age, good or bad, and size**, the adjective usually comes **first**:

- *Un **beau** garçon*

a beautiful boy

- *Une **belle** fille*

a beautiful girl



5. POSITION

Numerical adjectives are placed before the noun they modify:

- *Mon **premier** amour.*
- *Le **deuxième** étage.*
- *Le **dernier** métro.*

My first love.

The second floor.

The last metro.



5. POSITION

A few adjectives **change meaning** when placed before the noun.

- Generally, when placed **after** the noun, these adjectives keep their **literal** meaning; placed **before** it, they take on a **figurative** sense:



5. POSITION

Observe:

- *Mon **ancien** professeur* *my **former** professor*
- *Mon professeur **ancien*** *my **aged** professor*
- *Ma **propre** chambre* *my **own** room*
- *Ma chambre **propre*** *my **clean** room*
- *Un **grand** homme* *a **great** man*
- *Un homme **grand*** *a **big** man*
- *Le **seul** voyageur* *the **only** traveler*
- *Un voyageur **seul*** *a **solitary** traveler*



C'est tout pour aujourd'hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!

