



**PREPOSITIONS À (TO, IN), DE (FROM)
WITH GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Fifth lesson – Cinquième leçon

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1. INTRODUCTION

- The prepositions **à** (*to, in*) and **de** (*from*) are used to indicate movement (**aller à** (to go to) / **venir de** (to come/to come from)) and they also indicate the place where we are (**être à** (to be in)).



1. INTRODUCTION

- Geographical names have gender and number like all French nouns. These will determine which preposition to use.



1. INTRODUCTION

- **In general**, geographical names
- ending with **-s** are plural.
- ending with **-e** are feminine.
- ending with any other letter are masculine.



1. INTRODUCTION

- When the prepositions **à** and **de** (or **d'**) are used with the definite articles, it results in five prepositional forms:



1. INTRODUCTION

de+le → du

de+les → des

à+le → au

à+la → en

à+les → aux



2. OVERVIEW AND POSSIBLE TRANSLATIONS...

PREPOSITIONS AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION	IN	TO	FROM
Cities	à	à	de, d'
Feminine countries continents, provinces, masculine countries starting with a vowel	en	en	de, d'
All other masculine countries	au	au	du
All plurals	aux	aux	des

3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

- In general, there is an article before the name of a country (*La France, Le Sénégal, Les États Unis...*) which indicates the gender (*le/la*) and the number (*les-plural*).



3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

- The prepositions used depend on the noun's gender / number and also on the verb.



3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

- We will see the uses of those prepositions with three verbs that you have learnt: **aller** (to go), **être** (to be), **venir** (to come/to come from).



3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

3.1 When the country is feminine use **aller / être en** and **venir de** :

Je vais en France . I am going to France.

Je suis en France . I am in France

Je viens de France. I come from France



3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

3.2 This rule applies to continents because all of them end in **-e** and all are feminine

- *L'Afrique* *Africa*
- *L'Amérique* *America*
- *L'Asie* *Asia*
- *L'Europe* *Europe*
- *L'Océanie* *Oceania*

Je vais en Afrique. I am going to Africa.

Je suis en Afrique. I am in Africa.

Je viens d'Afrique. I come from Africa.



3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

- Here is a list of feminine countries:
- *La France, L'Afrique du Sud (South Africa), L'Italie (Italy), L'Egypte (Egypt), L'Argentine (Argentina), L'Algérie (Algeria), La Belgique (Belgium)...*



3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

- Exceptions: some countries end in **-e** but are masculine
 - *Le Belize (Belize), Le Cambodge (Cambodia), Le Mexique (Mexico), Le Mozambique (Mozambique), Le Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe)*



3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

3.2 If the country is masculine use **aller / être au**
and **venir du**:

Je vais au Canada. I am going to Canada.

Je suis au Canada. I am in Canada.

Je viens du Canada. I come from Canada.



3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

- Here is a list of masculine countries:
 - *Le Portugal (Portugal), le Congo (Congo), le Chili (Chile), le Maroc (Morocco), le Danemark (Denmark), le Pérou (Peru), le Togo (Togo)...*



3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

- Note : if the name of a country begins with a vowel, use **être/aller en** and **venir d'**:

L'Iran (Iran), L'Afghanistan (Afghanistan), L'Angola (Angola)...

Je vais en Iran. I am going to Iran.

Je suis en Iran. I am in Iran.

Je viens d'Iran. I come from Iran.



3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

- Some countries that are islands are not preceded by an article. Use **être /aller à** and **venir de**:

- *Malte*

Malta

- *Chypre*

Cyprus

- *Cuba*

Cuba

Je vais à Malte. I go to Malta.

Je suis à Malte. I am in Malta.

Je viens de Malte. I come from Malta.



3. COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS

3.3 If the country's name or place (e.g. islands) has a plural form use **aller/être aux** and venir **des**:

Je vais aux Etats-Unis. I am going to the USA.

Je suis aux Etats-Unis. I am in the USA.

Je viens des Etats-Unis. I come from the USA.



4. REGIONS, STATES AND PROVINCES

4.1 If the name indicates a feminine region, state or province use **être/aller en** and **venir de la**:

Je vais en Bourgogne. I am going to Bourgogne.

Je suis en Bourgogne. I am in Bourgogne.

Je viens de la Bourgogne. I come from Bourgogne.



4. REGIONS, STATES AND PROVINCES

- Here is a list of some feminine regions, states and/or provinces:
 - *La Bretagne (Brittany), la Champagne-Ardenne, la Normandie (Normandy), la Lorraine, la Floride (Florida)...*



4. REGIONS, STATES AND PROVINCES

4.1 When talking about masculine or plural regions, provinces and states starting with a consonnant, use être/aller **dans le/les** and venir **du/des**:

Je vais dans le Gauteng. I am going to the Gauteng.

Je suis dans le Gauteng. I am in the Gauteng.

Je viens du Gauteng. I come from the Gauteng.



4. REGIONS, STATES AND PROVINCES

- Note : when a city/province share a name, it is important to use the correct preposition.
- Example : for the province of Québec, we say « *je vais au Québec* », whereas for the city of Québec, we say « *Je vais à Québec* ».



4. REGIONS, STATES AND PROVINCES

- Here is a list of masculine regions, states and provinces:
 - *Le Nord Pas-de-Calais (North Pas-de-Calais), le Val de Loire (The Loire Valley), le Mpumalanga, le Dakota, le Karoo, le Montana...*



5. CITIES AND ISLANDS

Unlike the other geographical names, most of the time, there is no article before city names and island names in the singular form.

Therefore the gender of a city or a singular island does not affect the preposition.



5. CITIES AND ISLANDS

5.1 Therefore, use **être/aller à**, **venir de / d'** and the name of a city.

Je vais à Paris. I am going to Paris.

Je suis à Paris. I am in Paris.

Je viens de Paris. I come from Paris.



5. CITIES AND ISLANDS

- Exceptions: some cities and islands in the singular form take the definite article:
- *Le Cap (Cape Town), le Caire (Cairo), le Havre (The Hague), la Nouvelle-Orléans (New Orleans), la Corse (Corsica), la Martinique (Martinique), le Cap Vert (Cape Verde Islands)...*



5. CITIES AND ISLANDS

5.2 The names of cities and islands that include the article do the normal contraction : à + le = **au** / de + le = **du**.

Je vais au Cap. I am going to Cape Town.

Je suis au Cap. I am in Cape Town.

Je viens du Cap. I come from CapeTown



C'est tout pour aujourd'hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!

