

## Gender of French Nouns

*Bonjour, je m'appelle Sophie!* Today we're going to talk about definite articles in French. *Vous êtes prêts? On y va!* Let's go!

In English, the definite article is *the*. In French, definite articles are little more complicated. First of all, there's more than one. To decide which definite article to use in French, you have to consider three things:

1. The noun's gender
2. The first letter of the noun, and
3. The noun's number (singular or plural)

Right now, we're going to focus on the first two: the noun's gender and its first letter.

If a noun is masculine, you should use the article "le"  
as in *le garçon*.

Try saying the masculine definite article out loud: *Le*.

*Le chien.*

*Le chat.*

*Très bien! On continue!*

If a noun is feminine, you use "la":

*La fille*

Practice saying that. *La. La femme. La personne. Super!* One more definite article to go!

If a noun starts with a vowel or a silent *h*, you use the letter *l* followed by an apostrophe.


*L'étudiant l'étudiante*

*l'homme*

See, it works with both masculine and feminine nouns! But because the noun starts with a vowel, we use *l* and an apostrophe.

Let's practice. Repeat after me. *L'ami. L'homme. Fantastique!* You've got it!

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Here's aTip: All French nouns have a gender, even inanimate objects. When learning new vocabulary, be sure to include a definite article for each noun on your vocabulary list. This will help you learn the gender of each noun along with the word itself. This is important because articles (as well as adjectives, pronouns, and just about everything else) change to agree with the gender of the noun.

In this lesson, you learned about the singular definite articles *le*, *la*, and *l'* apostrophe. The French definite articles all translate to “the” in English. Because all nouns in French have a gender, learn new nouns with their article.

*Bon travail! À bientôt!*

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