

# French articles

**DEFINITE ARTICLES : LE, LA, L', LES**

**INDEFINITE ARTICLES : UN, UNE, DES**

# Vocabulaire

## *les articles*

### DEFINITE

- le ➤ the (m.sing.)
- la ➤ the (f.sing.)
- l' ➤ the (m/f + voyelle)
- les ➤ the (m/f pl.)

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### INDEFINITE

- un ➤ a/an (m.sing.)
- une ➤ a/an (f.sing.)
- des ➤ some (m/f pl.)

# le, la, l', les (definite articles)

- What do these words mean?
- ❖ These words ALL mean *THE*.
- So how do you know which one to use?????

# When to use which one?

❖ Well, first of all, if the noun is plural, there is only one definite article you *can* use: **les**

- Example → to say **the teachers** you would say:
- **les professeurs**.

❖ (If a noun is plural, *you don't really need to know if it's masculine or feminine* in order to choose the correct article- because there is only ONE plural article to choose from: **les**)

- ❖ If your noun is singular (that means you're talking about only one thing), then you have to choose from *le, la, l'*
- ❖ Your choice of *definite article* depends on the *gender* of the noun that follows (is the word *masculine*? or *feminine*?)
- In French, every noun has a *gender*—it is either masculine or feminine.
- In order to choose between *le* or *la*, you have to know the *gender* of the noun.

# Use **LA** with *feminine* nouns

- ❖ Since the noun *table* (*table*) is *feminine* if you want to say *the table* you would say:
  - *la table*
- Since *carte* (*map*) is *feminine*, how would you say *the map*?
  - *la carte*
- Magnifique!

# Use **LE** with masculine nouns

❖ Since the noun *crayon* (*pencil*) is *masculine* if you want to say *the pencil* you would say:

- *le crayon*

- Since *stylo* (pen) is *masculine*, how would you say *the pen*?

- *le stylo*

- Fantastique!

• So when do we use *l'* ?

- See if you can figure out the rule:
- *l'*oignon (m) = the onion
- *l'*agrafeuse (f) = the stapler
- *l'*école (f) = the school
- *What do these FRENCH words have in common?*

That's right!!!

They all:

- Start with a vowel
- AND are singular.

Use **L'** with singular masculine or feminine nouns that start with a VOWEL

**/'** is used to mean *the* in front of a masculine or feminine **noun** starting with a vowel.

- Example: **/'** ordinateur

# Révision

- 1. le livre (m) = the book
- 2. le prix (m) = the price
- 3. la coupe glacée (f) = the ice cream sundae
- 4. les boissons (f) = the drinks
- 5. les oignons (m) = the onions
- 6. l' ordinateur (m) = the computer

***Vous êtes très intelligents!***

- **So let's move on to indefinite articles...**

# un, une, des (*indefinite articles*)

❖ *un, une* & *des* are indefinite articles.

(They don't refer to any specific item—any one will do.)

❖ *un/une* = a (or *an*)

❖ *Des* = some

## Examples

- *un* livre = a book
- *une* portion = a serving
- *des* frites = some fries

- *un* oignon = *an* onion
- *une* pomme = *an* apple

# un, une, des

❖ In front of a masculine singular noun use...

un

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❖ In front of a feminine singular noun use...

une

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❖ In front of a masculine or feminine plural noun use...

des

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