

## French Adjectives - Les Adjectifs

### Introduction to adjectives

An **adjective** is a word that modifies a noun. Adjectives can describe shape, color, size, and many other things about a noun.

French **adjectives** are very different from English adjectives, for two main reasons.

1. In English, **adjectives** are always found in front of the noun, but most French adjectives follow the noun they modify (although the placement of French adjectives depends on the **meaning** of that particular adjective).
2. French **adjectives** change to *agree* in gender and number with the nouns that they modify. This means that there can be up to four forms of each adjective: masculine singular, feminine singular, masculine plural, and feminine plural. Some very irregular adjectives even have different forms depending on whether the noun that follows them begins with a vowel or a consonant.

#### I. Most adjectives add an **e** for feminine and an **s** for plural:

	singular	plural
masc	vert	verts
fem	verte	vertes

This rule applies to adjectives that end in most consonants as well as those that end with *é*.

#### II. When the unmodified adjective ends in **e**, there is no difference between the masculine and feminine forms:

	singular	plural
masc	rouge	rouges
fem	rouge	rouges

#### III. When the unmodified adjective ends in **s** or **x**, there is no difference between the singular and plural masculine forms:

	singular	plural
masc	gris	gris
fem	grise	grises

#### IV. Irregular **gender** patterns:

Ending	masc	fem
<b>-eux</b>	heureux	heureuse
<b>-eur</b>	flatteur	flatteuse
<b>-f</b>	naïf	naïve
<b>-er</b>	cher	chère
<b>-il</b>	gentil	gentille

<b>-el</b>	actuel	actuelle
<b>-ul</b>	nul	nulle
<b>-en</b>	canadien	canadienne
<b>-on</b>	bon	bonne
<b>-et</b>	complet	complète

#### V. Irregular plural patterns:

<b>Ending</b>	masc sing	masc plural
<b>-eau</b>	beau	beaux
<b>-al</b>	idéal	idéaux

#### VI. Completely irregular:

There are several French adjectives which have irregular feminine and plural forms, as well as a special form when they are placed **in front of a masculine noun that begins with a vowel or a mute h**.

Adjective	SINGULAR			PLURAL	
	masc	vowel	fem	masc	fem
beautiful	beau	bel	belle	beaux	belles
new	nouveau	nouvel	nouvelle	nouveaux	nouvelles
crazy	fou	fol	folle	fous	folles
soft	mou	mol	molle	mous	molles
old	vieux	vieil	vieille	vieux	vieilles