

Les adjectifs

Adjectives always agree in 1) gender (masc. OR fem.)

2) number (sing. OR plural)

***You must always do the above two steps in that order. You can't jump around.

Dictionaries always list the masc. form first with the fem. form in parentheses. E.g. intelligent(e) / ponctuel(le) / beau (belle) / sérieux (-euse) / bon(ne)

Basic rules:

1) If the masc. form already ends in e, NO CHANGE to get fem. form.

2) In most cases, simply add an e to the masc. form to get the fem. form.

***See back of this page of a list of common exceptions.

3) To make things plural, add a s.

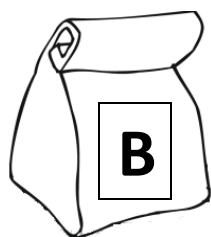
Exception, you can never add a s to a word already ending in s or x. In this case, there is no difference btwn. sing. & plural. E.g. *Il est français. Ils sont français.*

In almost all cases, adjectives come after the noun that they modify.

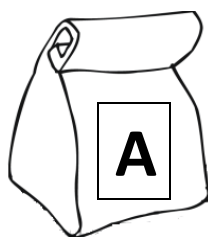
This is very different from English. E.g. *a white house = une maison blanche*
a smart answer = une réponse intelligente
some lazy students = des étudiants paresseux

There are 11 adjectives that come before the noun that they modify.

The memory trick that we use to remember them is BAGS.



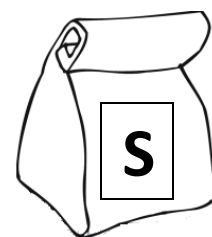
beau (belle)
joli(e)



jeune
vieux (vieille)
nouveau (-elle)
premier (-ère)
dernier (-ère)



bon(ne)
mauvais(e)



petit(e)
grand(e)

E.g. *a beautiful girl = une belle fille / a new book = un nouveau livre*

The following adjective families are exceptions to the rules on the front side of this paper. You've learned them throughout French 2 and French 3.

if → -ive

actif *active*
créatif *creative*
sportif *athletic*

-eux → -euse

ambitieux *ambitious*
conscientieux *conscientious*
curieux *curious*
dangereux *dangerous*
délicieux *delicious*
ennuyeux *boring*
généreux *generous*
heureux *happy*
malheureux *unhappy*
merveilleux *marvellous*
nerveux *nervous*
paresseux *lazy*
sérieux *serious*

-el → -elle

actuel *current, present-day*
cruel *cruel*
intellectuel *intellectual (academic)*
naturel *natural*
ponctuel *punctual (on-time)*
spirituel *spiritual*

-en → -enne

canadien *Canadian (not capitalized in French)*
européen *European*
moyen *average*
musicien *musically talented*

-on → -onne

bon *good*
mignon *cute*

-er → -ère

dernier *last*
étranger *foreign*
léger *light*
premier *first*

Irregulars

beau (belle) *beautiful, handsome*

blanc (blanche) *white*

doux (douce) *sweet, gentle, soft*

faux (fausse) *false*

favori (favorite) *favorite*

fou (folle) *crazy*

gentil (gentille) *nice*

gros (grosse) *fat*

long (longue) *long*

nouveau (nouvelle) *new*

sec (sèche) *dry*

vieux (vieille) *old*

You have two choices:

- 1) memorize & learn all of these **OR**
- 2) take time to look up things when you do writing tasks & projects