NOUNS

A noun is a word which refers to a living creature, a thing, a place, a feeling or an idea. When you look up a noun in your Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary, you will see noun in blue next to the word.

See page xi of your Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary for more information on nouns.

SINGULAR NOUNS

The Definite Article = “the”

In French, all nouns are either masculine or feminine. There are different words for “the” to show the gender of the noun.

le = masculine nouns  
la = feminine nouns
l’ = nouns that begin with a vowel (these can be either masculine or feminine)

Use your Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary to help you with the following exercise.

Circle “le”, “la” or “l’”, tick “masculine” or “feminine” and write the English meaning in the box provided.

Remember: nouns starting with a vowel will have “l’” in front of them, but you still need your dictionary to check whether they are masculine or feminine.

To give yourself a little challenge, try timing how long it takes you to complete the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French word</th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
<th>English meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le  la  l’ perroquet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le  la  l’ vache</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le  la  l’ gomme</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le  la  l’ cahier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le  la  l’ Espagne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le  la  l’ collège</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le  la  l’ joie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional: try to remember the vocabulary above by covering the words up and saying them out loud or writing them down.
The Indefinite Article = “a”

In your Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary you will mainly see “le” or “la” in front of nouns. However, in your studies of French you will also come across the two words for “a”, and it is important to know which one is masculine and which is feminine.

**un** = masculine nouns  **une** = feminine nouns

Using the English side of your Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary to help you, complete the following exercise.

Tick if the word is masculine (“un”) or feminine (“une”) and write the French meaning in the box provided.

To give yourself a little challenge, try timing how long it takes you to complete the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English word</th>
<th>un</th>
<th>une</th>
<th>French meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a monkey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a dress</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a jumper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a pond (large)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a friendship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an idea</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a wish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional: try to remember the vocabulary above by covering the words up and saying them out loud or writing them down.
PLURAL NOUNS

As in English, most French nouns also have a plural form.

See pages vii (4) and xi of your Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary for more information on plurals.

The French word for “the” in the plural form is les.

Below is a list of plural nouns. Using your dictionary if you need to, find out if these nouns are masculine or feminine, and then give the English meaning.

Remember: you can only look up the singular form of the noun in the dictionary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masculine/Feminine</th>
<th>English meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>les crayons</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>les chambres</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>les lits</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>les jupes</td>
<td>_______________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What similarity do you notice between French plural nouns and English plural nouns?

IRREGULAR PLURALS

Bad news: some nouns in French are irregular in the plural. But don’t panic: these are all clearly marked in your dictionary.

The good news is that we can group some of these nouns together.

Use your dictionary to help you find the plural of the following nouns, and write it on the line provided.

- le chapeau (the hat) → les ____________ (the hats)
- le drapeau (the flag) → les ____________ (the flags)
- le gâteau (the cake) → les ____________ (the cakes)
- le château (the castle) → les ____________ (the castles)
- le cheval (the horse) → les ____________ (the horses)
- l’animal (the animal) → les ____________ (the animals)

Rules: if a noun ends in “-eau” then you add an __ to form the plural. If a noun ends in “-al” then you remove the ___ and add _____ to form the plural.
ODD ONE OUT

Using your *Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary* to help you, decide which word is the odd one out and circle it.

Optional: write the English meanings on the line provided.

Which of the following nouns is **not** a masculine noun?

- judo
- cyclisme
- natation
- ski

Which of the following nouns is **not** a feminine noun?

- porte
- fenêtre
- poubelle
- mur

Which of the following nouns will have l’ in front of it?

- chien
- araignée
- chat
- hamster

Which of the following plural nouns is **not** a feminine noun?

- citrons
- fraises
- framboises
- pommes

Which of the following plural nouns is **not** a masculine noun?

- matins
- semaines
- jours
- mois

Which of the following nouns is **not** in its plural form?

- jambes
- mains
- pieds
- doigt

Write this noun in its plural form: ____________________________

Which of the following plural nouns is **not** correct?

- tableaux
- cheveux
- bateaux
- ciseaux

Write this noun in its correct plural form. ____________________________
**MASCULINE OR FEMININE?**

Some French nouns can be masculine OR feminine, and have different meanings according to the gender.

Using your *Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary*, write the meanings of the words below. Make sure you look at the correct gender.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>Meaning 1</th>
<th>Meaning 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>le livre</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la livre</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le vase</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la vase</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le mode</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la mode</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le cours</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>la cour</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>__________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember that some nouns have several different meanings. You must read ALL the meanings given in the dictionary and choose the one that best fits the context of your sentence.

Using your *Chambers Harrap’s French School Dictionary* to help you, try completing the following sentences with the correct English word by looking up the French noun, which is underlined and in bold. Make sure you choose the correct meaning of the noun.

● Elle achète toujours quatre **avocats** au marché.
  She always buys four __________ at the market.

● Ma sœur reçois de bonnes **notes** en français.
  My sister gets good __________ in French

● Il a beaucoup de **peintures** dans sa maison.
  He has a lot of __________ in his house.

● Quand je prends un bain il y a toujours beaucoup de **mousse**.
  When I have a bath, there is always a lot of __________.

● **Le vol** dure deux heures.
  ____________ lasts 2 hours.

● Pimkie est **une marque** très connue en France.
  Pimkie is a very well-known __________ in France.
The next eight sentences are a little more challenging, as this time you will be looking up expressions with nouns. The words to look up are underlined and in bold.

- Beaucoup de jeunes mangent trop de matières grasses. (read all the meanings)
  A lot of young people eat too much ____________.

- Quand je cours trop vite j'ai un point de côté.
  When I run too fast, I get a ________________.

- Elle a acheté ses vêtements dans la galerie marchande.
  She bought her clothes in the __________________________.

- Quand je cuisine je mets toujours une noix de beurre dans la poêle.
  When I cook I always put a ________________________ in the frying pan.

- Le chauffeur du camion a pris un sens interdit.
  The lorry driver took ____________________________.

- On a acheté une voiture à bon marché.
  We bought a _____________ car.

- Les Français ont un mode de vie différent des Britanniques.
  The French have a different ____________________________ to the British.

- Les Français ont gagné la première manche du tournoi.
  The French won the ____________________________ of the tournament.