FRENCH ADJECTIVES

French adjectives change to agree in gender and number with the nouns that they modify, which means there can be up to four forms of each adjective. The different forms for adjectives depend mostly on the final letter(s) of the default form of the adjective, which is the masculine singular.

Most French adjectives add E for feminine and S for plural. This rule applies to adjectives that end in most consonants as well as all vowels except the unaccented E.

Adjective: *vert* (green)
   Masculine singular   *vert*
   Feminine singular   *verte*
   Masculine plural   *verts*
   Feminine plural   *vertes*

Adjective: *bleu* (blue)
   Masculine singular   *bleu*
   Feminine singular   *bleue*
   Masculine plural   *bleus*
   Feminine plural   *bleues*

Adjective: *amusant* (funny)
   Masculine singular   *amusant*
   Feminine singular   *amusante*
   Masculine plural   *amusants*
   Feminine plural   *amusantes*

Adjective: *épicé* (spicy)
   Masculine singular   *épicé*
   Feminine singular   *épicée*
   Masculine plural   *épicés*
   Feminine plural   *épicées*

When the masculine singular adjective ends in an unaccented E, there is no difference between the masculine and feminine forms:

Adjective: *rouge* (red)
   Masculine singular   *rouge*
   Feminine singular   *rouge*
   Masculine plural   *rouges*
   Feminine plural   *rouges*

When the default form of the adjective ends in S or X, there is no difference between the masculine singular and plural forms:

Adjective: *gris* (grey)
   Masculine singular   *gris*
   Feminine singular   *grise*
   Masculine plural   *gris*
   Feminine plural   *grises*

While most French adjectives fit into one of the above categories, there are still quite a few that have [irregular feminine and/or plural forms](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/adjectives_3.htm).

Most French adjectives are [regular](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/adjectives_2.htm), but there are a number of irregular adjectives, based on the final letter(s) of the masculine singular adjective.

Adjectives that end in a vowel plus L or N usually become feminine by doubling the consonant before adding E.

Ending: *el* > *elle*   Adjective: *personnel* (personal)
   Masculine singular   *personnel*
   Feminine singular   *personnelle*
   Masculine plural   *personnels*
   Feminine plural   *personnelles*

Ending: *on* > *onne*   Adjective: *bon* (good)
   Masculine singular   *bon*
   Feminine singular   *bonne*
   Masculine plural   *bons*
   Feminine plural   *bonnes*

Adjectives that end in *er* or *et* need a [grave accent](http://french.about.com/od/pronunciation/a/accents.htm):

Ending: *er* > *ère*   Adjective: *cher* (expensive)
   Masculine singular   *cher*
   Feminine singular   *chère*
   Masculine plural   *chers*
   Feminine plural   *chères*

Ending: *et* > *ète*   Adjective: *complet* (full)
   Masculine singular   *complet*
   Feminine singular   *complète*
   Masculine plural   *complets*
   Feminine plural   *complètes*

Other final letters lead to very irregular feminine endings:

Ending: *c* > *che*   Adjective: *blanc* (white)
   Masculine singular   *blanc*
   Feminine singular   *blanche*
   Masculine plural   *blancs*
   Feminine plural   *blanches*

Ending: *eur* > *euse*   Adjective: *flatteur* (flattering)
   Masculine singular   *flatteur*
   Feminine singular   *flatteuse*
   Masculine plural   *flatteurs*
   Feminine plural   *flatteuses*

Ending: *eux* > *euse*   Adjective: *heureux* (happy)
   Masculine singular   *heureux*
   Feminine singular   *heureuse*
   Masculine plural   *heureux*
   Feminine plural   *heureuses*

Ending: *f* > *ve*   Adjective: *neuf* (new)
   Masculine singular   *neuf*
   Feminine singular   *neuve*
   Masculine plural   *neufs*
   Feminine plural   *neuves*

Irregular plurals: The ending *al* changes to *aux* in the plural:

Adjective: *idéal* (ideal)
   Masculine singular   *idéal*
   Feminine singular   *idéale*
   Masculine plural   *idéaux*
   Feminine plural   *idéales*

Note: Most of the above rules are the same for [making nouns feminine and plural](http://french.about.com/library/begin/bl_nouns2.htm).

Irregular French adjectives

There are several French adjectives which have irregular feminine and plural forms, as well as a [special form](http://french.about.com/cs/grammar/a/specialadjforms.htm) when they are placed in front of a masculine noun that begins with a vowel or a [mute H](http://french.about.com/od/pronunciation/a/h_2.htm):

   *un bel homme* - a handsome man
   *un vieil ami* - an old friend

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Singular** | **Plural** |
| **Adjective**   | **masc** | **vowel/H**    | **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 |

**COLORS - LES** [**COULEURS**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/couleurs.wav)

Learn the French words for colors.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **masc sing.** | **fem sing.** | **masc plural** | **fem plural** |
| **purple** | [**violet**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/violet.wav) | **violette** | **violets** | **violettes** |
| **blue** | [**bleu**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/bleu.wav) | **bleue** | **bleus** | **bleues** |
| **green** | [**vert**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/vert.wav) | **verte** | **verts** | **vertes** |
| **yellow** | [**jaune**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/jaune.wav) | **jaune** | **jaunes** | **jaunes** |
| **orange** | [**orange**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/orange.wav) | **orange** | **orange** | **orange** |
| **red** | [**rouge**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/rouge.wav) | **rouge** | **rouges** | **rouges** |
| **black** | [**noir**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/noir.wav) | **noire** | **noirs** | **noires** |
| **white** | [**blanc**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/blanc.wav) | **blanche** | **blancs** | **blanches** |
| **grey** | [**gris**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/gris.wav) | **grise** | **gris** | **grises** |
| **brown** | [**marron**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/marron.wav) | **marron** | **marron** | **marron** |
| **pink** | [**rose**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/rose.wav) | **rose** | **roses** | **roses** |
| **light blue** | [**bleu clair**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/bleuclair.wav) | **bleu clair** | **bleu clair** | **bleu clair** |
| **dark blue** | [**bleu foncé**](http://french.about.com/library/media/wavs/bleufonce.wav) | **bleu foncé** | **bleu foncé** | **bleu foncé** |

The plurals of French colors are pronounced exactly like the singular ones. The sound files include the pronunciation of the masculine singular/plural adjective followed by the feminine singular/plural adjective. If there is only one word pronounced, it is because that color is pronounced exactly the same whether it is masculine or feminine, singular or plural.

**Note** that using the modifiers light (*clair*) or dark (*foncé*) makes the color invariable - it does not change to agree in gender or number: *une chemise vert clair* - light green shirt