

FRENCH ARTICLES

Articles are words you use before nouns (as *a*, *an*, *the* in English).

There are three types of French articles and they all agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify.

FRENCH DEFINITE ARTICLE

French definite articles are used similarly to their English counterpart, "the" to talk about **specific, identified nouns**.

	Singular	Plural	
masculine	le	les	<i>le ami → l'ami (the friend)</i>
masc + vowel	l'	les	<i>l'homme → l'homme (the man)</i>
+ mute h			
feminine	la	les	<i>la école → l'école (the school)</i>
fem. + vowel	l'	les	<i>l'héroïne → l'héroïne (the heroine)</i>
+ mute h			

EXAMPLE :

	Singular	Plural
Masculine noun	le livre <i>the book</i>	les livres <i>the books</i>
Feminine noun	la table <i>the table</i>	les tables <i>the tables</i>
Before a vowel or mute h	l'orange <i>the orange</i>	les oranges <i>the oranges</i>

PRONUNCIATION:

1. l'orange
2. les oranges

INDEFINITE ARTICLE

The indefinite article indicates that the speaker is referring to either an unspecific noun or to one/some of something. You can use indefinite articles in front of unnamed, unidentified, or unspecified nouns, as long as they are **countable**.

	Singular	Plural
masculine	un	des
feminine	une	des

EXAMPLE :

	Singular		Plural	
Masculine	un livre	<i>a book</i>	des livres	<i>some books</i>
Feminine	un ami	<i>a friend</i>	des amis	<i>some friends</i>
	une table	<i>a table</i>	des tables	<i>some tables</i>
	une école	<i>a school</i>	des écoles	<i>some schools</i>

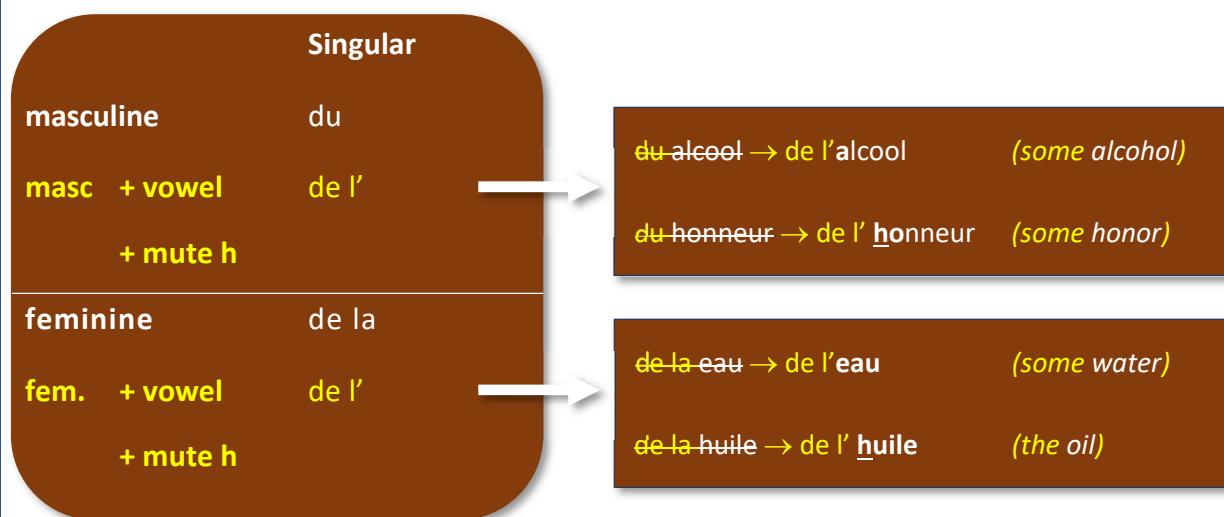
PRONUNCIATION:

- 3. un ami des amis
- 4. une école des écoles

FRENCH PARTITIVE ARTICLE

The partitive article indicates that the speaker is referring to only a portion or some of an **uncountable** noun, often food or drink.

The partitive article is needed when talking about an unknown or unspecified quantity of something **uncountable**.



EXAMPLE:

Singular		
Masculine	du vin	<i>some wine</i>
	de l'argent	<i>some money</i>
Feminine	de la tarte	<i>some pie</i>
	de l'eau	<i>some water</i>

PRONUNCIATION:

- de l'argent
- de l'eau