

Première étape (A.1-A.5)

A. Révisez le vocabulaire pages 2-4. (*Review the pages 2-4.*)

Traduisez en français (*Translate into French*):

1. *old (masculine form)* = _____

2. *old (feminine form)* = _____

3. *young (masculine/feminine form)* = _____

B. Révisez A.3. (*Review A.3*)

Traduisez en français (*Translate into French*):

1. *the (masculine)* = _____ , _____

2. *the (feminine)* = _____ , _____

3. *a (masculine)* = _____

4. *a (feminine)* = _____

C. Révisez A.4. (*Review A.4*). Traduisez en français (*Translate into French*):

He is not French = _____

D. Definite/Indefinite articles (A.3, A.5)

Definite articles:

A definite article is a word placed before a noun to show that the noun refers to a specific person/animal/place/thing/event/idea or to show that it refers to a general concept. In English it is translated by "the" when referring to a specific person/animal/place/thing/event/idea or by nothing when referring to a general concept.

I saw the dog you spoke about.

the dog = a specific dog mentioned earlier

I read the book that you recommended.

the book = a specific book

I like apples.

apples = general concept of apples. I like all apples.

Apples are great.

= all apples are great = general concept of apples.

The definite article works the same way in French with the difference that the article is gender- and quantity-specific (*le, la, l', les*) and that it cannot be omitted even when talking about general concepts.

J'aime les chiens mais je déteste les chats.

I like dogs but I hate cats.

dogs and cats (*les chiens et les chats*) = general concept.

Le professeur parle de l'histoire de France.

The teacher is talking about French history.

The teacher (*le professeur*) = a specific teacher.

Indefinite articles:

An indefinite article is a word placed before a noun to show whether the noun refers to a non-specific person/animal/place/thing/event/idea. In English there are two indefinite articles: *a, an*. In English the indefinite article is used only with a singular noun. To indicate a non-specific plural noun, the word *some* can be used, but is usually not necessary.

I saw a dog in the street.

a dog = a non-specific dog. First time it is mentioned.

I read a magazine on the train.

a magazine = a non-specific magazine

I saw (some) dogs in the streets.

(some) dogs = non-specific dogs

I ate (some) bananas.

bananas = non-specific bananas

In French the indefinite article works the same way except there is an actual plural indefinite article that is not optional. The articles are: *un, une, des*

Il y a des chaises dans la classe.

There are chairs in the classroom.

Il y a un professeur dans la classe.

There is a teacher in the classroom.

Il y a une banane sur la table.

There is a banana on the table.

Examine the examples in English and their French equivalents below:

1. There is an apple on the table.

Il y a une pomme sur la table.

2. I bought the apples you wanted.

J'ai acheté les pommes que tu voulais.

3. I bought apples.

J'ai acheté des pommes.

4. I ate an apple.

J'ai mangé une pomme.

5. I ate the apple you left on the table.
6. Apples are good.
7. Yes, I do eat apples.
8. She hates apples.

J'ai mangé la pomme que tu as laissée sur la table.
Les pommes sont bonnes. (i.e: ALL apples are good)
Oui, je mange des pommes. (i.e: SOME apples)
Elle déteste les pommes. (i.e: apples in general)

A few more examples:

9. *C'est une table? Oui, c'est une table. C'est la table du professeur.*
 Is this a table? Yes, it is a table. It's the professor's table.
10. *Il y a un chat dans le jardin. Le chat est blanc.*
 There's a cat in the garden. The (That) cat is white.
11. *Il y a des stylos sur la table. Les stylos sont bleus.*
 There are (some) pens on the table. The (these) pens are blue.

E. Now, your turn. Pick the correct French translation for the underlined segments.

1. I love books.
 a. le livre b. les livres c. un livre d. des livres
2. I read the book that you recommended to me.
 a. le livre b. les livres c. un livre d. des livres
3. I love the book you gave me for my birthday.
 a. le livre b. les livres c. un livre d. des livres
4. I bought books for you.
 a. le livre b. les livres c. un livre d. des livres
5. Books are great!
 a. le livre b. les livres c. un livre d. des livres
6. Where are the books I left on my desk?
 a. le livre b. les livres c. un livre d. des livres
7. I had to buy a book for this class.
 a. le livre b. les livres c. un livre d. des livres
8. - Can one borrow books at the library? - Of course, there are many books there.
 a. le livre b. les livres c. un livre d. des livres
9. I lost a book in class yesterday.
 a. le livre b. les livres c. un livre d. des livres
10. I need to buy books for him.
 a. le livre b. les livres c. un livre d. des livres

RÉPONSES

Première étape (A.1-A.5)

A.

1. vieux
2. vieille
3. jeune

B.

1. le, l'
2. la, l'
3. un
4. une

C.

Il n'est pas français.

E.

1. b. les livres
2. a. le livre
3. a. le livre
4. d. des livres
5. b. les livres
6. b. les livres
7. c. un livre
8. d. des livres
9. c. un livre
- 10 d. des livres