

# PLACEMENT OF FRENCH ADJECTIVES

## B-A-G-S



LOVE LEARNING LANGUAGES

## French Adjectives Before Nouns

Most of the time, French adjectives go after the nouns they describe:

une voiture <u>rouge</u> une voiture bleu <b>e</b>	a red car
un repas <u>délicieux</u> une pizza délicieu <b>se</b>	a delicious meal
un livre <u>intéressant</u> une histoire intéréssante <b>e</b>	an interesting book

Other times, certain adjectives come before the nouns they describe. Though it isn't foolproof, you can use the acronym BAGS to refer to these adjectives to help you remember the categories.

<b>B</b>	beauty
<b>A</b>	age
<b>G</b>	goodness
<b>S</b>	size

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Something interesting happens with PLURAL BAGS adjectives. Even though the nouns that follow them are plural, DES changes to DE or D'.

merveilleuses	<b>de</b> merveilleuses <u>es</u> lumières <u>s</u>
jeunes	<b>de</b> jeunes <u>s</u> gens <u>s</u>
excellents	<b>d'</b> excellents <u>s</u> résultats <u>s</u>

## BEAUTY

<p><b>beau</b></p> <p>masculine singular</p>	<p><i>beautiful - handsome</i></p> <p><b>un beau tableau</b> a beautiful painting</p> <p><b>un beau garçon</b> a handsome boy</p>
<p><b>beaux</b></p> <p>masculine plural</p>	<p><b>de beaux meubles</b> beautiful furniture</p>
<p><b>belle(s)</b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p>une <u>belle</u> maison a beautiful house</p> <p><b>de</b> belles maisons</p>
<p><b>bel</b></p> <p>masculine</p>	<p>un <u>bel</u> hôtel a beautiful hotel <del>un beau hôtel</del></p>

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<p>singular</p> <p>before a vowel or aspirate H</p>	<p>un <u>bel</u> appartement a beautiful apartment</p>
<p><b>joli(s)</b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>pretty</i></p> <p>Vous avez un <u>joli</u> sourire! a pretty smile</p>
<p><b>jolie(s)</b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>pretty</i></p> <p>Vous avez une <u>jolie</u> voix! a pretty voice</p>
<p><b>vilain(s)</b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S for plural)</p> <p><b>vilaine(s)</b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>naughty - ugly - nasty</i></p> <p>J'ai un <u>vilain</u> rhume. a nasty cold</p> <p>une <u>vilaine</u> sorcière an ugly witch</p>

## AGE

<p><b>jeune(s)</b></p> <p>masculine or feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>young</i></p> <p>un(e) <u>jeune</u> étudiant(e) a young student</p>
<p><b>vieux</b></p> <p>masculine singular or plural</p>	<p><i>old</i></p> <p>un <u>vieux</u> chien an old dog</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>vieille(s)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">feminine singular (add S for plural)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>vieil</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">masculine before a vowel or mute H</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>de</b> vieux chiens some old dogs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">une <u>vieille</u> âme an old soul</p> <p style="text-align: center;">un <u>vieil</u> ami an old friend</p> <p style="text-align: center;">un <u>vieil</u> homme an old man</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>nouveau</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">masculine singular</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>nouveaux</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">masculine plural</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>nouvel</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">masculine - singular</p> <p style="text-align: center;">before a vowel or mute H</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>new</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">C'est un <u>nouveau</u> monde. It's a new world.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>de</b> <u>nouveaux</u> horizons new horizons</p> <p style="text-align: center;">un <u>nouvel</u> ordinateur a new computer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">un <u>nouvel</u> homme a new man</p>

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<p><b>nouvelle(s)</b></p> <p>feminine</p> <p>singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p>une <u>nouvelle</u> loi a new law</p> <p><b>de</b> nouvelles lois</p>
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## GOODNESS - BADNESS

<p><b>bon(s)</b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S for plural)</p> <p><b>bonne(s)</b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>good</i></p> <p>C'est <u>un</u> bon croissant! a good croissant</p> <p><i>good</i></p> <p>C'est <u>une</u> bonne blague! a good joke</p>
<p><b>meilleur(s)</b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S for plural)</p> <p><b>meilleure(s)</b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>better</i></p> <p>un meilleur monde a better world</p> <p>une meilleure solution a better solution</p>
<p><b>gentil(s)</b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>nice</i></p> <p>un gentil message a nice message</p> <p>un gentil professeur</p>

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<p><b><i>gentille(s)</i></b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p>une gentille pensée a nice thought</p>
<p><b><i>mauvais</i></b></p> <p>masculine singular and plural</p>	<p><i>bad</i></p> <p>C'est un mauvais film! a bad film</p>
<p><b><i>mauvaise(s)</i></b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p>une mauvaise herbe a weed</p>

## SIZE

<p><b><i>grand(s)</i></b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>tall - large - big - great</i></p> <p>un grand magasin a department store</p>
<p><b><i>grande(s)</i></b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p>une grande opportunité a great opportunity</p>
<p><b><i>petit(s)</i></b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>small - little</i></p> <p>un petit peu a little bit</p>
<p><b><i>petite(s)</i></b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p>une petite araignée a small spider</p>

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<p><b><i>gros</i></b></p> <p>masculine singular and plural</p> <p><b><i>grosse(s)</i></b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>large - big - fat</i></p> <p>un gros câlin a big hug</p> <p>une grosse baleine a big whale</p>
<p><b><i>haut(s)</i></b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S for plural)</p> <p><b><i>haute(s)</i></b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>high - tall - great</i></p> <p>un haut niveau a high level</p> <p>une haute montagne a high mountain</p>
<p><b><i>court(s)</i></b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S for plural)</p> <p><b><i>courte(s)</i></b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>short - brief</i></p> <p>un court livre a short book</p> <p>une courte aventure a brief adventure</p>
<p><b><i>long(s)</i></b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>long</i></p> <p>un long voyage a long trip</p>

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<p><b><i>longue(s)</i></b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p>une longue vie a long life</p>
<p><b><i>immense(s)</i></b></p> <p>masculine and feminine singular (add S for plural)</p>	<p><i>immense - huge - vast</i></p> <p>un immense merci a huge thanks</p> <p>une immense forêt a vast forest</p>

## EXCEPTIONS

CATEGORY	ADJECTIVE	EXAMPLE
<b>BEAUTY</b>	<p><b><i>laid(s)</i></b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S)</p>	<p><i>ugly</i></p> <p>un tapis laid an ugly rug</p>
	<p><b><i>laide(s)</i></b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S)</p>	<p>une robe laide an ugly dress</p>
<b>GOODNESS</b>  <b>BADNESS</b>	<p><b><i>méchant(s)</i></b></p> <p>masculine singular (add S)</p>	<p><i>mean - wicked</i></p> <p>un chien méchant a mean dog</p>
	<p><b><i>méchante(s)</i></b></p> <p>feminine singular (add S)</p>	<p>une personne méchante a wicked person</p>

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