

FRENCH DEFINITE, INDEFINITE, PARTITIVE ARTICLES



French Definite, Indefinite, and Partitive Articles

Articles can often be omitted in English, but not in French. There are three types of articles, and they have to agree in number and gender with the nouns they modify. Each type of article plays a very important role, and it's important to know how to choose which one to use according to context.

Definite articles	THE	SPECIFIC	le - la - les
Indefinite articles	A / AN	UNSPECIFIC or ONE	un - une
Partitive articles	SOME	PORTION OF SOMETHING	du - de la - des - de l'

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Masculine - Singular Nouns

le poulet rôti	the roasted chicken
un poulet rôti	a roasted chicken
du poulet rôti	some roasted chicken

Remember: **de + le = du**

Definite article	J'aime le poulet rôti.	I like roasted chicken.
Definite article	Je mange le poulet rôti.	I am eating the roasted chicken.
Indefinite article	Je mange un poulet rôti.	I am eating a roasted chicken.
Partitive article	Je mange du poulet rôti.	I am eating some roasted chicken.

Feminine - Singular Nouns

la tarte aux noix de pécan	the pecan pie
une tarte aux noix de pécan	a pecan pie
de la tarte aux noix de pécan	some pecan pie

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Definite article	J'aime la tarte aux noix de pécan.	I like pecan pie.
Definite article	Je mange la tarte aux noix de pécan.	I am eating the pecan pie.
Indefinite article	Je mange une tarte aux noix de pécan.	I am eating a pecan pie.
Partitive article	Je mange de la tarte aux noix de pécan.	I am eating some pecan pie.

Masculine - Feminine Plural Nouns

les oeufs (l'oeuf)	the eggs
des oeufs (un oeuf)	some eggs

Remember: **de + les form a contraction: des**

Definite article	J'aime les oeufs. (M)	I like eggs.
Definite article	Je mange les oeufs. (M)	I am eating the eggs.
Partitive article	Je mange des oeufs. (M)	I am eating (some) eggs.

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Definite article	J'aime les pêches. (F)	I like peaches.
Definite article	Je mange les pêches. (F)	I am eating the peaches.
Partitive article	Je mange des pêches. (F)	I am eating (some) peaches.

Masculine - Feminine nouns beginning with a vowel or mute H

l'eau	the water
de l'eau	some water
l'huile	the oil
de l'huile	some oil

Definite article	J'aime l'eau.	I like water.
Partitive article	Je bois de l'eau.	I am drinking (some) water.

Verbs of Preference Require Definite Articles

aimer	le - la - les - l'
adorer	le - la - les - l'
préférer	le - la - les - l'
détester	le - la - les - l'

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Negation - USE DE

Basic negation	To make a verb negative all you have to do is put NE...PAS around the verb.
Example	J'aime l'eau . Je n'aime pas l'eau .

Rule	When the partitive follows negation it becomes DE or D' DU, DE LA, DES, DE L', UN, UNE = All of these become DE or D' after negation
Example	Je mange du poulet rôti. Je ne mange pas de poulet rôti.
Example	Je mange de la tarte. Je ne mange pas de tarte.
Example	Je bois de l'eau. Je ne bois pas d'eau.
Example	Je mange des gâteaux. Je ne mange pas de gâteaux.

Expressions of Quantity - USE DE

beaucoup	a lot
beaucoup de	a lot of

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Je mange beaucoup de gâteaux.	I eat a lot of cakes.
Je mange trop de tartes.	I eat too many pies.
Je bois un verre d'eau.	I drink a glass of water.

BAGS Adjectives - USE DE

une grosse baleine	a big whale
DE grosses baleines	big whales

un beau tableau	a beautiful painting
DE beaux tableaux	beautiful paintings

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