

FRENCH PREPOSITION «CONTRE»



LOVE LEARNING LANGUAGES

Comprehensive Lesson on "Contre"

The French preposition "contre" is often translated as "against" in English, but its usage goes far beyond this simple translation. Below, we'll explore its meanings, nuances, and tricky rules. Each section includes clear examples in French and English to help you fully understand this essential preposition.

Basic Meaning: Opposition

Je suis contre cette idée.	I am against this idea.
Il est contre moi dans ce débat.	He is against me in this debate.
Le mur est construit contre le vent.	The wall is built against the wind.

Physical Contact or Support

Il s'est appuyé contre le mur.	He leaned against the wall.
Pose la chaise contre la table.	Place the chair against the table.
L'arbre pousse contre la maison.	The tree grows against the house.

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Exchange or Substitution

J'ai échangé mon billet contre une autre place.	I exchanged my ticket for another seat.
Il a vendu sa voiture contre une grosse somme d'argent.	He sold his car for a large sum of money.
On peut troquer des services contre des produits.	You can trade services for products.

Prevention or Protection

Ce médicament agit contre la douleur.	This medicine works against pain.
Le vaccin protège contre la grippe.	The vaccine protects against the flu.
Porte un manteau contre le froid.	Wear a coat against the cold.

Expressions and Idiomatic Usage

Être contre vents et marées	To go against all odds
Se battre contre la montre	To race against the clock
C'est toi contre le reste du monde.	It's you against the rest of the world.

When "Contre" Differs from English

Il est contre cette proposition.	He is opposed to this proposal.
On lutte contre la pauvreté.	We fight against poverty.

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Un régime contre le stress	A diet for stress relief
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Tricky Rules and Tips

Do not confuse "contre" with "entre": While "entre" means "between," "contre" always implies opposition or contact.

Example: Ne confondez pas "Il est contre moi" (He is against me) avec "Il est entre nous" (He is between us).

"Contre" vs "avec": Use "contre" for opposition, but "avec" for collaboration.

Example: Il travaille avec moi (He works with me) vs Il est contre moi (He is against me).

Pairing with Verbs: Certain verbs naturally take "contre."

Examples: se battre contre (to fight against), protester contre (to protest against), prévenir contre (to warn against).

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