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LESSON GUIDE: EUPHONY & HIATUS *ON vs L'ON & UN vs L'UN*

NOTES:

Euphony: Agreeable or harmonious Sound

When this doesn't happen naturally, the French language requires that sounds be added or that words be changed to avoid hiatus (breaks / gaps).

contractions	→	l'abricot
liaisons	→	nous avons
-t- inversion	→	a-t-elle
adjective forms	→	mon amie
l' (avoid hiatus)	→	que l'on
l' + UN / UNE	→	l'un

More examples of euphony (avoiding hiatus)

contractions	→	l'aubergine
liaisons	→	ils ont
-t- inversion	→	arrive-t-elle
adjective forms	→	cet hôtel
l' = (avoid hiatus)	→	si l'on
l' + UN / UNE	→	l'une

WRITE SOME
OF YOUR OWN
EXAMPLES:

EXAMPLE:

On obtient ce **que l'on** veut en étant gentil.

One gets what one wants by being nice.

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NOTES:

QUE L'ON instead of **QU'ON**

Pourquoi ?

QU'ON sounds the same as a rude French word: **CON**

This is not an agreeable or harmonious sound!

FORMAL OR WRITTEN FRENCH:

Il faudra **que l'on** fasse très attention!

INFORMAL OR SPOKEN FRENCH:

Il faudra **qu'on** fasse très attention!

WRITE SOME OF YOUR OWN EXAMPLES:

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NOTES:

QUESTION:

What does the pronoun «l» mean in these sentences?

On obtient ce que l'on veut en étant gentil.

Il faudra que l'on fasse très attention.

RÉPONSE: ABSOLUMENT RIEN!

The pronoun «l» doesn't mean anything in this sentence. It is only there to make an agreeable and harmonious sound.

QUESTION: What about «l'un»?

«Un» and «une» are pronouns when they are followed by «de» or «des».

«Un» and «une» are articles when they are followed by nouns.

Use «l'un» or «l'une» when followed by «de» or «des».

«L'UN» is more formal than «UN».

WRITE SOME OF YOUR OWN EXAMPLES:

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QUESTION: *what about «l'un»?*

«Un» and «une» are pronouns when they are followed by «de» or «des».

«Un» and «une» are articles when they are followed by nouns.

Use «l'un» or «l'une» when followed by «de» or «des».

«L'UN» is more formal than «UN».

EXAMPLES:

Tu devrais goûter *l'un* de ces gâteaux.
You should taste one of these cakes.

«UN» is not an article in this sentence. It is a pronoun which refers to a cake.

NOTES:

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EXAMPLES:

Tu devrais goûter **l'un** de ces gâteaux.
You should taste one of these cakes.

«**UN**» is not an article in this sentence. It is a pronoun which refers to a cake.

EXAMPLES:

J'ai **une** voiture rouge.
I have a red car.

«**UNE**» is an article in this sentence. It is followed by the noun «**voiture**».

NOTES:

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LESSON GUIDE: EUPHONY & HIATUS *ON vs L'ON & UN vs L'UN*

EXAMPLES:

L'une des voitures rouges est la mienne.
One of the red cars is mine.

«**UNE**» is not an article in this sentence.
It is a pronoun which refers to a car.

FORMAL OR WRITTEN FRENCH:

Tu devrais goûter **l'un** de ces gâteaux.
L'une des voitures rouges est la mienne.

INFORMAL OR SPOKEN FRENCH:

Tu devrais goûter **un** de ces gâteaux.
Une des voitures rouges est la mienne.

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