

Plans vs Projets



Both plan and projet can translate as “plan” in English, but their meanings are different. Knowing when to use each word will make your French clearer and easier to understand.

1. Des projets - Commitments, activities

Use **des projets** when you’re talking about **things you are planning to do**, especially social activities, future initiatives, or commitments.

Examples:

- J’ai **des projets** ce soir.
- I have **plans** tonight.

- Quels sont tes **projets** pour le week-end?
- What are your **plans** for the weekend?

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Other meanings:

Future undertakings or initiatives:

- Elle a de grands **projets** pour sa carrière.
- She has big **plans** for her career.

Ideas for improvement or work projects:

- Le maire a présenté ses **projets** pour la ville.
- The mayor presented his **projects** for the city.

Even though “projet” looks like “project,” it can also mean personal plans, ambitions, or scheduled activities, not just formal work projects.

2. Un plan - Strategy, method, or blueprint

Use **un plan** when you mean a **method, step-by-step strategy, or a concrete plan of action**. It is **not used for casual social plans**.

Examples:

- J’ai **un plan** pour régler le problème.
- I have a **plan** to solve the problem.

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- Si on veut finir le projet, il faut suivre **un plan** précis.
- If we want to finish the project, we need to follow a precise **plan**.

Other meanings:

Map or blueprint:

- Voici le **plan** de la maison.
- Here's the floor **plan** of the house.

Diagram or layout:

- Le **plan** de métro est affiché à l'entrée.
- The subway **map** is displayed at the entrance.

Think of **un plan** as **a tool for action or navigation**, whether it's a strategy, a set of steps, or a literal map.

3. Comparison Chart

| Word | Primary use | Other uses | Examples |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Des projets | Activities, commitments, future undertakings | Ambitions, initiatives | J'ai des projets pour ce week-end. Elle a de grands projets pour sa carrière. |
| Un plan | Strategy or step-by-step method | Map, blueprint, diagram | J'ai un plan pour résoudre le problème. Voici le plan de la maison. |

4. Tips to remember

- **Des projets** - Things you are planning to do or ambitious undertakings (*plans, projects, initiatives*)

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- **Un plan** - Method, strategy, or a concrete layout (*plan of action, blueprint, map*)

Social plans, future initiatives = **projets**

Strategy, map, structured method = **plan**

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