

Synthèse de grammaire

1. Indicating Family Relationships: *Les adjectifs possessifs*

Possessive adjectives help us designate ownership and take the place of articles.

un frère = *a brother*

mon frère = *my brother*

la calculatrice = *the calculator*

ma calculatrice = *my calculator*

The form of the possessive is determined by the person or object “owned”.

She has her calculator in her backpack.

Elle a **sa** calculatrice dans **son** sac à dos.

He has his calculator in his backpack.

Il a **sa** calculatrice dans **son** sac à dos.

possessive	masc./fem./plural	possessive	singular/plural
my	mon, ma, mes	our	notre, nos
your	ton, ta, tes	your	votre, vos
his/her	son, sa, ses	their	leur, leurs

The French language goes to great lengths to maintain a fluid sound. If you wanted to talk about a friend who is a female, rules would dictate that you would come up with **ma amie**. However, the correct structure is **mon amie** because **ma amie** features consecutive vowels, which sounds much less fluid than **mon amie**.

Le verbe avoir

The verb **avoir** is one of the most frequently used verbs in French and means “to have.”

Le verbe **avoir**

j'ai	nous avons
tu as	vous avez
il/elle a	ils/elles ont

Tu as des frères et des sœurs?

Oui, j'ai une sœur.

Do you have brothers and sisters?

Yes, I have a sister.

2. Describing Family Members: *Les adjectifs*

Most French adjectives have four forms, for example:

Masculine singular	grand	Masculine plural	grands
Feminine singular	grande	Feminine plural	grandes

Adjectives that end in *-e* only have two endings (*-e*, *-es*); they do not distinguish between masculine and feminine, but show only plural agreement:

Ma sœur est **jeune**. Mon frère est **jeune** aussi. Mes grands-parents ne sont pas **jeunes**.

Some adjective groups display unique patterns.

masculine	feminine
canadien	canadienne
courageux	courageuse
créatif	créative
gentil	gentille
gros	grosse

3. Asking Informational Questions: *Les questions*

The French language offers more than just one way to structure questions.

Here are many of the essential interrogatives to form questions:

comment, quand, où, pourquoi, qu'est-ce que, à quelle heure, qui.

To ask someone with whom they like to chat, the options are:

- 1) Avec ***qui*** est-ce que tu aimes discuter?
- 2) Tu aimes discuter avec ***qui***?

The two formulas that you have seen are as follows:

- 1) interrogative + ***est-ce que*** + subject + verb
- 2) subject + verb + interrogative

Asking questions with ***combien***

Combien is a useful question word that can mean either “how much” or “how many.” It is used with the preposition ***de*** followed by a noun that can refer to either people or objects. It is often used with the expression ***il y a***.

Combien d'oncles est-ce que tu as?

Tu utilises **combien de cahiers**?

Combien de musique est-ce qu'il y a dans ta tablette?