

frenchtoday



Mastering French Adjectives
By Camille Chevalier

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01. What Is An Adjective

An adjective describes nouns or pronouns (a noun: a dog, a house, a man, TV... or a pronoun: he, she...).

There are different types of adjectives that are classified according to the way they describe a noun or a pronoun.

1. Descriptive adjective

It tells what kind of noun/pronoun it is (it is called un **adjectif qualificatif** in French)

Examples: Tall, blue, old, interesting, sad

2. Possessive adjective

It shows possession, it tells whose noun/pronoun it is.

Examples : his book, our dog

3. Demonstrative adjective

It points out to a noun/pronoun.

Examples : this book, these dogs.

4. Interrogative adjective

It asks a question about a noun/pronoun.

Examples : what book, which dogs?

Keep in mind that French and English are different languages, and therefore there are some times when a word will have a different value between French and English. For example, in French, the word "French" is originally a noun, but it can be used as an adjective. In English, the word "brunette" is only a noun. In French, it's originally an adjective, but can be used as a noun. So some words may behave or translate differently from a language to another.

This lesson is aimed at total beginners as well as more advanced students of French. I am going to be as thorough as possible, and at the same time try not to overwhelm true beginners. So depending on your level, you might need to approach the lesson a bit differently:

1. true beginners should go really slowly through the chapters, and give themselves time to absorb the new concepts. They might want to make their own flashcards, or smaller list of vocabulary to start with (and "cheat" and look for the correct word when they do the exercises). Building up reflexes in using the adjective is your first goal. Memorizing the most useful vocabulary your second goal.

- Higher levels should go through the chapters faster, concentrating on what is important to them, and make a point to memorize all the vocabulary.

Generalities About Adjectives

French adjectives have two very different behaviors than English ones:

- They usually come after the noun: un chat **noir**.
In English, most adjectives come before the noun: a **black** cat.
- They agree in gender (masculine/feminine) and number (singular/plural) with the noun / pronoun they modify : une fille blonde, des garçons blonds.
In English, adjectives don't change : a blond girl, blond boys.

This means that in French, each time you use an adjective, **you must first analyze the word that it modifies**:

- is it a masculine or feminine word?
- Is it a singular or plural word?
- And for some adjectives, does it start with a consonant, or a vowel or a silent h?

Then, you will have to **make the adjective match** (we also in grammar use the word “agree”) with the noun or pronoun it modifies.

Throughout this lesson, I'll point out pronunciation notes. It is important that you pay attention to the way things are written and the way they are pronounced: it can be quite different, French has a lot of silent letters (letters which are written but not pronounced), which are particularly important when it comes to adjectives.

In French, any noun referring to a life being or thing is either masculine or feminine (we don't have an “it” form). When you memorize nouns, make sure you memorize their gender as well. There will usually be an article: “une, la” are feminine, “un, le” are masculine, and if it's a “l'”, you'd usually have an indication (f) or (m). Never learn lists of nouns that have no indication of gender, you'd be missing half of the info.

The À Moi Paris French Method



À Moi Paris Method - Beginner

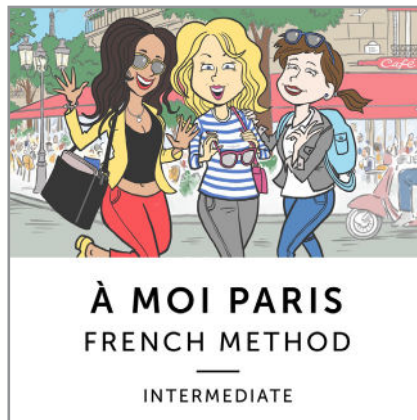
This audiobook explains the foundations of French like no others. Clear grammar explanations, modern pronunciation tips, and really useful vocabulary. All illustrated by a fun story recorded at three different levels of enunciation (slower, enunciated and modern). Q & A section will entice you to practice out loud what you've learned and improve your confidence when handling simple conversations. **Audio:** 21hrs 21 mins - **Transcript:** 408 Pages - [More Details](#)

Real-life Situations Covered Include:

- Talking about your family & country
- Describing your hobbies (sports, music, travels)
- Discussing the weather
- Ordering food
- Telling the time
- Buying groceries
- Being sick
- Shopping for clothes
- Commenting on an apartment
- Planning a vacation and packing
- Going to the movies
- And more

The Study Guide Includes:

- Verbs in ER + modern pronunciation
- Top 30 irregular verbs & pronunciation
- Reflexive verbs
- Formal and Informal greetings
- Politeness expressions
- Shopping & clothing vocabulary
- Traveling vocabulary
- Food vocabulary
- Housing & furniture vocabulary
- Family Vocabulary
- Sickness & medicine vocabulary
- And more



À Moi Paris Method - Intermediate

Master intermediate grammar and drastically expand your vocabulary. Keep practicing the present tense: the tense used the most in everyday conversation. Reinforce all these concepts in the context of an ongoing story recorded at 2 different levels of enunciation (enunciated & modern). Q & A section will entice you to practice out loud what you've learned and improve your confidence when handling intermediate conversations.

Audio: 18hrs 01 mins - **Transcript:** 380 Pages - [More Details](#)

Real-life Situations Covered Include:

- Describing and comparing people and things
- Making various kinds of phone calls
- Ordering and commenting on food
- Flirting in French
- Discussing a TV show
- Going to the hospital

- Common slang
- Grocery shopping & setting a menu
- Taking the plane
- Driving in France
- Talking with and about babies/kids
- + A lot of small talk

The Study Guide Includes:

- Direct & indirect object pronouns
- Asking questions: Est-ce que, inversion & street
- Common & complex interrogative expressions
- Expressing possession & possessive adjectives
- Demonstrative & Interrogative adjectives
- Adjectives of colors and nuances
- Tous, tout, toute or toutes & pronunciation
- Quel, quelques, lequel, duquel, auquel, quelques-uns...
- Possessive & demonstrative pronouns
- Comparative & superlative adverbs
- Y/En and their modern glided pronunciation
- Adverbs and their place in the sentence



À Moi Paris Method - Upper Intermediate

Understand how you build and use tenses of the past and future in French versus English. Unravel the secrets of Passé Composé versus Imparfait, the elusive “On” and more. Reinforce all these concepts in the context of an ongoing story recorded at 2 different levels of enunciation (enunciated & modern). Q & A section will entice you to practice out loud what you’ve learned and improve your confidence when handling upper intermediate conversations.

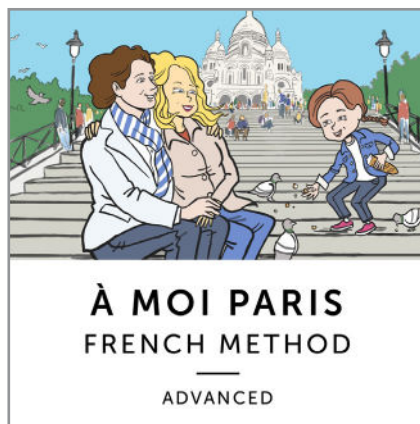
Audio: 19hrs 34 mins - **Transcript:** 447 Pages - [More Details](#)

Real-life Situations Covered Include:

- Discussing vacations and hobbies
- Going to the hairdresser and discussing looks
- Exploring feelings and relationships
- Addressing a problem in a restaurant
- Bargaining for prices
- Discussing diets, nutrition, and ecology
- Interacting with a young child
- Talking and making plans over the phone
- Going on a journey by train
- Relating pet stories
- Touring Giverny & discussing art

The Study Guide Includes:

- Recap overview of the present (le présent)
- Depuis ≠ pendant, en, dans, pour, il y a
- The near future construction (futur proche)
- The future (futur simple) and the future perfect (le futur antérieur)
- On versus nous
- The imperfect (l'imparfait) and the past tense "passé-composé"
- The participles (le participe présent et le participe passé)
- A direct and indirect object review
- How to choose between être or avoir for the passé-composé?
- The preterit / simple past (le passé simple) and the pluperfect (le plus-que-parfait)
- Expressing cause and consequences, opposition and restriction



À Moi Paris Method - Advanced

Learn the meaning, construction and uses of the French conditional, imperative and subjunctive moods. Compare them to English and learn how the French avoid them. Reinforce these concepts in the context of an ongoing story recorded at 2 different levels of enunciation (enunciated & modern). Q & A section will entice you to practice out loud what you've learned and improve your confidence when handling advanced conversations and narration.

Audio: 19hrs 9 mins - **Transcript:** 461 Pages - [More Details](#)

Real-life Situations Covered Include:

- Renting an apartment in Paris
- Discussing the news
- Debating and lightly arguing
- Accepting/refusing an invitation
- Describing and navigating a city
- Tasting and describing a wine
- Discussing cooking, nutrition & health
- Going over a child's routine
- Expressing surprise and emotions
- Relating events in the past
- Communicating with co-workers
- Going to a yoga class

The Study Guide Includes:

- Present subjunctive construction & uses
- Ways to avoid the Subjunctive
- Subjunctive ≠ Indicative
- The "ne" explétif – a "ne" without any negative value
- Conditional present construction
- "Je" form – Conditional pronunciation ≠ futur simple
- Conditional use in French ≠ English
- Past conditional – should have, would have, could have
- Hypothesis in French ("if" clauses)
- Imperative present construction & uses
- Imperative and pronouns
- The indirect speech

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) Equivalent

French Today's method is unique. The À Moi Paris method progresses differently than the traditional methods, so this is not a perfect match with the CEFR. Yet this will give you a rough idea.

To better understand your French level (especially your spoken French understanding), we have a [special audio-based test](#) on our site.

À Moi Paris Method -Beginner

- À Moi Paris L1 - Complete beginner to A1
- À Moi Paris L2 - Expansion of A1 towards A2

À Moi Paris Method - Intermediate

- À Moi Paris L3 - A2
- À Moi Paris L4 - Expansion of A2 towards B1

À Moi Paris Method - Upper Intermediate

- À Moi Paris L5 - B1
- À Moi Paris L6 - Expansion of B1 towards B2

À Moi Paris Method -Advanced

- À Moi Paris L7 - B2
- À Moi Paris L8 - Expansion of B2 towards C levels

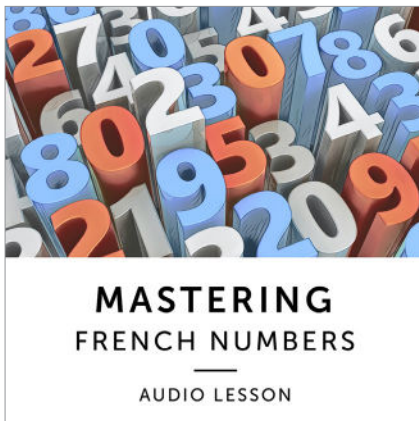
Additional Products



French Verb Drills Series (Vol. 1, 2 & 3)

Hundreds of drills on verb conjugation for the cornerstone verbs in the French language. 6 minutes a drill will build long lasting reflexes and will dramatically improve your French level and confidence.

[More Details...](#)



Mastering French Numbers

Finally master your French numbers! Learn all the methods and tricks of “building” each number then train with audio to learn the proper French number pronunciation including the dreaded glidings, study fun expressions with numbers, how to tell the time and prices in French.

[More Details...](#)



Secrets of French Pronunciation

This 3 hrs 41 min long French audio lesson and drills cover the foundations as well as the difficulties of French pronunciation (*can you say out loud 'Je cueille une vieille feuille sur une treille dans la ville de Lille?'*).

[More Details...](#)

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