

30 DAYS

TO MASTER
the GENDER of
French NOUNS

SAMPLE

Whenever I ask my students what they think is the most difficult part about learning French, I always hear these 3 typical answers:

- French pronunciation

- Tenses

- Word genders

Argh, the infamous French word genders! Why do we have those rules for words, anyway? Who plays heads or tails with each word and decides that a table (une table) is feminine and a book (un livre) is masculine? Sounds like a bunch of nonsense, right?

Well, I can actually feel your pain and that is why I came up with this book to tackle this issue in two major ways:

1/ Understand the logic behind the gender: because yes, there is a sort of logic/pattern behind the words)

2/ Try to create an automatic reflex when it comes to choosing the gender: our goal here is to develop a reflex when you say the word in French.

Develop “a melody for a word”

French people do not memorize the gender of words. They just see it , hear it everyday and whenever somebody says the wrong gender of a noun, people will automatically cringe and think “hey it does not seem right, it is not le table but la table”.

Imagine your favorite song---the one where you know the lyrics and melody by heart---but suddenly the singer hits a wrong note. You’ll definitely know something’s not right.

This is the same idea for gender.

You have to learn the “melody of a word” by associating the word with the gender automatically. I want you to develop the same logic by creating a daily routine for 30 days. Spend 15 minutes per day by associating a word with the right gender. I am not asking you to memorize the word itself.

Why this e-book has 600 words

I took the 600 most frequently used nouns in French. These 600 words apparently account for 90% of common texts. If you know all of them, you can claim “yes, I speak 90% French” (sounds good, no?) I break those words down into a 30 day drill session in order to make it as easy as possible for you.

Learning the gender of 20 words per day without memorizing them: that's not something terribly difficult to do, isn't it? Of course you can even speed up the process by focusing on the words that you really care about. If you don't want to talk about politics with your friends, then no need to learn the word "president", you can skip to the rest. It's up to you.

But before moving on, let me show you that there is in fact a pattern to it all. It will be useful for you whenever you want to use a word yet you're unsure of its gender.

Pattern

Masculine words:

Part 1 Typically masculine nouns

Nouns ending in b, c, cle, d, k, l, m, oir, p are in general masculine, but they tend to be a bit rare.

1/ New words, mostly from English or new technologies, ending in "ing" and "isme

- un parking
- un mécanisme

2/ - ège:

- le manège (merry go round)
- un arpège (arpagio)

Exception: La Norvège (Norway)

3/ - é

Example :

- le café (coffee or café)
- le canapé (the sofa)
- le carré (the square)
- le défilé (the procession)
- le supermarché (the supermarket).

Exceptions: la clé (key), la psyché

- End of the sample for the «pattern» part.

And now...

The drill

How it works?

The idea is to create an automatism. So do not hesitate to listen again and again.

1/ Print the vocabulary of the day sheet or write down the word (this can help to memorize the word).

2/ Listen to the track Gender Drill Day X at normal speed. Listen to it 1 or 2 times

3/ Listen to the track Gender Drill Day X at slow speed. Between each gap, repeat out loud the word. Do it 1 or 2 times.

4/ Listen to the track Gender Drill Day X at random and repeat it out loud. Do it 1 or 2 times

5/ Test yourself. Listen to the track Gender Drill Day X quiz. Listen to the word and try to say it before the answer.

For example:

The track: Mari

You: Un mari

The track: Un mari (the answer)

Use the vocabulary sheet of the day and check if you do it correctly. If not straight away, do not hesitate to do it again.

Let's get started!

Day 1:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Un homme	man
<input type="checkbox"/>	Un mari	husband
<input type="checkbox"/>	Une femme	woman
<input type="checkbox"/>	Un Jour	day
<input type="checkbox"/>	Une mer	sea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Un temps	time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Une main	hand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Une chose	thing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Une vie	life
<input type="checkbox"/>	Un oeil des yeux	One eye - eyes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Une heure	time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Un monde	world
<input type="checkbox"/>	Un enfant	child
<input type="checkbox"/>	Une fois	time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Un moment	time/ moment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Une tête	head
<input type="checkbox"/>	Un père	father
<input type="checkbox"/>	Une fille	girl
<input type="checkbox"/>	Un coeur	heart
<input type="checkbox"/>	Un an	year

End of this sample. You can buy this product [here](#).

<http://store.talkinfrench.com/product/french-gender-drill/>