

elle
laquelle
je

The A-Z of French Pronouns

What is a French pronoun?

Pronouns help us refer to or call things without actually having to say their name. These nifty words replace nouns so that we don't have to continue using the noun's name over and over. You can use pronouns to refer to both people and things, and they are an integral part of everyday speech.

This booklet is a handy and comprehensive guide on all the French pronouns. Use this booklet as a quick reference or to practice on the go and you'll be a master of French pronouns in no time!

French subject pronouns

English	French masculine	French feminine	French example	English translation
I	<i>Je</i>	<i>Je</i>	<i>Je</i> veux manger.	I want to eat.
You	<i>Tu</i>	<i>Tu</i>	<i>Tu</i> aimes bien aller à la plage.	You like going to the beach.
He / she	<i>Il</i>	<i>Elle</i>	<i>Elle</i> est rentrée hier soir.	She came back last night.
We	<i>Nous</i>	<i>Nous</i>	<i>Nous</i> sommes américains.	We are Americans.
You (plural + plural formal)	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous</i> avez de la chance !	You are lucky!
They	<i>Ils</i>	<i>Elles</i>	<i>Ils</i> parlent l'allemand.	They speak German.
You (singular formal)	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous</i>	Voulez-vous prendre un café ?	Do you want to grab a coffee?

The French pronoun 'on'

Although French has many fascinating pronouns, there's one that needs special attention: *on*. This is without a doubt one of the most unique pronouns in French, and it's one of the most widely used, too!

On technically translates to "one", such as "one would think that learning French was difficult, but it's really not!" However, in modern French, *on* actually means "we" in colloquial use. Anytime you speak French out loud and want to say "we", you should be using *on* instead of *nous*.

French	English translation
<i>On est en retard !</i>	We are late!
<i>On y va !</i>	We are on our way!
<i>On veut manger de la pizza.</i>	We want to eat pizza.

French stress (prepositional) pronouns

English	Spanish masculine	Spanish feminine	Spanish example	English translation
Me	<i>Moi</i>	<i>Moi</i>	<i>Moi, je n'aime pas voyager.</i>	Myself, I don't like traveling.
You	<i>Toi</i>	<i>Toi</i>	<i>Je pense à toi.</i>	I'm thinking of you.
He / her	<i>Lui</i>	<i>Elle</i>	<i>Elle, je l'aime !</i>	Her, I love her!
Us	<i>Nous</i>	<i>Nous</i>	<i>Nous, nous sommes déjà rentrés.</i>	As for us, we've already come back.
You (plural)	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous, vous avez dit non !</i>	You had said no yourselves!
Them	<i>Eux</i>	<i>Elles</i>	<i>Mais eux, ils veulent manger de la pizza.</i>	But them, they want to eat pizza.
You (formal)	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous</i>	<i>C'est vous, Madame Dubois ?</i>	Is that you, Miss Dubois?

French stress (prepositional) pronouns cont.

English	Spanish masculine	Spanish feminine	Spanish example	English translation
Oneself	<i>Soi</i>	<i>Soi</i>	<i>On va rester chez soi.</i>	We are going to stay (in our own) home.

Quick note on the last one since there is no real English equivalent. *Soi* is a pronoun that roughly translates to oneself/themself/yourself. It is used when referring to something each person can do on their own. For example:

French	English translation
<i>Demain, on va tous rester chez soi.</i>	Tomorrow, we will all stay home.
<i>C'est important d'être soi-même.</i>	It's important to be yourself.
<i>On doit regarder devant soi.</i>	One needs to look ahead of oneself.

French direct object pronouns

English	French masculine	French feminine	French example	English translation
Me	<i>Me</i>	<i>Me</i>	<i>Tu m'aimes vraiment.</i>	You really love me.
You	<i>Te</i>	<i>Te</i>	<i>Je te donne de l'attention.</i>	I give you attention.
Him / her / it	<i>Le</i>	<i>La</i>	<i>Jimmy va la manger.</i>	Jimmy will eat it.
Us	<i>Nous</i>	<i>Nous</i>	<i>Il va nous faire bâiller !</i>	He'll make us yawn!
You (plural + plural formal)	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Je vais vous appeler mes amis.</i>	I will call you my friends.
They	<i>Les</i>	<i>Les</i>	<i>On va les attendre un peu.</i>	We will wait for them a little bit.
You (singular formal)	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Je vous suis.</i>	I follow you.



French indirect object pronouns

English	French masculine	French feminine	French example	English translation
Me	<i>Me</i>	<i>Me</i>	<i>Il m'a donné un café.</i>	He gave me a coffee.
You	<i>Te</i>	<i>Te</i>	<i>Je veux te téléphoner.</i>	I want to call you.
Him / her	<i>Lui</i>	<i>Lui</i>	<i>Roméo lui donne une boîte de chocolat.</i>	Romeo gives her a box of chocolates.
Us	<i>Nous</i>	<i>Nous</i>	<i>Elle ne nous voit plus.</i>	She doesn't see us anymore.
You (plural + plural formal)	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Je veux vous acheter un café.</i>	I would like to buy you all a coffee.
Them	<i>Leur</i>	<i>Leur</i>	<i>Je leur téléphone tous les jours.</i>	I call them every day.
You (singular formal)	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Attendez, s'il vous plaît, je vous donne mon numéro de téléphone.</i>	Wait, please, I will give you my phone number.

French reflexive pronouns

English	French masculine	French feminine	French example	English translation
I	<i>Me</i>	<i>Me</i>	<i>Je me souviens...</i>	I remember...
You	<i>Te</i>	<i>Te</i>	<i>Tu t'es déjà vu dans le miroir ?</i>	Have you seen yourself in the mirror yet?
He / she	<i>Se</i>	<i>Se</i>	<i>La musique ne s'arrête pas !</i>	The music doesn't stop!
We	<i>Nous</i>	<i>Nous</i>	<i>Demain, nous devons nous réveiller très tôt.</i>	Tomorrow, we have to wake up very early.
You (plural + plural formal)	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Je serai là pour vous, où que vous vous trouviez.</i>	I will be there for you, wherever you find yourselves.
They	<i>Se</i>	<i>Se</i>	<i>Les enfants peuvent s'habiller eux mêmes !</i>	The kids can get dressed by themselves!
You (singular formal)	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Vous</i>	<i>Attention de ne pas vous blesser !</i>	Careful, don't hurt yourself!

French relative pronouns

English	French masculine	French feminine	French example	English translation
That	<i>Que</i>	<i>Que</i>	<i>Tu sais que je t'aime.</i>	You know that I love you.
Who	<i>Qui</i>	<i>Qui</i>	<i>C'est toi qui me manques.</i>	It's you I miss.
Which	<i>Lequel</i>	<i>Laquelle</i>	<i>Le resto dans lequel j'ai mangé.</i>	The restaurant in which I ate.
Which	<i>Lesquels</i>	<i>Lesquelles</i>	<i>Les cahiers dans lesquels j'avais fait mes devoirs sont perdus !</i>	The notebooks in which I had done my homework are missing!
Where, when	<i>Où</i>	<i>Où</i>	<i>La ville où je suis née est très petite.</i>	The city where I was born is very small.

The French pronoun 'dont'

'Dont' is easily one of the hardest parts of the French language for foreign speakers to fully grasp. This pronoun doesn't really have an English counterpart beyond "that," which—as we know—is also the direct translation of many other French words.

So, how do you use this chameleon of a pronoun? For the most part, it's used to replace the object of a de verb that also indicates possession.

French without dont	French with dont	English meaning
<i>Elle est ma collègue. Je t'ai parlé d'elle.</i>	<i>C'est ma collègue dont je t'ai parlé.</i>	This is my colleague that I told you about.
<i>Tu as besoin d'un livre pour faire tes devoirs. As-tu ce livre ?</i>	<i>As-tu le livre dont t'as besoin pour faire tes devoirs ?</i>	Do you have the book you need to do your homework?
<i>J'ai rencontré un américain. La femme de cet américain est française.</i>	<i>J'ai rencontré un américain dont la femme est française.</i>	I met an American whose wife is French.

French indefinite pronouns

English	French masculine	French feminine	French example	English translation
Another	<i>Autre</i>	<i>Autre</i>	<i>Je ne veux pas manger cette pomme, je voudrais une autre.</i>	I don't want to eat this apple, I would like another one.
Certain one, some, a few	<i>Certain</i>	<i>Certaine</i>	<i>On a mangé certains de ses repas.</i>	We ate some of their meals.
Each one	<i>Chacun</i>	<i>Chacune</i>	<i>Chacun de vous doit faire ses devoirs.</i>	Each one of you has to do the homework.
Several	<i>Plusieurs</i>	<i>Plusieurs</i>	<i>Plusieurs de mes amis m'ont dit que je ressemble à Brad Pitt.</i>	Several of my friends have told me that I look like Brad Pitt.
Something	<i>Quelque chose</i>	<i>Quelque chose</i>	<i>Veux-tu manger quelque chose ?</i>	Do you want to eat something?
Someone	<i>Quelqu'un</i>	<i>Quelqu'un</i>	<i>Je reviens tout de suite, quelqu'un me demande.</i>	I'll be right back, someone is looking for me.

French indefinite pronouns (cont.)

English	French masculine	French feminine	French example	English translation
Some	<i>Quelques-uns</i>	<i>Quelques-unes</i>	<i>J'ai invité tous mes amis, mais quelques-uns ne peuvent pas venir.</i>	I invited all of my friends, but some won't be able to come.
Oneself	<i>Soi</i>	<i>Soi</i>	<i>Il faut faire ses devoirs soi-même !</i>	You have to do the homework by yourself!
One	<i>Tel</i>	<i>Telle</i>	<i>Il aime manger du fromage à tel point qu'il en mange tous les jours !</i>	He likes to eat cheese so much that he eats it every day!
Everything	<i>Tout</i>	<i>Toute</i>	<i>Tout est parfait !</i>	Everything is perfect!
Everyone	<i>Tous</i>	<i>Toutes</i>	<i>Tous sont invités à ma fête d'anniversaire !</i>	Everyone is invited to my birthday party!
One, a	<i>Un</i>	<i>Une</i>	<i>Oui, j'en veux une !</i>	Yes, I want one!

French possessive pronouns

English	French masculine	French feminine	French example	English translation
Mine (singular)	<i>Le mien</i>	<i>La mienne</i>	<i>Si ton stylo ne marche pas, tu peux prendre le mien.</i>	If your pen doesn't work, you can use mine.
Mine (plural)	<i>Les miens</i>	<i>Les miennes</i>	<i>J'aime bien tes chaussures, mais je préfère les miennes.</i>	I like your shoes, but I prefer mine.
Yours (singular)	<i>Le tien</i>	<i>La tienne</i>	<i>Ma voiture est chez le garagiste, alors je vais prendre la tienne.</i>	My car is at the mechanic, so I'm going to take yours.
Yours (plural)	<i>Les tiens</i>	<i>Les tiennes</i>	<i>Ne joue pas avec mes jeux, tu as les tiens !</i>	Don't play with my toys, you have yours!
His/hers/theirs/its (singular)	<i>Le sien</i>	<i>La sienne</i>	<i>Elle n'a pas pris ta pomme, elle a la sienne !</i>	She didn't take your apple, she has hers!
His/hers/theirs/its (plural)	<i>Les siens</i>	<i>Les siennes</i>	<i>J'ai mes sports préférés et il a les siens.</i>	I have my favorite sports and he has his.
Ours (singular)	<i>Le nôtre</i>	<i>La nôtre</i>	<i>Votre appartement est plus grand que le nôtre.</i>	Your apartment is bigger than ours.

French possessive pronouns (cont.)

English	French masculine	French feminine	French example	English translation
Ours (plural)	<i>Les nôtres</i>	<i>Les nôtres</i>	<i>Voulez-vous acheter vos serviettes, ou voulez-vous prendre les nôtres ?</i>	Would you like to buy your own towels, or would you like to use ours?
Yours (singular)	<i>Le vôtre</i>	<i>La vôtre</i>	<i>Ma maison est plus petite que la vôtre.</i>	My house is smaller than yours.
Yours (plural)	<i>Les vôtres</i>	<i>Les vôtres</i>	<i>J'ai mon opinion et vous avez les vôtres.</i>	I have my opinion and you all have yours.
Theirs (singular)	<i>Le leur</i>	<i>La leur</i>	<i>Ils ne doivent pas entrer dans une salle de cours qui n'est pas la leur.</i>	They shouldn't go into a classroom that isn't theirs.
Theirs (plural)	<i>Les leurs</i>	<i>Les leurs</i>	<i>Ces lunettes de soleil sont-elles les leurs ?</i>	Are these sunglasses mine or theirs?
Yours (formal, singular)	<i>Le vôtre</i>	<i>La vôtre</i>	<i>Excusez-moi Madame, quel manteau est le vôtre ?</i>	Excuse me Miss, which coat is yours?
Yours (formal, plural)	<i>Les vôtres</i>	<i>Les vôtres</i>	<i>J'ai déjà pris mes clés, avez-vous pris les vôtres ?</i>	I already grabbed my keys, have you grabbed yours?

French interrogative pronouns

How to use the pronoun 'qui' in French

Qui in French corresponds to “who” in English. The problem is that it also corresponds to “whom.”

When using the interrogative pronoun qui to ask about the object of the question, you need to:

- Follow qui with est-ce or,
- Use qui and follow it with an inversion of the verb and subject pronoun.

English	French 'est-ce'	French inversion
Who do you love?	<i>Qui est-ce que tu aimes ?</i>	<i>Qui aimes-tu ?</i>
Who do you know?	<i>Qui est-ce que tu connais ?</i>	<i>Qui connais-tu ?</i>
Who are you looking at?	<i>Qui est-ce que tu regardes ?</i>	<i>Qui regardes-tu ?</i>



French interrogative pronouns (cont.)

How to use the pronoun 'que' in French

Que translates to “that” in English, and can also refer to either the subject or the object of the question.

Here’s how to use the interrogative pronoun que like a native:

- Follow it by est-ce que, or
- Follow it with an inversion of the verb and subject pronoun.

English	French 'est-ce'	French inversion
What is he saying?	<i>Qu'est-ce qu'il dit ?</i>	<i>Que dit-il ?</i>
What do you think of this course?	<i>Qu'est-ce que tu penses de ce cours ?</i>	<i>Que penses-tu de ce cours ?</i>
What do you want to study?	<i>Qu'est-ce que vous voulez étudier ?</i>	<i>Que voulez-vous étudier ?</i>
Who broke the cup?	<i>Qui est-ce qui a cassé la tasse ?</i>	<i>Qui a cassé la tasse ?</i>



French interrogative pronouns (cont.)

How to use the pronoun 'lequel' in French

Lequel translates to “which,” such as “Which car is yours?” Now, let’s circle back to the purpose of pronouns: to replace other words. The words that lequel replaces are “quel/quelle + a noun.”

So, instead of saying “Which car is yours?” you can also say “What car is yours?” if you don't want to use interrogative pronouns. Let’s translate this to French now:

French without 'lequel'	French with 'lequel'
<i>Quelle voiture est la tienne ?</i>	<i>Laquelle est la tienne?</i>

English	French masculine	French feminine	French example	English translation
Which	<i>Lequel</i>	<i>Laquelle</i>	<i>Le sac dans lequel j'ai mis mes clés est perdu.</i>	The bag in which I put my keys is missing.
Which	<i>Lesquels</i>	<i>Lesquelles</i>	<i>Les célébrités pour lesquelles j'avais tant d'admiration ne sont que gens ordinaires.</i>	The celebrities for whom I had so much admiration are just regular people.

French demonstrative pronouns

English	French masculine	French feminine	French example	English translation
This one	<i>Celui</i>	<i>Celle</i>	<i>Ce champignon n'a pas l'air comestible, mais celui-là si.</i>	This mushroom doesn't look edible, but this other one does.
These ones, which (of these)	<i>Ceux</i>	<i>Celles</i>	<i>Parmi tous les pays du monde, quels sont ceux que tu as visités ?</i>	Of all the countries in the world, which are the ones you've visited?
This	<i>Ce</i>	<i>Ce</i>	<i>Ce n'est pas un problème !</i>	This is not a problem!
This	<i>Ceci</i>	<i>Ceci</i>	<i>Ceci n'est pas une blague !</i>	This is not a joke!
That	<i>Cela</i>	<i>Cela</i>	<i>Cela c'est terminé.</i>	That is over.
It, that	<i>Ça</i>	<i>Ça</i>	<i>Ça marche ?</i>	That works?

The French pronoun 'en'

'En' is usually not easy to grasp for non-native speakers because it doesn't really translate into any other language. This is a quintessential pronoun that will force you to think like a French person in order to understand it.

Here are the two most common ways to use the pronoun 'en':

To replace a thing

'En' usually replaces the previously-mentioned object of a verb that is used with the preposition 'de'.

English verb	French verb	French example without en	French example with en	English meaning
To be scared of	<i>Avoir peur de</i>	<i>J'ai peur des araignées.</i>	<i>J'en ai peur.</i>	I am scared of spiders.
To come back from	<i>Revenir de</i>	<i>Je reviens de France.</i>	<i>J'en reviens.</i>	I'm coming back from France.
To need something	<i>Avoir besoin de</i>	<i>J'ai besoin de ton aide.</i>	<i>J'en ai besoin.</i>	I need your help.
To dream of	<i>Rêver de</i>	<i>Je rêve de la remise des diplômes !</i>	<i>J'en rêve !</i>	I dream of graduation day!

The French pronoun 'en' (cont.)

To talk about quantities

The same principles from the situation on the last page still stand: the pronoun 'en' serves to replace a "de + noun" combo. This construction naturally happens when you talk about quantities, especially when you mention numbers or anything that can be quantifiable.

French example without en	French example with en	English meaning
<i>J'ai dix paires de chaussures.</i>	<i>J'en ai dix.</i>	I have ten pairs of shoes.
<i>Je mange de la glace.</i>	<i>J'en mange.</i>	I eat ice cream.
<i>Elle veut un peu de sel.</i>	<i>Elle en veut un peu.</i>	She wants a bit of salt.
<i>Mon père a huit frères.</i>	<i>Mon père en a huit.</i>	My father has eight brothers.

The French pronoun 'y'

If the pronoun en had siblings, the pronoun y would definitely be one of them. However, if the pronoun en loves the preposition de, then the pronoun y loves the preposition à.

To replace a place

French example without y	French example with y	English meaning
<i>Je suis allée en France.</i>	<i>J'y suis allée.</i>	I went to France.
<i>Il est chez Marie. Il va chez Marie tous les jours.</i>	<i>Il est chez Marie. Il y va tous les jours.</i>	He is at Marire's place. He goes there every day.
<i>J'aime bien l'école, je vais à l'école avec plaisir.</i>	<i>J'aime bien l'école, j'y vais avec plaisir.</i>	I like school, I go there happily.

The French pronoun 'y' (cont.)

To replace a thing

English verb	French verb	French example without en	French example with en	English meaning
To think of	<i>Penser à</i>	<i>Je pense souvent à mon futur.</i>	<i>J'y pense souvent</i>	I often think about my future.
To reply to	<i>Répondre à</i>	<i>Je réponds à son message.</i>	<i>J'y réponds.</i>	I reply to his message.
To be interested in	<i>S'intéresser à</i>	<i>Elle s'intéresse aux jeux vidéo.</i>	<i>Elle s'y intéresse.</i>	She is interested in video games.

