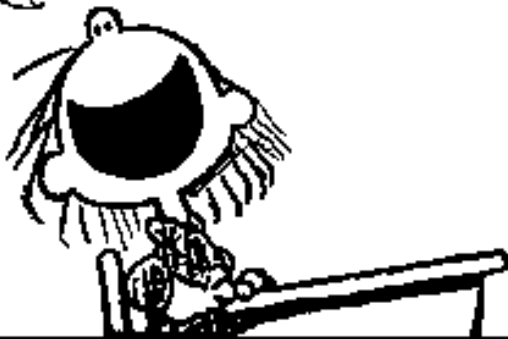


Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm
Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

section IV

Bêtes Noires

*I've seen better
prose on public
walls! ha ha ha!*



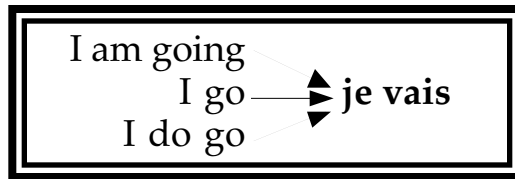
Bêtes Noires

A *bête noire* literally means a “black beast”; but figuratively, it means a “pet peeve”. The following is a list of French teachers’ *bêtes noires*—the most common errors they find on student compositions. If you can systematically eliminate these errors, your writing will greatly increase in accuracy.

1. Use of Present and Imperfect tenses

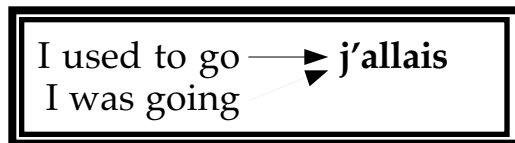
Both of these tenses are written in French with a **one word form**, contrary to English, where the forms may include the words, “am”, “are”, “do”, “was”, “were” etc.

Present tense



NEVER use: ~~je suis aller~~, or ~~je suis vais~~, or ~~je suis allant~~
Use: *je vais*

Imperfect tense



NEVER use: ~~j'étais aller~~ or ~~j'étais allant~~
Use: *j'allais*

Examples:

Does he understand?.....*Est-ce qu'il comprend?*
We were reading.....*Nous lisions.*
Are they coming?.....*Est-ce qu'ils viennent?*
The baby was crying.....*Le bébé pleurait.*
I used to skate.....*Je patinais.*



2. Expressing the notion of “in”: *dans, en, à*

The problem is that *en, dans* and *à* all can have the meaning of “in”. There is no easy way to learn which is correct. The following are a few guidelines, but use a dictionary if you’re not sure. Look up the verb or noun in your expression, and see how they have expressed “in”.

dans, en, à

dans	The most physical, it tells placement of objects in space. It means, <u>in</u> , <u>within</u> , or <u>inside</u>	Look in my purse. inside the classroom within the city limits of Paris in the box	<i>Regarde dans mon sac. dans la salle de classe dans Paris dans la boîte</i>
en	Used in certain geographical expressions and certain idiomatic expressions, it can mean <u>in</u> , <u>at</u> , or <u>by</u> .	in France at the same time in town at war by car in a circle in Italian in a group	<i>en France en même temps en ville en guerre en voiture en cercle en italien en groupe</i>
à	Generally used for locations, it means <u>at</u> or <u>in</u> .	at school at the office at the movies in St. Louis	<i>à l'école au bureau au cinéma à St. Louis</i>

3. Geographical expressions: “in”, “to”, or “from”

en, à, au, aux

à	Used with all cities, it means <u>to</u> , or <u>in</u> .	<i>à Paris, à New York, etc.</i>
en	Used with feminine countries and all countries starting with a vowel to mean <u>to</u> , or <u>in</u> .	<i>en France, en Angleterre, en Belgique, en Israël</i>
au	Used with all masculine countries not starting with a vowel to mean <u>to</u> , or <u>in</u> . Masculine countries usually end in a consonant. Exceptions: <i>le Mexique, le Canada</i>	<i>au Portugal, au Mexique, au Luxembourg, au Canada, au Liban, etc.</i>
aux	Used with all plural countries to mean <u>to</u> , or <u>in</u> .	<i>aux Pays-Bas, aux Etats-Unis</i>

de, du, des

de, d'	Used with all cities, feminine countries and those starting with a vowel to mean <u>from</u> .	<i>de Paris, de France, d'Angleterre, d'Israël</i>
du	Used with all masculine countries not starting with a vowel to mean <u>from</u> .	<i>du Portugal, du Mexique du Canada, du Liban</i>
des	Used with all plural countries to mean <u>from</u> .	<i>des Pays-Bas, des Etats-Unis</i>

4. Expressing Time and Season

seasons	in the spring in the summer in the fall in the winter	<i>au printemps</i> <i>en été</i> <i>en automne</i> <i>en hiver</i>
time	in the morning in the evening on Thursdays on weekends this morning on Thursday	<i>le matin</i> <i>le soir</i> <i>le jeudi</i> <i>le week-end</i> <i>ce matin</i> <i>jeudi</i>

NEVER use: *sur jeudi, -sur le week-end, dans le soir, etc.*

Use: *le jeudi, le week-end, le soir, etc.*

5. Adjectives

Placement: most adjectives **follow** the noun. However several of the most common **precede** the noun. Consider the acronym **BAGS** to remember them.

Adjectives that Precede the Noun

Beauty	Age	Goodness	Size
beau joli	jeune nouveau vieux	bon mauvais	grand petit long

Other adjectives that precede the noun: *autre, chaque*

Agreement: Adjectives must agree with the noun or pronoun they modify.
Regular adjectives have four forms.

Regular Adjective Endings

	masculine	feminine
singular	—	—e
plural	—s	—es

Adjectives ending in:	masculine singular	masculine plural	feminine singular	feminine plural
regular adj.	vert	verts	verte	vertes
—e	simple	simples	simple	simples
—é	âgé	âgés	âgée	âgées
—el,eil,en,et, on	naturel, bon	naturels, bons	naturelle, bonne	naturelles, bonnes
—eux	heureux	heureux	heureuse	heureuses
—f	actif	actifs	active	actives
—eur	trompeur	trompeurs	trompeuse	trompeuses
—er	étranger	étrangers	étrangère	étrangères



NOTE:

1. *Meilleur* forms its feminine regularly.
2. *Beau, nouveau, mou, fou, and vieux* change to *belle, nouvelle, molle, folle, vieille*. The forms *bel, nouvel, mol, fol, and vieil* are used before a masculine singular noun beginning with a vowel.
3. The following adjectives have irregular feminine forms:
blanc, blanche; franc, franche; frais, fraîche; sec, sèche; bas, basse, gras, grasse; las, lasse; gros, grosse; épais, épaisse; faux, fausse; doux, douce; jaloux, jalouse; roux, rousse; gentil, gentille; nul, nulle; complet, complète; concret, concrète; discret, discrète; inquiet, inquiète; secret, secrète; public, publique; turc, turque; grec, grecque; aigu, aiguë, ambigu, ambiguë; favori, favorite; long, longue; mineur, mineure; sot, sott; malin, maligne

6. Words of Quantity

These words are followed by *de* (do not use *des*) even when followed by a plural noun. Notice you use no other article.

Examples:

a lot of work	<i>beaucoup de travail</i>
a dozen eggs	<i>une douzaine d'oeufs</i>
very little patience	<i>très peu de patience</i>
a class of students	<i>une classe d'élèves</i>
a cup of coffee	<i>une tasse de café</i>
a pile of homework	<i>un tas de devoirs</i>
a group of kids	<i>un groupe de jeunes</i>
a pot of flowers	<i>un pot de fleurs</i>

NEVER use: ~~*une douzaine des oeufs, beaucoup du temps, assez de la soupe*~~

Use: *une douzaine d'oeufs, beaucoup de temps, assez de soupe*



7. The adjective/pronoun: Tout

as an adjective

tout	all the time	<i>tout le temps</i>
toute	the whole family	<i>toute la famille</i>
tous	all my friends	<i>tous mes amis</i>
toutes	all the girls	<i>toutes les petites filles</i>

as a pronoun

tout	We saw everything.	<i>Nous avons tout vu.</i>
tous	All of us will leave.	<i>Nous partirons tous.</i>
toutes	I know them all.	<i>Je les connais toutes.</i>

NEVER use: *Toutes les choses*

Always use: *Tout* to mean "everything"

Tout as a singular pronoun meaning "everything" is invariable. When *tous* is a pronoun, pronounce the "s" but don't pronounce it when *tous* is an adjective.

8. Possessive Adjectives

mon	ma	mes	my	notre	nos	our
ton	ta	tes	your (fam.)	votre	vos	your (form.)
son	sa	ses	his, her	leur	leurs	their

NOTE: A feminine noun beginning with a vowel uses the masculine form of the singular possessive.

Examples: *mon autorité, ton éducation, son amie, mon oreille*

In French, the possessive must agree with the noun it modifies, not with the gender of the possessor. Therefore *sa voiture* can mean "his car" or "her car." If it is necessary to specify whether it is his or her car, do the following:

sa voiture à lui = his car

sa voiture à elle = her car

Examples:

his/her reason	<i>sa raison</i>
their father	<i>leur père</i>
our cars	<i>nos voitures</i>
your computer	<i>ton/votre ordinateur</i>
my teacher	<i>mon professeur</i>
my books	<i>mes livres</i>

9. Placement of object pronouns (See also pp. 39 - 40.)

Both indirect and direct object pronouns are placed in front of the verb or infinitive,

Examples:

Didn't you talk to him?	<i>Tu ne lui as pas parlé?</i>
I saw them.	<i>Je les ai vus.</i>
They helped me.	<i>Ils m'ont aidé.</i>
I can't do it.	<i>Je ne peux pas le faire.</i>
Mom is getting it.	<i>Maman le prend.</i>
Don't buy them.	<i>Ne les achète pas.</i>

NEVER use: ~~*Il a donné à moi.*~~
~~*J'ai parlé à lui.*~~

Use: *Il m'a donné.*
Je lui ai parlé

Except in positive commands, when placement is after the verb with a hyphen.

Talk to me!	<i>Parlez-moi!</i>
Look at them.	<i>Regarde-les.</i>
Wake up!	<i>Réveillez-vous!</i>
Be quiet.	<i>Tais-toi.</i>



10. Irregular 3rd-person plurals of verbs

VERB	3rd-person plural	NEVER write
aller	ils vont	<i>ils allent</i>
faire	ils font	<i>ils faisent</i>
prendre	elles prennent	<i>elles prendent</i>
vouloir	ils veulent	<i>ils voulent</i>
pouvoir	elles peuvent	<i>elles pouvent</i>

11. “Because” and “because of”

because	parce que	+ subject and verb
because of (thanks to)	grâce à (positif)	+ noun or pronoun
because of	à cause de (négatif, neutre)	+ noun or pronoun

Examples:

because we asked	<i>parce que nous avons demandé</i>
because Dad is leaving	<i>parce que Papa part</i>
because it's not working	<i>parce que ça ne marche pas</i>
because of the security alarm	<i>grâce à l'alarme de sécurité</i>
because of you	<i>à cause de vous</i>
because of the rain	<i>à cause de la pluie</i>

NEVER use: *parce que la neige, parce que toi*

12. The Contractions: au, aux, du, and des

masc. sing.	au	<i>au garage</i>	to the garage
fem. sing.	à la	<i>à la chambre</i>	to the bedroom
m.f.sing./vowel	à l'	<i>à l'hôtel</i>	at the hotel
m.f. plural	aux	<i>aux enfants</i>	to the children

NEVER use: *à le garçon, à les écoles*

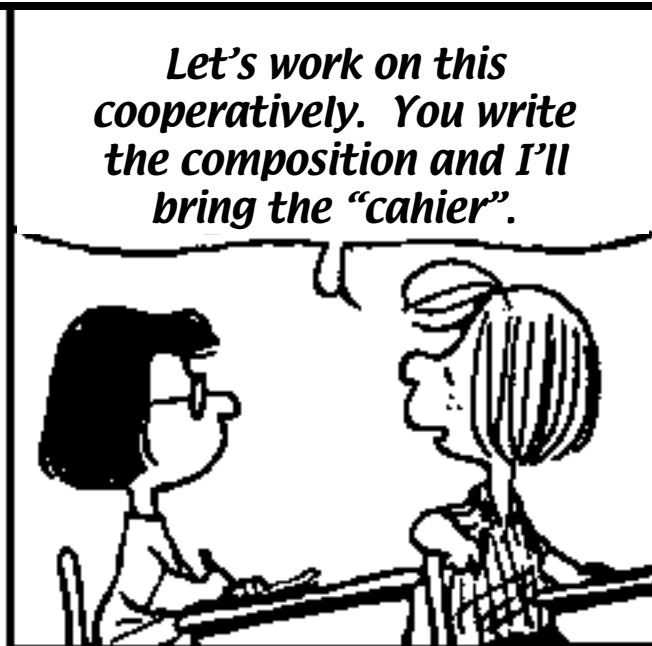
masc. sing.	du	<i>du couloir</i>	of, from the hall
fem. sing.	de la	<i>de la poste</i>	of, from the post off.
m.f.sing./vowel	de l'	<i>de l'homme</i>	of, from the man
m.f. plural	des	<i>des gens</i>	of, from the people

NEVER use: *de le temps, de les maisons*

13. Connaître vs. savoir

Both verbs translate as "to know"

connaître	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to know someone or something to be acquainted or familiar with a person, place or thing 	<p>Do you know my brother? I don't know New York well. Are you familiar with this video? I know that song.</p>	<p><i>Vous connaissez mon frère? Je ne connais pas bien NY. Tu connais cette vidéo? Je connais cette chanson.</i></p>
savoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to know a fact about a person, place or thing to know how to do something to know that... 	<p>I didn't know you were sick. We don't know how to study this. Do you know the forecast?</p>	<p><i>Je ne savais pas que tu étais malade. Nous ne savons pas étudier ceci. Tu sais la météo?</i></p>



14. Conjunctions:

après que, avant que, pendant que, pour que

These are conjunctions used to introduce a clause (having a subject and a verb). they are commonly used in making compound sentences.

Conjunctions followed by the indicative

après que	after	After they ate, we talked.	<i>Après qu'ils ont mangé, nous avons parlé.</i>
pendant que	while	While you were sleeping, we went out.	<i>Pendant que tu dormais, nous sommes sortis.</i>

Conjunctions followed by the subjunctive

avant que	before	Before you get mad, I'll explain.	<i>Avant que tu te fâches, je t'expliquerai.</i>
pour que	so that, in order that	Here's an example, so that you understand.	<i>Voici un exemple, pour que tu comprennes.</i>

15. Partir, sortir, quitter, laisser

All of these verbs have fairly similar meanings, but they are not interchangeable and are not used in the same way in the sentence.

sortir (être)	to go out	Means the opposite of to go in. Cannot take a direct object. If the place you are going out of is stated, you must use <i>de</i> .
partir (être)	to leave	Means to depart, to go away, to leave for or from. Cannot take a direct object. If the place you are leaving from is stated, you must use <i>de</i> .
quitter (avoir)	to leave	Means to leave a person or place. It must be followed by a direct object. i.e. The person or place you are leaving must be stated.
laisser (avoir)	to leave, let, allow	Means to leave behind, abandon, to leave (something). It must be followed by a direct object.

NOTE: *Sortir* and *partir* are conjugated with *être* in the compound tenses.

Examples:

We left Chicago at midnight.	<i>Nous sommes partis de Chicago à minuit.</i>
We left Chicago at midnight.	<i>Nous avons quitté Chicago à minuit.</i>
They left us without money.	<i>Ils nous ont laissés sans argent.</i>
I'm leaving. Goodbye.	<i>Je pars. Au revoir.</i>
I'm leaving you now.	<i>Je vous quitte maintenant.</i>
Are you going out with Yves?	<i>Est-ce que tu sors avec Yves?</i>
What time did you get out of school?	<i>A quelle heure est-ce que tu es sorti de l'école?</i>

16. Chercher, écouter, attendre, regarder, demander

What these verbs have in common is that they use a preposition in English but **not** in French.

attendre	to wait for	no "pour"	She is waiting for her mom.	<i>Elle attend sa maman.</i>
chercher	to look for	no "pour"	I'm looking for my book.	<i>Je cherche mon livre.</i>
demander	to ask for	no "pour"	Are you asking me for my opinion?	<i>Tu me demandes mon opinion?</i>
écouter	to listen to	no "à"	Don't listen to him!	<i>Ne l'écoute pas!</i>
regarder	to look at	no "à"	You're looking at the book?	<i>Tu regardes le livre?</i>

NEVER use: *Je cherche pour ma soeur.*

Use: *Je cherche ma soeur.*

Regarde à (sur) la télé.

Regarde la télé.

17. Demander and dire

These verbs cause a problem in indirect discourse: *he asked me to...they told us to...*

demander	to ask	à + person	de + verb
dire	to tell	à + person	de + verb

NOTE: If the person being asked or told is a pronoun, use the indirect object form:
(*me, te, lui, nous, vous, leur*)

Examples:

He asked Bruno to work.	<i>Il a demandé à Bruno de travailler.</i>
I asked him to wait for me.	<i>Je lui ai demandé de m'attendre.</i>
Don't ask Mom to understand.	<i>Ne demande pas à Maman de comprendre.</i>
I told you to leave.	<i>Je t'ai dit de partir.</i>
My parents told Jacques to call.	<i>Mes parents ont dit à Jacques de téléphoner.</i>
You didn't tell her to help.	<i>Tu ne lui as pas dit d'aider.</i>

18. Trop, beaucoup, très

Be careful not to confuse these three adverbs.

trop	too much, too many	too much time	<i>trop de temps</i>
		too many errors	<i>trop de fautes</i>
		You've got too much.	<i>Tu en as trop.</i>
beaucoup	a lot, many, much	a lot of work	<i>beaucoup de travail</i>
		Thanks very much.	<i>Merci beaucoup.</i>
		I like it a lot.	<i>Je l'aime beaucoup.</i>
très	very	very tired	<i>très fatigué</i>
		I am very scared.	<i>J'ai très peur.</i>
		That's very nice.	<i>C'est très gentil.</i>

NEVER use: ~~*très beaucoup*~~

Use: *bien beaucoup*

NOTE: When using *trop* and *beaucoup* as expressions of quantity, use *de* before the noun.

(See Bête Noire #6.)



19. Il est and c'est

Both can mean "it is" or "he is", but they are not interchangeable.

il est elle est	Before an adjective, describes a specific person or thing	Look at my car.	<i>Regarde ma voiture.</i>
		It's beautiful.	<i>Elle est belle.</i>
		Your uncle, Eugene, he's nice.	<i>Ton oncle Eugène, il est gentil.</i>
ils sont elles sont	Before an adjective, describes specific people or things.	My classes?	<i>Mes classes?</i>
		They're fun.	<i>Elles sont amusantes.</i>
		The results?	<i>Les résultats?</i>
		They are ambiguous.	<i>Ils sont ambigus.</i>
c'est ce sont	Before a noun, defines person(s) or thing(s).	Who is it? It's Yvonne.	<i>Qui est-ce? C'est Yvonne.</i>
		There's Paul. He's a friend.	<i>Voilà Paul. C'est un ami.</i>
		She's my sister.	<i>C'est ma soeur.</i>
		They are my parents.	<i>Ce sont mes parents.</i>

NOTE: You can use *c'est* before an adjective to refer to a general situation.

That's nice.	<i>C'est gentil.</i>
That's funny.	<i>C'est amusant.</i>
That's too bad.	<i>C'est dommage.</i>

NEVER use: ~~*Il est mon frère. Elles sont mes amies.*~~

Use: *C'est mon frère. Ce sont mes amies.*

NOTE: With unmodified professions, use *il est/elle est* but no article.

He's a teacher.	<i>Il est professeur.</i>
She's a doctor.	<i>Elle est médecin.</i>
but: She's a great doctor.	<i>C'est un médecin formidable.</i>

20. To get, to go get, to receive

“Get” and “got” in English are very general words and must be translated by more specific words in French.

avoir	to get	I got an “A” in history.	<i>J’ai eu “A” en histoire.</i>
		You’ve got a phone call.	<i>Tu as un coup de téléphone.</i>
aller chercher	to go get	Go get your sweater.	<i>Va chercher ton pull.</i>
		I’ll get my brother.	<i>Je vais chercher mon frère.</i>
recevoir	to receive	Did you get a gift?	<i>Tu as reçu un cadeau?</i>
		I got a new watch.	<i>J’ai reçu une nouvelle montre.</i>

NOTE: **avoir** The most general. You get something.
aller chercher You have to go off and bring something or someone back.
recevoir You are given something.

21. Penser à and penser de

penser à	to think about, to have in mind	I’m thinking about Spring break.	<i>Je pense aux vacances de printemps.</i>
		We’re thinking about you.	<i>Nous pensons à toi.</i>
		He only thinks about himself.	<i>Il ne pense qu’à lui-même.</i>
penser de	to have an opinion about, (used with “what” questions)	What do you think about Peter and his friend?	<i>Qu’est-ce que tu penses de Pierre et son amie?</i>
		What do they think of the school?	<i>Qu’est-ce qu’ils ont pensé de l’école?</i>
		What do they think about the class?	<i>Que pensent-ils de la classe?</i>

NEVER use: *Je pense autour...*

NOTE: Use independent pronouns following *penser à*.
(moi, toi, lui, elle, nous, vous, eux, elles)

22. Parler à and parler de

parler à	to talk to	Who are you talking to?	<i>À qui est-ce que tu parles?</i>
		I’m talking to Xavier.	<i>Je parle à Xavier.</i>
		You have to talk to your Mom.	<i>Il faut que tu parles à ta mère.</i>
parler de	to talk about	He never talks about his girlfriend.	<i>Il ne parle jamais de sa petite amie.</i>
		What are you talking about?	<i>De quoi est-ce que vous parlez?</i>
		We’re talking about a problem.	<i>Nous parlons d’un problème.</i>

23. Manger, déjeuner, and dîner

The verb *manger* is normally used with in conjunction with specific foods, never with the words for meals of the day. If you wish to use the nouns for breakfast, lunch and dinner instead of the verb forms, then use the verb *prendre*.

manger	to eat	I don't like to eat peas.	<i>Je n'aime pas manger de petits pois.</i>
		My family eats together on Sunday.	<i>Ma famille mange ensemble le dimanche.</i>
déjeuner	to eat lunch	We eat lunch at 11:45.	<i>Nous déjeunons à 11h45.</i>
dîner	to eat dinner	She ate dinner at a nice restaurant.	<i>Elle a dîné dans un bon restaurant.</i>

NEVER use: ~~*Je mange le déjeuner. Nous mangeons le dîner.*~~

Use: *Je déjeune. Nous dînons. or Nous prenons le dîner.*

24. Visiter and rendre visite à

The verbs *visiter* and *rendre visite à* are not interchangeable. Use *visiter* for visiting places and *rendre visite à* for visiting people.

visiter	to visit (a place)	We visited Phoenix this summer.	<i>Nous avons visité Phoenix cet été.</i>
		I would like to visit Egypt.	<i>Je voudrais visiter l'Égypte.</i>
		Did you visit the Eiffel Tower?	<i>Est-ce que tu as visité la Tour Eiffel?</i>
rendre visite à	to visit (someone)	On Sunday, I visit my grandparents.	<i>Le dimanche, je rends visite à mes grands-parents.</i>
		Last week, I visited my 5th grade teacher.	<i>La semaine dernière, j'ai rendu visite à mon prof de 5e année.</i>

25. Tôt, tard, en avance, and en retard

Tôt and *tard* are used to express early and late in a general sense. *En avance* and *en retard* are used to express being early or late for something such as an appointment or in comparison to some specific time on a clock.

tôt	early (in the day)	We're leaving early Tuesday morning.	<i>Nous partons tôt mardi matin.</i>
		Our mail always arrives early.	<i>Notre courrier arrive toujours tôt.</i>
tard	late (in the day)	On weekends I get up late.	<i>Le week-end je me lève tard.</i>
		Midnight is too late for me.	<i>Minuit est trop tard pour moi.</i>
en avance	early (for something)	You're 15 minutes early!	<i>Vous êtes 15 minutes en avance.</i>
		Our plane is going to arrive early.	<i>Notre avion va arriver en avance.</i>
en retard	late (for something)	This morning I was late for class.	<i>Ce matin j'étais en retard pour la classe.</i>
		He's late again.	<i>Il est encore en retard.</i>

26. Avant and devant

The prepositions *avant* and *devant* can both mean before. *Avant* is used when it is in a chronological sense and *devant* is used when the sense is physical.

avant	before (in terms of time)	He's arriving before 8 o'clock.	<i>Il arrive avant 8 heures.</i>
		The birds leave before winter.	<i>Les oiseaux partent avant l'hiver.</i>
		Think before you speak.	<i>Pense avant de parler.</i>
devant	before, in front of (in terms of space)	He is seated in front of me.	<i>Il est assis devant moi.</i>
		Look in front of the house.	<i>Regarde devant la maison.</i>
		I'm standing before the class.	<i>Je suis debout devant la classe.</i>

27. Pour and pendant

The preposition *pendant* can mean during or for and is used with expressions of time. The preposition *pour* can mean for and is used when anything but an expression of time is needed.

pendant	for (w/expressions of time)	for a week	<i>pendant une semaine</i>
		for 2 hours	<i>pendant deux heures</i>
pour	for (in all other instances)	for me	<i>pour moi</i>
		for school	<i>pour l'école</i>

28. Bon/bien : meilleur/mieux

FORMS	adjective	adjective	adverb	adverb
masc. sing.	bon	meilleur	bien	mieux
fem. sing.	bonne	meilleure		
m. plural	bons	meilleurs		
f. plural	bonnes	meilleures		

NOTE: Adjectives modify nouns and pronouns. Adjectives show agreement. Adverbs modify verbs. Adverbs do not agree.

Bien and *mieux* are invariable.

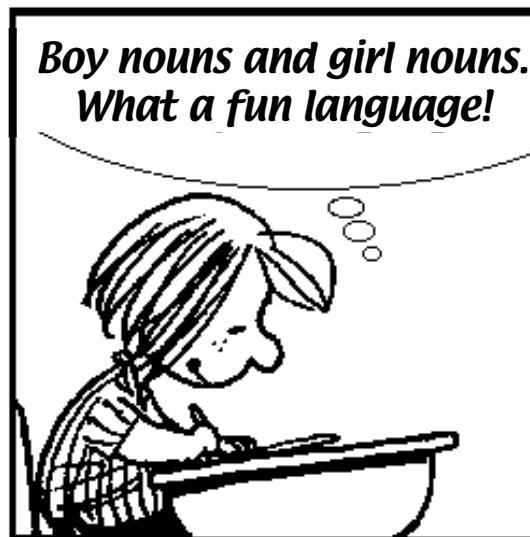
bon	good (adjective)	She doesn't make a good impression.	<i>Elle ne fait pas de bonne impression.</i>
		He isn't good in math.	<i>Il n'est pas bon en maths.</i>
meilleur	better, best (adjective)	A BMW is better than a Peugeot.	<i>Une BMW est meilleure qu'une Peugeot.</i>
		It's the best film of the year.	<i>C'est le meilleur film de l'année.</i>
bien	well (adverb)	Your computer doesn't print well.	<i>Ton ordinateur n'imprime pas bien.</i>
		He plays baseball well.	<i>Il joue bien au base-ball.</i>
mieux	better, best (adverb)	He sings better than me.	<i>Il chante mieux que moi.</i>
		She swims the best in the world.	<i>Elle nage le mieux du monde.</i>

29. Masculine and Feminine nouns

The rule, which you have already learned, is that words which end in **—e** are generally feminine, and those that end in other letters are generally masculine. Of course there are many exceptions, but here are some supplementary rules, to help you.

masculine nouns	do not usually end in <i>—e</i> are most ending in <i>—age</i> are all ending in <i>—ent</i>	an age	<i>un âge</i>
		a garage	<i>un garage</i>
		a break-in	<i>un cambriolage</i>
		money	<i>l'argent</i>
feminine nouns	often end in <i>—e</i> are all ending in <i>—ion</i>	an action	<i>une action</i>
		a television	<i>une télévision</i>
		a union	<i>une union</i>
		pollution	<i>la pollution</i>

NOTE: There are some common exceptions. *le musée, le Mexique*





ALWAYS USE

Bêtes Noires Quick Reference



NEVER USE

1. beaucoup de <i>J'ai beaucoup d'amis</i>	1. beaucoup des, du, de la etc. <i>beaucoup des amis</i>
2. s'amuser / amusant <i>Je me suis amusé</i> <i>La boum a été amusante</i>	2. avoir un bon temps <i>J'ai eu un bon temps</i> <i>J'ai eu amusant.</i>
3. avoir __ ans (age) <i>J'ai 14 ans. Il a 16 ans.</i>	3. être __ (age) <i>Je suis 14. Il est 16 ans.</i>
4. être verbs w/être au passé <i>Je suis allé. Elle est allée</i> <i>Vous êtes partis. Elles sont parties.</i>	4. être verbs w/avoir au passé <i>J'ai allé. Elle a allée.</i> <i>Vous avez parti. Elles ont parti</i>
5. au / aux; du / des <i>au parc, aux garçons</i> <i>du café, des amis</i>	5. à le / à les; de le / de les <i>à le parc, à les garçons</i> <i>de le café, de les amis</i>
6. et = and	6. est = is ≠ and
7. le + day/time of day <i>le mardi, le matin</i>	7. sur / dans + day/time of day <i>sur mardi, dans le matin</i>
8. aller + place = to go to <i>Je vais au cinéma.</i>	8. sortir + place <i>Je sors au cinéma.</i>
9. poser une question <i>Il nous a posé une question.</i>	9. demander une question <i>Il nous a demandé une question.</i>
10. beaucoup = a lot, much, very much;	10. très beaucoup ≠ very much
11. je peux / je veux il peut / il veut il peut / il veut	11. je peut / je veut
12. dire + a quote <i>Il a dit «oui.»</i>	12. parler + a quote <i>Il a parlé «oui.»</i>
13. l'université = college <i>aller à l'université = to attend college</i>	13. collègue ≠ college <i>attendre collègue</i>



Bêtes Noires Quick Reference



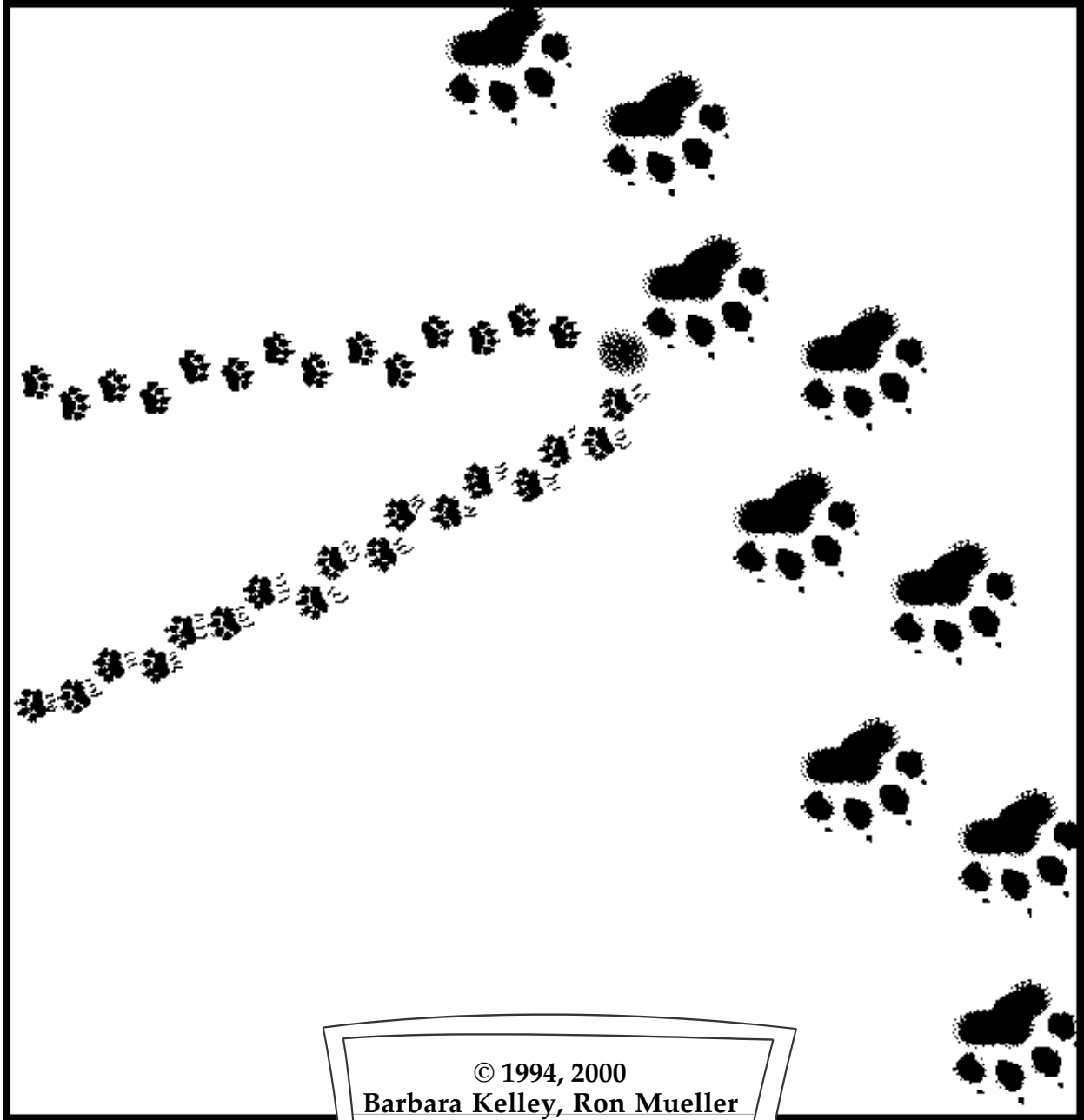
ALWAYS USE



NEVER USE

14. <i>lui</i> before a verb = to her/to him <i>Je lui dis...</i> = I say to her/I tell her.. <i>Je lui donne...</i> =I give (to) her/him	14. <i>elle / lui</i> after a verb <i>Je dis lui...</i> <i>Je donne elle...</i>
15. connaître + person <i>Je connais Paul.</i> = I know Paul savoir + a fact <i>Je sais que...</i> = I know (that)...	15. savoir + person <i>Je sais Paul.</i> connaître + a fact <i>Je connais que...</i>
16. aussi after a verb <i>J'aime aussi...</i>	16. aussi to begin a sentence <i>Aussi, j'aime...</i>
17. regarder <i>Je regarde la télé.</i> écouter <i>Nous aimons écouter la radio.</i> chercher <i>Il cherche son frère.</i> attendre <i>Il doit attendre sa copine.</i> demander <i>Elle me demande un verre.</i>	17. regarder à <i>Je regarde à la télé.</i> écouter à <i>Nous aimons écouter à la radio.</i> chercher pour <i>Il cherche pour son frère.</i> attendre pour <i>Il doit attendre pour sa copine.</i> demander pour <i>Elle me demande pour un verre.</i>
18. single form verb in present tense <i>Je danse.</i> = I am dancing.	18. être + a verb (for present tense) <i>Je suis danse.</i> / <i>Je suis danser.</i>
19. je dois+infinitive=to have to do something <i>Je dois étudier.</i>	19. j'ai + infinitive <i>J'ai étudier.</i> (understood as past tense)
20. il faut que + subjunctive <i>Il faut que tu ailles.</i> object of one verb being the subject of an infinitive: OK. in English, <i>Il veut que je conduise.</i> He wants me to drive.	20. il faut que + present indicative <i>Il faut que tu vas.</i> Not in French. <i>Il me veut conduire.</i> or <i>Il veut moi conduire.</i>





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