

## Classification of Word Groups in the French Language

**Nilufar Juraeva**

*Assistant professor, PhD, French Philology Department, Bukhara State University  
n.s.juraeva@buxdu.uz*

**Po'lotova Nasiba**

*Student of Bukhara State University*

**Abstract.** Words are categorized based on their parts of speech, which serve essential functions in sentence structure and meaning. The French language includes eight fundamental parts of speech: nouns (*un nom or un substantif*), verbs (*un verbe*), adjectives (*un adjectif*), adverbs (*un adverbe*), pronouns (*un pronom*), articles (*un article*), prepositions (*une préposition*), conjunctions (*une conjonction*). This study examines the classification of word groups in the French language.

**Key words:** parts of speech, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, articles, prepositions, conjunctions, gender (masculin/feminine), number (singular/plural), animate and inanimate objects, proper noun, common noun, definite noun, abstract noun, countable nouns, uncountable noun, simple noun, complex noun, positive degree, comparative degree, superlative degree, personal pronoun, impersonal pronoun, the definite article, the indefinite article, the partitive article.

**INTRODUCTION.** Words are categorized into parts of speech, with the French language comprising eight primary types. Each plays a crucial role in sentence structure and meaning. They are: *nouns* (*un nom or un substantif*), *verbs* (*un verbe*), *adjectives* (*un adjectif*), *adverbs* (*un adverbe*), *pronouns* (*un pronom*), *articles* (*un article*), *prepositions* (*une préposition*), *conjunctions* (*une conjonction*). Certain parts of speech are variable, which means their form changes: *articles*, *adjectives*, *nouns*, *verbs*.

1. Form can change in gender (*le genre*) (*masculin=masculin /feminin= féminin*):

Articles (*le/la, un/une, du/de la*)

Adjectives (*blanc/blanche*)

Some nouns (*cousin/cousine*)

2. Form can also change according to number (*le nombre*) (*singular= singulier/plural = pluriel*):

Articles: (*le/les, la/les, un/des, une/des, du/des, de la/des*)

Adjectives: (*blanc/blancs, grande/grandes*)

Nouns: (*livre/livres, femme/femmes, journal/journaux*)

3. Forms of verbs change according to person (*la personne*) and number:

Person:

first person includes the person who is speaking (*I = je/we = nous*)

second person is the person or persons one is speaking to (you = tu/vous)

third person is the person/s one is speaking about (he = il/ they = elles etc. )

**Main part.** This article examines the main parts of speech in the French language.

**NOUNS.** A word group that denotes the names of animate and inanimate objects, actions, qualities, abstract concepts is called a noun. Nouns in French can be divided into the following types:

1. Names of animate and inanimate objects: *filles, chien, livre, table*;
2. Proper nouns: *Jacques, Paul, Paris, Seine, Tashkent* and common nouns: *garçon, ville, rivière, fenêtre*;
3. Definite nouns: *crayon, porte, clé, table* and abstract nouns: *patience, amour, sourire, peur, amitié*;
4. Nouns denoting a person and an object: *enfant, feuille, papier* and collective nouns: *foule, groupe, feuillage*;
5. Countable nouns: *cahier, pomme, allumettes* and uncountable nouns. Uncountable nouns are, in turn, divided into nouns denoting objects: *eau, sucre, farine, viande* and abstract nouns: *force, patience, musique*.
6. Simple nouns: *plume, garde, stylo, porte* and complex nouns: *porte-plume, avant-garde*.

It is important to recognise the gender and the number of a noun. These properties affect the form of the determiner, pronouns, and adjectival/participial agreement. Thus, most of time French nouns are preceded by a determiner. For example: *C'est la vie! That's life!* The construction: *\*C'est vie* is not possible in French. The most common determiners are articles, appearing before the noun, (e.g., *la vie*) and indicate definiteness. *La* introduces a feminine and singular noun. French articles change form to agree in gender and number with the noun. There is also a contracted form used before words starting with a vowel and most words beginning with "h".

**VERBS.** As in many languages, verbs in French have different forms for the different functions they perform in sentences. It is traditional to present verb forms in paradigms. *Simple forms* are made up of stems to which endings are attached. *Compound forms* are made up of forms of the auxiliary verbs *avoir* and *être* plus a past participle. *Double compound* forms are made up of forms of the compound auxiliary verbs *avoir eu* or *avoir été* plus a past participle.

For a structured presentation, French verbs are most effectively classified into four conjugation groups. These are:

- 1) Verbs whose infinitive ends in -er (e.g. *donner, chanter, parler*). This is by far the largest group.
- 2) Verbs whose infinitive ends in -ir. Within this group there are two subgroups:
  - a) verbs whose stems sometimes end in -iss- (e.g. *finir: fin-iss-ons, fin-issant, fin-iss-aient*, etc.);
  - b) verbs whose stems do not add -iss- (e.g. *dormir, mentir*).
- 3) Verbs whose infinitive ends in -re (e.g. *vendre, rendre*).
- 4) Verbs whose infinitive ends in -oir (e.g. *recevoir*).

**ADJECTIVES.** Adjective expresses the quality, characteristic, or feature of a thing, object, or person. Adjectives are an important part of speech in any language, including French. Adjectives modify (that is "describe" or "tell something about") nouns and pronouns. They are clustered around the noun they modify, either before or after it, depending on the adjective. Adjectives agree in gender and number with the nouns they describe:

*une belle robe bleue*

("robe" is feminine/singular, so the adjectives as well as the article are in the feminine singular form)

From a morphological perspective, adjectives have various forms, and they possess distinguishable degrees, methods of formation, and usage situations. The morphological feature of adjectives is their

category of degree. The differentiation of adjectives based on comparison with a simple degree is called “degree of adjectives”. There are the following types of adjective degrees: *positive, comparative and superlative degree*.

**ADVERBS.** Adverbs usually indicate quantity, time, place, intensity, and/or manner (“how”). Adverbs are invariable. They modify:

1. Verbs: *Il chante mal. Mes cousins vont arriver bientôt.*
2. Adjectives: *Le chien est très grand. C’est une femme assez pessimiste.*
3. Other adverbs: *J’ai très bien compris la question. Tu fais assez bien la cuisine.*
4. Whole sentences: *Maintenant, nous allons faire du ski. Nous allons faire du ski maintenant.*

**PRONOUNS.** Pronouns are words that substitute for nouns. There are many different kinds of pronouns, but they can be divided into two main categories: personal and impersonal. This table summarizes the five different kinds of French personal pronouns:

Subject	Direct Object	Indirect object	Reflexive	Stressed
je	me	me	me	moi
tu	te	te	te	toi
il elle on	le la	lui	se	lui elle soi
nous	nous	nous	nous	nous
vous	vous	vous	vous	vous
ils elles	les	leur	se	eux elles

**ARTICLES.** One of the eight parts of speech, an article is a word that modifies a noun in a particular way, by stating whether the noun is specific, unspecific, or partial. There are three types of French articles and they all agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify: *the definite article, the indefinite article, the partitive article*.

**PRÉPOSITIONS.** Prepositions indicate a relationship between a noun and other nouns. Prepositions are forms like *de, à, dans, en, sur, par, pour, avec, au-dessus de, du haut de, à cause de*, and so on. For many French prepositions one can normally find an English counterpart which is used in the same way in a majority of cases. For example:

*de* → of: *une boîte d’allumettes = a box of matches*

*trois kilos de sucre = three kilos of sugar*

*à* → at: *à trois heures ~ at three o’clock*

*être à l’école = to be at school*

*dans* → in: *dans sa chambre ~ in her room*

*dans les années trente = in the thirties*

**CONJUNCTIONS.** Conjunctions join together words or parts of sentences. A few of the most common conjunctions in French are: *ou* (or), *et* (and), *que* (that), *parce que* (because), *mais* (but), *ni* (nor).

**Conclusion.** The French language is composed of eight primary parts of speech. *Nouns* (noms): Words that name people, places, things, or ideas; *Adjectives* (adjectifs): Words that describe nouns or pronouns; *Verbs* (verbes): Words that express an action or a state of being; *Adverbs* (adverbes): Words that modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs, often indicating time, manner, place, or degree; *Pronouns* (pronoms): Words that stand in for nouns or a noun phrase; *Prepositions* (prépositions): Words that show the relationship between a noun (or pronoun) and other words in a sentence; *Conjunctions* (conjonctions): Words that join words, phrases, or clauses; *Articles* (articles): An article

is a word that modifies a noun in a particular way, by stating whether the noun is specific, unspecific, or partial. Understanding the specific features of word group classification in the French language is significantly crucial for both the translation process and language learning.

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