

APPENDICE A

Lexique des termes grammaticaux

ADJECTIVE (ADJECTIF, *m.*) A word that describes a noun or a pronoun. It agrees in number and gender with the word it modifies.

demonstrative adjective (adjectif démonstratif) An adjective that points out a particular noun.

descriptive adjective (adjectif descriptif) An adjective that describes characteristics of the noun or pronoun it modifies: size, shape, color, age, etc.

indefinite adjective (adjectif indéfini) An adjective that indicates people and things in an imprecise way, without referring to them specifically.

interrogative adjective (adjectif interrogatif) An adjective that means *what?* or *which?*

possessive adjective (adjectif possessif) An adjective that expresses *my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *its*, *our*, and *their*.

ce cours, **cette** semaine, **ces** carrières
this course, **this** week, **these** careers

une **vieille** maison **grise**
an **old gray** house

certains pays, **d'autres** gens
certain countries, other people

quel endroit? **quelles** valeurs?
which place? what values?

leurs bureaux, **ma** collègue
their offices, my colleague

ADVERB (ADVERBE, *m.*) A word that indicates *how*, *when*, *where*, and *how much* things are done. Adverbs modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

Vous voyagez **partout** cette année.
You are traveling everywhere this year.

Il est **extrêmement** timide.
He is extremely shy.

Elle dort **très mal**.
She sleeps very poorly.

AGREEMENT (ACCORD, *m.*) Words that have the same *number*, singular or plural, and/or *gender*, masculine or feminine, are in *agreement*. Subjects agree with verbs, and articles and adjectives agree with the nouns and pronouns they modify.

Ils se sont **mariés** hier.
They got married yesterday.

un **vieil** acteur, **les** films **canadiens**
an old actor, the Canadian films

ARTICLE (ARTICLE, *m.*) A word such as *a*, *some*, or *the* used to introduce a noun.

definite article (article défini) As in English, an article that indicates a specific noun. In French, it also introduces a noun used in a general way or in an abstract sense.

Le train pour Nice part dans cinq minutes.
The train for Nice leaves in five minutes.

Les vélos sont moins chers que **les** voitures.
Bikes are less expensive than cars.

indefinite article (article indéfini) An article that indicates an unspecified noun or an unspecified quantity of a plural count noun (see **Noun**).

partitive article (article partitif) In French, an article that indicates an unspecified quantity of a mass noun (see **Noun**).

La vie est belle, non?
Life is beautiful, isn't it?

un chat, **une** pomme, **des** idées
a cat, an apple, (some) ideas

du travail, **de la** patience, **de l'eau**
(some) work, (some) patience, (some) water

CLAUSE (PROPOSITION, *f.*) A group of related words forming a part of a sentence that contains a subject and a verb.

independent (main) clause (proposition principale) A clause that stands on its own and expresses a complete idea.

relative clause (proposition relative) A subordinate clause that begins with a relative pronoun and refers back to a person, thing, place, or time mentioned in the main clause (see **Pronoun**).

subordinate clause (proposition subordonnée) A clause that cannot stand on its own because it does not express a complete idea.

Je cherche les étudiants qui parlent grec.
I'm looking for the students who speak Greek.

Je cherche les étudiants **qui parlent grec**.
I'm looking for the students who speak Greek.

Ils sont dans le bâtiment **parce qu'il pleut dehors**.
They are in the building, because it's raining outside.

COMPARATIVE (COMPARATIF, *m.*) An expression used to compare two actions, adjectives, adverbs, or nouns.

Tu travailles **autant qu'eux**.
You work as much as they do.

Marie est **moins grande que** sa sœur.
Mary is less tall than her sister.

Andrea chante **mieux que** moi.
Andrea sings better than I do.

Pierre a **plus de problèmes que** Paul.
Peter has more problems than Paul.

CONDITIONAL (CONDITIONNEL, *m.*)

See **Mood**.

CONJUGATION (CONJUGAISON, *f.*) A list of all the different forms of a verb for a particular tense or mood. A present indicative conjugation:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| je parle | <i>I speak</i> |
| tu parles | <i>you speak</i> |
| il/elle/on parle | <i>he/she/it/one speaks</i> |
| nous parlons | <i>we speak</i> |
| vous parlez | <i>you speak</i> |
| ils/elles parlent | <i>they speak</i> |

CONJUNCTION (CONJONCTION, *f.*) An expression that joins words, phrases, or clauses.

Il neige **et** il fait du vent **mais** cela ne durera pas.
It's snowing and it's windy, but this won't last.

GENDER (GENRE, *m.*) Articles, nouns, adjectives, and pronouns are *masculine* or *feminine*.

| | <i>m.</i> | <i>f.</i> |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| articles and nouns | le soleil | la lune |
| adjectives | lent, beau | lente, belle |
| pronouns | il, celui | elle, celle |

IMPERATIVE (IMPÉRATIF, *m.*)

See **Mood**.

IMPERFECT (IMPARFAIT, *m.*) A verb tense that expresses habitual past actions, past descriptions, past states of mind, or ongoing actions in the past.

Nous **nagions** souvent.
We used to swim often.
La maison **était** à la campagne.
The house was in the country.
Il **avait peur**.
He was afraid.
Il **dormait**, quand on a frappé.
He was sleeping, when someone knocked.

INDIRECT DISCOURSE (DISCOURS INDIRECT, *m.*) A report of what someone said. Sentences with indirect discourse have two clauses; the subordinate clause tells what was said.

Malik dit **qu'il a un ami français qui peut nous aider**.
Malik says that he has a French friend who can help us.

It is in opposition to **direct discourse** (discours direct), in which someone's words are reported directly, in quotes.

Malik dit: «**J'ai un ami français qui peut nous aider**.»
Malik says, "I have a French friend who can help us."

INFINITIVE (INFINITIF, *m.*)

See **Mood**.

MOOD (MODE, *m.*) A category of verbs that indicates the speaker's attitude toward what he/she is saying.

conditional mood (mode conditionnel) A verb form used to indicate a hypothetical situation or politeness.

Elle **viendrait** si elle pouvait.
She would come if she could.
Madame, je **voudrais** vous parler.
Madam, I would like to speak to you.

imperative mood (mode impératif) A verb form used to give a command.

Allez-y!
Go ahead!

indicative mood (mode indicatif) A verb form that is used to state facts.

Je **vais** à la bibliothèque.
I am going to the library.

infinitive mood (mode infinitif) A verb form introduced in English by *to*. It is used to speak of a verb in a general sense.

Apprendre une langue, c'est découvrir une culture.
To learn a language is to discover a culture.

subjunctive mood (mode subjonctif) A verb form, uncommon in English, used primarily in subordinate clauses after expressions of doubt, judgment, necessity, desire, or emotion. French constructions with the subjunctive have many possible English equivalents.

Il faut que tu **sois** à l'heure.
It's necessary that you be on time.
Je veux que vous y **alliez**.
I want you to go there.

NOUN (NOM, *m.* ou SUBSTANTIF, *m.*) A word that denotes a person, place, thing, or idea. Proper nouns are capitalized names.

Count noun A noun that is countable and has a plural form.

Mass nouns A noun that is not countable and therefore does not have a plural form.

Nadia, une ville, un journal, la vérité
Nadia, a city, a newspaper, the truth

les chevaux, les crayons, les idées
horses, pencils, ideas

l'air, le lait, la patience
air, milk, patience

NUMBER (NOMBRE, *m.*) Indicates whether a noun, verb, article, adjective, or pronoun is *singular* or *plural*.

singular
plural

Elle est étudiante.
Elles sont étudiantes.

OBJECT (OBJET, *m.*) A noun that follows a verb or a preposition, or a pronoun that refers to this noun.

direct object (objet direct) A noun that follows an action verb directly and completes the idea begun by the subject and verb. A direct object may also be a pronoun.

indirect object (objet indirect) A noun designating a person that follows an action verb and the preposition **à**. An indirect object may also be a pronoun.

Tu lis **le journal**? Je **le** lis tous les jours.
*Do you read **the newspaper**? I read **it** every day.*

Tu téléphones souvent à **tes amis**?
*Do you call **your friends** often?*

Oui, je **leur** parle tous les jours.
*Yes, I talk **to them** every day.*

PASSÉ COMPOSÉ (*m.*) In French, a verb tense that expresses a past action with a definite ending. It consists of the present indicative of the auxiliary verb (**avoir** or **être**) and the past participle of the conjugated verb.

j'ai choisi
I chose, I did choose, I have chosen
elle est allée
she went, she did go, she has gone

PAST PARTICIPLE (PARTICIPE PASSÉ, *m.*) A verb form that follows an auxiliary verb in a compound tense (such as the **passé composé** or the **plus-que-parfait**) to express completion.

nous avons **vu**, ils sont **tombés**
we have seen, they have fallen
nous avons **compris**
we had understood

PLUPERFECT (PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT, *m.*) A tense that denotes a past action that took place before another past action.

Quand je suis arrivé, mes parents **étaient** déjà **partis**.
When I arrived, my parents had already left.

PREPOSITION (PRÉPOSITION, *f.*) A word or phrase that specifies the relationship of one word (usually a noun or a pronoun) to another. The relationship is usually spatial or temporal.

près de l'aéroport, **avec** lui, **avant** 11 h
near the airport, with him, before 11:00

PRESENT PARTICIPLE (PARTICIPE PRÉSENT, *m.*) A verb form (often ending in *-ing* in English) used to express near simultaneity of one action with another, or a causal relationship.

En **entrant**, il les a vus.
Upon entering, he saw them.

Elle travaille en **écoutant** la radio.
She works while listening to the radio.

Ils apprennent l'anglais **en écoutant** les chansons américaines.
They are learning English by listening to American songs.

PRONOUN (PRONOM, *m.*) A word used in place of one or more nouns.

demonstrative pronoun (pronom démonstratif) A pronoun that singles out particular people or things.

disjointed (stressed) pronoun (pronom disjoint ou pronom accentué) In French, a pronoun used for emphasis, after **c'est**, or after a preposition.

interrogative pronoun (pronom interrogatif) A pronoun used to ask a question.

object pronoun (pronom objet, pronom complément d'objet) A pronoun that replaces a direct object noun or an indirect object.

possessive pronoun (pronom possessif) A pronoun that represents an object belonging to someone.

reflexive pronoun (pronom réfléchi) A pronoun that is part of a pronominal verb. It expresses *myself, yourself, himself, herself, oneself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves, each other, and one another*.

relative pronoun (pronom relatif) A pronoun that introduces a subordinate clause and refers to the noun given immediately before it in the main clause. In French, unlike English, this pronoun cannot be omitted.

subject pronoun (pronom sujet) A pronoun representing the person(s) or thing(s) performing the action of the verb.

SUBJECT (SUJET, *m.*) The word(s) denoting the person(s), place(s), or thing(s) performing an action or existing in a state.

SUBJUNCTIVE (SUBJONCTIF, *m.*)

Voici trois films: **celui-ci** est intéressant, mais **ceux-là** sont une perte de temps.

*Here are three films: **this one** is interesting, but **those** are a waste of time.*

Lui, il est incroyable!

He is unbelievable!

C'est **moi**!

It's me! (It's I!)

Nous arriverons à la gare avant **toi**.

*We will arrive at the train station before **you**.*

Qui parle?

Who is speaking?

Qu'est-ce que vous voulez?

What do you want?

direct: Je vois Alain. → Je **le** vois.

*I see Alain. → I see **him**.*

indirect: Je donne le livre à Daniel. →

Je **lui** donne le livre.

I give the book to Daniel. →

*I give **him** the book.*

Quel stylo est **le mien**?

*Which pen is **mine**?*

Je **me** regarde dans le miroir.

*I am looking at **myself** in the mirror.*

Patrick, on **se** voit tout à l'heure?

*Patrick, will we see **each other** later?*

Tous ces enfants apprennent à **s'**entraider.

*All these children are learning how to help **one another**.*

On parle à la femme **qui** habite ici.

*We're talking to the woman **who** lives here.*

C'est le garçon **que** vous cherchez?

*Is this the boy (**whom**) you are looking for?*

Ils travaillent bien ensemble.

***They** work well together.*

Marc arrive demain.

***Marc** arrives tomorrow.*

Mon ordinateur est là-bas.

***My computer** is over there.*

See **Mood**.

SUPERLATIVE (SUPERLATIF, *m.*) Comparison that indicates an extreme or unsurpassed level or extent, in a group consisting of three or more items. Adjectives, adverbs, or nouns may be the focus of comparison. In English, the superlative is marked by *most*, *least*, *fewest*, or *-est*.

Elle a choisi la voiture **la plus chère**.
She chose the most expensive car.

Il veut le plat **le moins cher**.
He wants the least expensive dish.

Béatrice court **le plus vite**.
Béatrice runs the fastest.

Nous avons **le plus de vacances**.
We have the most vacation.

VERB (VERBE, *m.*) A word that indicates an action or state.

auxiliary verb (verbe auxiliaire) A verb used in conjunction with a past participle. In French, the auxiliaries are **avoir** and **être**.

impersonal verb (verbe impersonnel) A verbal expression introduced by the impersonal pronoun **il**.

irregular verb (verbe irrégulier) A verb whose conjugation cannot be determined by the form of the infinitive.

pronominal verb (verbe pronominal) A verb conjugated with a reflexive pronoun (**me**, **te**, **se**, **nous**, **vous**). It expresses *reflexivity* (action on oneself) or *reciprocity* (an exchange). In some cases, it is simply *idiomatic*.

regular verb (verbe régulier) A verb whose conjugation can be determined by the form of the infinitive. In French, there are three groups of regular verbs whose infinitives end in **-er**, **-ir**, and **-re**.

Elle **est rentrée** hier.
She returned home yesterday.

Elle **était** fatiguée.
She was tired.

J'**ai** fait mes devoirs.
I did my homework.

Nous **sommes** allés au cinéma.
We went to the movies.

Il **fait** beau aujourd'hui. Il **ne pleut pas**.
It is nice today. It's not raining.

Il **faut** travailler fort.
One has to work hard.

être: je suis, tu es, il/elle/on est, nous sommes, vous êtes, ils/elles sont
to be: I am, you are, he/she/it/one is, we are, you are, they are

Il **se coupe** quand il **se rase**.
He cuts himself when he shaves (himself).

Romeo et Juliette **s'aiment**.
Romeo and Juliet love each other.

Je **me souviens** de leurs prénoms.
I remember their first names.

regarder: je regarde, tu regardes, il/elle/on regarde, nous regardons, vous regardez, ils/elles regardent
to look at: I look at, you look at, he/she/one looks at, we look at, you look at, they look at

finir: je finis, tu finis, il/elle/on finit, nous finissons, vous finissez, ils/elles finissent
to finish: I finish, you finish, he/she/it/one finishes, we finish, you finish, they finish

répondre: je réponds, tu réponds, il/elle/on répond, nous répondons, vous répondez, ils/elles répondent
to answer: I answer, you answer, he/she/one answers, we answer, you answer, they answer