

French Noun Gender

Languages

The word endings that reliably predict masculine or feminine.

Endings are a strong guide, not a law. These cover the large majority of nouns.

Usually masculine

-age – le fromage

-ment – le gouvernement

-eau – le bureau

-isme – le tourisme

-oir – le couloir

-ier – le cahier

Usually feminine

-tion – la nation

-sion – la décision

-té – la liberté

-ée – la journée

-ette – la fourchette

-ance / -ence – la chance

-ure – la voiture

Watch out

la page, la plage, l'image — -age exceptions

le musée, le lycée — -ée exceptions

Countries in -e are usually feminine: la France

Before a vowel both articles become l', which hides the gender. The adjective still has to agree.