

Colors in French language

Written by Administrator

Monday, 22 February 2010 03:09 - Last Updated Monday, 22 February 2010 03:15

Learning **colors in French** (Les Couleurs) really isn't that difficult. You'll find that you'll be able to name all the primary colors in no time. Whether you'd like to prepare for a shopping spree in a French-speaking country or looking for the pronunciation of colors related to genders (pink for girls, blue for boys) this lessons has the answers you need. Whatever your reason, learning French words for colors is a fun way to increase your essential French vocabulary and get the hang of a few basic grammar concepts.

{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_black.mp3{/audio}	noir	black	
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_white.mp3{/audio}	blanc	white	[b]
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_red.mp3{/audio}	rouge	red	[r]
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_blue.mp3{/audio}	bleu	blue	[b]
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_green.mp3{/audio}	vert	green	[v]
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_orange.mp3{/audio}	orange	orange	[o]
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_yellow.mp3{/audio}	jaune	yellow	[z]
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_brown.mp3{/audio}	marron	brown (of object)	
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_brown2.mp3{/audio}	brun	brown (of hair, skin, eyes)	[b]
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_violet.mp3{/audio}	violet	violet	
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_pink.mp3{/audio}	rose	pink	[r]
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_grey.mp3{/audio}	gris	gray	[g]
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_beige.mp3{/audio}	beige	beige	[b]
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_purple.mp3{/audio}	mauve	purple	[m]
{audio}media/mp3/fr_color.mp3{/audio}	couleur	color	[k]
les couleurs	colors	[lay koo-luhr]	

Unlike in English, the words for colors appear after nouns in French. So if you were to say "pink shirt" in French the proper word order would be "shirt pink".

Light and Dark Shades of the Color

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There are two useful words that will enable you to describe the shade of a color -- **clair** for *light* and

foncé

for

dark

. Simply add the desired modifier to the name of a color to describe a new shade as shown in the examples below.

{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_blue_clair.mp3{/audio}bleu clair

sky-blue

{audio}media/mp3/fr_color_blue_fonce.mp3{/audio}bleu foncé

dark-blue, navy

vert foncé

dark-green

The good news is that colors formed with the help of *clair* and *foncé* don't follow the rules of agreement. In other words, there is only one form to use in all possible situations. For example, if you wanted to say "he has light blue eyes" in French you would have to use the dictionary form of the color

bleu

without any changes:

il a les yeux bleu clair

Agreement with Nouns and Pronouns

If you look into your French dictionary you will notice that all words for colors are adjectives. An adjective is a word that describes nouns and pronouns. In French language, all adjectives agree in gender (masculine or feminine) and number (singular or plural) with the nouns and pronouns that they modify. For instance, if you wanted say that you have blue eyes (eyes = **yeux** - masculine plural) then you'd have to select the matching masculine plural form of the color blue (**bleus**).

You may want to dedicate more time to practicing the agreement of adjectives with the words that they describe. The following table will help you to learn many different forms that words for colors assume depending on whether they modify masculine, feminine, singular or plural nouns and pronouns. You will find that some colors are much easier to learn than the rest as they have exactly the same form in all genders and numbers.

Color

Masculine sing.

Feminine sing.

Masculine plural

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black	noir	noire	noirs
white	blanc	blanche	blancs
red	rouge	rouge	rouges
blue	bleu	bleue	bleus
green	vert	verte	verts
orange	orange	orange	orange
yellow	jaune	jaune	jaunes
brown	marron	marron	marron
violet	violet	violette	violets
pink	rose	rose	roses
gray	gris	grise	gris

Review French Colors

Watch the video below to hear the colors pronounced in French. Repeating the French names of colors once again will help you memorize the new French vocabulary for good.