

LEÇON 2 : STRUCTURES

GRAMMAIRE

SUBJECT PRONOUNS

- **Pronouns** are grammatical words that replace nouns (pro-nouns):

Marie likes Peter → **She** likes **him**
Tarzan like Jane → **I** like **you**

- In grammar, the **subject** is the element that carries out the action described by the verb or that is affected by the state described by the verb :

Marie likes Peter. **I** am eating an apple. **The vase** broke.

- Here is the list of subject pronouns in French :

<i>JE</i>	<i>TU</i>	<i>IL</i>	<i>ELLE</i>	<i>ON</i>	<i>NOUS</i>	<i>VOUS</i>	<i>ILS</i>	<i>ELLES</i>
[ʒə]	[ty]	[il]	[ɛl]	[ɔ̃]	[nu]	[vu]	[il]	[ɛl]
I	you	he/it	she/it	one/we	we	you	they (m)	they (f)

- Note that there are no strict equivalent to English 'it' → you will learn more about this in the lessons to come
- The pronoun *ON* basically means 'one' and is also used as a colloquial 'we' → you will learn more about this in the lessons to come

On étudie le français = 'one studies French' / 'we study French'

- In French, there are two forms equivalent to the pronouns 'they' :
 - *ILS* is used when you refer to men or men and women
 - *ELLES* is used when you exclusively refer to women
- Note that this traditional rule about ILS/ELLES is evolving : it is now accepted to use ELLES when referring to mixed-gender group with a majority of women
- Note that, unlike some languages, subject pronouns are mandatory like in English
- Reminder : *TU* is used to address a single person you are familiar with *VOUS* is used to address a person to whom you want to show respect or a group of people ('y'all'/'you guys')

APPLICATION 1

Give the equivalent pronouns :

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. You guys : | 2. Colloquial we : | 3. He : |
| 4. I : | 5. You (formal) : | 6. You (informal) : |
| 7. They (male) : | 8. She : | 9. We : |
| 10. One : | 11. They (female) : | 12. It : |

CONJUGAISON

ÊTRE 'to be'

- Conjugation refers to the process of using the right form with a given subject pronoun. For instance, in English, you have different forms for the verb 'to be' :

I am – he is – she is – it is – we are – you are – they are

- Here is the present conjugation of the verb *être* (to memorize) :

ÊTRE			
JE	SUIS [sqi]	NOUS	SOMMES [sɔm]
TU	ES [ɛ]	VOUS	ÊTES [ɛt]
IL/ELLE/ON	EST [ɛ]	ILS/ELLES	SONT [sɔ̃]

APPLICATION 2

Translate :

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Y'all are : | 2. They (m) are : |
| 3. She is : | 4. We are : |
| 5. They (f) are : | 6. You are : |
| 7. I am : | 8. He is : |



GRAMMAIRE

ADJECTIVES AGREEMENT

- An **adjective** is a word used to describe someone/something → nationalities are adjectives
- In French, adjectives have to **agree** with the person or the thing they describe → there is a specific form depending if the adjective describes a man (masculine) or a woman (feminine) and if it describes one person/one thing (singular) or several persons/several things (plural)
- To form the feminine form of regular adjectives, you simply add an **-E** at the end of the adjective :

Peter est américain (Who is American ? → Peter → masculine form)

Mary est américaine (Who is American ? → Mary → feminine form → add **-E**)

- Note that if the masculine singular form of the adjective ends with an **-E**, you do not need to add an extra **E** to form the feminine form:

Pierre est belge.

Marie est belge.

- To form the plural form of regular adjectives, you simply add an **-S** at the end of the adjective :

Peter et John sont américains. *Mary et Judy sont américaines.*

- Note that if the masculine singular form of the adjective ends with an **-S**, you do not need to add an extra **S** to form the masculine plural form :

Pierre est français.

Pierre et Jean sont français.

BUT: *Marie et Julie sont françaises.*

- Note that the plural **-S** is silent : *américain* and *américains* are pronounced the same
- Adjectives also agree with subject pronouns :

<i>Il</i> (masculine/singular)	<i>est</i>	<i>américain</i> (masculine/singular)
<i>Elle</i> (feminine/singular)	<i>est</i>	<i>américaine</i> (feminine/singular)
<i>Ils</i> (masculine/plural)	<i>sont</i>	<i>américains</i> (masculine/plural)
<i>Elles</i> (feminine/plural)	<i>sont</i>	<i>américaines</i> (feminine/plural)

- With *JE/NOUS*, if you identify as a man, you use the masculine form, if you identify as a woman, you use the feminine form :

Je (masculine/singular)	<i>suis</i>	<i>américain</i> (masculine/singular)
Je (feminine/singular)	<i>suis</i>	<i>américaine</i> (feminine/singular)
Nous (masculine/singular)	<i>sommes</i>	<i>américains</i> (masculine/plural)
Nous (feminine/plural)	<i>sommes</i>	<i>américaines</i> (feminine/plural)

- With *TU/VOUS*, you use the form depending on whether you address a man or a woman, a single person or a group :

Tu (masculine/singular)	<i>es</i>	<i>américain</i> (masculine/singular)
Tu (feminine/singular)	<i>es</i>	<i>américaine</i> (feminine/singular)
Vous (masculine/singular)	<i>êtes</i>	<i>américains</i> (masculine/plural)
Vous (feminine/plural)	<i>êtes</i>	<i>américaines</i> (feminine/plural)

When using the formal *vous* to address one person :

Vous (masculine/singular)	<i>êtes</i>	<i>américain</i> (masculine/singular)
Vous (feminine/singular)	<i>êtes</i>	<i>américaine</i> (feminine/singular)

- Note that some adjectives are irregular → you need to memorize the specific form in the feminine (or plural) :

Il est coréen → *Elle est coréenne*.
Il est vietnamien → *Elle est vietnamienne*

- You can remember the rule that if an adjective ends with **-EN**, then the feminine form ends with **-ENNE** : **-EN** → **-ENNE**

APPLICATION 3

Agree the adjectives with the subject when necessary :

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Elle est russe ____ . | 2. Elles sont espagnol ____ . |
| 3. Il est allemand ____ . | 4. Ils sont hollandais ____ . |
| 5. Elle est anglais ____ . | 6. Ils sont américain ____ . |
| 7. Elles sont suisse ____ . | 8. Il est colombien ____ . |
| 9. Marie est italien ____ . | 10. Pierre et Marie sont belge ____ . |
| 11. Marie et Julie sont canadien ____ . | 12. Pierre est camerounais ____ . |



PRONONCIATION

DIACRITIC SIGNS ('ACCENTS')

- Listen to the recording to have the proper pronunciation
- In French, there are five types of diacritic signs ('accents'):
 - *accent aigu* 'accute accent': é
 - *accent grave* 'grave accent': à, è, ù
 - *accent circonflexe* 'circumflex accent': â, ê, î, ô, û
 - *tréma* 'diacritic': ë, ï, ü
 - *cétille* 'cedilla': ç
- *accent aigu* (é) indicates that an "e" is pronounced [e], that is, like the "e" in the English word 'bed' but with the mouth a bit more close: *café* [ka.fe]
- *accent grave* (à, è, ù) is used for two reasons:
 - to indicate that an "e" is pronounced [ɛ] that is like the "e" in the English word bed: *mère* [mɛʀ] 'mother'
 - to differentiate two words:
 - *a* 'has' vs. *à* 'at/to'
 - *ou* 'or' vs. *où* 'where'
- *accent circonflexe* (â, ê, î, ô, û) is used to indicate that the vowel used to be followed by an "s": *une forêt* 'a forest', *un hôpital* 'a hospital', etc.
- *tréma* (ë, ï, ü) is used to indicate that the two vowels are pronounced separately: *mais* [mɛ] 'but' vs. *maïs* [ma.is] 'corn'
- *cétille* is used to indicate that a "c" is pronounced [s]: *café* [ka.fe] vs. *Ça va?* [sa.va]
- Accents are very important in French → make sure to pay attention to them when memorizing vocabulary or conjugation paradigms.

APPLICATION 4

Listen and add the diacritic signs:

- | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|---------|----------|
| 1. garcon | 2. ete | 3. pere | 4. Noel | 5. fete |
| 6. tabloide | 7. quete | 8. ephemere | 9. recu | 10. deja |



ELISION

- With monosyllabic words (i.e., that only have one syllable) ending with -E, you drop the -E before a vowel sound and add an apostrophe → this rule is called **elision**
- Note the elision of -E with *DE* 'from': **DE → D'**

*Je suis **de** New York*
*Je viens **de** Miami*

*Je suis **d'**Austin*
*Je viens **d'**Orlando*

APPLICATION 5

Fill in the blanks with *DE/D'*:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Je suis ____ Orléans. | 2. Je viens ____ Paris. | 3. Je suis ____ Bordeaux. |
| 4. Je viens ____ Ajaccio. | 5. Je suis ____ Lyon. | 6. Je viens ____ Avignon |

ANSWER KEY

APPLICATION 1

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. You guys : VOUS | 2. Colloquial we : ON | 3. He : IL |
| 4. I : JE | 5. You (formal) : VOUS | 6. You (informal) : TU |
| 7. They (male) : ILS | 8. She : ELLE | 9. We : NOUS |
| 10. One : ON | 11. They (female) : ELLES | 12. It : IL/ELLE |

APPLICATION 2

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Y'all are : VOUS ÊTES | 2. They (m) are : ILS SONT |
| 3. She is : ELLE EST | 4. We are : NOUS SOMMES |
| 5. They (f) are : ELLES SONT | 6. You are : TU ES |
| 7. I am : JE SUIS | 8. He is : IL EST |

APPLICATION 3

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Elle est russe. | 2. Elles sont espagnoLES . |
| 3. Il est allemand. | 4. Ils sont hollandais. |
| 5. Elle est anglaisE | 6. Ils sont américainS . |
| 7. Elles sont suisseS | 8. Il est colombien |
| 9. Marie est italienNE | 10. Pierre et Marie sont belgeS |
| 11. Marie et Julie sont canadienNES | 12. Pierre est camerounais |

APPLICATION 4

- | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|---------|----------|
| 1. garçon | 2. été | 3. père | 4. Noël | 5. fête |
| 6. tabloïde | 7. quête | 8. éphémère | 9. reçu | 10. déjà |

APPLICATION 5

Fill in the blanks with *DE/D'*:

1. Je suis D'Orléans. 2. Je viens DE Paris. 3. Je suis DE Bordeaux.
4. Je viens D'Ajaccio. 5. Je suis DE Lyon. 6. Je viens D'Avignon

NOM _____

DEVOIR 4

EXERCICE 1

Fill in the blanks with the proper conjugation of être:

1. Tu _____ 2. Vous _____ 3. Elle _____
4. Ils _____ 5. Je _____ 6. Nous _____

EXERCICE 2

Agree the adjectives when necessary:

1. Ils sont camerounais____ 2. Elles sont algérien____ 3. Elle est russe____
4. Il est congolais____ 5. Elles sont japonais____ 6. Ils sont suisse____
7. Elle est coréen____ 8. Elles sont mexicain____ 9. Elles sont indien____

EXERCICE 3

Add the diacritic signs:

1. Vous etes americain? 2. Il est d'ou? 3. Bonne soiree!
4. Elle est francaise. 5. Il est haitien. 6. A bientot!

EXERCICE 4

Translate:

1. She's Italian → _____
2. He's Chinese → _____
3. I'm American → _____
4. We're from Atlanta → _____
5. Marie, you're Belgian? → _____
6. Mr. Poe, you're German? → _____
7. We are from Los Angeles. → _____
8. Aart and Bram? They're Dutch → _____
9. Mary and Judith? They're English → _____
10. James and Esther, y'all are Haitian? → _____



RECORDING

Je
Tu
Il
Elle
On
Nous
Vous
Ils
Elles

Je suis
Tu es
Il est
Elle est
On est
Nous sommes
Vous êtes
Ils sont
Elles sont

Accent aigu
Accent grave
Accent circonflexe
Tréma
Cédille

