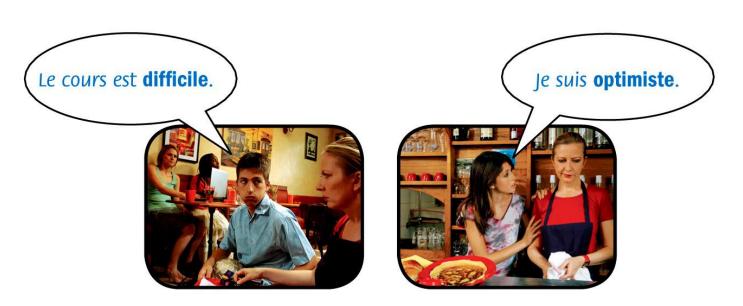
1B.2 Adjective agreement

Point de départ

Adjectives are words that describe people, places, and things. In French, adjectives are often used with the verb **être** to point out the qualities of nouns or pronouns.



Many adjectives in French are cognates; that is, they have the same or similar spellings and meanings in French and English.

| agréable | pleasant | intelligent(e) | intelligent | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|--|
| amusant(e) | fun | intéressant(e) | interesting | |
| brillant(e) | bright | occupé(e) | busy | |
| charmant(e) | charming | optimiste | optimistic | |
| désagréable | unpleasant | patient(e) | patient | |
| différent(e) | different | pessimiste | pessimistic | |
| difficile | difficult | poli(e) | polite | |
| égoïste | selfish | réservé(e) | reserved | |
| élégant(e) | elegant | sincère | sincere | |
| impatient(e) | impatient | sociable | sociable | |
| important(e) | important | sympathique (sympa) | nice | |
| indépendant(e) | independent | timide | shy | |

In French, most adjectives agree in number and gender with the nouns they describe. Most adjectives form the feminine by adding a silent -e (no accent) to the end of the masculine form, unless one is already there. Adding a silent -s to the end of masculine and feminine forms gives you the plural forms of both.

1B.2 Adjective agreement

MASCULINE SINGULAR

MASCULINE SINGULAR

Henri est élégant.

Henri is elegant.

MASCULINE PLURAL

MASCULINE PLURAL

Henri et Jérôme sont élégants.

Henri and Jérôme are elegant.

FEMININE SINGULAR

FEMININE SINGULAR

Patricia est élégante.

Patricia is elegant.

FEMININE PLURAL

FEMININE PLURAL

Patricia et Marie sont élégantes.

Patricia and Marie are elegant.



BOÎTE À OUTILS

Use the masculine plural form of an adjective to describe a group composed of masculine and feminine nouns: **Henri et Patricia sont élégants**.

French adjectives are usually placed after the noun they modify when they don't directly follow a form of être.

Ce sont des **élèves brillantes**.

They're brilliant students.

Bernard est un homme agréable et poli.

Bernard is a pleasant and polite man.

Here are some adjectives of nationality. Note that the -n of adjectives that end in -ien doubles before the final -e of the feminine form: algérienne, canadienne, italienne, vietnamienne.

Adjectives of nationality

| algérien(ne) | Algerian | japonais(e) | Japanese |
|--------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| allemand(e) | German | marocain(e) | Moroccan |
| anglais(e) | English | martiniquais(e) | from Martinique |
| américain(e) | American | mexicain(e) | Mexican |
| canadien(ne) | Canadian | québécois(e) | from Quebec |
| espagnol(e) | Spanish | sénégalais(e) | Senegalese |
| français(e) | French | suisse | Swiss |
| italien(ne) | Italian | vietnamien(ne) | Vietnamese |

The first letter of adjectives of nationality is not capitalized.



Il est américain.



Elle est française.

1B.2 Adjective agreement

An adjective whose masculine singular form already ends in -s keeps the identical form in the masculine plural.

Pierre est **un ami sénégalais**.

Pierre is a Senegalese friend.

Pierre et Yves sont des amis sénégalais.

Pierre and Yves are Senegalese friends.

1B.2 Adjective agreement

To ask someone's nationality or heritage, use Quelle est ta/votre nationalité? or Tu es/Vous êtes de quelle origine?

Quelle est votre nationalité?

What is your nationality?

Tu es de quelle origine?

What is your heritage?

Je suis de nationalité canadienne.

I'm of Canadian nationality.

Je suis d'origine italienne.

I'm of Italian heritage.

Essayez!

Write in the correct forms of the adjectives.

- **1.** Marc est _____ (timide). **5.** Elles sont _____ (réservé).
- 2. Ils sont _____ (anglais). 6. Il y a des universités ___ (important).
- _____ (français).
- **3.** Elle adore la littérature **7.** Christelle est _____ (amusant).

- _____ (suisse).
- **4.** Ce sont des actrices **8.** Les étudiants sont _____ (poli) en cours.