

A **determiner** is a word that determines or qualifies the meaning of a noun by expressing such concepts as quantity or definiteness. There is never more than one determiner per noun and it is always placed before the noun. Determiners always agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify.

**Articles** are the main group of determiners in French. There are three categories of articles: definite, indefinite, and partitive.

**Definite articles** (**le, la, les**) are used when the noun is specific. They are all translated as 'the' in English.

Le serveur donne **la** carte des vins à Tex.

The waiter gives **the** wine list to Tex.

**Indefinite articles** (**un, une, des**) introduce nouns that are not specific. They are translated as 'a' or 'an' in English.

Tex choisit **un** vin.      Tex chooses **a** wine.

**Partitive articles** (**du, de la, del'**) are used to introduce mass nouns, that is nouns that are conceived of as a mass of indeterminate quantity. They are usually translated as 'some' in English.

Tex boit **du** vin.      Tex drinks **some** wine.

**Demonstrative determiners** (**ce, cet, cette, ces**) point out something, typically something within sight. They may be translated in English as 'this', 'that', 'these', 'those' depending on the number (singular or plural) and proximity (near or far)

Tex explique: **Ce** bassin est Barton Spring.  
**Cette** piscine s'appelle Deep Eddy.

Tex explains: **This** pool is Barton Springs.  
**This** swimming pool is Deep Eddy.



**Possessive determiners** (**mon, ma, mes**, etc.) indicate ownership or possession like 'my', 'your', 'his', 'her', 'our', 'their'.

Tex présente **sa** famille: Voici **mon** frère Trey,  
**ma** soeur Rita avec **ses** enfants et **leur** chien  
Fido. **Notre** famille est formidable.

Tex introduces **his** family: Here is **my** brother,  
Trey, **my** sister, Rita with **her** children and  
**their** dog Fido. **Our** family is great.