

**3A.1 Descriptive adjectives****Point de départ**

As you learned in **Leçon 1B**, adjectives describe people, places, and things. In French, most adjectives agree in gender and number with the nouns or pronouns they modify.

SINGULAR  
MASCULINE  
NOUN ↔ SINGULAR  
MASCULINE  
ADJECTIVE

Le **père** est **américain**.  
*The father is American.*

PLURAL  
MASCULINE  
NOUN ↔ PLURAL  
MASCULINE  
ADJECTIVE

As-tu des **cours faciles**?  
*Do you have easy classes?*

**3A.1 Descriptive adjectives**

You've already learned several adjectives of nationality and some adjectives to describe your classes. Here are some adjectives used to describe physical characteristics.

**Adjectives of physical description**

<b>bleu(e)</b>	<i>blue</i>	<b>joli(e)</b>	<i>pretty</i>
<b>blond(e)</b>	<i>blond</i>	<b>laid(e)</b>	<i>ugly</i>
<b>brun(e)</b>	<i>dark (hair)</i>	<b>marron</b>	<i>brown (not for hair)</i>
<b>châtain</b>	<i>brown (hair)</i>	<b>noir(e)</b>	<i>black</i>
<b>court(e)</b>	<i>short</i>	<b>petit(e)</b>	<i>small, short (stature)</i>
<b>grand(e)</b>	<i>tall, big</i>	<b>raide</b>	<i>straight</i>
<b>jeune</b>	<i>young</i>	<b>vert(e)</b>	<i>green</i>

### 3A.1 Descriptive adjectives

Notice that, in the examples below, the adjectives agree in gender and number with the subjects.



**Elles** sont **blondes** et **petites**.  
*They are blond and short.*



**L'examen** est **long**.  
*The exam is long.*

### 3A.1 Descriptive adjectives

Use the expression **de taille moyenne** to describe someone or something of medium size.

Victor est un homme  
**de taille moyenne.**

*Victor is a man  
of medium height.*

C'est une université  
**de taille moyenne.**

*It's a medium-sized  
university.*

**3A.1 Descriptive adjectives**

The adjective **marron** is invariable; that is, it does not agree in gender and number with the noun it modifies. The adjective **châtain** is almost exclusively used to describe hair color.

Mon neveu a les **yeux marron**.  
*My nephew has brown eyes.*



Ma nièce a les **cheveux châtain**.  
*My niece has brown hair.*



## 3A.1 Descriptive adjectives

## Some irregular adjectives

masculine singular	feminine singular	masculine plural	feminine plural	
<b>beau</b>	<b>belle</b>	<b>beaux</b>	<b>belles</b>	<i>beautiful; handsome</i>
<b>bon</b>	<b>bonne</b>	<b>bons</b>	<b>bonnes</b>	<i>good; kind</i>
<b>fier</b>	<b>fière</b>	<b>fiers</b>	<b>fières</b>	<i>proud</i>
<b>gros</b>	<b>grosse</b>	<b>gros</b>	<b>grosses</b>	<i>fat</i>
<b>heureux</b>	<b>heureuse</b>	<b>heureux</b>	<b>heureuses</b>	<i>happy</i>
<b>intellectuel</b>	<b>intellectuelle</b>	<b>intellectuels</b>	<b>intellectuelles</b>	<i>intellectual</i>
<b>long</b>	<b>longue</b>	<b>longs</b>	<b>longues</b>	<i>long</i>
<b>naïf</b>	<b>naïve</b>	<b>naïfs</b>	<b>naïves</b>	<i>naïve</i>
<b>roux</b>	<b>rousse</b>	<b>roux</b>	<b>rousses</b>	<i>red-haired</i>
<b>vieux</b>	<b>vieille</b>	<b>vieux</b>	<b>vieilles</b>	<i>old</i>

**3A.1 Descriptive adjectives**

The forms of the adjective **nouveau** (*new*) follow the same pattern as those of **beau**.

Other adjectives that follow the pattern of **heureux** are **curieux** (*curious*), **malheureux** (*unhappy*), **nerveux** (*nervous*), and **sérieux** (*serious*).

**3A.1 Descriptive adjectives****Position of adjectives**

These adjectives are usually placed before the noun they modify: **beau**, **bon**, **grand**, **gros**, **jeune**, **joli**, **long**, **nouveau**, **petit**, and **vieux**.

J'aime bien les **grandes familles**.

*I like large families.*

Joël est un **vieux copain**.

*Joël is an old friend.*

These forms are used before masculine singular nouns that begin with a vowel sound.

**beau**

**nouveau**

**vieux**



**bel**

**nouvel**

**vieil**



un **bel** appartement

un **nouvel** ami

un **vieil** homme



**3A.1 Descriptive adjectives****Position of adjectives (continued)**

These adjectives are also generally placed before a noun:  
**mauvais(e)** (*bad*), **pauvre** (*poor, unfortunate*),  
**vrai(e)** (*true, real*).

The plural indefinite article **des** changes to **de** before an adjective followed by a noun.

J'habite avec **des amis sympathiques**.  
*I live with nice friends.*

J'habite avec **de bons amis**.  
*I live with good friends.*

### 3A.1

## Descriptive adjectives

**Essayez!**

Provide all four forms of these adjectives.

1. grand grand, grande, grands, grandes

5. naïf \_\_\_\_\_

2. nerveux \_\_\_\_\_

6. gros \_\_\_\_\_

3. roux \_\_\_\_\_

7. long \_\_\_\_\_

4. bleu \_\_\_\_\_

8. fier \_\_\_\_\_