



MFL Appendix – Glossary of Terms



Term	Explanation
Adjective	An adjective is a word that describes or tells you more about the noun.
Compound sentence	A sentence made up of two main clauses joined with a coordinating conjunction.
Conditional tense	The conditional tense allows you to express imaginative ideas about what might, would, could and should happen in the future.
Conjunction	A conjunction links two words/phrases or clauses together.
Definite article	The English definite article is the. It is used to indicate a specific noun. It has four French equivalents le (masculine), la (feminine), l' (masculine or feminine in front of a vowel or mute h) and les (plural) They are often required even when they are omitted in English.
Determiner	A word that goes in front of a noun or noun phrase Articles are examples of one group of determiners – the, a or an
-er verbs	These are verbs ending in -er. The endings alter based on the pronoun/noun used. For regular verbs, the endings are as follows: je -e tu -es il/elle/on -e nous -ons vous -ez ils/elles -ent
Feminine form	All nouns in French are either masculine or feminine. This will need to be known so that the correct article can be used.
High frequency verbs	The most common verbs used in French
Indefinite article	English indefinite articles are the words a, an, one and some. In French, they are un (masculine), une (feminine) and des (plural). When the quantity is known/countable, use the indefinite article (or a number).
Infinitive verb	The infinitive form of a verb is the verb in its basic form. It is the version of the verb that appears in the dictionary. The infinitive form has three main endings which are -er, -ir and -re
Irregular verb	An irregular verb is a verb that doesn't follow the conjugation patterns of regular -er, -ir and -re sets.
Masculine form	All nouns in French are either masculine or feminine. This will need to be known so that the correct article can be used.
Noun	The name of an object, person or thing.

Partitive article	French partitive articles are used with uncountable nouns and generally mean some or any. It has four main forms du (masculine), de la (feminine), de l' (masculine or feminine in front of vowel or mute h) and des (plural). The partitive article is usually used when discussing eating or drinking because one normally only eats some butter, cheese, etc., not all of it. The partitive indicates that the quantity is unknown or uncountable.
Past tense	Verbs that talk about the things that have already happened
Plural	More than one thing
Prepositions	A word that describes where or when something happens in relation to something else, usually linking a noun/pronoun/noun phrase to something else.
Present tense	Verbs that talk about things that are happening now.
Pronoun	A word that replaces a noun (to stop repetition)
Regular verb	In French, regular verbs are grouped into three main families which are –er, –ir and –re because these are the endings in the infinitive form.