



MFL Sunderland Primary French Podcasts

lesson

7A

Welcome to the MFL Sunderland Primary French podcast. Lesson 7A – Le Navet Énorme (The Enormous Turnip), part 1

In this lesson you'll learn the words for the characters in the Enormous Turnip, and find out what the words "masculine" and "feminine" mean.

The story of "Le navet énorme" has several key characters. Let's practise how to say them. Listen to them first.

le fermier	<i>the farmer</i>
la fermière	<i>the farmer's wife</i>
le fils	<i>the son</i>
la fille	<i>the daughter</i>
le chien	<i>the dog</i>
le chat	<i>the cat</i>
la souris	<i>the mouse</i>
le navet énorme	<i>the enormous turnip</i>

Maintenant, à toi. Ecoutez, répétez.

Le navet énorme

le fermier	(pause)
le fermier	(pause)
la fermière	(pause)
la fermière	(pause)
le fils	(pause)
le fils	(pause)
la fille	(pause)
la fille	(pause)
le chien	(pause)
le chien	(pause)
le chat	(pause)
le chat	(pause)
la souris	(pause)
la souris	(pause)
le navet énorme	(pause)
le navet énorme	(pause)

If you would like a new way of practising these words with your class, why not try “Répétez si c’est vrai” – “repeat it if it’s true”. Show the class a picture and say the word. If you say the right word, the class repeat it back. If you say the wrong word, they have to keep quiet. To make it more interesting and to make them concentrate harder, award yourself a point if they get it wrong, and them a point if they get it right. Here’s that instruction again – écoutez, répétez.

Répétez si c’est vrai (pause)

Répétez si c’est vrai (pause)

Masculine and feminine

*You may have noticed that some of the nouns from the story that you were practising have “le” before them and the others have “la”. Both of these words mean “the”, but the former is masculine and the latter is feminine. Masculine and feminine are **genders**.*

English is unusual because it no longer has a gender system. Gender marking in English is confined to people words like “mother” and “father”, animal words such as “cow” and “bull”, and pronouns like “he” and “she”. In French, however, every noun has a gender, whether it is a living thing, an object or an abstract concept. Remember that it isn’t the things themselves that are masculine or feminine, it’s the words. A tie – “une cravate” - and a watch – “une montre” – are feminine, even though many men wear them. “Masculine” and “feminine” are merely the names of the groups. They could just as easily be called “green and yellow words” or “group A and group B words”.

It’s important when we are learning new nouns in French that we learn the gender alongside them, as the gender determines which articles and pronouns we use, and how we spell any adjectives that describe them. We learn the gender by putting “le” or “la” before the noun, or indeed “un” or “une”, which are the masculine and feminine words for “a” or “an”. To help pupils to remember which gender nouns are, we colour-code flashcards and other images with blue and red.

You can sometimes spot which gender a noun is by looking at the letters at the end of it – the suffix. Some suffixes are very often masculine and others feminine. For example, words ending in –isme are most often masculine, and words ending in –ette are feminine. You could introduce your class to a bilingual dictionary, and ask them to tell you how they can use it to learn the gender of any new noun.*

That’s the end of this podcast. If you think you need a bit more practice, go back to the beginning and work through the activities again.

Au revoir !

*If you would like to find out more about the masculine and feminine suffixes for nouns, look here <http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/genderpatterns.htm>