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**Step by Step Simplified
FRENCH GRAMMAR
Booklet 2 Sample**

**Le Nom.
Qu'est-Ce que C'est?**

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Grammar Booklet

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Introduction: A Word about Grammar

Grammar. Just saying or reading the word makes most of the learners panic! People have a negative feeling about French grammar. They have heard about irregular verbs, weird tenses, nouns and gender...

That's why this booklet concentrates only on one grammar subject and is compiled with only very simplified grammatical points.

You will be guided step by step and all the points are defined and explained.

At the end of each mini lesson, you will be able to test your knowledge and learn new vocabulary by working with cultural and authentic literary texts.

Grammar, which knows how to control even kings." **Molière**

What is a Noun?

In French, a noun is either called **un nom** or **un substantif**.

1. A noun is a **word**. (**chat**)

2. A noun can be a **common noun** / **un nom commun**.

It defines individuals of the same species (**les hommes, les chevaux...**) or represents a concept (**la psychologie de l'enfant**).

It is the opposite of the proper noun that does not have a specific definition. (**Paul**)

3. A noun can be a **proper noun** / **un nom propre**.

It defines a person, a place, a unique thing.

This kind of noun requires a capital letter: **Monet (le peintre / the painter), la ville de Toulouse**

4. Any **word preceded by a determiner** (**un déterminant** : un, une, la, le, les, des, ce, son...) is a noun.

5. A noun varies in **gender**:
le chat (masculine form)
la chatte (feminine form)

6. A nouns varies in **number**:
le chat (singular form)
les chats (plural form)

What is Gender in French? (le genre)

1. Gender or **le genre** defines if **the noun is masculine or feminine**.

A noun preceded by **un** or **le** is masculine.

A noun preceded by **une** or **la** is feminine.

For someone studying French, picking the right gender to use is a nightmare because there is no logic or even a rule to refer to. The only way is to learn the gender for each word.

2 Techniques to Learn French Gender

1. When you make a list of vocabulary that you need to learn off, always include the gender with the noun. Do not write a noun without its determiner (le, la, un, une...).

2. Listen and read as much French as you can and the gender will automatically stay imprinted in your brain. Without thinking or learning it, you will get familiar to the language. For this to happen, you need to read French or listen to French podcasts, radio programmes, etc... at least once a day.

This is how the French children learn the gender without realising it, just by immersion.

What is Number in French?

✓ Number indicates if articles, adjectives or pronouns that modify nouns must be singular or plural.

- ➡ **L'enfant** singular (one child) / singulier
- ➡ **Les enfants** plural (many children) / pluriel

What are the different Functions of a Noun?

1. A noun can be a subject / **un sujet**.

➡ **Les enfants** jouent dans la cour de l'école. *Children play in the school yard.*

The subject of a verb is the thing or the person who performs the action of that verb.

2. A noun can be an attribute / **un attribut**.

➡ Paris est **la capitale de la France**. *Paris is the capital of France.*

Thanks to the verb, **the attribute of the subject** indicate a way of being, a characteristic of the subject.

3. A noun can be a complement / **un complément**.

➡ Je fais **mes courses au supermarché, le lundi**. *I do my food shopping at the supermarket, on Mondays*

