

# 3<sup>e</sup> Leçon

## Proverb

This saying encourages persistence and describes the way we learn a language.

## Vocabulary

### Quel/Quelle

These words also have gender depending on the thing in question. This way of saying *what?* is usually used to mean what or which thing or object. Students may begin to notice how much more frequently ‘Q’ words are used in French than in English.

## Grammar

### Plurals

As in English, regular plurals in French are formed by adding **s**. However, there are a number of exceptions.

Nouns ending in <b>z, x</b> or <b>s</b>	no change in plural
Nouns ending in <b>eu</b> or <b>au</b>	add <b>x</b>
Nouns ending in <b>al</b>	change to <b>aux</b>
7 nouns ending in <b>ou</b>	add <b>x</b>

4 nouns ending in <b>ail</b>	change to <b>aux</b>
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**genou/genoux** (knee)  
**caillou/cailloux** (pebble)  
**joujou/joujoux** (toy)  
**pou/poux** (louse)  
**chou/choux** (cabbage)  
**hibou/hiboux** (owl)  
**vitrail/vitraux** (stained glass window)  
**travail/travaux** (work)  
**bail/baux** (lease)  
**corail/coraux** (coral)

Don't worry about teaching all these plurals right now. Just be aware that they exist, so you don't get confused when they come up in later lessons.

## 3. Troisième Leçon

### Proverbe

Petit à petit, l'oiseau fait son nid.

Little by little, the bird builds his nest.

### Vocabulaire

1. le fils/les fils	son/sons
2. la fille/les filles	daughter/daughters
3. la femme	woman or wife
4. le mari	husband
5. le beau-père	father-in-law
6. la belle-mère	mother-in-law
7. Comment?	How?
8. Quel/Quelle?	Which or What?
9. et	and
10. le chat/la chatte	cat
11. le chien/la chienne	dog
12. l'oiseau (m.)/les oiseaux	bird/birds

### Grammaire

#### Possessive adjectives

mon/ma/mes	notre/nos
ton/ta/tes	votre/vos
son/sa/ses	leur/leurs

### Dialogue

Comment vous appelez-vous? Je m'appelle \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Comment t'appelles-tu? Je m'appelle \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Comment s'appelle-t-il? Mon frère s'appelle \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Comment s'appelle-t-elle? Elle s'appelle \_\_\_\_\_.

## Exercices

## A. Traduction

1. Ma mère a une sœur. \_\_\_\_\_ *My mother has a sister.*
2. Bonjour, mon grand-père! \_\_\_\_\_ *Good morning (Hello), (my) Grandfather.*
3. Son mari a un chat. \_\_\_\_\_ *Her husband has a cat.*
4. Mes cousins ont un oiseau. \_\_\_\_\_ *My cousins have a bird.*
5. Ses frères ont des oncles. \_\_\_\_\_ *His (or her) brothers have (some) uncles.*
6. Your mother and your father have a baby. \_\_\_\_\_ *Ta mère et ton père ont un bébé.*
7. We have a dog. \_\_\_\_\_ *Nous avons un chien.*
8. What is your name? \_\_\_\_\_ *Comment t'appelles-tu? or Comment vous appelez-vous?*
9. Her name is Jeanne. \_\_\_\_\_ *Elle s'appelle Jeanne.*

## B. Grammaire

1. The personal pronouns are: \_\_\_\_\_ *je, tu, il, elle, nous, vous, ils, elles*
2. The possessive adjectives are:  
 my mon / ma / mes  
 our notre / nos  
 your (sing.) ton / ta / tes  
 your (pl) votre / vos  
 his/her son / sa / ses  
 their leur / leurs
3. **Le, la** and **les** are parts of speech known as definite articles. They all mean the.
4. When greeting someone formally, we say bonjour, and add their name / title.
5. **Un, une,** and **des** are parts of speech known as indefinite articles.

**Possessive Adjectives**

Possessive adjectives also have gender in French, in the singular but not the plural. Even if students understand the concept of **le/la/les**, the possessive adjectives may be confusing. Just keep reminding them that the possessive takes the gender and number of the thing being modified, not the speaker. For example, one female speaking about her cats would use **mes chats**, about her male cat would use **mon chat**, and about her female cat would use **ma chatte**. If the noun has both male and female versions, groups of those things are always male (**les chats**) unless the group is known to be 100% female.

## Dialogue

**S'appeler** is an example of a reflexive verb. This is a good example of a common phrase expressed entirely differently

than the common way of saying it in English. While we would say *what is your name?*, the French construction translates more literally as *what do you call yourself?* It may help students to remember the literal meaning, but good translating aims for *equivalent* expression. Therefore, *what is your name?* is the better translation. Part of studying a language is studying a culture, and students should begin to realize that different constructions of words show different methods of organizing thoughts, different ways of interpreting the world.

We will consider reflexive verbs later in the course. For now, just have your student memorize the formula. (The purpose of **t** in **s'appelle-t-il** and **s'appelle-t-elle** is to separate the two "I" sounds.)

Comment vous appelez-vous?	What is your name ? ( <i>How do you call yourself ?</i> )
Je m'appelle _____.	My name is _____. ( <i>I call myself _____</i> )
Comment t'appelles-tu?	What is your name ?
Comment s'appelle-t-il?	What is his name?
Mon frère s'appelle _____.	My brother's name is ____ ( <i>My brother calls himself_____</i> )
Comment s'appelle-t-elle?	What is her name ?
Elle s'appelle _____.	Her name is _____.