Title: NOUNS- GENDER & NUMBER

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<td>gender &amp; number of nouns</td>
<td><strong>A noun designates a person, place or thing. Like in English, in French nouns can show number (singular or plural). Unlike English, French nouns also show gender (masculine or feminine). You will soon see how important this number &amp; gender concept is.</strong></td>
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| nouns for people | • Nouns that designate a male are usually masculine and those that designate a female are usually feminine.  
  *Ex. L’acteur = actor (masc.)  L’actrice = actress (fem.*)* |
| one version for boys/girls | • Some nouns can be used for either a male or a female, but only have one gender.  
  *Ex. le professeur (masc.) - used for male or female teacher  
  *Ex. la personne (fem.) - used for male or female person* |
| objects & gender | • Nouns for objects don’t have gender in English, but they do in French, so they will be either masculine or feminine.  
  *Masculine*  
  *Feminine*  
  *l’objet (object)*  
  *la différence (difference)*  
  *le lycée (high school)*  
  *l’université (university)* |
| making plurals | ☆It is SO important to memorize the genders of nouns as you learn them!  
  • You usually make a French noun plural by adding an “s” to the end, like English. However, there are some nouns that you add an “x” to to make them plural- those nouns usually end in -eau.  
  *ex. objet -> objets*  
  *ex. différence -> différences*  
  *ex. bureau -> bureaux*  
  *Also, words that end in -al change to -aux in the plural.  
  *Ex. l’animal -> les animaux* |
| add “s” or add “x” | • When referring to a group of males & females mixed- use the masculine plural as the default. This is true for people and things in French. |

**summary** (summary, questions, pictures etc...)  
ALL nouns have gender in French- even objects and ideas.  
- for people, use the same gender as the person, unless it is an exception  
- for things you must memorize the gender of the noun  
- to make plurals, most of the time add “s”, sometimes “x” and if it ends in -al then change the ending to -aux  
- mixed groups are referred to using the masculine plural