

What is Complex Agreement in French?

Worksheet

Complex agreement requires adjectives, articles, and past participles to match their nouns in gender and number. A single mismatch changes meaning or signals non-native speech.

Questions

1. Which is correct?
A) Les belles chaises vertes
B) Les beau chaises vert
C) La belles chaise verte
D) Le beau chaise vert
2. Plural of 'un petit chien'?
A) une petits chiens
B) des petits chiens
C) les petit chien
D) un petite chienne
3. What does 'Les filles intelligentes' mean?
A) The intelligent girls
B) Girl intelligent the
C) An intelligent girl
D) Intelligent the girls
4. Which verb form agrees with 'ma sœur'?
A) parle
B) parlent
C) parlons
D) parlez
5. Identify the error: 'une belle chats noirs'.
6. Complete: 'L'étudiante ____ (intelligent) parle ____ (français) courant.'
7. Agree the adjective: 'trois ____ (grand) tableaux'.
8. Define: What is complex agreement?
9. Define: Do past participles agree in French?
10. Define: How many genders in French?

Answer Key

1. A) Les belles chaises vertes — Plural feminine nouns need feminine plural adjectives: 'belles', 'vertes'.
2. B) des petits chiens — 'un' (masc. sg) → 'des' (plural); adjective 'petit' → 'petits' (masc. pl).
3. A) The intelligent girls — Feminine plural article + noun + feminine plural adjective.
4. A) parle — 'sœur' (she) is 3rd person singular → 'parle' (3rd sg).
5. The noun 'chats' is masculine plural. The adjective should be masculine plural: 'beaux', not 'belle'. The article 'une' is feminine singular; it should be 'des' (plural). Correct: 'des beaux chats noirs'.
6. 'étudiante' is feminine singular → 'intelligente' (add -e). 'français' is an adjective/noun here, invariant → 'français' (no change). Answer: 'L'étudiante intelligente parle français courant.'
7. 'tableaux' is masculine plural. 'grand' must be masculine plural → 'grands'. Answer: 'trois grands tableaux'.
8. The alignment of articles, nouns, adjectives, and verbs in gender and number.
9. Yes, when used as adjectives or after 'être' in passé composé. With 'avoir' they agree with the direct object only if it precedes the verb.
10. Two: masculine (le, un) and feminine (la, une). Gender affects articles, adjectives, and some verbs.

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