

## Grammaire

### Definite articles

Although *le, la, l', les* are generally used in the same way as 'the' in English, there are occasions when 'the' is omitted but the French equivalent is required. This is the case before:

- abstract nouns
- nouns used to generalise
- names of continents, countries, regions and languages
- arts, sciences, school subjects, sports, illnesses, parts of the body
- meals and drinks
- fractions
- titles.

*Le, la, l', les* however are not required:

- with languages placed after the verb *parler*
- after *en* or *de* with feminine place names.

### Indefinite articles

Although *un, une, des* are used in the same way as 'a', 'an', 'some', 'any', they are omitted:

- after *quel, comme, en, en tant que, sans, ni*
- before a person's occupation
- in a list.

### Partitive articles

Partitive articles *du, de la, de l', des* mean 'some', 'any'. All the forms change to *de/d'*:

- after a negative verb (this also applies to *un/une*). Note however that it does not apply after *ne ... que*.
- in expressions of quantity such as *beaucoup de, assez de, trop de*.
- with plural nouns preceded by an adjective: *de belles fleurs*.
- in expressions such as *bordé de, couvert de, entouré de, plein de, rempli de*.

Note that 'some' can sometimes be omitted in English, but not in French: He sells vegetables. *Il vend des légumes*.

### 1 Write the sentences in French.

- a Half of France voted for President Hollande.

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- b I think that French is more difficult than German.

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- c Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included in the price.

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- d He brushes his teeth every day.

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- e She spent a year in Provence where she spoke French all the time.

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### 2 Complete the English translations (1–5) so that they can be matched up with the French sentences (a–e). Then, write the correct number in each box.

- a *Quel imbécile!*  1 As \_\_\_\_\_.
- b *Elle aurait aimé devenir chirurgienne.*  2 Without any \_\_\_\_\_.
- c *En tant que maire, c'est votre responsabilité.*  3 What an \_\_\_\_\_.
- d *Sans argent, la vie est difficile.*  4 He does not \_\_\_\_\_.
- e *Il n'a ni télévision ni ordinateur.*  5 She would have liked \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3 Fill in the blanks with the correct partitive article each time.

- a Il fait pousser beaucoup \_\_\_\_\_ légumes dans son jardin: \_\_\_\_\_ oignons, \_\_\_\_\_ tomates, \_\_\_\_\_ ail.
- b Le maire a l'intention de réaliser \_\_\_\_\_ grands projets.
- c Comme il est végétarien, il ne mange pas \_\_\_\_\_ poisson ou \_\_\_\_\_ viande. En fait, il ne mange presque que \_\_\_\_\_ fruits et \_\_\_\_\_ légumes.
- d On nous donne beaucoup trop \_\_\_\_\_ devoirs à faire.