

OCCUPATION IN FRENCH

In French, many professions have both a masculine and a feminine form, reflecting the gender of the person holding the job. This is somewhat different from English, where the same word is typically used regardless of the person's gender. Let's look at some examples to understand how this works.

Examples :

la traducteur, la traductrice

le vendeur, la vendeuse

le policier, la policière

le boulanger, la boulangère

le professeur, la professeur

l'avocat, l'avocate

For instance, the word for a male teacher in French is "professeur" and for a female teacher, it's "professeuse". Similarly, a male cook is called a "cuisinier" while a female cook is referred to as "cuisinière". These examples show how the endings of the words change to indicate the gender of the individual.

However, there are also many professions in French where the same word is used for both males and females. For example, the word "médecin" means a doctor for both genders. Another example is "journaliste", which means a journalist whether the person is male or female.

Examples :

le journaliste, la journaliste

le médecin, la médecin,

le pianiste, la pianiste

le militaire, la militaire

List of professional activity names in French that vary in gender between masculine and feminine forms.

FRENCH (masculine)	FRENCH (féminine)	API	ENGLISH
agriculteur	agricultrice	[aɡʁikultœʁ, aɡʁikultris]	farmer
artisan	artisane	[aʁtizɑ̃, aʁtizɑ̃n]	craft worker
assistant	assistante	[asistɑ̃, asistɑ̃t]	assistant
auteur	autrice	[otœʁ, otris]	author
avocat	avocate	[avɔka, avokat]	lawyer
boulangier	boulangère	[bulɑ̃ʒe, bulɑ̃ʒeʁ]	baker
caissier	caissière	[kɛsjɛ, kɛsjɛʁ]	cashier, checker
chauffeur	chauffeuse	[ʃofœʁ, ʃoføʒ]	driver
acteur	actrice	[aktœʁ, aktris]	actor
concierge	concièrge	[kɔ̃sjɛʁʒ]	caretaker
consultant	consultante	[kɔ̃sylvɑ̃, kɔ̃sylvɑ̃t]	consultant
créateur	créatrice	[kʁeatœʁ, kʁeatris]	designer, creator
cuisinier	cuisinière	[kɥizinjɛ, kɥizinjɛʁ]	cook
danseur	danseuse	[dɑ̃sœʁ, dɑ̃søʒ]	dancer
directeur	directrice	[dɪʁektœʁ, dɪʁektris]	managern head
enseignant	enseignante	[ɑ̃sɛ̃ɑ̃ – ɑ̃sɛ̃ɑ̃t]	teacher
entrepreneur	entrepreneuse	[ɑ̃tʁɛpʁɑ̃nœʁ, ɑ̃tʁɛpʁɑ̃nøʒ]	buziness(wo)man
entraîneur	entraîneuse	[ɑ̃tʁɛnœʁ, ɑ̃tʁɛnøʒ]	trainer
esthéticien	esthéticienne	[ɛstetisjɛ̃, ɛstetisjɛ̃n]	beautician
formateur	formatrice	[fɔʁmatœʁ, fɔʁmatris]	trainer
gérant	gérante	[ʒɛʁɑ̃, ʒɛʁɑ̃t]	manager
illustrateur	illustratrice	[ilystʁatœʁ, ilystʁatris]	illustrator
infirmier	infirmière	[ɛfɪʁmjɛ, ɛfɪʁmjɛʁ]	nurse
influenceur	influenceuse	[ɛ̃flyɑ̃sœʁ, ɛ̃flyɑ̃søʒ]	influencer
jardinier	jardinière	[ʒɑʁdinjɛ, ʒɑʁdinjɛʁ]	gardener
masseur	masseuse	[masœʁ, masøʒ]	masseur
médecin	médecin	[med(ə)sɛ̃]	doctor
musicien	musicienne	[myzisyɛ̃, myzisyɛ̃n]	musician
ouvrier agricole	ouvrière agricole	[uvʁijɛ, uvʁijɛʁ aɡʁikɔl]	farm worker
pâtissier	pâtissière	[patisyɛ, patisyɛʁ]	pastrycook, confectioner
policier	policière	[polisjɛ, polisjɛʁ]	police officer
pompier	pomprière	[pɔ̃pjɛ, pɔ̃pjɛʁ]	firefighter
réalisateur	réalisatrice	[ʁealizatœʁ, ʁealizatris]	film director
serveur	serveuse	[sɛʁvœʁ, sɛʁvøʒ]	waiter, barman
sportif	sportive	[spɔʁtif, spɔʁtiv]	sport(wo)man
traducteur	traductrice	[tʁadyktœʁ, tʁadyktris]	translator
vendeur	vendeuse	[vɑ̃dœʁ, vɑ̃døʒ]	shop assistant
voleur	voleuse	[volœʁ, voløʒ]	thief

List of professions in French that are the same in both masculine and feminine forms.

FRENCH (masculine)	FRENCH (féminine)	API	ENGLISH
architecte	architecte	[aʁʃitekt]	architect
comptable	comptable	[kɔ̃tabl]	accountant
contremaître	contremaître	[kɔ̃tʁəmɛtʁ]	fore(wo)man
géographe	géographe	[ʒeɔɡraf]	geographer
graphiste	graphiste	[ɡʁafist]	graphic designer
guide	guide	[gid]	guide
journaliste	journaliste	[ʒuʁnalist]	journalist
libraire	libraire	[libʁɛʁ]	bookseller
manutentionnaire	manutentionnaire	[manytɑ̃sjɔnɛʁ]	packer
médecin	médecin	[med(ə)sɛ̃]	doctor
pirate	pirate	[pɪrat]	pirate
psychologue	psychologue	[psikɔlɔɡ]	psychologist
militaire	militaire	[militɛʁ]	soldier

List of professions in French whose spelling differs between masculine and feminine forms, but whose pronunciation is the same.

FRENCH (masculine)	FRENCH (féminine)	API	ENGLISH
ingénieur	ingénieure	[ɛ̃ʒenjœʁ]	engineer
professeur de guitare	professeure de guitare	[pʁɔfɛsœʁdɛɡitaʁ]	guitar instructor