

An **adjective** is a word that describes a noun or pronoun. The major differences between adjectives in French and English concern agreement and placement. In French, an adjective is usually placed after the noun it modifies and must agree in gender and number with the noun. In English, an adjective usually comes before the noun it modifies and is invariable, that is, it does not agree.

Tex est un tatou **philosophique**.

Tex is a **philosophical** armadillo.

Edouard est un escargot **raffiné**.

Edouard is a **refined** snail.

Joe-Bob est un écureuil **aimable**.

Joe-Bob is a **friendly** squirrel.

Bette est une chatte **capricieuse**.

Bette is a **temperamental** cat.

Corey est un cafard **ivre**.

Corey is an **intoxicated** cockroach.

Fiona est **travailleuse**. (f)

Fiona is **hard-working**.

Mais Joe-Bob n'est pas **travailleur**. (m)

But Joe-Bob isn't **hard-working**.



adjective vs. adverb

It is common in nonstandard English for speakers to use adjectives in place of adverbs.

Joe-Bob says: "Gee, Tex writes real good." (instead of: "Tex writes **well**.")

Joe-Bob says "Gosh, Edouard, you walk real slow." (instead of: "Edouard, you talk **slowly**.")

French adjectives are rarely used in place of the adverbial form. Remember that adjectives modify nouns and adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs!

Tex écrit **bien**.
(adverb modifies verb)

Tex writes **well**.

La poésie de Tex est **bonne**.
(adjective modifies noun)

Tex's poetry is **good**.