

All about French Nouns: Focus on Gender

by
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Of the forty-three thousand words in a comprehensive French dictionary, almost thirty-three thousand are nouns. Determining the gender of these nouns is one of the great stumbling blocks on the road to learning French. Although it is true that gender becomes a factor in dealing with articles, adjectives, past participles and pronouns, these four parts of speech modify or refer to nouns, whether expressed or implied; noun gender is always the initiating factor. Noun gender is the problem.

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Consistent with the Latin language tradition, the Spanish, Italian and Portuguese languages use *a* for feminine noun endings and *o* for masculine noun endings. There are a few additional feminine noun endings (easily memorized), even fewer additional masculine noun endings, and few exceptions to either basic rule.

In contrast, very few French nouns end in *a* or *o*, and those that do are usually masculine in gender, whether they end in *a* or *o*. The French language uses the whole alphabet for noun endings, and gender is basically indeterminate. This is a factor that distinguishes the French language from other Romance languages and makes it so difficult for English-speaking people.

All About French Nouns: Focus on Gender confronts the French gender problem and defines it in the most concise manner possible. It provides a permanent source of reference and perhaps the only comprehensive documentary evidence on the subject available today. As such, it serves to confirm or deny previous notions about French gender.

Of the thirty-three thousand French nouns here considered, almost thirty thousand can be easily and precisely identified. One thousand are sex-determined, thus giving us an obvious option. The remaining twenty-nine thousand follow two basic rules of gender and are listed accordingly in this text. These rules generate a maximum number of conforming nouns, as evidenced by the long lists of nouns on pages 89 to 212 (masculine rule list) and pages 212 to 296 (feminine rule list) and by the rules statistics on page 313.

THE TWO BASIC RULES OF GENDER

Most nouns ending in a consonant or vowel (other than mute *e*) and most verb-hyphenated nouns are masculine; the odds are 48-1, 9-1, and 51-1 respectively that such will be the case. Most nouns ending in mute *e* are feminine; the odds are 2-1. Compare the relative value of the word "most" in the two statements. It is well known that if we are to determine gender with any accuracy whatsoever by observing mute *e* endings, we must consider another factor, the letters preceding the mute *e* ending, especially the penultimate (next-to-last) letter.

For example, nouns ending in *ge*, *le*, *me*, and *re* should be considered masculine. In fact, the odds are 16-1 in the case of *-ge* and 10-1 in the case of *-me* that the concerned noun in each case will be masculine (*-age* and *-isme* are largely responsible for this). *-le* and *-re* nouns are more evenly distributed between the genders; however, if a few broad exceptions are memorized, the problem of almost equal distribution is minimized. *-be*, *-ze*, *-ke*, and *-xe* should be considered masculine endings; however, nouns with such endings are few in number and of negligible influence.

Therefore, when thinking in terms of "masculine," we might think in terms of "glamor," a contrived catchword, a reminder of the four penultimate letters of the *ge*, *le*, *me*, and *re* masculine endings. As for the other four penultimate endings, *bz* might represent a speedwritten "biz" (as in "show biz"), and *kx*, a speedwritten "kicks"; then we might create a nonsense phrase beginning with *glmr* as speedwriting for "glamor": *glmr bz kx*, a speedwritten "glamor biz kicks" idea. To this we might add "consonants, vowels and hyphens," as objects of the speedwritten verb, *kx*, to form a complete nonsense sentence, but no-nonsense rule: *glmr bz kx* consonants, vowels, and hyphens. This is rule number one, the key rule, the masculine rule.

(In the chart which follows, the aforementioned "broad exceptions" are positioned below the letters or words of the masculine rule to which they apply.)

<i>g</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>x</i>	consonants	vowels	hyphens
	<i>lle</i>		<i>ère</i>					<i>aïson</i>	<i>té</i>	
	<i>ale</i>		<i>ure</i>					<i>ion</i>		
	<i>ole</i>									
	<i>ule</i>									

Since the neuter gender does not exist in French (except for an occasional pronoun) it is to be assumed, for our purposes, that "exception" refers, and will continue to refer, to the opposite of either of two possible genders. For example, in the above instance, *lle*, *ale*, *ole*, *ule*, *ère*, *ure*, *aïson*, *ion*, and *té* endings, listed as exceptions below the masculine rule, are necessarily assumed to be feminine, and as feminine noun endings, they will become a part of our feminine rule together with endings in any letters of the alphabet other than *g*, *l*, *m*, *r*, *b*, *z*, *k*, *x*, followed by mute *e*. (*ae*, *je oe*, *qe*, and *we* endings need not be considered at all; no such endings exist in French.) Alphabetically then, the penultimate feminine letters we should remember are *c*, *d*, *é*, *f*, *h*, *i* or *y*, *n*, *p*, *s*, *t*, *u*, *v*, each followed, of course, by mute *e*. This then is rule number two, the feminine rule.

Thus we have two basic rules, one masculine, in the form of a statement; the other feminine, in the form of broad exceptions to the masculine statement and an alphabetical sequence. Of the 32,995 nouns we are considering, 29,848 follow these rules. We can identify them on pages 89 through 295 and confirm the statistics on page 313.

But 3,147 renegade nouns remain. These are the particular (as opposed to "broad") exceptions. We can identify them also, on pages 30 through 79, and confirm their statistics as well. Beyond that, to avoid the old stumbling block--having to learn each noun in turn, one by one, the traditional way--we can perceive them in phonetically-suffixated mnemonic blocks, blocks not to stumble over, but to give access to learning.

By way of introduction to this phonetic method of listing and the block method of presentation, we begin by identifying the more than a

thousand "optional" nouns in the French language, thus achieving two goals at once.

THE OPTIONALS AND THE BASIC METHOD

We can master the gender of optional nouns without concerning ourselves with the basic rules and exceptions at all. All we need is one simple rule: gender is determined by the sex of the person to whom we are referring. Except for ordinal numbers and certain quantifiers which might refer to things, optionals refer exclusively to persons. They are, shall we say, "people nouns," and the endings are the same for both sexes. Take the first noun, for example. If you are an Arab woman, you are **une Arabe**; if a man, **un Arabe**. The *be* ending in this case, usually a masculine ending demanding a masculine article and/or adjective, is disregarded in favor of the sexual consideration. So it is with all optionals with their various endings. And with these simple optionals we introduce our basic method of presentation of all nouns in this text, as follows:

Single asterisks, double asterisks, and italics serve to amend certain designated nouns, thus broadening the scope--and the value--of the long lists contained here.

Single asterisks identify nouns which may function also as adjectives. (If a noun is capitalized, it is to be understood that, as an adjective, the initial letter would be lowercase.) Double asterisks identify homonyms. For example, the first noun so marked, **contumace**, here listed as an optional, means "contemptuous man" or "contemptuous woman." As a noun ending in *ce* that follows the basic feminine rule, **contumace** appears on a list of homonyms as a feminine noun, and is defined, in accordance with gender and sentence context, as "willful contempt." The double asterisks (**) remind us of the double life of this noun.

Italics identify exact cognates. For example, the first italicized nouns, *Tzigane*, *aide*, and *dilettante*, are spelled exactly the same and have the same meaning in English as they do in French. (Inexact cognates are too numerous and too complex to be identified in a similar way.)

Optional endings are listed in *a, e, i, o, u* vowel order, as vowels preceding alphabetized penultimate letters in mute *e*-ending words. For example, notice in this optional list that, in general, nouns ending in the

letter *a* plus alphabetized consonant plus mute *e* are followed by nouns ending in the letter *e* plus alphabetized consonant plus mute *e*. These in turn are followed by nouns ending in the letter *i* plus alphabetized consonant plus mute *e*, followed by nouns ending in the letter *o* plus alphabetized consonant plus mute *e*, finally by a few nouns ending in *u* plus alphabetized consonant plus mute *e*. Often more than one letter stands between the ordering vowel and the mute *e* vowel ending in which case further alphabetizing of the letter or letters precedent to the penultimate letter becomes necessary, and these nouns with extended endings always follow nouns with three-letter endings, e.g., **esclave** (three-letter ending) is followed by **comptable** with four.

In order to include “consonants, vowels, and hyphens” of the masculine rule, the mute *e*-ending nouns are followed by consonant-ending nouns, followed by vowel (other than mute *e*)-ending nouns. These are arranged in alphabetical order in accordance with last letter. The verb-hyphenated nouns complete the list

Whenever advisable, all nouns having the same endings are arranged in alphabetical order in accordance with first letters, dictionary fashion within their particular groups, as with the small group of verb-hyphenated nouns. However, the minimal advantage of such an arrangement for most noun groups is far outweighed by the significant advantage of having the nouns arranged in accordance with context. Therefore, alphabetizing of first letters is a secondary consideration. The primary consideration has been to present the nouns phonetically in closely-related (and thus more memorable) blocks.

Since we are dealing with endings, we are per se dealing with the principal suffixes of the French language. These suffixes not only sound alike, as the word “phonetic” suggests, but also are spelled alike and impart the same shade of meaning to the noun to which they are attached. In a phonetic list, these suffixes will naturally line up close together, thus making possible block (as opposed to random) learning. Listing in accordance with context is merely an extension of this natural advantage. Dominant among the endings in this optional list are the familiar suffixes: *aire*, *ique*, and especially *iste*.

Certain rules of context will be found throughout all phonetic lists that follow. Notice in the **-ade** group on the first page of optionals that **nomade** and **semi-nomade** appear in a block, not only because they have the same ending, but for the reason that they are closely related; whereas **camarade** and **malade** appear in a block for the sole reason that they have the same ending. Nouns in blocks such as the latter, which cannot find a home with one or more closely-related nouns, will always appear last in their various groups and in alphabetical order.

Although the relationship between a nomad and a semi-nomad is obvious, many relationships in this list as well as in other lists that follow are less obvious. If we include single isolate nouns as blocks, the first "optional" block is a nationality block, let us say; the second, the same; the third, shall we say, a personality block; the fourth and fifth blocks, we have discussed above; the sixth, a block of eaters (of people, earth, horses, and fish, respectively); the seventh, an unrelated block; the eighth, a block of people with various head shapes, sizes, and problems; the ninth and tenth, unrelated blocks; the eleventh, a block of lovers; the twelfth, a block of maniacs; the thirteenth, an unrelated block; the fourteenth, a national block; the fifteenth, an unrelated block; the sixteenth, a national block; the seventeenth, a political block, the eighteenth, an unrelated block. And so on.

This is the first of the phonetic lists. In addition to **un Arabe** or **une Arabe**, here you will find many other nationals which, for convenience, always come first in a given group. The optionals are an interesting group to keep in mind. As "people nouns" ending in mute *e* almost exclusively, they require no feminization. No need to add an *e* to **Arabe** when referring to a female Arab, since not **Arab** but **Arabe** is the male form of the word and therefore appropriate for the female form as well. Compare **client** which needs to become **cliente** when referring to a woman, as do over two thousand other nouns of similar pattern. (Feminized nouns such as **cliente** are listed separately immediately following the usual feminine-rule nouns, beginning on page 296.)

A few "people nouns" retain a single gender even when appropriate for either gender and even when ending in mute *e*. Most of these nouns are

masculine. For example, contrast those ending in *iste* in the masculine rule list with those in the feminine rule list. To quote Bertrand Russell, "The study of grammar...is capable of throwing far more light on philosophical questions than is commonly supposed by philosophers." But the majority of "people nouns" have not been thought of as the prerogative of the male sex, as witness the optionals.

OPTIONAL LIST (sex-determined nouns)

Arabe* ** Arab

Mozarabe* Mozarab

Dace* Dacian, person from Dacia

boniface* simple, artless person

contumace** contemptuous person

nomade* nomad

semi-nomade* semi-nomad

camarade comrade

malade* sick person

anthropophage* anthropophagist

géophage* geophagist, earth eater

hippophage* hippophagist, horse eater

ichthyophage* ichthyophagist

sauvage* savage

acrocéphale* acrocephalic person

anencéphale* anencephalic person

brachycéphale* brachycephalic person

dolichocéphale* dolichocephalic person

hydrocéphale* hydrocephalic person

microcéphale* microcephalic person

cannibale* cannibal

bigame* bigamist

anglomane* Angloman, English imitator

mélomane* music lover

cocainomane cocaine addict

dipsomane dipsomaniac

érotomane* erotomaniac

éthéromane* ether addict

kleptomane, cleptomane kleptomaniac

mégalomane* megalomaniac

monomane*, monomaniaque* monomaniac

morphinomane* morphine addict

mythomane* mythomaniac

opiomane* opium addict

pyromane pyromaniac

toxicomane* toxicomaniac, drug addict

bimane*(s) Bimana, two-handed animals

profane* ** outsider, black sheep

Tzigane*, Tsigane* Tzigane, gypsy

Bulgare* ** Bulgarian

avare* avaricious person, miser

barbare* barbarian

cathare* Cathar, medieval sect member

Asiate Asian

Croate* Croat, Croatian

Dalmate* ** Dalmatian

Galate* Galatian

Spartiate* ** Spartan, austere person

aristocrate* aristocrat

bureaucrate bureaucrat

démocrate* democrat, Democrat

social-démocrate* Social-Democrat

physiocrate* Physiocrat

technocrate technocrat

acrobate acrobat

astigmate* astigmatic person

diplomate* ** diplomatic person

éléate* Eleatic, Zeno adherent

numismate numismatist

Moldave* Moldavian

Morave* Moravian

Scandinave* Scandinavian

Slave* Slav

Yougoslave* Yugoslavian

esclave* slave

comptable* accountant, bookkeeper

contribuable* contributor, taxpayer

insolvable* insolvent person

misérable* miserable person, indigent

redevable* debtor, one who pays debt

coupable* culprit

justiciable* justiciable person

incapable* incompetent person

incollable* (slang) unshakeable person

indésirable* undesirable person

instable* unstable person

intouchable* untouchable person

ministrable* person becoming minister

responsable* responsible person

vénérable* beatification candidate

Malgache* Madagascan

lâche* coward

autodidacte* autodidact

ladre* leper, miser

cafre* Caffre, Kafir

podagre* ** person with gout

aide** aide, assistant

aide-comptable accountant's aid

actionnaire shareholder

aliénataire* alienee

allocataire allocatee

bénéficiaire* beneficiary

cessionnaire assignee

commendataire* commendatory

dépositaire trustee, agent

distributaire* recipient, sharer

donataire donee, donation receiver

endossataire endorsee

indemnitaire indemnitee

indivisaire indivisible co-owner

légataire legatee

colégataire co-legatee

obligataire bondholder

portionnaire* inherited share claimer

propriétaire owner, landlord

copropriétaire joint tenant

nu-propriétaire* bare owner

renoncitaire releasee

réservataire* heir or heiress

sociétaire* partner, shareholder

antiparlementaire* a rule opponent

égalitaire* egalitarian

libertaire* libertarian, anarchist

protestataire* protester, objecter

réactionnaire* reactionary

révolutionnaire* revolutionary

contre-révolutionnaire*

counter-revolutionary

antiquaire antiquarian

disquaire disc or record merchant

entrepotitaire* warehouse keeper

libraire bookseller

manutentionnaire storekeeper

réceptionnaire* receiver of goods

atrabilaire* atrabilarian

autoritaire* authoritarian

humanitaire* humanitarian

littéraire* literary person

sectaire* sectarian

sédentaire* sedentary person

téméraire* daredevil

utilitaire* utilitarian

velléitaire* erratic person

bacillaire* tuberculous person

grabataire* bed-ridden person

hémorroïdaire* hemorrhoidal person

poitrinaire* person with consumption

valétudinaire* invalid

concussionnaire* extortioner

faussaire forger, deceiver

incendiaire* incendiary

retardataire* latecomer, defaulter

stellionataire* fraudulent seller

convulsionnaire* convulsionary

coreligionnaire coreligionist

latitudinaire* latitudinarian

tertiaire* ** third order member

traditionnaire a Bible interpreter

visionnaire* visionary

intérimaire* temporary person

stagiaire* probationer in profession

vacataire part-time helper

locataire tenant

colocataire joint tenant (renter)

sous-locataire subtenant

majoritaire* member of the majority

minoritaire* member of the minority

archimillionnaire* very rich person

milliardaire* billionaire

millionnaire* millionaire

multimillionnaire* multimillionaire

demi-pensionnaire day boarder

pensionnaire school boarder, boarder

quadragénaire* quadragenarian

quinquagénaire* quinquagenarian

cinquantenaire* ** 50-year-old person

sexagénaire* sexagenarian

septuagénaire* septuagenarian

octogénénaire* octogenarian

nonagénaire* nonagenarian

centenaire* ** centenarian

cosignataire* cosignatory, cosigner

contresignataire* countersigner

signataire signatory

actuaire actuary

adjudicataire highest auction bidder

adversaire adversary

amodiataire tenant farmer

auxiliaire* auxiliary, assistant

bibliothécaire librarian

capacitaire* legal competent

célibataire* bachelor, single woman

délégataire delegate, appointee

démissionnaire* person who resigns

destinataire addressee, recipient

feudataire feudatory, feudary vassal

fonctionnaire civil servant, officer

gestionnaire* administrator

insulaire* insular, island inhabitant

mandataire mandatary, proxy, agent

partenaire partner

pétitionnaire petitioner

prioritaire* person having priority

publicitaire* publicizer, PR person

rationnaire* person receiving ration

réclusionnaire confined laborer

secrétaire** secretary

statuaire* ** statue sculptor

surnuméraire* extra person

sursitaire deferred conscript

syndicataire* member of a union

titulaire* titular, figurehead

universitaire* university professor

Balte* person from Baltic Sea area

dilettante dilettante

bibliographe bibliographer

biographe biographer

chorégraphe choreographer

lexicographe lexicographer

musicographe writer about music

polygraphe polygrapher

pornographe* pornographer

calligraphe calligrapher

iconographe iconographer

paléographe* paleographer, decipherer

archiviste-paléographe certified

paleographer of **l'École des chartes**

photographe photographer

typographe* typographer, printer

xylographe xylographer, an engraver

cartographe cartographer, map maker

cosmographe cosmographer

géographe geographer

hydrographe* underwater mapper

océanographe oceanographer

topographe topographer

uranographe uranographer

dactylographe typist

mécanographe* programmer, multicopier

sténographe stenographer

démographe* demographer

ethnographe ethnographer

inapte* inept, unqualified person

Bosniaque* Bosnian

Délique* Delian, person from Delos

Tchécoslovaque* Czechoslovakian

Valaque* Valachian

braque* ** harebrained person

cardiaque* cardiac patient

démoniaque* possessed person

érotomaniaque* erotomaniac

hypocondriaque* hypochondriac

maniaque* maniac

paranoïaque* paranoiac

élégiaque* elegiac

simoniaque* simoniac

Sarde* Sardinian

garde-barrière crossing gate operator

garde-malade sick nurse, attendant

comparse theatre walk-on, nonentity

parse* Parsee of India

Madécasse* Madecasser

mollasse* spineless, apathetic person

chaste* chaste person

enthousiaste* enthusiast

gymnaste gymnast

iconoclaste* iconoclast

allopathe* allopathist, a doctor

homéopathe* homeopathist, a doctor

névropathe* neurotic

psychopathe psychopath

télépathe* telepathist, medium

iconolâtre iconolater, image adorer

idolâtre* idolater

zoolâtre zoolater, animal worshiper

phoniatre doctor for voice problems

psychiatre psychiatrist

jaune** person of yellow race, scab

aéronaute aeronaut
astronaute astronaut
cosmonaute cosmonaut

chauve* bald person

faible* ** weak person

maigre* ** meager or slim person

Monégasque* Monacan

*Mède** Mede

bipède* ** biped person or animal
citharède zither-playing singer
tiède* tepid, lukewarm person

athée* atheist

infidèle* infidel

bohème* ** carefree person

deuxième* ** the second
troisième* ** the third
quatrième* ** the fourth
cinquième* ** the fifth
sixième* ** the sixth
septième* ** the seventh
huitième* ** the eighth
neuvième* ** the ninth
dixième* ** the tenth
onzième* ** the eleventh
douzième* ** the twelfth
treizième* ** the thirteenth
quatorzième* ** the fourteenth
quinzième* ** the fifteenth
seizième* ** the sixteenth
dix-septième* ** the seventeenth
dix-huitième* ** the eighteenth
dix-neuvième* ** the nineteenth
vingtième* ** the twentieth

trentième* ** the thirtieth
quarantième* ** the fortieth
cinquantième* ** the fiftieth
soixantième* ** the sixtieth
soixante-dixième* ** the seventieth
quatre-vingtième* ** the eightieth
quatre-vingt-dixième* ** the ninetieth
centième* ** the hundredth
millième* ** the thousandth
millionième* ** the millionth
milliardième* ** the billionth
billionième* ** the trillionth

combientième* (slang) what rank
énième* (slang) a great many
même* (slang) same person, same thing

Hellène Greek, Hellene
Madrilène* Madrilenian
Ruthène* Ruthenian
*Slovène** Yugoslavian
Turkmène* ** Turkoman

allogène* person of another race
*indigène** native, indigene

anorexigène* anorexic
schizophrène schizophrenic

catéchumène catechumen
sans-gêne** rude person

Berbère* ** Berber, a North African

adultère* ** adulterer
congénère* congener
pubère* child at age of puberty

obèse* obese person

analphabète* analphabet, illiterate
arpète young apprentice
ascète ascetic

esthète esthete

interprète interpreter

malhonnête* dishonest, rude person

porphyrogénète* person born to purple

proxénète proxenet, negotiator

élève pupil

balèze* (slang) tall, strong person

Guèbre* Gueber, Zoroastrian

espiègle* rogue, prankster

bègue* stutterer

collègue colleague

Belge* Belgian

rebelle* rebel

Celte* ** Celt

adepte partisan, follower

Tchèque* ** Czech

Serbe* Serb

concièrge caretaker, doorman

*externe** extern, day student

*interne** intern, resident student

subalterne* subaltern, subordinate

après-guerre post-war period

avant-guerre period before World War I or
World War II

entre-deux-guerres period between World
War I and World War II

Perse* ** pre-Arab-invasion Persian

Este* Estonian

inceste* ** incestuous person

kinesthérapeute massage practitioner

thérapeute** therapist

velche*, welsch* ignoramus

Barbaresque* person from Barbary

romanesque* romantic person

aveugle* blind person

neutre* neutral person

ambidextre* ambidextrous person

impie* impious person

Caraïbe Caribbean

complice* accomplice

*novice** novice

Numide* Numidian

déicide* ** murderer of god

fratricide* ** murderer of sibling

homicide* ** murderer

infanticide** murderer of child

matricide** murderer of mother

parricide* ** murderer of kin

régicide* ** murderer of king

tyrannicide** murderer of tyrant

apatride* person without a country

perfide* perfidious person

*Kabyle** Kabyle, a North African

*anglophile** anglophile
*francophile** francophile
*germanophile** germanophile
*russophile** russophile
*xénophile** xenophile

bibliophile bibliophile
cinéophile movie buff
*colombophile** carrier pigeon fancier
discophile lover of discs, records
*haltérophile** weight lifter

*difficile** difficult person
*fossile** ** old fogey
*imbécile** imbecile
*indocile** indocile person
*hémophile** hemophiliac

*anonyme** anonymous person
*cacochyme** decrepit person
*intime** intimate, friend
mime mime
*minime** ** 13-15 year old sportsperson
*pusillanime** pusillanimous person

*misogyne** misogynist

*Annamite** Annamite of Vietnam
*Ismaélite** Ismaelian
*Israélite** Israelite
*Moabite** Moabite
*Moscovite** Muscovite, Moscow person
*Mozabite** **, *Mzabite** ** Mzab person
Sémite Semite, descendant of Shem
*Sybarite** Sybarite, voluptuary

*chi-ite** Shiite
*kha-ridjite** follower of Islam sect
*maronite** Maronite
*melchite** Melchite
mennonite Mennonite
ophite Ophite, medieval sect member
*préadamite** preadamite

*stylite** stylite, a Christian ascetic
sunnite Sunnite

*antisémite** antisemite
*hermaphrodite** hermaphrodite
*hypocrite** hypocrite
néophyte neophyte
*préraphaélite** preraphaelite
*presbyte** presbyte
*spirite** spiritualist

convive fellow diner, guest

*admissible** person eligible for test
*éligible** eligible, electable person

*godiche** (slang) clumsy person
*riche** rich person

*bigle** cross-eyed person

*prodigue** prodigal person, squanderer

*pupille*** ward, minor with guardian

*Afro-Asiatique** Afro-Asiatic
*Asiatique** Asiatic
*Britannique** Britisher
*Cyrénaïque** Cyrenean, Greek African
*Ibérique**, *Ibère** Iberian
*Soviétique** Soviet Russian

*aboulique** person with aboulia
*agnosique** brain-damaged person
*albuminurique** albuminuric person
*alcoolique** alcoholic
*éthylrique** alcoholic
*amnésique** amnesiac
*analgésique** ** pain-free person
*anémique** anemic person
*aphasique** aphasic person
*apoplectique** apoplectic person
*apraxique** apraxic person

arthritique* arthritic person
asthénique* asthenic, weak person
asthmatique* asthmatic person
ataxique* ataxic person
boulimique* person with bulimia
Brightique* Bright's disease person
bronchitique* person with bronchitis
cachectique* cachectic person
cataleptique* cataleptic person
chlorotique* chlorotic person
cholérique* person with cholera
choréique* person with chorea
colérique* choleric person
coxalgique* person with coxalgia
cyclothymique* manic-depressive
diabétique* diabetic person
diphthérique* person with diphtheria
dysentérique* person with dysentery
dyspeptique*, **dyspepsique*** dyspeptic
dysurique* dysuric person
éléphantiasique* elephantiasis victim
encoprétique* night fecal incontinent
énurétique* enuretic, incontinent
épileptique* epileptic
glycosurique* person with glycosuria
hébéphrénique* hebephrenic person
hémogénique* bleeder
hydropique* hydropic person
hystérique* hysterical person
ictérique icteric person
leucémique* person with leukemia
lithiasique* person with lithiasis
lymphatique* lymph-diseased person
neurasthénique* neurasthenic person
paralytique* paralytic
hémiplégique* hemiplegic person
paraplégique* paraplegic
paratyphique* paratyphoid person
phtisique* phthisic person
pithiatique* a nervous person
pleurétique* person with pleurisy
poliomyélitique* person with polio
polyurique* person with polyuria

psychasthénique* psychasthenic person
prépsychotique* prepsychotic person
psychotique* psychotic
scorbutique* scorbutic person
strabique* person with strabism
syphilitique* person with syphilis
tabétique* tabetic person

agnostique* agnostic
catholique* Catholic
dogmatique* ** dogmatist
extatique* ecstatic
gnostique* Gnostic
hérétique* heretic
laïque* lay person
mystique* ** mystic
sceptique* sceptic
schismatique* schismatic

apolitique* person not in politics
utopique* utopian

caustique* ** caustic person
éclectique* eclectic person
égocentrique* egocentric
excentrique* ** eccentric
fanatique* fanatic
flegmatique* phlegmatic person
frénétique* frenetic person
impudique* lewd person
lunatique* lunatic
mélancolique* melancholy person
sadique* sadist

romantique* romantic school writer
satirique* satirist

critique** critic
domestique* domestic, servant
scientifique* scientist

infirmes* invalid, cripple

abolitionniste* abolitionist	monarchiste* monarchist
absolutiste* absolutist	nationaliste* nationalist
abstentionniste* abstentionist	national-socialiste* Nazi member
activiste* activist	neutraliste* neutralist
anarchiste* anarchist	nordiste* U.S.Civil War Unionist
annexionniste* annexionist	sudiste* U.S.Civil War Confederate
attentiste* wait-and-see advocate	obstructionniste* obstructionist
autonomiste autonomist	orléaniste* Orleanist
bolcheviste* , bolchevique* Bolshevik	pacifiste* pacifist
maximaliste Maximalist, Bolshevik	belliciste* war advocate
bonapartiste* Bonapartist	pangermaniste* pan-Germanist
boulangiste* partisan of Boulanger	panslaviste* pan-Slavist
carliste* Carlist	particulariste* particularist
centriste* centrist in politics	phalangiste phalangist
chartiste chartist	progressiste* progressist
collaborationniste* collaborationist	prohibitionniste* prohibitionist
colonialiste* colonialist	protectionniste* protectionist
anticolonialiste* anticolonialist	antiprotectionniste* antiprotectionist
communiste* communist	réformiste* reformer
anticommuniste* anticommunist	révisionniste* revisionist
congressiste member of a congress	royaliste* royalist
déviotionniste* deviationist	ultra-royaliste* ultra-royalist
dirigiste* state control partisan	scissionniste* divisionist
étatiste* partisan of state socialism	sécessionniste* secessionist
expansionniste* expansionist	ségrégationniste* segregationist
fasciste* fascist	antiségrégationniste* antisegregationist
antifasciste* antifascist	séparatiste* separatist
fédéraliste* federalist	sioniste* Zionist
fractionniste* fractious politician	socialiste* socialist
franquiste* Franco partisan	terroriste* terrorist
gauchiste* leftist	contre-terroriste* counter-terrorist
gaulliste* Gaullist	travailliste* British Labor member
impérialiste* imperialist	trotskiste* Trotskyite
internationaliste* internationalist	tsariste* tsarist
interventionniste* interventionist	unioniste* unionist
non-interventionniste* non-interventionist	utopiste* utopist
irrédentiste irredentist	absentéiste* practicing absentee
isolationniste* isolationist	alarmiste* alarmist
légitimiste* legitimist	altruiste* altruist
loyaliste* loyalist	antagoniste* antagonist
militariste* militarist	aprioriste* person reasoning a priori
antimilitariste* antimilitarist	arriviste arriviste
modérantiste* moderate	

anticonformiste* anticonformist
non-conformiste* nonconformist
conformiste* conformist
défaitiste* defeatist, pessimist
déterministe* determinist
égoïste* egoist
égotiste* egotist
empiriste empiricist
épiphénoméniste* epiphenomenalist
eugéniste eugenist
évolutionniste* evolutionist
exhibitionniste exhibitionist
existentialiste* existentialist
extrémiste* extremist, diehard
fataliste* fatalist
féministe* feminist
fétichiste* fetishist
finaliste* finalist
fixiste* person denying evolution
formaliste* formalist
fouriériste* Fourierist
futuriste* futurist
gestaltiste* gestaltist
hébertiste* partisan of Hebert system
hédoniste* hedonist
idéaliste* idealist
immatérialiste* immaterialist
immoraliste* immoralist
individualiste* individualist
innéiste* innate philosophy partisan
intellectualiste* intellectualist
irrationaliste* irrationalist
légaliste legalist
masochiste* masochist
matérialiste* materialist
mécaniste* mechanist
moniste* monist, partisan of Spinoza
mutationniste* mutation theorist
nativiste* nativist
naturiste*
nihiliste* nihilist
nominaliste* nominalist
nudiste* nudist

objectiviste* objectivist
obscurantiste* obscurantist
opportuniste* opportunist
optimiste* optimist
pessimiste* pessimist
phénoméniste phenomenist
positiviste* positivist
néo-positiviste* neo-positivist
pragmatiste* pragmatist
probabiliste* probabilist
puriste* purist
raciste* racist
rationaliste* rationalist
réaliste* realist
relativiste* relativist
rigoriste* rigorist
scientiste* partisan of scientism
sensualiste* sensualist
simpliste* simplistic person
sociologiste* sociologism partisan
spiritualiste* spiritualist
structuraliste* structuralist
subjectiviste* subjectivist
substantialiste* substantialist
traditionaliste* traditionalist
transformiste* transformist
utilitariste* utilitarian
vériste* verist, Italian realist
volontariste* voluntarist

accordéoniste accordionist
altiste performer with tenor violin
choriste chorister, choir singer
cithariste* zitherist
clarinettiste clarinetist
claveciniste clavecin player
concertiste performer at a concert
contrapuntiste contrapuntist
contrebassiste bass viola player
corniste* cornist, horn player
dodécaphoniste* dodecaphonist
duettiste person who sings in a duet
fantaisiste* fantasist

flûtiste flutist
guitariste guitarist
harmoniciste harmonica player
harmoniste harmonist
harpiste harpist
hautboïste hautboyist, oboe player
instrumentiste instrumentalist
mandoliniste mandolinist
organiste organist
orphéoniste member of an orpheon
pianiste pianist
soliste* soloist
symphoniste symphonist
trompette trumpeter
violiste viola player
violoncelliste cellist
violoniste violinist

adventiste* Seventh Day Adventist
anabaptiste* Anabaptist
animiste* animist
anthropomorphiste* anthropomorphist
baptiste Baptist
bouddhiste* Buddhist
cabaliste cabalist
catéchiste catechist
congréganiste* congregant
controversiste disputant
déiste* deist
dualiste* dualist
fidéiste* fideist
gomariste* Gomarist, a Calvinist
intégriste* conservative Catholic
janséniste* Jansenist
jéciste* member of youth J.E.C.
lamaïste Lamaist, a Buddhist
laxiste* laxist
méthodiste Methodist
moderniste* modernist
moliniste* partisan of Molina
molinosiste* partisan of Molinos
montaniste* Montanist
oecuméniste* ecumenist

panthéiste* pantheist
papiste papist
piétiste* pietist
quiétiste* quietist
rabbiniste rabbinist
ritualiste* ritualist
salutiste* Salvation Army member
talmudiste Talmudist
taoïste* Taoist
théiste* theist
monothéiste* monotheist
polythéiste* polytheist
thomiste* Thomist
ubiquiste* ubiquist
universaliste* universalist

affichiste billboard artist
aquafortiste aquafortist
aquarelliste aquarellist
aquatintiste aquatintist
céramiste* ceramist
coloriste colorist
expressionniste* expressionist
fresquiste painter of frescos
fusiniste, fusainiste fusain drawer
impressionniste* impressionist
jardiniste landscape gardener
logiste competing art student
luministe* luminist
maniériste* mannerist
maquettiste miniature model maker
miniaturiste* miniaturist
mosaïste* mosaicist
pastelliste pastelist
paysagiste* landscape painter
pointilliste* pointillist
portraitiste portraitist
ruiniste painter of ruins
surréaliste* surrealist
tachiste* tachist
vignettiste vignetter
visagiste makeup artist

affouagiste entitled forester
alpiniste alpinist, mountain climber
ascensionniste climber, balloonist
automobiliste motorist
bandagiste tire maker or seller
canoéiste canoeist
cycliste* cyclist
cyclomotoriste auto-cyclist
garagiste garage owner
garagiste-motoriste garage mechanic
motocycliste motorcyclist
pompiste gas pump attendant
scootériste motor scooter driver
excursionniste excursionist
touriste* tourist

africaniste Africanist
américaniste* Americanist
angliciste Anglicist
byzantiniste Byzantinist
espérantiste* partisan of Esperanto
franciste French language specialist
germaniste Germanist
hébraïste* Hebraist
helléniste Hellenist
indianiste Indianist
latiniste Latinist
linguiste linguist
médiéviste medievalist
orientaliste* Orientalist
romaniste** Romance language expert
sanskritiste Sanskritist
slaviste Slavist

anatomiste anatomist
anesthésiste anesthetist
anthropologiste anthropologist
bactériologiste bacteriologist
biologiste biologist
botaniste botanist
chimiste chemist
dentiste dentist
dermatologiste dermatologist

embryologiste embryologist
entomologiste entomologist
erpétologiste herpetologist
généraliste general practitioner
génétiste geneticist
hématologiste hematologist
herboriste herborist, herbalist
hygiéniste hygienist
ichtyologiste ichthyologist
laryngologiste laryngologist
naturaliste* naturalist
neurologiste neurologist
oculiste* oculist
ophtalmologiste ophthalmologist
ornithologiste ornithologist
orthopédiste* orthopedist
oto-rhino-laryngologiste
 otorhinolaryngologist
pathologiste* pathologist
physiologiste* physiologist
secouriste first-aider
spécialiste* specialist
stomatologiste stomatologist
zoologiste zoologist

antipodiste acrobat spinning on back
contorsionniste contortionist
équilibriste equilibrist, balancer
parachutiste* parachutist
perchiste pole vaulter
trapéziste trapezist, trapeze artist

apologiste apologist
comparatiste comparatist
courriériste columnist
dialoguiste dialogist
documentariste documentary maker
éditorialiste editorialist
épigrammatiste epigrammatist
feuilletoniste serial writer
humoriste* humorist
ironiste ironist, satirist
journaliste journalist

lakiste* English lake poet
libelliste libeler, lampoonist
moliériste expert on Molière
moraliste* moralist
nouvelliste news, short story writer
panégyriste panegyrist, eulogist
parodiste* parodist
polémiste polemicist, polemist
populiste* populist
publiciste publicist
régionaliste* regionalist
scénariste scenarist, scriptwriter
styliste stylist, stylistic writer
vaudevilliste vaudevillist
vers-libriste* writer of free verse

archiviste archivist
documentaliste documentalist
épigraphiste epigraphist
étymologiste etymologist
folkloriste folklorist
généalogiste genealogist
héraldiste specialist in heraldry

atomiste* atomic scientist, atomist
éclairagiste* electrical engineer
hydrologiste* hydrologist
météorologiste meteorologist
métrologiste metrologist
minéralogiste mineralogist
paléontologiste* paleontologist
radiologiste radiologist
électroradiologiste radiologist

aubergiste innkeeper
bouquiniste secondhand-book dealer
droguiste operator of a drug store
étalagiste window dresser
fichiste file card maker
fleuriste* florist
gagiste* pawner, pledger, bailee
liquoriste maker or seller of liquor
médailliste* medalist, medal maker

modéliste* model maker, designer
oculariste artificial eye maker
ornemaniste* ornament maker
tulliste tulle maker

bimétalliste* bimetallist
monométalliste* monometallic
capitaliste* capitalist
collectiviste* collectivist
corporatiste* corporatist
échangiste exchanger, trader
coéchangiste* exchange person, trader
libre-échangiste* free trader
marxiste* Marxist
mercantiliste* mercantilist
stakhanoviste* Stakhanovist

cégétiste* C.G.T. union member
gréviste* striker
jociste* member of youth J.O.C.
mutualiste* mutualist
syndicaliste* trade unionist

champignonniste mushroom grower
pépiniériste* nursery man or woman
pomologiste pomologist, fruit expert
rosiériste rose grower

civiliste civil lawyer
criminaliste criminal lawyer
criminologiste criminologist
juriste jurist, lawyer

cruciverbiste crossword puzzler
mots-croisiste crossword puzzler

linotypiste linotype operator
radiotélégraphiste wireless operator
radiotéléphoniste wireless operator
sans-filiste wireless operator
standardiste switchboard operator
stenciliste stenciler
sténotypiste stenotypist

télégraphiste* telegraphist
téléphoniste telephone operator

algébriste algebrist
analyste analyst
apanagiste* appanagist
artiste* artiste
buraliste* office manager, P.O. clerk
copiste copyist
curiste person taking thermal cure
fumiste* ** practical joker
gemmologiste gemmologist
illusionniste illusionist
occultiste* occultist
philatéliste philatelist
physiognomoniste physiognomist
physionomiste* physiognomist
pigiste* piece worker
propagandiste* propagandist
protagoniste protagonist
radiesthésiste dowser, water-diviner
récidiviste* recidivist
symboliste* symbolist
turfiste person who frequents races
unijambiste* one-legged person

pingre* (slang) miser, skinflint

monolingue* monolingualist
bilingue* bilingualist
trilingue* trilingualist

morisque* Morisk, Morisco

hydrophobe* person who hates water

anglophobe* anglophobe
francophobe* francophobe
germanophobe* germanophobe
xénophobe* xenophobe

créole* ** Creole
mariolle*, **mariolle*** (slang) show-off

vélivole* devotee of gliding

astronome astronomer
gastronome gastronome, gourmet
môme (slang) urchin, scamp

autochtone* autochthon
francophone* person who speaks French

amblyope* amblyopic person
amétrope* ametropic person
emmétrope* normal-sighted person
hypermétrope* farsighted person
myope* myopic, nearsighted person
nyctalope* day-blind person

lycanthrope* wolf-man psychotic
misanthrope* misanthrope
philanthrope philanthropist
théophilanthrope theophilanthropist

budgétivore* (slang) welfare recipient
choéphore Greek person in ceremony

grand-chose much of a person or thing
virtuose virtuoso

Cypriote* Cypriot, Cypriote
Épirote* citizen of Epire region
Massaliote* ancient-Marseille Greek

compatriote* compatriot
patriote* patriot

emphytéote long-term tenant

hétérodoxe* heterodox person
orthodoxe* orthodox person

noble* noble

bancroche* bowlegged person

boche* (pejorative slang) German
gavroche* brave, sweet Paris urchin
mioche young child

médiocre* mediocre person

docte* erudite person

archéologue archeologist
ethnologue ethnologist
graphologue* graphologist
idéologue ideologue
musicologue musical historian
mythologue mythologist
papyrologue papyrologist
sociologue sociologist

assyriologue ancient Syria expert
égyptologue Egyptologist
sinologue sinologist

cardiologue cardiologist
gastro-entérologue gastroenterologist
gynécologue gynecologist
neurologue neurologist
ornithologue ornithologist
phénoménologue phenomenologist
phtisiologue phthisiologist
pneumologue pneumologist
proctologue proctologist
psychologue* psychologist
neuropsychologue neuropsychologist
radiologue radiologist
rhumatologue rheumatologist
sexologue sexologist
toxicologue toxicologist
urologue urologist
zoologue zoologist

climatologue climatologist
géologue geologist
glaciologue glaciologist
hydrologue* hydrologist

pédologue pedologist, soil expert
spéléologue speleologist
volcanologue volcanologist

dialectologue dialectologist
lexicologue lexicologist
philologue philologist
phonologue phonologist

mycologue specialist in mushrooms
pomologue pomologist, fruit expert

astrologue astrologer
démagogue* demagogue
homologue* homologous person
pédagogue pedagogue

j'ordonne (slang) imperious person

philosophe philosopher
théosophe theosophist

malpropre* improper person

copte* ** Coptic

ventriloque* ventriloquist

Corse* ** Corsican

gosse (slang) youth

polyglotte* polyglot

borgne* one-eyed person

fourbe* cheat, swindler, impostor

arsouille* (slang) blackguard, cad

transfuge deserter, cross-over

funambule tightrope walker

noctambule* night prowler, reveler
somnambule* somnambulist

camaldule Camaldule, a religious
émule emulator, competitor, rival
incrédule* unbeliever

manucure manicurist
pédicure chiropodist, podiatrist

parjure* ** perjurer

adulte* adult, grown-up

Kurde** Kurd

Russe* ** Russian

Etrusque* ** Etruscan

rustre* boor, churl, clown, lout

*snob** snob

Ouzbek*, **Uzbek*** Uzbekistan person

cul-de-jatte legless person

banban* (slang) cripple
souillon (slang) slovenly person

Afrikaner South African Dutch person

malabar* (slang) big, strong person
mudéjar* Spanish Moslem
sans-coeur (slang) heartless person
Sinn-Feiner Irish Sinn-Fein partisan

albinos* albino
heimatlos person without a country
minus habens (slang) stupid person
niais foolish person, simpleton

sans-logis homeless person

ci-devant ci-devant person
enfant child, descendant

contumax contumacious person

gaga* (slang) spoiled person
judoka judoist, person using judo

sang-mêlé half-caste person
yankee*(s) Yankees
yéyé* (slang) brat of 1964 era

*Bengali** Bengali, person from Bengal

*nazi** Nazi
sans-abri homeless person
sans-souci* (slang) happy-go-lucky person
sefaraddi*, **sefardi*** Iberian Jew

dactylo typist
sténodactylo stenotypist
dingo* ** (slang) fool, crackpot

sans-le-sou (slang) penniless person
zazou (slang) 1942 Parisian brat

brèche-dent* front-toothless person
brise-fer, **brise-tout** (slang) clumsy person
meurt-de-faim half-starved person
pète-sec* (slang) snappish person
pince-sans-rire sly person
pleure-misère hard-luck-story person
porte-bannière flag-bearer
risque-tout daredevil
trompe-la-mort (slang) death escapee
trouble-fête killjoy, mischief-maker
va-nu-pieds (slang) tramp, beggar

THE FEMININE LIST (Introduction)

At this point then we have two basic rules of gender, a basic method of procedure, and an optional list whose gender is a forgone conclusion.

Of the 3,147 particular exceptions, 1,023 are feminine. Since they are exceptions to the masculine rule, they are listed in masculine-rule order.

Accordingly, the first group of nouns have endings in *ge*, the second in *le*, the third in *me*, the fourth in *re*, the fifth in *be*, the sixth in *ze*, the seventh in *ke*, the eighth in *xe*, the ninth in consonants, and the tenth in vowels. The eleventh and last group is composed of those nouns previously referred to in the masculine statement as "hyphens," and more accurately at this instance as "verb-hyphenated nouns," those which contain a verb and its object or modifier and in which this exact correlation is the key factor in determining the hyphenated noun's gender, rather than its ending. (In the plural these nouns are either invariable or have an *s* added to the object of the verb, never to the verb itself.) In other words, these eleven groups are arranged sequentially in the exact order specified in the masculine statement: *glmr bz kx* consonants, vowels, and hyphens. Otherwise the procedure is the same as that of the optionals.

The very first block on the feminine list, the unrelated *-age* group, provides interesting numerical perspective. Although most nouns ending in *age* (1224) by far are masculine, these 10 exceptions appear on a list of exceptions which, in its entirety, only numbers 1023. Missing entirely from the *-me* groups which follow are all nouns ending in *isme* (677); all such nouns, without exception, are masculine.

Again, on this very same feminine list of 1023, only 82 *eur*-ending, mainly abstract nouns appear. The number of this group of exceptional nouns, although imposing in relation to its fellow exceptions, sharply contrasts with the 1445 *eur-ending* nouns which are masculine (mostly men or boys who are or become one thing or another). Finally, the 2 *ment*-ending nouns listed on page 42 among the *t*-ending groups are the only exceptions

to 1135 *ment*-ending nouns, all of which are masculine. Following the masculine rule, these four groups of nouns alone exceed in number all exceptions and all optionals put together.

On the other hand, we must never assume that the presence of a group of nouns having the same ending, especially a large group, in a feminine list of exceptions presupposes a dearth of masculine nouns with such endings, or vice versa.

As evidence, let us consider the *aire*-ending nouns. Although there are many to be found in this feminine list, we will remember that there were many more in the optional list. Furthermore, more nouns ending in *aire* adhere to basic rule number one and can be found on the masculine rule list than on the other two lists combined. We must not jump to conclusions. In reviewing the *aire*-ending nouns in the feminine list, it would be more appropriate to conclude that flowering and non-flowering plants ending in *aire* are of the feminine gender. That specific conclusion would be correct.

Two additional rules of context will be adhered to in both phonetic lists of exceptions, the masculine list as well as the feminine list. So-called "people nouns" will appear first, as a block, in any group of nouns, this to provide reliable headlines. Secondly, when flora and fauna exist in the same group, they will appear as one block, flora followed directly by fauna in a somewhat ascending hierarchical order, this to provide reliable continuity.

Where brevity is a virtue, English definitions have been kept brief, and where one English noun translates exactly, its exact synonym has been deemed extraneous. It was decided from the beginning to allow one column line for each French noun and its English definition if at all possible. On a few occasions, more space would have been welcomed so that a definition applicable to a specific discipline could have been added. On more frequent occasions, however, very broad general definitions have actually been added to otherwise adequate but esoteric, often cognate, definitions so that some understanding would be immediate for all.

So now we come to the feminine list itself, a permanent source of reference. We cannot memorize all of these nouns, nor do we need

to; with the aid of the block method, however, we will eliminate duplication of effort and recall a great many.

Do-it-yourself style, we can select out those nouns or related blocks of nouns we wish to commit to memory, checking them off or coloring them through. A ready-made all-purpose abridged version is provided in the appendix on pages 317 through 322 with the aid of which we can abridge, as suggested, without sacrificing the possibility of incidental learning in this complete unabridged version. Alternatively, we can use the abridged version, as is, as a list of imperatives.

FEMININE LIST (Exceptions to the Masculine Rule)

ambage(s) ambages, equivocation

cage cage

hypallage hypallage, a grammar term

image image

nage swimming, rowing

*page*** page of a book, leaf, period

passerage a plant

plage beach

rage rage, rabies, fury, frenzy

saxifrage saxifrage, a plant

*orange*** orange (fruit)

mésange titmouse

allfange Moorish scimitar

boulangage bakery business

fange mire

fontange fontange, fancy headdress

frange fringe, mane

grange grange, storage barn

louange praise

phalange phalange, finger bone

vendange vintage, harvest, profit

vidange draining, nightsoil

charge load, cost, burden, charge

décharge discharge, unloading

recharge recharge, reloading

surcharge overloading, surcharge

barge barge, a haystack, a bird

litharge litharge, lead oxide

marge margin, edge, latitude

targe targe, buckle of Middle Ages

auge trough

bauge lair

jauge gauge, dipstick

sauge sage

allège window sill

drège fishing net, dragnet

Norvège Norway

neige snow

rotroenge, rotrouenge poetry

*vierge**, *Vierge* virgin, Virgo

alberge clingstone peach or apricot

asperge asparagus

berge steep bank

autoberge river or canal bank road

auberge inn, tavern, auberge

flamberge sword of Middle Ages

héberge dividing line of party wall

serge serge

verge rod, shaft, penis, verge

demi-tige pruned-down fruit tree

tige trunk, stem, rod, tige

pige measure, pay by the piece

remige quill, remige, a bird feather

strige ghoul

volige batten

voltige gymnastics

sphinge female sphinx

méninge meninge

épitoge honorary shoulder band

toge toga, judge's robe

Burns--31

horloge clock

loge lodge, lodging, theatre box

allonge table leaf, rider, allonge

rallonge lengthener, secret money

longe lunge, loin of veal

surlonge sirloin of beef

orange orange agaric mushroom

éponge sponge

plate-longe difficult-horse strap

prolonge prolonge, a strong rope

axonge lard

plonge dishes to be washed

arrière-gorge back of the throat

gorge breast, throat, gorge

sous-gorge throat-band of a bridle

forge forge

orge** barley

gouge hollow chisel, gouge

courge gourd

luge luge, single toboggan

épurge spurge

purge purge

chantefable medieval song-fable

fable tale, talk, fable, fib, story

étable stable, stall, shed

indéfrisable* permanent wave

table table

variable* ** variable

bâcle wood or iron bar door fastener

Feminine List (exceptions to the masculine rule)

débâcle breaking up, crash, debacle

bernacle barnacle, wild goose

macle twin crystal, macle

rafle grape stalk, raid, clean sweep

aile wing, brim, blade, fender

aile-de-pigeon leg-beating leap

aigle** female eagle, eagle flag

sangle strap, band, belt

hépatocèle hepatocele, liver hernia

hydrocèle hydrocele, scrotum fluid

varicocèle varicocele

prêle, prèle horsetail grass

chrysomèle chrysomelid, a beetle

cicindèle carnivorous tiger beetle

philomèle philomel, nightingale

burèle heraldic narrow strip

cautéle sly prudence, cunning, guile

clientèle clientele, patronage

fêle glass blower's hollow iron bar

grêle hail, hailstorm

parallèle* ** parallel line

poêle** frying pan

stèle stele, monument, tombstone

vièle viola-like ancient instrument

hièble, yèble dwarf-elder

nèfle medlar, an edible fruit

règle rule, ruler, menses, pattern

perle pearl, gem, bead

atrabile black bile

bile bile

file file (line of people or things)
tranchefile headband of a book

gypsophile gypsophila flower, pink
ammophile ammophila, a sand wasp
drosophile drosophila, vinegar fly

île island
presqu'île peninsula

photopile electric battery
pile pile, bridge pier, coin "tails"

argile argil, clay
*automobile** automobile
cotyle cotyle, bone cavity
empile angler's line
huile oil, oil painting
locomobile a steam engine
sébile wooden begging bowl
tuile tile, bad luck
vigile** vigil

Bible, bible Bible, bible
cible target, goal, butt

besicle(s) old-fashioned spectacles
manicle leather glove
sanicle a plant

gifle slap in the face, box on ear
mornifle backhanded slap, taunt, dig

épingle pin
résingle goldsmith's tool
tringle curtain or tire rod, tringle

grand-voile mast sail
voile** sail, sailboat, sailboating

étoile star
toile toile, linen, cotton, canvas

andrinople cheap cotton, usually red

mandorle mandorla, a religious panel

trouble**, **truble** hoop fishing net

boucle buckle, ring, curl, winding
escarboucle garnet

maroufle** a glue

mistoufle poverty

moufle** mitten, tackle for lifting

pantoufle slipper

accouple coupling for dogs

couple** couple of things, link

ensouple cylinder in a loom

chasuble chasuble, a priest's robe

bugle** bugle, ajuga, a plant

jungle jungle

dame lady, dame, game queen

madame married woman, madame

Notre-Dame Our Lady, Blessed Virgin

belle-dame bella donna, butterfly

dame d'onze heures star of Bethlehem

igname yam

jusqu'ame a plant

phanérogame(s)* phanerogams, plants

âme soul

brame** sheet-iron ingot

came cam

entame first cut of bread or meat

lame thin blade, wave, lame, slat

rame ream, row of trains, oar

réclame** publicity, advertisement

Burns--33

squame squama, scale
trame tram, woof, play plot, course

palme** palm tree, palm leaf

anagramme anagram
épigramme epigram

flamme flame, passion, pennant
oriflamme oriflamme, flame banner

gamme gamut, scale, range

alarme alarm
arme arm of the service, arms (pl.)
guisarme guisarme, a medieval weapon

larme tear, drop, larme
larme-de-Job Job's tear plant

agripaume a plant
baume** a grotto in Provence
paume palm of the hand, tennis

drachme drachme, dram

neuvième** ninth elementary grade
huitième** eighth elementary grade
septième** top elementary grade
sixième** sixth high school grade
cinquième** fifth high school grade
quatrième** fourth high school grade
troisième** third high school grade

antépénultième* antepenult, a syllable
pénultième* penult, a syllable

quadrirème quadrireme, an oared ship
trirème trireme, an oared war vessel

bohème* ** carefree set, Bohemia
brème a freshwater fish
crème cream, creme

Feminine List (exceptions to the masculine rule)

mi-carème mid-Lent

seime cleft in horse's hoof

femme wife, woman once married
sage-femme midwife

flemme sloth, inertia
gemme gem, leaf bud, pine resin

angiosperme(s) angiosperms, plants
gymnosperme(s) gymnosperms, plants

berme berm, berme
risberme shielded seaside stone area

ferme farm, farmhouse, farming
isotherme* isotherm, meteorology term

légitime* (slang) wife
victime victim

escrime fencing
septime fencing line of engagement

estime esteem, respect, estimate
mésestime misesteem, poor opinion

prime canonical first hour (only)
prime premium, prize, bonus
surprime extra premium for more risk

Quadragesime Quadragesima Sunday
Quinquagesime Quinquagesima Sunday
Sexagesime Sexagesima Sunday
Septuagesime Septuagesima Sunday

cime mountain peak, tree top, summit
cyme cyme of a flower
dîme tithe
frime pretense, malarkey, futility
lime lime (fruit), file, conch shell
maxime maxim