



NAMES OF COUNTRIES, REGIONS, CITIES, ISLANDS AND PREPOSITIONS

COUNTRIES / REGIONS / PROVINCES

Name of countries are or feminine, or masculine. A few of them are plural.
If the noun ends with an “e”, the name of the country is feminine. If not, it is masculine.

La France Le Canada
L'Italie Le Danemark

A few exceptions: Le Mexique, le Cambodge, le Mozambique, le Zimbabwe.

Name of regions, provinces, states, “départements” are also or feminine, or masculine.

La Bretagne le Calvados le Poitou le Languedoc La Louisiane Le Québec

Exceptions: le Maine, la Saskatchewan

CITIES / ISLANDS

Cities and Islands are usually not preceded by an article, but with some exceptions.

New York - Montréal - Amsterdam - Tahiti - Cuba - Hawaii

Exceptions: La Haye - Le Havre - Le Touquet - Le Caire - La Réunion

PREPOSITIONS

With names of countries :

If you are in a country, you work in a country, you are going to... you are coming from... You have to use the prepositions “à/de” and contract them with the definite articles. But with feminine names of countries and names that begin with a vowel, you use **EN**.

	Masculine	Feminine	Plural
Aller à	Je vais au Canada	je vais en France	Je vais aux Pays-Bas
Être à	Je suis au Danemark	Je suis en Belgique	je suis aux Pays-Bas
Étudier à	J'étudie en <u>Irak</u>	J'étudie en Espagne	J'étudie aux États-Unis
Venir de	Je viens du Portugal	Je viens d'Algérie	Je viens des Pays-Bas
Arriver de	J'arrive d' <u>Afghanistan</u>	J'arrive de Chine	J'arrive des Etats-Unis



States and Provinces

They follow the same rule as for the names of the countries.

La Louisiane Je suis **en** Louisiane, je vais **en** Louisiane, j'arrive **de** Louisiane.
Le Québec Je suis **au** Québec, je vais **au** Québec, j'arrive **du** Québec

When cities and states/provinces have the same name, you need to differentiate them by adding the words: l'État or la Province

Ils ont un chalet **dans l'État de** New York. Ils habitent **à** New York.
Ils ont un chalet **dans la Province de** Québec. Ils habitent **à** Québec

Names of regions and "départements".

With feminine names, if you are there or are going to: use **EN** but with masculine names, use **DANS LE/DANS LES**.

J'habite **en** Bretagne J'habite **dans le** Cantal J'habite **dans les** Alpes
Je vais **en** Normandie je vais **dans le** Poitou je vais **dans les** Abruzzes

If you are coming from a region, use DE for feminine nouns, DU for masculine nouns and DES for plural nouns.

Je viens **de** Normandie J'arrive **du** Cantal Je viens **des** Alpes

If a masculine noun begins with a vowel, use EN and D'.

Je vais **en** Arizona J'arrive **d'**Arizona

Names of cities and islands

When you go, you are or you are coming from a city or an island **without articles**, you use: **à/de**.

Je vais **à** New York Je vais **à** Cuba Je travaille **à** Paris
J'arrive **de** New York Je viens **de** Cuba Je rentre **de** Paris

If the name is **preceded by an article**, you have to contract the article with the preposition **"à/de"** according to the same rule seen above.

je vais **à** La Haye je suis **au** Caire je travaille **aux** Seychelles
je rentre **de** la Havane j'arrive **du** Caire je reviens **des** Maldives