

53. Indefinites

1 Definition

An indefinite word is one like *autre*, *quelque* or *chacun* which indicates identity or quantity in a general or non-specific way.

2 *Autre - other*

- 2.1 When used as an adjective, *autre* is most commonly preceded by *un*, *l'*, *mon* or *ce*. Note that *un / une autre* becomes *d'autres* in the plural:

Viens un autre jour	L'autre livre était plus cher
<i>Come another day</i>	<i>The other book was more expensive</i>
Avez-vous d'autres pullovers dans ce style?	
<i>Do you have any other jumpers in this style?</i>	

- 2.2 *D'autres* (and not **des autres*) is also used in the pronoun form:

Aucun de ces pullovers n'est à ma taille. Est-ce que vous en avez **d'autres** dans ce style?
None of these jumpers fit me. Do you have any others in this style?

3 *Tel - such*

- 3.1 *Tel* is usually preceded by *un / une*, or *de* in the plural:

Une telle perspicacité est rare chez les enfants
Such perceptiveness is rare in children
De telles erreurs sont compréhensibles chez les débutants
Mistakes like that are understandable in beginners

4 *Plusieurs - several*

Note that *plusieurs*, which is always plural, has no special feminine form:

Il y a **plusieurs** voitures dans leur allée - ils ont sûrement invité des amis
There are several cars in their drive - they must have invited friends over

5 *Quelque(s) - some*

- 5.1 When used as an adjective, *quelque* can be singular or plural. When used with the sense of *a few* it is plural:

Il me reste encore **quelques** pommes
I still have some apples left

- 5.2 When referring to an unknown person or thing it is singular:

Il nous faudra trouver **quelque** autre solution au problème
We'll have to find some other solution to the problem

- 5.3 *Quelque* also forms part of the compound words *quelqu'un* (someone) and *quelque chose* (something). Note that when these are used with an adjective, they are followed by *de*:

Il faut que nous trouvions **quelqu'un de** très expérimenté pour le poste
We need to find someone very experienced for the job
Il y avait **quelque chose de** curieux dans la façon dont il m'a parlé
There was something strange in the way he spoke to me

6 **Chaque, chacun(e) - each / every, each / every one**

6.1 *Chaque* is a singular adjective and has only one form, whilst *chacun(e)* is a singular pronoun:

Chaque passage de la chanson à la radio lui rapporte des droits d'auteurs

Each time the song is played on the radio he earns royalties

Chacune de ses chansons lui rapporte des droits d'auteurs

Each of his songs earns him royalties

6.2 When expressing frequency, *tous / toutes les* is generally preferred:

Le conseil des ministres se tient **tous les** mercredis matin

The Cabinet meets every Wednesday morning

7 **Tout - all, any**

7.1 When used as an adjective, *tout* must always agree with the noun it is referring to. When used with words like *le* or *mon* it means *all*:

Tous les articles pris lors du cambriolage ont été retrouvés

All the items taken during the burglary were retrieved

When used on its own it has the more hypothetical sense of *any*:

Tout Français qui se respecte le saurait

Any self-respecting French person would know that

The adjective *tout* is often used with *ceux* and *celles*:

Il va faire une liste de **tous ceux / toutes celles** qui veulent venir

He's going to make a list of all those who want to come

7.2 When used as a pronoun, *tout* agrees with the noun it is replacing. Note that the final -s of *tous* is pronounced:

Il y a beaucoup de restaurants en ville mais **tous** sont fermés le lundi

There are a lot of restaurants in town, but they're all closed on Mondays

7.3 Where the pronoun *tout* is used without referring to a specific noun it has the meaning of "everything":

Grâce à lui, **tout** a été réglé

Thanks to him, everything has been sorted out

Where the pronouns *tous / toutes* are used without referring to a specific noun they have the meaning *everyone*:

C'est un homme qui était aimé de **tous**

He was man who was loved by everyone