

Module 6: On y va?
Topic 2 Content: À + le/la/les

Introduction

À + le/la/les



Click the **NEXT** button to learn what happens when *aller* is followed by the preposition *à*.



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The Preposition À

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To
At
In

Followed by a noun

Marc va à la gare.

A photograph of a subway platform. On the left, there is a yellow and orange checkered wall with a blue sign that reads "Motte-Picquet Grenelle". To the right of the sign is a red poster featuring a woman's face. The platform is long and narrow, with tracks visible on the left. A woman with long hair, wearing a white top and dark pants, is standing on the platform, looking towards the camera. Other people are visible in the distance.

À is a preposition that means *to*, *at*, or *in*. Because à is a preposition, it will typically be followed by a noun; and usually a noun related to a place, like *la gare*, *l'hôtel*, or *le cinéma*. For example, you may say, "Marc va à la gare."

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Contractions

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Two words combine to form a new word

Sophie et Marc vont **au** cinéma.

No contraction:
vont à le cinéma

Contraction:
à combined with *le* to form *au*



In English we can choose to contract or not (do not versus don't). In French, contractions are required.

Sometimes à is part of a contraction. A contraction is when two words combine together to make one new word. In English, for instance, rather than saying “do not” you can form the contraction “don’t.” In French, you may want to say, “Sophie et Marc vont au cinéma.” The contraction in this sentence is *au*. Take a moment to break this sentence down so you can understand why *au* was used. Although not the proper way to say it, the sentence without a contraction would have read, “Sophie et Marc vont à le cinéma.” Notice how by using the contraction, à combined with the *le* to form *au*.

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Rules

Rules

à + la	à la	Il va à la plage.	He goes to the beach.
à + l'	à l'	Elle va à l' hôtel.	She goes to the hotel.
à + le	au	Nous allons au restaurant.	We go to the restaurant.
à + les	aux	Ils vont aux parcs.	They go to the parks.

Take a moment to study the rules for à plus *le*, *la*, and *les*. When you are finished, you may exit the interactivity.