



French Family Words and Relationship Vocabulary

KS4 FRENCH

LANGUAGES

VOCABULARY

Ages 13-16



4 min read

Basic Family Members in French

Learning **family vocabulary** is one of the first things you do when studying a new language. In **French**, the word for family is **la famille**. Let's start with the closest relatives.

Your **mother** is **la mère** (pronounced 'lah mare'). Your **father** is **le père** (pronounced 'luh pair'). These are your **parents**, or **les parents** in French. Your **siblings** include your **brother** (le frère) and your **sister** (la soeur). You might have one **older brother** (le frère aîné) or an **older sister** (la soeur aînée).

Think of it like learning the cast of characters in your favourite film — once you know their names and roles, everything else makes sense!

Grandparents and Extended Family

Your **grandmother** is **la grand-mère** and your **grandfather** is **le grand-père**. Together they are your **grandparents**, or **les grands-parents**. French families often use **affectionate nicknames** too — many children call their grandmother '**Grand-maman**' or '**Mémé**' (pronounced 'meh-meh').

When your family gets bigger, you'll need words for **aunts** (**la tante**) and **uncles** (**l'oncle**). Your **cousins** are **les cousins** if they're male, or **les cousines** if female. An **only child** in French is **enfant unique**.

Think of it like branches on a family tree — the closer relatives are the main trunk, and aunts, uncles and cousins spread out like branches.

Marriage and Step-Relations

When people get married, a **husband** is **le mari** and a **wife** is **la femme**. A **married couple** are **les époux**. Some families have **step-parents** — a **step-father** is **le beau-père** and a **step-mother** is **la belle-mère**. A **step-sibling** is **le demi-frère** (step-brother) or **la demi-soeur** (step-sister).

In-Laws and Other Relations

Your **in-laws** are your spouse's family. Your **mother-in-law** is **la belle-mère** and your **father-in-law** is **le beau-père**. A **nephew** is **le neveu** and a **niece** is **la nièce**. Your **godmother** is **la marraine** and your **godfather** is **le parrain**.

It's worth noting that **French families** often stay very connected across **generations**. Sunday lunch with multiple family members is a cherished tradition in many **French households**.