

Du père (= of the father.) *Au père* (= to the father.)
De la mère (= of the mother.) *A la mère* (= to the mother.)
Des pères et mères (= of the fathers and mothers.) *Aux pères et mères* (= to the fathers and mothers.)

32. **Elision.** When *le* or *la* comes before a vowel or *h* mute, the vowel *e* or *a* is elided.

L'amour (= love.) *L'homme* (= the man.)
De l'amour (= of love.) *De l'homme* (= of the man.)
A l'amour (= to love.) *A l'homme* (= to the man.)

33. No elision takes places in *le onze*, *le un*, *la ouate*, *le oui*.

34°. **Indefinite article.** *un* (= a or an, before masc. nouns.)

une (= a or an, before fem. nouns.)

Un livre (= a book.) *une plume* (= a pen.)

35°. **Partitive article.** It denotes a portion or part of a whole

and must always be expressed in French.

It is translated by some, any.

It is: *Du* masc. before consonants. *Du pain* (= some bread.)

De la fem. " " *De la pâte* (= some paste.)

Des plural, both genders. *Des lys* (= some lilies.)

De l' before a vowel or *h* mute. *De l'eau* (= some water.)

36°. **Partitive *de*** is used instead of the preceding *du*, *de la* etc., after a negative verb:

La femme n'a pas de pain (= the woman has no bread.)

37°. **Partitive *de*** is generally used if an adjective precedes the noun, but *du*, *de la*, etc., are allowed.

De bon pain or *Du bon pain* (= some good bread.)

De beaux lys or *Des beaux lys* (= some beautiful lilies.)

38°. **Possessive Case.** Possession is expressed by *de* (= of):

My father's house or The house of my father: = *La maison de mon père*.

— Likewise, the compound words: A gold watch or a watch of gold = *Une montre d'or*.

39. **Special rules.** The definite article is used in French where the indefinite is in English, before nouns of measure, weight and number: *Du beurre à un franc la livre*: (Butter at one franc a pound.)

40°. Before names of countries, abstract nouns, adjectives used substantively, titles followed by the name.

La France est un pays chaud (= France is a warm country.)