

## French Word of the Day: les cheveux (hair)

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The audio for this Word of the Day lesson may be found at:  
<https://www.frenchlearner.com/french-word-of-the-day/cheveux-hair-in-french/>

In today's lesson we'll have a look at the word **les cheveux**, which means hair in French. Specifically, we'll look at ways to describe your hair. We'll also have a quick look at the confusing **cheveux** vs. **chevaux** (hair vs. horses). Keep reading!

According to Wiktionary.org, the French word **cheveux** (hair) comes from **capillus** in Latin.

When talking about the hair on one's head, the French always uses the plural form: **les cheveux**. A single strand of hair is **un poil** or **un cheveu**. Note that **poil** is also the word for an animal's fur.

### Example sentences

This first example sentence uses the imperfect tense (*l'imparfait*). The French use this tense to express past actions which occurred over time. This sentence is autobiographical. When I was in the 7th grade my French teacher gave me the nickname "Frisé" (curly).

**Quand j'étais un enfant j'avais les cheveux très frisés.**

*I had very curly hair when I was a child.*

To talk about your hair in French, use the structure: *avoir les cheveux* + adjective. For example:

**Marie a les cheveux longs et blonds.**

*Marie has long blond hair.*

### Hair vocabulary

Here are some more ways of describing hair in French. For example, *il a les cheveux bruns* (he has brown hair).

**Les cheveux bruns** brown hair

**Les cheveux noirs** black hair

**Les cheveux roux** red hair

**Les cheveux gris** gray hair

**Les cheveux longs** long hair

**Les cheveux lisses** straight hair

**Les cheveux courts** short hair

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**Les cheveux bouclés** curly, wavy hair

You can also use the verb **être** (to be) to talk about hair color. For example:

**Il est brun / Elle est brune.** He/she has brown hair

**Il est blond / Elle est blonde.** He/she has blond hair.

**Il est roux / Elle est rousse.** He/she has red hair.

In French, the adjective for bald is *chauve*.

**Martin est chauve. Il a perdu tous ses cheveux.**

*Martin is bald. He lost all his hair.*

### **Cheveux vs. chevaux**

It's easy to confuse hair in French with "horses": **le cheval, les chevaux** (horse, horses).

**Je vois les chevaux dans le champs.**

*I see the horses in the field.*

### **Conclusion**

*Et voilà ! Merci d'avoir suivi cette leçon !* Now check out French Today's [lesson on hair](#), which provides much more detailed vocabulary on hair colors and styles. You can also check out this post on our site offering a comprehensive list of [French haircut vocabulary](#).