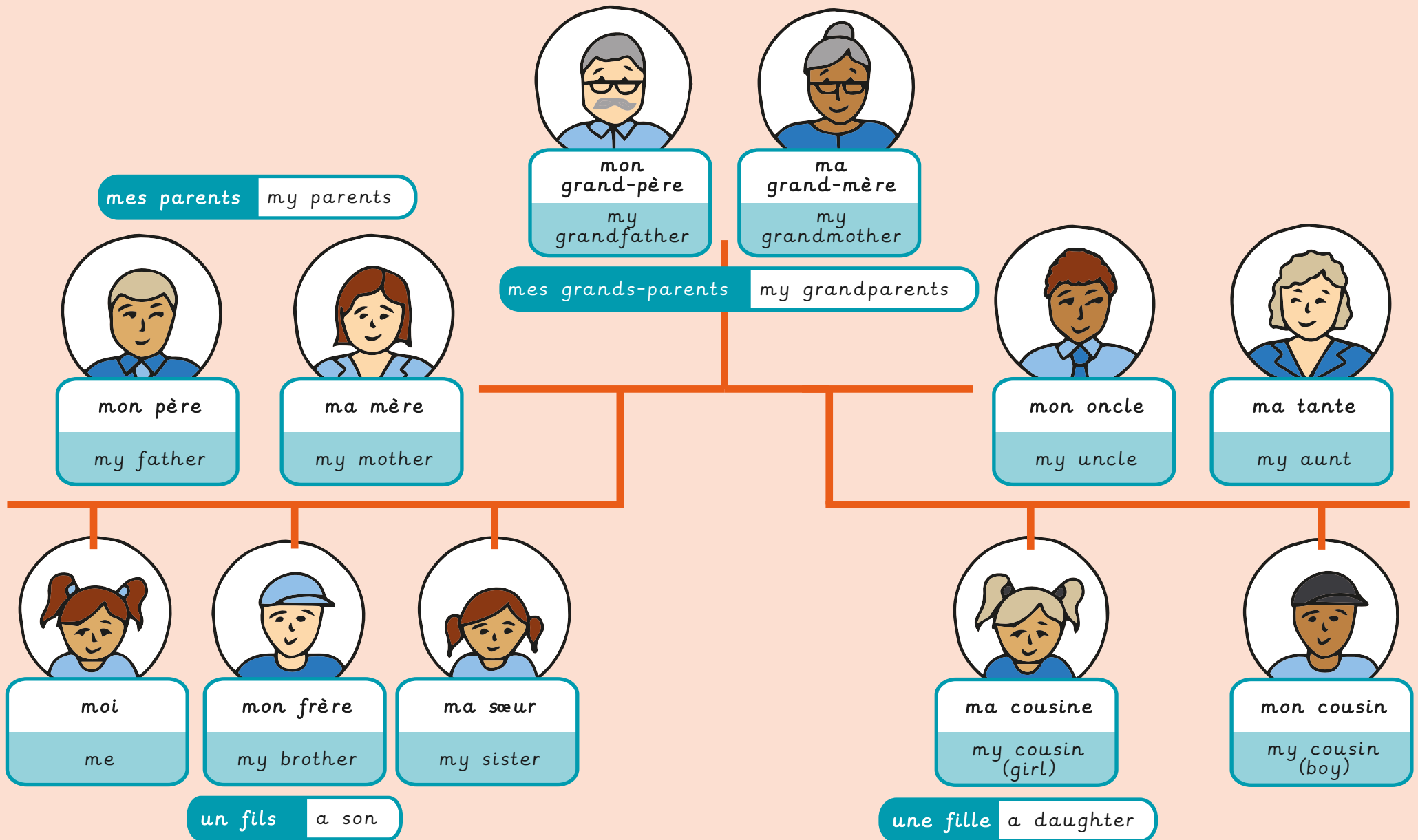




Sentence structure and phrases



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Did you notice a new character in the French word for sister, **sœur**?

The presentation of the 'o' and 'e', partly merged together is called a typographic ligature (or 'e dans l'o'). It tells us that the 'o' and the 'e' are not pronounced separately, but make a single sound.

Je n'ai pas de frère ou de sœur.

J'ai une sœur mais je n'ai pas de frère.

Je suis fils/fille unique.

I haven't got a brother or a sister

I have a sister but I don't have a brother

I am an only child (boy/girl)

Other phrases

J'ai un frère

I have a brother

J'ai une sœur

I have a sister

J'ai deux frères / sœurs

I have two brothers/sisters

J'ai un frère et une sœur

I have a brother and a sister

Je n'ai pas de frère / sœur

I haven't got a brother/sister

Getting possessive

In French there are three different words which mean my:

mon

before a masculine noun (or any noun beginning with a vowel or 'h')

ma

before a feminine noun

mes

before any plural noun

As friend in French, ami, begins with a vowel, we use the noun ending to indicate gender:

Mon ami

my (male) friend

Mon amie

my (female) friend

In French we don't say 'my mother's father' - instead we say:

le père de ma mère

the father of my mother

my mother's father

Mon frère s'appelle Paul.

My brother is called Paul.

Ma sœur a dix-sept ans. Son anniversaire, c'est le trois juillet.

My sister is seventeen years old. Her birthday is the third of July.

Mon oncle a les cheveux noirs et les yeux verts.

My uncle has black hair and green eyes.

Mes grands-parents aiment les pommes.

My grandparents like apples.