

Beginning Conversational French

Lesson 1: French Pronunciation

Lesson 1 Introduction

Learning Objectives



Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, here's what you'll be able to do:

1. Identify French speaking tips.
2. Identify and pronounce French accents.
3. Pronounce the French alphabet.
4. Pronounce French vowels.
5. Pronounce French consonants.

Introduction

[Listen to Audio Files Offline](#)

At the start of each lesson, we'll provide a single link you can click to download all the audio files you'll encounter in the lesson. You'll see the download icon and a button (like the one below) that says ***Click here to download audio files.*** Simply click the button to download a ZIP file of all the audio files you'll encounter in the lesson. Some people find it helpful to load the audio files onto a listening device, such as a smartphone or iPod, so they can listen while they commute or even while shopping.

[Lesson 1 Audio Files \(https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/audio/L01-audio.zip\)](https://lo-ed2go-cdn.learn.ed2go.com/Resources/bcf-6/audio/L01-audio.zip)

Click on the link to Download Lesson 1 Audio Files

Welcome!



Bienvenue! Welcome to *Beginning Conversational French*. Whether you are planning your next trip to France, longing to relearn the language that you started in high school, or just wanting to learn a new and beautiful language, you are in the right spot.

In each lesson we are going to learn some vocabulary and dialogue for a specific setting, explore some of the cultural aspects of this fascinating country, delve into some grammar to help you speak your best French, and practice some verb conjugation. When learning a foreign language (and really any new skill), the more you practice, the more proficient you will become.

The first three lessons give you an introduction to the basics you'll need for most conversations, such as "please" and "thank you." You'll also learn numbers, days of the week, months of the year, and telling time. After the introduction and basic conversation lessons, you'll learn what to say at the airport. Then, you'll need to get to your hotel, so you'll learn about transportation. The following lesson will teach you how to talk to hotel employees. After you're settled into your hotel, you'll probably be hungry, so next you'll learn about restaurants.

All of these things will take money and communication, so we'll learn about those next. Once you know about those things, you will want to spend some time shopping for *souvenirs* (and see, you already know a little French, even if this is your first French class, because this word is French and it means memory – makes sense, doesn't it?). On your trip, you will also want to take in some entertainment and perhaps visit a museum, so we'll get you prepared for those experiences as well. Hopefully, you won't have to deal with any emergencies during your trip, but if so, you'll soon learn the vocabulary to be able to handle them like the pro that you are.

The entire course is structured in this logical, systematic method. Each lesson also has several short usage tips. These tips will give you insider information that will help you fit in when you travel. Many misunderstandings can be avoided if you learn quick tips. For example, hand and body gestures mean different things in different countries. You can avoid offending people if you know the proper way to point to things.

Along the way, we will also be spending some time learning basic grammar at our Grammar Stops and also how to conjugate commonly used verbs in our Conjugation Corner so that you can sound like a native-born French speaker!

After you've finished this course, you'll know some basic French that you can confidently use when you travel. You'll also know important tips to help you blend in with and relate to foreign cultures. You'll be amazed how easy it is to speak a new language!

In lesson 1, you'll learn the basics of pronunciation. Good pronunciation will help you communicate with native speakers. Listen to the audio and concentrate on the sounds you hear. At this point, don't be too concerned with what the words mean. They're only examples to illustrate specific sounds.

Practice your pronunciation often. If you feel like you can't quite get a specific sound, try moving your mouth differently. Sometimes moving your tongue a tiny bit can make a huge difference. You'll be given clues throughout the lesson to help you understand how to make the different sounds. It can also really help to listen to different French voices. YouTube has some excellent videos, Netflix has a great selection of French shows and films, and there are some fantastic podcasts for French learners. Take advantage of all of them.

First, you'll learn how vowels are pronounced, the French vowels are the same as English. Then you'll move on to the consonants. After that, you'll learn about stressing syllables and linking words together.

Are you ready? Let's get started.

Chapter 1: Speaking Tips

Learning A Foreign Language

Why Learn a Foreign Language?



There are so many benefits to learning a foreign language. Learning a foreign language stimulates your brain. Did you know that studying a foreign language improves your memory skills, problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills, concentration, listening skills, and the ability to multi-task? Just like your muscles, the brain gets stronger and bigger the more that you use it.

Learning a foreign language helps you connect with others. There's no better way to get to know people of other cultures than to speak to them in their native language.

You can improve your career options learning a foreign language. There are many international job opportunities, and many companies wish to hire folks who speak a second language.

Why Choose French?

French is Spoken Worldwide

French is spoken by more than 300 million people in the world, and it is the only language, along with English, that is spoken on all five continents. French is the official language of 29 countries. When you speak French, you can communicate with people in France, Quebec, Belgium, Madagascar, Niger, as well as many others.

A Romance Language

French is a Romance language and shares roots with Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and Romanian. These languages share similar vocabulary and sentence structures, which makes it easier to learn once you know one of them.

French Entertainment and Culture

There are many amazing French movies and books to enjoy in their original language, such as *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo and *La Belle et La Bête* (Beauty and the Beast). French also is the language of many great philosophers such as Descartes and Sartre, and famous scientists, such as Marie Curie and Louis Pasteur.

How Do I Learn French?

How Do I Learn French?

Pronunciation

Work on your pronunciation. Practice with the letter sounds, then practice phrases, and then practice sentences. Think about your tongue position, the shape of your mouth, and the position of your lips. It can help to practice in front of a mirror so that you can see what is going on.

Build Your Vocabulary

Build your basic knowledge of French. Work on learning vocabulary and grammar. Be sure to focus on vocabulary that is relevant to you and your interests. For example, if you are a musician, you will want to learn music vocabulary. If you love to read, you will want to learn book-related vocabulary and the words for bookstore and library.

Practice, Practice, Practice

The more you practice, the better you will get. It will help to find someone to practice speaking with. You might want to pair up with someone in this class to practice the dialogues or spend some time talking to yourself in the mirror.

Listen

Listen to French speakers whenever you can. Listen to podcasts, French movies, YouTube videos, or music. Just listening to these will build neural pathways in your brain that will help you speak French more proficiently.

As you listen to Native French speakers, try to imitate the intonation and the word order, don't just repeat what you hear. Listening to the same phrases and sentences repeatedly and imitating what you hear, will help a lot.

Speaking Tips

Speaking Tips

French is a very even-toned language. Keep the syllables in words even. No syllables in French are strongly stressed. We heavily stress syllables in English, and we do it without even thinking about it.

Compare:

► Play audio

airport Eng. {AIR-port}

► Play audio

aéroport {ay-ro-por} = airport

When you're practicing French, try to keep the words smooth. Pretend each word is really one long syllable. If you can't stop yourself from stressing part of a word, always stress the last syllable.

Words also link together in French. We link words in English without realizing it. Read this sentence out loud: "I love a great French course." Now read it out loud again, but this time, read it word by word. Hear the difference? The last letter in a word becomes the first sound in the next word.

Linking words will help you sound like a native speaker. Linking also makes French easier to speak. Words flow out of your mouth more easily when they're linked together.

Grammar Tip

Remember that most consonants are silent when they're the last letter of a word. If the next word begins with a vowel, the final consonant is pronounced. For instance, if you combine the words **vous** {voo} and **avez** {ah-vay} they become **vous avez** {voo-zah-vay} which means *you have*. If you combine the words **les** {lay} and **amis** {ah-mee}, they become **les amis** {lay-zah-mee} or *(the) friends*.

► Play audio

vous {voo} = you

► Play audio

avez {ah-vay} = have

► Play audio

vous avez {voo-zah-vay} = you have

► Play audio

les {lay} = the (plural)

► Play audio

amis {ah-mee} = friends

► Play audio

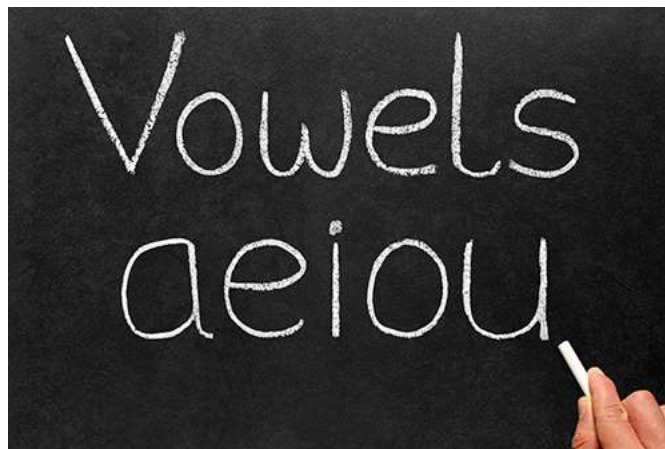
les amis {lay-zah-mee} = the friends

It takes lots of practice to link words together. Learning phrases rather than individual words will help you sound natural. Don't worry if your French sounds a little choppy. People will understand you. The most important rule is to enjoy yourself!

Chapter 2: Vowel Sounds

Pronouncing Vowels

Pronouncing Vowels



Now you're going to learn how to pronounce vowel sounds. This is key to sounding like a French speaker, so spend a lot of time practicing your vowel sounds. Keep in mind that vowels are short and quick in French. In English, we like to keep our vowels nice and long. Ohhh yeaahhh! Say the word "Oh" out loud. Now say it again, but this time cut it off before you move your lips into the "wuh" sound. It helps to remember that most French sounds are made completely inside the mouth. Lips barely move at all. Let's start!

The letter A is pronounced AH, like in the English word **father**. It's also the same sound the doctor tells you to make when he looks down your throat and says, "Say AHHH!" You will want to be sure that your lips are spread wide as you make this sound.

Pronouncing the Letter A

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
ami	ah-mee	friend
▶ Play audio		
madame	mah-dam	lady, Mrs.
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter A

In short, one-syllable words, the E is pronounced UH, as in the English word **mud**. You want to make this a quick and short sound and your lips are puckered, like a fish.

Pronouncing the Letter E

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
le	luh	the
▶ Play audio		
de	duh	of
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter E

In the middle of words, the *e* and *é* usually make a sound that's a cross between UH (as in the English word *mud*) and EH (as in the English word *let*).

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
un cheval	an-chuh-vahl	a horse
▶ Play audio		

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
petit	puh-tee	little
	▶ Play audio	
belle	behl	beautiful
	▶ Play audio	
fête	feht	party
	▶ Play audio	

Pronouncing the letter E

When an e is found at the end of the word, without an accent, just like in English, it is almost always silent.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
une fille	oon-feey	daughter
	▶ Play audio	
quatre	katr	four
	▶ Play audio	

Pronouncing the letter E

When e is followed by two consonants in a word, it makes the sound that we think of in English as a short e, EH.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
un restaurant	an-res-toh-ran	restaurant
	▶ Play audio	

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
je m'appelle	juh-mah-pel	my name is
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter E

At the end of words, -er, -es, and -et sound like AY.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
payer	pay-ay	to pay
▶ Play audio		
les	lay	the (plural)
▶ Play audio		
ballet	bah-lay	the ballet
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter E

Pronouncing the Letters I and Y

The letters i and y used as a vowel usually make a long EE sound, like the English word **see**.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
six	sees	six
▶ Play audio		
y	ee	there
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letters I and Y

Pronouncing the Letter O

The letter o is pronounced like the long o sound, OH, like the English word **hope**. Just don't forget to keep the vowel sound short (this is a good time to leave your southern drawl at home, if you've got one).

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
mot	moh	word
▶ Play audio		
trop	troh	too much
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter O

Pronouncing the Letter U

This is the trickiest vowel sound because we don't really have an English equivalent. The closest sound we have is like the oo in food, however, your lips must protrude and be tightly puckered. To practice this sound, pucker your lips, leave a small hole, and keep your lips rounded.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
tu	too	you (informal)
▶ Play audio		
rue	roo	street
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter U

Be sure to spend a lot of time practicing your vowel sounds, they are going to be the difference between sounding French and sounding like a foreigner.

Practice Tips

Recording

Record yourself reading the words in the examples. Listen to your recordings and try to find the spots where you don't sound French. Then you will know what to practice some more. It can also help to record on a separate day than you listen to it. Fresh ears will often pick up things that you didn't hear earlier.

Tongue Twisters

Practice reading some tongue twisters. The great thing about these is that if you mess up, you can blame it on your tongue getting tied, not your French! Start out slow and challenge yourself to get a little faster each time. The first time through, just concentrate on each word, the second time see if you can chunk a few words together, the third time around chunk a few more, and so on, until you sound like a pro. When you're starting to get it, record yourself and as you listen, see how you did.

Here are a few to get you started:

► Play audio

► Play audio

French Accents

French Accents

We're going to go ahead and cover accents here, since all of them but one affect vowels. There are five common French accents. Let's take a look at them: what they look like, their purpose, and what they do to the pronunciation of the words.

Accent aigu (é)

The acute accent is only found on an e. Its job is to change the pronunciation of the e. When there is an acute accent over the E (é) (which in French is also known as the accent aigu), it is pronounced AY, like the English word may. The tricky thing about it is that when you position your tongue to make the ay sound, you will not move your tongue or lips as you make it.

► Play audio

le café {luh-cah-fay} = coffee

► Play audio

été {ay-tay} = summer (Here you get a bonus accent aigu, two for the price of one!)

Accent grave (à, è, ù)

The grave accent goes the opposite way from the accent aigu that we just discussed. It has two uses. When it is found over the e (è), it makes the EH sound (and there are no exceptions to this, it is always pronounced the same!

► Play audio

père {pehr} = father

► Play audio

la crème {lah-crehm} = cream

It is also used to differentiate words that are otherwise spelled the same.

à {ah} = to vs a {ah} = has (pronounced the same, but different meanings)

où {oo} = where vs ou {oo} = or

Accent Circonflexe (â, ê, î, ô, û)

The circumflex is a cute little accent looks like a small, pointed hat. Its reason for being goes all the way back to its Latin roots. It can be used on all vowels. The circonflexe takes the place of a letter that used to be in the word. For example, the French word for hospital is hôpital. If you look closely, you will notice that the s is missing. The same thing for the word fête, which is French for party. This word comes from festival, which also has an s. Fascinating stuff, isn't it?!

The cedille

The cedilla is only used on the letter c. The cedille looks like a little squiggle under some c's. Its job is to make the c sound, which is often a hard c (think carrot) into a soft c (as in celebrate). Something interesting to note here is that a cedille is never needed on a c that's used before e or i as they already produce a soft c sound.

Here's the perfect example:

► **Play audio**

français {frahn-say} = French

► **Play audio**

le garçon {luh-gar-sohn} = the boy

L'accent tréma (ë, ï, ü)

The trema are these two little dots above e, i, or u are used to show that each vowel is pronounced separately from the one right before it.

► **Play audio**

Noël {Noh-el} = Christmas

► **Play audio**

coïncidence {koh-een-see-dans} = coincidence

In French words, the accents are not optional, in fact if the correct one isn't used, it is seen as a spelling mistake. That sounds like a lot of pressure, if we were to take a spelling test, doesn't it?!

Accent Marks

In case you are curious how to type the accent marks on your computer, here is that information .

L'accent grave (è) CTRL + ` , then the letter

L'accent aigu (é) CTRL + ' (apostrophe), then the e

Accent circonflexe (ê) CTRL + SHIFT + ^, then the letter

The cédille (ç) CTRL + , (comma), then the c

Nasal Sounds

Des Voyelles Nasales (Nasal Vowels)

When a vowel is followed by an m or n at the end of the word, you will have a nasal vowel, which means the air comes out of your nose and mouth as you say the word. We have nasal vowels in English also, but we don't even notice them because the pronunciation of the m or n is what causes the vowel to be a nasal one. In French, the m or n is silent, its sole purpose is to cause the vowel to be nasalized.

To make this nasal sound, think about the ng sound at the end of king. You want to make it very short. It also helps to look in a mirror, drop your chin down and put your tongue in the back of your mouth. This allows the air to go through your nose.

Another option is to pinch your nose as you say the sound. You should be able to feel the vibration of the air in your nose and feel the sound.

Three groups of nasal sounds: in, an, and on. Let's look at each one.

Nasal Sounds in, an, and on

Nasal Sound in

This nasal sound is found in words with the following combinations: in, im, ein, ain, aim. You will want to keep your lips wide open (like you do when you smile big) as you say words with this sound. The closest sound we have to this sound in English is to say the word *cat* while pinching your nose.

Try these words:

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
pain	pin	bread
	► Play audio	
un	an	a
	► Play audio	

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
faim	fin	hunger
▶ Play audio		

Keep practicing!

Nasal Sound an

This nasal sound is found in the combinations: en, em, an, am. To make this sound, you will want to open your lips into a big round circle and drop your jaw. The closest sound we have in English is to say ahhh while pinching your nose.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
en	an	in
▶ Play audio		
devant	duh-van	in front
▶ Play audio		
temps	tan	weather
▶ Play audio		

Nasal Sound on

This nasal sound is found in the combinations: on, and om. To make this sound you will want to keep your mouth small and rounded. The closest English sound that we have for this one is to say oh! while pinching your nose.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
ton	ton	your
▶ Play audio		

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
garçon	gahr-son	boy
▶ Play audio		
nombres	nonbr	numbers
▶ Play audio		

It can take a while to get the hang of nasal vowels. Keep practicing, but don't worry if it takes a while to learn. Even if your vowels aren't very nasal, people will understand what you're saying.

Here's a few phrases to practice your nasal sounds.

Text equivalent start.

Topic

un bon vin blanc

▶ Play audio

Information

a good white wine

pendant ce temps, ton garçon compte les
nombres

▶ Play audio

during that time your boy is counting the
numbers

Read the topic in the first column. Then read the second column for the information.

Text equivalent stop.

Learning Check-Vocabulary Practice

Vocabulary Practice

Text equivalent start.

Item to Match

ami

Matching Choices

- there
- friend
- daughter
- the

Correct Match

- friend

Item to Match**Matching Choices****Correct Match**

pain

- bread
- street
- the
- you

- bread

faim

- street
- of
- you
- hunger

- hunger

une fille

- hunger
- street
- bread
- daughter

- daughter

le

- the
- bread
- hunger
- you

- the

y

- there
- street
- the
- you

- there

de

- street
- there
- hunger
- of

- of

rue

- street
- bread
- the
- there

- street

tu

- you
- bread
- of
- the

- you

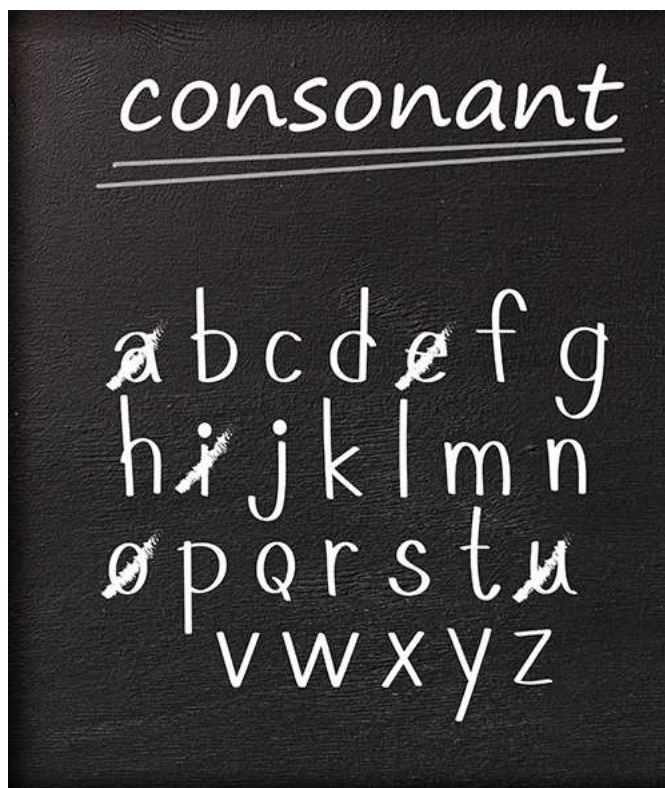
Instructions: Read the item in the first column and consider which choice(s) it matches to in the second column. Read the third column to find out if you are correct.

Text equivalent stop.

Chapter 3: Consonants

Pronouncing Consonants

Pronouncing Consonants



Most consonants sound the same in French as in English. The letters B, D, F, K, V, X, Y used as a consonant, and Z, always sound like what you'd expect. The rest of the consonants have exceptions to the English pronunciations.

Pronouncing the Letter C

Just like in English, the letter C has two pronunciations. The first sounds like the K in kite.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
école	ay-kohl	school
	► Play audio	
sec	sehk	dry
	► Play audio	

The other pronunciation is like the S in Sam. As we talked about earlier, when a word has a cédille (ç), the C also makes the S sound.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
cesser	seh-say	to stop
▶ Play audio		
ça	sah	this
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter C

Pronouncing the Letter G

The letter G also has two sounds, just like in English. When it comes before an a, o or u, it is pronounced like the G in the English word **game**.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
baguette	bah-geht	bread
▶ Play audio		
gare	gahr	station
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter G

If the G comes before an e or i, the G sounds like the G in the word **regime**. The letter J also makes this sound in French.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
plage	plahzh	beach
▶ Play audio		

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
jambon	zhahm-bon	ham
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter G

Pronouncing the Letter H

In French, the letter H is silent. The sound we know for H in English, like the H in **horse**, doesn't exist in French. Pronouncing the H in French is like shouting, "I'm an American!"

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
hôpital	oh-pee-tahl	hospital
▶ Play audio		
hôte	oht	host
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter H

Pronouncing the Letter L

The letter L is usually pronounced like the L in **label**.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
légume	lay-goom	vegetable
▶ Play audio		
syllabe	see-lahb	syllable
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter L

The combinations -ill and -ille are pronounced like the Y in **yes**.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
famille	fah-meey	family
► Play audio		
billet	bee-yay	ticket
► Play audio		

Pronouncing the Letter L

Pronouncing the Letters M and N

The letters M and N sound just like in English, except when they're used as a cue to make a vowel nasal.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
mère	mehr	mother
► Play audio		
nous	noo	we, us
► Play audio		

Pronouncing the Letters M and N

Pronouncing the Letter P

When the letter P is the last letter of a word, it's silent.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
trop	troh	too
► Play audio		

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
coup	koo	knock
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter P

Otherwise, the P sounds like what you'd expect in English.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
repos	ruh-poh	rest
▶ Play audio		
poste	pohst	post office
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter P

The letter Q is always followed by u. It's pronounced like the letter K in **kite**.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
que	kuh	that
▶ Play audio		
Québec	kay-behk	Quebec
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the Letter Q

Pronouncing the Letter R

The letter R is probably the trickiest sound for non-native French speakers to make because we just don't have an equivalent sound. Don't worry, with some practice, you will get it and here are some tips to help you out.

Pretend that you are going to gargle and say the /k/sound several times. Pay attention to where in your throat you feel that sound. That is where you want the French r sound to come from.

If that didn't help, here's another suggestion. Spread your lips out wide, but don't widely open your mouth. Make the action of the sound from your throat. Put your tongue down and push it against your lower teeth as you make the French r sound.

One final suggestion. Get a glass of water and gargle with it. Feel that vibration in your throat. Try to imitate that same movement without the water as you practice your r sound.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
rose	roh-z	pink
▶ Play audio		
rien	ryen	nothing
▶ Play audio		
frère	frehr	brother
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter R

Pronouncing the Letter S

Just like in English, S has two pronunciations. One sounds like the S in **song**.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
salut	sah-loo	hello
▶ Play audio		
la soeur	lah-sooyr	sister
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter S

Pronouncing the Letter S and Z

The other pronunciation sounds like the Z in **zebra**. The letter Z also makes this sound in French.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
treize	trehz	thirteen
▶ Play audio		
zéro	zay-roh	zero
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter Z

When S is added to a word to make it plural, it's silent.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
ami, amis	ah-mee	friend, friends
▶ Play audio		
fête, fêtes	feht	party, parties
▶ Play audio		
pont, ponts	pon	bridge, bridges
▶ Play audio		

Pronouncing the letter S

Pronouncing the Letter T

In French, the letter T usually sounds like the T in the English word **top**.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
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très	tray	very
------	------	------

► Play audio

théâtre	tay-ahtr	theater
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► Play audio

Pronouncing the letter T

If a word ends in T, the T is usually silent.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
------	---------------	-------------

mot	moh	word
-----	-----	------

► Play audio

coût	koo	cost
------	-----	------

► Play audio

Pronouncing the letter T

Pronouncing the Letter W

The letter W is very rare in French. It only appears in words borrowed from other languages. It's usually pronounced like a V in **very**. Words borrowed from English keep the English W sound.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
------	---------------	-------------

wagon	va-gon	truck
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► Play audio

week-end	wee-kehnd	weekend
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► Play audio

Pronouncing the letter W

Now you know what sounds the letters make in French. Time to learn some tips on speaking!

Learning Check-Vocabulary Practice

Vocabulary Practice

Text equivalent start.

Item to Match

la soeur

Matching Choices

- mother
- friend
- ham
- sister

Correct Match

- sister

billet

- ticket
- mother
- friend
- we, us

- ticket

que

- sister
- mother
- that
- ham

- that

ami

- friend
- sister
- we, us
- ham

- friend

nous

- we, us
- ham
- friend
- bread

- we, us

mère

- that
- friend
- mother
- bread

- mother

jambon

- mother
- that
- family
- ham

- ham

Item to Match

baguette

Matching Choices

- family
- ticket
- bread
- we, us

Correct Match

- bread

famille

- we, us
- family
- ticket
- friend

- family

Instructions: Read the item in the first column and consider which choice(s) it matches to in the second column. Read the third column to find out if you are correct.

Text equivalent stop.

Lesson 1 Review

Review

Let's Review!

Today, you learned how to pronounce all the vowels and consonants. You learned some common letter combinations and their sounds. You even learned a few French words! You learned that all syllables in French are equal, and none are heavily stressed. Linking words makes them easier to say. It also makes you sound more like a native speaker.

Vowels should be kept short and brief. Try not to draw them out like we sometimes do in English. Also remember to say nasal vowel sounds through your nose, not your mouth.

Consonants are generally very similar in French and English. Pay attention to which ones are silent. If you're not sure if a final consonant should be pronounced, leave it off.

Linking and keeping syllables even fine-tunes your pronunciation. As you get more comfortable speaking French, linking and stressing will become second nature. If you're still a little confused about them, give it time. Don't let yourself get "stressed" out!

In our next lesson, we'll start to learn words and phrases. We'll begin with simple greetings and conversations. We'll introduce numbers, and we'll talk about manners and the importance of being polite. Get ready for the fun to start!

Lesson 1 Assignment

Assignment

Choose 2 of these tasks to accomplish (or if you're feeling ambitious, try all of them!)

- Find a partner that you can practice your French with as we move through this course.
- Pick a French resource to listen to 15 minutes a day. This could be a Netflix show, a podcast, French music, etc. Then share in the discussion area so that we can try it too.
- Watch this short video on YouTube on learning the French alphabet:

[Youtube \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGkbK9-_BRE\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGkbK9-_BRE)

When you get done, spell out your name in French

Lesson 1 Discussion Area

General Discussion

Please feel free to use the Discussion Area for this lesson to ask any questions that may have come to mind as you reviewed the lesson content or completed your assignment.

Discussion Activity

Please introduce yourself to the class. You can share what interested you in taking Beginning Conversational French or how you might use your new language skills. You can also practice your French skills by telling the class two new French vocabulary words from Lesson 1.

Lesson 1 Quiz



5 correct out of 5 questions

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1. What accent looks like a small pointed hat and can be used on all vowels?

A. Cédille

✓ B. Circonflexe

Correct!

C. L'accent tréma

D. Grave

2. How is the letter A usually pronounced in words?

A. OH

B. OO

✓ C. AH

Correct! The letter A always sounds like AH when it's in a word.

D. AY

3. Which letter is pronounced as a long OH?

A. A

B. L

✓ C. O

Correct. O makes a long OH sound, like in the word Home.

D. I

4. Which letter is always silent?

A. L

B. P

C. S

✓ D. H

Correct. H is always silent in French.

5. What is the word for changing pronunciations when words are combined?

✓ A. Linking

Correct. Linking is the word for pronouncing letters that would otherwise be silent. Linking also means carrying the last syllable of a word over to the first syllable of the next word.

B. Mixing

C. Stressing

D. Nasal

Resources For Further Learning

Vowels for Beginners (<https://www.lawlessfrench.com/pronunciation/vowels-for-beginners/>)

<https://www.lawlessfrench.com/pronunciation/vowels-for-beginners/>

Learning French vowel sounds can be tricky. Here is a wonderful resource to help with that. Be sure to click on each vowel for additional help.

Top Five French Mistakes to Avoid- Vowels Part I (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVI_TDGAfl4)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVI_TDGAfl4

Here's a helpful video to help pronounce those French vowels

French Information Center (<https://www.france.fr/en>)

<https://www.france.fr/en>

This site has all sorts of information about France, especially if you're planning a trip.

French Embassy (<https://www.info-france-usa.org/>)

<https://www.info-france-usa.org/>

This is the site for the French Embassy in the United States. It has information about visiting France, specifically for Americans.

An Explanation of French Accent Marks (<https://www.brighthubeducation.com/french-lesson-plans/55261-french-accent-marks-rules-and-meaning/>)

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If you've been struggling with how to tell the difference in the accent marks or when to use them, this article is very helpful.

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