

FRENCH PRONUNCIATION TIPS

THE LETTER 'C'

There are two different ways to pronounce the letter C in French.

1. Like the letter K
2. Like the letter S

K pronunciation

The letter C is pronounced like a K when it is put in front of the letters A, O or U

café (pronounced "kafay")

concombre (pronounced "konkombɾ")

curiosité (pronounced "kureeossitay")

S pronunciation

The letter C is pronounced like an S when it is put in front of the letters E or I

c'est (pronounced "say")

cinéma (pronounced "sinaymā")

The Ç cedilla

If you put a cedilla (the little squiggle) underneath the letter C, it will change it from a K sound to an S sound

ça (pronounced "sā")

garçon (pronounced "garssor")

façade (pronounced "fassad")

FRENCH CONSONANTS

In French, you should never pronounce the consonant on the end of a word and it should remain silent. Look at the examples below of words that end in a silent consonant. I've put the pronunciation guide in brackets after each word.

mais (pronounced "may")

très (pronounced "tray")

délicieux (pronounced "delisieugh")

However, there are four exceptions to this consonant rule. The only four consonants you are allowed to pronounce on the end of French words are C, R, F and L. You can remember them because they're the only consonants in the word CAREFUL.

C R F L

sac (pronounced "sak")

pour (pronounced "poor")

boeuf (pronounced "berf")

normal (pronounced "noormal")