

General Phonetic Rules:

Key: (V) vowel, (C) consonant, (ee) a specific letter or set of letters, (X=) exceptions\*, (EE) initial/beginning letters

\*Letters mentioned in exceptions include all diacritical variants of such letters. Specific diacritical variants will be noted separately from the rest. For example, (X=e) excludes all of {e é è ê ë}, while (X=ë) excludes just {ë}. Be mindful of hiatus rules.

Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
	ph : [f] 'ph' letter groups are transcribed as [f].	'ph' letter groups are generally transcribed as [f]. This should be a default function.
	-o- : [ɔ] If no other rule applies, transcribe 'o' vowels as [ɔ].	
	-o : [ɔ] Final 'o' vowels are transcribed as [ɔ].	
	-œu : [ø] Final '-œu' vowel clusters are transcribed as [ø].	Example: vœu [vø]
	oz(V) : [ɔz] Single 'o' vowels followed by a [z] sound are transcribed as [ɔ].	You've already made this rule, but never applied it with the letter 'z.'
	eus(V) : [øz] euz(V) : [øz] 'eu' vowel clusters followed by a [z] sound are transcribed as [ø].	Rewording.
	as(V) : [ɑz] az(V) : [ɑz] Single 'a' vowels followed by a [z] sound are transcribed as [ɑ].	

Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
	ü : [y] 'ü' vowels are most likely transcribed as [y].	Ésaü, Saül, capharnaüm, gageüre More on this below. See -guë.
il(V) : [ij] 'il' letter groups preceded by a vowel are transcribed [ij].		This only applies to final 'il' letter groups. The medial glide must have a double 'll' followed by another vowel in order to be transcribed as [ij]. Examples: aile [ɛlə] huile [ɥilə] (mute h)
	ouill(V) : [uj] Medial 'ouill' letter groups are transcribed as [uj].  -ouil : [uj] Final '-ouil' letter groups are transcribed as [uj].	It seems like you got the rules for 'ouill-' and 'uill-' mixed up. 'ouill-' is different from 'ou(V)'; in 'ouill-' the stronger vowel is [u], whereas in 'uill-' the letter 'u' is the weaker vowel. Examples: mouillé [muje] Pouilles [pujə] rouille [rujə] fenouil [fənuj]
	uill(V) : [ɥij] Medial 'uill' letter groups are transcribed as [ɥij].	Examples: cuillère* [kɥijɛrə] juillet [ʒɥijɛ] *The word 'cuiller' is another acceptable spelling, and has a pronunciation exception: [kɥijɛr].
	aill(V) : [aj] Medial 'aill' letter groups are transcribed as [aj].  (-)ail : [aj] Final '-ail' letter groups are transcribed as [aj].	It would be better to merge these.

Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
	<p>eill(V) : [ɛj] or [ej]            Medial 'eill' letter groups are transcribed as [ɛj].</p> <p>-eil : [ɛj]            Final '-eil' letter groups are transcribed as [ɛj].</p>	
	<p>(C)ill(V) : [ij]            Medial 'ill' letter groups preceded by a consonant are generally transcribed as [ij]. Be mindful of exceptions where this may instead be pronounced [il].</p> <p>(C)il : [i(l)]            In final '-il' letter groups, [l] may or may not be pronounced. Consult a dictionary to resolve any doubts.</p>	<p>Instances of medial [il]:            village [vilaʒə]            villageois [vilaʒwa]            Lille [lilə]</p> <p>Instances of final [il]:            péril [peril]            cil [sil]            exil [ɛgzil]            fil [fil]            vil [vil]            Nil [nil]</p> <p>Instances of final [i]:            gentil [ʒãti]            sourcil [sursi]</p> <p>The pronoun 'il' (and its plural form) will always be pronounced [il]. Typically, if base-form final '-il' words add an additional 'l' with suffixes, they typically do not pronounce the [l] at the end (except for 'péril' and 'cil'). Most common example being gentil [ʒãti] - gentille [ʒãtijə] - gentillesse [ʒãtijəsə].</p>

Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
	<p>uy(V) : [ɥij]            'uy' vowel clusters followed by another vowel are generally transcribed as [ɥij]. Be mindful of exceptions.</p>	<p>Examples:            fuyant [fujjɑ̃]            Guyana [gujjana]            tuyauterie [tujjotəri(ə)]</p> <p>Exception:            gruyère [gryjɛrə]</p>
<p>ay : [ɛj]            All 'ay' vowel clusters are transcribed as [ɛj].</p>	<p>ay(V) : [ɛj] or [ej]            'ay' vowel clusters followed by another vowel are generally transcribed as [ɛj]. Be wary of instances where this would be pronounced [aj] instead.</p> <p>ay(C), -ay : [ɛ]            'ay' vowel clusters that are final or followed by a consonant are pronounced [ɛ].</p>	<p>To say that all 'ay' clusters are transcribed [ɛj] is incorrect. The glide can only occur if there is a vowel afterwards. Vocalic harmonization would make this [ej].</p> <p>Examples of [ɛj]/[ej]:            payer [peje]            crayon [kʁɛjɔ̃]            essayer [eseje]</p> <p>Example of [ɛ]:            chardonnay [ʃardɔ̃nɛ]</p> <p>There are a few instances where 'ay' would be pronounced as [aj].            Example of [aj]:            mayonnaise [majɔ̃nɛzə]</p>

Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
<p>ue : [œ]            Medial 'ue' clusters are transcribed as [œ].</p>	<p>euill(V), (c,g)ueill(V) : [œj]             -euil, (c,g)ueil : [œj]</p>	<p>The previous statement only works with certain final '-il' or medial '-ill-'. The 'ue' cluster cannot be [œ] anywhere else.            Examples of [œ]:            recueillement [rəkœjəmã]            accueil [akœj]            orgueil [ɔrgœj]            The reason for this is because 'c' and 'g' change their sound when preceding an 'e' or 'i,' so to accommodate, '-euil' is respelled to '-ueil' after 'c' and 'g' to keep their hard sounds. Here are some...            Examples of not [œ]:            tuer [tʁe]            rues [ry(ə)]            muette [mʏɛtə]            actuel [aktʏɛl]            vertueux [vɛrtʏø]</p>
	<p>H- : [-]            Initial 'h' letters are silent, so they are not transcribed. However, depending on whether 'h' is aspirate or mute, there may or may not be a liaison or elision before it.</p>	<p>There are no liaisons or elisions before words that begin with an aspirate h. Some of these words include, but are not limited to: haut, hache, harpe, hors, hâter, haïr, hélas*            *hélas = [elas]</p>
	<p>Y(V) : [j]            Initial 'y' letters followed by a vowel are transcribed as the "yod" glide, or [j]. However, depending on whether 'y' is aspirate or mute, there may or may not be a liaison or elision before it.</p>	<p>Rewording and clarification.</p>

Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
	-x : [-] Final 'x' consonants are silent.	How has this not been made default with the liaison rule already applying? And by the way, '-x' liaisons are just the same as '-s' and '-z' liaisons: transcribed with [z].
-x(V) : [gz] 'x' consonants followed by a vowel are transcribed as [gz].		This is absolutely false. This only applies if 'x' comes after an initial letter 'e,' or if it is a 'xéno-' prefix, otherwise it is [ks]. To add on, 'e' before 'x' is always transcribed [ɛ], since it counts as two consonants following it. More on this below.
	Xéno- : [gzɛnɔ] 'xéno-' prefixes are transcribed as [gzɛnɔ].	Examples: Xénophon [gzɛnɔfɔ̃] xénophobe [gzɛnɔfɔ̃bɛ]  Exception: xénon [ksɛnɔ̃]
	Ex(V), Hex(V) : [ɛgz] Initial 'ex' followed by a vowel is transcribed as [ɛgz]. 'hex-' prefixes are transcribed as [ɛgz].  Ex(C) : [ɛks] Initial 'ex' followed by a consonant is transcribed as [ɛks].	Examples: exacte [ɛgzaktɛ] exemple [ɛgzɑ̃plɛ] exotique [ɛgzɔ̃tikɛ] Exode [ɛgzɔdɛ] hexagonal [ɛgzagɔnal] expliquer [ɛksplike] exquis [ɛkski]  'e' should also be transcribed [ə] before a single consonant followed by a liquid consonant, such as bl, dr, gr, pl, tr, etc. This is why in writing, there is typically an 'é' or 'è' before these letters. (cont. below)

Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
		<p>Examples:            chevrotter [ʃəvrɔtɛ]            sevrer [səvrɛ]            secrètement [səkʁetəmɑ̃]            Please check the word            “secret” [səkʁɛ]            There is an explanation to            this below in the Additional            Notes section.</p>
	<p>-ex(V) : [ɛks]            Medial ‘ex’ is transcribed            as [ɛks].</p>	<p>Examples:            sexe [sɛksø]            annexe [anɛksø]            réflexion [ʁeflɛksjɔ̃]</p> <p>‘e’ should be transcribed            [ə] before the following            consonant digraphs:            ch - flèche [flɛʃə]            gn - règne [ʁɛɲə]</p>
	<p>(V)x(V) : [ks]            Intervocalic ‘x’ letters are            transcribed as [ks].</p>	<p>Examples:            toxique [tɔksikə]            luxe* [lyksø]            luxueux [lyksøø]</p> <p>*The word “luxe” is not an            exception, as it follows            standard pronunciation            rules.</p>
	<p>k : [k]            ‘k’ letters, though not            common in French, are            most likely transcribed as            [k].</p>	

Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
	-(C)c : [-] Final '-c' consonants preceded by a consonant are generally silent. Be mindful of exceptions.	Examples of silent '-c': marc [mar] porc [pɔr] banc [bɑ̃] blanc [blɑ̃] franc [frɑ̃] tronc [trɑ̃]  Examples of pronounced '-c': parc turc arc donc
ch : [ʃ] 'ch' letter groups are transcribed as [ʃ].	ch : [ʃ] 'ch' clusters are generally transcribed as [ʃ]. Beware of some exceptions where 'ch' may be transcribed as [k].	Examples of [k]: archaïque [arkaikə], as well as its derived forms chaos [kɑo] technique [tɛknikə] Zacharie [zakari(ə)]
-q : [-] Final 'q' consonants are silent.	-q : [-k] Final 'q' consonants are transcribed as [k].	"Final 'q' consonants are silent." - This is disproven with words like "cinq" and "coq," transcribed [sɛ̃k] and [kɔk], respectively.
(C)ie : [-jə]	(C)ie : [-i(ə)] 'i' vowels followed by a schwa are transcribed as [i].	It should be the same with how you treated 'ou' before a vowel. More below with examples.
(C)ue : [-yə]	(C)ue : [-y(ə)] 'u' vowels followed by a schwa are transcribed as [y].	It should be the same with how you treated 'ou' before a vowel. More below with examples.



Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
	<p>-(V)(X=a,o)e : [(ə)]  A schwa preceded by a vowel may or may not be pronounced depending on possible elisions or how the composer set the text.</p>	<p>I think it would be better to transcribe this with parentheses for this reason.  Examples:  idée [ide(ə)]  aimée [eme(ə)]  amie [ami(ə)]  partie [parti(ə)]  chérie [feri(ə)]  perdue [pɛrdu(ə)]  connue [kɔny(ə)]  étaient [ete(ə)]  baie [bɛ(ə)]  oie [wa(ə)]  joie [ʒwa(ə)]  joue [ʒu(ə)]  bleue [blø(ə)]  queue [kø(ə)]  Remember to drop the final [ə] when elisions do occur.</p>
<p>ge(V) : [ʒɛ]</p>	<p>ge(V) (X=i,u) : [ʒ]  'ge' followed by a vowel is transcribed as [ʒ].</p>	<p>The 'e' in between is mute, so it shouldn't be transcribed.  Examples:  Georges [ʒɔʁʒə]  mangeoire [mãʒwarə]  pigeon [piʒɔ̃]  changea [ʃãʒa]</p>
<p>je(V) : [ʒɛ]</p>	<p>je(V) (X=i,u) : [ʒ]  'je' followed by a vowel is transcribed as [ʒ].</p>	<p>Example:  Jean [ʒã]</p>
<p>gu : [g]  'gu' letter groups are transcribed as [g].</p>		<p>This only applies if 'gu' is followed by an additional vowel, otherwise, it is [gy] or [gʏ], dependent on what comes next. See below.</p>

Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
	<p>gu(V) (X=ë,ï,u) : [g]  'gu' letter groups followed by a vowel are generally transcribed as [g]. There may exist a few exceptions in which this is pronounced [gɥ] or [gw].</p>	<p>Examples:  guerre [gɛrə]  Guillaume [gijomə]</p> <p>Examples of [gɥ]:  linguiste [lɛ̃gɥistə]  aiguille [egɥijə]</p> <p>Examples of [gw]:  guatémaltèque [gwatɛmaltɛkə]</p>
	<p>gu(C), gu : [gy]  'g' consonants followed by the letter 'a,' 'o,' or 'u' are transcribed as [g].  Single 'u' vowels are transcribed as [y].</p>	<p>Examples:  figure [figyrə]  légumier [legymje]  aigu [egy]  ambigu [ãbigy]</p> <p>The logic of g sounding like [g] before a back vowel isn't always true, since [y] is a front vowel, and since the 'ai' monophthong is also a front vowel. Please change this for 'cu' [ky] as well.</p>
	<p>guë : [gy(ə)]  'g' consonants followed by the letter 'a,' 'o,' or 'u' are transcribed as [g].  Single 'u' vowels are transcribed as [y].  'ë' after the letters 'gu' is pronounced like a schwa, and is thus transcribed [ə].</p>	<p>Examples:  aiguë [egy(ə)]  ambiguë [ãbigy(ə)]  The final [ə] is also dropped for elisions.</p> <p>The 1990 French Spelling Reform now asks for words like these to be spelled with -güe instead, but that doesn't do much for old sheet music. I would recommend implementing it anyway just to be safe, and it probably works better with the existing codes.</p>

Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
	guï : [gɥi] 'g' consonants followed by the letter 'a,' 'o,' or 'u' are transcribed as [g]. 'u' vowels followed by another vowel are transcribed as [ɥ].	Example: ambiguïté [ãbigɥite]
	gueil, gueill- : [gœj]	Examples: orgueil [ɔrgœj] orgueilleux [ɔrgœjø]
	qu(V) : [k] 'qu' letter groups are generally transcribed as [k]. Be aware of instances where this may be pronounced as [kw].	Examples of [kw]: quatuor [kwatɥɔr] aquarium [akwarjɔm]
The consonants in 'ill-', 'irr-', 'imm-', and 'inn-' letter groups are doubled in transcription.		This isn't always true. Might be better to remove.
	-tion : [sjɔ̃] '-tion' letter groups are transcribed with [s]. If this is part of a verb ending, pronounce this with [t].	Rewording and extra info. More below.
	-(s)tion : [tjɔ̃] '-tion' letter groups preceded by 's' are transcribed with [t].	Examples: question [kɛstjɔ̃] bastion [bastjɔ̃]
	-ti(V) : [t] The letter 't' followed by the [j] glide may be pronounced [s] in some cases.	It would be a good idea to inform users of this. Examples: patience [pasjɔ̃sə] diplomatie [diplɔmasi(ə)] initial [inɪsjal]

Remove/Replace	Add/Replace with	Rationale
	Em(m), En(n) : [ã] Initial 'em-' and 'en-' letter groups followed by a nasal consonant are still transcribed as [ã].	Examples: emmener [ãmène]  Exceptions: emmental (See below) ennemi [ɛnəmi]
	cc(a,o,u,C) : [k] Double 'cc' consonants are transcribed as a single [k]. cc(e,i) : [ks] Double 'cc' consonants before an 'e' or 'i' are transcribed as [ks].	Examples of [ks]: accent [aksã] accident [aksidã] occitane [ɔksitanə]
	gg(a,o,u,C) : [g] Double 'gg' consonants are transcribed as a single [g]. gg(e,i) : [gʒ] Double 'gg' consonants before an 'e' or 'i' are transcribed as [gʒ].	Examples: suggérer [sygʒere] suggestion [sygʒɛstjõ]
	xc(e,i) : [ks] 'xc' clusters followed by 'e' or 'i' are transcribed as [ks].	[s] should not be doubled in transcription. Examples: excellent [ɛksɛlã] exception [ɛksɛpsjõ] exciter [ɛksite]

Continue below for Specific Words and Exceptions, and Additional Notes.

### **Specific Words and Exceptions:**

- ver - [vɛr] - This word is an exception in which the final '-er' is transcribed [ɛr].
- ours - [urs] - This word is an exception in which the final '-s' is pronounced.
- lis or lys - [lis] - This word is an exception. If 'lis' is the conjugated form of 'lire,' it is transcribed [li].
- mars - [mars] - This word is an exception in which the final '-s' is pronounced.
- Vénus - [venys] - This word is an exception in which the final '-s' is pronounced.
- six - [sis], [si], or [siz] - This word can be an exception in which the final '-x' is pronounced. The final '-x' is silent before a consonant, and transcribed as a [z] liaison before a vowel.
- sixième - [sizjɛmø] - See 'six.'
- dix - [dis], [di], or [diz] - This word can be an exception in which the final '-x' is pronounced. The final '-x' is silent before a consonant, and transcribed as a [z] liaison before a vowel.
- dixième - [dizjɛmø] - See 'dix.'
- deuxième - [døzjɛmø] - See 'six' and 'dix.'
- lesquels - [lekɛl] - This is meant to be pronounced the same way as 'les quels.'
- lesquelles - [lekɛlə] - This is meant to be pronounced the same way as 'les quelles.'
- messieurs [mesjø] - Plural of 'monsieur,' transcribed as shown.
- mesdames [medamø] - This is meant to be pronounced the same way as 'mes dames.'
- sens - [sɑ̃(s)] - This is pronounced [sɑ̃s] when referring to the noun. It is pronounced [sɑ̃] when referring to the conjugation of 'sentir.'
- paysage - [peizaʒø] - This word is an exception, transcribed as shown. Suffixed from 'pays.'
- ouest - [west] - This is an exception in which the final two consonants are pronounced.
- sud - [syd] - This is an exception in which the final consonant is pronounced.
- août - [u(t)] - This word is an exception, transcribed as shown. 't' may or may not be pronounced.
- asseoir - [aswar] - This word is an exception in which 'e' is mute and not transcribed.
- cet - [sɛt] - This article can only be used before a noun starting with a vowel or a mute 'h,' so the 't' is pronounced.
- sept - [sɛt] - In this word, 'p' stays silent, but 't' does not.
- septième - [sɛtjɛmø] - See 'sept.'
- solennel - [solanɛl] - This word is an exception, and it is transcribed with a bright [a].
- zinc - [zɛ̃g] - This word is an exception in which the final consonant is voiced.

- cerf - [sɛʁ] - This word is an exception in which the final ‘-f’ is silent.
- cruel, cruelle - [kryɛl], [kryɛlə] - This word is an exception in which there is a hiatus between the vowels.
- cruauté - [kryote] - See ‘cruel.’
- jeûne - [ʒø̃nə] - This word is an exception in which the vowel is closed. Words derived from ‘jeûne’ are also transcribed with [ʒø̃n].
- euro - [ø̃ʁo] - ‘euro-’ prefixes are transcribed as shown.
- Eurasie - [ø̃ʁasi(ə)] - See ‘euro.’
- emmental or emmenthal - [emɑ̃tal] or [emɛ̃tal] - Both spellings are acceptable, as are both transcriptions. One doesn’t necessarily correlate to the other.
- zut - [zyt] - This word is an exception in which the final ‘t’ is pronounced.

> Verb conjugations where ‘-ent’ endings are **not** pronounced [ə]: sentir - sent [sɑ̃], mentir - ment [mɑ̃], tenir - tient [tjɛ̃], venir - vient [vjɛ̃]. Remember that this also applies to these same verbs with added prefixes, such as ressentir, maintenir, and convenir.

> In verbs that end in ‘-quérir,’ the first two conjugations in the present tense end in ‘-quiers,’ and despite the typical ‘-er(s)’ ending that it seems to have, it is pronounced [kjɛʁ]. Such verbs include requérir and conquérir.

> Verbs ‘tenir’ and ‘venir’ - In the future and conditional tenses of these verbs, they stem from ‘tiendr-’ and ‘viendr-’ respectively. The ‘-en-’ portion is pronounced [ɛ̃].

Continue below for Additional Notes.

### **Additional Notes:**

fier - [fjɛr] or [fje] - This word can be an exception in which the final ‘-er’ is transcribed [ɛr]. On the other hand, the verb ‘fier’ is transcribed as [fje].

fil - [fis] or [fil] - This word can be an exception transcribed as shown. If this word is the plural form of ‘fil’ (meaning “thread”), it is transcribed as [fil].

os - [ɔs] or [o] - This word can be an exception in which the final ‘-s’ is pronounced. However, if this is plural, it is transcribed [o].

œufs - [ø] - The noun ‘œuf’ in plural form is pronounced [ø].

plus - [plys], [ply], or [plyz] - This word can be an exception in which the final ‘-s’ is pronounced. The final ‘-s’ is silent before a consonant, and transcribed as a [z] liaison before a vowel.

tous - [tus], [tu], or [tuz] - See “plus.”

est - [ɛ(t)] or [ɛst] - ‘est’ may refer to the conjugation of the verb ‘être’—pronounced [ɛ]—or the direction meaning “east”—pronounced [ɛst].

> On transcribing ‘e’ - In French, the syllables are divided in a way where if the letter ‘e’ isn’t followed by a consonant within a syllable, it will be a schwa. Let’s use homophones of [mɛtrə] as examples. The word “mettre” is divided /met-tre/, with the first ‘e’ making the [ɛ] sound. On the other hand, in the word ‘mètre,’ divided /mè-tre/, the first ‘e’ needs the grave accent in order to make the sound [ɛ]. The letter ‘x’ is an exception to this rule for complex reasons.

> A general rule for vowels - Remember that circumflex accents never break vowel clusters (ai=aî, oi=oî, ou=oû, etc.), nor do they prevent nasalization (e.g. vînmes, vîntes, vînt are still pronounced with [vɛ̃]). All vowels separated by hiatuses still follow nasalization rules, including accent-tréma (ë, ï) vowels. Invalidities can only occur with diacritical marks that change the entire vowel pronunciation itself, which only includes {â é è ê ô}.

> About ‘ü’ - In French, this generally functions as an accent-tréma vowel that breaks vowel clusters (e.g. Saül [sayl], Ésaü [ezay], capharnaüm [kafarnaɔm]). However, if it is a loanword from another language, chances are that it is also pronounced [y] in that language (German especially).

> ‘ÿ’ - Not as commonly used in French, but still exists. It functions like ‘ï.’ Prime example is the name of a French violinist and composer, Eugène Ysaÿe.

> About final ‘-um’ - For certain Latin-origin loanwords whose last syllable is ‘-um’ (as a result of a declension), the final ‘-um’ is pronounced [ɔm]. For example, continuum [kõtɪnɔm], aquarium [akwarjɔm], minimum [minimɔm]. The word ‘parfum’ [parfœ] does not follow this pattern as its Latin origin is ‘perfumus,’ where the ‘um’ is not final.

> Please consider adding buttons for special characters for those that aren’t able to input them on a regular keyboard. Include a “caps” toggle as well. The special characters are: {à, â, ç, é, è, ê, ë, î, ï, ô, œ, ù, û, ü, ÿ}