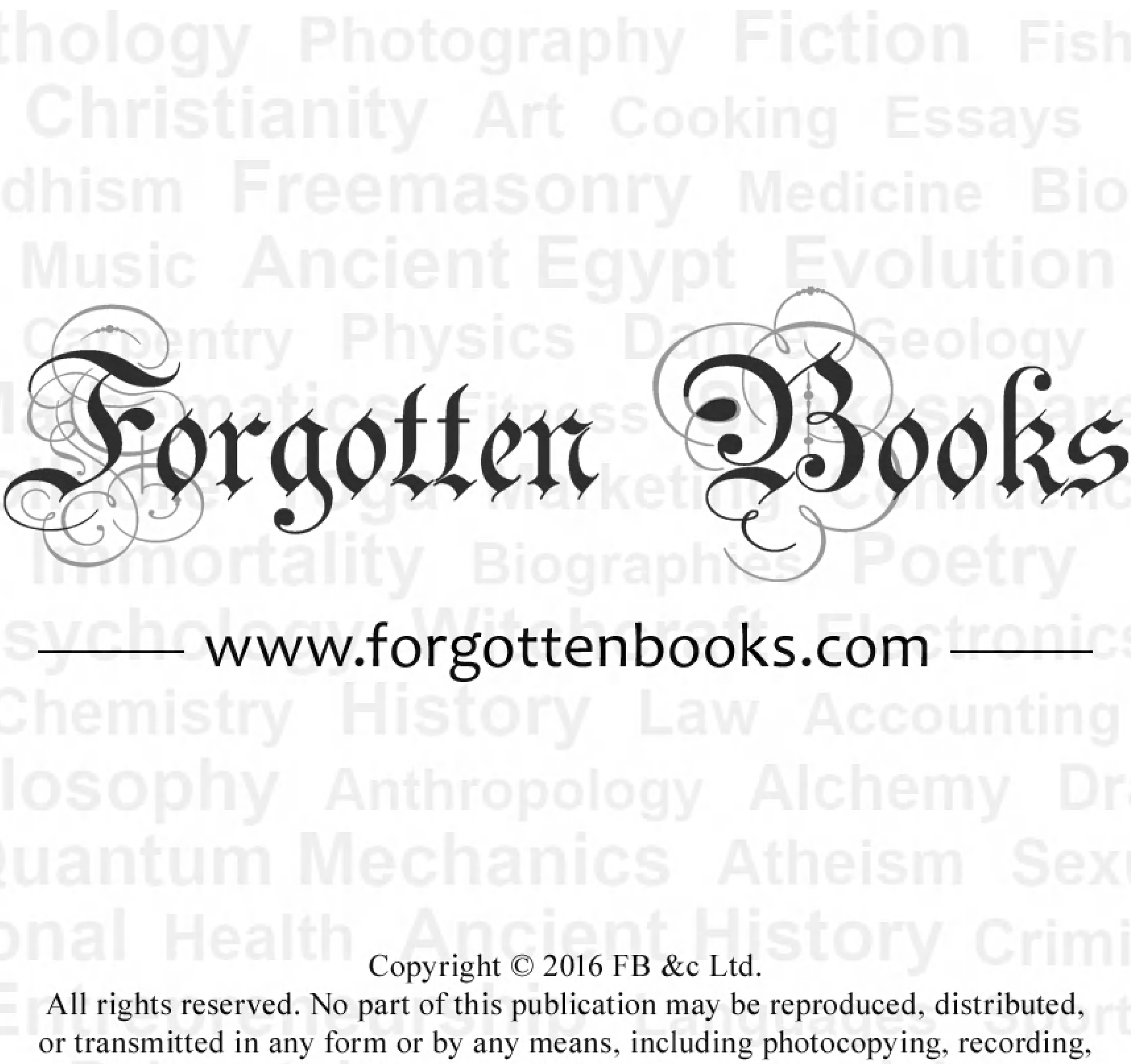

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A HANDBOOK OF FRENCH PHONETICS

BY

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WITH EXERCISES BY

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PREFACE

THIS little book is intended as a manual for elementary and advanced students of the French language. In elementary courses it may be employed as a substitute for the pages devoted to pronunciation in whatever Grammar the teacher is using. In such courses the material printed in small type should be omitted. In advanced courses, the book may be used as a basis for a review of the pronunciation, and as a reference book.

The authors have endeavored to present the essential facts of French pronunciation, but have purposely excluded the treatment of minor variations in sound (for example, intermediate vowel qualities) and the registration of words which are distinctly rare. In many cases Frenchmen themselves vary in the utterance of a given word or group of words: in such cases we have generally given only the variety which seems approved by the best usage. For such disputed questions, and for all matters of greater detail, the reader is urged to consult the books listed in the Bibliography.

We have endeavored to present the essential facts as clearly and effectively as possible. Most earlier publications on the same subject mingle the treatment of the several *sounds* with the rules for the pronunciation of the several *letters*. The results of such a method seem to us unfortunate: the student confuses his material, and rarely concentrates his attention on the really important matter — the actual learning of the difficult French sounds. These dangers we have tried to avoid by treating, first, one by one, the several sounds; then, one by one, the several letters.

Thus, under the heading of Analysis, the sounds of French are explained in sections 1–63. Each sound is represented by a phonetic symbol. Its formation is set forth, its various spellings are listed, and French words containing it are given as examples. The sounds are arranged in their most logical phonetic order, starting with the lip-sounds and moving toward those made in the back of the mouth. The lists of the various spellings of the sevéral sounds are of little value to the beginner, and are therefore printed in small type. To the advanced student they may be very useful, particularly in training for the identification of French words as spoken.

The letters are treated, in alphabetical order, in sections 70–95. In each case rules are given, showing what sound the letter in question represents under each of its varying conditions. Care has been taken to classify and interrelate the rules; and the typographical arrangement is so devised as to reënforce the logical classification. It is hoped that the student will thus be enabled to solve quickly, by reference to these sections, his particular difficulties as to the pronunciation of given words.

Proper names and foreign words having marked peculiarities are relegated to sections 96 and 97. In most earlier treatises on French pronunciation such words are introduced among the normal French words, thus causing bewildering and relatively unimportant additions to the fundamental set of rules. Our treatment prevents this unnecessary confusion. Our list of these words is of course merely selective: the attempt to give even a moderately complete list of them would be beyond the scope of the present book.

The second division of the treatise, called Synthesis, deals with the problems of *actual* speech, that is, connected speech. Here the student will find an explanation of the chief principles of syllabification, stress, quantity, linking, and in-

tonation. But it cannot be too often said that French is a living language and should be learned as such. The justification for any practical treatise on Phonetics is that it can be used as a scientific educational tool by a good teacher, himself possessing a fair pronunciation of the language and being always ready to impart his knowledge through the use of *viva voce* methods. For such use this book is intended; and consequently the second part, in particular, offers suggestions rather than dogmatic rules. This applies with particular force to the difficult subject of Intonation, which the authors are convinced can really be mastered only by imitating those who speak French well.

Recognizing the fact that the needs and the methods of individual teachers vary greatly, we have so distributed the statements and the exercises that the teacher may by selection and rearrangement construct and assign a series of lessons precisely adapted to his own purposes. In elementary courses, for example, the teacher may think it best, particularly if time is limited, to assign first only the most important of the paragraphs in large print, with the corresponding exercises, and to assign the more detailed material later and gradually, as the student's vocabulary and knowledge of grammar increase. Or if in any course the teacher should prefer to vary the order in which the sounds are presented — should he, for example, prefer in teaching the oral vowels to begin with the extreme positions [i], [a], [u], and then fill in with the intermediate sounds — he will find no trouble in making his assignments accordingly.

The exercises may be expanded *ad libitum*. They may serve as models on which others may be constructed by the teacher or the class.

The phonetic symbols used in this book are those of the *Association phonétique internationale*.

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A HANDBOOK OF FRENCH PHONETICS

ANALYSIS

SOUNDS

1. The Production of Speech-Sounds. The chief factor in any speech-sound is breath. As the breath passes upward between the vocal chords it may or it may not be transformed into a musical sound called *voice*. It is transformed into voice if the vocal chords are stretched and brought close together so that they vibrate periodically as the breath passes between them. It remains simply breath if the vocal chords remain lax and apart. If the breath is transformed into voice, the speech-sound is called a *voiced* sound; if the breath remains simply breath, the speech-sound is called a *voiceless* sound. In the English word "fad," for instance, the *f* is voiceless and the *a* and *d* are voiced.

When the breath or voice issues upward from the vocal chords it enters a triple cavity consisting of the top of the throat (pharynx), the mouth, and the nasal passage: see Diagram A. The speech-sounds are differentiated from each other according to the shape assumed by this cavity and according to the openings and stoppages it presents to the breath. The shape of the cavity is altered chiefly by the motion of the tongue, the rounding or unrounding of the lips, the lowering or raising of the lower jaw, and the lowering or raising of the soft palate (velum) at the back entrance of the nasal passage. The possible openings for the escape of the breath are the oral opening, between the lips, and the nasal opening, the nostrils. The oral opening may be closed by the lips; the whole nasal passage may be shut off by the raising of the soft palate. The tongue may effect partial stoppage of the breath at various points in the mouth.

If the breath becomes voice at the vocal chords and issues through the mouth, or through the mouth and nose, without enough stoppage to produce audible friction, the speech-sound is called a *vowel*.[1]

If the stoppage of the breath is sufficient to cause audible friction, or noise, and the amount of noise is approximately equal to the amount of voice, the speech-sound is called a *semiconsonant* (or a *semivowel*). In English the letters *w* and *y* usually represent semiconsonant sounds.

If the noise predominates over the voice, or if the breath issues from the vocal chords without becoming voice (that is, if it produces only audible friction), the speech-sound is called a *consonant*. Accordingly, consonants are either voiced or voiceless.

Thus, the basis of a vowel is voice or musical sound, that of a consonant is noise or audible friction, and that of a semiconsonant is an almost equal amount of noise and voice.

2. The Sounds of French. The French language has 37 different sounds: 16 vowels, 3 semiconsonants, and 18 consonants.

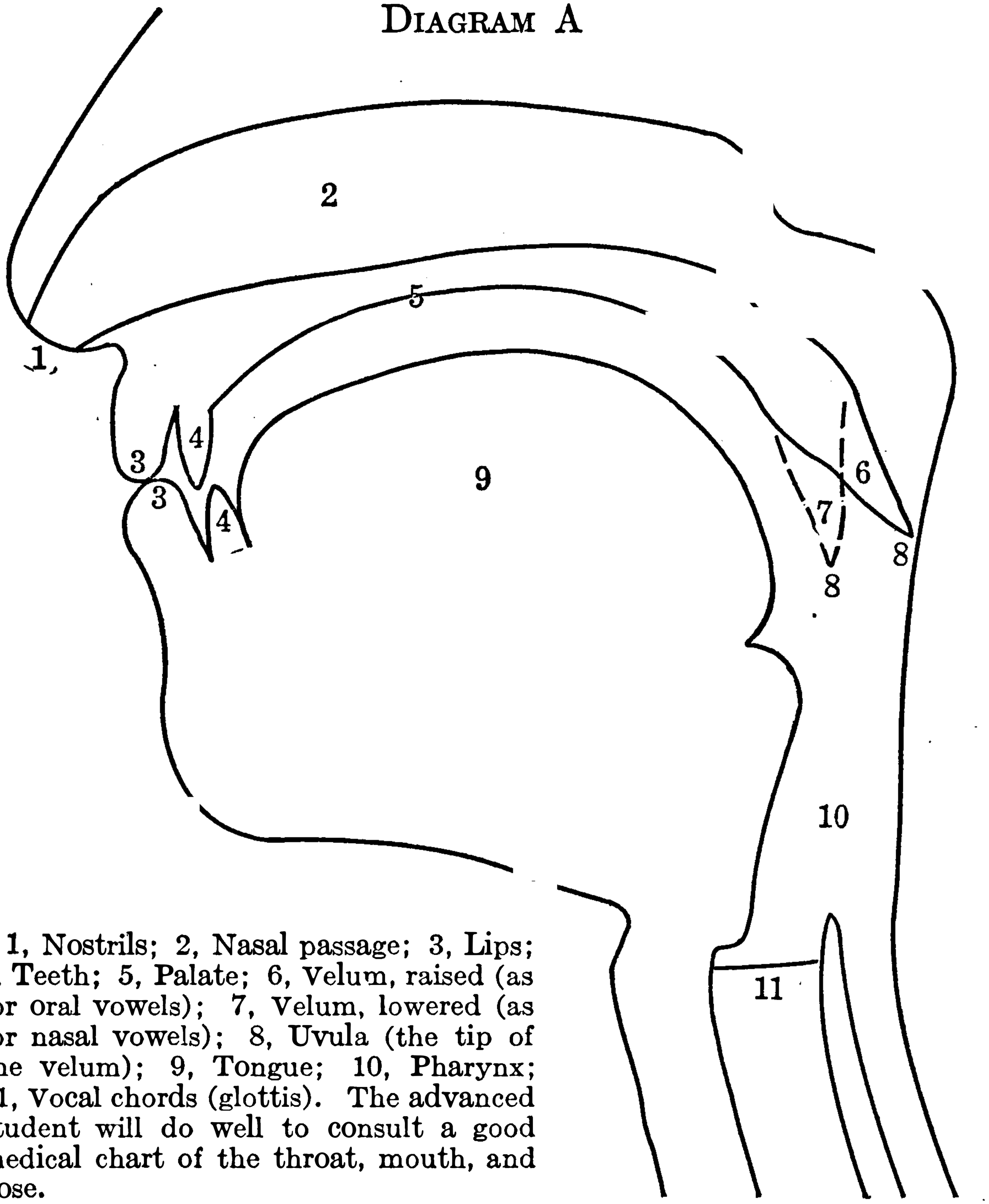
For each of these sounds we use a phonetic symbol. Most of these symbols are identical in form with ordinary letters, for example: [a], [f], [t]. Others are letters modified in some particular way: [ɑ̃], [ɲ], [ɔ]. Others are special signs: [ʃ], [ʒ], [ø]. All letters or signs printed in this book in square brackets [ ] are phonetic symbols.

The entire series, or alphabet, of the thirty-seven phonetic symbols requisite for French is tabulated in section 63.

3. The Relation of French Sounds to French Spelling. French spelling, like English spelling, is not phonetic. A given sound may be represented in a given word by one letter or combination of letters, and in another word by another letter or combination of letters, while a given letter or

[1] This definition does not hold good for whispered speech, in which of course audible friction is present.

Diagram A



1, Nostrils; 2, Nasal passage; 3, Lips; 4, Teeth; 5, Palate; 6, Velum, raised (as for oral vowels); 7, Velum, lowered (as for nasal vowels); 8, Uvula (the tip of the velum); 9, Tongue; 10, Pharynx; 11, Vocal chords (glottis). The advanced student will do well to consult a good medical chart of the throat, mouth, and nose.

combination of letters may represent now one sound, now another. Many letters, moreover, in French as in English, are in certain cases silent, — that is, do not represent sounds at all.

In English, for instance, the sound of *e* in "me" is sometimes represented by *e*, as in the word "me," sometimes by *ee*, as in "reed," sometimes by *ea*, as in "read" (present

tense); while the *ea* in "read" (present tense) represents a sound different from that represented by *ea* in "read" (past tense). In the word "knight" the *k*, *g*, and *h* are silent. So in French the words *est* and *aient*, though spelled very differently, are identical in sound, and in each the consonant-letters are silent (each word consists simply of the sound [ɛ]: see section 10); while in the word *aimai* the two *ai*'s have different sounds ([ɛ] and [e]: see sections 10 and 9).

4. Diphthongs. A true diphthong is a combination of two vowel sounds uttered with the same impulse of breath and in the same syllable. In English, diphthongs are frequent. They are represented sometimes by two vowel-letters, as in the word "voice," sometimes by a single letter, as in the words "my," which is pronounced "ma-ee," and "go," which is really pronounced "go^{u}." The second element of the diphthong, in such a word as "go," is often called an *off-glide*. In French there are no true diphthongs. The French combinations which most nearly resemble diphthongs are those consisting of a semi-consonant and a vowel sound: see sections 28–38.

A combination of two letters representing a single sound, like the *ea* in "read," is called a *digraph*.

VOWELS

5. Vowels are sounds in which the voice issues through the mouth, or through the mouth and nose, with little or no stoppage: see section 1.

The French language has 16 vowels, of which 12 are oral vowels and 4 are nasal vowels.

Oral Vowels

6. An oral vowel is one spoken through the mouth only. In its utterance the velum is raised, thus shutting off the nasal passage.

The French oral vowels are pronounced more distinctly and more tensely than the English vowels. In English the vocal organs often relax during the pronunciation of a vowel, so that it ends in a sort of off-glide; "go," for instance, is

really pronounced "go^{u}": see section 4. In French there is no such off-glide; the vocal organs retain their position until the pronunciation of the vowel is complete. The student should be on his guard against carrying over into his pronunciation of French his habits of English vowel pronunciation.

DIAGRAM B

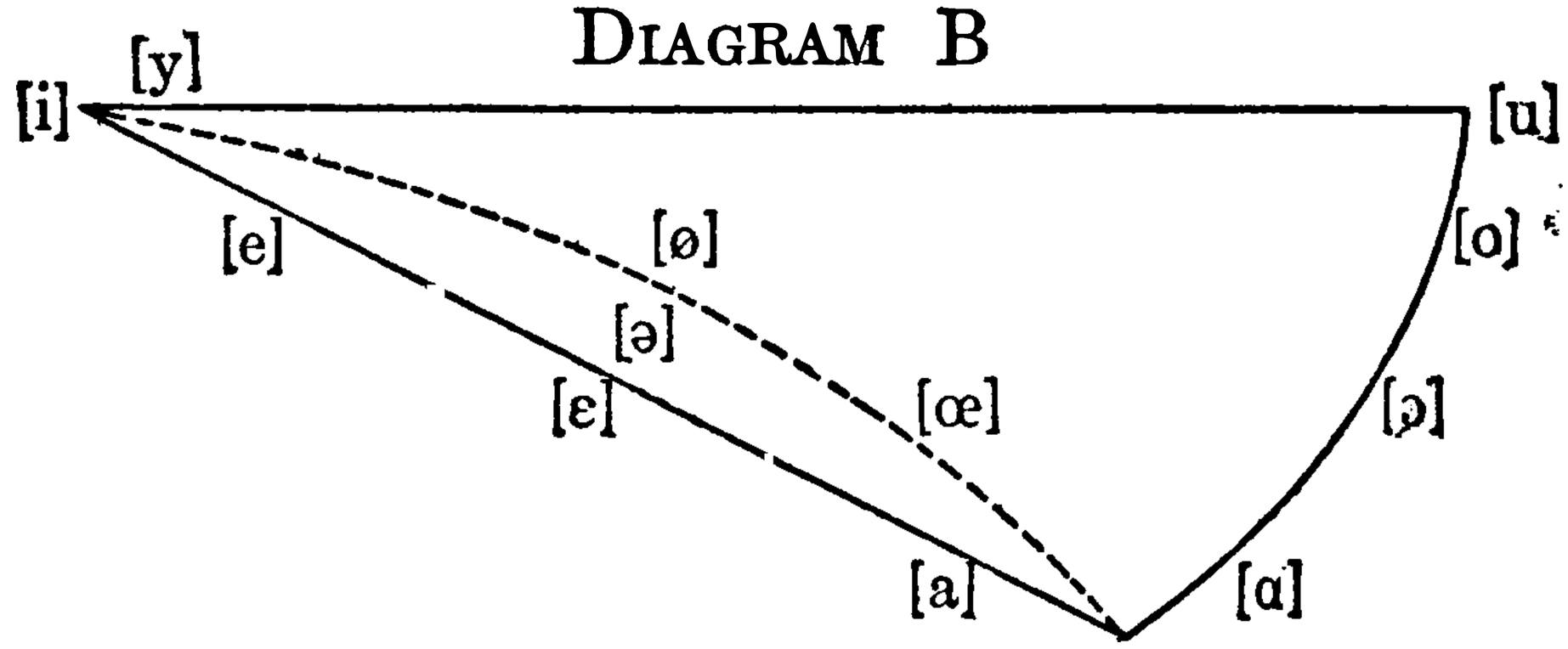


DIAGRAM C

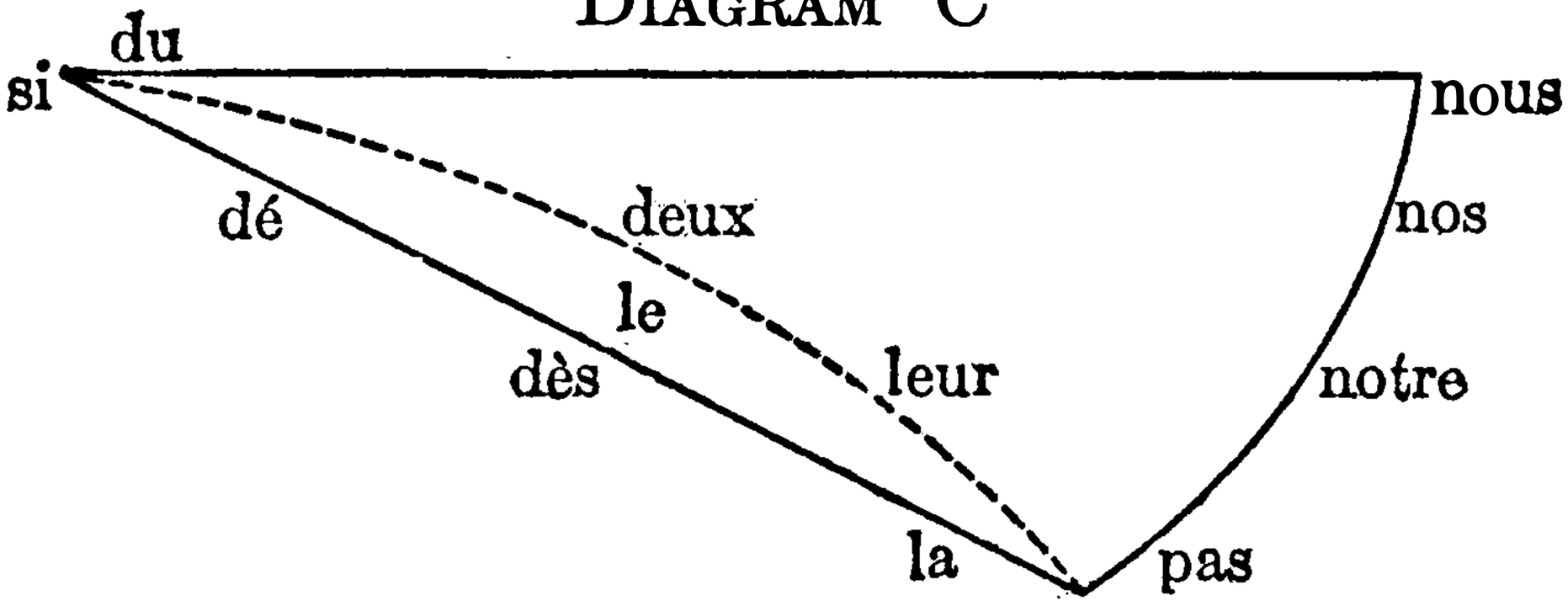


Diagram B shows the different places in the mouth at which the several oral vowels are formed, and indicates the manner of their formation. The left end of the horizontal line represents the position of the teeth; the right end, the position of the uvula. The nearness of the symbol to the horizontal line indicates the degree to which the tongue is raised in the formation of the vowel in question. The four vowels whose symbols appear on the straight slanting line are called *front vowels*. The four on the solid curved line are called *back vowels*. The four on the dotted curved line are called *mixed vowels*, or *rounded front vowels*.

Diagram C gives representative words (key-words) containing the several vowel sounds.

FRONT VOWELS

7. In the formation of all the French front vowels there occurs a forward movement or fronting of the tongue. The lips are drawn closer to the teeth than in the formation of the corresponding English vowels.

8. [i]. In the formation of this sound the blade of the tongue is close to the front of the hard palate. The tip of the tongue is bent down so as to touch the lower teeth. The mouth is very nearly closed. The corners of the lips are drawn back, and the jaws do not move.

This sound is similar to the vowel sound in English "beet," but it is pronounced more tensely. The vowel sound of English "it" does not occur in standard French.

This sound is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES[1]	SYMBOLS
usually by *i* or *î* (that is, *i* with a circumflex accent, called "*i* circumflex": the accents will be discussed in section 65);	fini vie île	[fini] [vi] [i:l]
in a few words, after the sounds [a] or [ɔ], by *ï* (that is, "*i* with a diæresis": see section 66);	naïf	[naif][2]
in the word *y*, and in a few bookish words, by *y*.	lyre	[li:r]
For the representation of the phonetic combinations [ij] and [ji], see sections 30 and 31.		

[1] In all French words chosen as giving examples of the several sounds, the portion of the word printed in bold-face type has the sound in question. Each example is followed by a set of phonetic symbols indicating the exact pronunciation of the word. The consonant-letters used as symbols in sections 8–54 represent sounds approximately equivalent to the ordinary sounds of the corresponding English letters; except that [r] and [l] represent sounds somewhat different from English *r* and *l* (see sections 61 and 62), and that [j] represents a sound equivalent to the ordinary sound of English *y*. The phonetic symbol [g] represents the sound of *g* in "go"; the symbol [s] represents the sound of the voiceless *s* of "base." The sign : after a vowel-symbol indicates that the vowel represented by that symbol is long. Vowels whose symbols are not followed by that sign are short.

[2] For the sound indicated by the symbol [a], see section 11.

9. [e]. This sound is called *close e*.

The blade of the tongue is slightly lower than for [i], and the mouth is wider open.

This sound is similar to the *a* in English "fate," but it is pronounced more tensely, and the lips are drawn back more.

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *e*, *é* ("*e* acute"), or *ai;*	et	[e]
	nez	[ne]
	été	[ete]
	gai	[ge]
in the word *abbaye*, and in the word *pays* and its derivatives, by *a;*	pays	[pei][1]
in a few bookish words, as initial, by *æ*.	œdipe	[edip]

10. [ɛ]. This sound is called *open e*.

The blade of the tongue is slightly lower than for [e], and the mouth is wider open. The sides of the tongue come into contact with the upper front molars.

This sound is opener than that of *e* in English "bed."

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *e*, *è* ("*e* grave"), *ê*, *ai*, *aî* ("*ai* circumflex"), or *ei;*	met	[mɛ]
	penne	[pɛn]
	dès	[dɛ]
	bête	[bɛ:t]
	fait	[fɛ]
	faîte	[fɛ:t]
	peiné	[pɛn]
in some words, before *y*, by *a;*	payer	[pɛje]
in the word *payement*, by *ay;*	payement	[pɛmɑ̃][2]
in the word *Noël*, by *ë*.	Noël	[nɔɛl][3]

11. [a]. In the formation of this sound the tongue remains flat, with its tip still pressed against the lower incisors. The mouth and lips are opened to a normally wide position.

[1] These words are sometimes otherwise pronounced: see section 70.
[2] For the sound indicated by the symbol [ɑ̃], see section 25.
[3] For the sound indicated by the symbol [ɔ], see section 14.

In formation and in acoustic effect this sound lies between the *a* in English "pat" and the *a* in English "father."[1]

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *a;*	patte cave	[pat] [ka:v]
in a few words, when final, by *à;*	là	[la]
in certain verb endings of the 1st conjugation, by *â;*	aimâmes	[ɛmam]
in a few words, before *m* or *n*, by *e.*	femme	[fam]
For the representation of the phonetic combination [wa], see section 35.		

Back Vowels

12. In the formation of all the back vowels the tongue is drawn back, and the lips are rounded.

13. [ɑ]. This sound differs distinctly from [a]. The blade of the tongue is as low as possible in the mouth. The tip does not quite touch the lower teeth. The lips are slightly rounded.

This sound is somewhat deeper in tone than the normal pronunciation of the *a* in English "father."

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *a* or *â;*	pas tasse âme	[pɑ] [tɑ:s] [ɑ:m]
sometimes, before *n* in liaison (see sections 104–108), by *e.*	en été	[ɑnete]
For the representation of the phonetic combination [wɑ], see section 37.		

14. [ɔ]. This sound is called *open o.*

The back of the tongue is slightly higher than for [ɑ], and the lips are more rounded.

This sound lies between the *u* in English "fun" and the *a* in "law."

[1] "fäther," in the phonetic notation of Webster's *New International Dictionary.*

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18. [y]. In the formation of this sound the tongue and jaws have the same position as for [i], and the lips are rounded as for [u].

This sound has no counterpart in English. It is quite unlike either English *u*, as in "mute," or English *oo*, as in "moot."

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *u* or *û*;	une	[yn]
	cuve	[ky:v]
	dû	[dy]
in certain forms of the verb *avoir*, by *eu* or *eû*.	eus	[y]
	eût	[y]

19. [ø]. This sound is called *close eu*.

In its formation the tongue and jaws have the same position as for [e], and the lips are rounded as for [o].

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
by *eu*, *eû*, or *œu*.	feu	[fø]
	meute	[mø:t]
	jeûner	[ʒøne][1]
	nœud	[nø]

20. [œ]. This sound is called *open eu*.

In its formation the tongue and jaws have the same position as for [ɛ], and the lips are rounded as for [ɔ].

It is not unlike the *u* in English "burn" when the *r* is not sounded.

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *eu* or *œu*;	peuple	[pœpl]
	veuve	[vœ:v]
	sœur	[sœ:r]
in a few words, before medial *ill* or final *il*, by *œ*;	œillet	[œjɛ]
	œil	[œ:j]
in the few words in which it stands between *c* or *g* and medial *ill* or final *il*, by *ue*;	cueillir	[kœji:r]
	orgueil	[ɔrgœ:j]
sometimes, before *n* in liaison, by *u*.	un ami	[œnami]

[1] For the sound indicated by the symbol [ʒ], see section 55.

21. [ə]. This sound is called *mute e* or *feminine e.*

It differs from [œ] chiefly in that it is not so tense. It is always very short, and never stressed.

It is not unlike the unstressed *e* in English "the man," or the *a* in "Louisa."

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *e;*	de	[də]
	me	[mə]
in the stem-syllable of certain forms and derivatives of the verb *faire,* by *ai;*	faisait	[fəzɛ]
in the word *monsieur,* by *on.*	monsieur	[məsjø]

Nasal Vowels

22. A nasal vowel is one pronounced simultaneously through the mouth and the nose. The velum is dropped, and the breath passes through both the oral and the nasal passages. The tongue position, for all nasal vowels, is low.

They are as distinct as the oral vowels. They have nothing of the American "nasal twang." Care must be taken not to close the mouth until the pronunciation of the vowel is completed.

The sign ˜ over a vowel-symbol indicates that the vowel is nasal.

23. In spelling, nasal vowels are represented by vowel-letters followed by checked *m* or *n:* that is, *m* or *n* followed by a consonant other than *m* or *n*, or final.[1] The checked *m* or *n* is itself silent.

Thus the *m* or *n* is checked, and the preceding vowel is nasal, in the words *camp* [kɑ̃], *comte* [kɔ̃ːt], *faim* [fɛ̃], *onze* [ɔ̃ːz], *saint* [sɛ̃], *un* [œ̃]; whereas the *m* or *n* is not checked,

[1] The terms "checked *m*" and "checked *n*" are new. They may not at first commend themselves to phoneticians who are accustomed to apply "checked" to vowels only; but we believe the new terms justified by their essential accuracy and their great convenience.

and the preceding vowel is oral, in the words *aima* [ɛma], *comme* [kɔm], *amnistie* [amnisti], *inutile* [inytil], *donna* [dɔna].

In a very few words a nasal vowel is represented by a vowel-letter followed by an *m* or *n* that is not checked; and in a very few cases vowel-letters followed by checked *m* or *n* do not represent nasal sounds: see the Notes in sections 83 and 84.

24. [ɛ̃]. This sound is the nasal equivalent of a sound intermediate between oral [ɛ] and oral [a].

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *aim*, *ain*, *eim*, *ein*, *im*, or *in*;	faim	[fɛ̃]
	sainte	[sɛ̃:t]
	Reims	[rɛ̃:s]
	sein	[sɛ̃]
	simple	[sɛ̃:pl]
	vin	[vɛ̃]
after the sounds [e] or [j], by *en*;	européen	[œrɔpeɛ̃]
	bien	[bjɛ̃]
in certain forms of *tenir* and *venir*, by *în*;	vînmes	[vɛ̃:m]
in a few bookish words, by *em*, *en*, *ïn*, *ym*, or *yn*.	sempiternel	[sɛ̃pitɛrnɛl]
	examen	[ɛgzamɛ̃]
	coïncider	[kɔɛ̃side]
	nymphe	[nɛ̃:f]
	syntaxe	[sɛ̃taks]
For the representation of the phonetic combination [wɛ̃], see section 38.		

25. [ɑ̃]. This sound is the nasal equivalent of oral [ɑ].

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *am*, *an*, *em*, or *en*;	camp	[kɑ̃]
	dans	[dɑ̃]
	tempe	[tɑ̃:p]
	dent	[dɑ̃]
in a few monosyllabic nouns, by *aon*.	paon	[pɑ̃]

26. [ɔ̃]. This sound is the nasal equivalent of a sound intermediate between oral [ɔ] and oral [o].

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
by *om* or *on*.	dom	[dɔ̃]
	bon	[bɔ̃]
	onze	[ɔ̃:z]

27. [œ̃]. This sound is the nasal equivalent of oral [œ].

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
by *um*, *un*, or *eun*.	humble	[œ̃:bl]
	parfum	[parfœ̃]
	un	[œ̃]
	jeun	[ʒœ̃]

SEMICONSONANTS

28. Semiconsonants are sounds in which the voice and the noise of the friction resulting from the stoppage of the breath are approximately equal in strength: see section 1.

The French language has three semiconsonants: [j], [ɥ], and [w].

29. [j]. This sound corresponds to [i] spoken very lightly. It is equivalent to the *y* in English "you."

It is represented in spelling:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
when initial:		
usually by *y;*	yeux	[jø]
in a few bookish words, by *i* or *ï;*	ionique	[jɔnik]
	ïambe	[jɑ̃:b]
when medial:		
after a consonant, by *i;*	bien	[bjɛ̃]
after a vowel, by *ï*, *y*, or *ill;*	païen	[pajɛ̃]
	payer	[pɛje]
	bataillon	[batajɔ̃]
when final in sound but not in spelling (i.e., before final *e*), by *ill;*	bataille	[bata:j]
when final in sound and in spelling:		
usually by *il;*	bétail	[beta:j]
in the word *linceul*, by *l*.	linceul	[lɛ̃sœ:j][1]
For the representation of the phonetic combinations [ij], [ji], and [waj], see sections 30, 31, and 36.		

[1] This word is sometimes otherwise pronounced: see section 82.

30. The phonetic combination [ij] is represented in spelling:

	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *yi*, *ii*, or *ill;*	payions	[pɛijɔ̃]
	priions	[prijɔ̃]
	fille	[fi:j]
	pavillon	[pavijɔ̃]
in the words *grésil* and *mil* ("millet"), by *il.*	grésil	[grezij]

For the representation of the phonetic combination [qij], see section 33.

31. The phonetic combination [ji] is represented in spelling:

usually by *illi;*	taillis	[taji]
in the word *abbaye*, and in the word *pays* and its derivatives, by *y.*	abbaye	[abeji]
	pays	[peji][1]

32. [ɥ]. This sound corresponds to [y] spoken very lightly.

It is represented in spelling:

	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
by *u.*	cuisine	[kɥizin]
	lui	[lɥi]

For the representation of the phonetic combination [qij], see section 33.

33. The phonetic combination [ɥij] is represented in spelling:

by *uy.*	fuyard	[fɥija:r]

34. [w]. This sound corresponds to [u] spoken very lightly.

It is similar to the *w* in English "won," but the lips are farther forward.

It is represented in spelling:

	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
by *ou.*	fouet	[fwɛ]
	oui	[wi]

For the representation of the phonetic combinations [wa], [wɑ], and [wɛ̃], see sections 35–38.

[1] These words are sometimes otherwise pronounced: see section 70.

	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
35. The phonetic combination [wa] is represented in spelling:		
usually by *oi* or *oî;*	fois cloison boîte	[fwa] [klwazɔ̃] [bwa:t]
in the word *moelle* and its derivatives, by *oe;*	moelle	[mwal]
in the word *poêle* and its derivatives, by *oê;*	poêle	[pwa:l][1]
in a few words, by *oua;*	ouate	[wat]
in certain verb forms of the first conjugation, by *ouâ;*	louâmes	[lwam]
in some bookish words, after *g* or *q*, by *ua.*	lingual quadrupède	[lɛ̃gwal] [kwadrypɛd]
For the representation of the phonetic combination [waj], see section 36.		
36. The phonetic combination [waj] is represented in spelling:		
usually by *oy;*	croyance moyen	[krwajɑ̃:s] [mwajɛ̃]
in a few words, by *ouaill.*	brouaille	[brwa:j]
37. The phonetic combination [wɑ] is represented in spelling:		
usually by *oi* or *oî;*	bois cloître	[bwɑ] [klwɑ:tr]
in the word *poêle* and its derivatives, by *oê.*	poêle	[pwɑ:l][2]
38. The phonetic combination [wɛ̃] is represented in spelling:		
usually by *oin;*	soin	[swɛ̃]
in a few words, by *ouin.*	baragouin	[baragwɛ̃]

39. Classification of Consonants. Consonants are sounds in which the noise of friction from stoppage of the breath predominates over the sound of the voice, or constitutes the

[1] These words are sometimes otherwise pronounced: see section 37.
[2] These words are sometimes otherwise pronounced: see section 35.

entire sound in case the breath does not become voice: see section 1. Consonants in which voice is present are called *voiced consonants;* those in which the breath does not become voice are called *voiceless consonants.*

The French language has 18 consonants. They are classified in the following table according to the character and the position of the stoppage. The character of the stoppage is indicated by the terms at the left of the table, the position of the stoppage by the terms at the top of the table.

	LABIAL	LABIODENTAL	DENTAL	PREPALATAL	PALATAL	UVULAR
Explosive	[b] [p]		[d] [t]		[g] [k]	
Fricative		[v] [f]	[z] [s]	[ʒ] [ʃ]		
Nasal	[m]		[n]		[ɲ]	
Trilled			[r]			[ʀ]
Lateral			[l]			

For the meaning of the terms *explosive, fricative, nasal, trilled,* and *lateral,* see sections 41, 50, 57, 61, 62.

In each of the pairs of explosive and fricative consonants the first is voiced, the second voiceless. The nasal, trilled, and lateral consonants are all voiced.

The articulation of French consonants is clearer and tenser than that of English consonants.

40. Consonants Similar in French and English. The explosives, and the sounds [v], [f], [z], [s], [m], and [n], are approximately equivalent to the ordinary sounds of the English letters corresponding to the several symbols (this means, in the case of [g], the *g* of "go," and in the case of [s], the voiceless *s* of "base").

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	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
46. [g]. This sound is represented:		
usually by *g* or *gg;*	aigu aggraver	[ɛgy] [agrave]
before *a* or *o*, in some verb forms, by *gu;*	briguons	[brigɔ̃]
before *e* or *i*, by *gu;*	guide	[gid]
in the words *second*, *anecdote*, and their derivatives, by *c*.	second	[səgɔ̃]
For the representation of the phonetic combination [gz], see section 47.		
47. The phonetic combination [gz] is represented:		
by *x*.	exiler	[ɛgzile]
48. [k]. This sound is represented:		
usually by *c* or *cc;*	lac accuser	[lak] [akyze]
before *a* or *o*, often by *qu;*	quand	[kɑ̃]
before *e* or *i:*		
when initial, by *qu;*	querelle qui	[kərɛl] [ki]
when medial, by *qu* or *cqu;*	requérir grecque	[rəkeri:r] [grɛk]
in a few words, as final, by *q;*	coq	[kɔk]
in some bookish words, by *ch;*	écho chronique	[eko] [krɔnik]
in some bookish words, by *k;*	kilomètre	[kilɔmɛtr]
in some bookish words, before the sound [w], by *q;*	équation	[ekwasjɔ̃]
in certain words, when they occur in liaison, by *g*.	sang impur	[sɑ̃kɛ̃py:r]
For the representation of the phonetic combination [ks], see section 49.		
49. The phonetic combination [ks] is represented:		
usually by *x;*	texte	[tɛkst]
in some words which begin with the prefix *ex–*, by *xc* or *xs;*	excellent	[ɛksɛlɑ̃]
in some words, before *e* or *i*, by *cc*.	accès	[aksɛ]

Fricative Consonants

50. In the utterance of the fricative consonants the stoppage is partial and continuous.

	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
51. [v]. This sound is represented:		
usually by *v;*	sève	[sɛːv]
in the word *neuf*, when it occurs in liaison, by *f*.	neuf heures	[nœvœːr]
52. [f]. This sound is represented:		
usually by *f* or *ff;*	fine effacer	[fin] [efase]
in some bookish words, by *ph*.	philosophe	[filɔzɔf]
53. [z]. This sound is represented:		
usually by *z;*	dizaine	[dizɛn]
often, as medial, by *s;*	vase	[vɑːz]
in a few numerals, by *x;*	deuxième	[døzjɛm]
in certain words, when they occur in liaison, by *s* or *x*.	mes amis deux amis	[mezami] [døzami]
For the representation of [gz], see section 47.		
54. [s]. This sound is represented:		
usually by *s* or *ss;*	son casse	[sɔ̃] [kɑːs]
often, before *a* or *o*, by *ç* (that is, "*c* with cedilla": see section 67);	façade	[fasad]
often, before *e*, *i*, or *y*, by *c* or *sc;*	ceci cynique scène	[səsi] [sinik] [sɛːn]
often, before the sound [j], by *t;*	nation	[nasjɔ̃]
in the word *soixante*, by *x*.	soixante	[swasɑ̃ːt]
For the representation of [ks], see section 49.		

55. [ʒ]. This sound is approximately equivalent to the *z* in English "azure," but the lips are protruded.

Care must be taken not to confuse this sound with the ordinary sound of English *j*: [dʒ].

	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
It is represented:		
before *a*, *o*, or *u*, by *j* or *ge*;	jaune	[ʒoːn]
	mangea	[mɑ̃ʒa]
before *e*, *i*, or *y*, by *j* or *g*.	je	[ʒə]
	page	[paːʒ]

56. [ʃ]. This sound is approximately equivalent to the *sh* in English "show," but the lips are protruded.

It is represented:		
usually by *ch*;	vache	[vaʃ]
in a few bookish words, by *sch*.	schisme	[ʃism]

Nasal Consonants

57. In the utterance of nasal consonants the breath passes through both the mouth and the nose. In the mouth the breath is first completely stopped and then suddenly released, as in the explosive consonants.

58. [m]. This sound is represented:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
by *m* or *mm*.	mais	[mɛ]
	femme	[fam]

59. [n]. This sound is more distinctly dental than the English *n*.

It is represented:		
by *n* or *nn*.	nous	[nu]
	donner	[dɔnɛ]

60. [ɲ]. This sound is formed by combining the articulation of [n] with that of [j]. The tip of the tongue rests

against the lower teeth, while the blade of the tongue is arched against the hard palate.

Care must be taken not to confuse this sound with the phonetic combination [nj], occurring, for instance, in the French *panier* [panje] and the English "union."

This sound is represented:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *gn;*	digne	[diɲ]
in the word *oignon* and its derivatives, by *ign.*	oignon	[ɔɲõ]

Trilled Consonants

61. French has two *r* sounds, [r] and [ʀ]. The sound [r] is called *lingual r*, and the sound [ʀ] *uvular r*.

In the formation of the sound [r] the tip of the tongue is trilled by making it vibrate against the upper teeth.

In the formation of the sound [ʀ] the tongue is drawn back, and the uvula is made to vibrate against it.

Some Frenchmen employ only the sound [r], some only the sound [ʀ]. We use in this book only the symbol [r], but suggest that the teacher, if he so prefers, direct his class to regard the symbol [r] as representing the uvular *r*.

The *r* sounds are represented:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
usually by *r* or *rr;*	gare	[gaːr]
	arrêt	[arɛ]
in a few bookish words, by *rh* or *rrh.*	rhume	[rym]
	catarrhe	[kataːr]

Lateral Consonant

62. [l]. This sound is articulated against the upper teeth, the voice escaping at the sides of the tongue.

It differs notably from the English *l*. In the French [l] the tip of the tongue rests against the upper teeth, and the

back of the tongue is relatively low; in the English sound the tip rests against the upper gums, and the back is raised toward the soft palate. In certain English words — as "call" — in which the *l* is final, the tip of the tongue drops back during the utterance of the *l:* this must be avoided in the utterance of the French sound.

This sound is represented:	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
by *l* or *ll*.	pâle	[pɑ:l]
	aller	[ale]

63. TABLE OF SOUNDS, USUAL SPELLINGS, AND EXAMPLES

	SOUNDS	USUAL SPELLINGS	EXAMPLES
Vowels			
Oral			
Front	[i]	i, î	fini, île
	[e]	e, é, ai	et, été, gai
	[ɛ]	e, è, ê, ai, aî, ei	met, dès, bête, fait, faîte, peine
	[a]	a	patte
Back	[ɑ]	a, â	pas, âme
	[ɔ]	o, au	fort, aurai
	[o]	o, ô, au, eau	nos, tôt, aux, beau
	[u]	ou, oû	sou, goût
Mixed	[y]	u, û	une, dû
	[ø]	eu, eû, œu	feu, jeûner, nœud
	[œ]	eu, œu	peuple, sœur
	[ə]	e	de
Nasal	[ɛ̃]	aim, ain, eim, ein, im, in, en	faim, sainte, Reims, sein, simple, vin, bien
	[ɑ̃]	am, an, em, en	camp, dans, temps, dent
	[ɔ̃]	om, on	dom, onze
	[œ̃]	um, un, eun	parfum, un, jeun

Semiconsonants	[j]	y, i, ï, ill, il	yeux, bien, païen, bataillon, bétail
	[ɥ]	u	cuisine
	[w]	ou	oui
Combinations of semiconsonants and vowels	[ij]	yi, ii, ill	payions, priions, pavillon
	[jj]	illi	taillis
	[ɥij]	uy	fuyard
	[wa]	oi, oî	foi, boîte
	[waj]	oy	moyen
	[wɑ]	oi, oî	bois, cloître
	[wɛ̃]	oin	soin
Consonants			
Explosive	[b]	b, bb	bas, abbé
	[p]	p, pp	pas, appeler
	[d]	d, dd	aide, addition
	[t]	t, tt	ton, mette
	[g]	g, gg, gu	aigu, aggraver, guide
	[k]	c, cc, qu	lac, accuser, quand
Fricative	[v]	v	sève
	[f]	f, ff	fine, effacer
	[z]	z, s	dizaine, vase
	[s]	s, ss, c, ç, sc, t	son, casse, façade, ceci, scène, nation
	[ʒ]	j, ge, g	jaune, mangea, page
	[ʃ]	ch	vache
Nasal	[m]	m, mm	mais, femme
	[n]	n, nn	nous, donner
	[ɲ]	gn	digne
Trilled	[r]	r, rr	gare, arrêt
Lateral	[l]	l, ll	pâle, aller
Combinations of consonants	[gz]	x	exiler
	[ks]	x	texte

LETTERS AND SIGNS

64. Alphabet. The letters of the French alphabet are the same as those of the English alphabet. The letter *k*, however, occurs only in bookish or foreign words, and the letter *w* occurs only in foreign words: see sections 96 and 97.

The following table shows in the second and third columns the regular names of the French letters and the pronunciation of those names. In spelling, special identifying sounds are now used for most of the consonant letters, instead of the regular names. These sounds are given in the fourth column of the table.

LETTERS	NAMES	PRONUNCIATION OF NAMES	IDENTIFYING SOUNDS
a	a	[a]	
b	bé	[be]	[bə]
c	cé	[se]	[sə]
d	dé	[de]	[də]
e	e	[e]	
f	effe	[ɛf]	[fə]
g	gé	[ʒe]	[ʒə]
h	ache	[aʃ]	
i	i	[i]	
j	ji	[ʒi]	
k	ka	[ka]	
l	elle	[ɛl]	[lə]
m	emme	[ɛm]	[mə]
n	enne	[ɛn]	[nə]
o	o	[o]	
p	pé	[pe]	[pə]
q	ku *or* ké	[ky], [ke]	[kə]
r	erre	[ɛːr]	[rə]
s	esse	[ɛs]	
t	té	[te]	[tə]
u	u	[y]	
v	vé	[ve]	[və]
w	double vé	[dubləve]	
x	iks	[iks]	
y	i grec	[igrɛk]	
z	zède	[zɛd]	

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It appears also, in certain words, on the letter *e*. It is written in the word *Noël* to indicate that the *e* is separate in pronunciation from the preceding *o*. It appears in certain words on a final *e* preceded by *gu*, to indicate that the preceding *u* is sounded (*u* in this ending is generally silent: see section 91).

It appears also, with varying function, in certáin proper names: see section 97.

The French name for the diæresis is *tréma*, [trema].

EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Noël	[nɔɛl]
aiguë	[ɛgy]

67. Cedilla. The cedilla, ¸ , appears under the letter *c* when the *c* designates the sound [s] before *a*, *o*, or *u*.

The French name for the cedilla is *cédille*, [sediːj].

façade	[fasad]
leçon	[ləsɔ̃]
reçu	[rəsy]

LETTERS

68. Double Consonant-Letters. A double consonant-letter is, in most cases, pronounced as if it were a single consonant-letter: that is, it represents a single sound. Exceptions to this general statement will be noted for the individual consonant-letters.

In many scientific words of Greek or Latin origin, however, double consonant-letters are held in utterance twice or nearly twice as long as single consonant-letters; and in formal speech a double consonant-letter that would under ordinary conditions be pronounced as a single consonant-letter may be held in utterance for twice or nearly twice the normal period.

69. Final Consonant-Letters. Most consonant-letters, when final, are silent. Final *c*, *f*, *l*, and *q* are however generally pronounced. Exceptions to these general statements will be noted for the individual consonant-letters.

The addition of *s* to a noun or adjective, to indicate that it is plural, does not alter the pronunciation of the word. In a word which ends in the singular form with a silent consonant-letter, that letter remains silent before the plural *s*; and in a word which ends in the singular with a sounded consonant-letter, that letter retains the same sound before the plural *s*.[1] The word "final," as used in sections 71–95, applies to consonant-letters immediately followed by plural *s*, as well as to consonant-letters which are actually final.

70. A. The letter *a* is pronounced as follows:	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
When independent (that is, when not "in combination," as specified below):			
Without written accent:			
In general:	[a]	bal	[bal]
		patte	[pat]
		tard	[taːr]
Before *s*, when the *s* is before a vowel-letter, or is final; and in a few other words:	[ɑ]	évasion	[evɑzjɔ̃]
		pas	[pɑ]
		ah	[ɑ]
		espace	[ɛspɑːs]
		damner	[dɑne]
In the ending *-ation*, and in a few other words, usage varies:	[a] or [ɑ]	nation	[nasjɔ̃] or [nɑsjɔ̃]

[1] There are three words which constitute exceptions to these statements: *bœuf* [bœf], "ox," plural *bœufs* [bø]; *œuf* [œf], "egg," plural *œufs* [ø]; and *os* [ɔs] "bone," plural *os* [o].

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Before checked *m* or *n* (that is, *m* or *n* before a consonant-letter other than *m* or *n*, or final: see sections 83 and 84. Note that the checked *m* or *n* is itself silent):	[ɑ̃]	ample dans plan	[ɑ̃ːpl] [dɑ̃] [plɑ̃]
With grave accent:	[a]	à	[a]
With circumflex accent:			
In general:	[ɑ]	âme	[ɑːm]
In past absolute endings of the first conjugation:	[a]	donnâmes	[dɔnam]
In combination:			
ai is pronounced as follows:			
In general:	[ɛ]	aimais essai baie	[ɛmɛ] [esɛ] [bɛ]
When final in verb forms; in the word *gai* and its derivatives; and in the words *geai, sais, sait, vais:*	[e]	ai donnai gai	[e] [dɔne] [ge]
In the first syllable of those forms of the verb *faire* which begin *fais–*; in the corresponding forms of compounds of *faire;* and in the words *faisable* and *faiseur.*	[ə]	faisant faiseur	[fəzɑ̃] [fəzœːr]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Before checked *m* or *n:*	[ɛ̃]	faim main	[fɛ̃] [mɛ̃]
With a following *ll* or final *l:*	[aj]	bataillon travail	[batajɔ̃] [travaːj]
aî:	[ɛ]	maître	[mɛːtr]
ao before checked *n:*	[ɑ̃]	paon	[pɑ̃]
aoû:	[u]	août	[u]
au (for *eau* see below):			
When not the last vowel sound of a word:			
In general:	[ɔ]	aurai	[ɔre]
In some words:	[o]	aucun	[okœ̃]
When the last vowel sound:			
In general:	[o]	faux	[fo]
Before *r;* and in a few other words:	[ɔ]	Laure Paul	[lɔːr] [pɔl]
ay:			
In general:	[ɛj]	payer	[pɛje]
In the word *payement:*	[ɛ]	payement	[pɛmɑ̃]
In the word *abbaye;* and in the word *pays* and its derivatives:	[ei] or [eji]	pays	[pei] or [peji]
eau:	[o]	beau	[bo]

71. B.

Initial or medial:

In general:	[b]	bas abbé	[bɑ] [abe]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Before *s* or *t*:	[p]	observer	[ɔpsɛrve]
		obtient	[ɔptjɛ̃]
Final:	silent	plomb	[plɔ̃]
		radoub	[radu]
72. C (without cedilla).			
Single (that is, not double, and not "in combination"):			
Initial or medial:			
Before *a*, *o*, *u*, or a consonant-letter:			
In general:	[k]	caisse	[kɛːs]
		crème	[krɛːm]
		contact	[kɔ̃takt]
		cure	[kyːr]
In the words *second*, *anecdote*, and their derivatives:	[g]	second	[səgɔ̃]
		anecdote	[anɛgdɔt]
In the words *lacs* ("snare"), *aspect*, *circonspect* (the last *c*), *respect*, *distinct*, *instinct*, *succinct* (the last *c*); and in the verb form *vaincs*:	silent	lacs	[lɑ]
		aspect	[aspɛ]
		vaincs	[vɛ̃]
Before *e*, *i*, or *y*:	[s]	ce	[sə]
		acide	[asid]
		cygne	[siɲ]
Final:			
In general:	[k]	lac	[lak]
		sec	[sɛk]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
After *n*:	silent	blanc	[blɑ̃]
But final *c* is sometimes sounded in the word *donc*, when spoken with emphasis.			
In the words *accroc, broc, caoutchouc, clerc, cric, croc, escroc, estomac, marc, tabac*:	silent	accroc	[akro]
Final *c* is sounded, however, in the combinations *de bric et de brac* and *cric crac*:	[k]	cric crac	[krikkrak]
Double:			
Before *a, o, u*, or a consonant-letter:	[k]	accord	[akɔɪr]
Before *e* or *i*:	[ks]	accès	[aksɛ]
In combination:			
ch (for *sch* see below):			
In general:	[ʃ]	champ acheter	[ʃɑ̃] [aʃte]
In words of Greek derivation:			
Before *a, o, u*, or a consonant-letter:	[k]	écho archange chrétien	[eko] [arkɑ̃ɪʒ] [kretjɛ̃]
Before *e, i*, or *y*:			
In general:	[ʃ]	architecte	[arʃitɛkt]
In a few words:	[k]	orchestre archétype	[ɔrkɛstr] [arketip]
cq:	[k]	acquérir	[akeriːr]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
sc (for *sch* see below):			
Before *a*, *o*, *u*, or a consonant-letter:	[sk]	scandale	[skɑ̃dal]
Before *e*, *i*, or *y*:	[s]	scène	[sɛːn]
sch:	[ʃ]	schisme	[ʃism]
73. Ç:	[s]	façade	[fasad]
		leçon	[ləsɔ̃]
74. D.			
Initial or medial:			
In general:	[d]	dent	[dɑ̃]
		façade	[fasad]
Before final *s* in verb forms; and in the words *fonds* and *poids*:	silent	assieds	[asje]
		perds	[pɛːr]
		poids	[pwɑ]
Final:			
In general:	silent	pied	[pje]
		nord	[nɔːr]
In the word *sud*:	[d]	sud	[syd]
In liaison (see section 105):	[t]	grand homme	[grɑ̃tɔm]
75. E.			
Independent:			
Without written accent or diæresis:			
Initial:			
In general:	[ɛ]	elle	[ɛl]
		esquisse	[ɛskis]
In words beginning *eff–*, *essa–*, *esso–*, *essu–*; in the words *eh* and *et*; and in some bookish words:	[e]	effet	[efɛ]
		essor	[esɔːr]
		et	[e]
		ecclésiastique	[eklezjastik]

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	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
In the initial combination *dess–*:			
In general:	[e]	dessin	[desɛ̃]
In the words *dessous* and *dessus*:	[ə]	dessous	[dəsu]
In the initial combination *ress–*:			
In general:	[ə]	ressentir	[rəsɑ̃tiːr]
In the words *ressui*, *ressuyer*, *ressusciter*:	[e]	ressui	[resɥi]
Before *mm*, *mn*, or *nn* in adverbs in *–emment* and a few other words:	[a]	récemment femme hennir	[resamɑ̃] [fam] [aniːr]
Before final *d*, *ds*, or *z*; before final *r* or *rs* when the *r* is silent (see section 88); and in the word *clef*:	[e]	pied assieds nez donner volontiers clef	[pje] [asje] [ne] [dɔne] [vɔlɔ̃tje] [kle]
Before final *s*:			
In general:	silent	pattes	[pat]
In monosyllables:	[e]	les	[le]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Before checked *m:*			
In general:	[ɑ̃]	temple Luxembourg	[tɑ̃ːpl] [lyksɑ̃buːr]
In a few book-ish words:	[ɛ̃]	sempiternel	[sɛ̃pitɛrnɛl]
Before checked *n:*			
In general:	[ɑ̃]	dent essentiel	[dɑ̃] [ɛsɑ̃sjɛl]
After *e*, *i*, or *y:*			
In general:	[ɛ̃]	européen bien moyen	[œrɔpeɛ̃] [bjɛ̃] [mwajɛ̃]
In the noun and adjective endings *–ient* and *–ience:*	[ɑ̃]	patient	[pasjɑ̃]
When de-nasalized before *n* in liaison:	[ɛ]	bien aimée	[bjɛneme]
In a few book-ish words:	[ɛ̃]	examen	[ɛgzamɛ̃]
In the verb ending *–ent:*	silent	donnent	[dɔn]
Between *g* and a vowel-letter; and in the names *Jean* and *Jeanne:*	silent	mangea Jean	[mɑ̃ʒa] [ʒɑ̃]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
At the end of a syllable:			
In general:	silent	à demi	[admi]
		la fenêtre	[lafnɛːtr]
		un petit garçon	[œ̃pti-garsɔ̃]
		amusement	[amyzmɑ̃]
		donnerai	[dɔnre]
		amener	[amne]
		enlever	[ɑ̃lve]
		patte	[pat]
		vie	[vi]
		vous le voyez	[vul-vwaje]
		coup de vent	[kudvɑ̃]
In the following cases the *e* is normally pronounced as [ə]:	[ə]		
At the beginning of a phrase:		Levez-la	[ləvela]
		Ceci est bon	[səsiɛbɔ̃]
		Le cheval est tombé	[ləʃvalɛtɔ̃be]
In an initial or medial syllable, when preceded by two consonant sounds:		brebis	[brəbi]
		une fenêtre	[ynfənɛːtr]
		une petite fille	[ynpətitfiːj]
		il vient de lever	[ilvjɛ̃dləve]
In an initial or medial syllable, before *li* or *ri* representing the sounds [lj] or [rj]:		relier	[rəlje]
		atelier	[atəlje]
		donnerions	[dɔnərjɔ̃]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
In an initial or medial syllable, when the next syllable ends in an unaccented *e*:		devenir redevenir	[dəvniːr] [rədəvniːr]
In future or past future endings after the sound [j]:		payerai cueillerai	[pɛjəre] [kœjəre]
In *le* at the end of an imperative phrase:[1]		regardez-le	[rəgardelə]
Furthermore, an *e* which is normally silent may be pronounced as [ə] when for any reason, grammatical or stylistic, a word is uttered exceptionally slowly; as for instance, when the word itself is an object of discussion:[2]		le pronom 'je' le verbe 'lever' trois syllabes: fenê-tre	[ləprɔnɔ̃ ʒə] [ləvɛrb ləve] [trwɑsilab fə nɛ trə]

[1] An *e* which is normally pronounced [ə] tends to become [œ] or even [ø] if for any reason it is uttered with special stress: Donnez-le, je vous dis! [dɔnelœ ʒəvudi].

[2] In the formal reading of poetry an *e* which would in prose be silent is pronounced [ə] unless it immediately precedes or follows a vowel sound:

Sombres jours! l'empereur revenait lentement.
[sɔ̃ːbrəʒuːr! lɑ̃pərœːr rəvənɛ lɑ̃təmɑ̃.]

At the end of a line the *e* is sometimes pronounced even when it follows a vowel sound: France adorée! [frɑ̃ːsadɔreə].

In popular poetry, however, such an *e* often remains silent: Il était une bergère, [iletɛtynbɛrʒɛːrə].

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
When there is a succession of monosyllables ending in *e*, the second, as a rule, is pronounced as [ə]. But *ce que* is almost always pronounced [skə]; and *le* and *ne* show a tendency to drop the *e* whenever preceded by a monosyllable ending in *e*:		si je te le dis	[siʒtəldi]
		c'est que je ne sais pas	[sɛkʒənsepɑ]
		il parlait de ce que vous savez	[ilparlɛ dəskəvusave]
		on me le donne	[ɔ̃məldɔn]
		si je ne te le dis pas	[siʒəntəldipɑ]
Before *y*:	[ɛ]	grasseyer	[grasɛje]
With acute accent:			
In general:	[e]	été	[ete]
Before *–je*:	[ɛ]	donné-je	[dɔnɛːʒ]
With grave accent:	[ɛ]	mère	[mɛːr]
With circumflex accent:	[ɛ]	bête	[bɛːt]
With diæresis:			
In the word *Noël*:	[ɛ]	Noël	[nɔɛl]
In the ending *–guë*:	silent	aiguë	[ɛgy]
In combination:			
eau: see section 70.			
ei:			
In general:	[ɛ]	reine	[rɛːn]
Before checked *m* or *n*:	[ɛ̃]	Reims	[rɛ̃ːs]
		sein	[sɛ̃]
With a following *ll* or final *l*:	[ɛj]	abeille	[abɛːj]
		soleil	[sɔlɛːj]

eu (for *œu* see below):	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
In general:	[œ]	neuf	[nœf]
		meurt	[mœːr]
Before *s* or *x* followed by a vowel-letter; before *t;* before a vowel-letter; or as the last sound of a word:	[ø]	creuse	[krøːz]
		deuxième	[døzjɛm]
		bleuâtre	[bløɑːtr]
		bleu	[blø]
		neuf sous	[nø su]
Before checked *m* or *n:*	[œ̃]	jeun	[ʒœ̃]
In forms of the verb *avoir:*	[y]	eut	[y]
eû:			
In general:	[ø]	jeûner	[ʒøne]
In forms of the verb *avoir:*	[y]	eûmes	[ym]
œ (for *œu* see below):			
Before medial *ill* or final *il:*	[œ]	œillet	[œjɛ]
		œil	[œːj]
In the word *moelle* and its derivatives:	[wa]	moelle	[mwal]
In a few bookish words, as initial:	[e]	œdipe	[edip]
oê:	[wa] or [wɑ]	poêle	[pwaːl] or [pwɑːl]
œu:			
In general:	[œ]	œuf	[œf]
		sœur	[sœːr]
As the last sound of a word:	[ø]	œufs	[ø]
		vœu	[vø]
ue after *c* or *g* and before medial *ill* or final *il:*	[œ]	cueillir	[kœjiːr]
		orgueil	[ɔrgœːj]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
76. F.			
Initial or medial:	[f]	fine	[fin]
		efface	[efas]
Final:			
In general:	[f]	neuf	[nœf]
		bœuf	[bœf]
In the words *cerf*, *nerf*, *clef*; in the plurals *bœufs* and *œufs*; in the combination *chef-d'œuvre*; and in the numeral *neuf* when it modifies grammatically a following noun beginning with a consonant sound:	silent	cerf	[sɛːr]
		bœufs	[bø]
		chef-d'œuvre	[ʃɛdœːvr]
		neuf livres	[nøliːvr]
In the phrases *neuf ans* and *neuf heures*:	[v]	neuf heures	[nœvœːr]
77. G.			
Single:			
Initial or medial:			
Before *a*, *o*, or *u*:	[g]	gant	[gɑ̃]
		guide	[gid]
Before *e*, *i*, or *y*:	[ʒ]	gens	[ʒɑ̃]
		âge	[ɑːʒ]
Before a consonant-letter:			
In general:	[g]	gros	[gro]
		augmenter	[ogmɑ̃te]
In the words *doigt* and *vingt* and their derivatives:	silent	doigt	[dwa]
		vingt	[vɛ̃]
Final:			
In general:	silent	poing	[pwɛ̃]
In liaison:	[k]	sang impur	[sɑ̃kɛ̃pyːr]

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	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
In combination:			
ch: see section 72.			
ph:	[f]	philosophe	[filɔzɔf]
sch: see section 72.			
79. I.			
Independent:			
Without written accent, with or without diæresis:			
In general:	[i]	fini	[fini]
		naïf	[naif]
Before a vowel sound:			
In general:	[j]	pied	[pje]
		aïeul	[ajœl]
After *l* or *r* preceded by a consonant-letter:	[i]	client	[kliɑ̃]
Before checked *m* or *n:*	[ɛ̃]	vin	[vɛ̃]
		coïncider	[kɔɛ̃side]
With circumflex accent:			
In general:	[i]	île	[iːl]
Before checked *n:*	[ɛ̃]	vînmes	[vɛ̃ːm]
In combination:			
ai and *aî:* see section 70.			
ei: see section 75.			
ill medial:			
After a vowel sound:	[j]	bataillon	[batajɔ̃]
After a semiconsonant sound:	[ij]	cuiller	[kɥijɛːr]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
After a consonant sound:			
In general:	[ij]	fille	[fiːj]
In a few words, in which the *ll* represents a Latin *ll:*	[il]	mille ville village	[mil] [vil] [vilaːʒ]
il final:			
After a vowel sound:	[j]	travail	[travaːj]
With a preceding *o:*	[wal]	poil	[pwal]
After a consonant sound:			
In some words:	[il]	fil il avril	[fil] [il] [avril]
In some words:	[i]	gentil sourcil	[ʒɑ̃ti] [sursi]
In the words *grésil* and *mil* ("millet"):	[ij]	grésil	[grézij]
oi:			
In general:	[wa]	moi poil	[mwa] [pwal]
After *r;* and in a few other words:	[wɑ][1]	croix bois	[krwɑ] [bwɑ]
Before checked *m* or *n:*	[wɛ̃]	loin	[lwɛ̃]
In the word *oignon* and its derivatives:	[ɔ]	oignon	[ɔɲõ]
oî:			
In general:	[wa]	boîte	[bwaːt]
After *r:*	[wɑ][1]	croître	[krwɑːtr]

[1] Some Frenchmen use the sound-combination [wa] in cases in which others use the sound-combination [wɑ].

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
80. J:	[ʒ]	je Anjou	[ʒə] [ɑ̃ʒu]
81. K:	[k]	kilomètre	[kilɔmɛtr]
82. L.			
Single:			
In general:	[l]	la culte tel	[la] [kylt] [tɛl]
In the word *gentil-homme:*	[j]	gentil- homme	[ʒɑ̃tijɔm]
In the words *cul, soûl, fils, pouls:*	silent	soûl fils	[su] [fis]
In the word *linceul:*	[l] or [j]	linceul	[lɛ̃sœl] or [lɛ̃sœɪj]
Double:			
In general:	[l]	aller balle	[ale] [bal]
In initial *ill–*; and in a few bookish words:	[ll]	illusion allitération	[illyzjɔ̃] [alliterasjɔ̃]
In combination:			
ill medial and *il* final: see section 79.			
83. M.			
Single:			
Before a vowel-letter:	[m]	mais	[mɛ]
Before a consonant-letter other than *n:*	silent	temps	[tɑ̃]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Before *n:*			
In general:	[m]	amnistie automnal	[amnisti] [otɔmnal]
In the word *automne;* and in the word *damner* and its derivatives:	silent	automne damner	[otɔn] [dɑne]
Double:			
In general:	[m]	femme emmener	[fam] [ɑ̃mne]
In initial *imm–*:	[mm]	imminent	[imminɑ̃]

NOTE. The vowel before a checked *m* (that is, *m* before a consonant-letter other than *m* or *n*, or final) is nasal. Initial *e* is also nasal in *emm–*.

84. N.	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Single:			
Before a vowel-letter:	[n]	amène	[amɛɪn]
Before a consonant-letter; or final:	silent	chanter bien	[ʃɑ̃te] [bjɛ̃]
Double:			
In general:	[n]	donner	[dɔne]
In initial *inn–*; and in a few bookish words:	[nn]	inné annales	[inne] [annal]
In combination:			
gn: see section 77.			

NOTE. The vowel before a checked *n* (that is, *n* before a consonant-letter other than *n*, or final) is nasal, except in final *–ent* in verbs, in the word *monsieur*, and when denasalized in liaison: see section 104. Initial *e* is also nasal in the words *enamourer*, *enivrer*, *enorgueillir*, *ennoblir*, *ennui*, and their derivatives.

85. O.

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Independent:			
Without written accent:			
In general:	[ɔ]	fol	[fɔl]
		mort	[mɔːr]
Before *s* followed by a vowel-letter; before the ending *-tion;* and in a few other words:	[o]	rose	[roːz]
		dévotion	[devosjɔ̃]
		tome	[toːm]
As the last sound of a word:	[o]	mot	[mo]
Before checked *m* or *n:*			
In general:	[ɔ̃]	mon	[mɔ̃]
When denasalized before *n* in liaison:	[ɔ]	mon ami	[mɔnami]
In the word *monsieur:*	[ə]	monsieur	[məsjø]
With circumflex accent:			
In general:	[o]	tôt	[to]
		côte	[koːt]
In the words *hôpital* and *hôtel:*	[ɔ]	hôtel	[ɔtɛl]
In combination:			
ao, aoû: see section 70.			
œ, oê, œu: see section 75.			
oi, oî: see section 79.			

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
ou:			
Before a consonant sound; or as the last sound of a word:	[u]	mou tousse	[mu] [tus]
Before a vowel sound:			
In general:	[w]	oui louange	[wi] [lwɑ̃ːʒ]
After *l* or *r* preceded by a consonant-letter:	[u]	clouer	[klue]
où:	[u]	où	[u]
oû:	[u]	goût	[gu]
oy:	[waj]	moyen	[mwajɛ̃]
86. P.			
Independent:			
Initial or medial:			
In general:	[p]	pas appeler psaume	[pɑ] [aple] [psoːm]
In the words *compte, dompter, exempt, prompt* (the second *p*), *sculpter, sept*, and their derivatives; in *baptême* and related words; in the words *corps* and *temps;* and in the verb forms *romps* and *rompt:*	silent	compte	[kɔ̃ːt]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Final:			
In general:	silent	coup	[ku]
In the words *cap* and *cep:*	[p]	cap	[kap]
In combination:			
ph: see section 78.			
87. Q.			
Independent:			
In general:	[k]	que	[kə]
		coq	[kɔk]
In the numeral *cinq*, when it modifies grammatically a following noun beginning with a consonant sound:	silent	cinq livres	[sɛ̃liːvr]
In combination:			
cq: see section 72.			
88. R.			
Single:			
In general:	[r]	rue	[ry]
		rhume	[rym]
		cher	[ʃɛːr]
In final *–er* in words of more than one syllable:			
In general:	silent	donner	[dɔne]
In the words *amer, cuiller, enfer, éther, hiver:*	[r]	amer	[amɛːr]
In the words *monsieur, messieurs, volontiers:*	silent	monsieur	[məsjø]
		messieurs	[mesjø]

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	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
In the verb form *est;* and in the words *lesquels, mesdames, mesdemoiselles:*	silent	est lesquels	[ɛ] [lekɛl]
Final:			
In general:	silent	mes pattes gens	[me] [pat] [ʒɑ̃]
In the words *aloès, as, atlas, bis, cassis, cens, ès, fils, hélas, ibis, iris, jadis, laps, lis* (the noun), *maïs, mars, métis, mœurs, oasis, os* (the singular), *ours, pathos, plus* (when emphatic, when meaning "plus," and in the combinations *en plus* and *plus-que-parfait*), *relaps, rhinocéros, sens, ensus, tous* (when emphatic, when a pronoun, and when not immediately preceding a noun), *us, vis* (the noun):	[s]	aloès fils os	[alɔɛːs] [fis] [ɔs]
But final *s* is silent in the combinations *fleur-de-lis* and *sens commun;* and sometimes in the words *mœurs* and *us.*	silent	fleur-de-lis	[flœrdəli]
In liaison:	[z]	mes amis	[mezami]

In combination:	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
sc, sch: see section 72.			
90. T.			
Initial:	[t]	théâtre	[teɑːtr]
		tiare	[tjaːr]
		ton	[tɔ̃]
Medial:			
In general:	[t]	bête	[bɛːt]
		patte	[pat]
Before *i*, followed by a vowel:			
In general:	[s]	nation	[nasjɔ̃]
		balbutiement	[balbysimɑ̃]
		démocratie	[demɔkrasi]
In the endings *–tié, –tien, –tier, –tiers, –tième;* and in the ending *–tie* after a consonant:			
In general:	[t]	amitié	[amitje]
		chrétien	[kretjɛ̃]
		partie	[parti]
In the words *balbutier, différentier, initier, transsubstantier, inepties, inertie:*	[s]	balbutier	[balbysje]
After *s* or *x;* when the *t* is the last letter of a verb stem; and in the words *galimatias* and *étioler:*	[t]	question	[kɛstjɔ̃]
		portiez	[pɔrtje]
In the words *asthme* and *isthme;* and in the verb forms *bats, mets, vêts:*	silent	asthme	[asm]
		bats	[ba]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Final:			
In general:	silent	font	[fɔ̃]
		donnent	[dɔn]
In the words *brut, chut, dot, fat, huit, lut, mat, net; compact, contact, correct, direct, exact, infect, intact, tact, strict; sept, transept; est* ("east"), *ouest, zest;* and in *soit* when used as an adverb:	[t]	brut	[bryt]
		compact	[kɔ̃pakt]
		sept	[sɛt]
		est	[ɛst]
But final *t* may be silent in *sept*, and is always silent in *huit*, when these words modify grammatically a following noun beginning with a consonant sound.	silent	sept livres	[sɛliːvr] or [sɛtliːvr]
		huit livres	[ɥiliːvr]
91. U.			
Independent:			
Without written accent:			
Before a consonant-letter or final:			
In general:	[y]	rude	[ryd]
		tu	[ty]
Before checked *m* or *n:*			
In general:[1]	[œ̃]	humble	[œ̃ːbl]
		commun	[kɔmœ̃]

[1] Many Frenchmen pronounce the word *un* as [ɛ̃]: un jour, [ɛ̃ʒuːr]. This pronunciation is condemned by the purists.

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
When denasalized before *n* in liaison:[1]	[œ]	un ami	[œnami]
Before a sounded vowel-letter:			
In general:	[ɥ]	nuit	[nɥi]
After *g* or *q:*			
In general:	silent	guide quand	[gid] [kɑ̃]
In forms of *arguer;* and in a few other words:	[ɥ]	arguais aiguille	[argɥɛ] [ɛgɥiːj]
In some bookish words:	[w]	lingual équation	[lɛ̃gwal] [ekwasjɔ̃]
Before final silent *e:*			
In general:	[y]	due	[dy]
After *g* or *q:*			
In general:	silent	langue publique	[lɑ̃ːg] [pyblik]
In the ending *-guë:*	[y]	aiguë	[ɛgy]
With circumflex accent:	[y]	dû	[dy]
In combination:			
au, aoû, eau: see section 70.			
eu, eû, œu: see section 75.			

[1] Many Frenchmen pronounce denasalized *un* as [ɛn]: un ami, [ɛnami]. This pronunciation is condemned by the purists. In popular speech a denasalized *un* is often pronounced as [yn]: un ami, [ynami]. With regard to this pronunciation Martinon says (*Comment on prononce le français*, p. 149): "Il est peu de fautes plus choquantes."

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
ou, où, oû: see section 85.			
ue: see section 75.			
uy:	[ɥij]	fuyard appuyer	[fɥijaːr] [apɥije]
92. V:	[v]	vœu sève livre	[vø] [sɛːv] [liːvr]
93. X.			
Initial:	[ks]	xylophone	[ksilɔfɔn]
Medial:			
In general:	[ks]	axiome	[aksjoːm]
In the prefixes *ex–*, *hex–*, *sex–*, before a vowel sound:	[gz]	exiler hexamètre	[ɛgzile] [ɛgzamɛːtr]
In the prefix *ex–* before *ce*, *ci*, or *s:*	[k]	excellent	[ɛkselɑ̃]
In the words *deuxième*, *sixième*, *dixième*, *sixaine:*	[z]	deuxième	[døzjɛm]
In the word *soixante:*	[s]	soixante	[swasɑ̃ːt]
Final:			
In general:	silent	voix	[vwa]
In the words *six* and *dix:*	[s]	six	[sis]
But the *x* is silent when these words modify grammatically a following noun beginning with a consonant sound.	silent	six livres	[siliːvr]

	SOUNDS	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
In the words *dix-huit, dix-huitième, dix-neuf, dix-neuvième:*	[z]	dix-huit	[dizɥit]
In a few bookish words:	[ks]	index	[ɛ̃dɛks]
In liaison:	[z]	six hommes	[sizɔm]
94. Y.			
Independent:			
In the word *y:*	[i]	y	[i]
Before a vowel-letter:			
In general:	[j]	yeux payer	[jø] [pɛje]
Before *i:*	[i]	payions	[pɛijɔ̃]
Before a consonant-letter:			
In general:	[i]	lyre hymne	[liːr] [imn]
Before checked *m* or *n:*	[ɛ̃]	nymphe	[nɛ̃ːf]
In combination:			
ay: see section 70.			
oy: see section 85.			
uy: see section 91.			
95. Z.			
Initial or medial:	[z]	zèle dizaine	[zɛl] [dizɛn]
Final:	silent	nez avez	[ne] [ave]

FOREIGN WORDS

96. Many foreign words (aside from proper names, for which see section 97) are frequently used in French. Some of these words are pronounced as in the language from which they are borrowed; some are pronounced as if they were French words; most of them show a compromise between the original pronunciation and a true French pronunciation. The pronunciation of such words should in general be sought in a dictionary. A few such words, now quite naturalized in French, have been treated in the preceding sections. Certain additional principles and certain special peculiarities may be noted here.

	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Vowel-letters followed by final *m* or *n* are in many cases not nasal, and the final *m* or *n* is in such cases sounded. The letter *e* is in such cases pronounced [ɛ], and *u* is pronounced [ɔ].	amen	[amɛn]
	idem	[idɛm]
	minimum	[minimɔm]
	pensum	[pɛ̃sɔm]
	rhum	[rɔm]
Final *ay* and *ey* are pronounced as [ɛ].	tramway	[tramwɛ]
	bey	[bɛ]
Final *b*, final *d*, final *p*, final *r* in *–er*, final *s*, final *t* in *–st*, and final *z* are sounded in many words.	club	[klyb]
	nabab	[nabab]
	talmud	[talmyd]
	julep	[ʒylɛp]
	mater	[matɛːr]
	blocus	[blɔkys]
	cortès	[kɔrtɛs]
	omnibus	[ɔmnibys]
	ballast	[balast]
	gaz	[gɑːz]
Sh is pronounced [ʃ].	shako	[ʃako]
Um and *un*, not final, are pronounced [ɔ̃].	lumbago	[lɔ̃bago]
	punch	[pɔ̃ːʃ]
W and *wh* are pronounced in some words as [v], and in some as [w].	tramway	[tramwɛ]
	wagon	[vagɔ̃]
	whist	[wist]
Many words present special peculiarities.	almanach	[almana]
	curaçao	[kyraso]
	czar	[tsaːr]
	ghetto	[gɛto]
	pouding	[pudɛ̃ːg]
	revolver	[revɔlvɛːr]
	shilling	[ʃlɛ̃]
	steamer	[stimœːr] or [stimɛːr]

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	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
W is pronounced [v].	Wagner	[vagnɛːr]
X is variously treated: in some names it is pronounced as [ks], in some as [gz], in some as [s], in some as [k], and in some, when final, it is silent.	Aix-la-Chapelle	[ɛslaʃapɛl]
	Aix-les-Bains	[ɛslebɛ̃]
	Alexandre	[alɛksɑ̃ːdr]
	Auxerre	[osɛːr]
	Auxois	[oswa]
	Béatrix	[beatris]
	Bordeaux	[bɔrdo]
	Bruxelles	[brysɛl]
	Félix	[feliks]
	Mexique	[mɛksik]
	Xénophon	[gzenɔfɔ̃]
	Xerxès	[gzɛrsɛːs]
	Ximénès	[kimenɛːs]
Final *z* is variously pronounced: in some names as [z], in some as [s]. Final *tz* is usually pronounced as [ts], sometimes as [s].	Berlioz	[bɛrljɔːz]
	Buloz	[bylɔːz]
	Cortez	[kɔrtɛs]
	Diaz	[djaːz]
	Suez	[sɥɛːz]
	Véra-Cruz	[verakryːz]
	Austerlitz	[ostɛrlits]
	Biarritz	[bjarits]
	Fritz	[frits]
	Metz	[mɛːs]
Many names present special peculiarities.	Auch	[ɔʃ]
	Bayard	[bajaːr]
	Biscaye	[biskaːj]
	Cinq-Mars	[sɛ̃maːr]
	Colomb	[kɔlɔ̃]
	Enghien	[ɑ̃gɛ̃]
	Enoch	[enɔk]
	Heine	[ɛːn]
	Huysmans	[ɥismɑ̃ːs]
	Jésus-Christ	[ʒezykri]
	La Fayette	[lafajɛt]
	Leyde	[lɛd]
	Memphis	[mɛ̃fiːs]
	Michel-Ange	[mikɛlɑ̃ːʒ]
	Pharaon	[faraɔ̃]
	Poë	[poe]
	Sainte-Menehould	[sɛ̃tmənu]
	Saint-Saëns	[sɛ̃sɑ̃ːs]
	Saône	[soːn]
	Staël	[stal]
	Warens	[varɑ̃]

SYNTHESIS

SYLLABIC DIVISION

98. In Speech. A French word has in actual speech as many syllables as it has vowel sounds.

In the syllabic division of a French word as actually spoken:

	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
a single consonant or semi-consonant sound between two vowels goes with the following vowel;	géant	[ʒe-ɑ̃]
	amabilité	[a-ma-bi-li-te]
	cochon	[kɔ-ʃɔ̃]
	passer	[pɑ-se]
	payer	[pɛ-je]
	travailler	[tra-va-je]
a group of two sounds of which the first is a consonant and the second a semiconsonant goes with the following vowel;	nation	[na-sjɔ̃]
	alouette	[a-lwɛt]
a group of two consonant sounds of which the first is an explosive or a fricative and the second is [l] or [r] goes with the following vowel;	sablon	[sa-blɔ̃]
	après	[a-prɛ]
	mettrons	[mɛ-trɔ̃]
any other group of two consonant sounds is divided, the first going with the preceding vowel, and the second with following vowel;	admis	[ad-mi]
	rhythmique	[rit-mik]
	examen	[ɛg-za-mɛ̃]
	acheter	[aʃ-te]
	instant	[ɛ̃s-tɑ̃]
any group of three consonant sounds is divided, the first sound going with the preceding vowel, the other two sounds with the following vowel.	malgré	[mal-gre]

99. In Spelling and Writing. The rules for the division of a word in spelling, or at the end of a line in writing, are as follows:

	EXAMPLES
The word has as many syllables as it has vowel-letters; except that	gé-ant
the combinations of vowel-letters listed in sections 70, 75, 79, 85, and 91 may not be separated;	Meu-se
i, *u*, and *ou*, when representing a semi-consonant sound, may not be separated from a following vowel-letter;	bien-ve-nu re-lui-re oua-te
silent *e* between *g* or *j* and a vowel-letter does not count, and silent *u* does not count;	man-gea Jean-ne lan-gue an-ti-que
a mute *e* after a vowel-letter may not be separated from that letter.	é-pée par-tie ci-guë
Note that a mute *e* after a consonant-letter *does* count.	re-le-ver por-te
A single consonant-letter other than *x* goes with the following vowel-letter.	a-ma-bi-li-té
X goes with the preceding vowel-letter.	ex-a-men
The groups *ch*, *ph*, *th*, *gn*, and all groups of two consonant-letters of which the first is *b*, *c*, *d*, *f*, *g*, *p*, *t*, or *v* and the second is *l* or *r* go with the following vowel-letter.	a-che-ter di-gne sa-ble a-près
All other groups of two consonant-letters are divided.	ad-mis ab-bes-se vil-le aug-men-ter
A group of three consonant-letters containing one of the combinations *ch*, *ph*, *th*, or *gn* is so divided as not to separate the *ch*, *ph*, *th*, or *gn*.	ar-che ath-lè-te

	EXAMPLES
A group of three consonant-letters of which the second is *b*, *c*, *d*, *f*, *g*, *p*, *t*, or *v* and the third is *l* or *r* is divided between the first of the three letters and the second.	mal-gré met-trons
All other groups of three consonant-letters are divided between the second letter and the third.	promp-te sanc-tion
Prefixes are however usually set off without regard to these rulés.	in-stant in-u-ti-le

STRESS

In a Single Word

100. When a word of two or more syllables, as *amabilité* or *première*, is pronounced separately, all syllables except the last are spoken evenly and as far as possible without stress, and the last is stressed. Even so, the stressed syllable is weaker in French than in English.

The stressed syllable is called the *strong* syllable, the others are called *weak* syllables. It is possible however to distinguish two degrees of weak syllables, namely "secondary" and "weak"; and the tendency in French is toward a succession of secondary, weak, and strong syllables. For instance, in *amabilité* the first and third syllables have a secondary stress, the second and fourth are weak, and the last is strong. In the group *voulez-vous*, the *vou* is secondary, the *lez* is weak, and the *vous* is strong: compare what is said in the next section. The American student should be warned against over-stressing the secondary syllables.

In Connected Speech

101. Word Groups. In connected speech words lose their individuality, and are pronounced in groups, as in the English phrase "Not at all." The length of the group is determined by the sense and by the amount of breath employed. A group of closely connected words becomes, for the purposes of pronunciation, a single long word.

In the pronunciation of such a group of words, all syllables except the last are spoken evenly and with little or no stress (see the preceding section), while the last syllable of all is stressed. Examples:

Nous sommes joy*eux*. [nusɔmʒwajø]

Il veut me donner ce*la*. [ilvømdɔnesla]

Les deux vo*leurs* etaient cruci*fiés* à ses cô*tés*.
[ledøvɔlœːr etɛkrysifje asekote]

De temps en *temps* elle relevait la *tête*.
[dətɑ̃zɑ̃tɑ̃ ɛlrəlvɛlatɛːt]

Le jeune *homme* doux et *simple* aux *mains* meurtries et gon*flées*.
[ləʒœnɔm duesɛ̃ːpl omɛ̃ mœrtriegɔ̃fle]

When the group ends with a word of two pronounced syllables the stress often falls upon the first of the two. This occurs especially in words ending in *–on:*

C'était la voix de la *na*tion! [setɛlavwɑdlanasjɔ̃]

102. Logical and Emotional Stress. Logical and emotional stress are obtained by stressing a syllable not regularly stressed, as in the English phrase "Sins of *o*mission and of *com*mission":

Il faut se *dé*mettre ou se *sou*mettre.
[ilfosdemɛtr usəsumɛtr]

D'une part il a *ga*gné, de l'autre il a *per*du.
[dynparilagaɲe dəlotrilapɛrdy]

*Im*possible! [ɛ̃pɔsibl]

*Mi*sérable! [mizerabl]

In general, emotional stress is made in English by reinforcing the stressed syllable, as in "in*cred*ible" or "ri*dic*ulous." In French, on the other hand, the stress is often displaced: "in*croy*able," "*ri*dicule." But when in French the stressed word is in a group of words and begins with a vowel sound, the emotional stress is placed on the second syllable of the word; otherwise it is on the first: "ce *mi*sérable!"; "c'est im*pos*sible!"

VOWEL QUANTITY

103. French vowels are in general short.

But stressed vowels are long in the cases enumerated below (the phonetic sign indicating length is ː, placed after the long vowel):

	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
Any stressed vowel is long when followed by one of the sounds [j], [v], [z], [ʒ], or by the sound [r] when that sound is the last sound of the word.	soleil	[sɔlɛːj]
	cave	[kaːv]
	rose	[roːz]
	rage	[raːʒ]
	mer	[mɛːr]
	meurt	[mœːr]
A stressed vowel written with a circumflex accent is long when followed by a consonant sound; except in *êtes*, and in the endings of the past absolute and past subjunctive tenses.	maître	[mɛːtr]
	tête	[tɛːt]
The oral vowels [a], [ɑ], [ɛ], [o], and [ø] are long, when stressed, in many words in which they are followed by a consonant sound.	table	[taːbl]
	miracle	[miraːkl]
	reine	[rɛːn]
	tome	[toːm]
	meule	[møːl]
A stressed nasal vowel is always long when followed by a consonant sound.	tante	[tɑ̃ːt]

LIAISON

104. When a word ending in a consonant-letter which is ordinarily silent is followed immediately by a closely related word beginning with a vowel-letter, with an *h* that is not preventive, or with a *y*, the final consonant-letter of the first word is sometimes sounded, as in *premier an*, [prəmjerɑ̃]; *vingt arbres*, [vɛ̃tarbr]; *allez-y*, [alezi]. This special sounding of a final consonant-letter is called *liaison* or *linking*.

In ordinary speech it occurs usually in the conditions listed in section 107, seldom otherwise. In poetry and declamation it is used more extensively.

105. The letters *n*, *p*, *r*, *t*, and *z* have in liaison their normal values [n], [p], [r], [t], and [z].	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
D sounds as [t].	un grand homme	[œ̃grɑ̃tɔm]
F sounds as [v] in *neuf ans* and *neuf heures;* elsewhere as [f].	neuf heures un vif intérêt	[nœvœɪr] [œ̃vifɛ̃terɛ]
G sounds as [k].	sang impur	[sɑ̃kɛ̃pyɪr]
S and *x* sound as [z].	des enfants deux amis	[dezɑ̃fɑ̃] [døzami]
106. When *n* is linked, the preceding vowel is partly or wholly denasalized.		
An *e* denasalized from [ɑ̃] is sounded [ɑ].	en Italie	[ɑnitali]
An *e* denasalized from [ɛ̃] is sounded [ɛ].	bien aimée	[bjɛnɛme]

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	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
108. It is to be noted that final *m* is never linked; that the *t* of *et* is never linked; that the linking of other words ending in *–et* is rare; and that linking does not occur before *huit* or *huitième* (except in the compound words *dix-huit, dix-huitième*), or before *onze, onzième, ouate, oui.*	sang et eau un volet ouvert les huit amis mais oui	[sɑ̃keo] [œ̃vɔlɛuvɛːr] [leɥitami] [mɛwi]

ASSIMILATION

	EXAMPLES	SYMBOLS
109. When in the course of rapid speech a consonant sound which is normally voiced comes directly before a voiceless sound, the voiced consonant changes to the corresponding voiceless consonant.[1]	là-dessus médecin coup de pied le monde civilisé monsieur	[latsy] [metsɛ̃] [kutpje] [ləmɔ̃tsivilize] [məsjø] or [msjø] or [psjø]
Similarly, when a consonant which is normally voiceless comes directly before a voiced consonant sound, the voiceless consonant changes to the corresponding voiced consonant.[2]	le second avec Jean archevêque de Paris	[ləzgɔ̃] [avɛgʒɑ̃] [arʃəvɛgdəpari]
When a consonant which is normally voiceless comes in rapid speech between two vowels, it changes to the corresponding voiced consonant: see section 105.		

[1] Compare the pronunciation of *b* before *s* or *t:* see section 71.
[2] Compare the pronunciation of *anecdote:* see section 72.

ELISION

	EXAMPLES
110. The monosyllables *la*, *ce*, *de*, *je*, *le*, *me*, *ne*, *que*, *se*, *te*, and certain compounds of *que*, such as *jusque*, *lorsque*, and *quelque*, drop the final letter and are written with an apostrophe in its place when they immediately precede a word beginning with a vowel-letter, an *h* that is not preventive, or *y*.[1]	l'âme c'est d'hier j'ai je n'ai pas qu'avez-vous? l'yeuse
This elision, however, does not take place when the monosyllable is connected by a hyphen with a preceding verb.	est-ce un homme ai-je été? donnez-le à Jean
Elision does not take place before preventive *h*, nor before the words *onze*, *oui*, *uhlan*. It does not usually take place before *ouate*.	le héro le onze mai du uhlan
Si is elided before *il* or *ils*.	s'il est s'ils sont

PITCH

111. Pitch is the high or low quality (tone) of a musical sound. In speech, pitch depends on the number of vibrations of the vocal chords within a given period of time.

Since a short body necessarily vibrates faster than a long one, the voices of children generally have a higher pitch than those of adults, their vocal chords being shorter. Different speech sounds also differ among themselves as to pitch: [i] is higher than [a] and [a] is higher than [o].[2] In general, French has fewer low notes than English, and therefore the same voice speaking French and English will appear to have a higher pitch in French than in English. At the same time, emotion has a marked effect on the human voice, and the same sentence (or part of it) will fluctuate in pitch according to the emotional element in it: see the following section.

[1] Compare the muting of *e* at the end of a syllable: see section 75.
[2] See Passy, *les Sons du français*, 7th ed., § 150.

INTONATION

112. Intonation, the musical element of a language, depends on the proper use of voice, and can be learned adequately only from a native — although students will derive great profit from the intelligent use of phonographic records.

It is important to remember that the pronunciation of French as compared with that of English is even, harmonious and regular, with a clear and definite articulation of vowels and consonants (especially the vowels) and a more or less equal alternation of accented (*syllabe orte*) and unaccented (*syllabe faible*) syllables.

In so far, however, as intonation is a rise cr a fall of voice in pitch (often quite distinct from the inherent pitch of vowels and consonants), the following principles may be noted as especially applicable to French:

1. In French the voice rises or falls in longer intervals than in English. The range may be an entire octave.

2. The last syllable of a breath-group has a higher (/) or a lower pitch (\) than the others:

Venez-vous (/)? Are you coming?
C'est triste (\). That is sad.

3. The rise or fall in pitch corresponds to the connotation of the phrase; that is, to the emotion the speaker puts into it. "Surprise" is high, "disappointment" low; "exclamations" are high, "negations" or "refusals" low, etc. "Generally speaking, in French, a comma or semicolon indicates a rise, a note of interrogation or exclamation indicates a more marked rise. A full stop indicates a fall, the end of a paragraph a more marked fall."[1]

Est-ce qu'il est ici (/)? Is he here?
Assurément non (\)! Certainly not!
Il a perdu maison (/), *femme* (/), *enfants* (\). He has lost home, wife, children.
Il est venu seul (/)! He came alone! (said in surprise.)
Il est venu seul (\). He came alone. (said with regret.)

4. Often a rise is preceded by a fall, and vice versa:

Pour qui me prenez(\)*-vous donc* (/)? Whom do you take me for?
Enfin (/), *que voulez-vous* (\)? Well, what do you expect?

[1] Passy, *les Sons du français*, 7th ed., § 139.

Thus we may mark by a higher pitch that which is most important in a phrase:

Elle est sortie en pleu(/)*rant* (\). She went out weeping.
A tout (/) *jamais* (\). Forever.
Parfai(/)*tement* (\)! Exactly!

Owing to this fact, the end of a sentence is often whispered in French:

Il y en a beau(/)*coup.* There are many.
N'y pensons (/) *plus.* Let's think no more of it.

5. It should also be noted that not only single syllables but groups of syllables, indeed entire phrases, may be pronounced on a higher or a lower pitch, according to the meaning that is desired:

⌜*Tiens, te voilà!*⌝ I declare, there you are!
⌞*Allons donc.*⌟ Come, let's go.

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EXERCISES

(The numbers of the several Exercises correspond to the numbers of the sections on which they are based.)

1

a. With the palms of the hands pressed tightly against the ears, pronounce forcibly "s, z, s, z, s, z, s, z." Note the buzzing in the head which takes place when the voiced sound is pronounced. Note that for the "s" all the sound comes from the friction of the air at the front of the mouth.

b. State the phonetic difference between the two words of each of the following pairs of words: *coast, ghost; pace, base; down, town; case, gaze; dog, talk.*

c. With the aid of a hand mirror locate the various organs of speech; note their form; and examine the movements or changes in position which certain ones may make.

3

a. Point out in the following words cases of the representation of the same sound by different letters or combinations of letters: *he, machine, eat, ate, eight, set, many, head, rat, ask, father, all, awl, cot, go, thought, though, through, enough, bough, use, loose, lose, knight, writing, psychology, attention, fox, asked, nephew, rose, dose, lies, ice.*

b. Point out in the same words cases in which the same letters or combinations of letters represent different sounds.

c. Point out the silent consonants in the same words.

8

(The phonetic symbols used in Exercises 8–54 have the same value as those used in sections 8–54: see the footnote on p. 6. In doing Exercises 8–62 and the Review Exercises advanced students should in each case identify and spell the French words represented by the phonetic combinations.)

a. Assume the correct vocal position for the production of the sound [i], *using a hand mirror; and then produce the sound several times:* [i, i, i, i, i, i, i].

b. P*ronounce the following phonetic combinations, each of which represents a real French word:* [midi, si, sis, pip, ni, vi, vit, fini, ri, li].

9

a. Repeat the sound [e].

b. Pronounce: [e, de, ne, bebe, se, ge, le, te, ete, epe].

10

a. Repeat the sound [ɛ].

b. P*ronounce:* [e, ɛ, e, ɛ, e, ɛ, e, ɛ, e, ɛ].

c. [ɛl, bɛl, sɛk, rɛst, fɛrm, sɛt, mɛ, lɛ, pɛ, ɛmɛ].

d. [etɛ, sɛde, efɛ, mɛte, esɛ, gɛte, epɛ, mɛle, setɛ, prɛte].

11

a. Repeat the sound [a].

b. P*ronounce:* [a, la, ta, sa, ma, dra, papa, frapa, madam, kapabl, lwa, fwa].

First Review: Front Vowels

a. [i, e, ɛ, a; li, le, lɛ, la; mi, me, mɛ, ma; si, se, sɛ, sa].

b. [ide, imite, etɛ, ɛda, inikite, kapasite, abi, desizif, defi, ɛnmi, kaptif, avi, ɛde, evɛk, sɛse, atake, amne, kafe, abe, aspɛ, akademi, aksɛpte, apeti, asiste].

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18

a. Repeat the pair of sounds [i, y] *with vigorous lip action, mirror in hand.*

b. P*ronounce these pairs of words with vigorous lip action, taking particular care to keep the tongue tensely in the same position for both vowels:* [di, dy; gi, gy; li, ly; mi, my; ni, ny; si, sy; vi, vy].

c. P*ronounce:* [ty, kry, ply, ry, ryd, nyl, bryn, lyn, dyp, myːz, myːr, syːr, fytyːr, kyltyːr].

19

a. Repeat the pair of sounds [e, ø].

b. P*ronounce these pairs of words:* [be, bø; de, dø; fe, fø; ge, gø; ne, nø].

c. P*ronounce:* [fø, pø, vø, dø, ø, sø, krø, krøːz, føːtr, nøːtr].

20

a. Repeat the pair of sounds [ɛ, œ].

b. P*ronounce these pairs of words:* [ɛf, œf; sɛl, sœl; nɛf, nœf; mɛːr, mœːr; lɛːr, lœːr; pɛːr, pœːr].

c. P*ronounce:* [bœf, gœl, mœbl, vœf, pœpl, kœːr, sœːr, lœːr, flœːr].

21

[lə, mə, kə, sə, dəsu, ləve, səsi, brəbi, fəzɛ, məsjø, rəpo, vənir, ɔptənir].

Third Review: Oral Vowels

[vu, puːr, sɛre, sɛl, pɑ, presi, rəpoze, vɛːr, alɔːr, valœːr, œrø, filɔzɔ̇f, filɔzɔfik, rival, separe, sykr, aktœːr, naivte, ɔratœːr, valœrøːz, mɔːr, mɔdɛl, mikrɔskɔp, malɔnɛt, inatakabl, imitatif, gard, galɔpe, prydri, ryral, sypɛrb, syrtu, syrpriːz, pɑse, po, gro].

23

a. State which of the following words contain nasal vowels: tromper, bien, conter, inimitié, homme, envoyer, iniquité, inviter, monotone, ennemi, automne.

b. State in which of the same words the m *or* n *is sounded.*

24

a. Repeat the pair of sounds [ɛ, ɛ̃].

b. P*ronounce:* [mɛɪn, mɛ̃; vɛɪn, vɛ̃; sɛɪn, sɛ̃; pɛɪn, pɛ̃; plɛɪn, plɛ̃; trɛɪn, trɛ̃; gɛɪn, gɛ̃; lɛɪn, lɛ̃].

c. [bɛ̃, dɛ̃, fɛ̃, vɛ̃, gɛ̃, mɛ̃, pɛ̃, tɛ̃, tɛ̃ɪt, sɛ̃, sɛ̃ɪt, sɛ̃ɪdr, fɛ̃, fɛ̃ɪdr, sɛ̃ɪpl].

25

a. Repeat the pair of sounds [ɑ, ɑ̃].

b. P*ronounce these pairs of words:* [pɑ, pɑ̃; bɑ, bɑ̃; tɑ, tɑ̃; kɑ, kɑ̃; gɑ, gɑ̃; ɑ, ɑ̃; mɑ, mɑ̃].

c. P*ronounce:* [sɑ̃, rɑ̃, vɑ̃, lɑ̃, grɑ̃, ɑ̃fɑ̃, tɑ̃, tɑ̃ɪt, tɑ̃ɪpl, lɑ̃ɪp, ɑ̃ɪpl, ɑ̃ɪgl].

26

a. Repeat the pair of sounds [ɔ, ɔ̃].

b. P*ronounce these pairs of words:* [bɔn, bɔ̃; dɔn, dɔ̃; sɔn, sɔ̃; tɔn, tɔ̃].

c. P*ronounce:* [bɔ̃, mɔ̃, lɔ̃, pɔ̃, plɔ̃, frɔ̃, pɔ̃ɪp, rɔ̃ɪd, ʒɔ̃ɪkl, kɔ̃ɪt, mɔ̃ɪt].

27

a. Repeat the pair of sounds [œ, œ̃].

b. P*ronounce:* [œ̃, brœ̃, kœ̃, defœ̃, kɔmœ̃, okœ̃, tribœ̃, œ̃ɪbl].

Fourth Review: Nasal Vowels

a. Repeat the series [ɛ̃, ɑ̃, ɔ̃, œ̃].

b. P*ronounce:* [dɛstɛ̃, mɛ̃, mɔ̃tɑ̃, ɑ̃fɑ̃, ɑ̃fɛ̃, mɔ̃tɔ̃, tɑ̃tɔ̃, pɑ̃ɪdr, pɛ̃ɪdr, ɑ̃prœ̃ɪt, ɑ̃fɔ̃sɑ̃, parfœ̃, silɑ̃ɪs, kɔ̃tɑ̃, trɔ̃pe, ɛpɔrtœ, kɛlkœ̃, lɔ̃tɑ̃, apsɔlymɑ̃, definitivmɑ̃, œrøzmɑ̃, yniverselmɑ̃].

29

[bjɛ̃, djø, fjɛːr, jø, jɛːr, ljɛ̃, ljø, mjɛ̃, mjø, njɛs, pje, pjɛs, rjɛ̃, sjɛl, sjø, sjɛ̃, sjɛn, sjɛkl, tjɛ̃, vjɛ̃, eseje, batajɔ̃, məsjø, fœːj, kaje, kɔ̃bjɛ̃, kɔ̃sɛːj, vjɑ̃ːd, pɑːj].

30

[biːj, bijaːr, bijɛ, fiːj, fijɛt, fijœl, gijmɛ, gijoːm, gijɔtin, kiːj, mijɛ, pije, pijaːʒ, sijɔ̃, tijaːʒ, vaniːj, ʒɑ̃tijɔm].

31

[baji, kœjiːr, vjɛji, pɛji].

32

[ɥit, ɥil, bɥi, fɥi, lɥi, brɥi, sɥi, frɥi, plɥi, kɥiːr, ekɥɛl, tɥe, salɥa, sɥaːv, vɛrtɥø, dəpɥi, nɥaːʒ].

33

[brɥijɛːr, kɥijɛːr, brɥijɑ̃, ɑ̃mɥije, apɥije, ɛgɥiːj, tɥijo, esɥije, fɥijɑ̃, ekɥije].

34

[wi, wɛst, fwɛ, fwɛte, alwɛt, lwe, lwœːr, dwɛl, dwɛːr, mwɛt, nwe, nwɛ, rwe, rwɛ, rwi, swɛ, swɛte, vwe, avwe, reʒwiːr].

35

[wa, waːz, wazif, wazo, bwaːt, bwa, dwa, dwan, fwaːr, fwas, kwa, kwaf, lwaːr, lwaːʒ, mwa, mwal, mwan, mwano, swasɑ̃ːt, vwasi].

36

[mwajɛ̃, fwaje, lwaje, lwajal, nwaje, swajø, vwajaːʒ, vwajɑ̃, vwajɛl, dwajɛ̃].

37

[bwɑ, krwɑ, trwɑ, krwɑsɑ̃, klwaːtr, pwɑ, pwɑːl].

38

[fwɛ̃, pwɛ̃, pwɛ̃ːt, swɛ̃, mwɛ̃, ẇwɛ̃, lwɛ̃, lwɛ̃tɛ̃, pɛ̃gwɛ̃, pwɛ̃ːdr].

Fifth Review: Semiconsonants

[pjɛs, vwajɛl, vulje, pɥi, kwaːr, mwajɛ̃, tytwaje, rɥin, kwarto, esɛje, esɥije, ɔjo, gryjɛːr, swɛ̃, ɥit, dəpɥi, sɥiːvr, ljɛ̃, pwasɔ̃, fɥijaːr].

42

[bijɛ, bebe, ɛ̃bɛrb, barb, bɑblø, bɔnœːr, bopɛːr, bulvaːr, byro, bø, bœf, bəzwɛ̃, bɛ̃, bɑ̃di, bɔ̃te, brœ̃, ble, braːv, bwaːr, tabl, debri, kɔrbo, blɑmabl].

43

[pip, pepɛ̃, pɛpsin, papɥijɔ̃, pɑ, ɑːpr, pɔpylɛːr, popjɛːr, pul, pyblik, pø, pœpl, pəti, pɛ̃sne, pɑ̃se, pɔ̃ːp, prepare, plypaːr, ɑ̃ːpl, kapris, eklips, ɛspri, apsɔlymɑ̃, apstrɛ].

44

[di, dedɛ̃, dɛstɛ̃, dabɔːr, dɑnabl, dofɛ̃, dotɑ̃, dɔt, duble, dyp, idø, pydœːr, dədɑ̃, dɛ̃dɔ̃, dɑ̃, vɛrdœ̃, drapo].

45

[titanik, teɑːtr, tɛty, tatu, tɑte, bjɛ̃to, tɔtalite, tutafɛ, tytɛl, tøtɔnik, tytœːr, etɛ̃, atɑ̃ta, tatɔ̃, sɛtœ̃].

46–47

[gitaːr, gete, gɛːr, gaːr, gɑto, gotje, gɔtik, degute, degyste, blagøːz, blagœːr, gɛ̃, gɑ̃tlɛ, gɔ̃fle, vaːg, lɔ̃ːg, grɔːg, egzekyte, egzakt, egzɑ̃ːpl].

48–49

[kite, kepi, kɛski, kakɛt, kɑ, kɔkliko, koko, kuku, kyltyːr, kø, kœːr, kərɛl, kɛ̃zɛːn, kɑ̃kɑ̃, kikɔ̃k, kɛlkœ̃, ʂɛk, ɛ̨krityːr, ekwatœːr, ɛ̨kʂɑ̃tʀik, ɛ̨kʂitabl, pʀɛtɛ̨kst].

51

[vivifi, vety, vɛrty, valɛ, vɑːz, vɔlkɑ̃, vɔtr, voːtr, vudrɛ, vylgɛːr, nɛrvø, vœːv, vəluːr, vɛ̃dikativ, vɑ̃drədi, vivɔ̃, vrɛsɑ̃blabl, liːvr, vjɛ̃].

52

[fifr, fekɔ̃, fɛːbl, falsifje, fɑːz, fɔsfɔːr, fokɔl, fulaːr, fyzi, fø, fœːj, fəmɛl, fɛ̃, fɑ̃faːr, fɔ̃tɛɪn, defœ̃, frikase, flanɛl, eflœre, efrene, swaf].

53

[zigzag, zero, zɛl, bizaːr, zɔdjak, zoɪn, zyt, lizøɪz, lizœɪr, rɛzɛ̃, fəzɑ̃, mɛzɔ̃, lezœ̃, ɛgzile, ɛgzamɛ̃].

54

[sis, sesɛsjɔ̃, sɛsasjɔ̃, sasjete, sɔsjete, sosis, susjø, susjøɪz, syspɑ̃ːs, sø, sœːr, səsi, sɛ̃serite, sɑ̃susi, sɑ̃sɔ̃, sfɛ̃ɪks, skɑ̃dal, slaːv, spesjal, staty, fas, ɛspɑːs, frɑ̃sɛ, ɛskis].

55

[ʒizɑ̃, ʒezy, ʒə, ʒalu, ʒɔrʒ, ʒoɪn, ʒuʒu, ʒyˈɪʒ, ʒø, ʒœn, ʒəle, ʒɛ̃ːdr, ʒɑ̃vje, ʒɔ̃glœɪr, aʒœ̃, leʒɑ̃ːd, saːɪʒ, buʒi].

56

[ʃiʃ, ʃe, ʃɛɪz, ʃarʒ, ʃɑ̃ːs, ʃɔkɔla, ʃose, ʃu, ʃyʃɔte, peʃœɪr, kaʃɔ̃, viʃi, sɛɪʃ, ʃoːz].

58

[mimik, memɛ̃to, mɛːm, mamɑ̃, mɑ, mɔmɑ̃, mo, mulɛ̃, mynisipal, mønje, mœbl, mənɥɛ, mɛ̃, mɑ̃ke, mɔ̃te, pɔm, ɛ̃terim, mjɛ̃, mwa].

59

[ni, ne, nɛf, naif, nɔn, nofraːʒ, nuvo, nymero, nøʃatɛl, nœf, nɛːf, nɑ̃ːt, nɔ̃ʃalɑ̃ːs, yn, bɔn, benevɔl, nasjɔnalite].

60

[diɲite, ẽdiɲe, aɲɛs, maɲanim, miɲɔn, aɲo, swaɲø, etɛ-ɲœir, sɛɲɑ̃, ɔɲɔ̃, diɲ, rɛɲ, kɑ̃paɲ, bulɔɲ].

61

[ri, riir, redqiir, rɛktœir, rair, rɑ, rɔk, roik, ru, ry, œrø, ɔrœir, rəpɑ, rɛ̃, rɑ̃, rɔ̃, piir, mɛir, air, fɔir, puir, pyir, sœir, bri, kree, drɛse, frakɑ, grɑ, prɔpo, tro, vrɛ, ɑ̃ikr, sɛidr, kɔfr, mɛigr, prɔpr, litr, iivr].

62

[li, le, lɛ, la, lɑ, lɔk, lo, lu, ly, lœir; lɛ̃, lɑ̃, lɔ̃, lœ̃, il, elit, ɛl, bal, pail, kɔl, roil, ful, myl, sœl, brɑ̃il, pli, ble, klɛ, flak, glɑ, slaiv, tabl, eklips, ɑ̃flame, ɛigl].

Sixth Review: Consonants

[inikite, elevasjɔ̃, vɛstibyl, fanatik, elais, mɔnɔtɔn, fobuir, dulurø, lygybr, lyksɑ̃buir, fugø, œrøiz, pœir, dəvɑ̃, dɛstɛ̃, ɛ̃prɛsjɔ̃, kɑ̃tite, ɛ̃tɛliʒamɑ̃, ɛ̃dispɑ̃sabl, trɔ̃pe, ʃɑ̃tɔ̃, lœ̃, epu-vɑ̃tabl, ɑ̃prœ̃, vjɛij, sɔlɛij, fœij, vwasi, dwan, swɛ̃, lɥi, dəpɥi, nɥaiʒ, vɛrtɥø, fijœl, baji, wazo, dwajɛ̃, pwɑ, bəzwɛ̃, kɥijɛir, prezɔ̃psjɔ̃, apsɔlymɑ̃, batɛim, tytœir, tɔtalite, dramatist, akutyme, grasjø, efɔir, brɛf, vɔlypte, sasjete, fizjɔlɔʒi, ʃwa-zisɔ̃, rəfyiʒ, ʒyʒmɑ̃, myrmyre, anɔnim, kɔ̃paɲi, ridikyl, trɛ, rɑ̃idr, libɛrte, animal, pretɛkst, ɛgzaʒere, rəprɔdɥiir, vrɛsɑ̃-blɑ̃is, kɔmœ̃, fryktɥø, kalifje, ʃiryrʒjɛ̃, ʃɛdœivr, rɔkfɔir, ljø, labɑ].

64–67

a. Recite the French alphabet.

b. Spell the following words, using the "identifying sounds": malcontent, aisément, orthographe, pâtisserie, gloire, habitude, générosité, national, poursuivre, nécessité, construction, chose, zouave, immense, tramway.

70

(Each of the several Exercises from 70 to 95 is divided into two parts. In the first part the words are arranged in the order of the rules. In the second part they are arranged alphabetically.)

Write the following words in phonetic script, and pronounce them: a, va, lave, salle, madame, malade, Panama, base, bras, camp, lampe, an, sang, sans, dansant, à, là, âne, pâte, dansâmes (*verb*), vrai, fait, paix, aime, aise, aimais, abaisse, dansai (*verb*), sais, faisais (*form of* faire), bain, sain, mainte, faîte, faon, Laon, au, faut, aube, autre, Maure, aura, aurait, eau, veau.

Adam, aidâtes (*verb*), aide, aimai (*verb*), allais, apaise, âpre, aune, aurais, aux, balai, bavarde, beaux, cadeau, caisse, Canada, canard, cas, cause, cave, faible, faire, faisait (*form of* faire), fausse, faute, fauve, franc, grand, gras, laisse, ma, maint, masse, pain, palais, parlai, part, pauvre, plaindre, plan, plante, plâtre, rampe, rang, rat, saut, saute, ta, tain, tant, taon, taupe, vain, vainc, vase.

71–74

base, abîme, arabe, table, arbre, sabbatique, absence, obtenir, aplomb, cabane, école, curé, crime, oracle, secondaire, respect, cent, vice, cyprès, bec, choc, franc, instinct, broc, tabac, accaparer, accomplir, accumulation, accent, occident, cheval, charge, déchirer, chronologie, chaos, catéchumène, chimie, chérubin, tachygraphe, archéologie, brachial, acquisition, scapin, scorpion, bousculer, scrupule, scélérat, science, schématique, reçu, désert, madame, tu vends, grand.

abbesse, absolu, accabler, accepter, accommoder, acquiescer, archevêque, archiépiscopal, aspect, Bacchus, bébé, bicyclette, blamable, bloc, brise, cadet, cécité, chimère, chose, chrétien, chronomètre, clerc, cocher, colère, Colomb, cric crac, diligent, écarter, échine, éclipse, fécule, jonc, menaça,

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enivrer, ennuyer, enveloppe, ère, esclave, espérance, essayer, essui, et, éteint, examen, femme, fête, feu, feuille, feutre, grelot, idée, il arrive de Paris, il va de Paris, ils se revoient, impatience, jeûner, j'eus, la cheminée, la petite, le lieu, lentement, le repos, les repas, lettre, mangea, même, meuble, Meung, Meuse, moment, mouvement, Noël, nous eûmes, œdipe, œil, œillet, orgueilleux, païen, pareil, parlé-je, patricien, peut, plumes, poêle, premier, prenez-le, prudemment, quotient, redemander, reine, retenir, revenez vite, rougeâtre, s'asseyant, second, sein, sembler, sempiternel, s'en aller, seul, sévère, sœur, souvenir, tes, tout ce que je ne dis pas, une petite, veine, veux, vieille, vœu, voilà ce que c'est, volontiers.

76–78

facile, faible, femme, refuser, fifre, effort, chef, nef, juif, cerf, clef, œufs, neuf crayons, galant, gonfler, guerre, général, gigantesque, gymnastique, agile, ménage, globe, maigre, doigtier, vingtaine, rang, étang, coing, long, sang et eau, agglomération, suggestion, dédaigner, Avignon, signe, imprégnation, habitant, harmonie, heure, histoire, horloge, humilité, hyperbole, la haine, la harpe, trahison, cahot, thèse, théorie, rythme, phonographe, phonétique, philosophe.

affliger, agglutination, ahuri, apathie, bœufs, bourg, chef-d'œuvre, compagnon, désigné, diagnostique, doigt, ébahi, exagérer, flèche, futur, gagner, garde, germe, gilet, gorge, gris, guttural, gymnaste, habile, hareng, herbe, hier, honneur, humain, hygiène, le hâvre, le héros, l'héroïne, méfier, nerf, neuf, neuf livres, orthographe, photographe, phrase, poing, rage, sang, soif, suggérer, théologie, veuf, vinaigre, vingtième.

79

ici, iniquité, livide, haïr, diable, bien, pièce, reliure, païen, brioche, lapin, évincer, indien, impoli, timbre, coïntéressé, Nîmes, vous dormîtes, nous tînmes, fois, moi, froid, mois,

foin, besoin, boîte, cloître, grenouille, cueille, fille, quille, papillon, billion, ville, mille, mail, conseil, exil, fil, profil, gentil, gentilshommes, chenil, mil ("millet").

abime, bail, baril, billard, bois, chenille, civil, coïndication, conseille, croître, doigt, famille, feuille, fin, fusil, grésil, héroïque, ïambe, idée, il, imminent, impatient, infidèle, labiale, loi, million, moins, nous vîmes, oignon, outil, pareil, principal, publia, rigide, rivière, roi, sien, simplement, soin, tranquille, vil, village, vous vîntes.

80–84

jaloux, jeudi, joie, judicieux, déjà, déjeuner, bijou, képi, kiosque, moka, bifteck, labourer, lecture, liberté, locomotif, lumière, lycée, élève, relief, animal, seul, fil, table, gentilhomme, soûl, illégal, illimitable, syllabe, villa, fille, billion, billard, travail, fauteuil, machin, mécanicien, menu, miroir, muer, animer, camp, septembre, symbole, impur, faim, Reims, parfum, comble, omniscient, omnipotence, gymnastique, automnal, condamner, homme, comme, sommet, immense, immoral, nappe, neige, noce, nymphe, générosité, âne, vent, rien, moyen, ils veulent, honnête, ennemi, ils prènnent, innover, Cinna, vigne, récognition, enamourer, enorgueillir, ennui.

acajou, ajourner, Allah, année, automne, bel, calcul, calomnie, canal, carnaval, coke, cul, damner, enivrer, ennoblir, essaim, examen, famille, félicité, femme, flambeau, gant, gemme, humble, ignition, illettré, illogique, ils flânent, ils viennent, immobile, injuste, inné, innombrable, jamais, je, joli, juin, kilomètre, koran, lac, légume, linceul, lingerie, loisir, luxe, lynx, mail, malheur, manger, mêler, mimique, monsieur, muraille, mythe, nage, nécessité, nid, nuance, nul, omission, omnipotent, omniscience, peuple, recueil, rempart, rossignol, simple, solennel, somme, somnambule, sympathie, tombeau, tranquille, ville.

85

coq, fort, votre, sotte, monopole, prose, roseau, notion, émotion, zone, lot, trop, piano, son, savon, chantons, oncle, sombre, nom, mont, son enfant, cône, Rhône, le nôtre, rôtisserie, hôpital, août, il, moelle, poêle, œuf, œufs, sœur, vœu, toi, croix, besoin, boite, chou, poudre, bouche, course, couard, douane, prouesse, inouï, dégoût, loyal, voyez.

alouette, blond, boiš, brouette, chose, chouan, clouer, colonel, coude, courage, cyclone, dégoûté, douce, encore, fois, fouet, foyer, hôtel, jonc, le vôtre, mon ami, monsieur, nos, non, ouï-dire, pomme, pont, pose, pot, potion, promotion, raison, repos, robe, rôle, rompre, rose, roue, sot, soyez, tombe, trône.

86–90

papillon, perpétrer, tapage, frapper, rapport, psychologie, compter, exempt, sculpteur, baptiser, temps, il rompt, camp, trop, galop, cep, photographie, quatre, qui-vive, coq, cinq, cinq livres, le cinq janvier, grecque, rapidité, renaissance, fureur, car, fier, marbre, acheter, boucher, amer, enfer, hiver, messieurs, rhétorique, interrogation, irrégulier, horrible, courais, courrais, saint, servant, testament, penser, assemblée, visage, pesant, désigner, antisocial, contresens, transaction, transitif, transir, asbeste, presbytère, lesquelles, mesdemoiselles, ses, secrets, vers, as, cassis, fils ("son"), ibis, jadis, lis (*noun*), mars, mœurs, os (*singular*), pathos, plus-que-parfait, rhinocéros, ensus, us, fleur-de-lis, ses hommes, absolu, disciple, esclave, scolastique, schisme, type, utile, thème, athlète, cité, lettre, formation, diplomatie, prophétie, facétieux, amitié, inimitié, héritier, Gautier, huitième, modestie, ineptie, balbutier, initier, digestion, galimatias, étioler, huit, correct, exact, intact, strict, est ("east"), zest.

aloès, antiseptique, appétit, aristocratie, balsamique, beaucoup, bis, boulanger, cap, capricieux, catarrhe, cens, champ, chose, cœur, contact, corps, cuiller, descriptive, en

plus, entier, épître, est ("is"), été, éther, étioler, fat, hélas, hier, huit, huit livres, le huit décembre, inertie, infect, insister, iris, irrémédiable, j'acquérais, j'acquerrais, je romps, laps, les, les idées, livres, loup, mais, massacre, matière, mesdames, métis, moitié, monsieur, oasis, obscure, opposé, ouest, ours, papier, pasteur, pathétique, phosphore, pitié, poser, prérogative, prétention, promener, promptitude, psychique, quelquefois, quinze, quoique, raconteur, redompter, règle, relaps, royal, sabot, scandale, scène, sens, sens commun, sept, sept plumes, le sept juillet, septième, société, sortie, substantiel, suggestion, tact, tante, terre, terreur, tête, tous, transalpin, transept, transit, transsubstantier, vers, vis (*noun*), volontiers, vraisemblance.

91

unique, pureté, bu, écu, chacun, défunt, parfum, un homme, nuage, minuit, fuite, guitare, qualité, bague, épique, arguez, nous arguons, aiguille, contiguïté, linguiste, août, maudire, poteau, joyeux, hauteur, sœur, ouvrage, ou, guérir, essuyant, revue, harangue, ambiguë.

ambiguïté, bateau, cœur, contiguë, dénué, emprunter, ennuyer, feu, goût, guerre, humble, ils arguèrent, lingual, mauvais, nu, peur, phonétique, quitter, reçu, remuer, rue, soutenir, taquiner, tulipe, un article, utile, vœu, vous arguez.

92–95

valet, vivacité, frivole, lèvre, xylographie, expansif, exquis, fixer, maxime, prétexte, examen, exemple, exister, exubérance, hexagone, sexagénaire, excentrique, excitation, exsuder, dixième, prix, crucifix, veux, choux, chanceux, dix, le six juin, dix-huitième, larynx, onyx, dix ans, noyer, tuyau, moyen, asseyions, cyprès, byzantin, style, sympathie, syntaxe, zigzag, zouave, azur, assez, écoutez.

allez, bazar, croyez, deux, dix-huit, dix-neuf, dynamite, employiez, exact, exaltation, excéder, exciser, exhibition, expirer, exsangue, extension, fauve, flux, furieux, hexamètre, inexorable, lynx, lyrique, paix, préfix, rayonner, rêve, six, six amis, six crayons, sixième, soixante, syndicat, texte, thym, venin, vexer, vrai, xylophage, y, yeux, zéphyr, zone.

98–99

a. Divide these words into syllables as in speech, using phonetic script: fini, bouquet, grosseur, iniquité, façonner, machine, gagner, mangeons, habiller, bataillon, enfantine, figuier, Juliette, girouette, depuis, secouer, épuisé, appointements, société, noblesse, sabre, emplette, hydrophobie, attraction, gonfler, islam, Richelieu, agriculture, agressif, microscope, murmure, absolu, quelquefois, excellence, arbrisseau, meurtrier, dextrement, électrique, paysage, travaillons, bague, entrée, acheter, redevenir, exemple, philosophie, enseigner, mépris, diphthongue, monarchique, contraction, onctueux.

actif, amuser, appuyé, âpreté, athlétique, atlantique, bataille, boucherie, cacher, cahier, client, coloniser, condition, conduire, constitution, contrée, difficile, discipline, docile, doucement, écrire, église, épargner, épique, éther, exact, fidélité, filtration, fléau, grasseyer, guichet, hébreu, hygiène, incliner, israélite, juger, manquer, marbrerie, municipalité, nettoyer, noble, obligé, offrir, ouvrage, pourpré, régner, séduisant, songer, soulier, tourterelles, village.

b. Divide the same words into syllables as in spelling and writing.

100–101

Stress properly the following words and groups: chat, rat, chien; table, chaise, livre; bonnet, chapeau, casquette; animer, subjuguer, diriger; absurdité, ineffaçable, artificiel; uniformité, incapacité, inégalité; impossibilité, insupporta-

blement, constitutionellement; dédain, individualisation, vrai, invraisemblablement, intelligence, user, indicible, expansion; des livres, des plumes, des crayons; qu'il dit, qui le dit, il le dit; c'est à moi, remplacez-les, allez vite; un signalement, un signe allemand; il les apprit, il les a pris; Jean m'a donné ça, il est trop habile, prêtez-moi des plumes; vous savez qu'il est là, c'était le petit tambour, l'enfant était couché; le capitaine s'arrêta, il ne se tint pas satisfait, c'était fait des ménagements.

103

a. Tell whether the stressed vowel in each of these words is long or short, and why: été, inimitié, sec, élément, beau, égalité, conseil, fille, grave, chose, chauffage, mort, derrière, cire, bête, même, abîme, sûr, tasse, plaine, nègre, saule, zone, feutre, feindre, humble, chambre, sombre, blonde, importance, pont.

aimable, alors, âme, bientôt, chanté, chaume, classe, croyance, élève, épaule, fête, fini, gant, grande, j'emprunte, juge, manière, meute, moi, monde, morose, neutre, oncle, père, quitter, rôle, seuil, simple, tendre, veille, veine, yeux, zouave.

b. P*ronounce the words, bringing out clearly the difference between the long and short vowels.*

104–108

Read these phrases, making the proper liaisons: Bien aimable, trop aimé, dernier avis, nuit et jour, chez eux, pied-à-terre, du bœuf à la mode, un long hiver, de bons amis, deux enfants, il y en a, en avant, rien à faire, mon enfant, un homme, vous avez, ils ont, les églises, de grands édifices, ces élèves, un grand homme, de petits oiseaux, des langues étrangères, des bains agréables, les bras étendus, des amis heureux, faut-il, écrivent-ils, parlons-en, allez-y, très étonné, plus heureux, moins attaché, dans un livre, sans amis, en

Italie, devant elle, sous un ciel bleu, selon elle, de temps en temps, mot à mot, pas à pas, tout à coup, de plus en plus, vis-à-vis, tout à l'heure, un nom étranger, lui et elle, un objet évident, ces huit livres, dix-huit, ses onze enfants, en eau, en haut, les héros, les héroïnes, les auteurs, les hauteurs, mes haines, des habits, ses yeux, aux hommes, les haricots, un i, un nid, des harpes, je les hais.

109

Point out in these words the cases of assimilations which are regular or might occur in rapid speech: absolument, abstenir, obtenir, médecin, tout de suite, une tasse de thé, ils ne savent pas, femme de chambre, là-dessous, en face de lui, coup de pied, à côté de sa chaise, le second, une masse de baigneurs, anecdote, obscur, beaucoup de choses.

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*Fair usage policy applies

ʒɑ̃. — ly, ly, ly.
lə mɛːtr̥. — ply, plym, la plym.
ʒɑ̃. — ply, plym, la plym.
lə mɛːtr̥. — bɔ̃. mɛ̃tnɑ̃, ʒɑ̃, w ɛ la plym?
ʒɑ̃. — la plym ɛ sur . . .
lə mɛːtr̥. — mɛ mɔ̃ n ami!
ʒɑ̃. — syr! syr la taːbl.
lə mɛːtr̥. — mɛ wi! mɛ̃tnɑ̃, repete: la plym ɛ syr la taːbl.
ʒɑ̃. — la plym ɛ syr la taːbl.
mari. — pardɔ̃, msjø. ɔ̃ sɔn.
lə mɛːtr̥. — e bjɛ̃! la lsɔ̃ ɛ fini. o rvwaːr me z ɑ̃fɑ̃.
la klɑːs. — o rvwaːr məsjø.

2. œ̃ n adrwa kalkylatœːr ‖

œ̃ poːvrə savwajaːr | rəgardɛ avɛk ɑ̃vi la butik d œ̃ bulɑ̃ʒe.‖ le pti pɛ̃ etale syr yn taːbl | ɛksitɛ sɔ̃ n apeti, | mɛ z il n avɛ pɑ z œ̃ su dɑ̃ sa pɔʃ.‖

ɑ̃fɛ̃ il ɑ̃ːtr e dmɑ̃ːd: ‖ "kɔ̃bjɛ̃ se pti pɛ̃?"‖ — "duːz pur ɔ̃ːz su," repɔ̃ l bulɑ̃ʒe.‖ — "ɑ! duːz pur ɔ̃ːz su; | trɛ bjɛ̃.‖ ʒ ɔrɛ dɔ̃ːk ɔ̃ːz pəti pɛ̃ pur di su, | dis pur nø su, | nœf pur ɥi su, | ɥit pur sœ su, | sɛt pur si su, | sis pur sɛ̃ su, | sɛ̃ːk pur katrə su, | katrə pur trwɑ su, | trwɑ pur dø su, | dø pur œ̃ su, | e œ̃ pur rjɛ̃.‖ e bjɛ̃, msjø, | œ̃ sœl syfi; ‖ avɛk vɔtrə pɛrmisjɔ̃, ʒə mɑ̃ʒre səlɥi si.‖ mɛrsi, msjø, | e o rvwaːr!"‖

3. la ptit fiːj e l kɔ̃dyktœːr ‖

yn pətit fiːj ɛ t asiːz sœl | dɑ̃ l kwɛ̃ d œ̃ vagɔ̃ də ʃmɛ̃ d fɛːr.‖ lə kɔ̃dyktœːr pɑːs pur prɑ̃ːdrə le bijɛ; ‖ la ptit fiːj prezɑ̃ːt œ̃ bijɛ də dmi plas.‖
— kɛl ɑːʒ ave vu? | lɥi di l kɔ̃dyktœːr.‖

— ʒ e sɛ̃ːk ɑ̃, məsjø.‖
— vu n ave pɑ ply d sɛ̃ːk ɑ̃?‖
— nɔ̃, məsjø; ‖ ɑ̃ ʃmɛ̃ d fɛːr ʒ e sɛ̃ːk ɑ̃, | a la mɛzɔ̃ ʒ ɑ̃ n e sɛt.‖
— ɑ . . . | e vu vwajaʒe z ɛ̃si sœl?‖
— nɔ̃, məsjø, | sɛt dam labɑ, o miljø dy vagɔ̃, | ɛ ma ʀo tɑ̃ːt.‖
— e kɛl ɑːʒ vɔtrə tɑ̃ːt a t ɛl?‖
— ɛl a vɛ̃tnœv ɑ̃.‖
— ɛl n a k vɛ̃tnœv ɑ̃?‖
— wi, məsjø.‖
— kɛl ɑːʒ avɛ t ɛl l ane dɛrnjɛːr?‖
— ɛl avɛ vɛ̃tnœv ɑ̃.‖
— e kɛl ɑːʒ avɛ t ɛl l ane avɑ̃?‖
— vɛ̃tnœv ɑ̃; ‖ ɛl a tuʒuːr vɛ̃tnœv ɑ̃.‖

4. l urs e le dø ʃasœːr ‖

dø ʃasœːr ɛjɑ̃ bəzwɛ̃ d arʒɑ̃, | alɛːr truve œ̃ marʃɑ̃ d furyːr, | e lɥi diːr: ‖ “dɑ̃ la mɔ̃taɲ vwazin, | il j a œ̃ n urs enɔrm dɔ̃ nu z avɔ̃ truve la pist.‖ nu sɔm sɛrtɛ̃ d lə tɥe.‖ si vu vule nu dɔne sɑ̃ frɑ̃, | nu vu z apɔrtrɔ̃ bjɛ̃to sa po.”‖
lə marʃɑ̃ lœr dɔna le sɑ̃ frɑ̃, | e le dø ʃasœːr partiːr pur la mɔ̃taɲ.‖ a pɛːn j etɛ t il z arive | kə l urs s avɑ̃sa vɛr ø, o pti tro, | ɑ̃ pusɑ̃ de grɔɲmɑ̃ z efrɛjɑ̃.‖
lɔrskə le ʃasœːr l apɛrsyːr, | il fyr sɛzi d tɛrrœːr | e ʃɛrʃɛːr le mwajɛ̃ d eʃape o tɛrribl animal.‖ l œ̃ d ø grɛ̃pa syr œ̃ n arbr, | e l oːtrə s kuʃa par tɛːr, | rətɛ̃ sɔ̃ sufl e fi l mɔːr.‖
l urs vɛ̃ lə flɛre də tu le ʞote; ‖ mɛ vwajɑ̃ k il nə buʒɛ pɑ | e k il nə rɛspirɛ pɑ, | il lə kry mɔːr, | e s elwaɲa sɑ̃ lɥi fɛr də mal, | kar le z urs n ɛm pɑ le kadɑːvr.‖
kɑ̃ l urs y dispary, | lə ʃasœːr ki etɛ syr l arbrə desɑ̃di, | s aprɔʃa d sɔ̃ kɔ̃paɲɔ̃ e lɥi dmɑ̃da, | pur s mɔke də lɥi: ‖ “k ɛ s kə l urs t a di t a l ɔrɛːj?”‖

— "il m a di," | repɔ̃di l oːtr̥, | "k il nə fo pɑ vɑ̃ːdrə la po d l urs | avɑ̃ d l avwar tɥe."‖

5. œ̃ marʃe ‖

œ̃ vjɛj avaːr fɛ vniːr œ̃ metsɛ̃ | pur vwaːr sa fam trɛ malad.‖ lə metsɛ̃ | ki kɔnɛsɛ sɔ̃ n ɔm, | dəmɑ̃ːd kɔ̃n arɑ̃ːʒ dabɔːr sez ɔnɔrɛːr.‖

"swat," | di l avaːr, | "ʒə vu dɔnre dø sɑ̃ frɑ̃, | kə vu tyje ma fam u k vu la gerisje."‖

lə metsɛ̃ aksɛpt, | mɛ malgre se swɛ̃, | la fam mœːr.‖ kɛlkə tɑ̃ z aprɛ, | il vjɛ̃ reklame sɔ̃ n arʒɑ̃.‖

"kɛl arʒɑ̃?"| di l avaːr.‖ "ave vu geri ma fam?"‖

— "nɔ̃, ‖ ʒə n l e pɑ geri."‖

— "alɔːr vu l ave tɥe?"‖

— "tɥe!‖ o | kɛl ɔrœːr!‖ vu save bjɛ̃ kə nɔ̃."‖

— "e bjɛ̃, ‖ pɥiskə vu n l ave ni geri | ni tɥe, | kə dmɑ̃de vu?"‖

6. le ry e le kafe ‖

l aspɛ d la ry | dɑ̃ le vil frɑ̃sɛːz | a kɛlkəʃoːz də partikylje.‖ le z abitɑ̃ pɑs boku d tɑ̃ dəɔːr | e le ry sɔ̃ rɑ̃dy osi agreabl kə pɔsibl.‖

dɑ̃ le grɑ̃d vil, | le ry sɔ̃ larʒ e plɑ̃te d arbr; ‖ se prɔmnad s apɛl bulvaːr.‖ le nɔ̃brø bulvaːr | ki travɛrs pari ɑ̃ tu sɑ̃ːs | kɔ̃triby a fɛːr də sɛt vil | la ply bɛl kapital dy mɔ̃ːd; ‖ le z ɛspɑs z uvɛːr | ki s nɔm plas, | sɔ̃ rɑ̃dy ge par de z arbr e de fɔ̃tɛːn.‖

la parti d la ry rezɛrve o pjetɔ̃ | ɛ kuvɛrt d asfalt u d gravje, | il j a de bɑ̃ su lez arbr | u l ɔ̃ pø sə rpoze.‖ ɔ̃ n aroz frekamɑ̃ le ry ɑ̃ n ete, | pur ɑ̃pɛʃe la pusjɛːr d s elve.‖

də nɔ̃brø kafe | debɔrdɑ̃ syr le trɔtwaːr | ɛ̃vit sø ki pɑːs |

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8. la grammɛːr[1] ‖

sɛːn prəmjɛːr.‖

ʒɑ̃, | pɥi maʃy, | pɥi blɑ̃ːʃ.‖

(o lve dy rido, | ʒɑ̃ rɑ̃ːʒ d la vɛsɛl | dəvɑ̃ t œ̃ byfɛ ki s truv a goːʃ, | o prəmje plɑ̃.‖)

ʒɑ̃. — l ɑ̃nɥi d la vɛsɛl | kɑ̃t ɔ̃ l a rɑ̃ʒe | s ɛ k i fo la derɑ̃ʒe.‖ (œ̃ saladje lɥi eʃap de mɛ̃ e s kɑːs.‖)

maʃy (ɑ̃trɑ̃). — paf!‖

ʒɑ̃. — sakrəblø!| lə saladje dəre!‖

maʃy. — ty travaːj bjɛ̃, | twa!‖

ʒɑ̃. — ɑ!| s n ɛ kə l veterinɛːr! . . .‖ vu m ave fɛ pœːr.‖

maʃy. — k ɛ s kə va dir msjø kabusa, | tɔ̃ mɛːtr, | ɑ̃ vwajɑ̃ sɛt fabrik də kastaɲɛt?‖

ʒɑ̃ (ramɑsɑ̃ le mɔrso). — i n la vɛra pɑ . . .‖ ʒ ɑ̃tɛːr le mɔrso o fɔ̃ dy ʒardɛ̃ . . .‖ ʒ e la yn pətit foːs . . .‖ prɛ d l abrikɔtje . . .‖ s ɛ prɔpr | e gazɔne.‖

blɑ̃ːʃ (ɑ̃trɑ̃ par la drwat, | prəmje plɑ̃ ‖). — ʒɑ̃!‖ (apɛr-səvɑ̃ maʃy.) ɑ!| bɔ̃ʒuːr msjø maʃy.‖

maʃy (salɥɑ̃). — madmwazɛl.‖

blɑ̃ːʃ (a ʒɑ̃). — ty n a pɑ vy l saladje dəre?‖

ʒɑ̃ (kaʃɑ̃ le mɔrso dɑ̃ sɔ̃ tablie ‖). — nɔ̃, madmwɑ̀zɛl.‖

blɑ̃ːʃ. — ʒə l ʃɛrʃ | pur y mɛt de frɛːz.‖

ʒɑ̃. — i dwat ɛt rɛste dɑ̃ l byfɛ d la sal a mɑ̃ʒe.‖

blɑ̃ːʃ. — ʒ ve vwaːr . . .| s ɛ t etɔnɑ̃ la kɑ̃tite d vɛsɛl ki disparɛ . . .‖

ʒɑ̃. — ɔ̃ n kɑːs purtɑ̃ rjɛ̃ . . .‖ (blɑ̃ːʃ sɔːr par la goːʃ, | prəmje plɑ̃.‖)

[1] This selection is an illustration of familiar conversational style.

sɛɪn dø ‖

ʒɑ̃, | maʃy, | pɥi kabusa ‖

maʃy. — ɑ bjɛ̃, | ty a d l aplɔ̃, twa!‖
ʒɑ̃. — dam, | si ɛl savɛ k sɔ̃ saladje ɛ kɑse . . .| sa lɥi frɛ d la peɪn, | a sɛt dəmwazɛl.‖
maʃy. — ɑ sa!| ʒə vjɛ̃ pur la vaʃ . . .‖
ʒɑ̃. — o!| s ɛ t inytil.‖
maʃy. — purkwa?‖
ʒɑ̃. — ɛl ɛ mɔrt ‖ il parɛ k ɛl avɛ t avale œ̃ pti mɔrso ḍ karaf . . .| mal ɑ̃tɛre.‖
maʃy. — ɑ!| vwala!| ty n krøɪz pɑ z ase.‖
ʒɑ̃. — s ɛ vre . . .| mɛ i fɛ si ʃo ḍpɥi œ̃ mwɑ!‖
maʃy. — ɑ sa!| s ɛ t ɔʒurdɥi l grɑ̃ ʒuɪr!| tɔ̃ mɛt dwa t ɛt dɑ̃ tu se z eta.‖
ʒɑ̃. — purkwa?‖
maʃy. — s ɛ dɑ̃ døz œɪr | k ɔ̃ va elir l prezidɑ̃ dy kɔmis agrikɔl d arpaʒɔ̃.‖
ʒɑ̃. — krwaje vu k məsjø kabusa swa rnɔme?‖
maʃy. — ʒ n ɑ̃ dut pɑ.‖ ʒ e deʒa by trɛz vɛr d vɛ̃ | a sɔ̃ n ɛ̃tɑ̃sjɔ̃.‖
ʒɑ̃. — vre?‖ e bjɛ̃, sa n parɛ pɑ.‖
maʃy. — ʒə kabal pur tɔ̃ mɛɪtr̥.‖ s ɛ ʒyst, | ʒ e la pratik d la mɛzɔ̃.‖
ʒɑ̃. — il a œ̃ kɔ̃kyrɑ̃ | kj ɛ t œ̃ malɛ̃, | msjø ʃafinɛ, | œ n ɑ̃sjɛ̃ n avwe . . .‖ dəpɥi œ̃ mwɑ | i n fɛ k koze avɛk le peizɑ̃ . . .‖
maʃy. — i fɛ mjø k sa.‖ dimɑ̃ɪʃ dɛrnje, | il a ete a pari, | e il ɑ̃ n ɛ rvəny | avɛk yn sɛ̃kɑ̃ten də pti balɔ̃ ruɪʒ | ki s ɑ̃lɛɪv tu sœl ‖ e i le z a distribɥe gratis | o z ɑ̃fɑ̃ d la klɑs agrikɔl.‖
ʒɑ̃. — ɑ!| s ɛ trɛ fɔɪr!|
maʃy. — wi, | mɛ ʒ e pare l ku ‖ ʒ e repɑ̃dy l brɥi | k le balɔ̃ | atirɛ la greɪl . . .‖ e ɔ̃ le z a tus krəve.‖

ʒɑ̃. — kɛl diplɔmat kə s pɛr maʃy!‖
maʃy. — nu n vulɔ̃ pɑ d ʃafinɛ ‖ a bɑ ʃafinɛ!‖ œ̃ n ɛ̃trigɑ̃ . . .‖ ki fɛ vnir d etɑ̃ːp | sɔ̃ veterinɛːr!‖
ʒɑ̃. — ɑ!| vwala!‖
maʃy. — s k i nu fo, s ɛ msjø kabusa | œ̃ n ɔm sɔbr . . .| e ɛ̃strɥi! . . .| kar ɔ̃ pø diːr k s ɛ t œ̃ savɑ̃, | səlɥi la!‖
ʒɑ̃. — kɑ̃ t a sa . . .| ¡ rɛst de z œːr z ɑ̃tjɛːr dɑ̃ sɔ̃ kabinɛ, | avɛk œ̃ liv a la mɛ̃ . . .| l œːj fiks . . .| la tɛːt imɔbil . . .| kɔm s i n kɔ̃prənɛ pɑ.‖
maʃy. — i refleʃi.‖
ʒɑ̃. — i krøːz . . .‖ (apɛrsəvɑ̃ kabusa.‖) lə wasi . . .| (mɔ̃trɑ̃ le mɔrso dy saladje.‖) ʒ ve fɛːr kɔm lɥi | ʒ ve krøːze.‖

labiʃ.

9. lə ʃɛːn e l rozo ‖

lə ʃɛːn | œ̃ ʒuːr | dit o rozo:‖
“vu z ave bjɛ̃ syʒɛ | d akyze la natyːr;‖
œ̃ rwɑtəlɛ | pur vu | ɛ t œ̃ pəzɑ̃ fardo;‖
lə mwɛ̃ːdrə vɑ̃ | ki d avɑ̃tyːr |
fɛ ride la fas də l o,‖
vu z ɔbliːʒ | a bɛse la tɛːt;‖
səpɑ̃dɑ̃ kə mɔ̃ frɔ̃, ‖ o kɔkɑːz parɛːj,‖
nɔ̃ kɔ̃tɑ̃ d arɛte | le rɛjɔ̃ dy sɔlɛːj,‖
braːv l efɔːr də la tɑ̃pɛːt.‖
tu vu z ɛ t akilɔ̃, ‖ tu mə sɑ̃ːblə zefiːr.‖
ɑ̃kɔːr | si vu nɛsje z a l abri dy fœjaːʒ |
dɔ̃ ʒə kuːvrə lə vwazinaːʒ,|
vu n ɔrje pɑ tɑ̃ t a sufriːr;‖
ʒə vu defɑ̃dre də l ɔraːʒ:‖
mɛ vu nɛse | lə ply suvɑ̃ |
syr le z ymiːd bɔːr | de rwajoːm dy vɑ̃.‖
la natyːr | ɑ̃vɛːr vu | mə sɑ̃ːblə bjɛ̃ n ɛ̃ʒyst.”‖
“vɔtrə kɔ̃pɑsjɔ̃”‖ lɥi repɔ̃di l arbyst,‖

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sɛ t wazo də flɑːm,|
sɛ t astrə dy ʒuːr,|
sətə flœːr də l ɑːm,|
s apɛlə l amuːr.||

viktɔːr ygo.

11. l albatrɔs ||

suvɑ̃ | pur s amyze | le z ɔmə d ekipaːʒ
prɛnə de z albatrɔs, | vastə z wazo de mɛːr,|
ki sqiːvə, | ɛ̃dɔ̃lɑ̃ kɔ̃paɲɔ̃ də vwajaːʒ,|
lə naviːrə glisɑ̃ | syr le gufrə z amɛːr.||

a pɛːnə | le z ɔ̃ t il depoze syr le plɑ̃ːʃ,|
kə se rwɑ də l azyːr, | maladrwa | e ɔ̃tø,|
lɛːsə pitøːzəmɑ̃ | lœr grɑ̃ːdə z ɛlə blɑ̃ːʃ
kɔmə de z avirɔ̃ | trɛne r a kote d ø.||

sə vwajaʒœːr ɛle | kɔm il ɛ goːʃ e vœːl!||
lqi, nagɛːr si bo, | k il ɛ kɔmik e lɛ!|
l œ̃ n agasə sɔ̃ bɛk | avɛk œ̃ brylə gœːl,|
l oːtrə mim ɑ̃ bwatɑ̃ | l ɛ̃firmə ki vɔlɛ!||

lə pɔɛːt ɛ sɑ̃blaːbl o prɛ̃ːsə de nyeː|
ki ɑ̃ːtə la tɑ̃pɛːt | e sə ri də l arʃe;||
ɛgzile syr lə sɔl | o miljø de yeː,|
se z ɛːlə də ʒeɑ̃ l ɑ̃pɛːʃə də marʃe.||

bodlɛːr.

FRENCH SELECTIONS FOR ORAL PRACTICE

1. A FABLE IN VERSE, WITH INTERLINEAR PHONETIC SCRIPT

Une grenouille vit un bœuf
yngrənu:jə vitœ̃bœf

Qui lui sembla de belle taille.
kilɥisɑ̃bla dəbɛltɑ:j

Elle qui n'était pas grosse en tout comme un œuf,
ɛlə kinetɛpɑgro:s ɑ̃tu kɔmœ̃nœf

Envieuse, s'étend, et s'enfle, et se travaille
ɑ̃vjø:zə setɑ̃ esɑ̃:fl esətrava:j

Pour égaler l'animal en grosseur;
puregale lanimal ɑ̃grosœ:r

Disant: "Regardez bien, ma sœur,
dizɑ̃ rəgardebjɛ̃ masœ:r

Est-ce assez? dites-moi; n'y suis-je point encore?
ɛsase ditmwa nisɥiʒpwɛ̃tɑ̃kɔ:r

— Nenni — M'y voici donc? — Point du tout — M'y voilà?
nani mivwasidɔ̃:k pwɛ̃dytu mivwala

— Vous n'en approchez point." La chétive pécore
vunɑ̃naprɔʃepwɛ̃ laʃeti:vpekɔ:r

S'enfla si bien qu'elle creva.
sɑ̃fla sibjɛ̃ kɛlkrəva

Le monde est plein de gens qui ne sont pas plus sages:
ləmɔ̃:dɛplɛ̃dəʒɑ̃ kinəsɔ̃pɑplysa:ʒ

Tout bourgeois veut bâtir comme les grands seigneurs,
tuburʒwa vøbɑti:r kɔmlegrɑ̃sɛɲœ:r

Tout petit prince a des ambassadeurs;
tupətiprɛ̃:s adezɑ̃basadœ:r

Tout marquis veut avoir des pages.
tumarki vøtavwardepa:ʒ

LA FONTAINE, *la Grenouille qui veut se faire aussi grosse que le bœuf.*

2. NARRATIVE PROSE

M^me^ Loisel connut la vie horrible des nécessiteux. Elle prit son parti, d'ailleurs, tout d'un coup, héroïquement. Il fallait payer cette dette effroyable. Elle payerait. On renvoya la bonne; on changea de logement; on loua sous les toits une mansarde.

Elle connut les gros travaux du ménage, les odieuses besognes de la cuisine. Elle lava la vaisselle, usant ses ongles roses sur les poteries grasses et le fond des casseroles. Elle savonna le linge sale, les chemises et les torchons, qu'elle faisait sécher sur une corde; elle descendit à la rue, chaque matin, les ordures, et monta l'eau, s'arrêtant à chaque étage pour souffler. Et, vêtue comme une femme du peuple, elle alla chez le fruitier, chez l'épicier, chez le boucher, le panier au bras, marchandant, injuriée, défendant sou a sou son misérable argent.

Il fallait chaque mois payer des billets, en renouveler d'autres, obtenir du temps.

Le mari travaillait, le soir, à mettre au net les comptes d'un commerçant, et la nuit, souvent, il faisait de la copie à cinq sous la page.

Et cette vie dura dix ans.

Au bout de dix ans, ils avaient tout restitué, tout, avec le taux de l'usure, et l'accumulation des intérêts superposés.

Madame Loisel semblait vieille, maintenant. Elle était devenue la femme forte, et dure, et rude, des ménages pauvres. Mal peignée, avec les jupes de travers et les mains rouges, elle parlait haut, lavait à grande eau les planchers. Mais parfois, lorsque son mari était au bureau, elle s'asseyait auprès de la fenêtre, et elle songeait à cette soirée d'autrefois, à ce bal où elle avait été si belle et si fêtée.

Que serait-il arrivé si elle n'avait point perdu cette parure? Qui sait? qui sait? Comme la vie est singulière,

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POIRIER. Aussi ne vous consulté-je pas; je vous mets au courant, voilà tout.

GASTON. Ah! vous ne me consultez pas?

POIRIER. Cela vous étonne?

GASTON. Un peu; mais je vous l'ai dit, je suis en belle humeur.

POIRIER. Ma première réforme, mon cher garçon . . .

GASTON. Vous voulez dire mon cher Gaston, je pense? La langue vous a fourché.

POIRIER. Cher Gaston, cher garçon! c'est tout un! De beau-père à gendre, la familiarité est permise.

GASTON. Et de votre part, monsieur Poirier, elle me flatte et m'honore. Vous disiez donc que votre première réforme? . . .

POIRIER. C'est, monsieur, que vous me fassiez le plaisir de ne plus me gouailler. Je suis las de vous servir de plastron.

GASTON. Là, là, monsieur Poirier, ne vous fâchez pas!

POIRIER. Je sais très bien que vous me tenez pour un très petit personnage et pour un très petit esprit . . . mais . . .

GASTON. Où prenez-vous cela?

POIRIER. Mais vous saurez qu'il y a plus de cervelle dans ma pantoufle que sous votre chapeau.

GASTON. Ah! fi! voilà qui est trivial . . . vous parlez comme un homme du commun.

POIRIER. Je ne suis pas un marquis, moi!

GASTON. Ne le dites pas si haut, on finirait par le croire.

AUGIER, *le Gendre de M. Poirier*, III, 2.

4. CLASSIC VERSE

DON RODRIGUE. — Sous moi donc cette troupe s'avance
Et porte sur le front une mâle assurance.
Nous partîmes cinq cents; mais, par un prompt renfort,
Nous nous vîmes trois mille en arrivant au port,

Tant, à nous voir marcher avec un tel visage,
Les plus épouvantés reprenaient de courage!
J'en cache les deux tiers, aussitôt qu'arrivés,
Dans le fond des vaisseaux qui lors furent trouvés;
Le reste, dont le nombre augmentait à toute heure,
Brûlant d'impatience, autour de moi demeure,
Se couche contre terre, et sans faire aucun bruit,
Passe une bonne part d'une si belle nuit.
Par mon commandement, la garde en fait de même,
Et, se tenant cachée, aide à mon strategème;
Et je feins hardiment d'avoir reçu de vous
L'ordre qu'on me voit suivre et que je donne à tous.

CORNEILLE, *le Cid*, IV, 3.

5. LYRIC VERSE

C'est le moment crépusculaire.
J'admire, assis sous un portail,
Ce reste de jour dont s'éclaire
La dernière heure du travail.

Dans les terres de nuit baignées
Je contemple, ému, les haillons
D'un vieillard qui jette à poignées
La moisson future aux sillons.

Sa haute silhouette noire
Domine les profonds labours.
On sent à quel point il doit croire
A la fuite utile des jours.

Il marche dans la plaine immense,
Va, vient, lance la graine au loin,
Rouvre sa main, et recommence,
Et je médite, obscur témoin.

Pendant que, déployant ses voiles,
L'ombre, où se mèle une rumeur,
Semble élargir jusqu'aux étoiles
Le geste auguste du semeur.

VICTOR HUGO, "Saison des semailles: le Soir,"
from *Chansons des rues et des bois.*

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