

French Pronunciation Rules

- I. The Alphabet: (See Alphabet Handout.)
II. Vowels: Just like English! A, E, I, O, U and sometimes Y.

A:	ma	salut	ça
E:	le	sept	mercredi
I:	merci	stylo-bille	livre
O:	gomme	bloc	ordinateur
U:	tu	pupitre	jupe

- A. Accent Marks: French also uses five accent marks.

a. The *accent aigu* is used over the letter E:

télévision éléphant

b. The *accent grave* is used with A, E, U:

voilà frère où

c. The *accent circonflexe* is used with all vowels:

château fête dîner hôtel août

d. The *cedilla* is only used under the letter C to change a hard C to a soft S sound:

ça français

e. The *tréma* indicates that two vowels next to each other are pronounced separately:

Noël Haïti

*** Repeat each word after the speaker:

**activité François élève fête
marché télé beintôt pièce**

- B. Nasal Sounds: French has four nasal sounds that are combinations of one or two vowels and M or N.

**grand son train un
cent bonjour bien lundi**

- III. Consonants: In French, you usually do NOT pronounce the final consonant at the end of the word.

**salut mois maison
est temps copain**

There are a few exceptions: C, R, F, L are generally pronounced at the end of a word. (***) Remember to be CaReFuL in French!) ☺

bec sur bref mal

- IV. Word Stress: In French, you pronounce each syllable evenly. Compare the following French/English cognates:

**fantastique horrible timide populaire impatient
hélicoptère**

*** Nathalie est une amie de Jean-Luc. ***