

## Pronunciation

### L'accent tonique

1. In English, you stress certain syllables more than others. In French, you pronounce each syllable evenly. Compare the following pairs of English and French words.

*timid* / **timide**

*patient* / **patient**

*popular* / **populaire**

*American* / **américain**

*sociable* / **sociable**

2. Repeat the following sentences. Notice how each word is linked to the next so that the sentence sounds like one long word.

**Élisabeth est l'amie de Nathalie.**

**Paul est le frère de Nathalie.**

**Il est très sympathique.**



## Prononciation

### Les consonnes finales

1. In French, you do not usually pronounce the final consonant you see at the end of a word. Repeat the following.

**petif**      **grand**      **intéressant**      **français**  
**amusant**      **intelligent**      **patient**      **blond**

2. You also do not pronounce the final **s** you add to a word to make it plural. This is why a singular noun and its plural sound alike. Repeat the following pairs of words and then the sentences.

**un copain** → **des copains**      **une copine** → **des copines**  
**le garçon** → **les garçons**      **la fille** → **les filles**

**Tous les copains de Vincent sont sympathiques.**  
**Les cours de maths sont très difficiles.**



intelligent

## Pronunciation

### Les sons /é/ et /è/

1. There is an important difference in the way French and English vowels are pronounced. When you say the French word **des**, your mouth is tense, in one position. You can repeat the sound /é/ many times without moving your mouth at all. But when you pronounce the English word *day*, your mouth is relaxed and you actually say two vowel sounds.
2. Listen to the word **élève**. It has two distinct vowel sounds. The sound /é/ is “closed” and the sound /è/ is “open.” This describes the positions of the mouth for each sound. Repeat the following.

Le son /é/: la télé l'école la journée parler écoutez

Le son /è/: après la cassette vous êtes le collègue

Après l'école, les élèves aiment écouter des cassettes.

Elles aiment regarder la télé.



élève

## Prononciation

### Le son /ã/

1. There are three nasal vowel sounds in French: /ã/ as in **cent**, /õ/ as in **sont**, and /ẽ/ as in **cinq**. They are called “nasal” because some air passes through the nose when they are pronounced. In this chapter, you will practice only the sound /ã/ as in **cent**.
2. Repeat the following. Notice that there is no /n/ sound after the nasal vowel.

Jean	cent	grand	amusant
français	parent	fantastique	

Voilà les grands-parents, les parents et les enfants.  
Jean-François est fantastique. Il est français, grand, amusant.



les parents et les enfants

## Pronunciation

### Le son /r/

The French sound /r/ is very different from the American /r/. When you say /r/, the back of your tongue should almost completely block the air going through the back of your throat. Repeat the following words and sentences.

le verre	toujours	la voiture	le pourboire
la carte	la tartine	la cuillère	la fourchette
pour	les crêpes	le serveur	le croque-monsieur
boire	les frites	le croissant	

Le serveur arrive avec un verre de jus d'orange.  
Je voudrais laisser un pourboire pour la serveuse.



verre

## Prononciation

### Les sons /**é**/ et /**è**/

1. Listen to the difference in the vowel sounds in **peut** and **peuvent**. The sound /**é**/ in **peut** is a closed vowel sound and the sound /**è**/ in **peuvent** is an open vowel sound. Repeat the following words with the sound /**é**/.

**il peut      il veut      des œufs      deux**

2. Repeat the following words with the sound /**è**/.

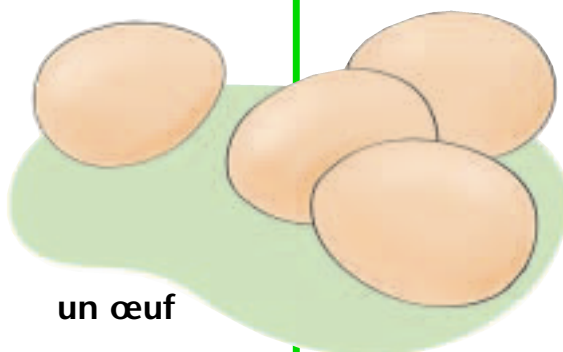
**ils peuvent      ils veulent      un œuf**  
**leur sœur      du beurre**

3. Now repeat the following pairs of words. Be sure to distinguish between the two vowel sounds.

**il peut / ils peuvent**  
**il veut / ils veulent**

4. Now repeat the following sentences.

**Elle veut faire les courses, mais ils ne veulent pas.**  
**Elle veut du beurre et des œufs.**  
**Leur sœur est sérieuse.**



**un œuf**

**des œufs**

## Prononciation

### Les sons /sh/ et /zh/

It is important to make a distinction between the sounds /sh/ as in **chat** and /zh/ as in **joli**. Put your fingers on your throat. When you say the sound /zh/ as in **joli**, you should feel a vibration, but not when you say /sh/ as in **chat**. Repeat the following words with the sound /sh/.

<b>acheter</b>	<b>chaussure</b>	<b>chemise</b>
<b>chemisier</b>	<b>achat</b>	<b>short</b>

Now repeat the following words with the sound /zh/.

<b>large</b>	<b>jupe</b>	<b>orange</b>
<b>beige</b>	<b>joli</b>	

Now repeat the following sentences that combine both sounds.

**J'achète toujours mes chaussures au marché.**  
**Le t-shirt jaune est joli, mais le short orange est moins cher.**



**chemise  
orange**

## Pronunciation

### Le son /l/ final

1. The names Michelle and Nicole were originally French names, but today many American girls also have these names. When you hear French people say the names Michelle and Nicole, the final /l/ sound is much softer than in English. Say “Michelle” and “Nicole” in French. Repeat the following words.

il      vol      animal      elle      école  
salle      décolle      journal      quel      ville

2. Now repeat the following sentences.

C'est un vol international spécial.  
Quelle est la ville principale?  
Mademoiselle Michelle, elle est très belle.



Il décolle.



## Pronunciation

### Les sons /*õ*/ et /*ẽ*/

1. Listen to the difference between the nasal sound /*ã*/ as in **cent** and the two other nasal sounds, /*õ*/ as in **son** and /*ẽ*/ as in **cinq**: **cent/son/cinq**. Repeat the following words with the sounds /*õ*/ and /*ẽ*/.

annonce	non	bon	son	correspondance
cinq	copain	train	pain	vingt

2. Now repeat the following sentences.

On annonce le train dans combien de temps?  
Nous attendons des copains.



son train

## Prononciation

### Liaison et élision

- You know that liaison or elision occurs when certain words are followed by a vowel. Some liaisons are obligatory, some are optional.
- Liaison is obligatory with plural subject pronouns, plural articles, plural possessive and demonstrative adjectives, and plural adjectives preceding the noun. Repeat the following.

**ils<sub>z</sub>ont**      **les<sub>z</sub>équipes**      **des<sub>z</sub>amateurs**  
**mes<sub>z</sub>amis**      **ces<sub>z</sub>arbitres**      **de bonnes<sub>z</sub>équipes**

- Elision is always obligatory. It occurs with **le** and **la**, with **je**, the negative **ne**, and **que**. Repeat the following.

**l'arbitre**      **Je n'aime pas ça.**      **Qu'est-ce qu'il fait?**  
**l'équipe**      **j'attends**

- Now repeat the following pairs of sentences.

**Vous<sub>z</sub>avez perdu. / Vous n'avez pas perdu.**  
**J'ai fini. / Je n'ai pas fini.**



**des<sub>z</sub>arbitres**

## Prononciation

### Le son /y/

1. The sound /y/ occurs in two positions: final, and between two vowel sounds. Repeat the following.

fil <b>le</b>	so <b>leil</b>	trav <b>aille</b>	tail <b>le</b>
bou <b>teille</b>	ma <b>illot</b>	trav <b>ail</b> ler	bil <b>le</b> t

2. Now repeat the following sentences.

J'ai un vieux maillot.

On ne travaille pas bien au soleil.



un soleil en maillot

# Pronunciation

## Les sons /s/ et /z/

1. It is important to make a distinction between the sounds /s/ and /z/. After all, you would not want to confuse **poisson** and **poison**! Repeat the following words with the sound /s/ as in **assez** and /z/ as in **raser**.

/s/		/z/	
assez	dessert	désert	télévision
classe	séjour	maison	zapper
vaisselle	boisson	raser	cousin
salle	savon	cousine	

2. Now repeat the following sentences.  
**Son cousin choisit le dessert et les boissons.**  
**La télévision est dans la salle de séjour.**  
**La salle de classe est assez grande.**



poisson

poison

## Prononciation

### Le son /ü/

1. To say the sound /ü/, first say the sound /i/, then round your lips. Repeat the following words.

une statue      une sculpture      une peinture  
une voiture      un musée

2. The sound /ü/ also occurs in combination with other vowels. Repeat the following words.

aujourd'hui      depuis      je suis      huit

3. Now repeat the following sentences.

Tu as vu ces statues?

C'est une sculpture très connue?

Le musée est rue Sully depuis huit ans.



une statue

## Pronunciation

### Les sons /u/ et /ü/

1. It is important to make a distinction between the sounds /u/ and /ü/, since many words differ only in these two sounds. Repeat the following pairs of words.

vous / vu      dessous / dessus      roux / rue  
loue / lu      tout / tu

2. Now repeat the following sentences.

Tu as beaucoup de température?  
J'éternue toutes les deux minutes.



souffrir

température