

## Table of French Sounds

Trudie Maria Booth. University Press <i>The Sound</i>	French Phonetics: A guide to Correct of America. c2000. 0-7618-1778-6 <i>Possible Spellings</i>	<i>Examples</i>
[a]	<b>a, à, â</b>	bras, là-bas, âme
[e]	<b>é</b> <b>e</b> - before non-pronounced final <i>z, d, f</i> or <i>r</i> - in unaccented position before <i>-ff</i> and <i>-ss</i> - in the monosyllables	été, éclipse, fée chez, nez, pied, clef, dîner effleurer, pressé ces, des, les, mes, ses, tes
[ɛ]	<b>è, ê</b> <b>ai</b> (except <i>j'ai</i> ), <b>ay, ei, ey</b> <b>e</b> - followed by a single pronounced consonant - followed by a double consonant - followed by two pronounced consonants - followed by <i>x</i> or by [j] - in the ending <i>-et</i> (except <i>et</i> )	mère, tête anglais, saynète, neige, poney cher, fier, vert, chef, grec ennemi, belle, cette rester, remercier, chercher examen, texte, soleil, Marseille billet, cabinet, effet, il met
[ə]	<b>e</b>	je, de, le, me, te, revenir
[i]	<b>i, î, î, y</b>	lit, riz, île, maïs, Egypte, stylo
[o]	<b>ô, au, eau</b> <b>o</b> - <i>not</i> followed by a pronounced consonant - followed by [z] or [sj]	hôte, drôle, haut, jaune, beau mot, vélo, trop, dos, rigolo chose, dose, potion, émotion
[ɔ]	<b>o</b> (followed by a pronounced consonant other than [z] or [sj])	école, joli, bonne, microbe
[ø]	<b>eu, oeu</b> ( <i>not</i> followed by a pronounced consonant) <b>eu</b> (followed by [z])	Dieu, le jeu, le voeu, les oeufs creuse, heureuse
[œ]	<b>eu, oeu</b> (followed by a pronounced consonant other than [z])	peur, fleuve, soeur, boeuf, oeuf
[u]	<b>ou, où, ôû</b>	pour, toujours, où, goût
[y]	<b>u, û</b> <b>eu</b> (in forms of the verb 'avoir')	salut, rue, plus, sûr, mûr, flûte j'ai eu, que j'eusse, il eut
[ɑ̃]	<b>an, am, en, em, aon</b>	blanc, jambe, ensemble, paon
[ɛ̃]	<b>in, im, yn, ym, aim, ain, en, ein, eim</b>	fin, important, syndicat, thym, faim, sain, chien, frein, Reims
[ɔ̃]	<b>on, om</b>	onze, sont, nombre
[œ̃]	<b>un, um</b>	brun, chacun, humble
[j]	<b>i, y</b> (followed by a vowel) <b>il, ill</b> (after a vowel) <b>ll</b> (after <i>i</i> )	bien, piano, mayonnaise travail, Neuilly, vieille fille, famille, brillant

[w]	<b>ou</b> (before a vowel) <b>w</b> (in words of English and Walloon origin)	<b>oui, ouest, louer, souhaiter</b> <b>week-end, wigwam, sandwich</b>
[wa]	<b>oi</b>	<b>toit, froid, exploit</b>
[wɛ]	<b>oin</b>	<b>loin, besoin, moins, coin</b>
[ɥ]	<b>u</b> (before a pronounced vowel)	<b>je suis, fortuit, il tua, juin,</b> <b>nuage, actuel</b>
[b]	<b>b, bb</b>	<b>bébé, snob, sabbatique</b>
[d]	<b>d, dd</b>	<b>dinde, Dieu, addition</b>
[f]	<b>f, ff, ph</b>	<b>filles, affaire, photo</b>
[g]	<b>g</b> (followed by <i>a, o, u</i> or by a consonant) <b>gu</b> (before <i>i, e, and y</i> )	<b>gare, golf, déguster, grognon</b> <b>guillotiner, guerre, langue, Guy</b>
[k]	<b>c</b> - followed by <i>a, o, u,</i> or by a consonant - at the end of a word <b>cc, q, qu, k, ck</b> <b>ch</b>	<b>cas, corps, cuir, faculté, crier</b> <b>bac, sec, truc, parc, avec</b> <b>accord, coq, qui, kilo, bifteck</b> <b>archange, chronomètre</b>
[l]	<b>l, ll</b>	<b>bol, vallée, ballon</b>
[m]	<b>m, mm</b>	<b>môme, maman, homme</b>
[n]	<b>n, nn</b>	<b>ananas, Noël, bonne</b>
[ɲ]	<b>gn</b>	<b>agneau, dignité, mignon</b>
[ŋ]	<b>ng</b>	<b>parking, shopping, footing</b>
[p]	<b>p, pp</b>	<b>papa, pot-pourri, apporter</b>
[ʀ]	<b>r, rr, rh</b>	<b>Robert, courrier, rhume</b>
[s]	<b>s</b> (at the beginning of a word or before a consonant) <b>sc</b> (followed by <i>e, i, y</i> ) <b>ss</b> <b>c</b> (before <i>e, i, y</i> ) <b>ç</b> (only occurs before <i>a, o, u</i> ) <b>t</b> (before <i>i + vowel</i> ) <b>x</b>	<b>seulement, disponible</b> <b>ascenseur, science, Scylla</b> <b>dessert, assez</b> <b>c'est, ici, cygne, bicyclette</b> <b>français, façon, reçu</b> <b>condition, démocratie</b> <b>dix, six, soixante</b>
[ʃ]	<b>ch, sh, sch</b>	<b>chauffage, short, schéma</b>
[t]	<b>t, tt, th</b>	<b>tout, datte, thé</b>
[v]	<b>v</b>	<b>vélo, voilà, vouvoyer, lever</b>
[z]	<b>s</b> (between two vowels) <b>z</b> <b>x</b> - in ordinal numbers - in the liaison	<b>rose, maison, plusieurs</b> <b>zéro, zut, zoo, zézayer</b> <b>deuxième, sixième, dixième</b> <b>deux enfants, dix étudiants</b>

*The Sound*

*Possible Spellings*

*Examples*

[ʒ]	g (before e, i, y) j	danger, gibier, gymnase jour, jadis, déjeuner, jamais
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**Note:**

1. Three of the French vowel sounds exist in an *open* and in a *closed* form. The terms 'open' and 'closed' indicate whether the mouth is more or less open during the articulation of the sound. Thus, [ɔ], [œ], and [ɛ] are labeled *open*, whereas [o], [ø], and [e] are labeled *closed*.
2. To phonetically transcribe the French uvular *r*, also called '*r grasseyé*' or '*Parisian r*', one uses a capital letter: [R]
3. Phonetic symbols are usually placed in square brackets.