

# Pronunciation guide

This page offers guidance on how to pronounce certain letters or combinations of letters in French. For each sound, an English word containing a similar sound is given. Because of varying pronunciations of English words in the regions of the United Kingdom, you may need to use different sample words. Try out the sounds by reading the practice words aloud several times.

It is important to use this guide in conjunction with listening to native speakers, since many of the English equivalents are approximations.

If possible, ask a French-language teacher to help you, or use the online pronunciation guide that accompanies this book on website address [www.acblack.com/developingfrench](http://www.acblack.com/developingfrench)

<i>a, à</i>	like the 'a' sound in 'rat' <b>practice words:</b> <i>la, chat, va, table, avion</i>	<i>ou</i>	like the 'oo' sound in 'good' <b>practice words:</b> <i>douze, sous, mouton, boucherie</i>
<i>â</i>	like the 'a' sound in 'car' <b>practice words:</b> <i>gâteau, pâtes</i>	<i>un</i>	like the 'an' sound in 'pant' <b>practice words:</b> <i>brun, lundi, un</i>
<i>e</i>	like the 'a' sound in 'above' <b>practice words:</b> <i>regarde, le, cheval</i>	<i>c</i>	like 'k' when followed by <i>a, o, u</i> or a consonant except <i>h</i> <b>practice words:</b> <i>canapé, cochon, cuisine, crayon, école</i> like 's' when followed by <i>e</i> or <i>i</i> <b>practice words:</b> <i>c'est, cinq, ce</i>
<i>é</i>	like the 'ay' sound in 'late' <b>practice words:</b> <i>écoute, réponse, légumes</i>	<i>ç</i>	the same sound as 's' <b>practice words:</b> <i>ça, garçon</i>
<i>è, ê, ai</i>	like the 'ay' sound in 'say' <b>practice words:</b> <i>règle, frère, être, tête, père, j'ai, chaise</i>	<i>ch</i>	the same sound as 'sh' <b>practice words:</b> <i>douche, cochon, vache, chaise</i>
<i>i</i>	like the 'i' sound in 'twig' <b>practice words:</b> <i>lit, dix, rideau, piscine</i>	<i>g</i>	like the 'g' sound in 'good' when followed by <i>a, o, u, l, m</i> or <i>r</i> <b>practice words:</b> <i>gare, gomme, glace, gris, garage</i> like the 's' sound in 'pleasure' when followed by <i>e, i</i> or <i>y</i> <b>practice words:</b> <i>genou, gîte</i>
<i>o, ô, eau, au</i>	like the 'o' sound in 'core' <b>practice words:</b> <i>homme, hôtel, beau, jaune, au revoir</i>	<i>gn</i>	like the 'ni' sound in 'onion' <b>practice words:</b> <i>araignée</i>
<i>u</i>	no English equivalent but shape mouth tightly as if to say the 'aw' in 'paw' but make an 'ee' sound <b>practice words:</b> <i>tu, une, du, sur</i>	<i>h</i>	silent <b>practice words:</b> <i>histoire, hôtel, homme</i>
<i>an</i>	like the 'an' sound in 'can't' <b>practice words:</b> <i>dans, manger, tante, blanc</i>	<i>j</i>	like the 's' sound in 'pleasure' <b>practice words:</b> <i>jambe, jeudi, jupe, jeu, déjeuner</i>
<i>eu</i>	like the 'i' sound in 'sir' <b>practice words:</b> <i>neuf, meubles;</i> close mouth more for <i>deux, bleu</i>	<i>qu</i>	like the 'c' sound in 'cat' <b>practice words:</b> <i>quatre, chaque, casquette, banque</i>
<i>in, ain, im</i>	like the 'an' sound in 'sang' <b>practice words:</b> <i>lapin, vingt, train, pain, main, imperméable</i>	<i>r</i>	like a gentle dog growl <b>practice words:</b> <i>robe, rideau, trois, bras, rue, règle</i>
<i>oi</i>	like the 'wa' sound in 'wag' <b>practice words:</b> <i>trois, oiseau, poisson, toilette</i>	<i>th</i>	like the 't' sound in 'take' <b>practice words:</b> <i>thé, bibliothèque</i>
<i>on</i>	like the 'on' sound in 'long' <b>practice words:</b> <i>maison, oncle, cochon, marron</i>		