

The French alphabet

The French alphabet is made up of the same 26 letters as the English alphabet. While they look the same, some letters are pronounced differently. They also sound different when you spell.

lettre	exemple	lettre	exemple	lettre	exemple
a (a)	a dresse	j (ji)	j ustice	s (esse)	s pécial
b (bé)	b anane	k (ka)	k ilomètre	t (té)	t able
c (cé)	c arotte	l (elle)	l ion	u (u)	u nique
d (dé)	d essert	m (emme)	m ariage	v (vé)	v idéo
e (e)	r ebelle	n (enne)	n ature	w (double vé)	w agon
f (effe)	f ragile	o (o)	o live	x (iks)	x ylophone
g (gé)	g enre	p (pé)	p ersonne	y (i grec)	y oga
h (hache)	h éritage	q (ku)	q uiche	z (zède)	z éro
i (i)	i nnocent	r (erre)	r adio		

Notice that some letters in French words have accents. You'll learn how they influence pronunciation in later lessons. Whenever you spell a word in French, include the name of the accent after the letter. For double letters, use **deux**: **ss = deux s**.

accent	nom	exemple	orthographe
ˈ	accent aigu	i dentité	I-D-E-N-T-I-T-E-accent aigu
˘	accent grave	probl è me	P-R-O-B-L-E-accent grave-M-E
ˆ	accent circonflexe	h ô pital	H-O-accent circonflexe-P-I-T-A-L
¨	tréma	naï ï ve	N-A-I-tréma-V-E
¸	cédille	ç ç a	C-cédille-A

L'alphabet Practice saying the French alphabet and example words aloud.

Ça s'écrit comment? Spell these words aloud in French.

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|----------|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. judo | 5. existe | 9. musique | 13. différence |
| 2. yacht | 6. clown | 10. favorite | 14. intelligent |
| 3. forêt | 7. numéro | 11. kangourou | 15. dictionnaire |
| 4. zèbre | 8. français | 12. parachute | 16. alphabet |

Dictons Practice reading these sayings aloud.



Grande invitation,
petites portions.¹



Lundi