

FRENCH VOWEL-SOUNDS.

- 1° { *a*, long = âme, pâte, rare, Pâques—like *a* in : arm.
a, short = la, ma, cravate, bras—like *a* in : fat.
e, followed by *m* or *n* = femme, solennel—like *a* in fat.
- 2° { *ê*, long = bête, fête, être, grêle—like *e* in : were.
è, “ = mère, père, succès “ “
ei, in body of a word = reine, peine.
ai, “ “ “ = haine, Maine, saine.
ai, followed by consonants other than *m* or *n* = frais, aimait, laisser.
ay or *ey* = dey, Jersey, essayer, payer.
e, in the body of a word followed by double consonants, or in monosyllables = messe, pelle, serre, cette mer, fer, sec, bec.
- 3° { *é*, short and sharp = bébé, vérité, café—like *é* in : café.
er, in terminations = berger, chercher “ “ “
es, in monosyllables = les, mes, tes, ses, ces—like *é* in : café.
ez, = nez, allez, chez “ “ “
ai, not followed by any consonant = mai, plaie “ “ “
æ or *œ*, = œcuménique, Oedipe “ “ “
- 4° { *e*, mute or unaccented = homme, venir, je, le, se—like *e* in : celery.
es, in plural endings of nouns, etc., or verbs = pères, avares, donnees, manges—like *e* in : celery.
ent, in the 3rd pers. plural of verbs = laissent, passent, aimait, levèrent—like *e* in celery.
- 5° { *i*, long = gîte, île—like *i* in : machine
i or *y*, short = myrte, lys, myosotis, midi—like *i* in : machine
- 6° { *ô* long, = côte, rôti, apôtre, géôle—like *o* in : note.
au “ = au, pause, gaule “ “ “
eau “ = eau, beau, tableau “ “ “
o short = sonore, col, folle, sot, pot—like *o* in : not.
- 7° { *û*, long = flûte, rue, mûre, sûr.
u, short = azur, brut, pu, nul.
- 8° { *eu* or *œu*, long = heure, cœur, fleurir—like *u* in : us.
eu or *œu*, short = Dieu, feu, peu, œuf, seul—like *u* in : us.
- 9° { *ou*, long = Août, goûter, roue—like *oo*.
ou, short = mouler, toute, loup, sou, doux.

N. B.—Consonants = *b, d, g, p, s, t, x*, in endings, do not affect the sound of the preceding vowels.

c. f. l. and r. are, however, generally sounded : Roc, chef, sel, cher.