

e neutral, as in "the" before consonants in rapid speech (e.g., "the book"). Written *e* (no accent-mark):—*je, me, le, de, ne*; and first syllable of *premier, grenier, grenade*, etc.

i always as in "machine." Written *i, î, y*:—*li(t), île, fini, machine, il y est*. Before a stressed vowel *i*=English *y* in "yet":—*lieu [lyeu], Dieu, mieu(x)*.

o open, nearly as *a* in "all." Written *o* and sometimes *au*:—short in (*h*)*omme* [ɔm], *porte* [pɔrt], *Paul, mauvais, aurai*; long in *mor(t), cor(ps), or, loge* [lɔzh].

o closed, as in "rose" (no **w**-sound). Written *o, ô, os, au, eau*:—*chose, gro(s), Vo(s)ge(s)* [vôzh], *côté, chau(d), (h)au(t), beau*.

u is the English *ee*. (French *i*), made with the lips as in whistling. Written *u, û*:—*rue, sur, sûr*. When followed by any stressed vowel, it sounds nearly the same, but very lightly, and never as *w*:—*nuage, salu(e)r, Suède, suis*.

y is often like French *i*:—*style, Ypres* [ipr], *Saint-Cyr*; but is often used as a double *i*, or again as English *y*:—*voyage* [vwayazh], *paye(r), aye(z), yeux, ennuyeu(x)* [ãnuiyeu], *soye(z)* [swayé].

ai, aî, usually as open *e*:—*mai(s), faire, chaîne*. But *ai* is closed *e* at end of verbs:—*ai, aurai, serai*; while *ais* is usually open *e*:—*jamais, avais, aurais*.

ail, aille, respectively, like "eye," and French *â* followed by English *y*:—*travai(l), batai(ll)e, Versai(les)*. [See further under *l*].

au, eau. See under "open *o*" and "closed *o*."

ay, ey, when final, = open *e*:—*paye, Jersey*. When not final, = open *e* + English *y*. *essayer, balayer*. N.B.—*pays* is [pé-i] (2 syllables), and *paysan* [pé-i-zã] (3 syllables).

ei, eî. See under "open *e*."

eil, eille. See under *l*.