

[bwa:t], froid [frwa], roi [rwa], trois [trwa], croire [krwa:r],
le bois [bwa], le mois [mwa], pois [pwa], etc.

oê, oe in a few words = [w] + [a]: poêle [pwal], moelle [mwal], etc.

oin has the sound of [w] + [ê]: loin [lwê], joindre [ʒwê:dr].

u has no counterpart in English; best acquired by substituting [y] for it (as in *tu*, etc.), and gradually increasing the speed and force of utterance: lui [lɥi], suis [sɥi], puis [pɥi], fruit [frɥi], pluie [plɥi], tuile [tɥil], cuisine [kɥizin], nuance [nɥâs], aiguille [egɥi:j or egɥi:ʒ], questeur [kɥestœ:r], Quirinal [kɥirinal].

NOTE. — When *u* of *gu*, *qu* (usually silent) is pronounced, as it sometimes is, it commonly has this sound before *e*, *i*, as in the last three examples.

M. — Consonants

The sounds of the consonants can be sufficiently described, for the most part, by noting the differences between their mode of formation and that of the nearest English sounds, and by observing the following general rules:—

1. The movements of the vocal organs are more prompt, definite and vigorous in uttering French consonants than for the corresponding English sounds.

2. Note the distinction of “voice,” which means the humming or droning sound produced by the vibration of the vocal chords (as observed in the *v* of ‘vine’ as compared with *f* of ‘fine’), and remember that French voiced consonants are much more fully voiced than corresponding English sounds.

3. Final consonants are more usually silent, but final *c*, *f*, *l* and *r* in monosyllables are more usually sounded.

4. With slight exceptions, French doubled consonants have only a single sound.

NOTE. — The doubling of consonant sounds is characteristic of very careful speech, and only some of the more striking cases are mentioned below.

b regularly like *b* in ‘bit,’ ‘tub,’ fully voiced — Symbol [b]: beau [bo], robe [rɔb], bon [bɔ̃], table [tabl], là-bas [la ba], tomber [tɔ̃be], abbé [abe].

EXCEPTION: *b* has the sound of *p* when next before a voiceless consonant: absolument [apsɔlymā], obtenir [ɔptənir], etc.