

INTRODUCTION

A. — The Alphabet

The letters of the alphabet, with their French names, are as follows:

a	a	h	ache	o	o	v	vé
b	bé	i	i	p	pé	w	double vé
c	cé	j	ji	q	ku	x	iks
d	dé	k	ka	r	èr	y	i grec
e	é	l	èl	s	èss	z	zèd
f	f	m	èm	t	té		
g	gé	n	èn	u	u		

In addition to the letters, the following orthographic signs are employed:—

1. The acute accent (*accent aigu*), as in *été*.
2. The grave accent (*accent grave*), as in *voilà*, *père*, *où*.
3. The circumflex accent (*accent circonflexe*), as in *âme*, *tête*, *île*, *côté*, *fût*.

NOTE. — None of these marks serve to denote stress.

4. The cedilla (*cédille*), used under *c* to give it the sound of *s* before *a*, *o* or *u*, as in *avançais*, *leçon*, *reçu*.
5. The diæresis (*tréma*), to show that the vowel bearing it is to be pronounced separately from the preceding vowel, as in *Noël*.

NOTES. — 1. Words are commonly spelled orally by naming the letters as above, together with the other orthographic signs, if any, e.g. *bonté* = *bé-o-èn-té-é* *accent aigu*; when, however, *e* has no accent mark, it is often named by the sound which it has in *me*, *le*, etc. (cf. *H*, below), e.g. *mer* = *èm-e-èr*.

2. According to a newer method of spelling, employed by some, the letters are named thus: *a*, *be*, *ce*, *de*, *e*, *fe*, *gheu*, *heu*, *i*, *je*, *ke*, *le*, *me*, *ne*, *o*, *pe*, *ke*, *re*, *se*, *te*, *u*, *ve*, *double ve*, *kse*, *i*, *ze*.

3. The names of the letters are all masculine, according to some, while others make the names of *f*, *h*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *r*, *s*, feminine, thus: *un f* or *une f*.

B. — Pronunciation and Spelling

The pronunciation will be explained, as far as possible, by comparison with English sounds, but it must never be forgotten that the sounds of any two languages rarely correspond ex-