

[œrə], bœufs [bø], creuser [krøze], meute [møit]; also, eû in jeûne [ʒø:n], jeûner [ʒøne]; further, déjeuner [deʒøne].

EXCEPTIONS: eu, eû in tenses of avoir = [y], e being regarded as silent: eu [y], nous eûmes [ym], ils eurent [y:r].

(2) also a sound which has no English counterpart: the tongue position is the same as for [e], as in prêts, with definite lip rounding; best acquired by combining the two positions as explained for (1) above — Symbol [œ]. Thus pronounce eu, œu l... e a final consonant sound (not s), and before il, ill: neuf [nœf], neuve [nœ:v], fleur [flœ:r], leur [lœ:r], bœuf [bœf], feuille [fœ:j].

ue, œ the same sound as eu (2), above: orgueil [ɔrgœ:j], cueillir [kœji:r], œil [œ:j].

ou, ôû regularly like oo in 'boot,' but with much tenser lip rounding and protrusion, as for whistling — Symbol [u]: tout [tu], doux [du], tour [tu:r], ou [u], ôû [u], goût [gu], goûter [gute], rouge [ru:ʒ]; observe août [u], a being silent.

NOTE. — For ou, oi, ol, oe, ôê, see also Semi-Vowels, below.

K. — The Nasal Vowels

These sounds are quite foreign to English, and are formed by uttering the French vowel sounds [a], [e], [ɔ], [œ], and at the same time allowing the soft palate to hang freely as in breathing, thus causing the breath to escape partly through the nose. Control of the soft palate may be acquired by prolonging the first part of the sound of **ang** as in '**sang**,' but carefully avoiding the completion of the sound. It must be especially noted that there is absolutely no sound of **n**, **m** or **ng**, in French nasal vowels, and hence great care must be taken neither to raise the tongue nor close the lips until the sound is complete.

The sign of nasality orthographically is a single **n** or **m** in the same syllable with the vowel; thus, nasal are: **tant**, **sembler**, **fin**, **peindre**, **plein**, **leçon**, **bon**, **tomber**, **chacun**; but if **n** or **m** is followed by a vowel, or is doubled, or if **mn** occurs, there is regularly no nasality; thus, non-nasal are: **fine**, **commune**, **pleine**, **ennemi**, **innocent**, **inutile**, **bonne**, **condamner**.

NOTE. — The rule does not apply to certain words having **en-**, **enn-**, **emm-**, for which see note, below.