

*grosse* [grois], *fosse* [fos], *position* [pozisjɔ], etc. 2. *ô* = [ɔ] in a few words: *hôtel* [ɔtel], *rôti* [rɔti], etc.

**u, û** has no English counterpart; the tongue position is the same as for [i], but with tense lip rounding, without protrusion; best acquired by prolonging the [i] sound, meanwhile rounding the lips, or by rounding the lips and bringing the tongue to the [i] position — Symbol [y]: *tu* [ty], *mur* [myr], *mûr* [myr], *vu* [vy], *rue* [ry], *utile* [ytil], *fût* [fy], *sur* [syr].

EXCEPTION: For *u* = [u], see Semi-Vowels, below.

**y** when not beginning a syllable, *y* has the same sound as *i* — Symbol [i]: *syllabe* [silab].

EXCEPTION: For *y* beginning a syllable, see Semi-Vowels, below.

### I. — Combinations denoting Vowel Sounds

**ai, ai** usually = [e], see *è*, above; *ai* always thus: *mais* [me], *faire* [feir], *j'aimais* [eme], *j'aimerais* [emre], *maître* [metr].

EXCEPTIONS: 1. *ai* = [c], as in *été*, when final in verb-endings: *je donnai* [dɔne], *je donnerai* [dɔnre], *j'ai* [e]; also in *gai* [ge], and usually in *je sais* [se], *il sait* [se], *maison* [mezɔ]. 2. *ai* = [ə], as in *le*, in *-ais-* of certain forms of the verb *faire*: *nous faisons* [fəzɔ], *je faisais* [fəze], *faisant* [fəzɔ], etc.

**au, eau** regularly = [o], see *ô*, above: *autre* [otr], *aux* [o], *eau* [o], *chevaux* [ʃəvo], *sauter* [sote], *tableau* [tablo], *beau* [bo].

EXCEPTIONS: *au* = [ɔ], see *o* above, in the future and conditional of *avoir*, and in a few other words: *j'aurai* [ɔre], *j'aurais* [ɔre], etc., *Paul* [pɔl], *mauvais* [mɔve], etc.

**ay, ey** when a final sound = [e]: *je paye* [pe], *Cambray* [kɔbre], *Ney* [ne]; but *a* or *e* in this combination = [e] when the *y* belongs to the next syllable: *ayez* [eje], *payer* [peje], *grasseyer* [graseje].

EXCEPTIONS: *pays* [pei], *paysan* [peizɔ].

**ei** always = [e]: *reine* [reɛn], *Seine* [seɛn].

**eu, eû** (1) a sound which has no English counterpart; the tongue position is the same as for [e], as in *été*, with tense lip rounding and protrusion, as for whistling; to acquire the sound, prolong [e] and round the lips, or round the lips and bring the tongue to the [e] position — Symbol [ø]. Thus pronounce *eu*, *eû* as a final sound, and also *eu* before *s* and sometimes *t* within a word: *peu* [pø], *feu* [fø], *il veut* [vø], *heureux*