

The **DIERESIS** (¨) consists of two dots placed *over* the vowels *e*, *i*, and *u*. It shows that the vowel over which it is placed is pronounced separately from the preceding vowel, thus indicating, in reality, a distinct syllable, as—

Naïveté, pronounced Na-ive-té.

The **HYPHEN** (-) is a short horizontal mark, which is used to connect words, as—

Belles-lettres, Celui-ci, Demi-kilomètre.

The **AROSTROPHE** (') is like a comma, and is used to show the elision, or cutting off, of a vowel before words commencing with a vowel or *h* mute, as:—

L'ami, instead of Le ami. L'homme, instead of Lé homme.

The **EUPHONIC T** is thus called on account of its peculiar position between two parts of speech, viz., the verb and the pronoun. It is used *only* between a verb ending with a vowel and the pronouns *il*, *elle*, or *on*, and then a hyphen is placed both before and after it, thus:—

A-t-elle?

Parle-t-on?

A-t-il?

NAME AND SOUND OF THE VOWELS.

A, a—name, *ah*—has two distinct sounds, viz. :—

A short sound, as in the English word *fat*.

A long sound, as in the English word *mark*.

A has the short sound represented by the English word *fat* when it begins or ends a French word.

French. Pronounced. English. | *French. Pronounced. English.*

Alarme A-larm Alarm. | Dame D-am Married Woman.

A has the long sound represented by *a* in the English word *mark*, when it is pronounced as the first letter of the French alphabet, and also when under the circumflex accent.

Be careful, however, not to pronounce *Â á* like the sound of the English word *awe*, but give it the sound of *ah* prolonged, in the following examples, namely:—

Âge Ah-zh Age. | Grâce Grah-s Favour.

This vowel is sometimes under a grave accent, thus—à, là, voilà; but its sound is not materially affected thereby.

E, e.—Name, *ay*; sound, like the letters *ay*, in the English word *day*.

It is used more than any other letter, namely:—in five different ways, and hence it has five different names, viz. :—

e silent, *e* mute or unaccented, *é* acute, *è* grave, *ê* circumflex.

E, e, SILENT.—When final, and in the middle of words, between two consonants, *e* is silent, as in the following words:—

Abaque A-bak Abacus | Contenance Cont'nans Attitude; also between *J* or *G* and *a* or *o*, as in Jean, Georges.

E, e, UNACCENTED.—Name, *uh*; has two sounds, 1st, that of *e* in *her*, when final of monosyllables, as in *le, de, me*; when