

- gn** regularly somewhat like **ni** in 'opinion'; it is formed by pressing the upper middle surface of the tongue against the roof of the mouth, the tip being at the same time thrust against the back surface of the lower front teeth — Symbol [ɲ]: *agneau* [aɲo], *digne* [diɲ], *campagne* [kɑpaɲ], *gagner* [gaɲe], *accompagner* [akɑpaɲe], *magnifique* [majɲifik], *règne* [ʁeɲ].

EXCEPTION: **gn** = [g] + [n] in some learned words: *cognition* [kɔɡnisjɔ̃], etc.

- h** when heard at all, which occurs only in hiatus, has a sound much weaker than **h** in 'hat' — Symbol [h]: *aha!* [a(h)a].

NOTE. — The letter **h** is known as **h** mute (*h muet*) when it gives rise to elision and liaison (cf. *N*, *O*, below), e.g. *l'homme* [l ɔ̃m], *les hommes* [le ɔ̃m], and **h** aspirate (*h aspiré*) when it does not, e.g. *le héros* [lə ɛʁo], *les héros* [le ɛʁo]. The learner should regard **h** as absolutely silent.

- j** always has the same sound as **g** (2), above — Symbol [ʒ]: *je* [ʒə], *jeu* [ʒø], *jour* [ʒuʁ]; so also *je* (*e* being regarded as silent); *Jean* [ʒɑ̃].

- k, ck** always like **k** in 'take' — Symbol [k]: *kilogramme* [kilogram], *bifteck* [biftek].

NOTE. — **k** is a rare letter in French.

- l** regularly like **l** in 'law,' fully voiced, but with the tongue advanced as for [d] — Symbol [l]: *la* [la], *cale* [kal], *aller* [alɛ], 'able' [tabl], *oncle* [ɔ̃kl], *ils* [il], *village* [vilaʒ], *fil* [fil].

NOTES. — 1. The sound of **l** is frequently doubled when written double in initial syllable: *illégal* [ilɛgal], *illustre* [ilystʁ]; and by some in words like *intelligent*.

2. The **l** is silent in *fil* [fis].

- ll** the letters **ll** after *i* (not initial), and **il** or **ill** after other vowels, **il(1)** have the same sound as that described for *i* as a semi-vowel (cf. *L*, above) — Symbol [j]: *fil* [fi:j], *billet* [bi:jɛ], *briller* [bri:jɛ], *soleil* [solɛ:j], *feuille* [føɛ:j], *fauteuil* [fotɛ:j], *écureuil* [ekyʁɛ:j], *bataille* [batɛ:j], *travail* [travɛ:j], *travailler* [travajɛ].

NOTE. — This sound of **l** is called *l mouillé*.

EXCEPTIONS: *mille* [mil], *millier* [miljɛ], *million* [miljɔ̃], *ville* [vil], *village* [vilaʒ], *tranquille* [trɑ̃kil], etc.

- m** regularly like **m** in 'maim,' fully voiced — Symbol [m]: *même* [mɛm], *mot* [mo], *dame* [dam], *plume* [plym], *mon* [mɔ̃], *homme* [ɔ̃m], *femme* [fam].

EXCEPTIONS: **m** is silent in *automne* [otɑ̃], *condamner* [kɔ̃danɛ].