

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* [gɑɲe], *accompagner* [akɑpaɲe], *magnifique* [majɲifik], *règne* [rɛɲ].

EXCEPTION: **gn** = [g] + [n] in some learned words: *cognition* [kɔgnisjɔ̃], 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 ɔm], *les hommes* [les ɔm], and **h** aspirate (*h aspiré*) when it does not, e.g. *le héros* [lə ero], *les héros* [lə ero]. The learner should regard **h** as absolutely silent.

j always has the same sound as **g** (2), above — Symbol [ʒ]: *je* [ʒə], *jeu* [ʒə], *jour* [ʒur]; 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* [ale], '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* [ilystr]; and by some in words like *intelligent*.

2. The **l** is silent in *file* [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]: *fille* [fi:j], *billet* [bijɛ], *briller* [brije], *soleil* [solɛ:j], *feuille* [fœ:j], *fauteuil* [fotœ:j], *écureuil* [ekyrœ:j], *bataille* [bata:j], *travail* [trava:j], *travailler* [travaje].

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

EXCEPTIONS: *mille* [mil], *millier* [milje], *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* [ɔm], *femme* [fam].

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