

2. So also combinations of consonants which may be pronounced together, of which the last consonant is *l* or *r* (but not *rl*, *lr*): *é-clai-rer*, *ou-vrir*, *pre-scrit*.

3. Other combinations of consonants are divided: *par-ler*, *mon-trer*, *per-du*, *fac-teur*, *mer-cre-di*.

4. Final *e* (usually silent in prose) is regarded as forming a syllable: *dou-z(e)*, *bra-v(e)*, *fi-n(e)*, *u-n(e)*.

5. Doubled letters have regularly only a single sound, but are divided where necessary in writing: *pa(s)-ser*.

6. The prefix *ex-* is divided in speaking, but not in writing: *ex-a-men* (= *eg-za-men*).

NOTE. — Observe from the above that French syllables end in vowel sounds wherever possible, and hence that the consonantal ending of syllables, so frequent in English, must be carefully avoided. Compare in this respect *ci-té*, *ta-bleau* with 'cit-y,' 'tab-lau.'

E. — Stress

In French the syllables of words are uttered with almost equal force, a very slight additional force ("stress") being given to the last syllable, or to the last but one, in case the word ends in *e*, thus: *che-val*, *par-ler*, *par-lons*, *fa-ta-li-té*, *perdre*, *ta-ble*.

NOTE. — Remember that accent marks have nothing to do with stress.

F. — Vowel Quantity

By vowel quantity is meant the length of time consumed in uttering a vowel sound. The following are the principal general rules: —

1. Final vowel sounds (including nasals) are short: *fini*, *vie*, *parler*, *tableau*, *donner*, *tant*, *sapin*.

2. All stressed vowels are long before the sounds [v], [z], [ʒ], [j], [r final]: *cave* [ka:v], *amuse* [amy:z], *rouge* [ru:ʒ], *feuille* [fœ:j], *faire* [fœ:r], *livre* [livr].

3. Of stressed vowels standing before other consonant sounds, nasals are long: *grande* [grũ:d], *prince* [prẽ:s]; [o] and [ø] are long: *faute* [fort], *meute* [mø:t]; [ɑ] long (almost always): *passe* [pa:s]; [ɛ] long or short: *reine* [rɛ:n], *vienne* [vjɛn]; other vowels regularly short.

NOTE. — It is also possible to distinguish between "long" and "half-long" vowels in unstressed syllables, but for simplicity only long vowels will be indicated in the transcription.