

Lesson 2

French Pronunciations Guidelines

- If two /k/ sounds are together, only the first one is not changed, such as *accepter* /AK sep tee/ ("accept").
- The sound /ks/ becomes /z/ or /gz/, such as *exact* /EG zakt/.
- If the sounds /k/ and /g/ precede "e" or "i", they become /s/ and /ʒ/, respectively.
- If the letters "gu" is succeeded by "e" or "i", the /u/ is silent., such as *guerre* /GEH/ ("war").
- If the "s" is between vowels, it becomes /z/, such as *chose* /shooz/ ("thing").
- The /t/ becomes /s/ if followed by "ie", "ia", and "io", such as *patient* /PEH syun/ ("patient").
- If the word-final /il/ comes after a vowel, it becomes /ee/, such as *oil* /uh Y/ ("eye").
- If "ill" is not at the start of a word, it turns into /ee/, such as *oreille* /ooh REYH/ ("ear").
- If no vowel is placed before "ill", the sound /i/ is pronounced, such as *fille* /fee yh/ ("girl"). However,

the /ɪ/ is pronounced in the words distiller/distile/ ("to distill") and mille/mil/ ("thousand").

- *If the letter "o" comes after the letter "y", it is pronounced as /wa/, such as voyage/VWA yaj/ ("travel").*
- *If "i", "u", and "y" are placed before a vowel in a word, they become glides, such as pied/pye/ ("foot"), oui/wi/ ("yes"), and huit/oo weet/ ("eight").*
- *The final "e" is not pronounced, such as bouche/boosh/ ("mouth").*
- *In French there is a phenomenon called "liaison", wherein a consonant which is usually silent is pronounced right before the word that it precedes. For example, "vous avez" is pronounced as /vou zavee/ ("you have").*
- *Also, when a word ends with a silent "e", the liaison is present in the vowel that follows it. For example, reste à côté is pronounced as /rest ah cotei/ ("stay next").*
- *"Enchaînement" is another French language phenomenon and it involves transferring the conso*

- *nant* sound at the end of a word to the start of the word that it precedes. For instance, *elle est* is pronounced as /e le/ (“she is”).

- Most of the time, the final *e* in French words is not pronounced. For example: *jambe*/jamb/ (leg), *bouche*/bush/ (mouth), *lampe*/lamp/ (lamp).
- If the *e* is followed by a double consonant, it becomes the sound /ei/, but more open and without the glide from *e* to *i*. For example: *pelle*/pèl/ (shovel), *lettre*/lètr/ (letter)
- Memorize the mute consonants in the French language, which are: the final *-b* that follows an *m*- (such as *plomb*/plon (the 'om' sounds more like the 'on' in wrong)/ [metal]), final *-d* (such as *chaud*/shoh/ [warm]), final *-p* (such as *trop*/tro/ [very much]), final *-s* (such as *trés*/treh/ [very much]), final *-t* (such as *part*/par/ [part]), final *-x* (such as *prix*/pri/ [price]), and the final *-z* (such as *assez*/ase/ [enough]).