"Avec peu de peur, toi et lui ont pu prendre un bon bain dans l'eau froide."

PRONUNCIATION of the SOUNDS of the FRENCH LANGUAGE

Phonetic symbol for French sound	Example in French	Example in English of the same sound, or of a similar sound	Notes
"plosive consonants"			
p	***P**OINT*	**P**OINT	Same sound in both languages
b	***B**ANANE*	**B**ANANA	Same sound in both languages
t	***T**ABLE*	**T**ABLE	Same sound in both languages
d	***D**ÉCENT*	**D**ECENT	Same sound in both languages
k	***K**IWI*	**K**IWI	Same sound in both languages
g	***G**ARAGE*	**G**ARAGE	Same sound in both languages
"nasal consonants"			
m	***M**ÉTAL*	**M**ETAL	Same sound in both languages
n	***N**IÈCE*	**N**IECE	Same sound in both languages
ɲ	*OI**GN**ON*	O**NI**ON	Almost the same; the French sound is one sound, but the English sound is almost two sounds, as in "i**n Y**ork"
ŋ	*PARKI**NG***	PARKI**NG**	Same sound in both languages
"fricative consonants"			
f	***F**RAGILE*	**F**RAGILE	Same sound in both languages
v	***V**ALVE*	**V**ALVE	Same sound in both languages
s	***S**IX*	**S**IX	Same sound in both languages
z	***Z**ÉRO*	**Z**ERO	Same sound in both languages
ʃ	***CH**AUD*	**SH**EEP	Note that "ch" in French words is usually pronouned like "sh" in **sh**eep, not like "ch" in "**ch**urch". The latter sound exists in French (as in "*T**ch**ad*"), but it is rare.
ʒ	*ROU**GE***	DECI**SI**ON	Same sound in both languages
ʁ	***R**OUGE*	-	The French sound is a little like the "ch" in "Lo**ch** Lomond", but it is "voiced", using the vocal chords
"approximants" (sounds somewhere between consonants and vowels)			
l	***L**ONG*	**L**ONG	Same sound in both languages
j	***Y**EUX*	**Y**ES	Same sound in both languages
ɥ	*L**UI***	-	The French sound is like "y" in the English "**y**es", but with lips rounded
w	***OU**I*	**W**ANT	Same sound in both languages

(vowels on next page)

Phonetic symbol for French sound	Example in French	Example in English of the same sound, or of a similar one	Notes
vowels (vowels in French are "short" - ie, brief and crisp)			
i	P**I**C	COS**Y**	Same sound in both languages
y	P**U**	-	The French sound is like the "i" in "*pic*", but with lips rounded
e	P**É**KIN	CAF**É**	The French sound is also similar to "ay" in the English "d**ay**", but the English sound there is technically a diphthong, ie, two vowels rolled together
ø	P**EU**	-	The French sound is like the "é" in "*Pékin*", but with lips rounded
ε	P**E**LLE	P**E**T	Same sound in both languages
œ	P**EU**R	-	The French sound is like the "e" in "*pelle*", but with lips rounded
a	K**A**PUT	C**A**T	Same sound in both languages
ə	L**E**	LETT**ER**	Same sound in both languages
u	**OU**	R**OO**M	Same sound in both languages, except that the English sound is "longer"
o	**EAU**	N**O**	Almost the same; the English sound is technically a diphthong, ie, two vowels rolled together
ɔ	S**O**TTE*	C**O**T	The English sound is little more "open" than the French one, but the difference is hardly noticeable
ɑ	**Â**ME	**AR**M	Same sound in both languages, except that the English sound is "longer"
nasal vowels (non-existent in English; the sounds in French are nasalised)			
ɛ̃	M**AIN**	-	The French sound is a nasalised version of the "e" in "*pelle*" (French) and "m**e**n" (English)
œ̃	BR**UN**	-	The French sound is a nasalised version of the "eur" in "*peur*" (see above)
ɔ̃	M**ON**	-	The French sound is a nasalised version of the "o" in "*sotte*" (see above)
ɑ̃	D**ANS**	-	The French sound is a nasalised version of the "â" in "*âme*" (see above)

* Note that the sound of "o" in "*sot*", the masculine version of "*sotte*", is like the sound of "*eau*" (ie, less open than the "o" in "*sotte*").

N.B. These notes concern only the pronunciation of individual sounds of the French language. You will have to seek advice elsewhere on how to pronounce whole words - for example, in sentences like "*Le vieil homme de la quincaillerie-serrurerie veillait sur sa bouilloire, son huile, ses grenouilles et son champagne*"!

A.M. (November 2021)