

Main French sounds

Here is a presentation of the main French sounds

For some sounds, there are several ways of writing them, for example, the sound corresponding to the letter “è” can also be written “ai” or “et” at the end of a word.

In the second column there are possible spellings.

On the other hand, for some sounds there are some slight nuances; for example the sound “a” can be pronounced in a more or less deep way . The sound “e” can be pronounced in a more or less open way.

This distinction appears in the last column with the corresponding IPA (international phonetic alphabet) signs.

Voyelles

Voyelle	exemple d'orthographe	Signe API	Variantes de prononciation
a	a_cannes.mp3 Cannes	[a]	a_paris.mp3 Paris
		[ɑ]	a_bale.mp3 Bâle
e	e_grenoble.mp3 Grenoble, Meudon	[ø]	eu_bagneux.mp3 Bagneux
		[œ]	eu_villeurbanne.mp3 Villeurbanne
		[ə]	e_nevers.mp3 Nevers, Le Havre
i	i_paris.mp3 Paris, Vichy	[i]	
o	o_monaco.mp3 Monaco, Bordeaux, Pau	[ɔ]	o_bayonne.mp3 Bayonne, Limoges
		[o]	o_aubagne.mp3 Aubagne Bobigny
u	u_frejus.mp3 Fréjus	[y]	
é	e_creteil.mp3 Créteil, Angers	[e]	
è	e_sete.mp3 Sète, Roubaix, Cholet	[ɛ]	
ou	ou_toulouse.mp3 Toulouse	[u]	
an	an_nantes.mp3 Nantes, La Défense	[ɑ̃]	
on	on_toulon.mp3 Toulon	[ɔ̃]	
in	in_saint_martin.mp3 Saint Martin	[ɛ̃]	in_villepinte.mp3 Villepinte

Voyelle	exemple d'orthographe	Signe API	Variante de prononciation
		[œ̃]	un_melun.mp3 Melun
oi	oi_blois.mp3 Blois	[w]	
ui	ui_caluire.mp3 Caluire, Guyancourt	[ɥ]	
ill	ill_milly.mp3 Neuilly, Milly	[j]	

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