

FRENCH PHONETIC PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Pure Vowels

Letter	IPA	English Approx.
a, Ã	[a]	father
e, er, ez	[e]	day (no 'y' sound)
Ã¨, Ãª, ai	[ɛ]	bed
i, y	[i]	machine
o (closed)	[o]	rote
ou	[u]	food
u	[y]	(narrowed lips)

Nasal Vowels

Letter	IPA	English Approx.
an, am, en	[ɑ̃]	want (nasal)
in, im, ain	[ɛ̃]	pan (nasal)
on, om	[ɔ̃]	cone (nasal)
un, um	[œ̃]	sun (nasal)

Consonants

Letter	IPA	English Approx.
c (+ e, i, y)	[s]	sity
Ã§	[s]	faÃ§ade
g (+ e, i)	[ʒ]	measure
gn	[ɲ]	onion

Letter	IPA	English Approx.
j	[ʒ]	leisure
qu	[k]	keep
r	[ʁ]	(guttural)

Quick Rules

Liaison	Silent final consonants are pronounced if followed by a vowel.
Silent Letters	Final -d, -p, -s, -t, -x, -z are usually silent.
Stress	Always on the last syllable of a word or phrase.