

**French**



**STANDARD  
DEVIANTS  
SCHOOL**

**ABC's & Pronunciation**

- **QuikNotes**
- **QuikCheck**

Program

**1**



**Standard Deviants School French**  
**Program 1: ABC's & Pronunciation**  
**QuikNotes**

Remember that this program is a supplement to your French class. You must go to class and you must practice all you can! The only way you'll ever be able to know French is to think French.

**Au début**

Although the alphabets and sentence constructions are similar in French and English, the pronunciation is different.

The French alphabet has the same letters as our English alphabet, but the letters are pronounced differently. Special letters in French that you should pay attention to are **G, J, E, Q, and R**.

**Accents and "Frenchie" vowels**

The accents are used for two reasons: to change the pronunciation of a vowel, and to differentiate between words that are spelled alike but mean different things. The accents in French are the **accent aigu**, the **accent grave**, the **circonflexe**, and the **tréma**, used with vowels, and the **cédille**, used with the letter "c." Here's how French vowels are pronounced.

à (accent grave) is pronounced like ah.

e is pronounced like the letter e.

é (accent aigu) is pronounced like the vowel in lake. This sound is also spelled with the combinations of letters **ai, es, ez, er**.

è (accent grave) is pronounced like let.

élève has 3 different pronunciations of e. Note that e is silent at the end of a word.

ê (circonflexe) is like è.

ë (tréma) shows that the vowel is pronounced separately, like **Noël**.

The tréma and the circonflexe are pretty much the same for every vowel they're over.

i and y are like English ee.

o is like the alphabet letter o.

u is pronounced with "puckered up" lips: **lune, brune**.

**La cédille** is added to a c to make a soft "s" sound before **a, o, and u**: **garçon** sounds like gar-son, not gar-kon!

**Cognates** are words in two languages that sound alike and look alike, and they usually have the same meaning. Many words are tricky, though, so please buy a French-English dictionary!



## Mes préférences

Words to make small talk, to greet people, and to introduce yourself

**Bonjour, salut, bonsoir**

**Comment vas-tu? Ça va? Quoi de neuf?**

**Bien, merci.**

**Comme ci, comme ça.**

**Pas mal**

**Formidable!**

**Super!**

**Ça va? Ça va, ça ne va pas.**

**Je m'appelle...**

**Enchanté.**

**Comment t'appelles-tu?**

**Je vous présente...** when you introduce someone to a group or when you need to be polite

**Je te présente...** when you introduce someone to one person and when you can be familiar

## -er verbs and talking about things you like

tu aimes la musique rap?

Verbs have different forms depending on who's talking, and whether they're in the present, the past, the future, and other things. The infinitive is the form like to go, to have, to throw. The "I" form is called the first person singular.

### aimer

j'aime	nous aimons
tu aimes	vous aimez
il, elle, on aime	ils, elles aiment

### adorer

j'adore	nous adorons
tu adores	vous adorez
il, elle, on adore	ils, elles adorent

### préférer

je préfère	nous préférons
tu préfères	vous préférez
il, elle, on préfère	ils, elles préfèrent

### détester

je déteste	nous détestons
tu détestes	vous détestez
il, elle, on déteste	ils, elles détestent

**Elision** is when a word like **je** comes before a vowel: **je + aime = j'aime**.

To make a sentence negative, sandwich **ne...pas** around the verb: **Je n'aime pas la télé**. This works also with other negative expressions:

**Je n'écoute jamais! Je n'écoute personne! Je n'écoute plus! Je n'écoute rien!**



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QuikCheck**

**Fill in the blanks.**

1. The names of the accents used with French vowels are: \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The name of the accent used with the letter **c** is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Cognates are words in two languages that \_\_\_\_\_ alike and \_\_\_\_\_  
alike, and they usually have \_\_\_\_\_ meaning.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is when a word like **je** comes before a vowel: **je + aime = j'aime**.
5. To make a sentence negative, sandwich \_\_\_\_\_ around the verb.

**Write these French letters with their accents.**

6. **a** with accent grave \_\_\_\_\_
7. **e** with accent aigu \_\_\_\_\_
8. **e** with circonflexe \_\_\_\_\_
9. **e** with tréma \_\_\_\_\_
10. **c** with cédille \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer these questions in French.**

11. Bonjour, comment vas-tu?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Comment t'appelles-tu?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Tell how much you like or dislike these things. Use a form of the verb aimer, adorer,  
préférer, or détester.**

13. \_\_\_\_\_ la musique rap.

14. \_\_\_\_\_ la télé.

15. \_\_\_\_\_ les sports.



**Standard Deviants School French  
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QuikCheck Answer Key**

**Fill in the blanks.**

1. The names of the accents used with French vowels are: l'accent grave, l'accent aigu, le circonflexe, and le tréma.
2. The name of the accent used with the letter **c** is la cédille.
3. Cognates are words in two languages that look alike and sound alike, and they usually have the same meaning.
4. Élision is when a word like **je** comes before a vowel: **je + aime = j'aime**.
5. To make a sentence negative, sandwich ne . . . pas around the verb.

**Write these French letters with their accents.**

6. **a** with accent grave à
7. **e** with accent aigu é
8. **e** with circonflexe ê
9. **e** with tréma ë
10. **c** with cédille ç

**Answer these questions in French.**

11. Bonjour, comment vas-tu?

Bien, merci. / Comme ci, comme ça. / Pas mal. / Formidable! / Super! / ...

12. Comment t'appelles-tu?

Je m'appelle [ ... ].

**Tell how much you like or dislike these things. Use a form of the verb aimer, adorer, préférer, or détester.**

13. [answers will vary] la musique rap.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ la télé.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ les sports.

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