

FRENCH ACCENTS



Accent	Usage	Examples
´ accent aigu	Can only be used on the letter “e”. Changes the sound “euh” to something like the “a” in “jail”.	étudiant / student bébé / baby écouter / to listen
` accent grave	Can be found on the letters “a”, “e”, and “u”. On “a” & “u” : serves to distinguish between words that would otherwise be homographs (spelt the same way). On “e” : changes the sound “euh” to something like the “e” in “set”.	où / where père / father mère / mother
^ accent circonflexe	Can be on “a”, “e”, “i”, “o” and “u”. Used to either change the sound to “ê” to something like the grave accent, as in “set”, or to distinguish between homographs.	forêt / forest intérêt / interest fête / feast, party
¨ tréma	Can be on the letters “e”, “i”, and “u”. Used when two vowels (a, e, i, o, u) are next to each other and both must be pronounced.	naïve / naive noël / christmas maïs / corn
¸ cédille	Found only on the letter “c”. Changes a hard sound (“k”) into a soft sound (“s”)	garçon / boy leçon / lesson ça / this