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Concise Pronunciation Guide

The following concise guide describes the approximate pronunciation of the letters and frequent combinations of letters occurring in the French language. A study of it will enable the reader to pronounce French adequately most of the time. While the guide cannot list all the exceptions to the established pronunciations, or cover the manner in which adjacent words affect each other in speech, such exceptions and variations will readily be learned as one develops facility in the language.

French Letter	Description of Pronunciation
a, à	Between <i>a</i> in <i>calm</i> and <i>a</i> in <i>hat</i> .
â	Like <i>a</i> in <i>calm</i> .
ai	Like <i>e</i> in <i>bed</i> .
au	Like <i>oa</i> in <i>coat</i> .
b	As in English. At end of words, usually silent.
c	Before <i>e, i, y</i> , like <i>s</i> . Elsewhere, like <i>k</i> . When <i>c</i> occurs at the end of a word and is preceded by a consonant, it is usually silent.
ç	Like <i>s</i> .
cc	Before <i>e, i</i> , like <i>x</i> . Elsewhere, like <i>k</i> .
ch	Usually like <i>sh</i> in <i>short</i> . <i>ch</i> is pronounced like <i>k</i> in words of Greek origin before <i>a, o,</i> and <i>u</i> and before consonants.
d	At beginning and in middle of words, as in English. At end of words, usually silent.
e	At end of words, normally silent; indicates that preceding consonant letter is pronounced. Between two single consonant sounds, usually silent. Elsewhere, like English <i>a</i> in <i>sofa</i> .
é	Approximately like <i>a</i> in <i>hate</i> .
è, ê, ei	Like <i>e</i> in <i>bed</i> .
eau	Like <i>au</i> .
ent	Silent when it is the third person plural ending.
er	At end of words of more than one syllable, usually like <i>a</i> in <i>hate</i> , the <i>r</i> being silent; otherwise like <i>air</i> in <i>chair</i> .
(end of words)	
es	Silent at end of words.
eu	A vowel sound not found in English; like French <i>e</i> , but pronounced with the lips rounded as for <i>o</i> .

French Letter	Description of Pronunciation
ez	At end of words, almost always like English <i>a</i> in <i>hate</i> , the <i>z</i> being silent.
f	As in English; silent at the end of a few words.
g	Before <i>e, i, y</i> , like <i>z</i> in <i>azure</i> . Elsewhere, like <i>g</i> in <i>get</i> . At end of words, usually silent.
gn	Like <i>ni</i> in <i>onion</i> .
gu	Before <i>e, i, y</i> , like <i>g</i> in <i>get</i> . Elsewhere, like <i>g</i> in <i>get</i> plus French <i>u</i> (see below).
h	In some words, represents a slight tightening of the throat muscles (in French, called "aspiration"). In most words, silent.
i, î	Like <i>i</i> in <i>machine</i> .
ill	(-il at end of words) like <i>y</i> in <i>yes</i> , in many but not all words.
j	Like <i>z</i> in <i>azure</i> .
k	As in English.
l	As in English, but always pronounced "bright," with tongue in front of mouth.
m, n	When double, and when single between two vowel letters or at beginning of word, like English <i>m</i> and <i>n</i> respectively. When single at end of syllable (at end of word or before another consonant), indicates nasalization of preceding vowel.
o	Usually like <i>u</i> in English <i>mud</i> , but rounder. When final sound in word, and often before <i>s</i> and <i>z</i> , like <i>ô</i> .
ô	Approximately like <i>oa</i> in <i>coat</i> .
oe, oeu	Like <i>eu</i> .
oi	Approximately like a combination of the consonant <i>w</i> and the <i>a</i> of <i>calm</i> .
ou, oû, où	Like <i>ou</i> in <i>tour</i> .
p	At end of words, usually silent. Between <i>m</i> and <i>t</i> , <i>m</i> and <i>s</i> , <i>r</i> and <i>s</i> , usually silent. Elsewhere, as in English.
pn, ps	Unlike English, when <i>pn</i> and <i>ps</i> occur at the beginning of words the <i>p</i> is usually sounded.
ph	Like <i>f</i> .
qu	Usually like <i>k</i> .

French Letter	Description of Pronunciation
r	A vibration either of the uvula, or of the tip of the tongue against the upper front teeth. See above under <i>er</i> .
s	Generally, like <i>s</i> in <i>sea</i> . Single <i>s</i> between vowels, like <i>z</i> in <i>zone</i> . At end of words, normally silent.
sc	Before <i>e</i> or <i>i</i> , like <i>s</i> . Elsewhere, like <i>sk</i> .
t	Approximately like English <i>t</i> , but pronounced with tongue tip against teeth. At end of words, normally silent. When followed by <i>ie</i> , <i>ion</i> , <i>ium</i> , <i>ius</i> , and other diphthongs beginning with a vowel, <i>t</i> generally is like English <i>s</i> in <i>sea</i> (unless the <i>t</i> itself is preceded by an <i>s</i> or an <i>x</i>)
th	Like <i>t</i> .
u, û	A vowel sound not found in English; like the <i>i</i> in <i>ma- chine</i> but with lips rounded as for <i>ou</i> .
ue	After <i>e</i> or <i>g</i> and before <i>il</i> , like <i>eu</i> .
v	As in English.
w	Usually like <i>v</i> ; in some people's pronunciation, like English <i>w</i> .
x	Generally sounds like <i>ks</i> ; but when the syllable <i>ex</i> begins a word and is followed by a vowel, <i>x</i> sounds like <i>gz</i> . At end of words, usually silent.
y	Generally like <i>i</i> in <i>machine</i> ; but when between two vowels, like <i>y</i> in <i>yes</i> .
z	Like <i>z</i> in <i>zone</i> . At end of words, often silent (see above under <i>ez</i>).

Note on Pronunciation

A few minutes' study of the *Concise Pronunciation Guide* on pages v-vii will enable you to pronounce most French words without having to look each word up in the dictionary. For the relatively few cases in which the pronunciation does not follow the usual pattern, this dictionary provides a transcription in simple and familiar symbols.

â	bat	ô	order
â	cape	œ	[a vowel made with the lips rounded in position for <i>o</i> as in <i>over</i> , while trying to say <i>a</i> as in <i>able</i>]
â	dare		
â	calm	oi	oil
â	[a vowel intermediate in quality between the <i>a</i> of <i>cat</i> and the <i>a</i> of <i>calm</i> , but closer to the former]	oo	book
ê	set	oo	ooze
ê	bee	ou	loud
ī	big	ū	up
ī	bite	ū	cute
ñ	[a symbol used to indicate nasalized vowels. There are four such vowels in French, found in <i>un bon vin blanc</i> (œN bŃN vāN blāN)]	û	burn
ô	hot	ʏ	[a vowel made with the lips rounded in position for <i>oo</i> as in <i>ooze</i> , while trying to say <i>e</i> as in <i>easy</i>]
ô	no	ə	[indicates the sound of <i>a</i> in <i>alone</i> , <i>e</i> in <i>system</i> , <i>i</i> in <i>easily</i> , <i>o</i> in <i>gallop</i> , <i>u</i> in <i>circus</i>]

Irregular Verbs

Infinitive	Pres. Part.	Past Part.	Pres. Indic.	Future
aller	allant	allé	vais	irai
asseoir	asseyant	assis	assieds	assiérai
atteindre	atteignant	atteint	atteins	atteindrai
avoir	ayant	eu	ai	aurai
battre	battant	battu	bats	battraï
boire	buvant	bu	bois	boirai
conduire	conduisant	conduit	conduis	conduirai
connaître	connaissant	connu	connais	connaîtrai
courir	courant	couru	cours	courrai
craindre	craignant	craint	crains	craindrai
croire	croyant	cru	crois	croirai
devoir	devant	dû	dois	devrai
dire	disant	dit	dis	dirai
dormir	dormant	dormi	dors	dormirai
écrire	écrivant	écrit	écris	écrirai
envoyer	envoyant	envoyé	envoie	enverrai
être	étant	été	suis	serai
faire	faisant	fait	fais	ferai
falloir	-----	fallu	(il) faut	(il) faudra
joindre	joignant	joint	joins	joindrai
lire	lisant	lu	lis	lirai
mettre	mettant	mis	mets	mettrai
mourir	mourant	mort	meurs	mourrai
naître	naissant	né	nais	naîtrai
ouvrir	ouvrant	ouvert	ouvre	ouvrirai
plaire	plaisant	plu	plais	plairai
pleuvoir	pleuvant	plu	(il) pleut	(il) pleuvra
pouvoir	pouvant	pu	peux	pourrai
prendre	prenant	pris	prends	prendrai
recevoir	recevant	reçu	reçois	recevrai
rire	riant	ri	ris	rirai
savoir	sachant	su	sais	saurai
suffire	suffisant	suffi	suffis	suffirai
suivre	suivant	suivi	suis	suivrai
tenir	tenant	tenu	tiens	tiendrai
valoir	valant	valu	vaut	vaudrai
venir	venant	venu	viens	viendrai
vivre	vivant	vécu	vis	vivrai
voir	voyant	vu	vois	verrai
vouloir	voulant	voulu	veux	voudrai

Abbreviations

<i>abbr.</i>	abbreviation	<i>lit.</i>	literal, literally
<i>adj.</i>	adjective	<i>m.</i>	masculine
<i>adv.</i>	adverb	<i>med.</i>	medical
<i>arch.</i>	architecture	<i>mil.</i>	military
<i>arith.</i>	arithmetic	<i>n.</i>	noun
<i>art.</i>	article	<i>naut.</i>	nautical
<i>comm.</i>	commercial	<i>pl.</i>	plural
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction	<i>pred.</i>	predicate
<i>eccles.</i>	ecclesiastical	<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>f.</i>	feminine	<i>pron.</i>	pronoun
<i>fig.</i>	figurative	<i>sg.</i>	singular
<i>geog.</i>	geography	<i>tr.</i>	transitive (used only with verbs which also have reflexive use to indicate intransitive meaning)
<i>geom.</i>	geometry		
<i>gramm.</i>	grammar, grammatical		
<i>interj.</i>	interjection		
<i>interr.</i>	interrogative	<i>vb.</i>	verb
<i>intr.</i>	intransitive		

FRENCH-ENGLISH

A

- à, prep.** at, in, to.
abaïsser, vb. depress, lower.
abandon, n.m. desertion, abandonment.
abandonné, adj. forlorn.
abandonner, vb. forsake, leave (desert). *s'a.*, give up, resign oneself.
abasourdir, vb. astound.
abat-jour, n.m. lampshade.
abattage, n.m. slaughter.
abattement, n.m. depression, dejection.
abattoir, n.m. slaughterhouse.
abattre, vb. depress, reduce, slaughter. *s'o.*, alight.
abbaye, n.f. abbey.
abbé, n.m. abbot.
abbesse, n.f. abbess.
abcès, n.m. abscess.
abdiquer, vb. abdicate.
abdomen, n.m. abdomen.
abeille, n.f. bee.
aberrant, adj. absurd.
aberration, n.f. aberration.
abîme, n.m. abyss.
abîmer, vb. injure, spoil.
abject, adj. abject, low.
aboïement, n.m. barking.
abolir, vb. abolish.
abolition, n.f. abolition.
abominable, adj. vile, objectionable.
abondamment, adv. fully.
abondance, n.f. plenty.
abondant, adj. plentiful. *peu a.*, scanty.
abonder de, vb. abound in.
abonné, n.m. subscriber.
abonnement, n.m. subscription.
abonner, vb. *s'a.*, subscribe.
abord, 1. n.m. approach. **2. adv.** *d'a.*, at first.
abordable, adj. approachable, affordable.
aborder, vb. accost.
aboutir, vb. end (in).
aboyer, vb. bark.
abrégé, n.m. summary.
abrégé, vb. abridge, shorten, abbreviate.
abreuver, vb. water (animals).
abréviation, n.f. abbreviation.
abri, n.m. shelter. **à l'a. de,** safe from.
abricot, n.m. apricot.
abriter, vb. shelter.
abroger, vb. repeal.
abrupt (-pt), adj. steep.
abrutir, vb. exhaust. *s'a.*, become dazed.
absence, n.f. absence.
absent, adj. absent. **rester a.**, stay away.
absenter, vb. *s'a.*, go away.
abside, n.f. apse.
absinthe, n.f. absinthe.
absolu, adj. utter, absolute.
absolument, adv. absolutely.
absolution, n.f. absolution.
absorbant, adj. and n.m. absorbent.
absorbé dans, adj. intent on.
absorber, vb. engross, absorb. *s'a. dans,* pore over.
absorption, n.f. absorption.
absoudre, vb. absolve.
abstenir, vb. forbear. *s'a. de,* abstain from.
abstinence, n.f. abstinence.
abstraction, n.f. abstraction.
abstrait, adj. abstract.
absurde, adj. absurd, preposterous.
absurdité, n.f. nonsense, absurdity.
abus, n.m. abuse.
abuser de, vb. abuse.
académie, n.f. academy.
académique, adj. academic.
acajou, n.m. mahogany.
accablant, adj. oppressive.
accabler, vb. overwhelm, burden.
accalmie, n.f. lull.
accaparer, vb. get a corner on.
accéder, vb. reach.
accélérateur, n.m. accelerator.
accélération, n.f. acceleration.
accélérer, vb. quicken, hurry.
accent, n.m. stress, emphasis, accent.
accentuer, vb. accentuate, accent, emphasize.
acceptable, adj. acceptable.

acceptation, *n.f.* acceptance.
accepter, *vb.* accept, admit.
accepteur, *n.m.* acceptor.
accès, *n.m.* access, approach; fit (of anger); bout (of fever).
accessible, *adj.* accessible.
accessoire, *n.m. and adj.* accessory, adjunct.
accident, *n.m.* crash, accident.
accidenté, *adj.* damaged; (terrain) hilly.
accidentel, *adj.* accidental.
acclamation, *n.f.* acclamation.
acclamer, *vb.* acclaim, cheer.
accommodant, *adj.* accommodating.
accommoder, *vb.* accommodate.
accompagnateur, *n.m.* accompanist, (travel) guide.
accompagnement, *n.m.* accompaniment.
accompagner, *vb.* accompany, go with.
accompli, *adj.* accomplished, complete, perfect.
accomplir, *vb.* accomplish, achieve, fulfill, carry out, perform.
accomplissement, *n.m.* performance, accomplishment, fulfillment, achievement.
accord, *n.m.* agreement, harmony; settlement; chord, tune. *être d'a.*, agree, concur.
accorder, *vb.* grant, bestow; allow; tune. *s'a.*, agree.
accouchement, *n.m.* delivery (baby).
accoucher, *vb.* deliver (baby).
accoucheur, *n.m.* *médecin-a.*, obstetrician.
accouder, *vb.* *s'a.*, lean.
accourir, *vb.* flock, run up.
accoutumer, *vb.* accustom, habituate.
accréditer, *vb.* accredit.
accro, *n.m.* (drug) addict.
accroc, *n.m.* tear, snag; hitch (fig.).
accrocher, *vb.* hook, hitch, hang (up).
accroissement, *n.m.* growth, addition.
accroître, *vb.* increase.
accroupir, *vb.* *s'a.*, squat, crouch.
accru, *adj.* greater, increased.

accuell, *n.m.* reception, greeting.
accueillir, *vb.* receive, greet.
acculer, *vb.* corner.
accumuler, *vb.* heap up.
accusateur, *n.m.* accuser.
accusatif, *n.m.* accusative.
accusation, *n.f.* accusation.
accusatrice, *n.f.* accuser.
accusé, *n.m.* defendant.
accuser, *vb.* arraign, accuse.
acerbe, *adj.* bitter.
acharné, *adj.* eager, relentless.
acharner, *vb.* *s'a.*, go at intensely.
achat, *n.m.* purchase.
acheminer, *vb.* start (toward).
acheter, *vb.* buy.
acheteur, *n.m.* buyer.
achèvement, *n.m.* completion.
achever, *vb.* complete, finish, achieve.
acide, *adj. and n.m.* acid.
acidité, *n.f.* acidity.
acier, *n.m.* steel.
acné, *n.f.* acne.
acolyte, *n.m.* associate.
acompte, *n.m.* deposit, installment.
à-côté, *n.m.* side-issue.
à-c.s., extras.
à-coup, *n.m.* jolt. *par à-c.s.*, by fits and starts.
acoustique, *n.f.* acoustics.
acquérir, *vb.* acquire, get, obtain.
acquiescement, *n.m.* acquiescence, compliance.
acquiescer à, *vb.* acquiesce, consent.
acquisition, *n.f.* acquisition, purchase.
acquittement, *n.m.* acquittal.
acquitter, *vb.* acquit.
âcre, *adj.* sharp.
acrobate, *n.m.f.* acrobat.
acrobatie, *n.f.* acrobatics.
acte, *n.m.* act. **a. notarié**, deed. **a. de naissance**, birth certificate.
acteur, *n.m.* actor.
actif, **1.** *n.m.* assets (*comm.*). **2.** *adj.* active.
action, *n.f.* action, deed, act; (*comm.*) share.
action de contrôle en retour, *n.f.* feedback.
actionnaire, *n.m.* shareholder.
actionner, *vb.* operate.

- activement**, *adv.* busily
activer, *vb.* activate. fan. hurry
activité, *n.f.* activity
actrice, *n.f.* actress
actualiser, *vb.* update
actualité, *n.f.* topicality
actualités, *n.f. pl.* current events.
 TV news
actuel, *adj.* present
actuellement, *adv.* now, at present
acuité, *n.f.* acuteness
acupuncture, *n.f.* acupuncture
adaptateur, *n.m.* adapter
adaptation, *n.f.* adaptation
adapter, *vb.* adapt, fit, adjust, suit
additif, *n.m.* additive
addition, *n.f.* addition, bill
additionnel, *adj.* additional
additionner, *vb.* add
adepte, *n.m.f.* follower
adéquat, *adj.* appropriate
adhérent, *n.m.* member
adhérer, *vb.* adhere, join
adhésif, *adj.* adhesive
adieu, *n.m. and interj.* good-bye, farewell **faire ses adieux**, take one's leave
adjacent, *adj.* adjacent
adjectif, *n.m.* adjective
adjoindre, *vb.* add, attach
adjoint, *n.m.* fellow-worker, associate
adjuger, *vb.* grant, award
admettre, *vb.* allow, admit, grant
administrateur, *n.m.* administrator, director, manager
administratif, *adj.* administrative
administration, *n.f.* administration, direction
administrer, *vb.* administer, manage
admirable, *adj.* admirable
admirateur, *n.m.* admirer
admiration, *n.f.* admiration
admirer, *vb.* admire
admissible, *adj.* eligible
admission, *n.f.* confession, admission
adolescence, *n.f.* adolescence
adolescent, *adj. and n.m.* adolescent
adonner, *vb. s'a. à.* indulge in, become addicted to
adopter, *vb.* adopt
adoptif, *adj.* adoptive
adoption, *n.f.* adoption
adoration, *n.f.* adoration
adorer, *vb.* worship, adore
adosser, *vb. s'a. à.* lean on
adoucir, *vb.* soothe, soften, sweeten
adresse, *n.f.* address, skill, ability
adresser, *vb.* address (a letter); direct **s'a. à.** apply to
adroit, *adj.* skillful, clever, handy
aduler, *vb.* adulate
adulte, *adj. and n.m.f.* adult
adultère, *n.m.* adultery
adultérer, *vb.* adulterate
advenir, *vb.* happen, occur
adverbe, *n.m.* adverb
adversaire, *n.m.f.* opponent
adverse, *adj.* adverse
adversité, *n.f.* adversity
aéré, *adj.* airy
aérer, *vb.* air (a room)
aérien, *adj.* aerial, overhead
aérobic, *n.m.* aerobics
aérodynamique, *adj.* streamlined, aerodynamic
aérogare, *n.f.* airline (city) terminal
aéroglesseur, *n.m.* hovercraft
aérogramme, *n.m.* airmail letter, aerogram
aéronautique, **1.** *n.m.* aeronautics.
2. *adj.* aeronautical
aéroport, *n.m.* airport
aérospatial, *adj.* aerospace
affable, *adj.* affable
affaiblir, *vb.* weaken
affaire, *n.f.* affair, matter, deal.
pl. business **se tirer d'a.**, manage (somehow) **homme d'a.s.**, businessman
affairé, *adj.* busy
affairer, *vb. s'a.*, be busy
affaissement, *n.m.* collapse
affaisser, *vb. s'a.*, collapse
affaler, *vb. s'a.*, collapse
affamé, *adj.* hungry, famished
affamer, *vb.* starve
affectation, *n.f.* affectation
affecter, *vb.* affect, assign
affectif, *adj.* emotional
affection, *n.f.* affection
affectueux, *adj.* affectionate
affermer, *vb.* strengthen
affiche, *n.f.* poster

- afficher**, *vb.* post, announce.
affilée (d'), *adv.* in a row.
affilier, *vb.* affiliate.
affiner, *vb.* refine.
affinité, *n.f.* affinity.
affirmatif, *adj.* affirmative.
affirmation, *n.f.* statement.
affirmer, *vb.* assert, state, maintain, testify, affirm.
affliction, *n.f.* affliction.
affligé, *adj.* sorrowful.
affliger, *vb.* distress, afflict, grieve.
affluence, *n.f.* crowd. **heures d'a.**, rush hour.
affluent, *n.m.* tributary.
affluer, *vb.* flow into.
affolement, *n.* panic.
affoler, *vb.* drive mad.
affranchir, *vb.* free.
affranchissement, *n.m.* postage.
affréter, *vb.* charter (boat).
affreusement, *adv.* terribly.
affreux, *adj.* dreadful, terrible, horrid, dire.
affront, *n.m.* affront, insult.
affronter, *vb.* confront, face.
afin, 1. **a. de**, *prep.* in order to. 2. *conj.* **a. que**, so that.
Africain, *n.m.* African.
africain, *adj.* African.
Afrique, *n.f.* Africa.
agacer, *vb.* vex, irritate.
âge, *n.m.* age. **d'un certain â.**, elderly. **le moyen â.**, the Middle Ages.
âgé, *adj.* aged.
agence, *n.f.* (*comm.*) agency.
agencer, *vb.* organize, arrange.
agenda, *n.m.* datebook.
agenouiller, *vb.* s'a., kneel.
agent, *n.m.* agent. **a. de police**, policeman. **a. de change**, stockbroker.
agglomération, *n.f.* built-up area, town.
aggloméré, *n.m.* chipboard.
agglomérer, *vb.* s'a., pile up.
agglutiner, *vb.* stick together.
aggraver, *vb.* aggravate.
agile, *adj.* nimble.
agir, *vb.* act. **s'a. de**, be a question of.
agitateur, *n.m.* agitator.
agitation, *n.f.* excitement, disturbance, commotion, flutter.
agité, *adj.* upset, excited.
agiter, *vb.* agitate, wave, wag, shake, stir. **s'a.**, toss; flutter.
agneau, *n.m.* lamb.
agonie, *n.f.* agony.
agoniser, *vb.* be dying.
agrafe, *n.f.* clasp, staple.
agrafer, *vb.* clasp, staple.
agrafeuse, *n.f.* stapler.
agrandir, *vb.* enlarge.
agréable, *adj.* likable, pleasant, enjoyable, agreeable.
agréer, *vb.* accept, consent.
agrégation, *n.f.* aggregation; fellowship.
agrément, *n.m.* pleasure, approval.
agresser, *vb.* attack.
agresseur, *n.m.* aggressor, attacker.
agressif, *adj.* aggressive, hostile.
agression, *n.f.* aggression.
agricole, *adj.* agricultural.
agriculture, *n.f.* agriculture.
agripper, *vb.* s'a. à, grab.
agroalimentaire, *n.m.* food industry.
agrumes, *n.m.pl.* citrus fruit(s).
aguerrir, *vb.* harden.
aguets, *n.m.pl.* **être aux a.**, be on the look-out.
aguicher, *vb.* entice.
ahurir, *vb.* bewilder, fluster.
aide, *n.f.* help, aid.
aider, *vb.* help, aid.
aïe, *interj.* ouch!
aïeul (ä yoël), *n.m.* grandfather.
aïeule (ä yoël), *n.f.* grandmother.
aïeux, *n.m.pl.* ancestors.
aigle, *n.m.f.* eagle.
aiglefin, *n.m.* haddock.
aigre, *adj.* sour.
aigu, *m.* **aiguë f.** *adj.* shrill, sharp, pointed.
aiguille, *n.f.* needle.
aiguisé, *adj.* keen.
aiguiser, *vb.* sharpen.
ail (ä è) *n.m.* garlic.
aile, *n.f.* wing.
aileron, *n.m.* fin.
ailleurs, *adv.* elsewhere. **d'a.**, in addition, anyhow.
aimable, *adj.* kind, pleasant, amiable.
aimant, *n.m.* magnet.

- aimer**, *vb* love, like
aine, *n.f* groin.
ainé (ē' nā), 1. *adj. and n.m* elder.
 2. *adj.* eldest, senior.
ainsi, *adv.* thus, so, like this.
air, *n.m* air. looks. **en plein a.**, in the open air.
aire, *n.f* area.
aisance, *n.f* ease, affluence.
aise, *n.f* ease, comfort. **à l'a.**, comfortable.
aisé, *adj.* substantial, well-to-do; easy.
aisselle, *n.f.* armpit.
ajourner, *vb.* put off. **s'a.**, adjourn.
ajouter, *vb.* add.
ajustage, *n.m.* fitting.
ajuster, *vb.* fit, fix, adjust.
alarme, *n.f.* alarm.
alarmer, *vb.* alarm.
albâtre, *n.m.* alabaster.
albatros, *n.m.* albatross.
album, *n.m.* album.
albumine, *n.f.* albumin.
alcool (-kôl), *n.m.* alcohol.
alcoolique (-kôl-), *adj. and n.m.f.* alcoholic.
alcoolisé, *adj.* alcoholic (drink).
alcootest, *n.m.* Breathalyzer test.
alcôve, *n.f.* alcove.
aléas, *n.m.pl.* hazards.
aléatoire, *adj.* uncertain, random.
alentour, *adv.* around.
alentours, *n.m.pl.* neighborhood, surroundings.
alerte, *adj.* spry, active, alert.
algarade, *n.f.* altercation.
algèbre, *n.f.* algebra.
Alger, *n.f.* Algiers.
Algérie, *n.f.* Algeria.
Algérien, *n.m.* Algerian.
algérien, *adj.* Algerian.
algue, *n.f.* seaweed.
alias, *adv.* alias.
alibi, *n.m.* alibi.
aliéné, *n.m.* lunatic.
aliéner, *vb.* alienate.
aligner, *vb.* line up.
aliment, *n.m.* food.
alimentation, *n.f.* feeding.
alimenter, *vb.* feed.
alinéa, *n.m.* paragraph.
aliter, *vb.* **s'a.**, take to one's bed.
allaier, *vb.* nurse, feed.
allécher, *vb.* tempt.
allée, *n.f.* path, avenue, aisle.
allégation, *n.f.* allegation.
alléger, *vb.* lighten, soothe.
allégresse, *n.f.* glee, delight, mirth.
alléguer, *vb.* plead, allege.
Allemagne, *n.f.* Germany.
Allemand, *n.m.* German (person).
allemand, 1. *n.m.* German (language). 2. *adj.* German.
aller, *vb.* go. **s'en a.**, go away. **a. à**, fit. **se laisser a.**, drift. **a. bien**, be well. **a. mal**, be not well. **a. et retour**, round trip.
allergique, *adj.* allergic.
alliage, *n.m.* alloy.
alliance, *n.f.* alliance, union.
allié, 1. *n.m.* ally, relation. 2. *adj.* allied.
allier, *vb.* ally. **s'a. à**, join with.
allô, *interj.* hello.
allocation, *n.f.* allowance. **a.s familiales**, family allowance.
allocution, *n.f.* short speech.
allonger, *vb.* lengthen, prolong.
allons, *interj.* well, come now.
allouer, *vb.* grant.
allume-cigare, *n.m.* cigar lighter.
allumer, *vb.* light.
allumette, *n.f.* match.
allure, *n.f.* pace, gait.
allusion, *n.f.* hint, allusion. **faire a. à**, allude to.
almanach (-nā), *n.m.* almanac.
aloï, *n.m.* **de bon a.**, of genuine quality.
alors, 1. *adv.* then. 2. *conj.* **a. que**, when.
alouette, *n.f.* lark.
aloudir, *vb.* weigh down.
Alpes, *n.f.pl.* Alps.
alphabet, *n.m.* alphabet.
alphabétiser, *vb.* teach to read and write.
alpinisme, *n.m.* mountaineering.
Alsace, *n.f.* Alsace.
altérer, *vb.* change.
alternatif, *adj.* alternate.
alternative, *n.f.* alternative.
alterner, *vb.* alternate.
Altesse, *n.f.* Highness (title).
altitude, *n.f.* altitude.
aito, *n.m.* viola.
altruisme, *n.m.* altruism.
aluminium, *n.m.* aluminum.
amabilité, *n.f.* kindness.

amadouer, *vb.* soothe, coax.
amaigrir, *vb.* to make thin(ner).
amalgame, *n.m.* combination.
amalgamer, *vb.* amalgamate.
amande, *n.f.* kernel; almond.
amant, *n.m.* lover.
amarrer, *vb.* moor.
amas, *n.m.* hoard, mass.
amasser, *vb.* hoard, gather, amass.
amateur, *n.m.* amateur. **a. de**, lover of.
ambassade, *n.f.* embassy.
ambassadeur, *n.m.* ambassador.
ambassadrice, *n.f.* ambadressess.
ambiance, *n.f.* atmosphere.
ambiant, *adj.* surrounding.
ambigu *m.* **ambiguë** *f. adj.* ambiguous.
ambiguïté, *n.f.* ambiguity.
ambitieux, *adj.* ambitious.
ambition, *n.f.* ambition.
ambre, *n.m.* amber.
ambulance, *n.f.* ambulance.
ambulant, *adj.* traveling.
âme, *n.f.* soul.
amélioration, *n.f.* improvement.
améliorer, *vb.* improve.
aménagement, *n.m.* development.
aménager, *vb.* fit up.
amende, *n.f.* fine. **mettre à l'a.**, fine.
amendement, *n.m.* amendment.
amender, *vb.* amend.
amener, *vb.* bring, lead.
amenuiser, *vb.* s'a., dwindle, lessen.
amer (-r), *adj.* bitter.
Américain, *n.m.* American.
américain, *adj.* American.
Amérique, *n.f.* America.
A. du Nord, North America.
A. du Sud, South America.
amertume, *n.f.* bitterness.
ameublement, *n.m.* furniture.
ami *m.* **amie** *f. n.* friend.
amiable, *adj.* conciliatory. **à l'a.**, out of court.
amiante, *n.m.* asbestos.
amical, *adj.* friendly, amicable.
amidon, *n.m.* starch.
amiral, *n.m.* admiral.
amitié, *n.f.* friendship.
ammoniaque, *n.f.* ammonia.
amniocentèse, *n.f.* amniocentesis.
amoindrir, *vb.* lessen, reduce.
amollir, *vb.* soften.

amonceler, *vb.* pile up. s'a., pile up, (*fig.*) accumulate.
amont, *adv.* **en a.**, upstream, uphill.
amorcer, *n.f.* bait, beginning.
amorcer, *vb.* bait, begin.
amorphe, *adj.* listless.
amortir, *vb.* deaden, soften.
amortisseur, *n.m.* shock absorber.
amour, *n.m.* love.
amoureux, **1.** *n.m.* lover. **2.** *adj.* in love, amorous.
amour-propre, *n.m.* vanity, pride, conceit.
ampère, *n.m.* amp(ere).
ample, *adj.* ample, spacious.
ampleur, *n.f.* plenty; compass.
amplificateur, *n.m.* amplifier.
amplifier, *vb.* increase, enlarge, develop.
ampoule, *n.f.* blister; (electric) bulb.
amputer, *vb.* amputate.
amusant, *adj.* funny, enjoyable.
amusement, *n.m.* fun, pastime, entertainment.
amuser, *vb.* entertain. s'a., have a good time.
amygdale, *n.f.* tonsil.
an, *n.m.* year.
analogie, *n.f.* analogy.
analogique, *adj.* analogue.
analogue, *adj.* similar, analogous.
analphabète, *n.m.f.* illiterate.
analyse, *n.f.* analysis.
analyser, *vb.* analyze.
ananas, *n.m.* pineapple.
anarchie, *n.f.* anarchy.
anathème, *n.m.* anathema.
anatomie, *n.f.* anatomy.
ancêtre, *n.m.* forefather, ancestor.
anche, *n.f.* reed.
anchois, *n.m.* anchovy.
ancien *m.* **ancienne** *f. adj.* ancient, old; former.
ancree, *n.f.* anchor.
ancrer, *vb.* anchor.
Andorre, *n.f.* Andorra.
andouille, *n.f.* sausage made of chitterlings; (colloquial) idiot.
âne *m.* **ânesse** *f. n.* ass, donkey.
anéantir, *vb.* annihilate, destroy.
anecdote, *n.f.* anecdote.
anémie, *n.f.* anemia.
ânerie, *n.f.* stupidity.

- anesthésie**, *n.f.* anesthesia.
anesthésique, *adj. and n.m.* anesthetic.
ange, *n.m.* angel.
angine, *n.f.* throat infection.
Anglais, *n.m.* Englishman.
anglais, *adj. and n.m.* English.
Anglaise, *n.f.* Englishwoman.
angle, *n.m.* angle, corner.
Angleterre, *n.f.* England.
angoissant, *adj.* in anguish.
angoisse, *n.f.* agony, pang, anguish.
anguille, *n.f.* eel.
anguleux, *adj.* angular.
anicroche, *n.f.* hitch.
animal, *adj. and n.m.* animal.
animateur, *n.m.* leader, organizer.
animation, *n.f.* animation.
animer, *vb.* enliven, animate.
anis, *n.m.* aniseed.
animosité, *n.f.* animosity.
ankyloser, *vb.* s'a., become stiff.
anneau, *n.m.* ring, circle.
année, *n.f.* year; vintage.
annexe, *n.m.* annex.
annexer, *vb.* annex.
annexion, *n.f.* annexation.
anniversaire, *n.m.* anniversary; birthday.
annonce, *n.f.* advertisement; announcement.
annoncer, *vb.* advertise; announce.
annotation, *n.f.* annotation.
annoter, *vb.* annotate.
annuaire, *n.m.* directory.
annuel, *adj.* yearly, annual.
annuité, *n.f.* annual payment.
annulaire, *n.m.* ring finger.
annulation, *n.f.* cancellation.
annuler, *vb.* cancel, void, annul.
anodin, *adj.* harmless, minor.
ânonner, *vb.* stammer.
anonyme, *adj.* anonymous.
anorak, *n.m.* anorak.
anorexie, *n.f.* anorexia.
anormal, *adj.* irregular, abnormal.
anse, *n.f.* handle, bay (water).
antagonisme, *n.m.* antagonism.
antarctique, *adj.* antarctic.
antécédent, *adj. and n.m.* antecedent.
antécédents, *n.m.pl.* record.
antenne, *n.f.* antenna.
antérieur, *adj.* previous; fore, front.
anthracite, *n.m.* anthracite.
antichambre, *n.f.* entrance hall.
anticipation, *n.f.* anticipation.
anticiper, *vb.* anticipate.
anticorps, *n.m.* antibody.
antidote, *n.m.* antidote.
antihistaminique, *n.m.* antihistamine.
Antilles, *n.f.pl.* West Indies.
antilope, *n.f.* antelope.
antinucléaire, *adj.* antinuclear.
antipathie, *n.f.* antipathy.
antiquaire, *n.m.* antique dealer.
antique, *adj.* ancient, antiquated, antique.
antiquité, *n.f.* antiquity.
antisémite, 1. *n.m.* anti-Semite. 2. *adj.* anti-Semitic.
antiseptique, *adj. and n.m.* antiseptic.
antre, *n.m.* den.
anxiété, *n.f.* anxiety, worry.
anxieux, *adj.* anxious.
août (doo), *n.m.* August.
apaiser, *vb.* allay, quiet, appease.
apanage, *n.m.* l'a. de, privilege of.
à part, *n.m.* aside.
apathie, *n.f.* apathy.
apatride, *n.m.* stateless person.
apercevoir, *vb.* perceive. s'a. de, realize.
aperçu, *n.m.* outline.
apéritif, *n.m.* appetizer.
à-peu-près, *n.m.* approximation.
apeuré, *adj.* scared.
aphone, *adj.* voiceless.
apitoyer, *vb.* move (emotionally).
aplanir, *vb.* even off.
aplatir, *vb.* flatten.
aplomb, *n.m.* poise, boldness.
apogée, *n.m.* peak.
apologie, *n.f.* vindication.
apoplexie, *n.f.* apoplexy.
apostolique, *adj.* apostolic.
apostrophe, *n.f.* apostrophe.
apothéose, *n.f.* crowning glory.
apôtre, *n.m.* apostle.
apparaître, *vb.* appear.
appareil, *n.m.* gear, appliance, device. a. photographique, camera.
apparence, *n.f.* appearance, looks.
apparent, *adj.* noticeable, apparent.

apparenté, *adj.* related.
apparition, *n.f.* appearance, ghost.
appartement, *n.m.* apartment.
appartenir, *vb.* belong; pertain.
appât, *n.m.* bait.
appauvrir, *vb.* impoverish.
appel, *n.m.* call, appeal.
appeler, *vb.* call, summon, appeal.
s'a., be named.
appendice, *n.m.* appendix.
appesantir, *vb.* *s'a.*, grow heavier.
appétissant, *adj.* appetizing.
appétit, *n.m.* appetite.
applaudir, *vb.* applaud.
applaudissements, *n.m.pl.* applause.
applicable, *adj.* applicable.
application, *n.f.* application, industry.
appliqué, *adj.* industrious.
appliquer, *vb.* apply (put on), stick. *s'a.*, work hard.
appoint, *n.m.* contribution.
appointements, *n.m.pl.* salary.
apport, *n.m.* contribution.
apporter, *vb.* bring, fetch.
apposer, *vb.* affix.
appréciable, *adj.* appreciable.
appréciation, *n.f.* appreciation.
apprécier, *vb.* appreciate, value.
appréhension, *n.f.* apprehension.
apprendre, *vb.* learn. **a. à**, teach (to). **a. par cœur**, memorize.
apprenti, *n.m.* apprentice.
apprentissage, *n.m.* apprenticeship.
apprêt, *n.m.* preparation.
apprêter, *vb.* *s'a.*, prepare, get ready.
apprivoiser, *vb.* tame.
approbation, *n.f.* endorsement, approval, approbation.
approche, *n.f.* approach.
approcher, *vb.* *s'a. de*, approach, go toward.
approfondir, *vb.* deepen.
appropriation, *n.f.* appropriation.
appropriier, *vb.* *s'a.*, take over, appropriate.
approuver, *vb.* approve.
approvisionnement, *n.m.* supply.
approvisioner, *vb.* supply.
approximatif, *adj.* approximate.
appui (-pwē), *n.m.* support.
appuyer (-pwē-), *vb.* support, en-

dorse, advocate. **a. sur**, emphasize.

âpre, *adj.* bitter.

après, **1. adv. prep.** after. **2. conj. a. que**, after. **d'a.**, according to.

après-demain, *n.m.* day after tomorrow.

après-midi, *n.m.f.* afternoon

âpreté, *n.f.* harshness, bitterness.

à-propos, *n.m.* fitness.

apte à, *adj.* apt, suitable for.

aptitude, *n.f.* fitness, ability, aptitude.

aqualit, *n.m.* waterbed.

aquarelle (-kwâ-), *n.f.* watercolor.

aquarium (-kwâ-), *n.m.* aquarium.

aquatique (-kwâ-), *adj.* aquatic.

aqueux, *adj.* watery.

Arabe, *n.m.f.* Arab, Arabian.

arabe, **1. n.m.** Arabic. **2. adj.** Arab, Arabian, Arabic.

arachide, *n.f.* peanut.

araignée, *n.f.* spider. **toile d'a.**, cobweb.

arbitrage, *n.m.* arbitration.

arbitraire, *adj.* arbitrary.

arbitre, *n.m.f.* umpire, arbitrator.

arbitrer, *vb.* arbitrate.

arbre, *n.m.* tree.

arbrisseau, *n.m.* shrub.

arc (-k), *n.m.* arc, arch, bow.

arcade, *n.f.* arcade.

arc-boutant, *n.m.* flying buttress.

arc-en-ciel, *n.m.* rainbow.

archaïque (ârk-), *adj.* archaic.

arche, *n.f.* arch (of bridge); ark. **a. de Noé**, Noah's Ark.

archéologie, *n.f.* archeology.

archet, *n.m.* bow.

archevêque, *n.m.* archbishop.

archi-, *prefix.* very.

archipel, *n.m.* archipelago.

architecte, *n.m.* architect.

architectural, *adj.* architectural.

architecture, *n.f.* architecture.

archives, *n.f.pl.* files, archives.

arctique, *adj.* arctic.

ardemment, *adv.* eagerly.

ardent, *adj.* eager, fiery, ardent.

ardeur, *n.f.* ardor.

ardoise, *n.f.* slate.

arène, *n.f.* arena, ring.

arête, *n.f.* fish bone.

argent, *n.m.* silver, money.

argenté, *adj.* silver(y).