

Les Accents

Accents are sometimes placed on vowels [a,e,i,o,u] and sometimes [c]. An accent can change the sound of the letter or help distinguish between two different words.

| Accent/Symbole | Name/Nom de l'accent | Example | What it tells you/ La Fonction |
|----------------|----------------------|---|--|
| é | l'accent aigu | éléphant, téléphone, école mangé | Creates an /ay/ sound. Can only exist on the letter (e) in French. |
| à, è, ù | l'accent grave | frère, mère, père, à, où | On the letter (e), it changes the pronunciation to /eh/. On the letters (a) and (u), the grave accent is used to differentiate between words (exemple: 'ou' et 'où') |
| â, ê, î, ô, û | l'accent circonflexe | gâteau, forêt, château, dîner hôpital, août | This accent can change the pronunciation of the vowels a, e and o but never of e and i. On the letters (a) and (u), the grave accent is used to differentiate between words (exemple: 'ou' et 'où') |
| ë, ï, ö, ü | Le tréma | Noël, Jamaïque, maïs, coïncidence | The 'tréma' indicates the pronunciation of 2 separate vowels that are next to each other. |
| ç | la cédille | Français, ça va, garçon, reçu, leçon | This accent changes a "c" sound to an "s" sound. It is not placed before vowels "a,e, i" since "c" already sounds like an "s" in front of these letters. |

