


## 5 steps for pronouncing unfamiliar words in French

### 1. Silent letters

Most consonants and 'e' at end of a word are usually silent  
 CAREFUL! – C-R-F-L can sometimes be sounded  
 H is always silent

### 2. Nasal sounds

am – an – em – en  e.g. bl-an-c

aim – ain – eim – ein – im – in – ym – yn  e.g. c-in-q

om – on  e.g. b-on





um – un  e.g. b-r-un

Note: There is no nasal sound  
 if the following letter is a vowel e.g. u-n-e  
 if there is a double mm or nn e.g. g-o-mm-e

### 3. Letter strings

**Vowels** ai/ei  au/eau  eu/œ/œu  oi  ou 

**Consonants** ch  gn  ll  th   
 after i

**Vowels and consonants** er/es/ez  ien  il/ill  qu   
 after a vowel

### 4. Letter E

**e in a one syllable word**  e.g. le

**e before 1 consonant**  e.g. mercredi

**e before 2 consonants**  e.g. mercredi

**è with a grave accent**  e.g. règle

**é with an acute accent**  e.g. café

### 5. Single vowels and consonants which have a different sound to English

i/y



u



g before e

j



r/rr



s/x



before a vowel