



La phonétique (Phonics & Pronunciation) - Background

We have created a series of 4 French 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons. These are individual lessons (not a complete unit); they are sequential and are designed to be appropriate for each year of Key Stage 2. This series of 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons are important as French is a notoriously difficult language to pronounce for foreign language learners. As a language, it contains many sounds that we do not have in the English language.

Ideally, each year group should be taught one appropriate 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lesson at the start of each academic year before embarking on their full Language Angels units. We recommend you teach the lessons in sequence (starting with Lesson 1 and moving through to Lesson 4) rather than, for example, jumping straight into Lesson 4 in the series for Year 6 or straight into Lesson 3 for Year 5. These would still work as individual lessons, but your pupils will miss out on the important phonic sounds and phonemes taught in previous lessons in the series. Teachers of mixed-age classes may wish to teach 2 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons at the start of each year.

For example: for a Year 6 class we would suggest teaching all 4 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons in the series. If teachers feel it will take too much of planned French teaching time to teach all 4 lessons in sequence, we suggest spreading the lessons over various half-terms so that all 4 lessons are covered by the end of the academic year. The important thing is to ensure all year groups have covered all 4 of the 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons by the end of Key Stage 2. You will find that pronunciation will improve noticeably if your pupils are able to complete all 4 of the French 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons.

The 4 lessons in this series can be repeated as required. These sounds are linked to our materials but are not an exhaustive list of French phonemes. There are others that the pupils will explore and encounter as they continue with their language learning journey. The phonemes have been organised as follows:

Phonics & Pronunciation - Lesson 1

ch	ou	on	oi
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Phonics & Pronunciation - Lesson 2

i	in	ique	ille
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Phonics & Pronunciation - Lesson 3

eau	eux	é	è	e
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Phonics & Pronunciation - Lesson 4

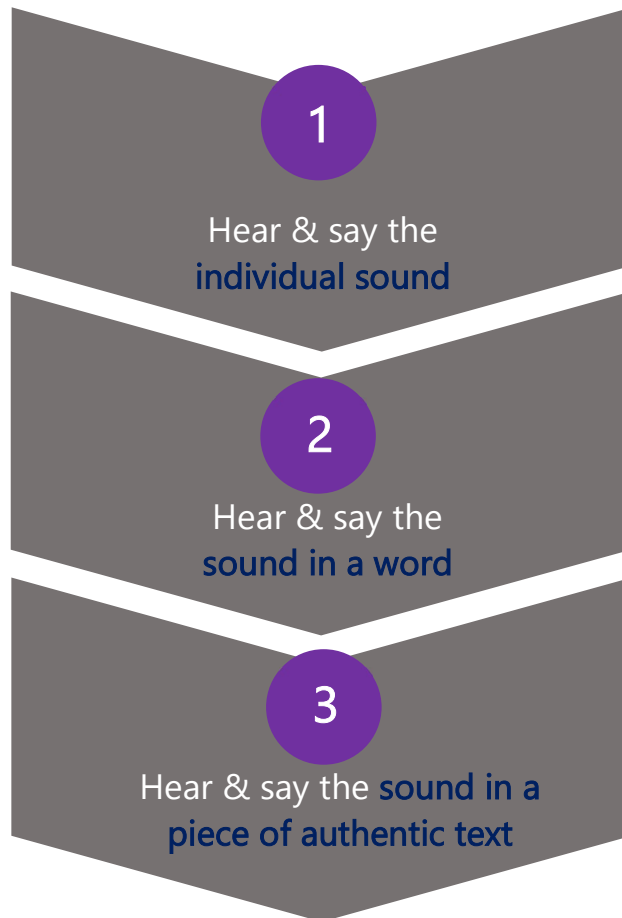
qu	gne	ç	en	an
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La phonétique (Phonics & Pronunciation) – Methodology and Pedagogy

The 4 lessons in the 'Phonics & Pronunciation' series have been designed to introduce each phonic sound / phoneme on its own first and pronounced in an exaggerated form to help the pupils hear it pronounced clearly so as to be able to repeat and practise it. Once it has been heard, we discuss how to actually make the sound and link it (where possible) to a similar sound in English. The pupils will then see the sound in a French word. Finally, by the end of each lesson, the pupils will see each of the sounds in a piece of unknown text, in a relevant appropriate word and pronounced at near native speed.

There is precise methodology and pedagogy incorporated into each lesson. We teach these phonics / phonemes in 3 clear steps:



The more sounds the pupils hear, learn and recognise, the more they will be able to decode and read unknown words and text in French. Our young French learners (including EAL pupils) will find it easier to mimic and reproduce the French sounds than even teenagers or adult learners would. Their throat muscles and vocal cords are still developing so are soft and flexible. Yet another advantage of youth!

It is worth remembering, however, that the phonics will be taught in a slightly different way to the way we learn English phonics as not only is the language very different, but we also have much less time and are learning as foreign language learners, not native speakers.

Over the course of the 4 lessons in this series, we will gradually and systematically introduce pupils to 18 key French phonic sounds and phonemes with between 4 or 5 sounds being introduced per lesson. The whole French alphabet and all the vowel sounds will also be explored and repeated in each of the 4 lessons.

The sounds we have chosen for our series of 'Phonics & Pronunciation' lessons are the most recognised and relevant for this age group. Each phonic sound/phoneme is associated with and presented alongside an age-appropriate French word. The lessons will give the pupils enough phonic knowledge to be able to read a piece of unknown French text with increased confidence, accuracy, and fluency.

The lessons are structured to follow a particular order of activities. There is quite a lot of material to get through, so we suggest only a few class repeats on each slide. The most important material from each lesson will be repeated throughout the 'Phonics & Pronunciation' series. To help embed and consolidate learning, you also have access to desk-based activities, a karaoke song and a mouth mechanics guide video, linked to the sounds introduced in each lesson.

The pupils will also explore the following linguistic concepts which are particular to the French language as they progress through the 4 lessons:

- Silent letters and consonants at the ends of words
- Different accents on words
- Letters 'e', 'h' and 'r'
- Liaison

Vowel sounds in French:

a	e	i	o	u	y
In French the letter 'a' is pronounced much like the English letter 'a' in words such as 'cat' or 'pat'. The tongue is kept low down in the mouth and the lips are unrounded.	This French 'e' sound is a short, crisp 'e' sound made with the tongue in a mid to high position in the mouth. It is pronounced as 'eh', much like how we pronounce the 'e' in the English word 'the' or 'ur' in 'fur'. The lips are pursed and rounded.	The French letter 'i' is pronounced very closely to how we pronounce the letter combination 'ee' in English', for example, 'see' or 'keep'. In French, the tongue is positioned even higher, almost touching the roof of the mouth, at the front. The lips are unrounded and drawn back. Same as French 'y'.	The French 'o' sound is pronounced similarly to the way we pronounce the letter 'o' in the English word 'or'. The tongue is in mid to high position, towards the back of the mouth. It is a shorter and crisper sound than the English, with the lips rounded and kept in a fixed position.	The French letter 'u' is pronounced as 'ooh' but a little shorter and more clipped. The position of the tongue in the mouth is similar to when we say the English words 'who' or 'shoe', but much like the French 'i', the tongue is positioned even higher and at the front. The lips are pursed and rounded.	The French letter 'y' is pronounced very closely to how we pronounce the letter combination 'ee' in English', for example, 'see' or 'keep'. In French, the tongue is positioned even higher, almost touching the roof of the mouth, at the front. The lips are unrounded and drawn back. Same as French 'i'.