

French Pronunciation

Languages

The rules that explain why the spelling and the sound disagree.

Almost all of the difficulty is in what you do NOT pronounce.

Silent endings

Final consonants are usually silent

Exceptions: C, R, F, L — 'CaReFuL'

Final -e is silent

Verb ending -ent is silent: ils parlent

Liaison

A silent final consonant links to a following vowel

les amis → lez-ami

vous avez → vouz-avez

Never after 'et'

Vowel sounds

ou = oo, u = tight lips, no English match

ai / ei = eh

au / eau = oh

oi = wah

Nasals

an / en = ahn

in / ain = anh

on = ohn

un = uhn

H is always silent. It only matters for whether the word takes 'l' or le.