

## French Accent Marks

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The following page offers a video covering the French accent marks.  
<https://www.frenchlearner.com/lessons/french-accent-marks/>

The following summarizes the the French accents.

### L'accent aigu: é

This is the upward slanting accent over the -é. It causes an -e to sound like ay as in play or the phonetic [e]. Examples:

- café (coffee, coffee shop)
- Céline
- fatigué (tired)

### L'accent grave: è à

This is the downward slanting accent over the -e or -a. When found over the -e it causes the -e to be pronounced like "eh" as in get or [ɛ].

- mère (mother)
- père (father)
- frère (brother)

When l'accent grave occurs over an -a, à means the preposition to or at. When it occurs over the -a in la as in là, it means there. Without the accent grave, la means the in the feminine form.

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**L'accent circonflexe:** â, ê, î, ô, û

L'accent circonflexe is the "little hat" accent. In old French it would have preceded the letter -s. Examples:

- l'île (island)
- la forêt (forest)
- les pâtes (pasta)
- l'hôpital (hospital)

**L'accent tréma:** ï ë

These are the two dots that can occur over a vowel. The accent's function is for both this vowel and the vowel next to it get pronounced. Examples:

- maïs (corn)
- naïf/naïve (naive)
- mosaïque (mosaic)

**La cédille:** ç Ç

The cedilla mark under the -c makes the -c sound like an -s sound. Examples:

- ça (that)
- la leçon (lesson)
- le garçon (boy)