

L'alphabet en français/The French Alphabet

Your child can help you learn the names of the letters in the French alphabet. The following is a phonetic equivalent of the names of the letters.

Aa	<i>ah</i> as in <u>apple</u>
Bb	<i>bay</i> as in <u>babe</u>
Cc	<i>say</i>
Dd	<i>day</i>
Ee	<i>eu^h</i> as in <u>full</u>
Fe	<i>eff</i>
Gg	<i>zhay</i> as in <u>measure</u> (think of the difference in sound between s and sh then do the same with z.)
Hh	<i>ash</i> (<i>this letter is always silent in all French words</i>)
Ii	<i>ee</i> as in <u>feel</u>
Jj	<i>zhee</i> (same initial sound as in <u>Gg measure</u>)
Kk	<i>ka</i> as in <u>capital</u>
Ll	<i>el</i>
Mm	<i>em</i>
Nn	<i>en</i>
Oo	<i>oh</i>
Pp	<i>pay</i>
Qq	<i>[ky]</i> make the k sound, then round your lips very tightly, push the tip of your tongue against the back of your lower teeth and try to make the sound oo as in <u>pool</u> .
Rr	<i>er</i> as in <u>air</u>
Ss	<i>es</i>
Tt	<i>tay</i>
Uu	round your lips very tightly, push the tip of your tongue against the back of your lower teeth and try to make the sound oo as in <u>pool</u> .
Vv	<i>vay</i>
Ww	<i>doo-bleuh-vay</i>
Xx	<i>ix</i> as in <u>fix</u>
Yy	<i>ee-grek</i> (roll that r!)
Zz	<i>zed</i>

Well, give it a try. Your child will delight in correcting you. Learning a second language requires a resilient ego and a sense of humour. Good luck!

These letters make the following sounds...

é	ay as in hay
ou	oo as in pool (relaxed lips)
ch	sh as in ship
qu	k
oi	wuh
on	plug your nose with your fingers and say the word <u>own</u> . Instead of pushing the sound and the air out of your mouth push it out of your nose to create a nasal sound . Now drop the n , and you have the nasal <i>on</i> sound.
en/an	again, plug your nose and say the word <u>fawn</u> . Now drop the f and the n and create the nasal <i>en/an</i> sound.
ô	oh
eu	round your lips very tightly and say <i>euh</i> as in <u>full</u>
in	again, plug your nose and say the word <u>men</u> . Now drop the m and n and create the nasal sound <i>in</i> .
â	ah as in the work <u>all</u>
un	think of the <i>euh</i> sound in <u>bullet</u> . Now plug your nose and say <i>euh</i> and you're getting close to the nasal sound in <i>un</i>
ê/è	e as in the beginning of the word <u>elephant</u>

Have fun learning together with your child!