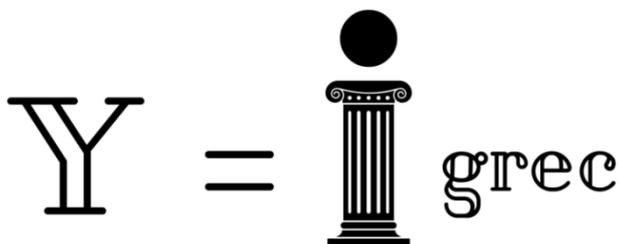


LESSON NOTES

How to pronounce the letter "Y" in a French word?

1. General rule

REMINDER: The letter "Y" is called "i" grec → it's a Greek "i" → [i]



EXAMPLES:

style, type, cyclone, bicyclette

[stil] [tip] [i] [i] [i]

2. At the beginning of a word / syllable

When the "y"/"i" is at the beginning of a word or syllable, pronounce [j] (**just like the English "y" in the word "yes"**).

This is more natural, it flows better than with the sound [i].

EXAMPLES: yaourt, yack, kayak

3. When the y is next to another vowel

MODULE 4 - FRENCH SOUNDS THAT ARE DIFFERENT FROM ENGLISH -
 PRONUNCIATION RULES AND TIPS - PART 1 - FRENCH VOWELS AND VOWEL SOUNDS

M4.3 - "Y" : How to pronounce the letter "Y" in a French word?

Picture/visualise a double "i"!

- Do NOT make the [i] sound longer;
- This tip will help you read words that would form sound combinations

EXAMPLES:

Actual French word	Word pictured with a double "i"	Word cut into syllables (<i>sound combinations</i>)	Pronunciation (IPA)
Pays	paais	pai-is (A+I = [3])	[p3i]
Abbaye	abbaaie	a/bai/ie (A+I = [3])	[ab3i]
Voyage	Voiiage	voi/iage (O+I = [wa]) The "I" at the beginning of the second syllable is pronounced [j]	[vwaja3]
essayer	essaaiier	e/ssai/ier (A+I = [3]) The "I" at the beginning of the second syllable is pronounced [j]	[3s3je]