

EXERCISES

Exercise 1: How would you pronounce the "e" in bold in the following examples?

Write the corresponding sound under each letter "e": mute (indicate with X), [ə], [e] or [ɛ].

1. "Hélène, je m'appelle **Hélène**, je suis une fille comme les autres."

(song by Hélène Rolles, 1993)

2. Zoé a regardé son frère mettre la clé dans la boîte aux lettres.
3. Isabelle Huppert est une actrice française célèbre.
4. Merci pour tes idées géniales de cadeaux de Noël !
5. Acheter → j'achète, nous achetons, ils ont acheté
6. Il aime pêcher des truites dans la rivière.
7. Votre honnêteté sera très appréciée.

M4.1 - "E": The different ways to pronounce the letter "E" in French



Exercise 2: [e] vs [ɛ] - Which sound do you hear?

Listen to the recording and tick the correct box.

	I hear [e] (as in "téléphone")	I hear [ɛ] (as in "mère")
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		



Exercise 3: Dictation: "é" or "è" ?

Listen to the recording. Fill the blanks with

- "é" - if you hear [e]
- "è" - if you hear [ɛ].

1. r__verb__re, 2. bact__rie, 3. trap__ze, 4. trap__ziste, 5. bi__re, 6. arri__re, 7. arri__r__,

8. je pr__f__re, 9. d__l__t__re, 10. compl__mentarit__

ANSWERS



Exercise 1

Check your answers below. You can also listen to the recording to get more familiar with the sounds.

1. "Hélène, je m'appelle Hélène, je suis une fille comme les autres."
[e] [ɛ] X [ə]/X [ɛ] X [e][ɛ] X [ə] [ə]/X X X/[ə] [e] [ə]/X
2. Zoé a regardé son frère mettre la clé dans la boîte aux lettres.
[e] [ə]/X [e] [ɛ] X [ɛ] [ə]/X [e] X [ɛ] X/[ə]
3. Isabelle Huppert est une actrice française célèbre.
[ɛ] X [ɛ] [ɛ] X X X/[ə] [e][ɛ] X/[ə]
4. Merci pour tes idées géniales de cadeaux de Noël!
[ɛ] [e] [e] [e] X [ə] [ə] [ɛ]
5. Acheter → j'achète, nous achetons, ils ont acheté
X/[ə] [ɛ] X/[ə] X/[ə] [e]
6. Il aime pêcher des truites dans la rivière.
X/[ə] [ɛ] [e] [e] X/[ə] [ɛ] X/[ə]
7. Votre honnête té sera très appréciée.
X/[ə] [ɛ] [ə]/X [e] [ə]/X [ɛ] [e] [e]



NOTES:

When the letter "E" can either be pronounced [ə] or not pronounced at all, I wrote both options ("X/[ə]"). The choice is often a matter of regional accent.

In sentence #1, the "E" is most often sounded because the sentence is from a song: lyrics or poetry verses often do so in order to get the desired number of syllables. A more natural way of speaking would be to not sound these "E".

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

M4.1 - "E": The different ways to pronounce the letter "E" in French

Exercise 2

	The word was :	I hear [e]	I hear [ɛ]
1	Balèze		X
2	aliéné	X X	
3	parlé	X	
4	parlèrent		X
5	Passage piéton	X	
6	naguère		X
7	journée	X	
8	Grèce		X

Exercise 3

1. Réverbère, 2. bactérie, 3. trapèze, 4. trapéziste, 5. bière, 6. arrière, 7. arriéré, 8. je préfère, 9. délétère, 10. complémentarité