| **Vowels** | **Pronunciation Guide** | **Example** | **What the example means** |
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| a | is pronounced like 'ah' in English | la | (the) |
| à | is also pronounced like 'ah | là | (there) |
| â | is pronounced like 'ah' but longer | âne | (donkey) |
| e | When placed in the middle of a syllable, it is pronounced like ai in 'fair' | mer | (sea) |
| e | When placed at the end of a syllable, it is pronounced like er in 'her' | le | (the) |
| e | is silent at the end of a word | tasse | (cup) |
| é | is pronounced like 'ay' | été | (summer) |
| è | is pronounced like ai in 'fair' | père | (father) |
| ê | is also pronounced like ai in 'fair' | tête | (head) |
| i, y | are pronounced like ee in 'meet' | ski | (skiing) |
| o | is pronounced like o in 'not' | poste | (post office) |
| ô | is pronounced like 'oh' | hôtel | (hotel) |
| u | this sound does not exist in English; say 'oo' with rounded lips | vu | (seen) |
| oi | is pronounced like 'wah' | roi | (king) |
| ou | is pronounced like 'oo' | roue | (wheel) |
| ai, ei | are pronounced like e in 'let' | laine | (wool) |
| au, eau | are pronounced like 'oh' | au | (to the) |
| eu, oeu | are pronounced like er in 'her' | neufsoeur | (nine)(sister) |