

# French

This is a guide for you as a French speaker as you go through the Pronunciation Pro Course.

To get the most out of your membership, follow the Pronunciation Pro Course module by module and add any necessary bonus lessons.

Lessons that may be omitted from the 12-module course for French speakers include:

- Module 3: Initial, Medial, & Final /N/, Initial & Medial /L/
- However, please still review the Final /L/ and the Word Stress lessons from Module 3

## COMMON ERRORS

Below you will find some common error sounds and patterns specifically for French speakers. These common errors can help you better understand your own speech patterns and areas to focus on as you improve your English pronunciation and fluency.

You might not have issues with all of these sounds. If you would like a more customized assessment of your speech, please contact us for a Full Accent Assessment from our certified American Trainers.

## VOWELS

Almost all English vowels must be practiced. French vowels are generally shorter in length, produced further forward in the mouth, and utilize a tenser tongue position than English vowels. Therefore, English vowel practice is highly encouraged. (**Modules 5-7**)

TARGET SOUNDS	COMMON ERROR	MOUDLE/BONUS LESSON
/er/ (word)	May be pronounced with lips protruded and rounded.	Module 4 - R-vowels
/A/ (day)	Confused with /e/ (yes); pronounced too short	Module 5
/I/ (fine)	Second sound in this diphthong may be too strong	Module 5
/i/ (sit)	Confused with /ee/ (we)	Module 6
/ee/ (we)	Pronounced too short: confused with /i/ (sit)	Module 6
/u/ (cup)	Confused with /o/ (hot), or may sound more like /er/ (word)	Module 7
/o/ (hot)	May be confused with /O/ (go)	Module 7
/a/ (hat)	Confused with /u/ (cup), /o/ (hot), /e/ (yes)	Module 7
/oy/ (boy)	Confused with /o/ (hot)	Bonus Lesson - /oy/
/ooh/ (put, book)	Confused with /oo/ (too)	Bonus Lesson - /oo/ & /ooh/



/ow/ (house)	Second sound of this diphthong may be too strong	Bonus Lesson - /ow/
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## CONSONANTS

French speakers generally do not lengthen their vowels before final voiced consonants, which can make them hard to distinguish from their voiceless counterparts. **(Module 1 – Final Voiced Consonants)**

TARGET SOUNDS	COMMON ERRORS	MODULE/BONUS LESSON
/th/ (think)	Usually pronounced /s/	Module 2 - Voiceless /th/
/TH/ (this)	Usually pronounced /s/	Module 2 - Voiced /TH/
/l/ (look)	Difficulty with the “Dark L” (final /l/ as in “ball”); a full vowel sound may be added before syllabic /l/ (trouble)	Module 3- Final /L/
/r/ (rare)	Pronounced too far back (guttural /r/)	Module 4- R, R-blends, R-vowels
/h/ (how)	Omitted in initial word position, or mistakenly inserted before words beginning with vowels	Bonus Lesson - /h/
/p/, /t/ & /k/	Not aspirated in initial word position, making them sound like their voiced counterparts (/b/, /d/d, & /g/)	Bonus Lesson /p/, & /p/, /t/, /k/
/t/ (tot)	Produced too far forward (touching the back of the upper front teeth)	***Best addressed through direct trainer feedback (see below)
/dg/ (joke)	Confused with /zh/ (vision)	Bonus Lesson - /dg/
/ch/ (chip)	May be pronounced as /sh/ (shoe)	Bonus Lesson - /ch/
“ing” (ring)	May be replaced with other nasal sounds	Bonus Lessons - “ing”

\*\*\* Ways to receive direct trainer feedback include the Weekly Study Groups and the Weekly Challenge



## STRESS, INTONATION, RHYTHM

The last syllable in a word or phrase is typically stressed in French, which makes both word and sentence stress challenging in English. **(Module 3 – Word Stress, Module 4 – Sentence Stress)**

French speakers may sound flat or monotone in their intonation, or their changes in intonation may be too abrupt rather than gliding. **(Module 5 – Intonation)**

