

DES EXPRESSIONS UTILES ET L'ALPHABET

Note d'orthographe

1. The **cédille** occurs only on the letter **c** and causes it to be pronounced /s/ before the vowels **a, o, and u**.
2. The accent marks occur only on vowels, and the **accent aigu** only on the vowel **e**.
3. Accents in French do not indicate stress. They are used to indicate a difference in pronunciation (é versus è), to differentiate two words (**ou** [or] versus **où** [where]), or for historical reasons.

You will learn about accent marks and the use of the **cédille** in **Chapitre 2**. For now, learn the accents as part of the spelling of a new word.

Note de vocabulaire

1. There are several ways to say *You're welcome*.

De rien.

Il n'y a pas de quoi.

Je vous en prie. (formal)

Je t'en prie. (familiar)

2. **Pardon** and **excusez-moi** are not always interchangeable. Generally, use **pardon** to pass through a crowd or get someone's attention. Use **excusez-moi** (**excuse-moi** [familiar]) if you want to say you're sorry about something you have done or to get someone's attention.

  **Prononcez bien!** See Modules 2 and 3.

When you hear new words, it may be helpful to see how they are spelled. You can ask:

Ça s'écrit comment?

Ça s'écrit avec ou sans accent?

Ça s'écrit avec un ou deux s en français / en anglais?

How is that written?

Is that written with or without an accent?

Is that written with one or two s's in French / in English?

a a Anne

b bé Bruno

c cé Caroline

d dé Didier

e e Emma

f effe Françoise

g gé Gabriel/Gérard

h hache Hugo

i i Isabelle

j ji Jules

k ka Karima

l elle Lola

m emme Margot

n enne Nathan

o o Olivier

p pé Pascal

q ku

r erre

s esse

t té

u u

v vé

w double vé

x iks

y i grec

z zède

Quentin

Romane

Stéphane

Tristan

Ursula

Valérie

Wladimir

Xavier

Yves

Zoé

é = e accent aigu

è = e accent grave

â = a accent circonflexe

ï = i tréma

ç = c cédille

' = apostrophe

- = trait d'union

ll = deux l

You may also need to use these expressions.

Comment? Répétez, s'il vous plaît.

— Vous comprenez?

— Oui, je comprends.

Non, je ne comprends pas.

— Comment dit-on *a pen* en français?

— On dit **un stylo**.

— Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire **votre**?

— Ça veut dire *your*.

— Je ne sais pas.

— Merci. / Merci bien.

— De rien.

— Pardon. / Excusez-moi.

What? Please repeat.

— *Do you understand?*

— *Yes, I understand.*

No, I don't understand.

— *How does one say a pen in French?*

— *One says un stylo.*

— *What does votre mean?*

— *It means your.*

— *I don't know.*

— *Thank you., Thanks.*

— *You're welcome.*

— *Excuse me.*



1-18

A Des animaux. Listen as the names of some animals are spelled out and write them down.

EXEMPLE VOUS ENTENDEZ: A-N-I-M-A-L
VOUS ÉCRIVEZ: **animal**



B Comparaisons culturelles. Working with a group, see how many of the names of these francophone places you can complete within the time limit set by your professor. The team with the most correct names wins. When you are done, take turns spelling out the names of the places.

EXEMPLE Québec Q-U-E accent aigu B-E-C

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. _____ rance | 4. _____ ahiti | 7. _____ énégal |
| 2. _____ lgérie | 5. _____ uadeloupe | 8. _____ ouisiane |
| 3. _____ ôte d'Ivoire | 6. _____ aroc | 9. _____ elgique |



C Les SMS (text messages). Here are some common abbreviations used in French text messages (les SMS or les textos). First, spell them out, using the French alphabet and numbers. Then, match each one to its equivalent. In some cases, attempting to read the symbols aloud may help you determine the meaning.

de rien ciné (*cinema*) à demain je sais excellent à plus (tard)
 Tu es OK? bonjour salut s'il vous plaît

- | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|--------|---------|
| 1. A+ | 3. 2 ri 1 | 5. 6né | 7. TOK | 9. SVP |
| 2. Je c | 4. a2m1 | 6. XLnt | 8. SLT | 10. bjr |



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D Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire? Comment dit-on...? With a partner, take turns asking and telling what each of the following words or phrases means.

EXEMPLE ouvrez — Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire *ouvrez*?
 — Ça veut dire *open*!

ouvrez fermez le prochain cours les mots apprenez
 faites un crayon un stylo l'examen lisez

Now, ask your partner how to say in French each of the following words or phrases. When he/she tells you, ask how it is spelled.

EXEMPLE *open* — Comment dit-on *open* en français?
 — On dit *ouvrez*.
 — Ça s'écrit comment?
 — Ça s'écrit O-U-V-R-E-Z.

open please Thanks! You're welcome. the workbook
 I don't know. Excuse me. the homework the next class



E Réponses. Look back at the expressions above and below the alphabet on the preceding page. What would you say in the following situations?

1. You understood the question, but you don't know the answer.
2. You want to know how to say *giraffe* in French.
3. You want to know if *giraffe* is written with one *f* or two in French.
4. You want to know what the word **fou** means in English.
5. You need to pass through a group of students.
6. You stepped on someone's foot.

You can find a list of the new words from this **Compétence** on page 27 and access the audio online.