

FRENCH LANGUAGE

TOPIC ----- L'ACCENT [Définition et types]

CLASS ----- Jss2

WEEK----- 2--3

TERM ----- THIRD TERM

DEFINITION: Accent is a distinctive way of pronouncing a language, especially one associated with a particular country, area or social class.

TYPES OF FRENCH ACCENTS

There five[5] accents in French writing

1. L'accent aigu [acute accent] é
2. L'accent grave [grave accernt] è, ù
3. La cedilla [cedilla] Ç
4. L'accent circumflex [circumflex]
5. L'accent tréma [treme] ë, î, ü.

LES FONCTIONS DE L'ACCENT

1. L'ACCENT AIGU é : The accent aigu is primarily used to tell the reader how an "e" should be pronounced. It is the only French accent that can only be paired with one vowel an that vowel is "e".

You will see e used a lot when forming the past participle as in the passé compose and other French verb tenses. In that case, the "e" helps differenciate between past and present tense verbes in both written and spoken French.

2. L'ACCENT GRAVE è ù: The accent grave can be used with the vowels a, e, and u. It functions depends on which vowels it is paired with. When an "e" gets the accent grave its primary used to indicate pronunciation, it is pronounced as "eh".

The accent grave on a and u is used to diffrenchia between words that otherwise look and sound the same.

3. L'ACCENT CEDILLE Ç: The accent cedilla is the only accent used on the lwtter C in French. It is used to indicate that the C in question is pronounced like "S" as in français and garçon.

Tge cedilla appears only before the vowels a, o, and u.that's because a C before an e or l pronounced like an S. Without the accent cedilla it makes the sound K.

4. L'ACCENT CIRCUMFLEX ê ô î â û: The accent circumflex is used to indicate pronunciation to differenciate between homonyms as a linguistic marker showing a historical spelling change.

5. L'ACCENT TREMA ü ÿ ö: The accent trema is used especially in names, to tell you to pronounce both vowels e.g. zoë, noël, and taiwan. It is also used when a word ending in gu [like aigu] is made feminine to tell you what's happened and to pronounce the end of the word.