

Chapter- 1

Didou apprend le français

STUDY NOTES

In this Chapter we will learn about –

- A. Alphabets**
- B. Salutations(Greetings)**
- C. Accents**

ALPHABETS

The French alphabet contains the same 26 letters as the English alphabet. It has the same 5 vowels and 21 consonants. However, many of the letters are pronounced very differently in French than in English. The French also have five accents that are used to distinguish words from one another and to change the pronunciation of certain letters. For French spelling, accents are just as important as letters.

- The letters look exactly the same as English letters. (There are no characters to memorize or new letters to learn.)
- Many letters sound somewhat similar to their English counterparts. Q, U, X
- An entire group of letters makes the “AY” sound: B, C, D, G, P, T, V
- A few letters sound exactly the same as the English letters: F, L, M, N, O, S
- Many letters have very simple and easy-to memorize pronunciations.

NOTE

Accents can change the pronunciation and meaning of letters and words. English speakers have to learn French accents to fully understand the French alphabet.

SALUTATIONS

In daily life what are the basic conversation / greetings we do in French let us check-

French	Pronunciation	English
à bientôt	ah bee-ehn-toe	see you soon
à demain	ah deh-mehn	see you tomorrow
à toute à l'heure	ah toot ah luhr	see you later
à vos souhaits	ah voh soo-eht	bless you (after a sneeze)
adieu	ah-dyuh	goodbye
au revoir	oh reh-vwah	goodbye
bienvenue	bee-ehn veh-noo	welcome
bonne chance	bohn shahnce	good luck
bonne nuit	bohn nwee	Good night
bonjour	bohn-jhoor	hello
bonsoir	bohn-swahr	good evening
de rien	deh ree-en	you're welcome
enchanté	ahn-shant-ay	pleased to meet you (to a male)
enchantée	ahn-shant-ay	pleased to meet you (to a female)
merci	mehr-see	thank you
merci beaucoup	mehr-see bo-koo	thank you very much
salut	sah-loo	hello or goodbye
santé	sahn-tay	cheers
tant pis	tahn pee	Never mind

ACCENTS

There are 5 French accents:

1. the cédille Ç,
2. the accent aigu é,
3. the accent circonflexe â, ê, î, ô, û,
4. the accent grave à, è, ù
5. and the accent tréma ë, ï, ü.

As soon as we will go through we will learn the pronunciation and its use.

