

taste and ability, and to the genius and idioms of the English language.

In preparing the reading lesson with the aid of the Figured Pronunciation, the pupil must often refer to the directions, given in the first twenty-two pages, treating of the different sounds of the French letters; and to the key placed at top of the page.

The syllables are separated by a dash -; see note, page 9, on the division of syllables.

Letters taken from the preceding, or the following word, and joined to another word, are separated by a dot.; and must be pronounced with the syllable to which they are joined, without regard to the dot, which has been introduced to prevent confounding one word with another; for instance, *tout à vous* is pronounced *tou t.a vou; votre ami, vo- tr.a-mi; tout le monde, tou.l mond; est-ce, è.s, &c.*

In the French text of the key, the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4, prefixed to verbs, indicate the regular conjugation to which each belongs.

This mark †, indicates that the verb before which it stands, is *irregular*.

In preparing the translation of *Ideas*, the pupil must bear in mind,

That an asterisk *, is placed before words which are to be left out.

That the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, &c., placed before the English words, show the English construction, or order of words in each sentence.

That a parenthesis (), embraces those English expressions, which, in order to give a tolerable translation of *Ideas* of the French, must be changed into those English expressions, which follow the (), and which are placed between two hyphens - -;

And that sometimes in order to complete the sense of a sentence, it has been necessary to add some English words, which in this case, stand between brackets [].

GRAMMAR

OF THE

FRENCH LANGUAGE.

1. French Grammar is the art of speaking and writing the French Language with propriety.

2. The letters of the French alphabet are 25 in number, which are called

a, b, c, d, e, f, g†, h, i, j†, k, l, m, n, o, p, q†, r, s, t, u†, v, x, y, z.
ah, bay, say, day, a, eff, zhay, ash, e, zhee, kah, el, em, en, o, pay, ku, air, ess, tay, u, vay, eeks, ee-grec, zed.

† The names of the letters thus marked, cannot be given with precision, and must be learned from a master.

3. These 25 letters are divided into vowels and consonants.

4. There are 6 vowels a, e, i, o, u, y.

y, is by some considered as a consonant, but as it has the sound of i, and often of two i, I prefer to call it a vowel.

5. There are 19 consonants, b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, x, z.

w, which is named in French double vay, does not belong to the French alphabet; it is never met in French books, except in foreign words; it is generally pronounced like v in the word *very*, and in a few words, as it is in the word *work*.

6. Besides the marks of punctuation, which are the same both in French and English, there are other marks called accents, &c.

7. There are 3 accents:

8. The *acute* (´) which is never placed but over e, as *préféré, régénéré*.

9. The *grave* (`) which is placed over a, e, u, as in *voilà, procès, où*.

10. The *circumflex* (^) which is placed over a, e, i, o, u, to give them a long sound as *pâte, tête, gîte, vôtre, bûche*.

11. The *cedilla* (ç) which is a kind of a comma, placed under *c*, to give it the sound of *s* before *a*, *o*, *u*, as in *façade*, *façon*, *reçu*.

12. The *apostrophe* (') which is employed to mark the suppression of a vowel before another vowel, or *h* mute, as in *l'étude*, *l'oiseau* *l'homme*, *s'il trouve*, which stand for *la étude*, *le oiseau*, *le homme*, *si il trouve*.

13. The *diaeresis* (¨) which is placed over either of the vowels *e*, *i*, *u*, to intimate that they are to be pronounced distinctly from the vowel which precedes them, as in *poëte*, *naïveté*, *sauil*.

14. Of the Sounds of Letters.

The *sound* of a letter, or of a combination of letters, must not be confounded with the *name* of the letter or letters; the letter *a*, for instance, which is named *ay*, has several *sounds*, as heard in *fate*, *far*, *fall*, *fat*; the name of *d*, in English is *dee*, and its *sound* that heard at the beginning and at the end of the word *dead* when pronounced. The letters *sh*, are named *ess*, and *aitch*, and their *sound*, when together, is that heard in *she*, pronounced *sh-e*. The same might be said of other letters, and combination of letters.

It would be of infinite advantage to children if they were taught in their own language the sound of each letter separately; and were well exercised upon each before they are made to read. Children in France, taught on this plan, are able to read fluently, and to pronounce with more clearness in a shorter time, than by the old method. It has been found to be of much service to those who afterwards learn a foreign language, since there are in every language but few sounds peculiar to it. The author will treat the subject at full length, in a work which he proposes to publish, with a view of explaining a method pursued in France with great success; and which can easily be adapted to the English language.

15. Of the Sounds of Simple Vowels.

a,	sounds like	a	in	at	fat	mat	rat	marry	flat			
â,	"	"	a	in	arm	barn	far	dart	part	mark		
e,	"	"	û	in	tub	burn	gust	lurk	rust	dusk		
é,	"	"	a	in	ale	bale	cave	dale	fate	game		
è,	"	"	a	in	mare	fare	or	ai	in	air	pair	fair
ê,	"	"	e	in	there	where						
i,	"	"	i	in	idiom	dip	kit	big	tin	pin		
î,	"	"	ee	in	eel	bee	deer	keel	reed	peer		
o,	"	"	o	in	opera	not	crop	frog	prop	trot		
ô,	"	"	o	in	over	more	no	bone	rope	note		

u†, sounds neither like *u* as heard in *tube*, nor *u* as heard in *bull*.

It has nearly the sound of w in the word twenty, in which this letter is not pronounced so full as in other words. In order to pronounce u, let the pupil pronounce the English letter e; then, without changing the position of his organs, let him close his lips a little more than for the e, and articulate the sound of the French u.

û|, has the same sound as the above, only a little longer.

16. Of the Sounds of Compound Vowels.

eu, sounds like *u* in *muff*, *cuff*, *puff*.

eûf, has the same sound as the above, only much longer.

eur, sounds exactly like *ur*, in *blur*, *fur*, *spur*, *cur*, *shur*.

ou, sounds like *oo* in *too*, or *u* in *bull*, *full*, *pull*.

où, sounds like *oo* in *fool*, *moon*, *cool*, *mood*.

17. Of the Sounds of Nasal Vowels.

an†, sounds nearly like *an* in *rang*, *sang*, *sprang* *hang*.

in†, sounds nearly like *en* in *strength*, *strengthen*, *length*.

on†, sounds nearly like *on* in *wrong*, *long*.

un†, sounds nearly like *un* in *clung*, *hung*, *rung*, *sung*.

18. Of the Compound Sounds of oi, oî.

oîf sounds nearly like *o* in *opera* and *a* in *at*, put together

oa as *boite*, pronounce *boat*.

oî† sounds nearly like *o* in *opera* and *a* in *arm*, put together

oa as *boîte*, pronounce *boat*.

All those sounds, and particularly those marked†, will be better learned from a master than from any direction; however, an intelligent person may, from the above directions, learn enough of the pronunciation to make himself perfectly understood.

19. Of the Sounds of the Consonants.

b, sounds like *b* in *bad*, *rub*, *bed*, *mob*.

c, being sounded like *k* before a consonant and before *a*, *o*, *u*, and like *s* before *e*, *i*; I have used in the figured pronunciation, *k* or *s* instead of *c*.

When in a word, c has the sound of g, as in second, I have used a g.

ch, See *sh*, when *ch* has the sound of *k*, *k* is used.

d, sounds like *d* in *dead*, *den*, *bad*, *rod*, *did*.

When this letter has the sound of t, I have used a t.

f, sounds like *f* in *fit*, *fan*, *if*, *calf*, *for*.

When this letter has the sound of v, I have used a v.

g, sounds like g in gag, gig, god, big, bag.

When g has the sound of j, I have used j.

gn, sounds like ni in union, pinion, minion onion.

Pay great attention to the pronunciation of this combination of letters, for it is difficult, and hence it is not uncommon even in France, to hear magnifique, &c. pronounced as if spell ma-ni-fique; the same sound in the Italian language is represented by the same letters gn, and in the Spanish by ñ. There are words in the French language, in which gn are sounded as g and n, as in magnétique, pronounced mag-né-tique.

h, there are two kinds of h, one silent, the other aspirated.

But in either case it has no sound; (such is also the case with the Italian and Spanish languages.) By aspiration is not meant, in French, as in English, a forcible breathing, as heard in high, horse, house, &c. The best proof of this, is the difficulty which every Frenchman has to pronounce the English aspirated h, even after a number of years' practice. Besides my own observation, as a native of France, I can here mention L'Abbé d'Olivet, whose opinion and writings are for us, what Walker's are for an Englishman. He says, in speaking of the aspiration of the Greek and German languages, the French language, which always aims at softness and euphony, attributes no other effect to the aspiration of the h, than that of communicating to the vowel, following the said aspirated h, the property of a consonant, that is to prevent the elision of the final vowel of the preceding word. For instance, le héros, in which the h is called aspirated, is pronounced le-é-ros, and not Pé-ros, as would be the case with l'héritier, in which the h is called mute, and which is pronounced Pé-ritier and not le-é-ritier. That same aspirated h, prevents also the final consonant of the word that precedes it, from being connected with the vowel which follows it; for instance plus haut, in which h is said aspirated, is pronounced plu ô and not plu zô; while plus honorable, in which h is said mute, is pronounced plu-zo-norable and not plu-o-norable. From my acquaintance with the English pronunciation, I am confident that if Boyer, Chambaud, &c., from whom all others have copied this error, without taking the trouble of ascertaining the fact, had been well acquainted with the nature of the English aspirated h, they would never have assimilated the French to it.

jh, sounds like s in pleasure, or like z in glazier, azure.

The sound of which letter; is represented by Walker by zh.

k, sounds like k in kick, keel, weak, kid, cloak, freak.

l, sounds like l in lad, coal, lot, pupil, lump, soul.

il or illt, sounds like li in William, billiards, collier.

With regard to the pronunciation of the l or ll, mouillées, it is proper to mention that they are differently pronounced by different persons; thus the words soleil, fille, travail, tailleur, instead of being pronounced as directed above, are pronounced as if written thus: so-lè-ye, fi-ye, tra-va-ye, ta-yeur, giving to the y the sound it has in the word year.

This last pronunciation being the easiest of the two, has been adopted by so many people in France, that it is no more considered as a fault. However I recommend the former, not only on account of its correctness, but also on account of its being a sound very common to both the Spanish and the Italian languages; in which languages this sound does not admit of any variation. It is represented in the former by ll, and in the latter by gli.

When in a word l, or ll, preceded by i, are liquid, or mouillées, I have in the figured pronunciation represented this sound by ill, standing by itself; this with a view of forcing the attention of the pupil. It will be seen

also, that in those words in which the l that precedes the i, or ll, is pronounced; I have repeated it as in fille, fi-ill, billet, bi-ill-è, in which the i is distinctly heard, before the utterance of the ll, mouillées; which is not the case in travail, tra-va-ill; tailleur, ta-ill-eur; soleil, so-lè-ill; sommeiller, so-mè-ill-é.

m, sounds like m in man, ram, men, stem, minim, slim.

In the figured pronunciation, when am, em, im, om, um, ym, has in a word the nasal sound; I represent it by an, in, on, un, their equivalent in pronunciation.

n, sounds at the beginning of syllables like n in nap, nip, note, neet, nod, net.

n, preceded by the vowels a, i, o, u, form the four nasal sounds, an, in, on, un, mentioned under article 17th, which see.

ñ, at the end of a syllable in the figured pronunciation, is used when n does not form with the vowel that precedes it, a nasal sound. It has the sound of ñ in the word amex, introduced in the key; and of the final n in the following words pan, pen, pin, pun.

p, sounds like p in pap, pet, step, pip, pop.

q, sounds like k in kick, kid, keel, koran.

U after q, is very seldom pronounced.

r, sounds like r in roar, rat, rap, red, rid, rod, rub.

The French r, must always have the jarring sound. The sound of the initial or rough r, is formed, says Walker, by jarring, or vibrating the tip of the tongue against the roof of the mouth, near the fore teeth.

s, sounds like s in sassafras, atlas, seldom, silk, sole.

When s has in a word, the sound of z, this letter has been used in the figured pronunciation.

sh, sounds like sh in shad, dash, shed, fresh, ship, fish, shop, clash, shun, blush.

t, sounds like t in tart, tell, jet, top, spot.

When in a word t has the sound of s, as in patience, s has been used.

v, sounds like v in vat, vent, vil, votive, vulgar.

x, has five sounds	$\left. \begin{array}{l} k \\ k-s \\ g-z \\ s \\ z \end{array} \right\}$	as in the French words	excellence—èk-sé-lans.
			axiome—ak-si-om.
			exemple—èg-zan-ple.
			soixante—soi-sant.
			sixième—si-zi-èm.

All these different letters, have been used in the figured pronunciation, for x. In the words in which x is pronounced like k-s, s must not be pronounced like sh, as it is in the English word axiom, ak-shum, but like s in sister.

y, is pronounced like i or two i's.

This letter, in the figured pronunciation, must be pronounced like y in the English words yard, yerck, year, yoke, you.

z, sounds like z in zeal, zest, zone and s in rose.

20. The following table, treats of some terminations which differ very materially in pronunciation from the English. English learners, in these terminations are always inclined to sound *e* before *l* or *r*, as they do in their own language; for instance, they will pronounce *acre*, *akur*.

ble	In English, these terminations would be nearly pronounced as <i>f</i> spelt.	bul	ta-ble	In French, these final terminations must be pronounced, leaving out the <i>e</i> and giving to the two consonants the sounds they have at the beginning of the following English words.	bl-aze	
bre		bur	sa-bre		br-ace	
cle		Giving to the <i>u</i> a slight sound of <i>u</i> in <i>fur</i> .	kul		mira-cle	kl-ick
cre						
dre		kur	a-cre		cr-ane	
dre		dur	pou-dre		dr-ane	
fle		ful	bu-fle		fl-ame	
fre		fur	cof-fre		fr-ame	
gle		gul	an-gle		gl-are	
gre		gur	mai-gre		gr-ave	
ple	gul	am-ple	pl-ane			
pre	pul	pro-pre	pr-aise			
tre	tur	an-tre	tr-ain			

* I must here observe, that this nasal sound *un*, when followed by a word beginning with a vowel, or a silent *h*, is pronounced in two ways. Thus for instance, the masculine nouns, *un esclave*, *un exemple*, *un ami*, will be pronounced by some, *u-nesclave*, *u-nexemple*, *u-nami*, as they would pronounce the feminine nouns, *une esclave*, *une exemple*, *une amie*; by others, *un esclave*, *un exemple*, *un ami*, will be pronounced as if written, *un nesclave*, *un nexemple*, *un nami*, and *une esclave*, *une exemple*, *une amie*, *u-nesclave*, *u-nexemple*, *u-namie*.

By the latter way of pronouncing *un*, the speaker, besides preserving the proper nasal sound of *un*, does away with the ambiguity about the gender, to which the former way of pronouncing gives rise. I have adopted the latter in the figured pronunciation; not because it is the most used, but because it is considered the most correct way of the two

21. Table of the Simple sounds of Vowels; showing at one view the different combinations, by which these simple sounds are represented in different words.

sounds	examples	sounds like	represented by	examples
a	ami	a, in at	{ e ea	femme <i>woman</i> il gagea <i>he betted</i>
â	âne	a, in arm	{ a éa	bas <i>steking</i> rougeâtre <i>reddish</i>
e	te	u, in tub	{ ai ai	nous faisons <i>we do</i> aigu <i>sharp</i>
é	écrit	a, in ale	{ eai ée æ	geai <i>jay</i> année <i>year</i> œsophage <i>œsophagus</i>
è	mère	a, in marc	{ ai aie ei eai	aide <i>aid</i> baie <i>bay</i> baleine <i>whale</i> monnaie <i>money</i>
ê	être	e, in there	{ ai i	ainé <i>eldest</i> imiter <i>to imitate</i>
i	idole	i, in idiom	{ i ie	folie <i>folly</i> aurora <i>aurora</i>
i	gîte	ee, in eel	{ au eo	flageolet <i>flageolet</i> auteur <i>author</i>
o	opéra	o, in opera	{ au eo au	marteau <i>hammer</i> geole <i>goal</i> gageure <i>wager</i>
ô	ôter	o, in over	{ eau eo eu eue ue	had <i>had</i> laitue <i>lettuce</i> flûte <i>flute</i>
û	mûr	none	{ û œu	œuf <i>egg</i> nœud <i>knot</i>
eu	jeune	u, in muff	{ œu œu	queue <i>tail</i> tout <i>all</i>
eû	jeûne	none	{ ou ou	août <i>august</i> roue <i>wheel</i>
ou	tout	oo, in too	{ ou ou	ample <i>ample</i> paon <i>peacock</i>
où	voûte	oo, in fool	{ aou oue am aon	affligeant <i>afflicting</i> membre <i>member</i> entendre <i>to hear</i> essaim <i>swarm</i>
an	ancre	an, in sang	{ can em en aim ain	craint <i>fear</i> peinture <i>picture</i> impoli <i>impolite</i>
in	ingrat	en, in length	{ ein im ym yn aon	symbole <i>symbol</i> syntaxe <i>syntax</i> taon <i>ox-fly</i>
on	onde	on, in long	{ eon om eun	pigeon <i>pigeon</i> ombre <i>shade</i> à jeun <i>fasting</i>
un*	un	un, in sung	{ um um	parfum <i>perfume</i>

* See Note page 6.

Table of Diphthongs.

24. A diphthong is a coalition of two sounds, which are distinctly heard by a simple emission of the voice. The diphthongs of the French language will all be found in the following table, opposite to the simple sounds of which they are composed.

In the figured pronunciation, the two sounds forming a diphthong have been separated, with a view of causing the pupil to pronounce distinctly the two sounds. The master must not allow the pupil to pause between the two vowels, but pronounce them as closely as possible.

diphthongs	simple sounds	examples	
ia	i-a	fiacre	hackney coach
ia	i-â	galimatias	nonsense
iai		je défiai	I challenged
ié	i-é	amitié	friendship
ie		riez	laugh
iai		je purifiais	I purified
iè	i-è	bière	beer
ie		ciel	heaven
io	i-o	violon	violin
jau	i-ô	miauler	to mew
iu	i-û	reliure	binding
ieu	i-eu	relieur	book binder
ieu		mieux	better
ieue	i-eû	lieue	league
iou	i-ou	chiourme	the crew of a galley
ian		viande	meat
ien	i-an	audience	audience
ien	i-in	chrétien	christian
ion	i-on	passion	passion
oi	o-a	boîte	maturity of wine
oi		boîte	box
oie	o-â	foie	liver
oe		moelle	marrow
eoi	o-è	nageoire	fin
oi	ou-è	voisin	neighbour
oin	ou-in	besoin	want
oua	ou-a	rouage	wheel-work
ouâ	ou-â	nous nouâmes	we tied
oueu	ou-eu	boueur	dust man
oue		dénouer	to untie
oué		déjoué	frustrated
ouée	ou-é	trouée	opening
ouai		je jouai	I played
oi		oiseau	bird
oue	ou-è	fouetter	to whip
ouai		je louais	I praised
oui		cambouis	coom
ouie	ou-i	Pouïe	the hearing
oueu	ou-eû	nouveux	knotty
ouan		louange	praise
ouen	ou-an	Rouen	city of France

diphthongs	simple sounds	examples	
ouin	ou-in	babouin	baboon
ouon	ou-on	nous jouons	we play
ua	ou-a	lingual	lingual
ua	u-a	nuage	cloud
uâ	u-â	nous tuâmes	we killed
ueu	u-eu	lueur	glimmering
uai		je remuai	I moved
ue		éternuer	to sneeze
ué	u-é	dénué	stript
uée		nuée	cloud
ue		menuet	minuet
uai	u-è	il suait	he perspired
ui	u-i	buisson	bush
uie	u-î	pluie	rain
uo	u-ô	impétuosité	impetuosity
ueu	u-eû	majestueux	majestic
uan		nuance	shade
uen	u-an	influence	influence
uin	u-in	juin	June
uon	u-on	nous tuons	we kill

A single view of the two tables, here given, will show of what advantage figured pronunciation will be to him, who is desirous of acquiring an accurate pronunciation, whether he has a master or not. If he has a master he will be able to revise his reading lesson, and by this means, make great progress; if he is deprived of the assistance of a master, he will be able to obtain a tolerable pronunciation, which would have been impossible for him, without this help.

SYLLABAIRE.

25. After having well familiarized the pupil with the sound of each consonant, short, long and nasal vowels, the following lessons may be read.

The figured pronunciation of every word, is given, so as to enable the pupil, in referring to the key, at the top of every page, to revise his lesson, without his master, until he thinks himself able to read it without the help of the figured pronunciation; which the master will take care to cover, while the pupil is reading to him.

Observe, that in the figured pronunciation, the syllables are divided, as they are heard in conversation, and not as they are counted in poetry; for instance, con-te-nan-ee, which has four syllables, will be reduced to two, kont-nans; whilst fruit, bien, &c., which have but one syllable each, will be fru-i, bi-in, because the two sounds forming the diphthongs ui, ien, are heard distinctly, although pronounced very closely.

To this close pronunciation too much attention cannot be given in sounds constituting any of the diphthongs, mentioned in the above table; which the scholar will do well to read often.