

**PHONETIC FRENCH READER,  
PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION OF  
SHORT STORIES FOR ORAL  
FRENCH. [NEW YORK, CHICAGO,  
BOSTON]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649670734

Phonetic French Reader, Phonetic Transcription of Short Stories for Oral French. [New York, Chicago, Boston] by Anna Woods Ballard & Edmund Tilly

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# PHONETIC FRENCH READER

PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION OF SHORT  
STORIES FOR ORAL FRENCH

BY

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CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

NEW YORK

CHICAGO

BOSTON

## PREFACE

In spite of the eagerness shown by pupils in learning the sounds of French, and in spite of their rapid progress in correct pronunciation by the use of phonetic transcription, teachers will find that if all drill in sounds and all reading from them is given up too soon, the pronunciation of the class will deteriorate rapidly. Pupils will ask for more practice and are eager for fresh material. When once they have a firm grasp of the exact pronunciation of each sound, they realize how wonderfully the phonetic transcription helps them to pronounce correctly, even when working alone.

The phonetic transcription of these stories, a real labor of love, was undertaken partly to furnish this additional material that may be used early in the first year, and partly to help teachers whose well-trained classes are invaded in the second year by pupils who pronounce badly. The quickest and the only thorough method of reforming an incorrect pronunciation is to teach the sounds and to have constant reading from phonetic transcription. If stories in phonetic transcription are used for oral work, and if the pupils are trained to read them comprehendingly, the wrong sounds soon give place to more correct ones. The large majority of pupils are very anxious to pronounce well and are unwilling to have their spoken French incomprehensible. The pity is that correct pronunciation is ever neglected in work with beginners. That is the proper

place for constant drill, welcomed and appreciated by the pupils.

We owe the heartiest thanks to Miss Frances Tilly and Mlle Chevreux, teachers of German and French in the Franklin School, Buffalo, N. Y. They have given us the most willing help not only in reading the proof but in the preparation of the phonetic transcription.

We hope that this phonetic transcription of "Short Stories for Oral French" will be welcomed by the great company of teachers who have used the "Stories" issued three years ago.

ANNA WOODS BALLARD.

EDMUND TILLY.

June, 1916.

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## INTRODUCTION

### French Pronunciation (*Prononciation du français*)

1. English pronunciation has strong stress and weak action of the organs of speech: French has little stress and very energetic articulation.

2. French consonants are sounded at the beginning of a word and are often silent at the end, as in *bras, souvent, grand*. The final consonants, *c, f* and *l* (*donc, neuf, seul*) are generally pronounced; *r* is sometimes (*hiver, hier, etc.*)

3. All French vowels have greater distinctness than in English. They must be pronounced as *one* sound, not as a diphthong as in English.

## Tableau des Sons Français (Système Viétor)

	Labiales	Dentales	Palatales	Vélaires	Laryngales	
Fermeture	pb	td		kg		Consonnes
	<u>m</u>	<u>n</u>	<u>ɲ</u>			
Médianement	<u>w</u> <u>y</u> <u>f</u> <u>v</u>	<u>s</u> <u>z</u>	<u>ʃ</u> <u>ʒ</u>	<u>j</u> <u>y</u>	<u>w</u>	Consonnes
		<u>r</u>		<u>R</u>		
Ouverture	( )		i(y)	(u)		Voyelles
	( )		e(ø) <sup>1</sup>	(ə)	(o)	
	( )		ɛ(è) <sup>1</sup>	(œ) <sup>2</sup>	(ɑ)	
	( )		a	ɑ		

soufflées    vocaliques    nasales

<sup>1</sup> This is printed ø.

<sup>2</sup> This is printed œ.

- I. 1. *Labiales* are formed by lips.  
 2. *Dentales* are formed by tongue and teeth.  
 3. *Palatales* are formed by tongue and hard palate.  
 4. *Vélaires* are formed by tongue and soft palate.
- II. 1. In the vertical columns the sounds are classified as to the place of formation.  
 2. In the horizontal columns the sounds are classified as to the manner of formation, the breath passage being completely closed (*fermé*), or much narrowed (*rétréci*), or comparatively open (*ouvert*).
- III. Voiced sounds are printed in red, voiceless sounds in black, nasal sounds in green. Underlining in black shows that the sound is occasionally voiceless. Sounds with lip-rounding are represented by ( ).

### Sounds and Words

1. p	pas	15. z	rose
2. b	bon	16. ʃ	chou
3. t	ton	17. ʒ	joli
4. d	don	18. j	cahier
5. k	car	19. r	rose
6. g	gare	20. l	lampe
7. m	mon	21. i	lit
8. n	nez	22. y	une
9. ɲ	signe	23. e	nez
10. w	oui	24. ø	peu
11. ɥ	huit	25. e	met
12. f	frère	26. œ	sœur
13. v	wagon	27. a	table
14. s	ici	28. u	mou