

Understanding French accent (teacher's notes)

1. Warm-up (Activity 1) 10 mins

Aims: to break the ice, generate the interest in the topic and set goals for the lesson.

Procedure: Ask students to work in pairs, they should explain which sentences are true for them and why. Brainstorm opinions open class about the last statement, explain that today in the lesson you will find out how to understand French people speaking English better.

2. Pronunciation (Activity 2) 10 mins

Aim: to practise listening for detail.

Procedure: Ask students to work individually and complete the second column of the table, then pair them and ask to discuss ideas in pairs. Monitor closely to make hot error corrections. Then ask open class to predict how the French people pronounce these sounds. Ask to watch the video and complete the last column.

Play the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZ03xCX6Tdg&t>

Check the answer open class.

Key:

	How should it be pronounced?	How do the French pronounce it?
1. Sound /p/	aspirated /p/	not aspirated /p/
2. th	/ð/, /θ/	replace the sounds with /z/ and /s/
3. /z/ and /s/	/z/ and /s/	sometimes hypercorrect and pronounce as /ð/ and /θ/
4. Sound /h/	/h/	As there is not sound /h/ in French, sometimes they don't pronounce it: have → /æv/. They also add intrusive H reaction → /rɪ'hækʃ(ə)n/
5. Other and bUdget	Different letters might have the same vowel sound, for example, /ʌ/	The French pronounce them differently
6. /i/ and /i:/ /u/ and /u:/	Long and short vowel sounds are pronounced differently.	The French them as the same.

3. Translation (Activity 3) 10 mins

Aim: to practise listening for detail.

Procedure: Ask students to listen and write down what they hear. If necessary make pauses, play the recording twice.

Play the video (0:44 - 2:19) - <https://youtu.be/0Rv2RpvmkLQ?t=44>

As an alternative, you can watch the interview with the French President, Emmanuel Macron - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_aLROw98NA

4. Tongue twisters (Activity 4) 10 mins

Aim: to improve pronunciation.

Procedure: Divide students into pairs, ask students A to read tongue twisters with a French accent, students B should listen carefully, decode the tongue twister and pronounce it correctly as fast as possible. Give time to prepare.

5. Follow - up discussion (Activity 5) 7 mins

Aim: to provide free speaking practice.

Procedure: Ask students to discuss the questions in pairs. Change partners and let them report the most interesting information which they've found out about their previous partners.

If time, play the video and ask what the comic thanks of a French accent.

Play 0:00-0:51 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OB72GZOS4c>

6. Sum up 3 mins

Put errors on the board or whiteboard and let SS correct them.

Summarise the lesson and tell students what results they have achieved (Now you can ... After our reading and speaking lesson you will be able to....). Ask them if they have any questions.

7. Homework

Ask students to read the article at home and make notes.

An alternative homework - <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/0512/051230-accent-e.html>