

**A NEW TREATISE ON FRENCH  
PRONUNCIATION, OR, A SERIES  
OF RULES BY WHICH EVERY  
PERSON ACQUANTED WITH THE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

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A New Treatise on French Pronunciation, Or, a Series of Rules by which every person acquainted with the English language by B. F. Bugard

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**B. F. BUGARD**

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NEW TREATISE  
ON  
FRENCH PRONUNCIATION;  
OR, A  
SERIES OF RULES  
BY WHICH EVERY PERSON ACQUAINTED WITH THE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE,  
MAY READILY ASCERTAIN THE  
FRENCH PRONUNCIATION  
OF ALL WORDS, EVEN OF THOSE WHICH DO NOT BELONG TO THE  
FRENCH LANGUAGE.

BY MONS. B. F. BUGARD,  
PROFESSOR.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE work which is herewith submitted to the American public, is intended to supply a deficiency which has long been felt. The author having commenced teaching the French Language about four years ago, was unable to find any among the previous publications, which was properly adapted to his purpose; and he was induced, on noticing their numerous defects, to write a small treatise on French Pronunciation, for the use of his own immediate pupils. To this treatise, he has been continually adding improvements, whenever opportunities have occurred; and with that view, has endeavored to make every course of instruction to his pupils, a course of study for himself. His work has been considered of much advantage by students, on account of the simplicity of its plan, and the accuracy of its rules.

The deficiency which is found in other books of the kind, is, the want of a definite method, by means of which, the true pronunciation of any combination of letters may be obtained by the application of a given rule: but he believes that by this treatise, every one with but little assistance, may teach himself to pronounce with accuracy, any word in the French language.

The present work is divided into fourteen chapters.

The First, comprises the general definitions.

The Second, treats of the *simple* vowels.

The Third, of the *compound* vowels; by some improperly called diphthongs; by others, more properly, false diphthongs.

The Fifth, of the *simple* consonants.

The Sixth, of the *compound* consonants.

The Seventh, gives the rules for *spelling*.

The Eighth, treats of the articulation of *consonants*, in words where they must be spelt with a preceding *vowel*.

The Ninth, treats of the different sounds which *vowels* take, in words, where a following *consonant* must be spelt with them.

The Tenth, contains general remarks on the sounds of vowels; and points out, to English students, the sounds which they must avoid giving to those letters, which they generally pronounce erroneously, on account of their difference of sound in English and French pronunciation.

The Eleventh, gives directions for *reading*, showing when and in what manner, words should be joined together in speaking.

The Twelfth, gives the articulations of consonants, when at the end of words which must be joined to a succeeding word.

The Thirteenth, gives the articulation of consonants, when at the end of words which must not be joined to a succeeding word.

The Fourteenth, treats of that which is called in English, *the accent*.

The experience of four years having rendered the author sufficiently acquainted with the English language, to find in it *true standards* for the different sounds of vowels, or combinations of vowels, and for the articulation of consonants, he thinks that his work will be found useful, not only by those who wish thoroughly to learn the French language, but by those also who merely desire to become acquainted with its *pronunciation*. For by the rules here given, not only the true pronunciation of a French word may be ascertained; but it may also be seen in what manner a Frenchman would pronounce any word of another language.

There are many persons, who are not acquainted, and do not wish to be acquainted with French; but who read English periodicals, and would be gratified by some system of rules for an accurate pronunciation of the many French quotations and proper names which they contain. To such persons this work must be of great service.

There are French and English questions adapted to the subjects of each chapter; which may be used by the pupil, as an exercise preliminary to conversation: for what is conversation but a combination of questions and answers? This must prove of great advantage to the learner; for, by means of it, every portion of this treatise must be noticed and understood.

As to the accuracy of the rules and exceptions contained in the work, it may be added that this may be proved, since they have been taken from, or made with, the assistance of the Dictionary of the French Academy.



# FRENCH PRONUNCIATION.

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## CHAPTER I.

### PRELIMINARY DEFINITIONS.

1. To speak or write, is to express ideas by Words.
2. Words are either, sounds pronounced or articulated with the mouth; or combinations of characters representing them.
3. The characters used for the representation of sounds; or words, are called *letters*.
4. These letters arranged in an acknowledged order, constitute what is called the *Alphabet*.
5. The French Alphabet comprises only twenty-five letters: the *W* not being included in that number.
6. These twenty-five letters are divided into *simple vowels*, and *simple consonants*.
7. In the combination of these simple vowels and consonants, we must also distinguish *compound vowels*, *diphthongs*, and *compound consonants*.
8. The *simple vowel* is that letter which singly represents a sound.
9. A *compound vowel* is formed by the combination of several simple vowels, which together represent but a single sound.
10. A *diphthong* is the connexion of several sounds, represented by several vowels, without the interposition of any consonant.

11. A diphthong is generally pronounced with a single inflection of the voice, that is, without any perceptible space between the sounds that compose it. However, sometimes in poetry, it is used and pronounced as two sounds or syllables.

12. The *simple consonants* are those letters which singly represent a particular articulation.

13. A *compound consonant* is the combination of several simple consonants, representing a kind of compound articulation.—What distinguishes also a compound consonant is, that when it is used in the composition of a word, the simple consonants that compose it cannot be separated in spelling, but must be articulated, together with the vowel to which they belong. As in the word *obligation*, the *b* and *l* forming a kind of compound articulation of *b-l*, and both being spelt with the following *i*, and neither with the preceding *o*, constitute a *compound consonant*.

14. The simple or compound vowels being combined or not combined with simple or compound consonants, representing sounds, form what is called *syllables*.

15. Syllables form words.

16. There are words of one, two, three or more syllables.

17. A word of one syllable, is called *monosyllable*: that of two, *disyllable*: that of three *trissyllable*: and those of more, *polysyllables*. Those of two or three are also called polysyllables.

18. Syllables are *short* or *long*.

19. A syllable is *short*, when we must not dwell upon its sound longer than it is necessary to distinguish it from any other.

20. A syllable is *long*, when we must dwell upon its sound longer than if it were short.

21. In French, syllables are also divided into *masculine* and *feminine*.

22. The *feminine* is always represented by a *silent*, or *guttural e*, preceded by a simple or compound consonant ;

or rather, it is the mere articulation of a simple or compound consonant, over a *silent* or *guttural e*. This guttural sound is more or less heard in English in the words ending in *e*; as in the word *robe*, which the French would divide into two syllables; thus: *r* and *o* forming the first, and *b* and guttural *e* forming the second.

23. The *masculine*, or *hard syllable*, is always any other sound than that of silent or guttural *e*. In the word *caprice*, the French would count three syllables; two masculine, *ca* and *pri*, and one feminine, *ce*.

N. B. As for the illustration of the simple and compound vowels and diphthongs, it will be necessary to use words, in the composition of which simple and compound consonants enter. Before having spoken of the latter, it is necessary to observe that in the illustrative words, or examples, the simple and compound consonants must be articulated in French in the same manner as in English.