

**TIROCINIUM GALLICUM,
THE FIRST RUDIMENTS OF
THE FRENCH LANGUAGE,
FOR BEGINNERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649281688

Tirocinium Gallicum, the first rudiments of the French language, for beginners by Tirocinium Gallicum

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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THE

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THE FRENCH LANGUAGE,

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LONDON:
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND CO.,
STATIONERS' HALL COURT.

1849.

LONDON

HARRISON AND SONS, PRINTERS, WHITECHAPEL.



It is intended that this little Manual should be learned by beginners in the order in which it is arranged;—the Letters and Pronunciation,—the Grammar,—the Vocabulary. The pupil may then be practised in the exercises as given at the end, until he is familiar with such little combinations; after which he will be prepared to translate any easy French book, and to make further progress in the language.

LETTERS AND PRONUNCIATION.

§ 1. *The French Alphabet.*

THE Letters are the same as in English, but are pronounced differently.

A a	called ah.	N n	called en.
B b	bay.	O o	o.
C c	say.	P p	pay.
D d	day.	Q q	ku.
E e	ey.	R r	air.
F f	ef.	S s	ess.
G g	zhay.	T t	tay.
H h	ahsh.	U u	u.*
I i	ee.	V v	vay.
J j	zhee.	W w	dooble vay.
K k	kah.	X x	ex.
L l	el.	Y y	ee-grec.
M m	em.	Z z	zed.

§ 2. *Vowels.*

Learn thoroughly the Vowels, *a, e, i, o, u.*

1. A is sounded like *ah*, or *a* in *father*; as, *à to, la the, ma my, sa his, ta thy, alla went, cassa broke, hàts hasted, parla spoke.*
2. E accented [é] is sounded like *ay* in *day*; as, *blé wheat, dé thimble, pré meadow, né born, café coffee, été summer, parlé spoken, pavé pavement.*

* The sound of this letter must be learned from the Master.

3. E mute [e] is not sounded when there is another vowel in the word or syllable, like the *e* in the English words, *bone*, *stone*; as,

âme soul, *dame* lady, *grace* favour, *rare* rare,
bête beast, *frère* brother, *mère* mother, *père* father.

4. When *e* mute is the only vowel in a word or syllable it has a short sound; as,

ce this, *de* of, *le* the, *me* me, *ne* not,
se himself, *te* thee, *cela* that, *sera* will be.

5. I is sounded like the English *e* or *ee*; as,
ni nor, *si* if, *il* he, *île* island, *finir* to finish,
demi half, *dire* to say, *mari* husband, *midi* south.

6. O is sounded nearly like the English *o*; as,
or gold, *roc* rock, *botte* boot, *côté* side, *force* force,
bocage grove, *obéir* to obey, *poli* polite, *parole* word.

7. U has no sound exactly like it in English; as,
du of the, *tu* thou, *nue* cloud, *rue* street, *dur* hard,
connu known, *lune* moon, *nature* nature, *plume* pen.

8. When *y* is a vowel it is sounded like the French *i*; as,
y there, *lyre* lyre, *myrte* myrtle, *type* type.

§ 3. Diphthongs.

A Diphthong is two vowels united in one sound.

<i>ai</i> , sounded like <i>ay</i> in <i>day</i> .	}	<i>ie</i> , sounded like <i>ee</i> .
<i>au</i> , " <i>o</i> .		<i>oi</i> , " <i>wan</i> .
<i>ei</i> , " <i>ay</i> nearly.		<i>ou</i> , " <i>ou</i> in <i>you</i> .
<i>eu</i> , (learn of the Master).		<i>ui</i> , " <i>we</i> .

1. *Ai*, sounded like *ay* in *day*; as,
aile wing, *air* air, *gai* lively, *haie* hedge, *vrai* true,
aigle eagle, *aigu* sharp, *balai* broom, *il aime* he loves.

2. *Au*, sounded like *o*; as,
au to the, *beau* fine, *eau* water, *peau* skin, *sauf* safe,
aussi also, *faute* fault, *taupe* mole, *taureau* bull.

3. *Ei*, sounded like *ay* nearly; as,
neige snow, *pleine* full, *reine* queen, *veine* vein,
peine trouble, *treize* thirteen, *seize* sixteen.

4. *Eu* (learn the sound from the Master); as,
eu had, *feu* fire, *leur* their, *neuf* nine, *peu* little,
beurre butter, *neveu* nephew, *peur* fear, *seul* alone.