



FRENCH PARROT – PRONUNCIATION CHEAT SHEET

Rhythm & Liaisons Cheat Sheet



Master Real Spoken French Flow & Natural Connections

1. THE GOLDEN RULE: FRENCH RHYTHM VS. ENGLISH

English: Stress-Timed Rhythm

- Heavy emphasis on key content words (e.g. *BOYS, RUN*).
- Syllables vary greatly in length and loudness.
- Creates a bouncy "staccato" sound.

French: Syllable-Timed Cadence

- **Equal duration and energy** for every single syllable.
- No heavy middle-word stress accents.
- Soft accent falls only on the **very last syllable** of a phrase.

💡 Pro-Tip for English Speakers:

Think of French like a metronome! Say *un - deux - trois - quatre* with the exact same steady tempo and volume on each number.

2. MASTERING FRENCH LIAISONS & LINKING

A **liaison** happens when a normally silent final consonant bridges smoothly into the next word because it begins with a vowel or silent 'H'.

WRITTEN FRENCH	PRONUNCIATION BRIDGE	PHONETIC SOUND	MEANING
Les amis	Les → amis	leh-zah-mee	The friends ('S' becomes 'Z')
Un enfant	Un → enfant	un-nen-fant	A child ('N' bridges over)
Nos idées	Nos → idées	noh-zee-dée	Our ideas ('S' becomes 'Z')
C'est un...	C'est → un	seh-tun	It is a... ('T' bridges over)

3. DAILY 3-MINUTE RHYTHM DRILL

1 The Metronome Tap (1 Min)

Tap a steady rhythm with your finger and count *un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq* without punching any syllable harder than the others.

2 The Smooth Z-Liaison Practice (1 Min)

Repeat *les_enfants, mes_amis, and nos_idées*, ensuring the 'Z' sound connects the words seamlessly.

3 Continuous Airflow Drill (1 Min)

Read "*J'ai eu un ami*" (*J'ai-eu-un-a-mi*) in one smooth, uninterrupted breath without stopping airflow between vowels.