

FRENCH PARROT | E MUET PRACTICE

Name: _____ Date: _____

Quick reminder

The French e muet (schwa) is a weak vowel that may be pronounced or omitted depending on word, consonant context, speech style and region. A final written -e is usually silent: table /tabl/. Do not delete every e!

1. Identify the schwa

Underline the possible schwa in: samedi • mercredi • petit • table • je te parle.

2. Match careful and reduced forms

A. samedi B. je te dis C. petit

1. p'tit 2. sam'di 3. j'te dis

Answers: A → ____ B → ____ C → ____

3. Listening awareness

Listen to a careful pronunciation of "samedi", then to a natural reduced version "sam'di".

How many syllables do you hear? Careful: ____ Reduced: ____

4. Read aloud

a) Je te demande. b) On se retrouve samedi. c) C'est un petit livre.

First speak carefully. Then try a natural, clear rhythm without forcing every reduction.

5. True or false?

- a) Every written e is pronounced. ____
- b) A schwa may be kept to avoid a difficult consonant cluster. ____
- c) Regional pronunciation can affect schwa retention. ____

ANSWER KEY

1. Possible schwas: sam(e)di, m(e)rcredi (depending on variety), p(e)tit, j(e) t(e) parle. The final e of table is ordinarily silent and is not a normally pronounced extra syllable in standard northern French. 2. A-2, B-3, C-1. 3. Often 3 vs 2 syllables. 5. a False; b True; c True.

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