Les sons et les lettres

The letter r

The French r is very different from the English r. The English r is pronounced by placing the tongue in the middle and toward the front of the mouth. The French r is pronounced in the throat. You have seen that an -er at the end of a word is usually pronounced -ay, as in the English word way, but without the glide sound.

- chanter
- manger
- expliquer
- aimer

In most other cases, the French r has a very different sound. Pronunciation of the French r varies according to its position in a word. Note the different ways the r is pronounced in these words.

- rivière
- littérature
- ordinateur
- devoir
- rare
- garage
- Europe
- rose
- porte
- bourse
- adore
- jour

Quand le renard prêche, gare aux oies.

Articulez Practice saying these sentences aloud.

1. Au loin, Professeur Colbert.
2. Rose arrive en retard mardi.
3. Mercredi, c'est le dernier jour des cours.
4. Robert et Roger adorent écouter la radio.
5. La corbeille à papier, c'est quarante-quatre euros!

Dictons Practice reading these sayings aloud.

Qui ne risque rien n'a rien.