Blackwell Reference Grammars General Editor: Glanville Price

The *Blackwell Reference Grammars* are essential companions for students of modern languages at senior secondary school and undergraduate level. The volumes provide a comprehensive survey of the grammar of each language and include plentiful examples. The series will cover the major European languages, including French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian.

Already published

A Comprehensive French Grammar, Fifth Edition Glanville Price

A Comprehensive Russian Grammar, Second Edition Terence Wade Advisory Editor: Michael J. de K. Holman

A Comprehensive Spanish Grammar Jacques de Bruyne Adapted, with additional material, by Christopher J. Pountain

> A Comprehensive Welsh Grammar David A. Thorne

Colloquial French Grammar: A Practical Guide Rodney Ball

An Introduction to French Pronunciation, Revised Edition Glanville Price

Grammar Workbooks

A Russian Grammar Workbook Terence Wade

A French Grammar Workbook Dulcie Engel, George Evans, and Valerie Howells

> A Spanish Grammar Workbook Esther Santamaría Iglesias

An Introduction to French Pronunciation

Revised Edition

Glanville Price



© 1991, 2005 by Glanville Price

BLACKWELL PUBLISHING 350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148-5020, USA 9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2DQ, UK 550 Swanston Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia

The right of Glanville Price to be identified as the Author of this Work has been asserted in accordance with the UK Copyright, Designs, and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except as permitted by the UK Copyright, Designs, and Patents Act 1988, without the prior permission of the publisher.

First edition published 1991 by Blackwell Publishers Ltd

This revised edition published 2005 by Blackwell Publishing Ltd

1 2005

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Price, Glanville.
An introduction to French pronunciation / Glanville Price.—Rev. ed. p. cm. — (Blackwell reference grammars)
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN-13: 978-1-4051-3255-8 (pbk. : alk. paper)
ISBN-10: 1-4051-3255-8 (pbk. : alk. paper)
1. French language—Pronunciation. I. Title. II. Series.

PC2137.P75 2005 448.3'421—dc22

2004029945

A catalogue record for this title is available from the British Library.

Set in 11/13pt Times by Graphicraft Limited, Hong Kong Printed and bound in India by Replika Press Ltd

The publisher's policy is to use permanent paper from mills that operate a sustainable forestry policy, and which has been manufactured from pulp processed using acid-free and elementary chlorine-free practices. Furthermore, the publisher ensures that the text paper and cover board used have met acceptable environmental accreditation standards.

For further information on Blackwell Publishing, visit our website: www.blackwellpublishing.com

Contents

Preface		Х	
1	General Considerations		1
	1.1	Introduction	1
	1.2	Sounds, Phonemes and Allophones	5
	1.3		9
	1.4	The Articulation of French	9
	1.5	The Organization of this Book	10
	1.6	References and Further Reading	11
	1.7	Phonetic Symbols	11
2	The Production of Speech		13
	2.1	Introduction	13
	2.2	The Vocal Cords and Voice	13
	2.3	Articulators	16
	2.4	Active Articulators	16
	2.5	Passive Articulators	17
	2.6	Terminology	18
3	The Articulation of French		19
	3.1	Articulatory Tension	19
	3.2	Pure Vowels	19
4	The Vowel Phonemes		21
	4.1	Principles of Classification	21
	4.2	Point of Articulation	21

vi Contents

	4.3	The Height of the Tongue or the	
		Degree of Aperture	22
	4.4	Lip Configuration	22
	4.5	Orality or Nasality	23
	4.6	Classification and IPA Symbols	23
	4.7	Front Unrounded Vowels	23
	4.8	Front Rounded Vowels	24
	4.9	Mute <i>e</i>	24
	4.10	Back Rounded Vowels	25
	4.11	Nasal Vowels	25
	4.12	Summary Table	26
5	The Se	emi-Consonants	27
	5.1	General	27
6	The Consonant Phonemes		29
	6.1	Principles of Classification	29
	6.2	Point of Articulation	29
	6.3	Manner (or Mode) of Articulation	30
	6.4	Presence or Absence of Voice	31
	6.5	Classification and IPA Symbols	32
	6.6	Stops	33
	6.7	Fricatives	33
	6.8	Lateral	34
	6.9	Nasals	34
	6.10	<i>r</i> -Sounds	34
	6.11	Summary Table	35
7	The Rhythmic Group		36
	7.1	Introduction	36
	7.2	The Different Types of Group	36
	7.3	The Rhythmic Group	37
	7.4	The Rhythmic Group and the Word	39
8	The Syllable		41
	8.1		41
	8.2	The Rules of Syllabification	42
	8.3	Syllabification within the Sense Group	43

		Contents	vii
	8.4	Closed and Open Syllables	43
	8.5	Syllable-Timing and Stress-Timing	44
0	G .		
9	Stress		45
	9.1	Normal Stress	45
	9.2	Emphatic Stress	46
	9.3	Contrastive Stress	47
	9.4	Normal Stress in French	48
	9.5	Emphatic Stress in French	49
	9.6	Contrastive Stress in French	51
	9.7	Other Types of Stress	52
10	The Vo	wels in Detail	53
	10.1	Introduction	53
	10.2	/i/ – High Front Unrounded	54
	10.3	/y/ – High Front Rounded	54
	10.4	/u/ – High Back Rounded	55
	10.5	The Three Pairs of Mid-Vowels	56
	10.6	/e/ – High-Mid Front Unrounded;	
		/ε/ – Low-Mid Front Unrounded	56
	10.7	/ø/ – High-Mid Front Rounded;	
		/œ/ – Low-Mid Front Rounded	60
	10.8	/o/ – High-Mid Back Rounded;	
		/ɔ/ – Low-Mid Back Rounded	63
	10.9	/a/ – Low Front Unrounded;	
		/a/ – Low Back Rounded	67
	10.10	The Nasal Vowels	70
	10.11	Unvoicing of Vowels	73
	10.12	Canadianisms	74
11	Mute e		76
	11.1	Introduction	76
	11.2	Four Simple 'Rules'	78
	11.3	An Expansion of the Four 'Rules'	80
	11.4	Rule 1	81
	11.5	Rule 2	81
	11.6	Rule 3	83
	11.7	Rule 4	84

viii	Contents

	11.8	Three or More Mute es in Succession	86
	11.9	Miscellaneous Points	86
12	Vowel Length		88
	12.1	Introduction	88
	12.2	Five Simple Rules	89
	12.3	Rule 1	90
	12.4	Rule 2	90
	12.5	Rule 3	90
	12.6	Rule 4	91
	12.7	Rule 5	91
	12.8	e	
		French?	92
	12.9	Other Possible Pronunciations	93
13	The Semi-Consonants in Detail		94
	13.1	Introduction	94
	13.2	/i/ or /j/ after a Vowel?	94
	13.3	/j/, /1/ or /11/ after /i/?	94
	13.4	Intervocalic /j/	95
	13.5	/ц/	96
	13.6	/ų/ and /w/	97
	13.7	Vowel or Semi-Consonant?	97
14	The Consonants in Detail: (I) Stops		100
	14.1	Introduction	100
	14.2	Mode of Articulation (General)	100
	14.3	French and English Stops	101
	14.4	Point of Articulation	103
	14.5	A Canadianism	104
	14.6	The Glottal Stop	104
15	The Consonants in Detail: (II) Fricatives		106
10	15.1		106
	15.2	e	106
	15.3	Point of Articulation	107
16	The C	Consonants in Detail: (III) /r/, /l/ and	
	the N		109

Contents	ix
----------	----

	16.1 16.2	The Varieties of French /r/ The Lateral Consonant /l/	109 111
	16.3	The Nasal Consonants /m/, /n/,	
		/ɲ/ and /ŋ/	112
	16.4	The Release of Final Consonants	114
	16.5	Voiceless /l/ and /r/	114
	16.6	Voiceless /m/	116
17	Gemin	Gemination	
	17.1	Long Consonants and Geminate	
		Consonants	117
	17.2	French Geminates	119
18	Consc	onantal Assimilation	122
	18.1	Introduction	122
	18.2	Regressive Assimilation of Fortes and	
		Lenes	124
	18.3	Progressive Assimilation	126
	18.4	Assimilation to Vowels	127
19	Liaison		129
	19.1	Origins	129
	19.2	The Problem	131
	19.3	The Liaison Forms	132
	19.4	Words Having No Special Liaison Form	136
	19.5	Compulsory Liaison	137
	19.6	Generally Acceptable Liaison	140
	19.7	No Liaison	142
20	Intonation		145
	20.1	Introduction	145
	20.2	Types of Utterance	147
	20.3	Declarative Sentences	148
	20.4	Yes-No Questions	151
	20.5	Wh-Questions	152
	20.6	Imperative Sentences	153
	20.7	Level Intonation	155
Ref	erences	and Further Reading	157
Ind	ex	-	159

Preface

Advantage has been taken of this second edition of a book first published in 1991 to make a few minor corrections and to introduce a small number of other changes, particularly by way of updating the bibliographical references. But in its essentials it remains the same book and the pagination of the original edition has been retained.

I am grateful to those colleagues who have written to me or to the publishers to plead for a reprint or to make constructive suggestions. My especial thanks go to Dr Mari C. Jones of the University of Cambridge for her invaluable advice and assistance in the preparation of this edition.

G. P.