

Hexagonie story: Les accents

Accents

Stories about the imaginary land of **Hexagonie**, where the inhabitants are parts of speech, will help you to visualize the language. Read this story about French accents.

Keep your hat on!

Hello, nice to meet you! I am the verb Voyager. As you can probably tell from my name, I love to travel and discover new places. I'd like to tell you about my visit to the country of Hexagonie.

On my first day, I saw all the letters of the alphabet parading in front of the royal family. My attention was drawn to the letter "e" who was obviously making an effort to impress them with her three different hats.

The first hat sloped upwards to the right (é) and was called an "acute".



The second hat sloped upwards to the left (è) and was called a "grave".

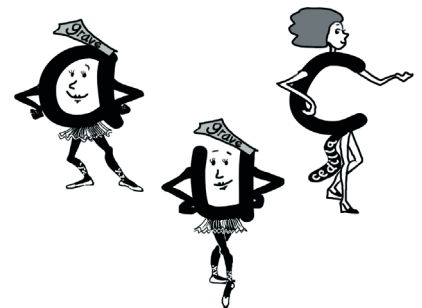


The third, which was called a "circumflex", looked as if the two sloping hats had been joined to form a cone (ê).



King Être and Queen Avoir were so impressed by the letter "e" and her hats that they asked her to come forward and introduce herself. The letter "e" showed them her hats, one by one, and each time she changed her hat, she sounded a bit different.

I quickly realized that hats were very popular in Hexagonie. The "grave" hat was also worn by the letters "a" (à) and "u" (ù). Then, all of a sudden, the letter "c" made a dramatic entrance wearing a funny dress. The dress looked a bit like a tail and was called a "cedilla" (ç). I had to stop myself from laughing out loud.



I wanted to find a way of remembering the two hats I liked the most: the "acute" and the "grave". Then the story of "a cute monkey" came to mind. It was one I had been told on an earlier trip. In the story, "a cute monkey" goes up a tree to build his house, but sadly has a grave fall. Luckily for the monkey, he does not fall into his grave because after a while he is all right. Here is a quick sketch I have done to remind me of the story:

