

The “eu” sound and silent e

Level: A1 découverte · 25 min

Objective

By the end, you will recognise the spelling eu and notice weak e in frequent words.

Discover

Compare: deux, peu, peur, sœur / semaine, petit. Which words contain eu?

Understand

The spelling eu is pronounced in words such as deux, peu, peur and sœur. An unaccented e can be very weak or disappear in everyday speech, for example in semaine or petit depending on speech rate. Do not confuse eu with a plain e.

Examples

- deux
- peu
- peur
- sœur
- semaine
- petit
- fenêtre
- demain

Remember

eu appears in deux, peu, peur, sœur. A plain e may be weak in speech: semaine, petit. Always read the whole word.

Exercises

1. For “The “eu” sound and silent e”, sort the items using the lesson rule.
2. “deux”: which category does it belong to?
eu • e faible / simple e
3. “peu”: which category does it belong to?
eu • e faible / simple e
4. “peur”: which category does it belong to?
eu • e faible / simple e
5. “semaine”: which category does it belong to?
e faible / simple e • eu
6. “petit”: which category does it belong to?
e faible / simple e • eu
7. “demain”: which category does it belong to?
e faible / simple e • eu
8. Complete correctly: d_x
9. Complete correctly: p_
10. Complete correctly: p_r
11. Complete correctly: s_r
12. Complete correctly: s_maine
13. Complete correctly: p_tit
14. For “The “eu” sound and silent e”: match each item to the correct category.
15. Complete this “The “eu” sound and silent e” example: “ ____ ”
16. Rebuild this “The “eu” sound and silent e” sentence in a natural order.
semaine

17. Complete this "The "eu" sound and silent e" example: " ____"

18. Rebuild this "The "eu" sound and silent e" sentence in a natural order.

fenêtre

19. Complete this "The "eu" sound and silent e" example: " ____"

20. Rebuild this "The "eu" sound and silent e" sentence in a natural order.

deux

21. Complete this "The "eu" sound and silent e" example: " ____"

22. Rebuild this "The "eu" sound and silent e" sentence in a natural order.

peur

Answer key

1. **deux** eu; **peu** eu; **peur** eu; **semaine** e faible / simple e; **petit** e faible / simple e; **demain** e faible / simple e

Each item is sorted using the exact criterion introduced in the lesson.

2. **eu**

"deux" belongs to the category "eu".

3. **eu**

"peu" belongs to the category "eu".

4. **eu**

"peur" belongs to the category "eu".

5. **e faible / simple e**

"semaine" belongs to the category "e faible / simple e".

6. **e faible / simple e**

"petit" belongs to the category "e faible / simple e".

7. **e faible / simple e**

"demain" belongs to the category "e faible / simple e".

8. **deux**

The expected form is "deux".

9. **peu**

The expected form is "peu".

10. **peur**

The expected form is "peur".

11. **sœur**

The expected form is "sœur".

12. **semaine**

The expected form is "semaine".

13. **petit**

The expected form is "petit".

14. **deux** eu; **peu** eu; **semaine** e faible / simple e; **petit** e faible / simple e

The matches use the categories practised in the lesson.

15. **sœur**

The missing word is "sœur". Full sentence: "sœur".

16. **semaine**

The rebuilt sentence is: "semaine".

17. **petit**

The missing word is "petit". Full sentence: "petit".

18. **fenêtre**

The rebuilt sentence is: "fenêtre".

19. **demain**

The missing word is "demain". Full sentence: "demain".

20. **deux**

The rebuilt sentence is: "deux".

21. **peu**

The missing word is "peu". Full sentence: "peu".

22. **peur**

The rebuilt sentence is: "peur".