

The sounds “u” and “ou”

Level: A1 découverte · 25 min

Objective

By the end, you will distinguish u and ou in writing and in frequent words.

Discover

Say slowly: rue/roue; tu/tout; sur/sous. The word changes when u becomes ou.

Understand

French u and ou are different sounds. For u, round your lips while keeping the tongue forward; for ou, the tongue is further back. Compare rue/roue, tu/tout, sur/sous.

Examples

- rue / roue
- tu / tout
- sur / sous
- vu / vous
- jus / joue
- lune / loupe

Remember

u: rue, tu, sur, vu · ou: roue, tout, sous, vous. Hear the difference first, then write it.

Exercises

1. For “The sounds “u” and “ou””, sort the items using the lesson rule.
2. “rue”: which category does it belong to?
u • ou
3. “tu”: which category does it belong to?
u • ou
4. “sur”: which category does it belong to?
u • ou
5. “roue”: which category does it belong to?
ou • u
6. “tout”: which category does it belong to?
ou • u
7. “sous”: which category does it belong to?
ou • u
8. Complete correctly: r_e
9. Complete correctly: r_e (objet rond)
10. Complete correctly: t_ (pronom)
11. Complete correctly: t_ (totalité)
12. Complete correctly: s_r
13. Complete correctly: s_s
14. For “The sounds “u” and “ou””: match each item to the correct category.
15. Complete this “The sounds “u” and “ou”” example: “lune / ____”
16. Rebuild this “The sounds “u” and “ou”” sentence in a natural order.
rue / roue / /
17. Complete this “The sounds “u” and “ou”” example: “tu / ____”

18. Rebuild this "The sounds "u" and "ou"" sentence in a natural order.

sous / / sur

19. Complete this "The sounds "u" and "ou"" example: "vu / ____"

20. Rebuild this "The sounds "u" and "ou"" sentence in a natural order.

/ / jus / joue

21. Complete this "The sounds "u" and "ou"" example: "lune / ____"

22. Rebuild this "The sounds "u" and "ou"" sentence in a natural order.

roue / / rue

Answer key

1. rue u; tu u; sur u; roue ou; tout ou; sous ou

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

2. u

"rue" belongs to the category "u".

3. u

"tu" belongs to the category "u".

4. u

"sur" belongs to the category "u".

5. ou

"roue" belongs to the category "ou".

6. ou

"tout" belongs to the category "ou".

7. ou

"sous" belongs to the category "ou".

8. rue

The expected form is "rue".

9. roue

The expected form is "roue".

10. tu

The expected form is "tu".

11. tout

The expected form is "tout".

12. sur

The expected form is "sur".

13. sous

The expected form is "sous".

14. rue u; tu u; roue ou; tout ou

The matches use the categories practised in the lesson.

15. loupe

The missing word is "loupe". Full sentence: "lune / loupe".

16. rue / roue

The rebuilt sentence is: "rue / roue".

17. tout

The missing word is "tout". Full sentence: "tu / tout".

18. sur / sous

The rebuilt sentence is: "sur / sous".

19. vous

The missing word is "vous". Full sentence: "vu / vous".

20. jus / joue

The rebuilt sentence is: "jus / joue".

21. loupe

The missing word is "loupe". Full sentence: "lune / loupe".

22. rue / roue

The rebuilt sentence is: "rue / roue".