

French is a member of the Italic branch of Indo-European. It is spoken by 50 million people in France, 4 million Walloons in Southern Belgium, 6 million people in Switzerland, 6 million in Quebec, Canada, and 1 million in New England. As well, French is the official language of Haiti (although the inhabitants speak Creole), and 16 francophone states across central Africa. The total number of French speakers, including those that use it regularly as a second language, is in excess of 200 million.

The Vowels of Lyonnais French

Lyonnais French (spoken in Eastern France) differs from standard French in it's pronunciation of vowels and glides.

i		u
e ø	ə	o
ɛ œ		ɔ
æ	a	ɑ ɒ

Glides:

- w - labial velar
- y - palatal
- ɥ - labial palatal

Vowels can also allophonically appear nasal or long.

The processes stated serve to illustrate how Lyonnais French deviates from Standard French

[j]-> [i] in verbs, -> [j] elsewhere

1.	[nie]	'to deny'	<i>nier</i>
2.	[rie]	'(you) laugh'	<i>(vous) riez</i>
3.	[niɔ̃]	'(we) deny'	<i>(nous) nions</i>
4.	[mjø]	'best'	<i>mieux</i>
5.	[ʃjɛ]	'dog'	<i>chien</i>
6.	[sjɛl]	'sky'	<i>ciel</i>
7.	[sie]	'to saw'	<i>scier</i>

[ɥ] -> [ɥ] / ___[i], -> [j] elsewhere

8.	[sjɛ]	'ooze'	<i>suint</i>
(9.	[tɥe]	'to kill'	<i>tuer</i>
10.	[sɥi]	'(I) am'	<i>(je) suis</i>
11.	[nɥi]	'night'	<i>nuit</i>
12.	[njaʒ]	'cloud'	<i>nuage</i>
(13.	[aktɥɛl]	'real'	<i>actuel</i>
14.	[pɥi]	'then'	<i>puis</i>

[w] -> [u] in verbs, -> [w] elsewhere

15.	[lua]	'(he/she) will rent'	<i>(il/elle) loua</i>
16.	[lwa]	'law'	<i>loi</i>
17.	[ʒua]	'(he/she) will play'	<i>(il/elle) joua</i>
18.	[ʒwa]	'joy'	<i>joi</i>
19.	[vuwa]	'(he/she) will vow'	<i>(il/elle) voua</i>
20.	[vwa]	'voice'	<i>voix</i>
21.	[nuwa]	'(he/she) will tie'	<i>(il/elle) noua</i>
22.	[nəwa]	'nuts'	<i>noix</i>

[e] -> [ɛ] in open syllable

23.	[kɛ]	'wharf, quay'	<i>quai</i>
24.	[asɛ]	'enough'	<i>assez</i>
25.	[səɛ]	'(I) will be'	<i>(je) serai</i>
26.	[səɛ]	'(I) would be'	<i>(je) serais</i>
27.	[dəsɛ]	'drawing'	<i>dessin</i>

[ɛ] -> [e]

28.	[mɛʃ̃]	'wicked'	<i>méchant</i>
29.	[mɛtʁaʒ]	'measurement'	<i>métragei</i>
30.	[ɛrœ:r]	'error'	<i>erreur</i>
31.	[tɛribl]	'terrible'	<i>terrible</i>

[œ] -> [ø]

32.	[fløv]	'river'	<i>fleuve</i>
33.	[møbl]	'furniture'	<i>meuble</i>
34.	[.....]	'youth'	<i>jeunesse</i>
35.	[pøtɛtʁ]	'perhaps, maybe'	<i>peut-être</i>
36.	[øʁɔp]	'Europe'	<i>Europe</i>

[ɔ] -> [o]

37.	[fosil]	'fossil'	<i>fossile</i>
38.	[ɛdoʃin]	'Indo-China'	<i>Indochine</i>

[a] -> [æ]

39.	[sævwæ:r]	'to know'	<i>savoir</i>
40.	[ɛʃæp]	'escape'	<i>échappe</i>
41.	[ʃæpo]	'hat'	<i>chapeau</i>
42.	[mæɡæzɛ]	'store'	<i>magasin</i>
43.	[vɛrsæ:j]	'Versailles'	<i>Versailles</i>

[ɒ] - slightly more forward

(44.	[klæs]	'class'	<i>classe)</i>
(45.	[fæk]	'each'	<i>chaque)</i>
46.	[bɔ̃tɔ̃]	'stick'	<i>baton</i>
47.	[pʊrkwɔ̃]	'why'	<i>pourquoi</i>
48.	[ɑ̃kɔ̃dʁe]	'to frame'	<i>encadrer</i>
49.	[syʁlkɛl]	'on top of which'	<i>sur lequel</i>
50.	[pʊʁtni:ʁ]	'in order to hold'	<i>pour tenir</i>
51.	[fɛʁvni:ʁ]	'to make come'	<i>faire venir</i>
52.	[lablɔ̃]	'card game'	<i>la belote</i>
53.	[ilzɔ̃btne]	'they will obtain'	<i>ils obtenaient</i>
54.	[dlekɔ̃ldtisa:ʒ]	'weaving school'	<i>de l'école de tissage</i>
55.	[bwaʁlptikudru:ʒ]	'drink red wine'	<i>boire le petit coup de rouge</i>
56.	[sɔ̃tʃe:ʒ]	'this chair'	<i>cette chaise</i>

References:

Campbell, George L. 1991. *Compendium of the World's Languages*. New York: Routledge Press.