

## Accent Marks in English

Accent marks were removed from the English language in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, due to a disenchantment with the French who occupied England at that time. At that time, the English people didn't want their language to "look like French". Consequently, all accent marks were removed from written texts, and until today are not used. The names of the marks are:

<b>acute:</b>	é	Example: e <b>acute</b>
<b>cedilla:</b>	ç	Example: c <b>cedilla</b>
<b>circumflex:</b>	ô	Example: o <b>circumflex</b>
<b>grave:</b>	à	Example: a <b>grave</b> ( <i>pronunciation: GRARV</i> )
<b>tilde:</b>	ã	Example: a <b>tilde</b>
<b>umlaut:</b>	ü	Example: u <b>umlaut</b> / u <b>dieresis</b> ( <i>see below</i> )

Some English words have been imported from French and can be written with or without their original accent marks:

café / cafe  
résumé / resume  
fiancé / fiancé (M)  
fiancée / fiancée (F)  
façade / facade  
château / chateau

**Exercise:** Spell the above words (with accents).

### Umlaut vs Dieresis

An **umlaut** denotes a specific pronunciation. Common in German and Hungarian, u and ü for example, are two different characters and have different pronunciations. For example, compare the pronunciation of 'u' and 'ü' in these phrases: "Ich fuhr über die Brücke" and "mein Fuß und meine Füße".

A **dieresis** can be used over the second of two consecutive vowels. It denotes either a difference in emphasis or pronunciation that would normally be used in such vowel combinations, or it indicates that the second vowel, which might normally be silent, is pronounced. However, Modern English doesn't use the dieresis symbol. Examples:

naïve	(today it is written 'naive')
preëemptive	(today it is written 'preemptive')
coöperation	(today it is written 'cooperation')
coördination	(today it is written 'coordination')

**Portuguese:** "o trema foi abolido":

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