

Definition

- Circumflexes are special marks that sometimes appear on the vowels in French.
- They look like little hats- â ê î ô û.
- They change the sound of A, E and O, but not I or U.

Examples

grâce	château
fenêtre	forêt
île	fantôme
hôpital	août

the circumflex

- The 1990 orthography reforms abolished î and û. They are only used now to distinguish between two otherwise identical words.
e.g. sur (on) sûr (sure, certain)
- Circumflexes sometimes show that there used to be an S following the vowel.

Facts

frère	canoë
Corée	télévision
où ?	français
à demain	décembre

Non-examples