

/H/ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you separate the following French words into 2 groups? If you are finding it very difficult, try putting the words in sentences, changing the determiners, and/or saying the sentences aloud.

Students may not agree which words go into which group. According to Robert, *les haricots*, *un hérisson*, and *les héros* are aspirated; *un hareng*, *Les Hollandais*, and *un hôtel* are non-aspirated.

2. How can people who don't speak French learn when an h is aspirated (h aspiré) and when it is unaspirated (h muet)?

Ask students what ideas they have. Here are two suggestions.

1. Listen for a liason when Francophones are talking.
2. Look in a dictionary. Aspirated /h/ is usually indicated.

3. Can you separate the following English words into 2 groups?

Aspirated : hero, happy, hôtel

Unaspirated : hour, honest

4. In English is the H usually pronounced?

Yes. If you are not sure, it's better to pronounce it.

5. How can we make an H sound in English?

By breathing out through the throat.

6. What are the differences in pronunciation between English and French H?

In French /h/ is never pronounced even though the idea of /h/ aspiré and /h/ muet suggests that /h/ aspiré is pronounced. Students can tell the différence by putting a piece of paper in front of their mouths. With the French /h/ sound, the paper will not really move though it may waver a bit. In English, the paper should move quite a lot.