

French Pronunciation Problems

The following sounds often cause problems for French speakers. Make sure you can pronounce the difference in these pairs of words.

/i:/	/ɪ/
sheep	ship
feet	fit
cheap	chip
leek	lick

/h/	/-/
heat	eat
heart	art
hate	eight
hold	old

/æ/	/ʌ/
cat	cut
flash	flush
rash	rush
ankle	uncle

/n/	/ŋ/
ran	rang
ban	bang
win	wing
sun	sung

/ɜ:/	/ɔ:/
bird	bored
worm	warm
work	walk
first	forced

/ʃ/	/s/
shoe	sue
shoot	suit
shave	save
short	sort

/eɪ/	/e/
saint	sent
pain	pen
taste	test
later	letter

/-s/	/-z/
ice	eyes
niece	knees
rice	rise
spice	spies

/ʊ/	/u:/
pull	pool
soot	suit
full	fool
hood	who'd

/θ/	/s/
thin	sin
fourth	force
thigh	sigh
path	pass

/ɔ:/	/əʊ/
call	coal
walk	woke
law	low
caught	coat

/r/	/w/
crack	quack
overweight	overrate
right	white
treat	tweet

Information here is taken from a combination of my experience and Swan, M. & Smith, B. (1994). *Learner English*. Cambridge University Press.

