

Q: I'm a teacher and would like help with the French pronunciation of names in *The Awakening*. Can you tell me how to pronounce the more common names?

A: French speakers would pronounce the French names in the novel as on this chart. The names not included here (like Highcamp or Reisz) are ones that come from other languages (English or German, perhaps) and so would probably have been pronounced as they would be in English. The names are transcribed in the International Phonetic Alphabet. If you're not familiar with IPA transcription, you should be able to find a guide at the front of a good American dictionary, like the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary.

Edna Pontellier: [ɛdna pɔ̃tɛlje]

Léonce: [leɔ̃s]

Robert Lebrun: [ʁɔbɛʁ ləbrœ̃]

Adèle Ratignolles: [adɛl ʁatijɔ̃l]

Alcée Arobin: [alsɛ aʁɔbœ̃]

Etienne: [etjɛn]

Raoul: [ʁaul]

Alphonse: [alfɔ̃s]

Antoine: [ɑ̃twan]

Farival: [faʁival]

Gouvernail: [guvɛʁnaj]

Mandelet: [mɑ̃dɛle]

Note: the nasal vowels corresponding to ɛ and œ are noted by the ɛ and œ followed by a ~