

# French Glides

(from Illustrations of the IPA)

Although sounds such as **j** and **w** are very common, French is nonetheless unusual for having three contrasting central approximants. The two rounded ones, **ɥ** and **w**, can be seen as a form of double articulation (labial-palatal and labial-velar). All three can be related to a corresponding high vowel: **j**, **ɥ**, **w** correspond to **i**, **y**, **u**, respectively.

palatal

**s j ɛ̃**

▶ “his/hers”

labial-palatal

**s ɥ ɛ̃**

▶ “grease on  
sheeps’ wool”

labial-velar

**s w ɛ̃**

▶ “care”

(see SoWL for similar examples)