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## Correct pronunciation of raison d'etre

How do you say the commonly used expression raison d'etre? Everyone has a sound file that I could listen to? posted by survivorman to Writing & Language (33 answers total) RAISE-un DEH-truhtposted by thinkingwoman at 5:34 pm on November 26, 2007 I say raisin detra, but that's because I love Raising Arizona and I know that pronunciation is wrong.posted by The World Famous at 17:39 pm on November 16:39, 2007 reh-ZON DEH-truh.posted by phaedon at 17:39 PM on November 26, 2007 [1 favorite] I would say if you don't have French, you can get away with onraise-on DETre (the last e is a shwa) or rehzon DETre. I would say there is a great stressed syllable in this expression and not two that is indicated by capitalization. Of course, some idiots will mock you because you don't have a French accent, but they're wrong. It makes sense to integrate foreign words into the natural flow of phonemes of your own language. I couldn't find a sound file of it, but I could get my sis to make you in about two seconds if you like.posted by Listener at 17:43 on November 26, 2007 reh-ZON DEHt. They swallow the truh. Posted by acoutu on November 26, 2007 at 5:45 pm Yes, Schadenfreude. I want to learn German now. The women are going crazy with pleasure! posted by survivorman at 17:48 pm on November 26, 2007 Isn't it SHAHD'n-FROI-duh? I did two years of High school german. I know everything. As long as it counts the alphabet, some things about hospitals, and the word for deletion. written by katillathehun at 17:52 on 26. November, 2007 [1 favorite] yes, the German accent would be more like katillathehuns. strong SHAD(in) with a slightly less strong FROY(duh)posted by mhz at 17:56 on November 26, 2007 Clarification: Merriam-Websteres Collegiate Dictionary/ Encyclopaedia Britan worked online - only not in the Internet Explorer (imagine that). In Firefox it worked well.posted by survivorman at 18:00 on November 26, 2007 I always remember how because Dogfish Head has a beer called raison d'etre, which is brewed with raisins. It's also good.posted by melissam at 18:17 on November 26, 2007 Have you never seen That Simpsons episode where Lisa tries on different personas eh? She says raison d'etre in this ep.posted by IndigoRain at 18:24 on November 26, 2007 Rubber. Useful. The coolest thing about German stationary stationary is ink killer. Ink Killer, how fking cool is that? Much more interesting than 'white-out'. Plus White-out does not solve the ink or anything kickass like that.posted by Phire at 19:01 on November 26, 2007 ray son dee truhposted by Electricus at 19:31 on November 26, 2007 The Buzzcocks song Raison D'Etre is not a bad place to get an idea of it, most English speakers say it. Phaedon has the English pronomisation pretty much right, but as Acountu says, you should swallow the -re a bit and do the zon kind of nasal, that would be closer to the French.posted French. Dee Xtrovert on November 26, 2007 at 8:42 p.m., I'm Canadian, so maybe I'll do a Canadian (and a French-influenced pronunciation). But that's what people here say. Not sure what the world standard would be.posted by acoutu at 21:47 on November 26, 2007 Agreement with acoutu and Dee Xtrovert, if you want to say it with the right French pronunciation. You also want to roll the first R a little bit. For an English pronunciation, phaedon's has it.posted by teg at 21:57 PM on November 26, 2007 you do not roll 'R's in French; they are pronounced from the back of the neck. And as far as the d'etre part is concerned, I have learned that they do not really say it in colloquial French. So d'etre would sound like debt, unless you want to say the 'T' very clearly.posted by zorro astor at 6:10 on November 27, 2007 Edit above: You don't say that the part of d'etrepsted by zorro astor at 6:12 on November 27, 2007 Not to derail, but I speak French and never know how to use French terms like this in English without worrying about that something thinks, I think I hear like a pompous boy. Say I should use a false Anglified pronunciation?posted by CunningLinguist at 8:42 On November 27, 2007 CuniningLinguist, I have the same problem with German words and phrases as the schadenfreude mentioned above. For my ear it is a German word and it just sounds completely wrong to mangle it with an English-speaking accent. posted by geckoindx at 10:09 AM on November 27, 2007 Are you saying I should use a wrong Anglified pronunciation? No, I say you should use a correct Anglified pronunciation, of which there are usually several. For this sentence you can say, for example reh-ZON DEHt, reh-ZON DEHt-ruh, raisin deht, raisin deht-ruh and probably some other things without triggering an alarm. But if you say rrrreh-ZOHNH DEHTRRRRRRRR, with pompous French r's and nasalization, yes, you'll probably sound like a pompous jackass. Imagine the situation with a language you don't know. When I speak Russian, I say the name Khrushchev more or less like khru-SHCHOFF, with a nice spit spray kh and a rolled r. When I speak English, I say KROOS boss, just like everyone else, and I'm pretty sure you'd think I'd be a jackass if I came out with khru-SHCHOFF. Or take wasabi: in Japanese, the accent is on the first syllable, but I bet you don't say WAH-sah-bee. I mean, you say Paris and not pah-RREE, right? English is English and French is French. Even if the French borrow English words and phrases, they French they (note, like a Frenchman Smoking or parking?), and Turnabout is Fair Play.posted by languagehat at 11:07 am on November 27, 2007 Eh. I hear what you say, but I'd rather be seen as a pompous Jackass than pronounce it with an American accent. Not that I'm going out of the way to roll the French Rs, but it's an R in it, damn, it feels like it's like to say nothing Raisin debt or whatever.posted by CunningLinguist at 16:15 on November 27, 2007 Anglified or not, they will get an eye roll from me. Say something else.posted by Reggie Digest at 27:06 PM on November 27, 2007 Best not to Electricus for breaking the uniform consensus of broadly-right-ness, and choosing instead to try making the OP sound like an idiot.posted by genghis at 13:11 pm on November 28, 2007 Nothing fits! Newer » This thread is closed for new comments. Your browser does not support HTML5 audio How to pronounce raison d'etre noun in British English Your browser supports html5-Audio How to pronounce raison d'etre nobis in American English What is the definition of raison d'etre? raison d'etre pronunciation in french [fr] raison d'etre pronunciation Pronunciation by fowl (Female from France) 7 votes Good Bad Add to favorites Download MP3 raison d'etre pronunciation pronunciation by gwen\_bzh (Male from France) 2 votes Good Bad Add to favorites Download MP 3 raison d'etre pronunciation Pronunciation by Clador06 (Male from France) 1 votes Good Bad Add to favorites Download MP3 raison d'etre pronunciation Pronunciation by PinkstarsarefallingInLine (Female from France) 0 votes Good Bad Add to favorites Download MP3 Can you pronounce it better? Or with a different accent? 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