

Six French Phrases Every Crossword-Solver Should Know

Savoir-faire

Meaning: ability to behave fittingly

Rough pronunciation: sav-wah fair

Raison d'etre

Meaning: purpose

Rough pronunciation: ray-zone det-ruh

Mot juste

Meaning: word that's just right

Rough pronunciation: mo zhoost

(the "zh" sound is that of the "s" in "vision")

Cri de coeur

Meaning: heartfelt outcry

Rough pronunciation: cree duh cur

Beau geste

Meaning: generous deed

Rough pronunciation: bo zhest

Que sera

This is not actually a French phrase as all. It's just sort of generally romance-language, and pronounced, as Doris Day instructs us, "kay sair ah"