How to type accented characters in French

Importance of accents in written French: missing or wrong accents will be counted as spelling errors in your written work. This is because the accent often changes the meaning of a word.

- ***à*** 'at, to' vs. ***a*** 'has'
- ***où*** 'where' vs. ***ou*** 'or'
- ***bouché*** 'obstructed, clogged' vs. ***bouche*** 'mouth'
- ***pâle*** 'pale' vs. ***pale*** 'blade (of a propeller)'
- ***pécher*** 'to sin' vs. ***pêcher*** 'to fish' / 'peach tree'

I. Directions for PC

Hold the "ALT" key left of the spacebar while typing the following numbers on the number pad (far right of the keyboard). If you are working on a laptop computer that has no separate number pad, you can usually get these numbers by holding the "Fn" key.

é = 130	à = 133	î = 140	ù = 151	ô = 147
è = 138	â = 131	ï = 139	û = 150	
ê = 136			ü = 129	
ë = 137				
				ç = 135

For capital letters at the beginning of words, type the word with the proper accent first. Then, with the cursor anywhere on the word, hold "SHIFT + F3".

NOTE: There is also a website where a virtual keyboard with accents allows you to type your text and then paste it into an email, Word document, etc. : http://french.typeit.org/