

## Re: History of French

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2004-09/2992.html>

---

**From:** Ruud Harmsen ([realemailseesite01\\_at\\_rudhar.com](mailto:realemailseesite01_at_rudhar.com))

**Date:** 09/18/04

Date: Sat, 18 Sep 2004 23:05:07 +0200

Sat, 18 Sep 2004 12:30:51 -0700: Jacques Guy <[jguy@alphalink.com.au](mailto:jguy@alphalink.com.au)>:  
in sci.lang:

>As for "retroflex" that is an abominable term for "cacuminal".

>

>But alas, it has become the norm. BTW, I knew someone who could  
>manage a retroflexed apico-nasal stop (my mother). See what I mean?  
>\_I\_ can only manage a retroflexed lamino-antidental one (and I am  
>sure anybody can). Can you guess what it is? Hint: I am using  
>"retroflexed" as meaning just plain "retroflexed", not "cacuminal".

Oxford Concise:

cacuminal:

(Phonet.) pronounced with tongue-tip curled up towards hard palate.

retroflex:

turned backwards; (Phonet.) cacuminal.

Merriam-Webster:

ca-cu-mi-nal: RETROFLEX

retroflex:

turned or bent abruptly backward

2 : articulated with the tongue tip turned up or curled back just  
under the hard palate

So what is the difference between these two terms?

--

Ruud Harmsen - <http://rudhar.com>