



Pronunciation Guide

How do you SAY it?
German Sounds—Putting It All Together

Vowel Sounds

<p>a (ah)</p> <p>der Adler (the eagle)</p>	<p>e (ay)</p> <p>denken (to think)</p> <p>e (eh)</p> <p>rennen (to run)</p> <p>e (uh)</p> <p>die Katze (the cat)</p>	<p>i (ih)</p> <p>das Imbiß (the snack)</p> <p>i (eeh)</p> <p>der Igel (hedgehog)</p>	<p>o (oh)</p> <p>der Oper (the opera)</p>	<p>u (ooh)</p> <p>der Mut (the courage)</p>
<p>With an umlaut... <i>(Umlauts are exactly like silent e's in English. If you can't make an umlaut when you're typing, just use a silent e.)</i></p>	<p>ä – ae (ahy)</p> <p>die Blätter (the leaves)</p>	<p>ö – oe (ehr)</p> <p>schön (nice, pretty)</p> <p>blöd (stupid)</p>	<p>ü – ue (ew)</p> <p>über (above)</p>	<p>äu – aeu (oy)</p> <p>die Häuser (the houses)</p>
<p>Combinations</p> <p>ai (i)</p> <p>Mai (May)</p>	<p>ei (i)</p> <p>drei (three)</p>	<p>ie (e)</p> <p>die (the)</p>	<p>au (ow)</p> <p>Frau (Mrs.)</p>	<p>eu (oy)</p> <p>neu (new)</p>

Tricky Consonants

<p>ch (?)</p> <p>For this sound, there is sort of a "k" sound plus radio static.</p> <p>ich (I)</p> <p>auch (also)</p>	<p>pf (p+f)</p> <p>das Pferd (the horse)</p>	<p>qu (k+v)</p> <p>die Qual (the torture)</p>	<p>w (v)</p> <p>wilkommen (welcome)</p> <p>was (what)</p> <p>der Schwein (the piggy)</p>	<p>v (f)</p> <p>der Volkswagen (the Volkswagen)</p> <p>der Vogel (the bird)</p>
<p>sp (shp)</p> <p>(...for words that START with sp)</p> <p>der Sport (the sport)</p> <p>(Words that END with sp are pronounced the same as English.)</p>	<p>st (sht)</p> <p>(...for words that START with st)</p> <p>stimmt (true)</p> <p>(Words that END with st are pronounced the same as English.)</p>	<p>th (t)</p> <p>das Theater (the theater)</p> <p>(There is NO th sound in German.)</p>	<p>chs (x)</p> <p>der Fuchs (the fox)</p>	<p><i>final</i> b (p)</p> <p>das Lob (the praise)</p>
<p><i>final</i> d (t)</p> <p>das Kind (the kid)</p>	<p><i>final</i> g (k)</p> <p>Guten Tag (good day)</p>	<p><i>silent</i> h</p> <p>gehen (to go)</p>	<p>z (t+s)</p> <p>die Zeit (the time)</p>	<p><i>beginning</i> s (z)</p> <p>die Suppe (the soup)</p> <p>(Other s sounds are like English.)</p>
<p>j (ya)</p> <p>der Junge (the boy)</p> <p>ja (yes)</p>	<p>r (?)</p> <p>(...sort of a tongue roll, but more of a "tripping" sound with a touch of radio static.)</p> <p>das Radio</p>	<p>fr (f+air+tripping static)</p> <p>der Freund (the friend)</p>	<p>tr (t+air+tripping static)</p> <p>treu (true)</p>	<p>ß - ss (s)</p> <p>größ (big)</p> <p>(This funny looking letter is the same thing as 2 regular s's and sounds just the same, too.)</p>