

Pronunciation

Vowels

Short vowels

a	u in but, a in father	o	o in hot, but more rounded
e	e in ten	u	u in put
i	y in happy	y	y in happy

Long vowels

In general these sounds are the same as the short vowels but pronounced about 1,75 times as long. Long vowels are marked by an „accent“ (čárka). This does NOT indicate that the syllable is stressed, only that the sound of the vowel is longer. The meaning of the word can be different depending on the length of the vowel, so try to pronounce the difference between a long and a short vowel clearly.

á **é** **í** **ó** **ú** **û** (same sound as **ú**) **ý**

Special vowel

ě ye in yes

Diphthongs

ou ow in show **au** ow in now

Consonants

Same as in English

The following consonants have the same sound as the ones in English:

b d f g l m n s v z

The following consonants have sounds that also exist in English, but are represented by different letters:

c	ts in bits	j	y in yes
č	ch in church	š	sh in shock

Similar to English

k, p, t	never aspirated!	ž	similar to s in vision
h	always voiced, as in ham	r	rolled, like in Spanish

Non-existent in English

d'	almost d in dune, there should be a soft y-sound (as in yes) following the sound of d
ch	ch in loch (Scottish) or Bach (German)
ň	almost n in new, there should be a soft y-sound (as in yes) following the sound of n
ř	combine the sound of a (rolling) r and sh at the same time
t'	almost t in tune, there should be a soft y-sound (as in yes) following the sound of t