View this document as HTML, PDF, JPG, or PNG.

Table of Contents

The German letters and their (approximate) pronunciation

Some details (especially concerning rare pronunciations) have been **omitted**.

Consonants and consonant combinations systematically grouped

Double consonants (like e.g. tt) are **not** pronounced longer than single consonants in German.

B b always like p in bola P p always like p in parte Pf pf always like p + f Ph ph always like f in ferro F f always like f in ferro V v in words of Latin origin like v in vento else like f in ferro W W always like v in vento D d always like v in voto D d always like t in tosta T t always like t in tosta T t always like t in tosta T t always like t in tosta T t always like t in tosta T t always like t t in sota T t always like t t in tosta I t in tos	
P p always like p t in parte Pf pf always like p + f Ph ph always like f in ferro F f always like f in ferro V v in words of Latin origin like v in vento else like f in ferro W always like v in vento D d always like d d in dar dt always like t in tosta T t always like t in tosta T t always like t in tosta Th th always like t in tosta tz always like t t in tosta tz always like t t in tosta tz always like t t in tosta Tz always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t t in tosta T t t always like t t in tosta T t in tosta T t in tosta T t in tosta T t in tost	
Pf pf pf always like	
Ph ph always like f in ferro F f always like f in ferro V v in words of Latin origin like v in vento else like f in ferro W W always like v in vento D d always like t in tosta T t always like t in tosta Th th always like t in tosta tz always like t t in tosta tz always like t t in tosta ti in words of Latin origin like t + ß + i else like t + ß C c always like t + ß ß always like t + ß ß always like s in sapo S s before a vowel like s in sapo St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like x in caixa Ch ch see remarks below H s always like h in engl. hot	
F f always like	
V v in words of Latin origin like	
else like f in ferro W W always like v in vento D d always like t in tosta T t always like t in tosta Th th always like t in tosta tz always like t t in tosta tt in words of Latin origin like t t is else like t t is else like t t t is C c always like t t t is B always like t t t is S in sapo S s before a vowel like s in raso else like s in sapo S t st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like h in engl. hot	
W W always like v in vento D d always like d in dar dt always like t in tosta T t always like t in tosta Th th always like t in tosta tz always like t t in tosta tz always like t t in tosta ti in words of Latin origin like t t + ß t i else like Z z always like t t + ß G c always like t t + ß ß always like s in sapo S s before a vowel like s in raso else like St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like S t st always like s + p Sch sch always like h in engl. hot	
D d always like d in dar dt always like t in tosta T t always like t in tosta Th th always like t in tosta tz always like t + ß ti in words of Latin origin like t + ß + i else like t + ß C c always like t + ß ß always like t + ß ß always like s in sapo S s before a vowel like s in raso else like s in sapo St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like x in caixa Ch ch see remarks below H always like h in engl. hot	
dt always like t in tosta T t always like t in tosta Th th always like t in tosta tz always like t + ß ti in words of Latin origin like t + ß + i else like t + ß C c always like t + ß ß always like t + ß ß always like s in sapo S s before a vowel like s in raso else like s in sapo St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like h in engl. hot	
T t always like t in tosta Th th always like t in tosta tz always like t + ß ti in words of Latin origin like t + ß + i else like t + i Z z always like t + ß C c always like t + ß ß always like s in sapo S s before a vowel like s in raso else like s in sapo St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like h in engl. hot	
The the always like to the total terms of Latin origin like to the	
tz always like ti in words of Latin origin like t + ß + i else like t + i t + ß t + i t + ß t + i t + ß t + i t + ß t +	
ti in words of Latin origin like t + ß + i else like t + i Z z always like t + ß C c always like t + ß ß always like s in sapo S s before a vowel like s in raso else like s in sapo St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like x in caixa Ch ch see remarks below H always like h in engl. hot	
else like Z z always like C c always like ß always like S in sapo S s before a vowel like else like S in sapo St st at the beginning of a syllable like s ch + t else like Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like S + p Sch sch always like K in caixa	
Z z always like t + ß C c always like t + ß ß always like s in sapo S s before a vowel like s in sapo St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like x in caixa Ch ch see remarks below H always like h in engl. hot	
C c always like t + ß ß always like s in sapo S s before a vowel like s in raso else like s in sapo St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like x in caixa Ch ch see remarks below H always like h in engl. hot	
ß always like S s before a vowel like s in raso else like St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like Sch sch always like Ch ch see remarks below H always like S in sapo S in sapo S the sch + t	
S s before a vowel like s in raso else like s in sapo St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like x in caixa Ch ch see remarks below H always like h in engl. hot	
else like St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like Sch sch always like Ch ch see remarks below H always like S in sapo Sch + t Sch + t Sch + p Sch sch always like S + p X in caixa	
St st at the beginning of a syllable like sch + t else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like x in caixa Ch ch see remarks below H always like h in engl. hot	
else like s + t Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like x in caixa Ch ch see remarks below H always like h in engl. hot	
<pre>Sp sp at the beginning of a syllable like sch + p else like s + p Sch sch always like x in caixa Ch ch see remarks below H always like h in engl. hot</pre>	
else like $s+p$ Sch sch always like x in caixa Ch ch see remarks below H always like h in engl. hot	
Sch sch always like x in caixa Ch ch see remarks below H always like h in engl. hot	
Ch ch see remarks below H always like h in engl. hot	
H always like h in engl. hot	
h after a vowel not pronounced but indica	
ii arter a vower not pronounced, but indica	cates a
long vowel	
else like h in engl. hot	
J j always like y in engl. year	
G g always like g in gato	
K k always like c in casa	
ck always like c in casa	
Qu qu always like k + w	

X	X	always like	Х	in	tóxico
L R	l r	always like always like	l rr	in in	logo carro
Rh	rh	always like	rr	in	carro
М	m	always like	m	in	mapa
N	n	always like	n	in	número
	ng	always like	ng	in	linguagem
	nk	always like	ng	+ k	

Sound of ch in ach, och, uch (e.g. in "cha acha").

Sound of ch elsewhere (e.g. in "ich").

Vowels and vowel combinations

German vowels are pronounced shorter:

- in front of double consonants
- in front of consonant combinations
- in unstressed syllables

Otherwise, German vowels are pronounced like this:

```
Α
    а
           like
                         in
                              estudar
Aa
    aa
           like
                     а
                         in
                              estudar
    ai
           like
                     ai in
                              reais
Au
    au
           like
                     au in
                              aumentar
Ä
    ä
           like
                         in
                              resto
                     e
Äu
    äu
           like
                     o in moda + j
    e
           like
                         in
                              medo
    ee
           like
                         in
                              medo
Εi
    ei
           like
                     ai
                         in
                              reais
Eu
    eu
           like
                     o in moda + j
Ι
    i
           like
                         in
                              isso
    ie
           like
                     i
                         in
                              isso
    0
           like
                         in
                              homem
    00
           like
                     0
                         in
                              homem
Ö
    ö
           see remarks below
U
    u
           like
                         in
                              uvas
Ui
   ui
           like
                     u in estudar + j
Ü
           see remarks below
Υ
           like
                     i or ü
           like
                     ü
    У
```

Sound of ö (e.g. in "dö").

Sound of ü (e.g. in "dü").

Stressed syllables

As a **rule of thumb**, mostly the **penultimate** syllable is stressed. Mistakes are **not** problematic. People should still be able to understand you.

Reading exercise: Example text from the Bible (the beginning of the book of Exodus) with "irregularly" stressed syllables being marked (á, ´ä etc.)

Das sind die Namen der Söhne Ísraels, die nach Ägypten gekommen waren - mit Jakob waren sie gekommen, jeder mit séiner Famílie:

Ruben, Símeon, Levi, Juda,

Íssachar, Sébulon, Bénjamin,

Dan, Náftali, Gad und Ascher.

Zusammen waren es siebzig Personen; sie alle stammten von Jakob ab. Josef aber war beréits in Ägypten.

Josef, alle séine Brüder und seine Zéitgenossen waren gestorben.

Aber die Söhne İsraels waren fruchtbar, sodáss das Land von ihnen wimmelte. Sie vermehrten sich und wurden 'überaus stark; sie bev'ölkerten das Land.

In Ägypten kam ein neuer König an die Macht, der Josef nicht gekannt hatte.

Er sagte zu seinem Volk: Seht nur, das Volk der Israeliten ist größer und stärker als wir.

Gebt Acht! Wir müssen überlegen, was wir gegen sie tun können, damít sie sich nicht weiter vermehren. Wenn ein Krieg ausbricht, können sie sich únseren Féinden ánschließen, gegen uns kämpfen und sich des Landes bem´ächtigen.

Da setzte man Frónvögte über sie ein, um sie durch schwere Árbeit unter Druck zu setzen. Sie mussten für den Phárao die Städte Pitom und Ramses als Vórratslager bauen.

Je mehr man sie aber unter Druck hielt, umso stärker vermehrten sie sich und bréiteten sie sich aus, sodáss die Ägypter vor ihnen das Grauen packte.

Daher gingen sie hart gegen die Israeliten vor und machten sie zu Sklaven.

Sie machten ihnen das Leben schwer durch harte Árbeit mit Lehm und Ziegeln und durch alle m'öglichen Árbeiten auf den Feldern. So wurden die Israeliten zu harter Sklávenarbeit gezwungen.

Zu den hebr'äischen Hébammen - die eine hieß Schifra, die ándere Pua - sagte der König von Ägypten:

Wenn ihr den Hebr'äerinnen Gebúrtshilfe leistet, dann achtet auf das Geschlécht! Ist es ein Knabe, so lasst ihn sterben! Ist es ein Mädchen, dann kann es am Leben bleiben.

Die Hébammen aber f'ürchteten Gott und taten nicht, was ihnen der König von Ägypten gesägt hatte, sondern ließen die Kinder am Leben.

Da rief der König von Ägypten die Hébammen zu sich und sagte zu ihnen: Warum tut ihr das und lasst die Kinder am Leben?

Die Hébammen ántworteten dem Phárao: Bei den hebr´äischen Frauen ist es nicht wie bei den Äg´ypterinnen, sondern wie bei den Tieren: Wenn die Hébamme zu ihnen kommt, haben sie schon geboren.

Gott verhálf den Hébammen zu Glück; das Volk aber vermehrte sich weiter und wurde sehr stark.

Weil die Hébammen Gott f'ürchteten, schenkte er ihnen Kíndersegen.

Daher gab der Phárao séinem ganzen Volk den Beféhl: Alle Knaben, die den Hebräern geboren werden, werft in den Nil! Die Mädchen dürft ihr alle am Leben lassen.

Listen to this text with help of Google Translate.

Source of this text.

Table of Contents