

Letter	Sound in IPA	Example Word	Explanation
A a	/a/	ami	the “a” in “father”
B b	/b/	birdo	the “b” in “bed”
C c	/ts/	cent	like the “ts” in “cats”*
Ĉ ĉ	/tʃ/	ĉambro	the “ch” in “church”
D d	/d/	domo	the “d” in “dog”
E e	/e/	en	the “e” in “let”
F f	/f/	fiŝo	the “f” in “fin”
G g	/g/	granda	the “g” in “gone” (NOT the “g” in “gin”)
Ĝ ĝ	/dʒ/	ĝi	the “g” in “general” (NOT the “g” in “go”)
H h	/h/	hundo	the “h” in “house”
Ĥ ĥ	/x/	ĥoro	like the “ch” in German “ach”*
I i	/i/	ili	the “ee” in “feel”
J j	/j/	jes	the “y” in “yes”
Ĵ ĵ	/ʒ/	ĵaŭdo	the “s” in “pleasure”
K k	/k/	kato	the “k” in “king”
L l	/l/	la	the “l” in “long”
M m	/m/	muso	the “m” in “mother”
N n	/n/	ni	the “n” in “not”
O o	/o/	ovo	the “o” in “for”
P p	/p/	persono	the “p” in “pare”
R r	/r/	ri	like “rr” in Spanish or Italian*
S s	/s/	saluton	the “s” in “sing” (NOT the “s” in “rise”)
Ŝ ŝ	/ʃ/	ŝipo	the “sh” in “she”
T t	/t/	tapiŝo	the “t” in “top” (NOT the “tt” in “latter”)
U u	/u/	uzas	the “u” in “rude”
Ŭ ŭ	/w/	naŭ	the final “w” sound heard in “ow!”
V v	/v/	voli	the “v” in “vine”
Z z	/z/	zipo	the “z” in “zip”

*these sounds don’t occur in English. However, they aren’t that hard to master; also, ĥ is very rare in Esperanto, and you probably won’t have to worry about it for a while. It’s possible to speak the language without dealing with this phoneme. However, r and c are all over the place.

Finally, the stress in an Esperanto word always comes on the second-to-last syllable. This rule is always consistent, without fail. The letters never change their pronunciations — you don’t have to worry about “I before E except after C” or anything of the sort.