

International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) for Sung German

SINGLE VOWELS: (Note: word stress is indicated by an apostrophe (') before the stressed syllable.)

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>English</u> *	<u>German Examples</u>
a	a	<i>father, car</i>	Vater ('fats), alles ('aləs), kann (kan)
e	open e	<i>set, head</i>	denn (den), Engel ('eŋəl), Jäger ('jægə)
ɛ	half open e	--	Liebe ('libɛ), arge ('aʎɛ), geschehen (gɛ'ʃɛən)
ɐ	half open e	<i>make, day</i>	den (den), hegen ('hegən), Jesu ('jesu)
ə	schwa	<i>able, token</i>	neues ('nɔyəs), einem ('ainəm), jagen ('jagən)
ɜ	weak er	<i>later, order</i>	aber ('abɜ), sonder ('zɔndɜ), unser ('unzɜ)
ʌ	uh-huh	<i>up, love, the</i>	er (ɛʌ), hier ('hiʌ), ihr (iʌ), Eier ('aiʌ)
ɪ	(open) capital i	<i>it, fin, did</i>	mit (mit), Himmel ('hɪməl), ist (ɪst)
i	(closed) i	<i>eat, fee, deed</i>	Lied (lit), die (di), sie (zi), wir (viʌ)
o	open o	<i>dog awe</i>	Gott (gɔt), von (fɔn), sollen ('zollən)
ɔ	closed o	<i>so, owe, note</i>	wohl (vɔl), also (al'zo), ohne ('onɛ)
œ	open o-umlaut	--	Völker ('fœlks), Höll' ('hœll), öffnen ('œfnən)
ø	closed o-umlaut	<i>herb, fern</i>	schön (ʃøn), König ('kœniç), Öl (øl)
u	open u	<i>put, book</i>	muß (mus), um (um), und (unt)
ʊ	closed u	<i>do, moon</i>	zu (zu), tun (tun), du (du), Blut (blut)
y	open u-umlaut (big Y)	--	müssen ('mysən), Lüften ('lyftən)
y	closed u-umlaut (y)	--	über ('ybɜ), fühlen ('fylən), begrüßt (gɛ'gryst)

DIPHTHONGS

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>German Examples</u>
ai	a-i	<i>my, time</i>	nein (nain), einen ('ainən), sei (zai)
au	a-u (or "ow")	<i>now, house</i>	auf (auf), Frau (frau), Umlaut ('umlaut)
ɔy	o-y (or "oy")	<i>toy, oil</i>	neu (nɔy), Häuser ('hɔyzɜ), eure ('ɔyrɛ)

CONSONANTS

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>German Examples</u>
b	b	<i>bib, abbey</i>	bist (bɪst), bringt (brɪŋkt), bei (bai)
ç	forward ch	(whisper) <i>hue</i>	ich (ɪç), Becher ('bɛçɜ), richtig (rɪçtɪç)
d	d	<i>did, add</i>	die (di), edle ('edlɛ), Erden ('erdən)
f	f	<i>far, off</i>	für (fyʌ), viel (fil), versöhnt (fɛʌ'zɔnt)
g	hard g	<i>go, egg</i>	gehen ('geən), genannt (gɛ'nant)
h	h	<i>hi, ahead</i>	Herz (herts), Hörnlein ('hœrnlain)
j	j-glide	<i>yet, mayor</i>	ja (ja), jetzt (jetst), Jungfrau ('juŋfrau)
k	k	<i>cat, cake</i>	kein (kain), jagt (jakt), Aug' (auk)
l	l	<i>low, all</i>	Welt (velt), alle ('alɛ), Leid (lait)

* English vowels are not exactly the same as German ones. Most are close, but in no case should single German vowels contain the diphthongs sometimes present in the English approximations.

m	m	<i>mom, rummy</i>	mich (mɪç), am (am), Schmerz (ʃmerts)
n	n	<i>no, penny</i>	nennen ('nenən), ihn (in), Knie (kni)
p	p	<i>pop, upper</i>	Pein (pain), lob (lop), gibt (gɪpt)
r	r	--	recht (reçt), Freund (frøynt), Trost (trost)
ř	strongly rolled r	--	Herrlichkeit ('herlɪçkait), irren ('irən)
s	unvoiced s	<i>set, ace, pass</i>	ist (ɪst), des (des), daß (das), essen ('esən)
ʃ	sh	<i>she, action</i>	Schoß (ʃos), frisch (frɪʃ), spät (ʃpet)
t	t	<i>tot, sitter</i>	tun (tun), bat (bat), sind (zɪnt), Tod (tot)
v	v	<i>vivid, savvy</i>	wo (vo), ewig ('evɪç), Wille ('vɪle)
x	back ch	--	Loch (lox), auch (aux), hoch (hox)
z	z, voiced s	<i>is, zero</i>	Sohn (zon), unser ('ʊnzɜ), singen ('zɪŋən)

GENERAL PRONUNCIATION GUIDELINES

1. All letters are pronounced. Word stress generally falls on the penultimate syllable, with the ultimate syllable deemphasized (especially -e, -el, -em, -en, -er, -es, and -et). Words beginning with a prefix like *be-*, *er-*, *ge-*, and *ver-* have the stress on the second syllable, e.g., *bezahlen* (be'tsalən), *erkannt* (er'kant), *gemacht* (ge'maxt), *versöhnen* (feɪ'zənən).
2. Depending on the word, the vowels *e*, *i*, *o*, *ö* (sometimes spelled *oe*), *u*, and *ü* (*ue*) may have an "open" or "closed" pronunciation. Vowels followed by two consonants are usually open, e.g., *nennen* ('nenən), *Kiste* ('kɪstɛ), *Topf* (tɔpf), *Hund* (hunt). Vowels followed by *h* are closed, e.g., *Ehre* ('erɛ), *ihnen* ('inən), *Ohren* ('orən), *Shuh* (ʃu). All other vowels have a single pronunciation: *a* and *aa* = (a), *ai* and *ei* = (ai), *eu* and *äu* = (ɔy), *ie* = (i), *ä* (ae) = (ɛ). A word beginning with a vowel is always preceded by a glottal stop, to separate it from the previous word.
3. Most consonants have a single pronunciation: the letters *ck*, *f*, *k*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *t*, and *x* are usually pronounced approximately as in English. The letter *c* = (ts), *j* = (j), *qu* = (kv), *sch* = (ʃ), *v* = (f), and *w* = (v); the Eszet *ß* (ss) = (s), never voiced. The letter *z* = (ts), never voiced like English (z), e.g., *zu* (tsu), *zart* (tsaɪt). The digraph *ng* = (ŋ), never like English (ng), e.g., *Engel* ('eŋəl), *jung* (juŋ); *gn*, *kn* and *pf* are pronounced as written, e.g., *Gnade* ('gnadɛ), *Knie* (kni), *Pforte* ('pfortɛ).
4. Before a vowel, *b*, *d*, and (hard) *g* are pronounced as in English. However, at the end of a syllable, or before an unvoiced consonant, they are unvoiced. In those cases, *b* = (p), *d* = (t), and *g* = (ç) or (k), e.g., *seid* (zait), *Stadt* (ʃtat), *ab* (ap), *bleibt* (blaɪpt), *heilig* ('hailɪç), and *liegt* (likt). The digraph *ch* = (x) after a, o, or u, e.g., *Bach* (bax), *doch* (dɔx), *Frucht* (fruxt); *ch* = (ç) after a consonant, or after any vowel except a, o, or u, e.g., *solche* ('zɔlçɛ), *euch* (ɔyç), *Licht* (lɪçt).
5. In singing, *rr* = rolled (ř), e.g., *Herr* (herř). At the beginning of a word or syllable, or in a consonant combination, a single *r* may be rolled or flipped, e.g., *rot* (rot), *Frau* (frau), *führen* ('fyrən). After a vowel, *r* may be lightly flipped, but is more often rendered as a weak (ɹ), rather like British English, no trace of American (ʀ), e.g., *Art* (aɪt), *der* (deɹ), *hier* (hiɹ), *Uhr* (uɹ).
6. When followed by a vowel, the letter *s* is a voiced (z), e.g., *selig* ('zeliç), *so* (zo), *suchen* ('zuxən). Otherwise, *s* is an unvoiced (s), e.g., *was* (vas), *bist* (bɪst). At the beginning of a word or syllable, *sp* = (ʃp) and *st* = (ʃt), e.g., *Spaß* (ʃpas), *verspäten* (feɪ'ʃpetən), *stets* (ʃtets), *Gestalt* (ge'ʃtalt).