

## general notes

Most sounds are more clipped and tighter in German than in English

vowels: long if doubled or followed by single consonant. Short if followed by more than one consonant

Accent is generally on the first syllable, with the exception of the prefixes be, ge, er, emp, ent, ver, and zer

## letter/pronunciation

a	ah / uh	long: "a" in "father" / short: "o" in "come"
ä	ay / eh	long: "a" in "lane" / short: "e" in "set"
ai	eye	vowel sound in "mine" or "line"
au	ow	vowel sound in "clown" or "brown"
äu	oy	vowel sound in "toy" or "boy"
b	bay	same as English. Becomes "p" before "s" and "t" and at the ends of words.
c	say	Never used by itself. (Well, almost.)
ch	(hard)	After a, o, u, au: similar to "lock", but open throat to allow passage of air for the "ck"
ch	(soft)	everywhere else: "sh" while (almost) touching the palatine with the middle of your tongue.
chs / ck	ks / k	"ks" sound, as in "oxen" or "vixen" / pronounced as the consonant "k"
d	day	same as English. Becomes "t" before "s" and "t" and at the ends of words.
e	ay / eh	long: "a" in "lane" / short: "e" in "set"
ei	eye	vowel sound in "mine" or "line"
eu	oy	vowel sound in "toy" or "boy"
f	eff	same as English.
g	gay	same as English. Becomes "k" before "s" and "t" and at the ends of words.
h	haa	pronounced at the beginning of words. Silent after a vowel.
i	eeh / ih	long: "ee" in "feet" / short: "i" in "pit"
ie	eeh	vowel sound in "feet"
j	yot	pronounced like "y" in "yet"
k	kah	same as English.
l	ell	pronounced like "l" in "million"
m	emm	same as English.
n	enn	same as English.
o	oh / ah	long: "o" in "boat" / short: "o" in "pot"
ö	ooh	long: say "ay" and the purse your lips / short: vowel sound in "girl" or "turn"
p / pf	pay	same as English. / pronounced as the "pf" in "stepfather"
q	koo	pronounced "kv" as in "kvetch"
r	err	hard: before a vowel – almost like gargling / soft: end of words – as in "beer"
s	ess	before a vowel "z" / end of words "s"
ß	ess-zett	pronounced as the "s" in "salt"
sch	sh	pronounced as the "sh" in "show"
sp, st		beginning of words "sh", otherwise as "lisp" or "lost"
t	tay	same as English. "th" is also pronounced "t"
u	ooh / uh	long: "oo" in "boot" / short: "u" in "put"
ü	uyuh	long: say "ee" and then purse your lips / short: say "ih" and then purse your lips
v	fow	pronounced as "f"
w	vay	pronounced as "v" in "very"
x	ixx (ks)	"ks" sound, as in "oxen" or "vixen"
y	oop-see-lohn	pronounced "ü" within a word
z	zett	pronounced as the "ts" in "cats" or "tsetse"