

Alphabet and Pronunciation

The German Alphabet and Pronunciation		
Letter ¹	IPA ²	Similar sound in English ³
A, a	/ɑ:/	f <u>ath</u> er
B, b	/be:/	<u>b</u> oy / t <u>o</u> p (at end of word)
C, c	/tse:/	h <u>a</u> ts / <u>c</u> at
D, d	/de:/	<u>d</u> og / h <u>a</u> t (at end of word)
E, e	/e:/	f <u>a</u> te / g <u>e</u> t
F, f	/ɛf/	<u>f</u> ind
G, g	/ge:/	<u>g</u> et
H, h	/hɑ:/	<u>h</u> elp
I, i	/i:/	<u>j</u> eans / s <u>i</u> t
J, j	/jot/	<u>y</u> ear
K, k	/kɑ:/	<u>k</u> ite
L, l	/ɛl/	<u>l</u> ip
M, m	/ɛm/	<u>m</u> other
N, n	/ɛn/	<u>n</u> ever
O, o	/o:/	h <u>o</u> pe / h <u>o</u> t
P, p	/pe:/	<u>p</u> et
Q, q	/ku:/	always "qu" which makes /kv/ sound
R, r	/ɛR/	guttural R / open a at end of word
S, s	/ɛs/	<u>s</u> and / <u>z</u> oo
T, t	/te:/	<u>t</u> oe
U, u	/u:/	<u>s</u> poon / <u>p</u> ut
V, v	/fɑʊ/	<u>f</u> ind
W, w	/ve:/	<u>v</u> ibe
X, x	/iks/	<u>k</u> icks
Y, y	/ɣpsilon/	like U with pursed lips
Z, z	/tset/	h <u>a</u> ts
Ä, ä	/ɛ:/	<u>b</u> ed
Ö, ö	/ø:/	<u>b</u> ird (New Zealand pronunciation)
Ü, ü	/y:/	like U with pursed lips
ß	/ɛs tset/	<u>s</u> and

(1) The first column lists the German letters in alphabetical order, including the three umlauts and Eszett.

(2) The second column shows the phonemic notation for each German letter as described by the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

(3) The third and final column lists English words with comparable consonant and vowel sounds. The relevant sound is underlined.