

I. THE SOUNDS AND CHARACTERS
OF GERMAN

I. PHONETIC SYSTEM.

A detailed account of the phonetics of German is beyond the scope of this book. The table below is a simple arrangement of the sounds of the German language, expressed in the symbols of the Association Phonétique Internationale. For practice in pronunciation examples will be found in § 5.

Table of Sounds

	Laryngeal	Velar	Palatal	Lingual (Dental)	Labial
Consonants {	Plosive	k g		t d	p b
	Nasal	ŋ		n	m
Lateral	h	x	ç j	ʃ s z	f v
Vowels {		u	y	i	
Half-closed		o	ə	ø	e
Half-open		ɔ	œ	ɛ	
Open		a			

Note. There are many varieties of *R*. That shown above, formed by trilling the tip of the tongue, is the sound generally used on the stage, and is perhaps the easiest for an Englishman to acquire. The *R* most commonly heard in conversation is formed by trilling the uvula, and closely resembles the velar spirant *x*.

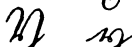
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2. THE GERMAN ALPHABET.

Name of letter (A.P.I.)	German characters	Script	Latin characters
a:	A a	<i>A a ö</i>	a
be:	B b	<i>L b</i>	b
tse:	C c	<i>L c</i>	c
de:	D d	<i>v d</i>	d
e:	E e	<i>E n</i>	e
ef	F f	<i>F f</i>	f
ge:	G g	<i>G g</i>	g
ha:	H h	<i>H h</i>	h
i:	I i	<i>I i</i>	i
jot	J j	<i>J j</i>	j
ka:	K k	<i>K k</i>	k
el	L l	<i>L l</i>	l
em	M m	<i>M m</i>	m
en	N n	<i>N n</i>	n
o:	O o	<i>O v ö</i>	o
pe:	P p	<i>P p</i>	p
ku:	Q q	<i>Q q</i>	q
er	R r	<i>R r</i>	r
es	S s, ß	<i>S s</i>	s
te:	T t	<i>T t</i>	t
u:	U u	<i>U u ü</i>	u

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Name of letter (A.P.I.)	German characters	Script	Latin characters
fau	ſ v		v
ve:	W w		w
iks	ſ x		x
i'psi:lon	ſ y		y
tset	ſ z		z

3.

SPECIMEN OF GERMAN SCRIPT.

Es war einmal ein Müller,
 der war arm, aber er hatte
 eine schöne Tochter. Nun
 war so viel, daß er mit dem
 König zu verhandeln kam, und
 um sich ein Aufseher zu geben,
 sagte er zu ihm: „Gib mir
 eine Tochter, die kann Weben
 zu Gold spinnen.“
 London, den 27. IX. 1928.

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4. NOTES.

(a) **Umlaut.** The vowels *a, o, u*, are subject to modification or Umlaut. They are then written *ä, ö, ü*, and pronounced *ɛ, ø* or *œ, y*, respectively.

The symbol " represents the letter *e*, and is not to be confused with the diæresis.

The capitals of modified vowels are generally printed *Ä, Ö, Ü*; but sometimes *Ë, Ê, Û*, or *Œ, De, Ue*.

(b) **Diphthongs.** The diphthongs *ai, au, ei, eu*, are pronounced *aⁱ, a^u, eⁱ, e^u* respectively; *au* modifies to *äu*, pronounced *ɔ^u*.

(c) **S.** *ß* (rundes *Œ*) is used at the end of a word, or of one component of a compound; in all other cases *f* (langes *Œ*):

das Gras, Grasshalm, des Grafes, sie sehen.

(d) **SS.** *ff* (langes Doppel-*Œ*) is used only when preceded by a short vowel and followed by another vowel, as in *lassen, Schlosses, Rüsse*; in all other cases *ß* (rundes Doppel-*Œ*): *ließen, läßt, Ruß, Schloß, besser* (=besserer).

The second *s* is not to be thought of as a *z*. When using Latin script, write either *ss* or *ß*. *sz* appears only in compounds, such as *ausziehen, ausziehen*, where the *s* and *z* are in different syllables.

5. EXAMPLES FOR ILLUSTRATION AND PRACTICE OF THE GERMAN SOUNDS.

<i>a long</i>	<i>a:</i>	<i>Bahn, Abend, baden, haben, Glas, Haar.</i>
<i>a short</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>alt, hast, ganz, Stadt, scharf, Arm.</i>
<i>ä long</i>	<i>ɛ:</i>	<i>spät, täglich, Bäder, Jäger, Gläser.</i>
<i>ä short</i>	<i>ɛ</i>	<i>hätte, älter, gänzlich, Städte, Schärfe, ärmlich.</i>
<i>ai</i>	<i>aⁱ</i>	<i>Mai, Kaiser, Laib, Mainz, Saite.</i>
<i>au</i>	<i>a^u</i>	<i>Haus, laut, bauen, Raub, aus.</i>
<i>äu</i>	<i>ɔ^u</i>	<i>Häuser, läuten, Gebäude, Räuber, äußerst.</i>

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b (<i>final</i> = <i>p</i>)	b	Bäder, Gebäck, Brot; bergab, abgehen, lobst.
ch	x	Bach, Buch, rauchen, doch, hoch.
ch	ç	Bäche, Bücher, mich, euch, reich, Kelch, Mädchen.
ch in Greek words		Charakter, Chor; Chemie (kar'aktər, ko:r, çemi).
d	d	Dach, Dorf, drei, ander, Bruder.
d <i>final</i>	t	Bad, Jagd, Hund, Magd, sehend.
e <i>long</i>	e:	See, sehen, Reh, Ehre, werden, wert.
e <i>short</i>	ɛ	fett, Hest, bester, Herr, gesperrt.
e <i>unstressed</i>	ə	Bäder, haben, Gebirge, gesagt, Stiefel.
ei	a ⁱ	Leiter, Teil, fein, steil, heiter.
eu	o ^ø	neu, Eule, Freude, Heu, streuen.
g <i>initial or medial</i>		
	g	ganz, gleich, Gebirge, Berge, sage, borge.
g <i>final</i>	k, x, ç	Tag, häufig, gebirgig, Berg, sagst, borgst.
h <i>initial</i>	h	haben, Herbst, heute, Hund.
h <i>mute</i>		sehen, gehen, ziehen, mähen, Raht.
i <i>long</i>	i:	wider, Mine, Tiger, ihnen, irisç.
i <i>short</i>	ɪ	Widder, Minister, nicht, sitzen, mit.
ie	i:	Lied, siehst, Offizier, Geographie.
ie	jə	Familie (fami'ljə), Asien (a:zjən), Spanier (spə'njər).
j	j	Jahr, jährlich, Jubiläum, Juli, Jäger.
ng	ŋ	singen, Sänger, lang, länger, Vingen.
o <i>long</i>	o:	groß, hoch, Monat, Mond, Boot, Mohre.
ö <i>long</i>	ø:	größer, höher, böse, hören, gehört, zerstört.
o <i>short</i>	ɔ	Schloß, Loch, Kopf, Sonne, Wolle.
ö <i>short</i>	œ	Schlösser, Löcher, Köpfe, zwölf, Mörder.
qu	kv	Quelle, quer, quitt, Quecksilber, Quacksalber.
r	r	Ehre, Ahre, Ohr, Arm, Schirm.
s <i>final</i>	s	Glas, Gras, Haus, Fels, Dsch, Gans.
f <i>medial</i> , after consonants other than <i>l, m, n, r</i>		
	s	Dschén, Lotse, obsolet, Erbsen.
f <i>initial</i>	z	Sohn, Sonne, sitzen, sagen, sehen, singen.
f <i>medial</i> , after vowels or <i>l, m, n, r</i>		
	z	Gläser, Gräser, Häuser, Amsel, Gänse, Börse.

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ʃ	ʃ	Schein, Schloß, rasch; but Häu <u>s</u> -chen.
ʃp, st <i>initial</i>	ʃp, st	Sprung, spre <u>ch</u> en, Sta <u>dt</u> , Stra <u>ß</u> e.
tion	tsjo:n	Na <u>ti</u> on, Revo <u>l</u> ution, Sen <u>s</u> ation.
u <i>long</i>	u:	K <u>u</u> h, Fu <u>ß</u> , Gru <u>ß</u> , tu <u>n</u> .
u <i>short</i>	u	M <u>u</u> ter, Sch <u>u</u> ß, Sup <u>pe</u> , un <u>te</u> r.
ü <i>long</i>	y:	K <u>ü</u> he, F <u>ü</u> ße, grü <u>ß</u> en, ü <u>be</u> r, B <u>ü</u> cher.
ü <i>short</i>	y	M <u>ü</u> ter, Sch <u>ü</u> ße, S <u>ü</u> nde, hü <u>p</u> fen.
v	f	vo <u>n</u> , vie <u>r</u> , verzei <u>h</u> en, Beil <u>ch</u> en, Vog <u>t</u> , aktiv.
w	v	we <u>r</u> , wa <u>ß</u> , Wa <u>ll</u> , schwi <u>n</u> gen, Zwi <u>e</u> rg, schwö <u>r</u> en.
y	y, i, i	Gymna <u>s</u> ium, Hypo <u>th</u> et, Psyc <u>h</u> olog, Zy <u>kl</u> us.
z	ts	Zwe <u>i</u> , Kre <u>uz</u> , zerbre <u>ch</u> en, ä <u>ch</u> zen, Zah <u>n</u> , Zug.

f, t, l, m, n, p, t, x are pronounced approximately as in English.

Foreign words are usually pronounced as in the language of origin.

STRESS ACCENT (Betonung).

6. The accent falls on the root syllable, i.e. the first, except where there is a prefix:

fließen, to flow; flüßig, liquid; Flüßigkeit, a liquid; Flüßigkeiten, liquids.

7. The chief exceptions are:

lebendig, living; Forelle, trout; Holender, elder-tree; Wachsolder, juniper-tree; Lawane, avalanche; schmarogen, to sponge; k**r**afeelen, to brawl; Horniße, hornet; Hermelin, ermine; lutherisch, Lutheran.

For the accentuation of words with prefixes, see §§ 522 sqq.

8. In compounds the accent falls on the determinative word, i.e. the one that limits the other. These present no difficulty, the English rule being the same:

Sönnenschein, sunshine; Rötfehchen, redbreast; zweibeinig, two-legged.

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9. Note that these words have a second and lighter accent, which it is especially important to observe in long compounds:

Sonnen-aufgang, sunrise; Vólks-schule, elementary school.

Compare the accent in Vólks-schul-lehrer, elementary school-master; Vólks-schul-lehrer-seminar, training-college for elementary schoolmasters; Lehr-er-seminar, training-college.

10. Foreign words are usually accented on the last syllable (not counting any German suffix):

Philosoph, philosophisch, Telephon, telephonisch, kolossal, Majestät, Román.

Some, however, keep the Latin accent on the penultimate:
 Doktor, Pastor, Professor, Konsul (*pl.* Doctoren, etc.).

Modern loan-words are accented as in the original language:
 Tornádo, Signóra, Novélle, Etiquéte, Ballón, Hándikap.

11. THE GLOTTAL STOP (der Kehlkopfverschluss).

A stressed syllable beginning with a vowel is preceded by a rapid closing of the glottis, the position of the vocal chords being as if the speaker were about to cough. The result is a very strong expulsion of breath at the beginning of the syllable; this is one of the most marked features of German pronunciation. Distinguish between vereist, fər'áist, 'frozen over,' and verreist, fər'raist, 'travelling.'

12. DIVISION INTO SYLLABLES (die Silbentrennung).

Each syllable begins, where possible, with a consonant:

ge-ben, Re-vol-ver, ge-bro-chen, grö-ßer.

Certain groups of consonants are indivisible: ch, sch, ph, ft, ph (= f), th (= t):

ge-stan-den, Ma-schi-ne, Tele-phon, Athe-ist.

Other groups are divided between two syllables:

Pin-sel, Hun-ger, Sil-ber, Damp-fer, Künst-ler.

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Compounds are divided into their component parts:

hier-in, dar-aus, Erz-engel, aus-süben.

In dividing a word at the end of a line, avoid leaving a single letter; thus *Umeiße* must be divided, not *U-meiße*, but *Umei-ße* or not at all; *ausüben* should be divided *aus-süben*, not *ausü-ben*.

Note that *ff* when divided becomes *ff*: *Bäff-fer*.

CAPITAL LETTERS (*große Anfangsbuchstaben*).

13. German uses capitals more freely than English, especially in

(a) All Nouns: *das Buch*, *die Bücher*.

(b) Words used as Nouns: *das Für und Wider*, the pros and cons; *das Edle*, the noble, nobility.

(c) Adjectives following *etwas*, *manches*, *nichts*, *alles*, *viel*:
nichts Merkwürdigen, nothing remarkable;
etwas Schönes, something beautiful.

(d) *Sie*, *Er*, *Ihr*, when used for the 2nd person; likewise all their cases, and their possessive adjectives and pronouns:

Wie geht's Ihnen? How do you do?

Wie heißt Ihr Freund? What is your friend's name?

Lasse Er mich in Ruhe! Leave me in peace.

(e) *Du* and *Dein*, in letters:

Herzliche Grüße an Deine Eltern! Kind regards to your parents.

Warum hast Du nicht geschrieben? Why did you not write?

14. N.B. Adjectives formed from proper names *do not take a capital*, except those in *-isch*, *-ig*, from names of persons, and those in *-er* from place-names:

die britische Flotte, the British fleet; *die Müller'sche Familie* (*die Familie Müller*), the Müller family; *das Münchener Bier*, Munich beer.

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15. PUNCTUATION (die Interpunktion).

Note the following divergences from English usage:

(a) *Every* subordinate clause is separated by a comma from its governing clause:

Das Buch, das Sie lesen, taugt nichts.
 The book you are reading is worthless.

(b) Co-ordinate clauses joined by a conjunction are separated by a comma when there is a change of subject, not otherwise:

Er ging nach Amerika und starb in New-York.
 He went to America and died in New York.

(c) Exclamation-marks are used after all commands and exclamations;

Bitte, bleiben Sie sitzen!—Danke!
 Please don't stand up.—Thank you.

Note the position of the inverted commas.

„Halt!“ rief er. “Stop!” he cried.

II. DEFINITE & INDEFINITE ARTICLES

(der bestimmte Artikel, der unbestimmte Artikel)

DECLENSION.

16. (i) Definite Article.

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Plural <i>All Genders</i>
Nom.	der	die	das	die
Acc.	den	die	das	die
Gen.	des	der	des	der
Dat.	dem	der	dem	den.

The following contractions of Preposition + Article are permissible, when the article is unemphatic:

- (a) Dem (masc. or neut.) after bei, von, zu,
forming beim, vom, zum;
- (b) Das after auf, durch, für, um,
forming auf's, durch's, für's, um's;
- (c) Dem or Das after an, hinter, in, über, unter, vor,
forming am, hinterm, im, überm, unterm, vorm;
an's, hinter's, in's, über's, unter's, vor's.
- (d) Der (dat. sing. fem.) after zu, forming zur.

Note um's Himmels willen, for Heaven's sake; where um's = um des.

17. (ii) Indefinite Article.

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	
Nom.	ein	eine	ein	<i>No</i>
Acc.	einen	eine	ein	<i>Plural</i>
Gen.	eines	einer	eines	
Dat.	einem	einer	einem.	