

## GERMAN VOWEL SPELLINGS

German Spelling	Rough Equivalent Pronunciations in English (These are only approximations, they are not true equivalents.)	Example Words in German
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### Alphabet Letters:

i	ee, he, she, feel, heat, need	ihn, ihm
e	fate, lame, pay, rate, shade (pure, no upward glide)	geht, Mehl
a	aw, ought, got, rod, naught	dann, ab
ä	hat, bad, man, shaft, ad, grab	spät, Mädchen
o	hoe, show, no, go, rode, soap (pure, no upward glide)	wo, schon
u	who, flew, moon, rude, do	du, Stuhl

### Letter Combinations:

ai	eye, high, rye, night, shine	Mai, Hai
ei	eye, high, rye, night, shine	heiß, zwei
ie	heel, need, beam, sheep, reap	viel, Knie
au	how, now, brown, cow, doubt	Pfau, Auto
äu	toy, boy, joy, loin, groin, coin	läuft, säuft
eu	toy, boy, joy, loin, groin, coin	neu, Deutsch

### Lax Vowels

i	fit, sin, kid, lip, tick, fib, ship	in, im
e	bet, red, deaf, pet, said, wreck	Bett, Heft
o	Similar to: awe, rod, lost, odd	Gott, Bonn
u	Similar to: book, should, wood, put, could, woof	muss, Sucht

Front Rounded Vowels (All of the following are produced with tightly rounded lips. Absolutely no equivalents in English.)

ü / y	(ROUND) feel, keep, 'He eats meat.' (lax: fill, ship, tick, pin)	Tür, Typ (müsst, fünf)
ö	(ROUND) pay, shape, 'They hate to be late.' (lax: pet, shed, wreck, pep)	Öl, schön (zwölf, könnt)