

Konsonantenverbindungen mit *k* und *g* · Probleme

The following is a brief description of some of the potential problems encountered by English speakers learning German sounds with consonant clusters beginning in “k” and “g.”

[kv]

The spelling “qu” in German is pronounced as “kv.”

The word “quitt” is pronounced as “kvittt.”

Unlike English, there is no “w” sound indicated by the German spelling “qu.”

Problem: Students try to pronounce German “quitt” like English “kwit.”

Solution: Pronounce “qu” as “kv.”

Also, no vowel is pronounced between the “k” and “v” sounds in German “quitt”.

Problem: Students try to pronounce the word as “kuh-vitt”

Solution: Pronounce the consonants “k” and “v” in very rapid succession.

The only correct German pronunciation of “quitt” is [kvit].

[kn]

In the German spelling “kn,” both the “k” and the “n” are pronounced.

The word “kneifen” is pronounced very roughly as “knigh - fun”

Unlike English, the initial “k” sound must be pronounced in German.

Problem: Students try to pronounce German “kneifen” like “nife - un.”

Solution: Make sure to pronounce the “k” at the beginning of the word.

Also, no vowel is pronounced between the “k” and “n” sounds in German “kn”.

Problem: Students try to pronounce the word as “kuh - nigh - fun.”

Solution: Pronounce the consonants “k” and “n” in very rapid succession.

The only correct German pronunciation of “kneifen” is [ˈknɛɪfən].

[gn]

In the German spelling “gn,” both the “g” and the “n” are pronounced.

The word “Gnade” is pronounced roughly as “gnah - duh”

Unlike English, the initial “g” sound must be pronounced in German.

Problem: Students try to pronounce German “Gnade” like “nod - uh”

Solution: Make sure to pronounce the “g” at the beginning of the word.

Also, no vowel is pronounced between the “g” and “n” sounds in German “gn”.

Problem: Students try to pronounce the word as “guh - nod - uh.”

Solution: Pronounce the consonants “g” and “n” in very rapid succession.

The only correct German pronunciation of “Gnade” is [ˈɡnɑːdə].