

Sound to Spelling Relationships in German

Here is a partial list of sounds and spellings in German. Keep in mind that the English equivalents are only rough approximates. This sheet is still under construction, please watch for errors. Thanks!

<i>Approximate sound in English</i>	<i>Spelling in German</i>	<i>Example Words in German</i>
ee as in <i>feet, machine, lead, green</i> i as in <i>fit, chin, lid, grin</i>	i / ih / ie i	ihm, sieht, viel, Riemen, Ihnen immer, Kippe, bitte
ay as in <i>fate, chain, lame, grain</i> e as in <i>fest, check, let, wreck</i> uh similar to <i>above, of, but</i>	e / ee / eh e -e (<i>at end of word</i>)	lesen, Beet, Fehler, geht Bett, sechs, Scheck arbeite, habe, lese, bitte, danke
a somewhere between <i>bat/bait, ran/rain</i> a somewhere between <i>let/late, pen/pain</i>	ä ä	spät, Universität Männer, hätte
ah as in <i>father, caught, lawn</i> uh similar to <i>but, putt, money</i>	a / ah / aa a	Vater, Bahn, Saat Stadt, Macke
oo as in <i>goon, food, rude</i> oo <i>should, book, could</i>	u / uh u	Bude, du, Uhr Rutsch
o as in <i>phone, loaf, poke</i> aw as in <i>caught, awful</i>	o / oh / oo o	Kohle, Boot, Note Gott, oft
oy as in <i>boy, ploy, goiter</i> ow as in <i>now, house, plow</i> i as in <i>night, eye, fine</i>	eu / äu au ei / ai	Leute, Deutsch, Häuser Haus, Auto, braun Ei, mein, heißen, Mai
ee as in <i>feel, meat</i> (rounded lips) i as in <i>fit, tip</i> (rounded lips)	ü / üh / y ü / y	fühlen, Güte, üben, Typ, fünf, füttern, müssen
ay as in <i>fail, mate</i> (rounded lips) e as in <i>fell, met</i> (rounded lips)	ö / öh ö	Öl, Söhne, mögen zwölf, können
sh as in <i>shoe, leash, hasher</i> ch as in <i>choose, much, ratchet</i> z as in <i>zebra, Oz, lazy</i> ts as in <i>cats, its, bats</i> s as in <i>soon, kiss, lesser</i>	sch tsch s z / c ß / ss	waschen, Schau, rasch Deutsch, Tschüß sieben, lesen Zug, zwei heißen, muss
p as in <i>stop, leap, rap</i> t as in <i>sent, rat, hunt</i> f as in <i>loaf, safe, laugh</i>	-b (<i>at end of word</i>) -d (<i>at end of word</i>) -v (<i>at end of word</i>)	ab, ob, Hieb Sand, Rad, Hund aktiv, Motiv, konservativ
k as in <i>rock, took, soak</i> ng as in <i>sing, wrong, bang</i> ch as in Scottish <i>loch</i>	-g (<i>at end of word</i>) -ng (<i>including end of word</i>) -ig (<i>at end of word</i>)	Tag, Zug, bog Gesang, fing, Schwung zwanzig, windig, lustig