

German

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The style of speech illustrated is that of many educated Germans in the North. The accompanying recording is of a 62-year-old speaker reading in a colloquial style.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d			k g			ʔ
Nasal	m			n			ŋ		
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ	ç			χ ʁ	h
Approximant						j			
Lateral Approximant				l					

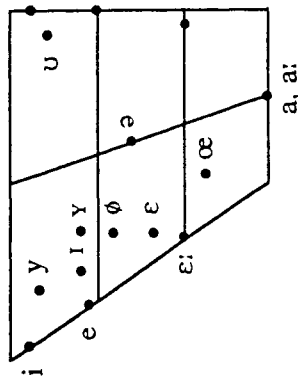
The table of consonants lists phonemes with the exception of [ç] and [χ] as well as [ʔ]. Their distributions can be predicted from context, as stated below under conventions, provided morpheme boundaries are marked. *Frauchen* 'little woman' and *rauchen* 'to smoke' are differentiated as [fʁaʊçən] and [ʁaʊχən] because in the former [ç] is initial in the diminutive suffix *-chen*, but in the latter [χ] is final after a back vowel in the stem morpheme *rauch-*. So [ç] and [χ] can be said to be allophones of a phoneme /x/ with reference to different positions and contexts within morphemes. In the absence of such morphemic information, as is usually the case in IPA transcription, the difference between these consonant segments has to be symbolized. Similarly [fʁeʔaizən] *vereisen* 'to freeze over' and [fʁeʔaizən] *verreisen* 'to travel' show a paradigmatic opposition of [ʔ] and [χ] in the same segmental context. If the morpheme structure of the stems *-eis-* vs. *-reis-* after the prefix *ver-* is taken into consideration the occurrence of [ʔ] can be automatically inferred; if not, [ʔ] needs to be transcribed.

p	<i>Passé</i>	'skip' (1 sg)	t	<i>Tasse</i>	'cup'	k	<i>Kasse</i>	'cash desk'
b	<i>Baß</i>	'bass'	d	<i>das</i>	'that'	g	<i>Gasse</i>	'lane'
m	<i>Masse</i>	'mass'	n	<i>masse</i>	'wet'	ŋ	<i>lange</i>	'long'
f	<i>fasse</i>	'catch' (1 sg)	s	<i>reiße</i>	'rip' (1 sg)	ʃ	<i>rasche</i>	'quick'
v	<i>Wasser</i>	'water'	z	<i>reise</i>	'travel' (1 sg)	ʒ	<i>Garage</i>	'garage'

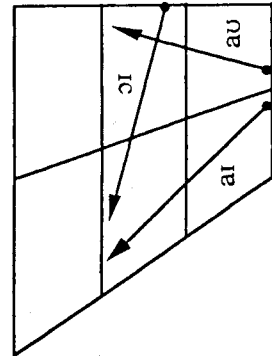
ç	<i>dich</i>	'you'	χ	<i>Dach</i>	'roof'	h	<i>hasse</i>	'hate' (1 sg)
j	<i>ja</i>	'yes'	ʁ	<i>Rasse</i>	'race'	l	<i>lasse</i>	'let' (1 sg)

Vowels

Monophthongs



Diphthongs



i	<i>bieten</i>	'to offer'	y	<i>hüten</i>	'to guard'	u	<i>sputen</i>	'to hurry'
ɪ	<i>bitten</i>	'to request'	ʏ	<i>Hütten</i>	'huts'	ʊ	<i>Butter</i>	'butter'
e	<i>beten</i>	'to pray'	ø	<i>Goethe</i>	(name)	o	<i>boten</i>	'offered' (1 pl)
ɛ	<i>Betten</i>	'beds'	œ	<i>Götter</i>	'gods'	ɔ	<i>Boiten</i>	'clogs'
ɛ:	<i>bäten</i>	'if they requested'	a	<i>hatten</i>	'had' (1 pl)			
			a:	<i>baten</i>	'requested' (1 pl)			
			ə	<i>Beute</i>	'booty' (sg)			
			ɔɪ	<i>Beuten</i>	'booty' (pl)			
						au	<i>bauten</i>	'built'

Stress

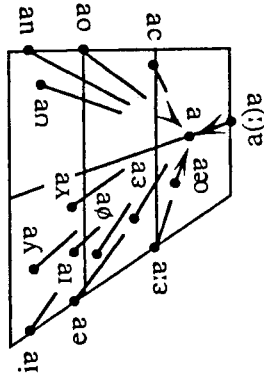
' (primary stress) and , (secondary stress), as in compounds, e.g. [ʃɔɐn]tain,fege *Schornsteinfeger* 'chimney sweep'.

Conventions

/p, t, k/ are aspirated when not preceded by a fricative within the same word (e.g. [ʃtat] *Stadt* 'town'), nor followed by a syllabic nasal (e.g. [laɪn] *leiten* 'to guide'); the aspiration is strongest before a stressed vowel, weakest in unstressed function words.

/k/ can be an approximant intervocalically (e.g. *Herren* 'gentlemen'); after voiceless plosives and fricatives, especially those within the same word, it is devoiced (in e.g. *trat* 'kicked' it is completely voiceless [χ]); postvocally before a consonant or word-finally it is vocalized to [ɐ], which results in diphthongs (e.g. [haɐt] *hart* 'hard', [œɐ] *Ohr* 'ear', see

the vowel chart below); the ending *-er* is realized as [ɐ] (e.g. [ˈbʊtɐ] *Butter* 'butter'); the place of articulation of the consonant varies from uvular in e.g. *rot* 'red' to velar in e.g. *treten* 'kick', depending on back or front vowel contexts.



[ɐ] Diphthongs

Except for unstressed function words, word and stem initial vowels are prefixed by glottal stops (e.g. [ʔeɐˈʔaɐbaʊn] *erarbeiten* 'achieve through work').

[ç] occurs after front vowels and consonants within the same morpheme, as well as morpheme initially (e.g. [çeˈmi] *Chemie* 'chemistry', [çən] *-chen* = diminutive suffix). [χ] occurs after low back vowels (e.g. [ˈbʁʰχ] *Bach* 'brook', [ˈdʁʰχ] *doch* 'yet'); [x] is used instead of [χ] after high and mid back tense vowels (e.g. [ˈbʁʰx] *Buch* 'book', [ˈhox] *hoch* 'high').

The closer vowels in a close/open pair are always longer under the same conditions of stress and environment; in unstressed position the close vowels are shortened and may keep their close vowel quality, as in [moˈʁaːl] *Moral* 'moral', [fʏˈzɪk] *Physik* 'physics', but the latter constraint does not apply to unstressed function words (e.g. [ʏbɐ] *über* 'over').

Transcription of recorded passage

ains ʃtɪtɪn zɪç nɔɐtvɪnt un ˈzɔnə, vɛɐ fən im ˈbaɪdn vol de ʃtɛkəkɔ vɛkə, als ain ˈvɑndəkə, dɛɐ in ain ˈvɑɐm ˈmantl gəˌhʏlt vɑɐ, dəs ˈvɛgəs dɑˈhɛkɑm. zɪ vʉɛdn ˈaɪmɪç, dəs ˈdɛɐˌjɛnɪgə fʏɐ dən ʃtɛkəkɔn gɛltɪn zɔltə, dɛɐ dən ˈvɑndəkə ˈtʃvɪŋŋ vʏɛdɛ, zɑɪm ˈmantl ˈɑpɪsʏnɛmm. dɛɐ nɔɐtvɪm ˈblɪs mɪt ˈalɛ ˈmɑχt, ɑbɛ jɛ mɛɐ jɛ mɛɐ ɛɛ ˈblɪs, dɛstɔ ˈfɛstɛ ˈhʏltɛ zɪç dɛ ˈvɑndəkə in zɑɪm ˈmantl ain. ˈɛntlɪç gɑˌp dɛ nɔɐtvɪn dɛŋ ˈkɑmpf ˈɑʊf. nʉn ɛɐˈvɛɐmɪtɛ dɪ ˈzɔnə dɪ ˈlʉfʃ mɪt iɛn ˈfɪkɪmɪtɪçn ʃtɛːaːln, un ʃɔnɑχ ˈvɛnɪgŋ ˈɑʊgŋˌblɪkŋ tʃɔk dɛ ˈvɑndəkə zɑɪm ˈmantl ɑʊs. dɑ mʉstɛ dɛ nɔɐtvɪn ˈtʃʉgɛbm, dəs dɪ ˈzɔnə fən im ˈbaɪdn dɛ ʃtɛkəkɔ vɑɐ.

Orthographic version

Einſt ſtritten ſich Nordwind und Sonne, wer von ihnen beiden wohl der Stärkere wäre, als ein Wanderer, der in einen warmen Mantel gehüllt war, des Weges daherkam. Sie wurden einig, daß derjenige für den Stärkeren gelten ſollte, der den Wanderer zwingen würde, ſeinen Mantel abzunehmen. Der Nordwind blies mit aller Macht, aber je mehr er blies, deſto feſter hüllte ſich der Wanderer in ſeinen Mantel ein. Endlich gab der Nordwind den Kampf auf. Nun erwärmte die Sonne die Luft mit ihren freundlichen Strahlen, und ſchon nach wenigen Augenblicken zog der Wanderer ſeinen Mantel aus. Da mußte der Nordwind zugeben, daß die Sonne von ihnen beiden der Stärkere war.

From: *Handbook of the IPA* - *Orthographic version*
 The use of the *IPA* - *Orthographic version*
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