

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

SHORT VOWEL SOUNDS

- a** -- father, hot, rot, dot **datt, fatt, vass, hatt, glatt, vatt, an, am**
- e** -- get, bed, set, met **bett, gevva, geld, vasha, maydel, bukkel**
- i** -- fit, tip, did, miss, wish **Bivvel, pikk, bisht, biss, ich, grohsi**
- o** -- of, oven, love, shove **Gott, hott, shtobb, kobb, lossa, globba**
- u** -- put, soot, stood **hund, mukk, sunn, butza, dutt, shund**
- ae** -- rat, bat, sat, cat **daett, maemm, naett, shlaebba**

LONG VOWEL SOUNDS

- ay** -- hay, say, day, lay **gays, flaysh, kays, ayl, dray, sayna**
- ee** -- feet, heel, seed, meet **kee, beebli, fees, veetz, dreeb, shteel**
- ey** -- height, sight, right **feiyah, meiya, sheiyah, heiyahra**
- oh** -- road, toad, Oh my! **shohf, broht, roht, bloh, shlohfa, hohf**

OTHER VOWEL SOUNDS

- au** -- laud, laundry, author **gaul, drauva, graut, haut, naus, haus**
- aw** -- law, saw, claw, flaw **haws, glaws, naws, graws, brawf**
- ei** -- * their, heir, air, hair **deitsh, meisli, drei, heit, leit, sei, bei**
- oo** -- moon, spoon, soon **koo, shtool, goot, boova, hoot, bloot**
- oi** -- join, boy, toy, enjoy **Moi, oi, boi, hoi, froiya, groiya,**

*exception: **ei** can sometimes be pronounced like i in time

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VOWEL GLIDES

(two English sounds put together)

- eah** -- (ħ + ah).....**sheah, beah, deah, eah, leah, veah**
iah -- (ē + ah).....**biah, miah, broviah, diah, fiah**
oah -- (ō + ah)**boah, voah, goahra, oah, voah**
uah -- (oo + ah)**fuah, shuah, uah, shnuah, naduah**

ENDINGS

- a** -- Florida, China, above**lanna, hoffa, nohma, gukka, havva**
ah -- ahh, awl.....**vassah, bessah, dellah, viddah**

CONSONANTS

- ch** -- (h sound in the back of throat)...**mach, sach, ich, mich, dach, sich**
ng -- song, ring, bang, sing.....**shpringa, fanga, langa, shlang**
tsh -- (ch sound) child, chin,**Deitsh, hutsh, tshumba, vatsha**
z -- pizza, pretzel, roots.....**katz, zvay, zeit, butza, zung, zebb**
r -- beginning of word, normal r.....**roht, rawt, rumm, rishta, ratt**
r -- anywhere else, rolled r.....**goahra, veahra, fiahra, keahra**

If Deitsh word begins with r, it can be pronounced like an English r.

Anywhere else r is rolled like a Spanish r.

If you can't roll your r's, pronounce like an English d instead.

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2 LETTER WORD EXEPTIONS

- vi** -- is pronounced **vee** with a long e (ē) as in keep, sheep, tree
- do** -- is pronounced **doh** with a long o (ō) as in rode, load, hope
- no** -- is pronounced **noh** with a long o (ō) as in rode, load, hope
- so** -- is pronounced **soh** with a long o (ō) as in rode, load, hope
- vo** -- is pronounced **voh** with a long o (ō) as in rode, load, hope
- du** -- is pronounced **do** as in moon, soon, flu, dew, true
- zu** -- is pronounced **zoo** as in moon, soon, flu, dew, true

ENGLISH LOAN WORDS

An English loan word is a word that is borrowed from English and used as a Deitsh word.

If the loan word keeps its English pronunciation, it also keeps its English spelling.

example: Nemm da *nut* ab mitt da *wrench*. Take the nut off with the wrench.

If the loan word's pronunciation changes in Deitsh, the spelling will reflect this.

example: Eah hott en *robbah shtraebb* grikt. He got a rubber strap.

If the loan word is a verb, usually the root form of the verb remains intact, while the Deitsh prefixes and suffixes are added.

example: trosta to trust

 getrost trusted

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ACCENTS

The rules given for the accents are general in nature. There are exceptions to all of these rules.

2 SYLLABLE WORDS

In 2 syllable words the primary accent is usually on the first syllable. Compare with the English word **flatter**.

'bay da to pray
'hof fa to hope

'den ka to think
'lee va to love

3 SYLLABLE WORDS

In 3 syllable words the primary accent is usually on the first syllable and the secondary accent is on the third syllable. Compare with the English word **accident**.

'noch di hand .. afterward
'hin nah sich ... backwards

'hung ah rich . hungry
'als a mohl sometimes

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ACCENTS IN WORDS WITH PREFIXES

Some prefixes cause the accent to fall on a different syllable. Some of the common prefixes are given below.

ab/ ei/ oh/ un

The primary accent falls on the first syllable and the secondary accent falls on the second syllable. Compare with the English word **forcefully**.

'ab to break off

'ab heich ato listen to

'ab to cool off

'ab sheidato cut off

'ei gev va..... to give in

'ei shlof ato fall a sleep

'ei shpad da..... to confine

'ei sam lato gather in

'oh bayd a to worship

'oh dref fato meet

'oh bin na to tie or tether
..... a horse

'oh duto put on (clothes)

'un glaw vich .. unbelieving

'un rein.....impure

'un shuld ich innocent

'un voah ret....untruth