

GERMAN PRONUCIATION KEY

a is always ah, as in father, never like the a in cat or state.

ä is like eh, a short e sound, as in met

äu is like oi in boil

d on the end of words is pronounced much like a t

e is either the schwa sound as in the or (always in -eh-) the long a sound as in state

ee is rare in German, but is pronounced like a long a as in mate

ei is pronounced as a long i as in fine. Say the last letter when you see ei or ie.

eu is like oi in boil

g is always a hard g as in go, except in a very few foreign words, never soft as in age

at the end of words it sounds mostly like the letter k

i is pronounced like a long e as in feel, though sometimes not very strongly

ie is pronounced like a strong long e as in feel. Say the last letter when you see ei or ie.

j is pronounced like y in you

o is generally pronounced long as in coat

ö is pronounced like oo in look

qu is pronounced as if it were kv

s is pronounced like z in front of vowels at the beginning of words

and like sh in front of consonants at the beginning of words

sch is pronounced like sh as in ship

ss and the esstset character are pronounced like the ss in miss

th is pronounced like a simple T as in tight.

u is pronounced like oo in moon

ü is pronounced halfway between ee as in seen and oo as in moon

something like the middle of the American expression of disgust eeuwww!

v is pronounced like the letter f

w is pronounced like the letter v as in very

y is very rare but pronounced like the u in put

z is pronounced like ts, and do not forget the T part!