

German Spelling 1: /a/ε/ə/ɪ/ɔ/œ/ʊ/ʏ/

Sounds	Letters	Examples
a	a	G <u>a</u> st k <u>a</u> lt h <u>a</u> t k <u>a</u> nn S <u>a</u> tz <u>a</u> n
ε	ä	G <u>ä</u> ste k <u>ä</u> lter B <u>e</u> tt <u>E</u> ltern
ə	e	<u>e</u> rzählen B <u>e</u> ginn les <u>e</u> n G <u>e</u> schichte <u>e</u> seh <u>e</u> n
ɪ	i	b <u>i</u> tte <u>i</u> n M <u>i</u> tte r <u>i</u> tt S <u>i</u> tz
ɔ	o	v <u>o</u> ll G <u>l</u> ocke B <u>o</u> ck tro <u>t</u> z <u>o</u> ffen T <u>o</u> pf
œ	ö	L <u>ö</u> ffel G <u>ö</u> tter H <u>ö</u> lle pl <u>ö</u> tzlich <u>ö</u> ffnen k <u>ö</u> nnen
ʊ	u	Gr <u>u</u> ppe P <u>u</u> lt m <u>u</u> ß Sch <u>u</u> tz l <u>u</u> stig
ʏ	ü	Gl <u>ü</u> ck Pf <u>ü</u> tze H <u>ü</u> tte h <u>ü</u> bsch G <u>y</u> mnasium

- German has eight short vowel sounds.
- As a rule, if the base word is spelt with an “a”, its derivative or inflected forms will be spelt with an “ä”, not with an “e”: *Gast/Gäste* *Band/Bänder* *kalt/kälter*.
- Short German vowels are often followed by consonant blends (e.g. *alt*) or double consonants (e.g. *Mutter*).
- Which German words can you make by inserting a vowel (a, ä, e, i, o, ö, u, ü, y) in the gapped words below?

W_nd	d_nn	_lt	H_ls
_rm	_ll_	L_mp_	S_nd
M_rz	b_ss_r	_lf	M_nsch
St_rn	M_lch	d_ck	G_ld
F_sch	Pf_rs_ch	b_ll_g	L_ch
L_cht	Schl_ß	W_rst	l_ck_r
v_ll_g	H_ng_r	f_nf	l_ng
l_nger	j_ng	j_nger	