

German Spelling 5: /p/b/t/d/k/g/

Sounds	Letters						Examples
p	p			pp		b	<u>P</u> ein d <u>o</u> <u>pp</u> elt a <u>b</u>
b	b			bb			<u>B</u> ein E <u>b</u> be
t	t		th	tt	dt	d	<u>T</u> eich <u>T</u> heater ha <u>t</u> te Sta <u>dt</u> Ba <u>d</u>
d	d			dd			<u>D</u> eich Wi <u>d</u> der
k	k	c	ch	ck	kk	g	<u>K</u> unst <u>C</u> afé <u>C</u> hlor E <u>c</u> ke A <u>kk</u> ord Ta <u>g</u>
g	g			gg			<u>G</u> unst E <u>g</u> ge

- These six consonants are known as **plosives**. Three are **unvoiced** (/p/t/k) and three are **voiced** (/b/d/g).
- The last letter of a word or syllable may be pronounced /p/t/k/ but written b, d or g to keep the connection with related words: hob/hoben Bad/baden, Tag/Tage.
- All plosives can be doubled to indicate a preceding short vowel. A double k is written “ck” except in foreign words: Akkusativ.

Look at these word groups. Why is each written the way it is?	
Platz Mappe Dieb	Bier Krabbe Diebe
Seite Thron Schotte Hund	Seide Addition Hunde
Kopf Cousin Chaos Mücke Sakko Weg	Gras Roggen Wege