

# Ein Deutsches Requiem – Pronunciation Guide

## Consonants

g – always “hard” as in English “garden”: *Garben, Gras, geschaffen* .

j – pronounce as English y: *Jauchzen*.

r – Pronounced with a slight “roll” in every word where it occurs; sound reflects relevant vowel.

s – English z: *selig, seid, sind, Samen*.

v – English f: *von, viel*.

w – English v: *weinen, weg, Wort*. Also pronounce the “u” after “Q” as English v: *Qual, Requiem*

z – English ts: *zu, Zebaoth, Zeit*.

ß – a symbol representing “sz” – English “ss”: *groß, daß*.

sch – English “sh”; *Schmerz, Schemen*.

ch – no English equivalent (but present in Welsh and Scottish pronunciation!); exhalation between tongue and palate reflecting relevant vowel: *mich/dich/ich, nicht* and *Gerecht* in mid-palate; *Stachel, doch, suchen* at the back of the palate / uvula.

## Consonants as final letter

d is pronounced “t”: *Leid, sind, seid, wird*.

g is pronounced “k”: *Weg, Sieg*; except in -ig, when it is pronounced “-ich”: *geduldig*.

b is pronounced “p”: *Leib*.

## Consonants as middle letter

h after a vowel usually lengthens the vowel sound: *gehen, sehen*,

## Vowels

a – generally long in received English “pass” but *with more open mouth (as in doctor saying “say aah”)*: *Gras, Tage, Qual, Samen*

a - short as in northern English “hat” in short words or when followed by two consonants: *das, alle, Hand, davon, verlangen, verschaffen, Stache*

e – generally long, as in English “way”, but *avoiding the diphthong and with a more open mouth*, particularly when followed by h or r: *sehen, werden, Erde, gehen, gen, ewig, selig*.

e – short as in English “end” generally in single syllable words: *des, denn*. But long in *der, den, wer*.

i – generally short (*ich, mich, nicht, in, ist*) except *wir* and when followed by h as in *ihr, ihm, ihnen*.

o – generally short – *soll, doch, kommen, Wonne, Gott*, but long in *Tod, groß, Wohnungen, Trost*

u – short as in northern English “bug”: *und, verschlungen, geduldig, muß, durch*

u - long as in English “zoo”: *zu, nun*. (“Zukunft” is long, short!).

au – broadly equivalent to English vowel in “how”: *Posaune, Jauchzen, Hause*.

ei - broadly equivalent to English vowel in “ice” – *weinen, bleibt, ergreifen, Zeit, Leid*.

eu - broadly equivalent to English vowel in “joy” – *euch, neu, Freuden*.

ie - broadly equivalent to English vowel in “sheep” – *lieben, sehen, niemand*.

**Umlauts** - a combination of tongue raised towards palate and rounded lips.

ä – broadly equivalent to German long e – *säen* (two syllables), *nächst*.

ö – broadly equivalent to English vowel in “urn” with more rounded lips – *getröstet, Erlöseten, Vorhöfen*.

ü – broadly equivalent to English vowel in “Hugh” with more rounded lips – *darüber, rühret*.

### **Unaccented vowels (where the main stress in the word is on the preceding or following syllable)**

There are many unaccented vowels and syllables in German which are pronounced like English “-uh” in *forget, teacher, garden*.

First syllable: *ge-as in getröstet, Gerechten, geduldig, geschaffen; ver-* as in *verdorret, vergebliche, verlanget*

Final syllable: *-e* as in *habe, Erde, lehre, alle(s), keine; -er* as in *aber, Brüder; -en* as in *ernten, werden, Blumen*