

German

KLAUS KOHLER

Institut für Phonetik, Olshausenstr. 40, D-2300 Kiel, West Germany.

The style of speech illustrated is that of many educated Germans in the North. The accompanying recording is of a 54-year-old speaker reading in a colloquial style.

Consonants

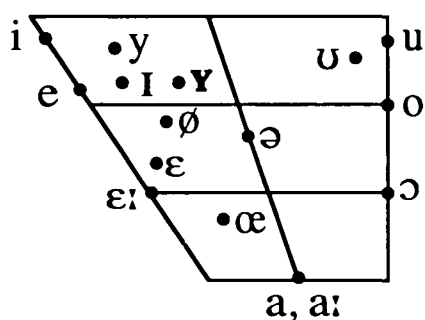
	Bilab.	Lab.dent	Dental	Alv.	Postalv.	Retrofl.	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyng	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k g			ʔ
Nasal	m			n				ŋ			
Fricative		f v		s z	ʃ ʒ		ç	x	ɣ		h
Approximant							j				
Lateral				l							

The table of consonants lists phonemes with the exception of [ç] and [x] as well as [ʔ]. Their distributions can be predicted from context, as stated below under conventions, provided morpheme boundaries are marked. *Frauchen* 'little woman' and *rauchen* 'to smoke' are differentiated as [fʁaʊçən] and [ʁaʊxən] because in the former [ç] is initial in the diminutive suffix *-chen*, but in the latter [x] is final after a back vowel in the stem morpheme *rauch-*. So [ç] and [x] can be said to be allophones of a phoneme /x/ with reference to different positions and contexts within morphemes. In the absence of such morphemic information, as is usually the case in IPA transcription, the difference between these consonant segments has to be symbolized. Similarly [fʁɛʔaɪzən] *vereisen* 'to freeze over' and [fʁɛʁaɪzən] *verreisen* 'to travel' show a paradigmatic opposition of [ʔ] and [ɣ] in the same segmental context. If the morpheme structure of the stems *-eis* - vs. *-reis-* after the prefix *ver-* is taken into consideration the occurrence of [ʔ] can be automatically inferred; if not, [ʔ] needs to be transcribed.

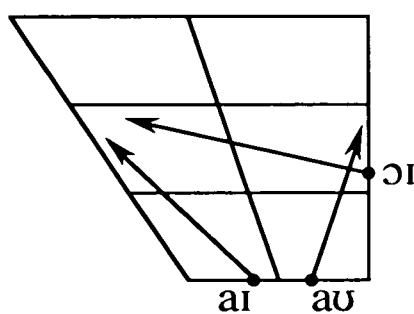
p	<i>passé</i>	'skip' (1 sg)	t	<i>Tasse</i>	'cup'	k	<i>Kasse</i>	'cash desk'
b	<i>Baß</i>	'bass'	d	<i>das</i>	'that'	g	<i>Gasse</i>	'lane'
m	<i>Masse</i>	'mass'	n	<i>nasse</i>	'wet'	ŋ	<i>lange</i>	'long'
f	<i>fasse</i>	'catch' (1 sg)	s	<i>reiße</i>	'rip' (1 sg)	ʃ	<i>rasche</i>	'quick'
v	<i>Wasser</i>	'water'	z	<i>reise</i>	'travel' (1 sg)	ʒ	<i>Garage</i>	'garage'
ç	<i>dich</i>	'you'	χ	<i>Dach</i>	'roof'	h	<i>hasse</i>	'hate' (1 sg)
j	<i>ja</i>	'yes'	ɣ	<i>Rasse</i>	'race'	l	<i>lasse</i>	'let' (1 sg)

Vowels

i	<i>bieten</i>	'to offer'	y	<i>hüten</i>	'to guard'	u	<i>sputen</i>	'to hurry'
ɪ	<i>bitten</i>	'to request'	ʏ	<i>Hütten</i>	'huts'	ʊ	<i>Butter</i>	'butter'
e	<i>beten</i>	'to pray'	ø	<i>Goethe</i>	(name)	o	<i>boten</i>	'offered' (1 pl)
ɛ	<i>Betten</i>	'beds'	œ	<i>Götter</i>	'gods'	ɔ	<i>Botten</i>	'clogs'
ɛ:	<i>bäten</i>	'if they requested'						
ai	<i>beiden</i>	'both'	a	<i>hatten</i>	'had' (1 pl)			
			a:	<i>baten</i>	'requested' (1 pl)			
			ə	<i>Beute</i>	'booty' (sg.)			
			ɔɪ	<i>Beuten</i>	'booty' (pl.)			
						au	<i>bauten</i>	'built' (1 pl)



Monophthongs



Diphthongs

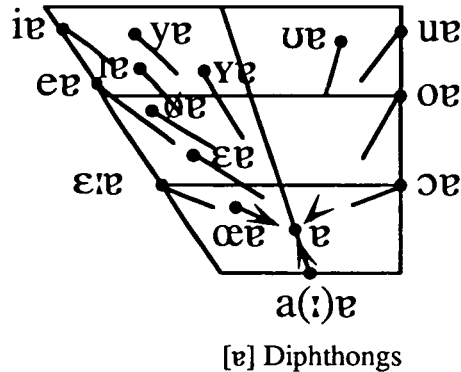
Stress

' (primary stress) and , (secondary stress), as in compounds, e.g., [ˈʃɔʁnʃtaɪnˌfegəʁ] *Schornsteinfeger* 'chimney sweep'

Conventions

/p,t,k/ are aspirated when not preceded by a fricative within the same word (e.g. [ˈʃtat] *Stadt* 'town'), nor followed by a syllabic nasal (e.g. [ˈlaɪtŋ] *leiten* 'to guide'); the aspiration is strongest before a stressed vowel, weakest in unstressed function words.

/ʁ/ can be an approximant intervocalically (e.g. *Herren* 'gentlemen'); after voiceless plosives and fricatives, especially those within the same word, it is devoiced (in e.g. *trat* 'kicked' it is completely voiceless [χ]); postvocally before a consonant or word-final it is vocalized to [ʁ], which results in diphthongs (e.g. [ˈhæʁt] *hart* 'hard', [ˈoʁ] *Ohr* 'ear', see the vowel chart below); the ending *-er* is realised as [ʁ] (e.g. [ˈbʊtʁ] *Butter* 'butter'); the place of articulation of the consonant varies from uvular in e.g. *rot* 'red' to velar in e.g. *treten* 'kick', depending on back or front vowel contexts.



Except for unstressed function words, word and stem initial vowels are always prefixed by glottal stops (e.g. [ʔɛʔʔæbaitn] *erarbeiten* 'achieve through work').

[ç] occurs after front vowels and consonants within the same morpheme, as well as morpheme initially (e.g. [çe'mi] *Chemie* 'chemistry', [çən] *-chen* = diminutive suffix).

[χ] occurs after low back vowels (e.g. ['baχ] *Bach* 'brook', ['dɔχ] *doch* 'yet').

[x] occurs after high and mid back vowels (e.g. ['bux] *Buch* 'book', ['hox] *hoch* 'high').

The closer vowels in a close/open pair are always longer under the same conditions of stress and environment; in unstressed position the close vowels are shortened and may keep their close vowel quality, as in [mɔ'vɑ:l] *Moral*, 'moral' [fy'zɪk] *Physik*, 'physics' but the latter constraint does not apply to unstressed function words (e.g. [yβə] *über* 'over').

Transcription of recorded passage

ams 'ʃtʁɪtn zɪç 'nɔɐ̯tvɪnt un 'zɔnə, vɛʁ fən im 'baɪdn vol dɛʁ 'ʃtɛkɛrə vɛʁə, als ain 'vandɛʁɛʁ, dɛʁ in ain 'vaɪm 'mantl gə'hʏlt vax, dɛs 'vegəs da'hɛkkaɪm. zɪ vʊɐ̯dn 'aɪnɪç, das 'dɛʁjɛnɪçə fʏʁ dɛn 'ʃtɛkɛrɛn gɛltn zɔltə, dɛʁ dɛn 'vandɛʁɛʁ 'tsvɪŋ vʏʁdə, zaim 'mantl 'aptsʊnemm. dɛʁ 'nɔɐ̯tvɪm 'blɪs mit 'alɛʁ 'maɪxt, abɛʁ je 'mɛʁ ɛʁ 'blɪs, dɛsto 'fɛstɛʁ 'hʏltə zɪç dɛʁ 'vandɛʁɛʁ in zaim 'mantl ain. 'ɛntlɪç gə:p dɛʁ 'nɔɐ̯tvɪn dɛŋ 'kampf 'auf. nun ɛʁ'veʁmɛtə dɪ 'zɔnə dɪ 'lʊfʁ mit ɪʁn 'frɔɪntlɪçn 'ʃtʁaɪln, un ʃonax 'venɪçŋ 'aʊgŋ,blɪkŋ tsok dɛʁ 'vandɛʁɛʁ zaim 'mantl aus. da mustə dɛʁ 'nɔɐ̯tvɪn 'tsʊgɛbm, das dɪ 'zɔnə fən im 'baɪdn dɛʁ 'ʃtɛkɛrə vax.

Einst stritten sich Nordwind und Sonne, wer von ihnen beiden wohl der Stärkere wäre, als ein Wanderer, der in einen warmen Mantel gehüllt war, des Weges daherkam. Sie wurden einig, daß derjenige für den Stärkeren gelten sollte, der den Wanderer zwingen würde, seinen Mantel abzulegen. Der Nordwind blies mit aller Macht, aber je mehr er blies, desto fester hüllte sich der Wanderer in seinen Mantel ein. Endlich gab der Nordwind den Kampf auf. Nun erwärmte die Sonne die Luft mit ihren freundlichen Strahlen, und schon nach wenigen Augenblicken zog der Wanderer seinen Mantel aus. Da mußte der Nordwind zugeben, daß die Sonne von ihnen beiden der Stärkere war.