

TOP TEN GERMAN PRONUNCIATIONS RULES FOR THE TPSC
(created by Noel Daniels)

1. The letter “v” in German is always pronounced like “f” in English. The first syllable of *Volkswagen* is pronounced “folks”, just like our word “folk” meaning “people”. Examples: *Vater, vor*
2. Conversely, “w” in German is pronounced like our “v”. The second syllable in *Volkswagen* begins with a “v” sound. Examples: *Wurm, wir*
3. The German “z” is pronounced “ts”, two consonants pronounced almost simultaneously. Examples: *Zauber, zum*
4. A single letter “s” preceding a vowel in German is pronounced like our “z”. Examples: *Seele, diesem*

However, a single “s” followed by a consonant is pronounced “sh”. Examples: *streng, steht*

A letter “s” at the end of a word, or “ss” at the beginning of a syllable sounds like our normal “s”.

Example: *was, uns*

5. The letter “g” at the beginning of a word or syllable is always a hard “g” as in our words “gate” or “grave”. There is no soft “g” as in “gypsy”. Germans don’t pronounce the word “Germany” like we do. Examples: *gegeben, Gott*

However, a “g” at the end of a word is a suitably Teutonic guttural sound, like the “ch” in Loch Ness.

Example: *freudig, Heilig*

“ng” is voiced the same as in our word “thing”. Examples: *streng, umschlungen*

6. “ch” at the beginning of a word is either pronounced like “k” in our word chaos, or “sh” in the word champagne. It is never pronounced like our word cherry. Example: *Cherub*
7. The letters “d” and “b” are the same as in English, except when they are the **last** letter of the word. As the final consonant, a “d” is pronounced as a “t”, and “b” becomes a “p”. Examples: *und, gab*
8. There is no “th” sound in German like our “this” or “thin”. They literally don’t know how to pronounce it (and neither do the French). Instead, “th” is pronounced like a simple “t”. Examples: *getheilt, Heiligthum*
9. Umlauts are fun! You make a face to say one vowel, but then say a different one instead.
 - “ö” is pronounced by shaping your lips to say “o” as in the word “go”, but saying “ay” like the word “may”. Examples: *schöner, Götter*
 - “ü” is pronounced by shaping your lips to say “oo” as in “food”, but saying “ee” as in the word “me” or “feet”. Examples: *Brüder, Flügel*
10. Änderungen Vorbehalten! (Tom reserves the right to make changes for better vocal sounds).