

THE LATVIAN ALPHABET IN PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION

Letters and Diphthongs in the Latvian Alphabet	International Phonetic Transcription	Letters and Diphthongs in the Latvian Alphabet	International Phonetic Transcription
a	a	ŋ	n'
ā	a:	o	uo, ua
b	b	p	p
c	ts	r	r
č	tʃ	ŗ	r
d	d	s	s
dz	dz	š	ʃ
dž	dʒ	t	t
e	e	u	u
ē	e:	ū	u:
f	f	v	v
g	g	z	z
ģ	g'	ž	ʒ
h	h	ai	ai
i	i	au	au
ī	i:	ei	ei
j	j	ie	ie, ia
k	k	ui	ui
ķ	k'	oi	oi
l	l	av	au
ļ	l'	ev	eu
m	m	iv	iu
n	n		

before a consonant or
at the end of a word

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE FOR LATVIAN

Vowels:

a = as in 'park' (but short)
ā = as in 'father' (longer than 'a' on its own)
e = as in 'let', except where indicated
ē = as French 'er' in 'chanter', except where indicated

i = as in 'bin'
ī = as 'ee' in 'meet'
u = as 'oo' in 'look'
ū = as 'oo' in 'moot'

Diphthongs:

ai = as 'ai' in 'aisle'
au = as 'ow' in 'brown', or as in German 'laufen'
ei = as 'a' in 'late'
ie = as first 'e' in 'mere', or 'ea' in 'fear'
o = as Italian 'uo' in 'uomo'
ui = as in 'doing'

Consonants:

c = as 'ts' in 'bats'
č = as 'ch' in 'chips'
dz = as 'ds' in 'lids'
dž = as 'j' in 'jug'
g = as in 'goat'
ģ = as 'gy' in 'egg yolk' or 'd' in 'duty'
j = as 'y' in 'yes'
ķ = roughly as 2nd 't' in 'constituent' (a very soft 't')
ļ = roughly as 'll' in 'million'
ŋ = as 'n' in 'new'
r = rolled as in German 'Brot'
s = as in 'seven'
š = as 'sh' in 'ship'
t = as in 'lit' (slightly harder than English 't')
z = as 'z' in 'zebra'
ž = as 's' in 'leisure'

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