

LATVIAN PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

VOWELS

Latvian	Symbol	IPA	Example	Text
a	ah	a	f <u>a</u> ther (short)	nakts
ā	ah	a	f <u>a</u> ther (long)	kā
ai	ai	ai	f <u>i</u> nd	gaiss
au	au	au	f <u>o</u> ul	saule
e	eh	ɛ	f <u>e</u> d (short)	preti
ē	ā	e	f <u>a</u> te (long)	dzelm <u>e</u>
ē	æ	æ	f <u>a</u> t (long)	ezers
e	æ	æ	f <u>a</u> t (short)	tverta
i	i	ɪ	f <u>i</u> t (short)	miglo
ī	ē	i	f <u>ee</u> t (long)	spid
ie	ē(ə)	iə	f <u>ea</u> r (short)	dienas
o	āh	ɑ	l <u>o</u> t (short)	not in text
o	<u>w</u> ah	ua	<u>w</u> ater (NY)	rota
u	ū	ʊ	f <u>oo</u> t (short)	pukst
ū	ū	u	f <u>oo</u> l (long)	vidū

A native speaker can assist in the pronunciation of the vowels which have identical spellings.

CONSONANTS

Latvian	Symbol	IPA	Example	Text
c	ts	ts	<u>t</u> sar	nāc
č	ch	tʃ	<u>ch</u> in	not in text
dz	dz	dz	sud <u>s</u>	dzelme
g	g	g	<u>g</u> o	gredzens
ģ	j	dʒ	<u>j</u> udge	not in text
h	h	h	<u>h</u> it	not in text
j	y	j	<u>y</u> es	jau
l	l	ɫ	<u>L</u> atvia	tāle
ļ	ī	ɮ	<u>d</u> egli (It)	vaļā
n	n	n	<u>n</u> et	neslēgtais
ņ	ñ	ɲ	<u>n</u> canyon	maņi
r	rr	rr	<u>r</u> rolled	rotāļa
s	s	s	<u>s</u> alt	saule
š	sh	ʃ	pos <u>h</u>	paša
z	z	z	ea <u>s</u> y	ezers
ž	zh	ʒ	seiz <u>u</u> re	smaržo

The remaining consonants are pronounced as in English.

This pronunciation guide was prepared with the kind and generous guidance of Professor Elsie Thomas of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A tape of the Latvian phonemes and the text of *Neslēgtais gredzens* has been made by Professor Thomas and is available from the publisher.