
Dee-Ni Practical Alphabet

Letter sounds like English

A	<u>l</u> ot	M	<u>m</u> usic
AU	<u>o</u> uch	N	<u>n</u> o
AY	<u>b</u> ite	OY	<u>b</u> oy
B	<u>b</u> ow	P	<u>p</u> ipe
CH	<u>ch</u> air	S	<u>s</u> ee
CH'		SH	<u>sh</u> y
D	<u>d</u> ip	SR	<u>sh</u> rew
E	<u>e</u> gg	T	<u>t</u> able
G	<u>g</u> oat	T'	
GH		TR'	
H	<u>h</u> at	TS'	
I	<u>h</u> e	U	<u>d</u> ue
K	<u>k</u> iss	V	<u>u</u> p
K'		W	<u>w</u> e
KR'		X	
L	<u>l</u> ow	Y	<u>y</u> es
LH			

Special Sounds

Our language has some special sounds not found in English. Below are some descriptions of these sounds, but the best way to learn is to listen. You can hear a recording of the alphabet at www.siletzlanguage.org/videos.php. Some of these sounds can be hard to make at first. Don't be discouraged, the more you practice the easier the sounds are to make.

CH', K', KR', T', TS', TR'

Make these sounds by pushing air from your throat instead of just your lungs. You can practice by holding your breath and then making the sound.

GH

Set your mouth like you are going to make a "g." Then blow air without closing the airway the way you do when you make a "g" sound.

SR

Make the sound of an "s" then move your tongue up and back toward the roof of your mouth.

V

Our alphabet uses the English letter "v" to represent a vowel, the "short u" sound like in the English word "up".

LH

Place the tip of your tongue behind your teeth and blow.

X

People sometimes describe this sound as clearing your throat. Hold your tongue high in the back of your throat and push air to make a gargling sound.

'

The ' at the end of syllables signals stopping air with the throat, like saying "uh-oh" in English. This is common after vowels (a, e, i, u, v) and some consonants (n and m).

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This mark tells you to nasalize the vowel sound (a, e, i, u, v) by moving air through your nose the way you do when marking an "n or m".