

German

Vowels

- A glottal stop may be added before a stressed vowel, especially at the beginning of a word.
- Vowel sounds in general are made with tenser muscles than in English and with more movement of the lips.

/æ/ (hat)	pronounced /ɛ/ (yes)
/ɔ/ (ball)	may be confused with /ow/ (go), or may sound close to /ʌ/ (cup)
/ər/ (word)	pronounced with rounded lips
/ə/ (a banana)	not used frequently enough; may have a different quality
/ey/ (day)	may sound too short; may be confused with /ɛ/ (yes)
/aw/ (house)	has a different quality

Consonants

Consonants are often pronounced more emphatically in German.

/w/	confused with /v/
/θ/ (think)	pronounced /s/
/ð/ (the other)	pronounced /z/
/z/	pronounced /s/, especially in final position
/b/, /d/, and /g/	pronounced, respectively, /p/, /t/, and /k/ in final position
/v/	pronounced /f/, especially in final position
/ʒ/ (television)	may be pronounced /ʃ/ (shoe)
/dʒ/ (joke)	may be pronounced /tʃ/ (chips), or confused with /y/ (yellow)
/ŋ/ (sing)	may be confused with /ŋg/ or /ŋk/; /g/ sound may be omitted in words with /ŋg/ (finger)
/r/	usually too far back (uvular /r/), or pronounced as a flap
/s/	at the beginning of a word; may be pronounced /z/ before a vowel or as /ʃ/ (shoe) before a consonant
/l/	only clear /l/ used

Stress and intonation

- May sound staccato (because of glottal stops).
- May sound abrupt or commanding.
- Some speakers tend to add rising tones on each word in a sentence. (Intonation varies, depending on where the speaker is from.)