

German is a member of the West Germanic branch of Indo-European and is the official language of Germany, where it is spoken by about 76 million speakers. German is also spoken by about 7 million people in Austria, 4 million in Switzerland, 1 million in the former Soviet Union, .5 million in Romania, and 1.5 million in Alsace-Lorraine. World-wide, German is spoken by approximately 100 million people.

Dialectally, German is divided into three categorizations, "Upper German", "Central German" and "Low German" based on the extent to which the Old High German Second Sound Shift was accepted. The changes that occurred during the shift were: 1) the voiceless stops /p, t, k/ became their respective voiceless fricatives /f, s, x/, and 2) the voiced stops /b, d, g/ became their voiceless counterparts /p, t, k/. Upper German accepted these changes almost completely and Low German, not at all. Central German accepted the changes to varying degrees. The dialect considered standard is "High German" which refers to both Upper and Central German.

The speaker in this recording is a female from Erfurt in northeast Germany.

German Consonant Phonemes:

Stops:	p	t		k
	b	d		g
Affricates:	pf	ts		
Fricatives:	f	s	ʃ	(ç) x h
	v	z	ʒ	
Nasals:	m	n		ŋ
Liquids:		l		ʀ

All phonemes were encountered plus one allophone, [ç]. It is an allophone of [x] that occurs near high, front vowels.

German Vowel Phonemes:

Vowels Encountered:

i(:) y:		u(:)		i(:) y	u
ɪ ʏ		ʊ		ɪ ʏ	ʊ
e(:) ø	ɔ	o(:)		e ø	ə o
ɛ: œ		ɔ		ɛ(:) œ	ɔ
æ	a(:)	a			a(:) a

Diphthongs: aj, aw, ɔj

aj, aw, ɔj, aɪ

I. Spontaneous Speech

II. Word ListObstruents:

1.	[viç]	wich	'yielded'
2.	[viʃt]	wischt	'wipe'
3.	[fɪçtə]	ficht	'spruce tree'
4.	[fɪʃt]	fischt	'fishes'
5.	[miç]	mich	'me'
6.	[miʃt]	misch	'mix'
7.	[diç]	dich	'you'
8.	[tɪʃ]	Tisch	'table'
9.	[kɔjç]	keuch	'pant'
10.	[kɔjʃ]	keusch	'chaste'
11.	[tawkt]	taukt	'is of use'
12.	[tawxt]	taucht	'dips'
13.	[dɔk]	Dock	'dock'
14.	[dɔx]	doch	'but'
15.	[ʃtaxəl]	stachel	'prickle'
16.	[ʃteçjen]	stechen	'to prick'
17.	[nakt]	nackt	'naked'
18.	[naxt]	Nacht	'night'
19.	[pɔkə]	Pocke	'pockmarks'
20.	[pɔxən]	pochen	'knock'
21.	[lɔkt]	lokt	'entices'
22.	[lɔxt]	locht	'perforates'
23.	[bɔk]	buck	'bend'
24.	[bux]	Buch	'book'
25.	[pɔxən]	pochen	'thump'
26.	[hawxən]	hauchen	'breathe'
27.	[kuxən]	Kuchen	'cake'
28.	[kuçjen]	Kuhchen	'little cow'
29.	[tawxən]	tauchen	'dive'
30.	[tawçjen]	tauchen	'little rope'
31.	[libçjen]	Liebchen	'sweetheart'
32.	[dɔəç]	durch	'through'
33.	[ɪixst]	riechst	'smells (msg)'
34.	[bɪsçjen]	bisschen	'a little'
35.	[fi]	Vieh	'livestock'
36.	[vi]	wie	'how'
37.	[fɛrfluxtigen]	verflüchtigen	'volatile'
38.	[vɛɪfən]	werfen	'throw'
39.	[ma:s]	mass	'measure'
40.	[mesɪx]	mässig	'moderate'
41.	[zɛxliç]	sächlich	'neuter'
42.	[zuxt]	Sucht	'mania'

Affricates:

1.	[pfʊnt]	Pfund	'pound'
2.	[pflawmə]	Pflaume	'plum'
3.	[pfeat]	Pferd	'horse'
4.	[pflɪçt]	Pflicht	'duty'
5.	[psaəm]	Psalm	'psalm'
6.	[sixiata]	Psychiater	'psychiatrist'
7.	[tsa:(l)]	Zahl	'number'
8.	[tsufəkʰsɪçt]	Zuversicht	'confidence'
9.	[tʃɛçja]	Tscheche	'Czek'

Sonorants:

1.	[ʃvɪɪt]	schwirrt	'buzzed'
2.	[ʃvɪlt]	schwillt	'swollen'
3.	[va:tsə]	Warze	'wart'
4.	[valtsa]	Walzer	'waltz'
5.	[içstudi:kə]	ich studiere	'I study'
6.	[ajnjə]	ein Jahr	'one year'
7.	[tsfaɪjakə]	zwei Jahre	'two years'
8.	[aɪnuə]	ein Uhr	'one hour'
9.	[tsfaɪukən]	zwei Uhren	'zwei hours'
10.	[œstəʁaɪx]	Oustereich	'Austria'
11.	[œl]		'oil'
12.	[fia]	vier	'four'
13.	[fva]	für	'for'
14.	[vɛək]	Werk	'work'
15.	[va:tə]	Warte	'point of view'
16.	[vaxtœ]	Wachtel	'quail'
17.	[kʁaɪs]	Kreis	'circle'
18.	[gʁaɪs]	Greis	'old man'
19.	[tʁa:t]	trat	'trod'
20.	[dʁaɪ]	drei	'three'

Vowels:

1.	[bi:tə]	biete	'offer'
2.	[bitə]	bitte	'please'
3.	[bet]	Beet	'flower bed'
4.	[bet]	Bett	'sleeping bed'
5.	[fʏlən]	fölen	'feel'
6.	[fülen]	föllen	'fill'
7.	[hœlə]	Höhle	'cave'
8.	[hœlə]	Hölle	'hell'
9.	[fus]	Fuss	'foot'
10.	[flus]	Fluss	'river'
11.	[ʃos]	Schoss	'lap'
12.	[ʃɔs]	Schoss	'shot'

13.	[ʃta:t]	Staat	'state'
14.	[ʃtat]	Stadt	'city'
15.	[lit]	Lied	'song'
16.	[lɪt]	Litt	'suffer'
17.	[vi]	wie	'how'
18.	[kʰɪn]	kinn	'chin'
19.	[hytə]	Hüte	'guard'
20.	[hʊtə]	Hütte	'hut'
21.	[uə]	Uhr	'clock'
22.	[unt]	und	'and'
23.	[hisiç]	hiesseg	'of this place'
24.	[hɪsən]	hissen	'hoist'
25.	[ɪbən]	üben	'practice'
26.	[ʊpɪç]	üppig	'luxuriant'
27.	[ba:n]	Bahn	'rail'
28.	[ban:]	Bann	'ban'
29.	[an]	an	'at'
30.	[a:n]	Ahn	'ancestor'
31.	[ʁuə]	Ruhe	'rest'
32.	[ea]	eher	'sooner'
33.	[den]	den	'preposition'
34.	[dɛn]	denn	'then'
35.	[ʃtɛlən]	stehlen	'to steal'
36.	[ʃtɛlən]	stellen	'to put'
37.	[ofən]	ofer	'oven'
38.	[afɪn]	offen	'open'
39.	[zɔlə]	Sohle	'sole'
40.	[zɔlə]	solle	'ought'
43.	[geən]	gehen	'to go'
42.	[genən]	gähnen	'to yawn'
43.	[zeən]	sehen	'to see'
44.	[zegən]	sägen	'to saw'
45.	[kam]	Kamm	'comb'
46.	[ka:m]	kam	'to come'
47.	[ʃla:f]	schlaf	'sleep'
48.	[ʃlaf:]	schlaff	'loose'
49.	[hakən]	Hacken	'heel'
50.	[ha:kən]	Haken	'hook'
51.	[ødə]	öde	'deserted'
52.	[øʁtlix]	örtlich	'local'
53.	[meə]	meht	'flour'
54.	[fet]	fett	'fat'
55.	[nɛʁən]	nähren	'to nurse'

approx.
end of
type 1

III. Reading Sample

References:

Bright, William (ed.). 1992. *International Encyclopedia of Linguistics*. New York: Oxford University Press. 2: 61