

Icelandic is a member of the West Scandinavian branch of the Germanic (Indo-European) family. There were 250,000 speakers reported in 1980 (IEL) of whom 230,000 lived in Iceland proper. The remained 20,000 speakers are in Canada or the U.S. The speaker is a male from Reykjavik.

Icelandic Consonants:

Stops:	p(:)	t(:)	c(:)	k(:)	
	p ^h	t ^h	c ^h	k ^h	
Fricatives:	f	s(:)	ç	x	h
	v	ð			
Nasals:	m	n(:)		ŋ	
	m̃:	ñ:		ŋ̃:	
Liquids:		l(:)			
		l̥			
		r(:)			
Glides:			j	w	

Icelandic Vowels:

i		u
e	ø	o
ε	œ	a

Vowel Length is contrastive.

I. Spontaneous Speech

II. Word Lists

Consonant length:

1.	[fi:n]	fín	'fine'
2.	[fi:n:a]	finna	'find'
3.	[ha:tɪr]	hatur	'hate'
4.	[hahtɪr]	hattur	'hat'
5.	[ɔpinber]	opinber	'public'
6.	[pahpɪ]	pabbi	'daddy'
7.	[fɪmlekar]	fimleikar	'gymnastics'
8.	[fɪm:ti]	fimmti	'fifth'
9.	[li:ta]	líta	'to look'
10.	[lixtu]	líttu	'look (imp)'
11.	[ɔ:kur]	okur	'usury'
12.	[ɔxkur]	okkur	'us'
13.	[ho:t]	híol	'praise'

14. [hotʰ]	híoll	'hill'
15. [brœ:ni]	bruni	'fire'
16. [brœn:i]	brunni	'well (m.dat)'
17. [ʰajʰ]	sœl	'happy (f)'
18. [ʰajtʰ]	sœll	'happy (m)'
19. [vœ:lœr]	völur	'rod'
20. [vatlœr]?	völlur	'plain, field'
21. [hœ:js]	haus	'head'
22. [ejða]	eyða	'spend'
23. [ejt:ɪ]	eyddi	'spent'
24. [a:na]	ana	'rush forward'
25. [an:a]	Anna	'female name'
26. [han:ljet]	hann lét	'he let'
27. [θuljeθt]	þú lézt	'you let'
28. [hɪ:tɪ]	hiti	'heat'
29. [hɪt:ɪ]	hitti	'he hit'
30. [mɪ:sjɪ]	misjafn	'uneven'
31. [mɪs:a]	missa	'lose'
32. [lɛhguhβɛhkur]	legubekkur	'sofa'
33. [lʌkʰa]	leggja	'to lay, put'
34. [vɛ:ra]	vera	'to be'
35. [vɛ:ɪ]	verri	'poorly'
36. [hri:s]	hrís	'rice'
37. [hrɔs:]	hross	'horse'
38. [kʰi:r]	kíyr	'cow'
39. [kɪr:]	kyrr	'quiet'
40. [gaf:al]	gaffall	'fork'
41. [gap:]	gabb	'fun'
42. [plʌk]	plögg	'papers'
43. [fɔn]	fönn	'snow'

Preaspiration:

From Teach Yourself Icelandic by P.J.T. Glendenning (1961)

"(Aspiration)...By this is meant a characteristic of Icelandic, and having no counterpart in other European languages. The last part of an ordinary vowel or diphthong is aspirated—that is, the vowel is cut short or interrupted, and continued as a sort of whisper, which gives the impression of the introduction of an h-sound. The word "uppi" for example, sounds like "u(h)pi". Note that this aspiration leads to the following double consonant being sounded as a single one. Aspiration occurs when a vowel comes before -kl, -kn, -pn, -tl.

1. [kʰɛhpa]	keppa	'contend'
2. [ɛhpli]	epli	'apple'
3. [kʰahp]	kapp	'spirit'

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4.	[ha(h)pnøst]	heppnast	'succeed'
5.	[θœhk]	þökk	'thanks'
6.	[ehk:lar]	ekklar	'widower'
7.	[rœhkwa]	rökkva	'to darken'
8.	[druχna]	drukkna	'be drowned'
9.	[lɪhklar]	lyklar	'key'
10.	[vah]	vatna	'water'
11.	[drøχna]	drottna	'to rule'
12.	[sajht]	sœtt	'reconciliation'
13.	[kihtla]	kitla	'tickle'
14.	[hajhta]	hœtta	'cease'
15.	[sljet:a]?	slietta	'to even something out'
16.	[i:θrot:]	íþrjótt	'sport'
17.	[skrap:a]	skreppingur	'make a short visit'
18.	[vɔ:χna]	vopna	'to arm'
19.	[θœhk:ir]	pekkir	'to know'
20.	[skjepna]	skepna	'creature'

Voiceless consonants:

1.	[se:t]	seinn	'late'
2.	[ni:vr]	hnífur	'knife'
3.	[hoep]	höfn	'harbour'
4.	[barn]	barn	'child'
5.	[hemt:a]	heimta	'demand'
6.	[œmk*a]	aumkva	'pity'
7.	[kempt]	kembt	'combed'
8.	[skam:t]	skammt	'short'
9.	[θiŋk]	þing	'assembly'
10.	[hrinkwɪr]	hringur	'ring'
11.	[lɛŋki]	lengi	'for a long time'
12.	[hɛŋt]	hegnt	'punished'
13.	[hriva]	hrifa	'rake'
14.	[ɛrta]	erta	'tease'
15.	[hjarta]	hjarta	'heart'
16.	[gurka]	gúrka	'cucumber'
17.	[hjalpa]?	hjálpa	'help'
18.	[takɫ]	tagl	'ponytail'
19.	[nœhpl]	hnupl	'thieving'
20.	[stulka]	stúlka	'girl'

Vowel length:

1.	[lo:ta]	líuta	'bow, bend'
2.	[luŋka]	lunga	'lung'
3.	[fto:vr]	stíufur	'short'

4.	[skurðir]	skurður	'ditch'
5.	[nu:na]	núna	'now'
6.	[ku:stir]	kiustur	'broom'
7.	[fa:ra]	fara	'to go'
8.	[farsett]	farsæll	'successful'
9.	[dali]	dalur	'valley'
10.	[katla]	kalla	'call'
11.	[la:ma]	lama	'to lame'
12.	[lan:t]	land	'land'
13.	[mil:a]	mylla	'mill'
14.	[mi:la]	míla	'mile'
15.	[bi:t]	bit	'bite'
16.	[k*rika]	hitta	'move'
17.	[mibi]	líka	'ticket'
18.	[ti:na]	tína	'gather'
19.	[vi:na]	vina	'friend(f.)'
20.	[vint]	vinda	'wind'
21.	[strænd]	strönd	'coast'
22.	[verða]	verða	'become'
23.	[vækja]	vekja	'wake up'
24.	[ver:i]	verri	'worse'
25.	[nehma]	nema	'learn'
26.	[telja]	telja	'count'
27.	[sopna]	sofna	'to fall asleep'
28.	[koti]	kobbi (kodd)	'pillow'
29.	[te:ðir]	þegið	'be quiet'
30.	[stæhk]	stökks	'jumps'
31.	[hjala]	hjala	'chat'
32.	[hjola]	hjola	'cycle'

Diphthongs:

1.	[hawlka]	hálsa	'icy'
2.	[hawskoli]	háskóli	'university'
3.	[faow]	fá	'to get'
4.	[hjaw]	há	'beside'
5.	[estra]	eystra	'in the East'
6.	[e:ra]	eyra	'ear'
7.	[vejki]	veiki	'sickness'
8.	[drenkur]	drengur	'boy'
9.	[lejna]	leyna	'hide'
10.	[lejnt]	leyna	'secrecy'
11.	[jorð]	jörð	'earth'
12.	[jœkt]	jökull	'glacier'
13.	[rœθ]	röð	'row'
14.	[gœ:t]	göt	'holes'

15. [ho:ta]	hót	'to threaten'
End of Tape 1		
16. [ljoθ]	ljóð	'poem'
17. [hœjkur]	Haukur	'A man's name'
18. [lœjn]	laun	'salaries'
19. [ʔai:ja]	hlœja	'laughing'
20. [maiħla]	mœla	'to measure'
21. [jex]	ég	'I'
22. [ljæt]	let	'allow'
23. [muhna]	mun	'remember'
24. [lœst]	laust	'loose'

Stress:

1. [stjörtmálamaðır]	stjórmmálamaður	'male politician'
2. [aðrlátvınavır]	aðalatvınnuvegur	'chief livelihood'
3. [aðkunkamıði]	aðgöngumiði	'ticket'
4. [nılentavuravęsti]	nılenduıvöruıerzlun	'grocery store'
5. [leðınle(gu)r]	leðınlegur	'boring'
6. [háwskolaþérılestır]	haskolafyrırlestur	'university lecture'

III. Reading SampleReferences:

- Bright, William (ed.). 1992. International Encyclopedia of Linguistics. New York: Oxford University Press. 3:375
- Glendenning, P.J.T. 1961. Teach Yourself Icelandic.