German

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The style of speech illustrated is that of many educated Germans in the North. The accompanying recording is of a 62-year-old speaker reading in a colloquial style.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d			k ɡ		ʔ
Nasal	m			n			ŋ		
Fricative		f v		s z	ʃ ʒ	ç		χ ʁ	h
Approximant						j			
Lateral Approximant				l					

The table of consonants lists phonemes with the exception of [ç] and [χ] as well as [ʔ]. Their distributions can be predicted from context, as stated below under conventions, provided morpheme boundaries are marked. *Frauchen* 'little woman' and *rauchen* 'to smoke' are differentiated as ['fʁauçən] and ['ʁauχən] because in the former [ç] is initial in the diminutive suffix *-chen*, but in the latter [χ] is final after a back vowel in the stem morpheme *rauch-*. So [ç] and [χ] can be said to be allophones of a phoneme /x/ with reference to different positions and contexts within morphemes. In the absence of such morphemic information, as is usually the case in IPA transcription, the difference between these consonant segments has to be symbolized. Similarly [fɐ'ʔaɪzən] *vereisen* 'to freeze over' and [fɐ'ʁaɪzən] *verreisen* 'to travel' show a paradigmatic opposition of [ʔ] and [ʁ] in the same segmental context. If the morpheme structure of the stems *-eis-* vs. *-reis-* after the prefix *ver-* is taken into consideration the occurrence of [ʔ] can be automatically inferred; if not, [ʔ] needs to be transcribed.

p	*passe*	'skip' (1 sg)	t	*Tasse*	'cup'	k	*Kasse*	'cash desk'
b	*Baß*	'bass'	d	*das*	'that'	ɡ	*Gasse*	'lane'
m	*Masse*	'mass'	n	*nasse*	'wet'	ŋ	*lange*	'long'
f	*fasse*	'catch' (1 sg)	s	*reiße*	'rip' (1 sg)	ʃ	*rasche*	'quick'
v	*Wasser*	'water'	z	*reise*	'travel' (1 sg)	ʒ	*Garage*	'garage'

ç	*dich*	'you'		χ	*Dach*	'roof'		h	*hasse*	'hate' (1 sg)
j	*ja*	'yes'		ʁ	*Rasse*	'race'		l	*lasse*	'let' (1 sg)

Vowels

Monophthongs

Diphthongs

a, aː
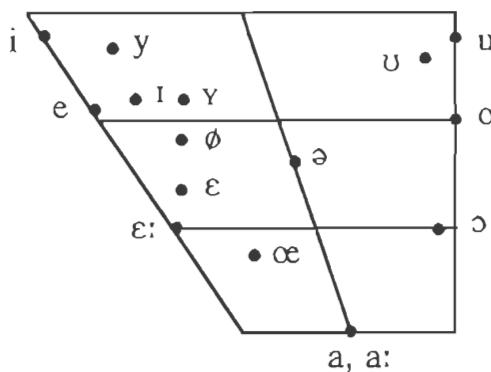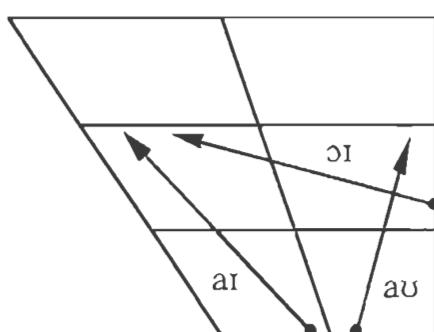
| i	*bieten*	'to offer'		y	*hüten*	'to guard'		u	*sputen*	'to hurry'
ɪ	*bitten*	'to request'		ʏ	*Hütten*	'huts'		ʊ	*Butter*	'butter'
e	*beten*	'to pray'		ø	*Goethe*	(name)		o	*boten*	'offered'(1 pl)
ε	*Betten*	'beds'		œ	*Götter*	'gods'		ɔ	*Botten*	'clogs'
εː	*bäten*	'if they requested'								
				a	*hatten*	'had' (1 pl)				
				aː	*baten*	'requested' (1 pl)				
				ə	*Beut<u>e</u>*	'booty' (sg)				
aɪ	*beiden*	'both' (1 pl)		ɔɪ	*Beuten*	'booty' (pl)		aʊ	*bauten*	'built'

Stress

' (primary stress) and ˌ (secondary stress), as in compounds, e.g. [ˈʃɔɐnʃtainˌfegɐ] *Schornsteinfeger* 'chimney sweep'.

Conventions

/p, t, k/ are aspirated when not preceded by a fricative within the same word (e.g. [ʃtat] *Stadt* 'town'), nor followed by a syllabic nasal (e.g. [laɪtn̩] *leiten* 'to guide'); the aspiration is strongest before a stressed vowel, weakest in unstressed function words.

/ʁ/ can be an approximant intervocalically (e.g. *Herren* 'gentlemen'); after voiceless plosives and fricatives, especially those within the same word, it is devoiced (in e.g. *trat* 'kicked' it is completely voiceless [χ]); postvocalically before a consonant or word-finally it is vocalized to [ɐ], which results in diphthongs (e.g. [ˈhaɐt] *hart* 'hard', [ˈoɐ] *Ohr* 'ear', see

the vowel chart below); the ending *-er* is realized as [ɐ] (e.g. [ˈbʊtɐ] *Butter* 'butter'); the place of articulation of the consonant varies from uvular in e.g. *rot* 'red' to velar in e.g. *treten* 'kick', depending on back or front vowel contexts.
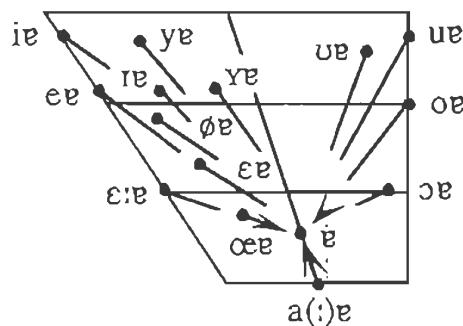
[ɐ] Diphthongs

Except for unstressed function words, word and stem initial vowels are prefixed by glottal stops (e.g. [ʔɛɐˈʔaɐbaɪtn̩] *erarbeiten* 'achieve through work').

[ç] occurs after front vowels and consonants within the same morpheme, as well as morpheme initially (e.g. [çeˈmi] *Chemie* 'chemistry', [çən] *-chen* = diminutive suffix). [χ] occurs after low back vowels (e.g. [ˈbaχ] *Bach* 'brook', [ˈdɔχ] *doch* 'yet'); [x] is used instead of [χ] after high and mid back tense vowels (e.g. [ˈbux] *Buch* 'book', [ˈhox] *hoch* 'high').

The closer vowels in a close/open pair are always longer under the same conditions of stress and environment; in unstressed position the close vowels are shortened and may keep their close vowel quality, as in [moˈʁaːl] *Moral* 'moral', [fyˈzik] *Physik* 'physics', but the latter constraint does not apply to unstressed function words (e.g. [ˈybɐ] *über* 'over').

Transcription of recorded passage

aɪns ˈʃtʁɪtn̩ zɪç ˈnɔɐtvɪnt ʊn ˈzɔnə, veɐ fən im ˈbaɪdn̩ vol də ˈʃteɐkəʁə veʁə, als aɪn ˈvandəʁə, deɐ ɪn aɪn ˈvaɐm ˈmantl̩ gəˌhʏlt vaɐ, dəs ˈvegəs daˈheɐkaːm. zɪ vʊɐdn̩ ˈaɪnɪç, das ˈdeɐjenɪgə fʁɐ dən ˈʃteɐkəʁən ˌgɛltn̩ zɔltə, deɐ dən ˈvandəʁə ˈtsvɪŋ vʁɐdə, zaɪm ˈmantl̩ ˈaptsuˌnemm. deɐ ˈnɔɐtvɪm ˈblis mɪt ˈalɐ ˈmaχt, abɐ je ˈmeɐ eɐ ˈblis, dɛsto ˈfɛstɐ ˈhʏltə zɪç dɐ ˈvandəʁə ɪn zaɪm ˈmantl̩ aɪn. ˈɛntlɪç gaːp dɐ ˈnɔɐtvɪn dən ˈkampf ˈauf. nun ɛɐˈvɛɐmtə dɪ ˈzɔnə dɪ ˈlʊfp mɪt ɪɐn ˈfʁɔɪntlɪçn̩ ˈʃtʁaːln, ʊn ʃonaχ ˈvenɪgŋ̍ ˈaugŋ̍blɪkŋ̍ tsok dɐ ˈvandəʁə zaɪm ˈmantl̩ aus. da mʊstə dɐ ˈnɔɐtvɪn ˈtsugebm̩, das dɪ ˈzɔnə fən im ˈbaɪdn̩ dɐ ˈʃteɐkəʁə vaɐ.

Orthographic version

Einst stritten sich Nordwind und Sonne, wer von ihnen beiden wohl der Stärkere wäre, als ein Wanderer, der in einen warmen Mantel gehüllt war, des Weges daherkam. Sie wurden einig, daß derjenige für den Stärkeren gelten sollte, der den Wanderer zwingen würde, seinen Mantel abzunehmen. Der Nordwind blies mit aller Macht, aber je mehr er blies, desto fester hüllte sich der Wanderer in seinen Mantel ein. Endlich gab der Nordwind den Kampf auf. Nun erwärmte die Sonne die Luft mit ihren freundlichen Strahlen, und schon nach wenigen Augenblicken zog der Wanderer seinen Mantel aus. Da mußte der Nordwind zugeben, daß die Sonne von ihnen beiden der Stärkere war.