

German

This is a guide for you as a German speaker as you go through the Pronunciation Pro Course.

To get the most out of your membership, follow the Pronunciation Pro Course module by module and add any necessary bonus lessons.

Lessons that may be omitted from the 12-module course for German speakers include:

- Module 3: Initial, Medial, & Final /N/, Initial & Medial /L/
- However, please still review the Final /L/ and Word Stress lessons from Module 3

COMMON ERRORS

Below you will find some common error sounds and patterns specifically for German speakers. These common errors can help you better understand your own speech patterns and areas to focus on as you improve your English pronunciation and fluency.

You might not have issues with all of these sounds. If you would like a more customized assessment of your speech, please contact us for a Full Accent Assessment from our certified American Trainers.

VOWELS

- In general, vowels in German are produced with tenser muscles and more lip movement than vowels in English.

| TARGET SOUNDS | COMMON ERROR | MODULE/BONUS LESSON |
|---------------|---|---------------------|
| /er/ (word) | Pronounced with lips rounded | Module 4 - R-vowels |
| /A/ (day) | May be pronounced too short; may be confused with /e/ (yes) | Module 5 |
| /u/ (cup) | Errors may vary | Module 7 |
| /o/ (hot) | Confused with /O/ (go), or may sound like /u/ (cup) | Module 7 |
| /a/ (hat) | Confused with /e/ (yes) | Module 7 |
| /ow/ (house) | Error patterns vary | Bonus Lesson - /ow/ |



CONSONANTS

| TARGET SOUNDS | COMMON ERROR | MODULE/BONUS LESSON |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| /b/, /d/, /g/, /v/, /z/ | May be pronounced as their voiceless counterpart (/p/, /t/, /k/, /f/, /s/, respectively) in final word position | Module 1- Final Voiced Consonants |
| /th/ (think) | May be pronounced as /s/ | Module 2 - Voiced /th/ |
| /TH/ (this) | May be pronounced as /z/ | Module 2 - Voiced as /TH/ |
| /l/ (look) | The final /l/ (“Dark /L/ as in “ball” may be pronounced more like an initial /l/ (Light /L/“) | Module 3 - Final /l/ |
| /r/ (rare) | Either pronounced too far back (guttural), or is tapped | Module 4 - R, R-blends, R-vowels |
| “ing” (ring) | May be pronounced with an extra /g/ or /k/ sounds (“ing-g” or “ing’k”). In words where the extra /g/ sound is appropriate (finger) the /g/may be omitted. | Bonus Lesson -“ing” |
| /w/ (wet) | Confused with /v/ (very) | Bonus Lessons - /w/, /v/ & /w/ |
| /zh/ (vision) | Confused with /sh/ (shoe) | Bonus Lesson - /zh/ |
| /s/ (sun) | In initial word position it may be pronounced as /z/ before a vowel or /sh/ (shoe) before a consonant/ | Bonus Lesson - S-blends |
| /dg/ (joke) | Might be confused with /ch/ (chip) or /y (yet) | Bonus Lesson - /dg/ |

STRESS, INTONATION, RHYTHM

- Some German speakers (depending on what region they are from) add a rising tone to each word in the sentence. **(Module 5 – Intonation)**
- Speech may sound abrupt or commanding. **(Module 5 – Intonation, Module 6 – Linking)**
- German speakers may have difficulty in connected speech with smoothly linking their words due to a tendency to place a hard glottal stop before a stressed vowel, especially at the beginning of a word. This makes their speech sound staccato rather than smooth and flowing. **(Module 6 – Linking)**

