

Pronunciation guide for Latvian

Vowels:

a = as in 'park' (but short)

ā = as in 'car' (longer than 'a' on its own)

e = as in 'let', except where indicated

ē = as French 'er' in 'chanter', except where indicated

i = as in 'bin'

ī = as 'ee' in 'meet'

u = as 'oo' in 'look'

ū = as 'oo' in 'moot'

Diphthongs:

ai = as 'ai' in 'aisle'

au = as 'ow' in 'brown', or as in German 'laufen'

ei = as 'a' in 'late'

ie = as first 'e' in 'mere', or 'ea' in 'fear'

o = as Italian 'uo' in 'uomo'

ui = as in 'doing'

Consonants:

c = as 'ts' in 'bats'

č = as 'ch' in 'chips'

dz = as 'ds' in 'lids'

dž = as 'j' in 'jug'

g = as in 'goat'

ģ = as 'gy' in 'egg yolk' or 'd' in 'duty'

j = as 'y' in 'yes'

ķ = roughly as 2nd 't' in 'constituent' (a very soft 't')

ļ = roughly as 'll' in 'million'

ņ = as 'n' in 'new'

r = rolled as in German 'Brot'

s = as in 'seven'

š = as 'sh' in 'ship'

t = as in 'lit' (slightly harder than English 't')

z = as 'z' in 'zebra'

ž = as 's' in 'leisure'