

## SLOVENIAN PHONOLOGY

Slovenian alphabet has 25 letters: **A B C Č D E F G H I J K L M N O P R S Š T U V Z Ž**. **Ö** (pronounced <ø>), **Ü** (pronounced <y>), **Ć** (pronounced <tf>) and **Đ** (pronounced <dʒ>) are used only in proper names. Along with those letters another five are used in Slovenian texts: **Ä** (pronounced <ɛ:>), **Q** (pronounced <k>), **W** (pronounced <u>, <v> or <w>), **X** (pronounced <ks>) and **Y** (pronounced <i> or <j>).

Different characters from all other scripts are transcribed into one of these letters.

Phonetic symbols are those of The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

| CONSONANTS |                                  |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| IPA        | Examples                         |
| b          | biti, obala, snob                |
| d          | dim, veda, red, svatba, petdeset |
| dz         | odzadaj, odziv, koc deda         |
| dʒ         | džungla, pidžama, učbenik        |
| f          | fant, afekt, graf                |
| g          | gora, igra, grog, kdaj, vsakdo   |
| h          | nevihta, nihče                   |
| x          | hotel, ohol, prah                |
| j          | jek, objem, ion, socialen        |
| k          | kje, okno, vlak, krogca, prag    |
| l          | lep, ploskev, sel                |
| ʎ          | kralj, poljski, boljši, vabljiv  |
| m          | miza, pomen, sem                 |
| ɲ          | čimveč, nimfa, tramvaj           |
| n          | nebo, vrana, sin                 |
| ɳ          | banka, sinko, gong               |
| ɳ          | njiva, sanjski, knjiga, konj     |
| p          | pot, spis, rep, občī, hrib       |

|    |                                 |
|----|---------------------------------|
| r  | red, prav, kar                  |
| s  | siv, rosa, res, nizko, razstava |
| ʃ  | še, mošt, peš, težko, izšolan   |
| t  | tam, stol, pot, sladko, odtod   |
| ts | cel, ocet, muc, bratski, odslej |
| tʃ | čas, srečka, proč, odšel, bridž |
| v  | voz, vreme, govor               |
| z  | zid, prazen, glasba             |
| ʒ  | žep, roža, jež, izžeti, vešda   |

**h** is pronounced <x> save before voiceless consonants and after **i** when <h>.

**lj** are pronounced <lj> save before consonants, **i** and at the end of a word when <λ>.

**l** is pronounced as <u> in past participles and sometimes in other words.

**m** is pronounced <ɱ> before **f** and **v**; **n** is pronounced <ɳ> before **g** and **k**.

**nj** are pronounced <nj> save before consonants, **i** and at the end of a word when <ɲ>.

Slovenian **r** is always rolled like Italian or Spanish.

| ASPIRATED<br>CONSONANTS |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| IPA                     | Examples    |
| g <sup>h</sup>          | Glej!, Kdo? |
| k <sup>h</sup>          | Kar!, Kje?  |

**g** and **k** are aspirated in short imperatives and interrogatives.

| NASALIZED D AND T |          | LATERAL D AND T |          |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| IPA               | Examples | IPA             | Examples |
| d <sup>n</sup>    | dno      | d <sup>l</sup>  | dleto    |
| t <sup>n</sup>    | tnalo    | t <sup>l</sup>  | tlak     |

| APPROXIMANTS |  |
|--------------|--|
| IPA          | Examples                                 |
| w            | v enem, uigran, suita, življenje, mavrah |
| ɱ            | vsak, vhod, sivka                        |

<w> is pronounced before vowels as well as j, l and r, while <ɱ> before consonants.

| VOWELS |   | Slovenian terminology of vowels |
|--------|---|---------------------------------|
| IPA    | Examples                                      |                                 |
| i      | list, reči, smer, serijski, junij             | kratki i                        |
| ɪ      | moj, majski (only in diphthongs)              | dvoglasniški i                  |
| e      | spet, pekoč                                   | ozki kratki e                   |
| ɛ      | prej, mejni, lev (only in diphthongs)         | široki kratki e                 |
| æ      | en, kmet, šele (alternative pronunciation: ɛ) | široki kratki naglašeni e       |
| a      | brat, lipa                                    | kratki a                        |
| ɔ      | snop, post (alternative pronunciation: ɔ)     | široki kratki o                 |
| ʌ      | čas, razpoka, ženam, joga                     | polglasniški a                  |
| ɔ      | obraz, potem                                  | široki kratki nenaglašeni o     |
| o      | kos, samo                                     | ozki kratki o                   |
| u      | luč, kmalu, trl, predvsem                     | kratki u                        |
| ə      | pes, p[ə]rst, [ə]rt, fil[ə]mski, him[ə]nski   | kratki polglasnik               |
| i:     | biti, vera, lij                               | dolgi i                         |
| e:     | peti, mesec                                   | ozki dolgi e                    |
| ɛ:     | meja, šofer                                   | široki dolgi e                  |
| a:     | mati, sam                                     | dolgi a                         |
| ɔ:     | okno, voda (alternative pronunciation: o:)    | široki dolgi o                  |
| o:     | osem, moda                                    | ozki dolgi o                    |
| u:     | ura, muha, plul                               | dolgi u                         |
| ɜ:     | temen, megla (alternative pronunciation: ɛ:)  | dolgi polglasnik                |

<ə> is always pronounced before syllabic l, m, n, and r. <: > denotes long vowel.

| DIPHTHONGS |  |
|------------|--|
| IPA        | Examples                                   |
| aɛ         | aeroklub                                   |
| aɪ         | maj  |
| aɔ         | naokrog                                    |
| au         | nauk, prav, igral                          |
| eɪ         | dejstvo                                    |
| eu         | bel, sev                                   |
| ɛɪ         | poglej                                     |
| ɛɔ         | preobrat                                   |
| ɛu         | lev  |
| əu         | posel                                      |
| ɪu         | iskriv, bil                                |
| ɔɪ         | vojna                                      |
| oɪ         | soj  |
| ou         | poudarek, nov, polletni, stol              |
| uɪ         | ujma                                       |
| (iɪ)       | kalij (usually pronounced as <i> or <i: >) |

Letters ij could be a diphthong only at the end of a word and before consonants, otherwise they are always pronounced as <ij>.

Double (geminated) characters are always pronounced lengthened though they do not necessarily have the exactly same phonetic vowel value or contain the same letter (the latter is so-called voicing or consonantal assimilation), e.g.: priimek /pri'i:mek/, vseeno /mɛɛ'ɛ:nɔ/, radij /'ra:di(ɪ)/, sij /si:/, izza /'izza/, petdeset /'peddesət/, razstava /rɒs'sta:va/, izsek /is'sek/. Voicing assimilation is also quite common between two words, e.g.: stric Beno /stridz'be:nɔ/, rob poti /roppɔ'ti/, saj jem /'sajjem/, pot domov /poddom'ou/, vsak dan /'msagdan/, glas doni /glazdɔ'ni/.

<'> denotes stress placed on the next vowel.

Pronunciation of vowels does not follow clear rules. Long vowels are always stressed (stress could be either primary or secondary).