

Swedish Diction Primer

Vowels

<i>written</i>	Long vowel = Stressed syllable		Short vowel = Unstressed syllable	
	<i>sung</i>	<i>equivalent</i>	<i>sung</i>	<i>equivalent</i>
a	[ɑ]	as in British “bath”	[a]	“ah”
ä	[ɛ]	“eh”	[ɛ]	“eh”
	[æ]	as in “cat”, <i>before r</i>	[æ]	as in “cat”, <i>before r</i>
å	[o]	dark “oh”	[ɔ]	as in British “hot”
e	[e]	as in “take”	[ɛ]	“eh”
			[æ]	as in “cat”, <i>before r</i>
i	[i]	“ee”	[ɪ]	“ih”
o	[u]	“oo”	[ʊ]	as in “hook”
ö	[ø]	as in British “bird”	[ø]	as in British “bird”
	[œ]	as in German “Hölle”, <i>before r</i>	[œ]	as in German “Hölle”, <i>before r</i>
u	[ʊ]	slightly forward “oo”	[ə]	between “oh” and “uh”
y	[y]	German “ü”	[ʏ]	slightly relaxed “ü”

- If the word has **one syllable**, use... *long vowel* if followed by:
 - (1) no consonants, (2) one consonant, (3) a pair of retroflexed consonants (i.e., -rn, -rs).
 ... *short vowel* if followed by :
 - (1) “m” or “n”, (2) any double consonant, (3) a pair of similar consonants.
- If the word has **two syllables**, the stressed syllable is probably the first.
- There are no norms about which syllable is stressed in **multisyllable words**. Trust the composer.
 - Only compound words have (potentially) two stressed syllables.
- *Exception:* The words “mig”, “dig”, and “sig” end with [ɛj].

Consonants

- Many consonants are as in English, or Latin: b, f, h, k, m, p, s (always [s]), v
- The following should be dentalized: d, l, n, t

<i>written</i>	<i>sung</i>	<i>equivalent</i>
ch, ck	[k]	“k”. In less formal texts, a final “-ch” can be omitted.
g	[j]	“y” before a, e, i, o, y. <i>Otherwise</i> , always [g] (“hard g”).
j	[j]	“y”. <i>Also</i> initial formations like dj-, gj-, hj-, lj-, etc.
k-, ki-, kj-, tj-	[ɕ]	“sh”, but slightly back. <i>Only</i> when starting a word.
	[k]	“k”, before ä, e, i, o, y
r	[r]	voiced trill, or tap. <i>Exceptions:</i> Folded (retroflexed) into following consonant, as in -rld, -rn, -rt. The pair -rs becomes [ʃ], or “sh”.
sj-, sk-, stj-, etc.	[hw]	as in sung “whisper”. (A more formal option is [ʃ], or “sh”.) <i>Exception:</i> “sko-” is [sku], and “sv-” is [sv].