

Pronunciation guide for Latvian

Vowels:

a = as in 'park' (but short)
ā = as in 'father' (longer than 'a' on its own)
e = as in 'let'
ē = as French 'er' in 'chanter'
as 'a' in 'bare' in words 'spīdēdama', 'bērnī',
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'
g = as in 'goat'
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'