German Alphabet & Umlaut Keyboard Cheat Sheet

All 30 letters with names and sounds, letter combinations, typing shortcuts for ä, ö, ü and ß, and the spelling alphabet.

The 30 letters

Letter	Name	Sound	Example
A	ah	ah	Apfel
B	beh	b (p at end)	Brot
C	tseh	ts / k	Café
D	deh	d (t at end)	Dach
E	eh	ay / e / uh	Esel
F	eff	f	Fisch
G	geh	g (k at end)	gut
H	hah	h / silent	Haus
I	ee	ee / i	Igel
J	yott	y	ja
K	kah	k	Katze
L	ell	l	Lampe
M	emm	m	Mutter
N	enn	n	Nase
O	oh	oh / o	Ofen
P	peh	p	Post
Q	koo	kv (qu)	Quelle
R	err	throat r	rot
S	ess	z / s	Sonne
T	teh	t	Tisch
U	oo	oo / u	Uhr
V	fau	f (v)	Vater
W	veh	v	Wasser
X	iks	ks	Taxi
Y	üpsilon	ü / y	Typ
Z	tsett	ts	Zeit
Ä	äh	e as in bed	Käse
Ö	öh	"ay" + round lips	schön
Ü	üh	"ee" + round lips	über
ß	ess-tsett	sharp s	Straße

Letter combinations

Spelling	Sounds like	Example
ei / ai	eye	mein, Mai

Spelling	Sounds like	Example
ie	ee	Liebe
eu / äu	oy	neu, Häuser
au	ow	Haus
ch	kh (a, o, u) / soft hiss (e, i)	Buch / ich
sch	sh	Schule
sp / st (start)	shp / sht	Sport, Stadt
pf	pf	Apfel
tsch	ch (church)	Deutsch
chs	ks	sechs
-ig	like ich	billig

How to type ä, ö, ü and ß

Letter	Windows (Alt + numpad)	Mac	iPhone / Android	HTML
ä / Ä	Alt+0228 / Alt+0196	Option+u, then a	Long-press a	ä / Ä
ö / Ö	Alt+0246 / Alt+0214	Option+u, then o	Long-press o	ö / Ö
ü / Ü	Alt+0252 / Alt+0220	Option+u, then u	Long-press u	ü / Ü
ß / ẞ	Alt+0223	Option+s	Long-press s	ß

No umlaut key? Write ae, oe, ue and ss: Müller → Mueller, Straße → Strasse.

Spelling alphabet (Buchstabiertafel)

Letter	Traditional	Cities	Letter	Traditional	Cities
A	Anton	Aachen	N	Nordpol	Nürnberg
B	Berta	Berlin	O	Otto	Offenbach
C	Cäsar	Chemnitz	P	Paula	Potsdam
D	Dora	Düsseldorf	Q	Quelle	Quickborn
E	Emil	Essen	R	Richard	Rostock
F	Friedrich	Frankfurt	S	Samuel	Salzwedel
G	Gustav	Goslar	T	Theodor	Tübingen
H	Heinrich	Hamburg	U	Ulrich	Unna
I	Ida	Ingelheim	V	Viktor	Völklingen
J	Julius	Jena	W	Wilhelm	Wuppertal
K	Kaufmann	Köln	X	Xanthippe	Xanten
L	Ludwig	Leipzig	Y	Ypsilon	Ypsilon
M	Martha	München	Z	Zacharias	Zwickau

Say it like this: „S wie Samuel, A wie Anton, M wie Martha.“