

Luxembourgish Pronunciation

The Vowels

This lesson is about **the 5 Luxembourgish vowels** and so you will learn how to pronounce these 5 vowels.

There are more than 20 Luxembourgish vowel **sounds** BUT only 5 Luxembourgish vowel letters: **A, E, I, O U**.

How does that work?

1 Let's use the letter "e" as a first example: when you see the letter "e" in a Luxembourgish word it can be pronounced in a few different ways:

- Short as in *prett*
- Short as in *déck*
- The lazy *ë* sound as in *ëmmer*
- Long as in *legal*,
- Longer as in *een*
- Unstressed as in *goen*

As you can see we have here 6 different sounds only with the letter "e" and there are even some more sounds with this letter "e".

2 AND the Luxembourgish Ämlauter so "ä", "ö" and "ü" and the diphthongs such as "éi" "ou", "au" ... also count as Luxembourgish vowels.

To help you practise the different "e" sounds, the Ämlauter and the diphthong sounds I have made separate videos about the these sounds which are all part of this Online Course.

Pronunciation of the Luxembourgish Vowels

Let's start with *a* so in Luxembourgish

A

It is pronounced either **long** *a* (*je prononce et montre ma bouche*) or **short** *a*

Short as in *Kapp* (*head*)

Long as in *Kap* (*cap*), *Gaart* (*garden*)

So what is the difference? How can you know if it is pronounced long or short? Well if **a** is followed by 1 consonant like in **Kap** or by another **a** like in **Gaart**, then a is long and when it is followed by 2 or more consonants it is short like in **Kapp**. We have 2 consonants (pp) after a. So long vowel sounds and short vowel sounds are important in Luxembourgish.

The short sound is **a** like in

hatt (*she*), **Mamm** (*mother*), **Papp** (*father*)

The long sound is **a** like in

Kaz (*cat*), **kal** (*cold*), **Apel** (*apple*)

E

The short sound is **e** like in

Enn, **Becher**, **prett**

The long sound is **ee** like in

een (*one*), **eelef** (*eleven*), **Meter** (*meter*)

I

The short sound is **i** like in

Ticket (*ticket*), **midd** (*tired*), **siwwenzéng** (*17*)

The long sound is **i** like in

siwen (*seven*), **Fliger** (*plane*), **Kiisch** (*cherry*)

O

The short sound is **o** like in

Sonn (*sun*), **botzen** (*to clean*), **schonn** (*already*)

The long sound is **o** like in

Boma (*grandmother*), **rosen** (*angry*), **loossen** (*to let*)

U

The short sound **u** as in

gutt (*good*), **wunnen** (*to live*), **Kuss** (*kiss*)

The long sound is **u** as in

Tut (*plastic bag*), **Luucht** (*lamp*) **Fuuss** (*fox*)

SUMMARY

When a vowel is followed by 1 consonant or by the same vowel it is pronounced loooooonng.

And when followed by 2 or more consonants it is pronounced short.

Now this is the general rule, but there are though some exceptions - as in any language.

Example:

As you have learned in this lesson the vowel **a** is pronounced long in this word: **wat**

but why is it pronounced short in this word: **mat**??

Learn this in the next lesson.