

10 common Luxembourgish pronunciation mistakes

Luxembourgish pronunciation is challenging. There are many exceptions and a number of words are not pronounced the way their spelling would suggest.

In this Luxembourgish pronunciation lesson, I'm going to show you how to pronounce 10 common words. These words that I've chosen are often mispronounced because of the combination of letters or sounds in Luxembourgish. Together they can be quite difficult or your eyes can, in fact, play tricks on you because the letters that you see, they don't sound like you think they should.

Let's get started

Dag (*day*)

Did you hear how I pronounced **Dag**. This means *day* and most of my students pronounce it DAG which is not correct. The Luxembourgish letter "g" is pronounced in this "ch" as in **maachen**.

Haut ass net mäin **Dag**. *Today hasn't been a good day.*

Clienten (*clients*)

This is the plural of the word **Client** (*client*). The letter "c" is pronounced like a "k" and the final "t" is silent. And to build the plural we add "en" but the "t" remains silent. So pronounce it: Clienten. And not Clienten or Clienen. BUT Clienten 1x Repeat after me Clienten. We do this with all the French words where the final consonant is silent:

Jus (singular) / Jusen (plural)

Restaurant / Restauranten

Rapport / Rapporten

Cours (*course*)

This one is so often mispronounced! It is not Kurs or Course or Cour. The "ours" is pronounced "uer" as in **muer** (*tomorrow*) and as this is as well a French word the final "s" is silent. So the plural is pronounced **Coursen**.

Lëtzebuergesch (*Luxembourgish*)

You have to work harder to get this one correct! So many of my students say "This one is too hard! I'm just not going to use this word!" and I say "NO, we are going to get it right, right now, together here in this lesson!".

Lëtzebuergesch means *luxembourgish*, the language. The Luxembourgish letter "g" is silent here and the letters "ue" sound more like "oi":
Lëtzebuergesch.

Stad (*city*)

Here we have the "st"-sound: "sch-t". And the final "d" sounds like a "t". **Stad** means *city* and for us it is Luxembourg city.

Uebst (*fruits*)

I often hear "Uebest" or "Ubest" which is incorrect. The letter "b" sounds more like "p" and to pronounce the sound "ue" you slide from "u" to "e": **Uebst**.

Zuch (*train*)

Here we have the "tsss" - sound for the letter **Z**. And the paired consonant - **ch** is pronounced as in ma**achen**. So pronounce it "TSuch".

Samschdeg (*saturday*)

In the word Samschdeg we first have the "sch"-sound and the final "eg" is pronounced like "ech".

Many native speakers though pronounce it **Samsdeg** which is correct as well.

Siechzég (16)

This word is a challenge because we have the 2 vowels **ie** followed by "ech"-sound and together they are pronounced: "siech". Listen and repeat: siechzég and in "zég" we have again the letter "z" pronounced "tsss".

Kolleeg (colleague)

The final "g" is not pronounced "g" but together with the 2 vowels "ee" it is pronounced "ch": eech. The plural of **Kolleeg** is **Kolleegen** and then the "g" is pronounced like "j".

Übung

Ech war haut mat zwee **Clienten** an der **Stad** iessen.

Ech iessen all **Dag Uebst**.

Mir hunn haut iwver Grammatiik am **Cours** geschwat.

Ech léieren all **Dag Lëtzebuergesch**.

Dat kascht **16€**

Mäi Mann fiert e **Samschdeg** mat 2 **Kolleegen** an d'Vakanz.