



German Companion Guide

Congratulations on choosing **Little Pim German**.

This *Little Pim Companion Guide* is designed to help you with the proper German pronunciation if you want to learn along with your young viewer. Children are visual and aural learners – they watch the screen, hear what’s being said, and easily understand and repeat; and as they repeat after Little Pim the teacher, they will have perfect accents! Adults, however, may need a bit of written help to understand the differences in pronunciation and/or to remember new words.

This guide will give you some tips about the right way to pronounce German letters and words. German sounds are quite close to the ones we have in English and you can figure out most German pronunciations from the way the words are spelled.

If you would like additional support, you can:

- Download our *Companion Script*, which includes all the words and phrases in **Little Pim** in German and English. If you want to read all the words and sentences as they are spoken, you can print this out and follow along with the DVD.

- Choose the optional English Subtitles in the Start Up Menu of the DVD to read English subtitles as you watch

The big picture:

Vowels:

German contains three vowels that sometimes take “umlauts” (this symbol ö). These vowels not found in English: ä, ö and ü. Please note that [ü] is similar to *ew* in “pew” or *ue* in French “rue”.

Consonants:

The sounds of German consonants are either pronounced like their English equivalents or like other English consonants. For example:

- **V** is pronounced like **f**
- **W** is pronounced like **v**
- **J** is pronounced like the “**y**” in “you”
- Some change their pronunciation only at the end of a word:
 - **B** pronounced like a **p**; for example *ab* is “ap”
 - **D** pronounced like a **t**.
 - **G** is usually pronounced as a **ch** – *hungrig* (hungry) is “hungrich”.

The German language has a few combinations of consonants that don’t occur in the English language. Most of them are easy to pronounce, for example:

- “**Sch**” is pronounced like the English **sh** in “shoot”.

- The exception is “**ch**” which is kind of a gargling noise at the back of the throat. If you practice it a little, you shouldn’t have problems pronouncing the words *ich* (I) and *vielleicht* (perhaps). Listen and repeat after Little Pim!

A guide to pronunciation letter-by-letter can be found on the web at:

<http://everything2.com/title/German+pronunciation>

Notes on German

- Nouns in German are easy to identify because they are all capitalized.
- All German nouns belong to one of three grammatical genders: masculine, feminine, or neuter.
- German articles are divided in three genders: masculine, feminine and neuter, and they are the main indicator of grammatical case.

Enjoy and *bis bald!*