

Pronunciation Pointers for Bahasa Indonesia

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Vowels

- “a” always an “ah” as in “father” (NEVER long “a” as in “pay”)
- “e” generally a shorter sound than the short “e” in English; often the most effective pronunciation is saying the word as though the e did not exist!
Example: “Selamat” is often pronounced as “slamat”
There are a few exceptions to this rule, where the “e” has an “a” sound as in “say”
At times, you will have to play it by ear and listen for the correct pronunciation.
- “i” “ee” as in “meet”
- “o” long “o” sound as in “hold”
- “u” “oo” as in “toot”
- “aa” both letters “a” are pronounced individually so that there is a hesitation between them
- “ai” long “i” sound as in “eye” (“ah+ee” in one sound)
- “au” “ow” as in “cow” (“ah+oo” in one sound)

Consonants – generally pronounced as in English, with these exceptions:

- “c” “ch” as in “chip”
- “g” hard “g” sound as in “goat” (NEVER a soft “j” sound as in “gem”)
- “ng” “ung” as in “lung”. The sound comes from the back of your throat WITHOUT the hard “g” sound. This can be a little tricky, but easily mastered with a little practice.
- “ngg” “ung”+ hard “g” sound as in “hunger”
- “ny” “nya” as in “canyon” made at the roof of your mouth. This may take a little practice as well, but will feel natural in a short time.
- “h” a sigh-like sound that is pronounced, at times quite prominently. Unlike English, it is NOT silent no matter where it is found in a word.
- “k” the normal “k” sound as in “kite” EXCEPT when found at the end of a word, where it is cut off or very soft. This is also called a glottal stop, which is similar to the sound at the back of your throat when saying “oh-oh”
- “r” rolled as in most other non-English languages. For English speakers, the sound is similar to the “tt” in “butter” or the heavier “dd” in “muddy”, or can be trilled as in the Spanish word “arriba”. Just think of Speedy Gonzales!!

Want to learn more? Check out the [FREE Bahasa Indonesia e-course](http://www.hello-indonesia.com) at www.hello-indonesia.com