German Pronunciation

Vowels

a	As in Latin "p<u>a</u>ter"	ie	As in "s<u>ee</u>"
au	Similar to "loud"	o	As in "credo"
ä	Long a before a single consonant, e.g. spät (shpate); before double consonants more like an eh e.g. Händel	ö	Mouth in oh position, tongue as an eee, similar to "bird"
e	As in "Betty", at the end of a word more like "uh"	u	As in "sanctus"
ee, eh	As in "air"	ü	Like the French u, mouth in ooo postion, tongue as eee
ei	As in "kite"	äu, eu	As in "rejoice"
i	As in "in" see below		

Before an "h" the vowel is lengthened, so "ihm" is pronounced eem.

Before a single consonant, the vowel is lengthened as in Tot, dem, Mut, Flut.

Before a double consonant, the vowel is shorter as in Gott, Bett, iß.

Careful with den (dane) vs. denn (den), wen (vane) vs. wenn (ven).

Consonants

The same as in English with the following exceptions:

The voiced consonants b, d and g are unvoiced at the end of the word, so are pronounced p, t and k respectively.

ch	Like "k" at the beginning of words such as Christus, Chor
	Soft like the "h" in Hugh after these vowels: ä (mächtig), e (echt), ei (weich), eu (euch), ie (riechen), ö (möchte) , ü (Bücher). Also after all consonants, e.g. Kindchen, Kirche, Grübchen
	Gutteral "ch" after these vowels: a (Nacht), au (auch), o (Tochter), u (suchen)
g	Pronounced like the soft "ch" when it follows an i: Kön<u>i</u>g, Gerecht<u>i</u>gkeit , otherwise hard like "gold"
j	As the English "y"
l	Always made with the tip of the tongue on the back of the teeth
ng	Like the English word singer, never with a hard "g"
qu	Is pronounced "kv" as in quicken (kvicken)
ß	Called an esszett, it is always pronounced "ss"
s	At the beginning and in the middle of a word is pronounced like the English "z", at the end always like "ss".
sch	As the English "sh": Schule (shooluh), Englisch
sp	Almost always "shp"
st	At the beginning and in the middle of a word, like "sht" stehen (shtayen), verstummen (fairshtummen)
	At the end of a word like the English "st": Geister (guy-sier),
v	As the English "f"
w	As the English "v"
z	Like "ts", as in Pre<u>tz</u>el, Pi<u>zz</u>a