

HOUSTONFEST

Leidenschaft der Aussprache (Pronunciation Contest) Critique Sheet

Contestant: _____

School: _____

Judge's initials: _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO JUDGES

The procedures described in the next paragraph would be the normal procedure if we were holding contest in person. For 2022, the procedures will be adapted to the online (Zoom) environment but will remain essentially the same, except that the candidates will interact with one proctor instead of all the judges. The proctor will answer their questions during the preparation time and record their reading samples for later evaluation by the judges.

A new group of 3 or 4 contestants will enter the room on the hour and the half hour. After the group of contestants has had 15 minutes to review the chosen text and even to ask questions about it to the judges (to which the judges may answer only in English), each contestant will read the text to the judges. The order in which the 3 or 4 students will read will be determined by drawing numbers. Those in the group who are not currently reading will wait their turn in the hallway. One judge or a neutral facilitator will video-record each contestant's reading for possible later review by the judges. Each contestant will be limited to 3 minutes of reading time, even if they don't reach the end of the text. Copies of the text may not be taken outside the contest room at any point. See the more complete description of the rules and procedures in your judging packet.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING (see back)

GENERAL COMMENTS TO HELP THE CONTESTANT:

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

Judges **may** wish to mark individual sounds, perhaps by placing a – in the blank for occasional problems with that sound, an **X** for consistent problems with that sound, and a ✓ when that sound was handled well.

1. Basic vowel sounds (0-15 points):

- ___ long **a** (ex. *Rat, Kahn*)
- ___ short **a** (ex. *Ratte, Kamm*)
- ___ long **e** (ex. *kehren, Beet*)
- ___ short **e** (ex. *Geld, Bett*)
- ___ long **i** (ex. *ihn, Igel*)
- ___ short **i** (ex. *innen, Bitte*)
- ___ long **o** (ex. *Ofen, Boot*)
- ___ short **o** (ex. *offen, Bock*)
- ___ long **u** (ex. *gut, Ruhe*)
- ___ short **u** (ex. *Mutter, muss*)

Points awarded: _____

2. Umlauted vowels, diphthongs, and other vowel issues (0-15 points):

- ___ long **ä** (ex. *spät, zählen*)
- ___ short **ä** (ex. *Kätzchen, Sänger*)
- ___ long **ö** (ex. *böse, Löwe*)
- ___ short **ö** (ex. *können, Löffel*)
- ___ long **ü** (ex. *fühlen, Lüge*)
- ___ short **ü** (ex. *dünn, Münze*)
- ___ **y** (ex. *Typ, System*)
- ___ **ei/ai** (ex. *Bein, Mai*)
- ___ **ie** (ex. *sieht, Miete*)
- ___ **au** (ex. *schauen, Haus*)
- ___ **eu/äu** (ex. *treu, läuft*)
- ___ **unstressed e** at end of words (ex. *Woche, rote*)
- ___ **unstressed two-syllable ie** at end of words (ex. *Familie, Linie, plural Knie*)

Points awarded: _____

3. The two main ch sounds (0-15 points):

- ___ **"ach-Laut"** (ex. *machen, Loch, Buche, Hauch*)
- ___ **"ich-Laut"** (ex. *Blech, Stich, Fächer, möchte, Bücher, bleich, euch, welche*)
- ___ words **ending in ig** (ex. *fünzig, fleißig*, but compare *fleißigen*)

Points awarded: _____

4. The r (One letter gets its own category!) (0-15 points):

- ___ **r** ("Reibelaut") at beginning of word or between two vowels (ex. *rot, richtig, hören*)
- ___ **r** ("Reibelaut") following other consonants: **br, chr, dr, fr, gr, kr, pr, schr, spr, str, tr**, rarely **wr** (ex. *bringen, Christof, drei, Frau, grün, krank, Probe, schreiben, springen, stramm, tragen, Wrack*)
- ___ **unvoiced/"vocalic" r** between a vowel and a consonant (ex. *schwarz, Berg, kurz*)
- ___ **unvoiced/"vocalic" r** at end of word/prefix (ex. *zer-, Lehrer, Herr, besser, Tür, vier*)

Points awarded: _____

5. Basic consonant sounds (0-15 points):

- ___ consonants roughly the same in English/German: **b d f g h k m n p t x**
- ___ words **ending in b** (ex. *trüb, halb*, but compare *trübe*)
- ___ words **ending in d** (ex. *Rad, Geld, Kind*, but compare *Räder*)
- ___ words **ending in g** (ex. *Tag, karg*, but compare *karge*)
- ___ **ck** (ex. *backen, Dreck*)
- ___ **sch** (ex. *Schere, Tisch*)
- ___ **j** (ex. *jagen, jeder*)
- ___ **l** (ex. *laut, toll*)
- ___ **ng** (ex. *Ring, Ringe, lang, lange, fing, Finger*)
- ___ **ph** (ex. *Philosophie*)
- ___ **initial sp** (ex. *spät, Spende, Sprache, versprechen*, but compare *Wespe*)
- ___ **initial st** (ex. *Sturm, Strom, verstehen*, but compare *Kasten, Kunst*)
- ___ **single s** (ex. *setzen, Nase*, but compare *Haus, Glas*)
- ___ **ss/ß** (ex. *Spaß, Fass, besser*)
- ___ **th** (rare, ex. *Thema, Apotheke*)
- ___ **v** (ex. *vertrauen, viel, aktiv*)
- ___ **v in many foreign words** (ex. *Violine, Vase, privat*)
- ___ **w** (ex. *Wolf, weg*)
- ___ **z/tz** (ex. *zehn, Herz, sitzen*)

Points awarded: _____

6. Stressed syllables, less common consonant sounds (0-10 points):

- ___ **stress on correct syllable**, especially with separable and inseparable prefixes (compare *bekommen/ankommen, verstellen/vorstellen*)
- ___ various **ch sounds in foreign words** (compare *Chef, checken, Chor*)
- ___ **chs** (ex. *nächste, wechseln*)
- ___ **dsch** (rare, ex. *Dschungel, Fidschi*)
- ___ **tsch** (ex. *Deutschland, Tschechien*)
- ___ **gn** (rare, ex. *Gnade*)
- ___ **g in some foreign words** (ex. *Etage, Regisseur*)
- ___ **j in some foreign words** (ex. *Job, joggen*, but compare *Journalist*)
- ___ **kn** (ex. *Knie, Knoblauch*)
- ___ **pf** (ex. *Pferd, Napf*)
- ___ **ps** (rare, ex. *Psychiatrie*)
- ___ **qu** (ex. *quer, Qualle*)
- ___ **tion** (ex. *Nationen*)

Points awarded: _____

7. Voice, fluency, overall effect (0-15 points):

Enunciation is distinct without being pedantic; the voice is clear and the contestant avoids monotone, using appropriate emphasis and inflection; the reading flows smoothly and at a natural pace, neither rushed nor excessively slow; overall, the accent sounds "German" and the contestant makes a sincere effort.

Points awarded: _____

TOTAL POINTS: (100 possible) _____