

Hausa

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pronunciation

Vowels		Consonants	
Symbol	English sound	Symbol	English sound
a	run	b	bed
aa	father	b'	strong b with air sucked inward
ai	aisle	ch	cheat
aw	law	d	dog
ay	say	d'	strong d with air sucked inward
e	bet	g	go
ey	as in 'bet', but longer	h	hat
ee	see	j	jar
i	hit	k	kit
o	pot	k'	strong k
oo	zoo	l	lot
ow	now	m	man
u	put	n	not
'	like the pause in 'uh-oh' (comes before a vowel)	p	pet
<p>In this chapter, the Hausa pronunciation is given in purple after each phrase. Each syllable is separated by a dot. For example:</p> <p><i>Na gode. naa gaw-dey</i></p> <p>Hausa's glottalised consonants, simplified here as b', d', k', ts' and y', are made by tightening and releasing the space between the vocal cords when you pronounce the sound. The b' and d' sounds have an extra twist – instead of breathing out, you breathe in.</p>		r	run
		s	sun
		sh	shot
		t	top
		ts'	as in 'lets', but spat out
		w	win
		y	yes
		y'	spat out y
		z	zero