

Pronunciation Notes (December 2023)

[Interactive IPA Chart](#)

Latvian (Ai, nama māmina & Meklētāja ceļš)

Consonants		
Written	IPA	Explanation
ņ	ɲ	like Spanish <i>ñ</i> , as in <i>espa<u>ñ</u>ol</i>
š	ʃ	like English <i>sh</i> , as in <i><u>sh</u>y</i>
ķ	c	like English <i>k</i> but more forward in the mouth, as in <i>sk<u>e</u>w</i>
ļ	ɭ	like Spanish <i>ll</i> , as in <i>ama<u>ri</u>llo</i>
j	j	like English <i>y</i> , as in <i><u>y</u>es</i>
c	ts	like English <i>ts</i> , as in <i>ca<u>t</u>s</i>

Vowels & Diphthongs		
Written	IPA	Explanation
a	a	like the <i>a</i> in <i><u>a</u>rt</i>
e	e	like the <i>e</i> in <i>he<u>y</u></i>
i	i	like the <i>i</i> in <i>ski</i>
o	ɔ	like the <i>a</i> in <i>wa<u>r</u></i>
u	u	like the <i>oo</i> in <i>bo<u>o</u>t</i>
ai	ai	like English <i>eye</i>
au	au	like German <i>au</i> , as in <i>fra<u>u</u></i>
ie	iɛ	like English <i>ye</i> , as in <i><u>y</u>es</i>

Other Notes

Word stress is always on the first syllable

Vowels marked with a horizontal bar above are held longer (at least when spoken)

(These details are perhaps of less concern because we are singing; the rhythm takes care of them in most cases)

(15) Ai, nama mamina

IPA Transcription	Non-IPA Transcription
ai na.ma ma:.mi.na laid ma.ni jek.fə.ja ka.la.du:	ai na.ma maa.mi.na laid ma.ni yek.sha.ya ka.la.duu
ce.ka.tas at.brau.tsa ar ve.zu.mi.ni:.se ka.la.du:	kyeh.ka.tas at.brau.tsa ar ve.zu.mi.nyi.se ka.la.duu
ka.va:.jat i:.le.nus ka.va:.jat su.sek.ʌus ka.la.du:	ka.vaa.yat ii.le.nus ka.vaa.yat su.sek.lyus ka.la.duu
ce.ka.tu pul.ka.ja ra:.ve:.ji ʌau.ti.ni ka.la.du:	kyeh.ka.tu pul.ka.ya raa.veh.yi lyau.ti.nyi ka.la.duu
ne.zak.fu i:.le.nu ne.zak.fu a.da.tu ka.la.du:	ne.zag.shu ii.le.nu ne.zag.shu a.da.tu ka.la.duu
su.sek.li to zak.fu ta: ma.ne va.ja.ga ka.la.du:	su.sek.li toh zag.shu taa ma.ne va.ya.ga ka.la.duu
(e:)	(eh)
ka.la.da be:r.nie.me gal.vi.nu su.ka:.te ka.la.du:	ka.la.da behr.nyeh.me gal.vi.nyu su.kaa.te ka.la.duu