

2. Letters and pronunciation

2.1 Vowels

2.1.1

Letter	Pronunciation	As in
	Most Occurring often variants	
<i>i</i>	[i]	<i>biðdu</i> [pit:v] („(please) wait“)
<i>ý</i>	[i]	<i>sýndu</i> [sintu] („(please) show“)
<i>i</i>	[i] [i] (<u>ng</u> , <u>nk</u> , <u>gi</u>)	<i>listi</i> [listi] („list“)
<i>y</i>	[i] [i] (<u>ng</u> , <u>nk</u> , <u>gi</u>)	<i>synda</i> [sinta] („swim“)
<i>e</i>	[ɛ] [ei] (<u>ng</u> , <u>nk</u> , <u>gi</u> , <u>gj</u>)	<i>senda</i> [senta] („send“)
<i>é</i>	[jɛ]	<i>sést</i> [sjɛst] („can be seen“)
<i>u</i>	[y] [u] (<u>ng</u> , <u>nk</u>) [vi] (<u>gi</u>)	<i>hundur</i> [hvntyr] („dog“)
<i>ö</i>	[ø] [øy] (<u>ng</u> , <u>nk</u> , <u>gi</u>)	<i>hönd</i> [hönt] („hand“)
<i>ú</i>	[u]	<i>Rússi</i> [rus:i] („a Russian“)
<i>o</i>	[ɔ] [oi] (<u>gi</u>)	<i>loft</i> [loft] („air“)
<i>a</i>	[a] [au] (<u>ng</u> , <u>nk</u>) [ai] (<u>gi</u>)	<i>sandur</i> [santyr] („sand“)
<i>ei</i>	[ei]	<i>neisti</i> [neisti] („spark“)
<i>ey</i>	[ei]	<i>heyrdú</i> [heirðy] („(please) listen“)

<i>au</i>	[øy]	<i>haust</i>	[höyst]	(„autumn“)
<i>ó</i>	[ou]	<i>bóndi</i>	[pountri]	(„farmer“)
<i>æ</i>	[ai]	<i>læst</i>	[laist]	(„locked“)
<i>á</i>	[au]	<i>ást</i>	[aust]	(„love“)

NB I

i — *í*, *a* — *á* etc. differ in quality

Note that *i* and *í*, *a* and *á* etc. have different quality ([i] and [i], [a] and [a], respectively, etc.), i.e. the superscript mark, ' , like in *á*, *í*, *é*, *ó*, *ú*, *ý*. is not a symbol of length, accent or anything of that sort.

NB II

Vowels can be short or long

All vowels can be either short or long (depending on the following consonantism, see 3.2.2). Thus, we have [i:] (long) in *biða* [pi:ða] („to wait“) but [i] (short) in *biðdu* [pit:v] („(please) wait“) etc.

2.1.2

In order to get a better idea of the production of the vowels, both monophthongs and diphthongs, they can be shown in the following manner (if the terminology causes any problems, ask the teacher!):