

# The German Alphabet

Roman Type		German Pronunciation
A	a	ah
B	b	bay
C	c	tsay
D	d	day
E	e	ay
F	f	eff
G	g	gay
H	h	hah
I	i	e e
J	j	yot
K	k	kah
L	l	ell
M	m	emm
N	n	enn
O	o	oh
P	p	pay
Q	q	koo
R	r	air
S	s	ess
T	t	tay
U	u	oo
V	v	fow
W	w	vay
X	x	ix
Y	y	iphsilon
Z	z	tset

Q: Who thought of the ABC's?

A: The ancient Greeks made the first full, true alphabet. Their A was a letter called alpha, and their B was beta. Now put the two together. That's where the word "alphabet" comes from. More than 2800 years ago, the Greeks learned something like an alphabet from another group of people, most likely the Phoenicians. The Phoenicians had invented a set of letter-like symbols, but they mostly stood for syllables. When the Greeks started using some symbols just for the vowels, that let them spell out words sound by sound. The idea spread from there to other lands.