Pronunciation of the German Alphabet

I. **The Alphabet**: See *German Alphabet* handout. The German alphabet also has four extra letters used in print: ä, ö, ü, ß

II. **Vowels**
   a. **Umlauted Vowels**: The umlauted vowels are ä, ö, and ü
      - a   *Nase*
      - ä   *Mädchen*
      - o   *Boden*
      - ö   *Schön*
      - u   *Stuhl*
      - ü   *Tür*
   b. **The Letters I and Ü**. Round your lips for ü.
      - *spielen   spülen*
      - *Fliege   Flügel*

III. **Consonants**
   a. **The Letters V & F** Like the English F.
      - *Freitag   vier   fünf   Februar   Vorname*
   b. **The Letter W** Like the English V.
      - *Wann   Schwarz   wo   Wort*
   c. **The Letter R** Not like the American English R.
      - *Rot   reisen   Freund   Brief*
      - *März   Januar*
   d. **The Letter Combinations of Kn, Pf, Ps** All letters are sounded in the pronunciation. They're not silent, like in English.
      - *Knie   Pfund   Pflaume   Psychologie*
      - "R" between 2 vowels: *Gitarre   Amerika   Jahre*
   e. **The Letter Combination of Ch** Softer sound is *ich*. Harsher sound is *ach*.
      - Ach = *Aachen   Nacht   Noch   Buch*
      - Ich = *ich   dich   München   Österreich*
   f. **The Letter Combination of Sch** Like the English Sh in *shoot*, but with rounded lips.
      - *Schön   schon   Schwester   Schwarzwald*
      - *Die Schweiz*
   g. **The Letter Combination of Ck** Like the letter K in English & German.
      - *Stück   Rucksack   Knackwurst*

IV. **Word Stress** German words are usually stressed on first syllable, with some exceptions, especially for words from Romance languages.
   - *Nation   System   Humor   Motor*
   - *Original   Experiment   Programm*

Extra Hints
From Frau Steele

1. ie/ei = "When two vowels go walking, the **second** one does the talking"

	(English sound)	(English translation)
Mai	= "my"	= May
die	= "dee"	= the
Frei	= "fry"	= free

2. "e" at end = extra syllable "ah"

Treue	= "TROY-ah"	= true
Fahne	= "FAHN-ah"	= flag

3. "d" at end = "t" sound

und	= "unt"	= and

4. "st" at beginning = "sht" sound

staadten	= "SCHTAH-ten"	= states
steht	= "schtayt"	= stands

5. "j" = "y" sound

ja	= "yah"	= yes

6. "aw" = "ow" sound

Frau	= "frow"	= Mrs.
Auf	= "owf"	= of, to