

Stunde 7

Aussprache - Probe 6: R!

- In the beginning or middle of a syllable, German **r** is pronounced in the back of the throat (like the **r** in most spoken French).
 - o To pronounce this **r**, say the word *aha!* forcefully a few times. Turn this "h" sound into a threatening growl that comes from the same place in your throat; if you slow it down slightly, you could also think of it more peacefully as the rattling of an engine. Now "tone this down" to make a real **r**. This **r** is called the uvular **r** (or back **r**) because of the way your uvula vibrates when you make it. Enjoy your uvula ☺
 - o A fun way to practice this **r** sound: take a sip of water and gargle it in the back of your throat. Feel your uvula vibrate.
 - o Bavarians actually use a front or rolled **r**, similar to the trilled **r** in Spanish - but we'll learn the back **r**.
- At the end of a syllable, the German **r** changes the preceding vowel to an "-uh" sound [like the "-er" in "father" pronounced with a British accent], or makes it glide into an "-uh" sound, and *you hear no r-sound at all!* [This also happens if the syllable ends in **-e(h)rt** or **-ährt**.] Follow your instructor's model - wiederholen Sie, bitte!
- If the **r** precedes a **d**, **t**, **n** or **m** sound [or if the word ends in **-ar/-aar**], bring the back of your throat together as if you were going to pronounce a regular uvular **r**, but don't actually make your uvula vibrate. Think of this **r** as a "hint" of the "real" uvular **r**.

uvular r	Radio, rot, Rad, rennen, reisen
	Brot, drei, Freund
	fahren, Nachbarin, ihre
"-uh" sound	(glide:) der, wer, er, sehr, schwer, wert , fährt
	(glide:) wir, ihr, mir, hier, vor, Tür, für
	(just "-uh:"): Fenster, Wetter, Zimmer, Computer
"hint of r "	Bart , hart , dort , Mord , gern , Stern , Wurm , Sturm
	gar , war , Haar , paar