



As we get ready for our first Iceland Adventure we thought we would give you some basic phrases that you can try to learn for our trip.

We will certainly have English speaking guides; however, we encourage you to print this page out and bring it with you for quick reference during our adventure. We find that most locals appreciate the effort when trying to learn a little about their language.

Let's start with some common mistakes when pronouncing Icelandic.

Some of the most common mistakes include placing the emphasis on the second syllable (instead of the first) and when pronouncing the letter J with a slight dj sound (which is common for Americans) and the letter Þ as p, even though it looks similar it is a different letter. Also, there are some compound letters that sound different in Icelandic. For instance, the compounds of au like in Laugavegur are commonly pronounced incorrectly (like the Icelandic "á", as in house) but should be enunciated as the word soya. As for the compound letters of hv and ll, for that see the tables below.

Vowels	Pronunciation in English
A	sounds like "a" in father
Á	sounds like "ou" in house or "ow" in making vows
E	sounds like "e" in bed
É	sounds like "ye" in yesterday
I / Y	sounds like "i" in little
Í / Ý	sounds like "ee" in seeing
U	sounds like the French "eux" but bit shorter
Ú	sounds like "ooh" in pooh
Æ	sounds like "i" in the pronoun I
Ö	sounds like "un" in sun, or "ö" in German aufhören or "eu" sound like neuf in French

Consonants	Pronunciation in English
G	sounds like "g" in golf, gate, gift etc. but it can also be softer like the German "ch" in mache
J	sounds like "y" in yesterday
R	Always rolled as in French
S	Always pronounced as the letter "s", never as a the letter z
Ð / ð	sounds like "th" in weather
Þ / þ	sounds like "th" in thin

Common Words and Greetings

English	Icelandic	Pronunciation
Hello	Halló / Hæ	hi / hah-low
Thank you!	Takk / Takk fyrir / Þakka þér	tah-k / tah-k fih-r-ih-r / thah-kah th-yeh-r
Yes / No	Já / Nei	y-ow / ney
Good morning	Góðan daginn	go-thah-n die-in
Good evening	Gott kvöld	goh-t kv-eu-ld
My name is	Ég heiti	ye-gh hey-t-ih
Excuse me	Afsakið / Fyrirgefðu	af-sah-kith / fih-r-ih-r-gef-thu
You are welcome	Verði þér að góðu	veh-r-thih th-yeh-r ah-th go-thu
Goodbye	Bless / Bæ	bleh-s / bi
Nice to meet you	Gaman að kynnst þér	gham-ahn ah-th kin-ah-st th-yeh-r
How are you?	Hvernig hefur þú það?	kveh-r-nih-gh heh-f-ih-r th-uh th-ah-th
Good / Bad, thanks	Gott / slæmt, takk	goh-t / slime-tih

Common Words when Dining Out:

English	Icelandic	Pronunciation
Table for one, please	Borð fyrir einn, takk!	boh-r-th fih-r-ih-r a-dn tah-k
Could I get the menu, please?	Gæti ég vinsamlegast fengið matseðilinn?	gy-i-tih yeh-gh- fay-n-gh-ih mah-t-seth-ih-l-in
How much does it cost?	Hversu mikið kostar þetta?	kveh-r-suh mih-kith coh-stah-r theh-tah
Where is?	Hvar er?	kva-r- eh-r
Toilet	Klósett / Salerni	k-low-seht / sah-l-eh-r-nih
How was the food?	Hvernig bragðaðist maturinn?	kveh-r-nih-gh b-r-ah-gh-tha-th-ih-st mah-t-uh-r-in
It was delicious / very bad / perfect	Hann var gómsætur / virkilega vondur / fullkominn	hah-n vah-r goh-m-si-tuh-r / vih-r-k-ih-leh-ghah voh-nd-uh-r
The receipt, thanks	Kvittunina, takk	kvih-tt-ih-n-uh-nah tah-k
The bill, please	Reikninginn, takk	reyh-kh-nih-gh-in tha-k
What type of meat / fish is this?	Hvers konar kjöt / fiskur er þetta?	Kveh-r-sh khoh-nah-r ky-eu-d-tuh / fih-sh-sk-uh-r eh-r th-eh-thah
Lamb / beef / pork / chicken	lambakjöt / nautakjöt / svínakjöt / kjúklingur	lah-m-bah kyeu-duh / noh-yee-thah kyeu-duh / sv-ee-nah kyeu-duh / ky-ooh-k-lih-ghah kyeu-duh

Common Words When Traveling and On the Road

English	Icelandic	Pronunciation
Hotel	Hótel	hoh-tehl
Bus	Rúta	r-ooh-tah
Car	Bíll	b-ih-d-l
Airport	Flugvöllur	fl-uh-gh-veuh-d-l-uh-r
Road	Vegur	veh-gh-uh-r
Taxi	Leigubíll	lay-gh-uh-bih-d-l
Parking	Bílastæði	bih-lah-st-i-th-ih
Traffic	Umferð	uhm-fh-eh-r-th
Petrol / tank station	Bensín / bensínstöð	behn-sihn / behn-sihn-st-euh-th

Common Words for the Weather

English	Icelandic	Pronunciation
How is the weather forecast?	Hvernig er veðurspáin?	kveh-r-nih-gh ehr veh-th-uhr sp-ah-oo-ihn
Nice weather	Gott veður	goh-t veh-thuh-r
Sun / sunshine	Sól / sólskin	pronounced as 'sole' / 'sole' sk-ihn
It is raining	Það rignir	thah-th rih-gnih-r
It is snowing	Það snjóar	thah-th sn-yoh-ah-r
It is windy	Það er mikill vindur	thah-th ehr mih-kih-dl vih-n-duhr