

Pronunciation Guide

Slovene spelling is relatively phonetic. Only the following letters differ significantly from their counterparts in English:

- c** *ts*, as in “its”; so *Cankar* is pronounced [tsan-kar].
- č** *ch*, as in “church”; so *Kovič* is pronounced [ko-vich].
- g** Always pronounced hard, as in “get.”
- j** *y*, as in “yes”; so *Jančar* is pronounced [yan-char]
But when the combinations **lj** or **nj** occur before consonants or at the end of words, the **j** is silent; so *Ljubljana* is pronounced with *y*-glides [lyu-blya-na], but *Pregelj* is pronounced without [pre-gel].
- š** *sh*, as in “shout”; so *Gradišnik* is pronounced [gra-dish-nik].
- v** *u* before consonants or at word ends; but everywhere else as *v*; so *Tavčar* is pronounced [tau-char]; *pevčev* is pronounced [peu-cheu]; but *Kosovel* is pronounced [ko-so-vel].
- ž** Like the *s* in “measure,” conventionally written “zh” in English; so *Ožbej* is pronounced [ozh-bey].