



# TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP EDITORS AND OTHER EDITORS

## - THE NETHERLANDS

UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

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50<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

11th UNCSGN New York 2017  
50 years of UNGEGN

# Changes compared to the fourth edition (2012)

- Addition of a more detailed pronunciation key with more cases and examples, both for consonants and vowels
- Addition of a list of geographical names whose pronunciation deviates from the general rules given

These changes were made by Tjeerd Tichelaar, convenor of the WG on Pronunciation, in the hope other Top. Guidelines would follow suit

# Pronunciation of consonants in Northern standard Dutch

spelling	pronunciation IPA alphabet	example	IPA example
g	[ɣ], [x] or [χ]	Geleen	[ɣə'le:n], [xə'le:n]
ch	[x] or [χ]	Enschede	[ 'ensxədə:]
sch	[sx]; at word end [s]	Scheemda; 's-Hertogenbosch	[ 'sxɛ:mda]; [ ,sɛrtɔ:ɣən'bos]
p;t;k	[p];[t];[k] (unaspirated)	Krommenie	[ ,krɔmə'ni]
kh	[k]	Rijckholt	[ 'rikɔlt]
th	[t]	Nuth	[nɔt]
r	[r], [R], [r] or [ɹ]	Roden	[ 'ro:dən]
w	[v]	Weesp	[vɛ:sp]
ng	[ŋ]	Groningen	[ 'ɣro:ɲɪŋən]

# Pronunciation of vowels in Northern Standard Dutch

spelling	pronunciation IPA alphabet	example	IPA example
a+CS	[ɑ]	Halle	['hɑlə]
aa, a+OS	[a:] or [a]	Haarlem, Scheemda	['ha:rlɛm], ['sxɛ:mdɑ]
ae	[a:]	Baexem, Maeslantkering	['ba:ksəm], ['ma:slant,kɛrɪŋ]
e+CS	[ɛ] or [ə]	Meppel	['mɛpəl]
e+OS	[e:] or [ə]	Ede	['e:də]
ee	[e:]	Geleen	[ɣə'le:n]
i+CS	[ɪ]	Twisk	[tʷɪsk]
i+OS	[i]	Didam	[di'dɑm]
o+CS	[ɔ]	Schiphol	[sxɪp'ɦɔl]
oo, o+OS	[o:] or [o]	Hoge Noord, Ruurlo	[,hɔ:ɣə'no:rt] ], [ry:rlo]
u+CS	[ʊ] or [ə]	Putten, Zutphen	['pʊtən], ['zʊtʃən]
uu, u+OS	[y:] or [y]	Culemborg, Ruurlo	[ry:rlo], ['kyləm,bɔrx]
y	[i] or [ɛi]	Yde, Ysselsteyn	['idə], ['ɛisəl,stɛɪn]
au, ou	[ɑu] or [ʌu]	Gouda, Lauwersmeer	['χɑuda:], [,lɑuʋərs'me:r]
ei, ij	[ɛi]	Rijn, Eindhoven	[rɛɪn], ['ɛɪntɦo:vən]
eu	[ø] or [ø:]	Heusden	['ɦø:zdən]
ie+CS	[i]	Giethoorn	['ɣɪtho:rn]
ie+OS	[i:] or [i]	Dieren, Haarlemmerliede	['di:rən], [,ɦa:rlɛmə'r'li:də]
oe	[u] or [u:]	Woerden, Ten Boer	['vʊrdən], [tɛn 'bu:r]
oi	[o:]	Goirle	['ɣo:rlə]
ui, uij	[œy]	Muiden, Cuijk	[mœydən], [kœyk]
ieuw	[iu]	Nieuwe Maas	[,niūə'ma:s]

CS = Closed syllable; OS = open syllable

The pronunciation of the following geographical names either deviates from the general rules outlined above, or cannot be accurately deduced from them

spelling	pronunciation	spelling	pronunciation
Almere	[al'me:rə]	Luyksgestel	['lœyks, ʏestəl]
Tungelroy	['təŋəl,ro:j]	Amby	['ambi]
Tynaarlo	[ti'na:rlə]	Venray	['venra:j]
Bergschenhoek	[,berxsən'fiuk]	Nuenen	['nynən]
Vriescheloo	['vrisə,lo:]	Charlois	['ʃarlo:s]
Enschede	['ensxə,de:]	Wijchen	['vixən]
Gebroek	[,ʝə'bruk]	Puiflijk	['pœyflək]
Wijhe	['vɛiə]	Goirle	['ʝo:rlə]
Wijlre	['vi:lre:]	Huissen	['hysən]
Rhenoy	[rə'nɔi]	Yde	['idə]
Rijckholt	['rikɔlt]	Yerseke	['i:rsəkə]
Ysselsteyn	['ɛisəlsteɪn]	Stramproy	['strampro:j]
Texel	['tɛsəl]	Acquoy	[a'ko:j]