

# WOEHRMANN'S SPEECHWRITING

SPEECHWRITING includes two sections **MouthWriting (Mundbildschrift in German)**

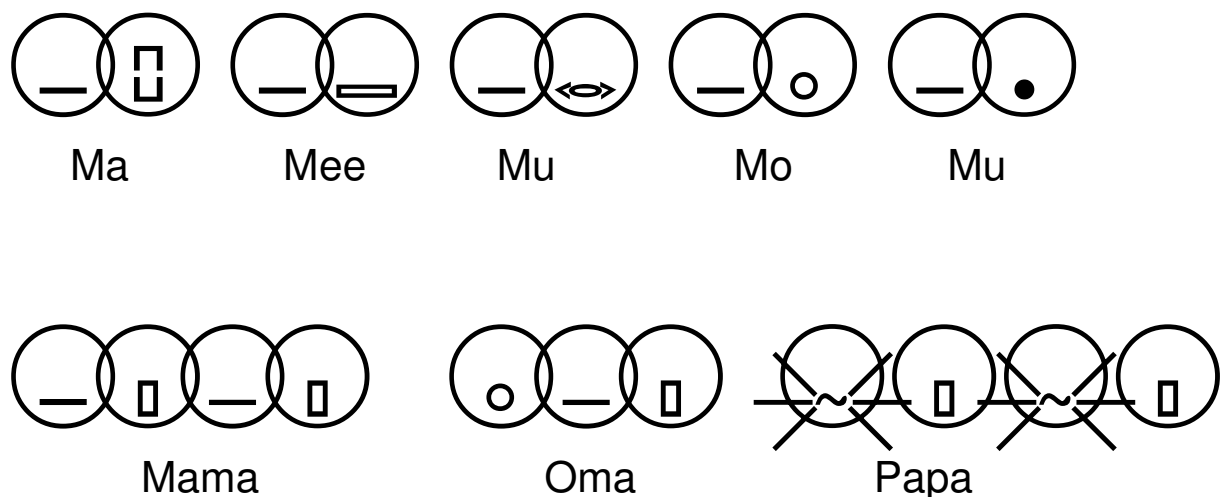
and **LipWriting (Mundbilder in der GebärdenSchrift in German)**

In order to understand the idea of LipWriting (Mundbilder in der GebärdenSchrift in German) it is helpful to learn about MouthWriting (Mundbildschrift) first.

## **MouthWriting (Mundbildschrift in German)**

A standardized writing system for picturing the sounds of human language. Compared to the International Phonetic Alphabet MouthWriting is not as detailed and complete but easy to read and sufficient enough to support even young deaf students in their articulation process to develop better spoken language skills. Used like a spelling system for writing complete words in mouth pictures, and can be applied to any spoken language.

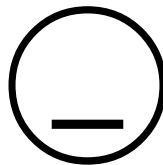
"Mundbildschrift" is a notation to transcribe the sounds of spoken German and to support deaf students in their effort to improve the articulation of German words. Mundbildschrift is a stand alone symbol-set focussing on sound-production and there are no additional symbols involved that can be associated with sign language. These sounds are widely transcribed by means of the **International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)** . Contrary to the IPA which is difficult to read for young children it has been my goal to offer a notation that can be understood already by deaf first grade students at age of 6 years. So it had to be in some way iconic. And in fact it is so easy for every 3 year old child to "read" the first symbol combinations like "MA", "ME", "MI", "MO" "MU" and the first words like "MAMA", "OMA" or "PAPA". And obviously it is so much fun.



This "Mundbildschrift" notation has the form similar to the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet), with an exact 1 to 1 mapping of spoken sounds and relevant symbols. For this purpose, I developed a number of additional mouth symbols that are not included in the Sutton symbol set, but are needed for writing the sounds of language. I had to distinguish between **long** and **short** vowels, **voiced** or **voiceless**, and **oral** or **nasal sounds**. I started to concentrate on spoken German but nevertheless put some energy and work in the

development to support English or Brazilian-Portuguese spoken language as well.

I always start to explain SpeechWriting with the easy to understand and easy to read and speak “M”

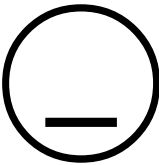


(“M” showing the headcircle from the expressive point of view and the closed mouth)

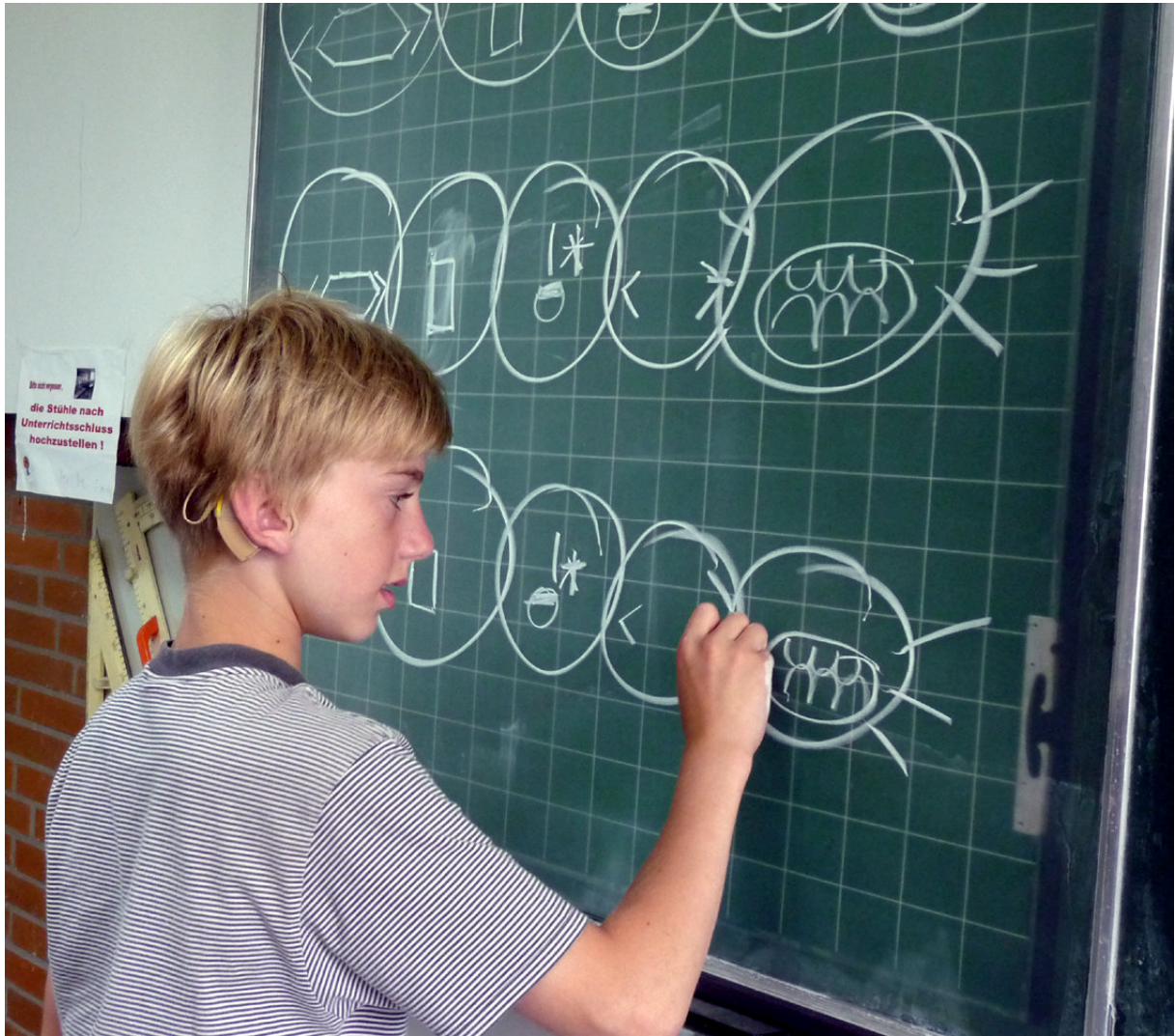
SpeechWriting symbols show the circle for the head and a special set of symbols for the mouth (lips), tongue, teeth, - but also symbols to differentiate between voiced and voiceless, long and short, nasal or oral sounds as well.

I put some effort into this table to present the symbols for Mundbildschrift as far as they are in use in July 2014. The development of Mundbildschrift is still in progress and definitely I will have to create more symbols if other people ask for support in order to describe the sound of their given spoken language.

You see on the left the symbol in “Mundbildschrift”. In German spoken language you will find the letters that go along with this pronunciation. There are two other columns giving examples of words with this described sound in German and English words. The last column shows the adequate IPA symbol.

MundbildSchrift	Schreibweise	Beispiel Deutsch	Beispiel Englisch	IPA
	M, m, mm	Mann, Mama, im, immer	month, him,	[m]

I made a chart of all the symbols of Mundbildschrift. It is stored in the folder for this presentation.



Student writing his name in Mundbildschrift.