

User Manual

Introduction

Lesheimur: Pronounce Icelandic is a simple software designed to help people to learn how to pronounce individual letter-sounds and their blends in Icelandic. The software specially emphasizes vowels, but also includes all the consonants and their common blends.

Various other possibilities are within the program;

The user selects what letter-sound or blend to listen to. Along with the sound, an appropriate picture appears on either how to mouth positioning when making the sound, or a picture of an object that is closely associated with the sound.

It is also possible to let the program play the vowels automatically in a special manner so to listen to them and sense the difference in various similarities. This is possible in different speed. Furthermore, it is possible to play each vowel repeatedly. The program also contains a vocabulary, Icelandic words to listen to.

Installation

In order to run the Lesheimur: Pronounce Icelandic Program you need to first install the Microsoft .NET Framework, version 1.1 which is included in the file dotnetfx.exe.

Start

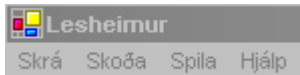
This is the Main Window of Lesheimur: Pronounce Icelandic Program. From this Main Window you can either start to hear the sound, change the setting of the Program or read this manual.



Picture 1

When Lesheimur: Pronounce Icelandic Program is started up the main window appears with two defined fields Vowels and Picture (Sérhljóðar - Mynd) (picture 1). It is possible to enlarge the main window by including two fields. One for all the consonants (samhljóðar) in Icelandic and another for the most common consonant blends (sambönd).

The Main field



You have 4 choices at the top of the Program for instructions They are: Skrá (Folder) Skoða (Examine), Spila (Play) and Hjálp (Help).

With the Folder (Skrá) it is possible to change the initial fixations of the frame or stop playing the program.

Examine and use the blue arrow (Skoða)



You can move from the vowels and enlarge the window by including the consonants or consonant blends. When the consonants are also visible you can decrease the size of the frame and again go to the vowels by using the blue arrow.

Spila (Play) is used in order to listen to the vowels play in a specific order. It is possible to start anywhere in the vowels line and the next vowel will be played automatically and the rest of them also to the last vowel on the screen.

Help (Hjálp) brings you to this user manual.

Vowels (Sérhljóðar)

This setting includes all the Icelandic vowels (picture 2). In the first row are vowels without Icelandic punctuation. In the second row are vowels with the general Icelandic punctuation. In the third row is the Icelandic ö and also æ and the 3 vowels in Icelandic language; au, ei and ey.

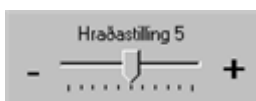


Picture 2



The Play button is chosen when you want to listen to the vowels played in a row in a specific order. Also chosen when vowels played joined with consonants.

The program plays the chosen vowel, for example the first “a” and then the next “á” until the end of the systematized row. It is always possible to stop or pause during the exercise by clicking onto the play button again.



The Speed Button (Hraðastilling) can be used to determine the interval between the sounds to be played. You can slide the bar from one end to the other and determine the speed.

The different speed time 11 is listed from 0-10. When clicking on either side of the slide it runs to the right or left, point 5. When the speed is changed from 0-10 the time until the next sound is played is increased or decreased. It can take from 1 second to 4.5 seconds before the sound is played.



The Repeat Button (Endurtekningar)

When determining how often a letter-sound is played repeatedly or not the repeat button is used.

It is possible to insert the number in the box which is approximately the chosen number of repeated playing.

It is also possible to use the arrows on the left side to determine the same. It is possible to choose repeating of 1- 9 times for every letter-sound and word in the program.



When clicking the arrow downwards you expand the view of the keyboard to also include the consonants (samhljóðar) or the consonant blends (sambönd).

When choosing the “up” arrow the keyboard goes back to the starting position of the vowels.

Picture Frame (Mynd)

When clicking on any letter or letter-blend a picture will appear as a reminder of the letter-sound chosen (picture 3). By clicking onto the picture you can hear the word pronounced. These pictures are drawn by Nanna Eggertsdóttir.



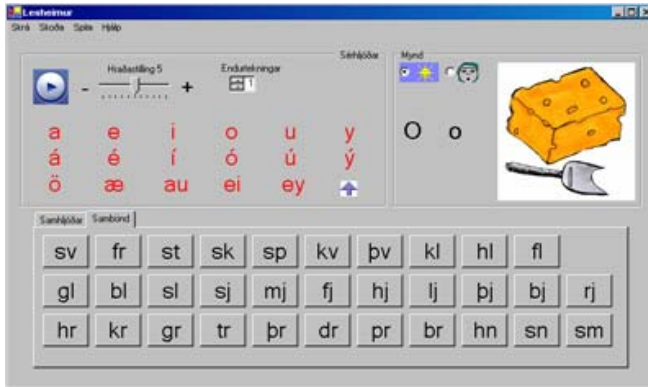
Picture 3



When choosing the button showing a picture of the sun, a picture will appear as described before.

When the picture of the face is selected, instead of the sun, a picture appears that demonstrates the position of the mouth when pronouncing the vowels. These pictures are from The School of Ísak Jónsson.

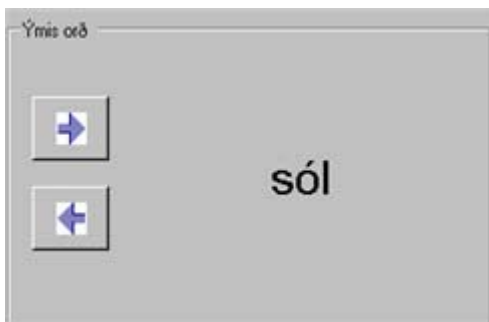
A a Letters appear on the left side of the picture frame (picture 3).
 The capital and lower-case are shown together. The letter-sound is played at the same time as the letter and picture appear.
 The sounds are read by Vala Þórsdóttir.



Vocabulary Frame (Ýmis orð)

If the mouse is clicked on the right hand side the frame changes names from Mynd to Ýmis orð (vocabulary). This frame contains flip buttons. The program contains words for every letter-sound and blend in the keyboard.

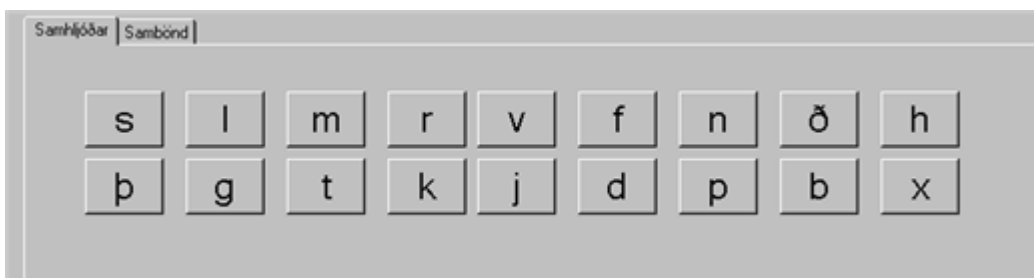
By using the flip buttons a few words for each letter-sound or blend can be heard pronounced and they are written in the frame as well (picture 4).
 The words are read by María I Hannesdóttir



Picture 4


Consonants (Samhljóðar)

When clicking on any consonant the sound on how it is pronounced is played and a picture will appear to emphasize the sound.



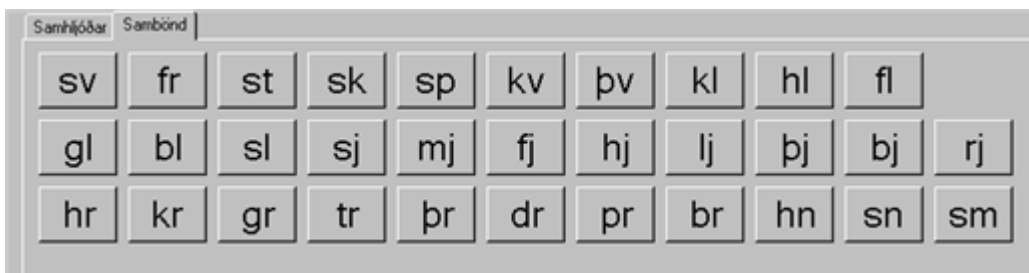
Picture 5

⊘ This symbol appears when clicking on a consonant button and holding it down. Then it will be possible to drag the consonant by moving the mouse upward to any particular vowel chosen. If let go onto the vowel “a” and the blue play button is clicked the systematic row will start and go on to the end vowel “ey” (picture5)

 By “dragging and dropping” the consonant over to any vowel the symbol changes and the consonant appears in front of the chosen vowel. Then it will be possible to play the consonant or if chosen a consonant blend and vowels joined together. If let go onto the vowel “a” and the blue play button is clicked the systematic row will start and go on to the end vowel “ey”
The program will play automatically from the chosen vowel “a” or anywhere else chosen to start.

Blends (Sambönd)

This part of the program can be chosen to hear and learn some of the most common Icelandic blends, as they are spoken at the start of a word, when read in Icelandic. The same actions can be chosen here as demonstrated before when describing the frame of consonants. By clicking on any blend, the sound will be played and a picture will appear as a reminder of the first letter in a word. By clicking onto the picture the word is pronounced.



Picture 6

For example:

By clicking on **st** a picture of a chair will appear (in Icelandic **stóll**)

As has been explained before the same automatic works for the blends as the consonants. It is therefore possible to drag them to the vowels frame and play them joined together as a longer segment for the first sound in words.

For all your success.

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