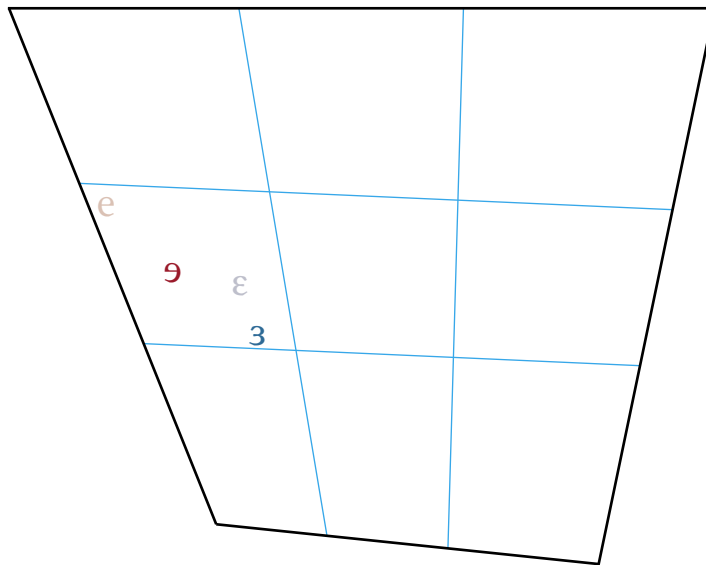


Ä im Vokalviereck



Please note that the evidence provided in this table is in an experimental stage. The standard literature states that the segment represented by the character *ä* is identical to lax *e* [ɛ]. Preliminary research, however, indicates that the sounds represented by the character *ä* are phonemically different from *e* and consist of two segments pronounced by native speakers as tense *ä* [ə] and lax *ä* [ɜ].

gespanntes *e* [e]

Feder	['fe:dʌ]
Spesen	['ʃpezɐ̃]
Fehler	['fe:lʌ]
Gera	['gɛ:rɛʌ]

ungespanntes *e* [ɛ]

Eltern	['ʔɛltʌn]
Vetter	['fɛtʌ]
Pfennig	['pʰɛnɪç]
Kelte	['kɛltə]

gespanntes *ä* [ə]

Väter	['fə:tʌ]
spät	['ʃpə:t]
fähig	['fə:ɪç]
gären	['gə:rɛn]

ungespanntes *ä* [ɜ]

älter	['ʔɜltʌ]
Blätter	['blɜtʌ]
Pfänder	['pʰɜndʌ]
Kälte	['kɜltə]