

six vowels, a, e, i, o, u, ao. Ch, ng, bh or mh, dh or gh, and ao represent simple sounds, and are to be regarded as single letters. Ch is the same letter as the Greek chi. Bh and mh stand for v. Generally mh is a nasalized v, or a v sounded partly through the nose. Dh and gh stand for y. There is no word in Gaelic that begins with the sound of h, v, or y.

Ph is always sounded like f; as in phaisg e, faisg e, he folded. Th is sounded like h as in thilg e, hilg e, he threw. Sh is also sounded like h; as in sheall e, heall e, he looked. Fh is silent, as in chan fhaca mi, chan aca mi, I did not see.

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#### THE CONSONANTS.

The names of the consonants are ba, ca, cha, da, fa, ga, ha, la, ma, na, ang, pa, ra, sa, ta, va, ya. The correct pronunciation of these names will be found in the following words:—*bath*-is, forehead; *cath*, battle; *chath*-ich e, he fought; *dath*, dye; *fath*, a mole; *gath*, a sting; *thath*-ich e, he frequented; *la*-sir, a flame; *math*, good; *nath*-ir, a serpent; *f-ang*, a sheep-pen; *pa*-cair a peddler; *rath*, luck; *Di-sath*-uirn, Saturday; *tath*-ich, frequent; a *vath*-is, his forehead; *yath* e, he dyed. The words or parts of words containing the names of the letters are printed in Italics.

In explaining the sounds of the consonants it will be convenient to treat each of the letters l, r, and n as two letters. The six letters arising from this division may be written lh, l, rh, r, nh, n. Lh, rh, and nh may be called liquid or soft letters, and l, r, and n hard letters. In using these terms, however, it must be distinctly understood that l, r, and n are hard letters only in comparison with lh,