The reader should begin by mastering the pronunciation of the letters, which have not the exact equivalent English sound, as below:

- a, e, i, o, have the sound of *ah*, *ay*, *ee*, *oh*, and have a long and short sound. Double vowels have the long sound. Single vowels are **LONG** if the following consonant has another vowel after it, as *fader*, father; and **SHORT**, when not so followed, as *kinders*, children. When final, *a*, *e*, *i*, and *o* are **LONG**.
- *u*, when **LONG**, sounds like French *u* in *lune* or German *ü* in *für*; when **SHORT**, sounds somewhat like the English short *u* in *but*.
- *y*, or *ei* = English *a* in *late*.
- *ii* (ie) = English *ee* in *thee*.
- *oe* = English *oo* in *too*.
- *ui* has no exact English sound.
- *g* is always a guttural.
- *j* = English *y* in *yield*.
- *s* is equivalent to English *z*.
- *w* = English *v*.
- *oei* is equivalent to *oo*.
The reader should now imprint on the memory the following peculiarities of the dialect.

There is only one definite article in the Taal—the word *di*, used for all nouns alike, singular and plural, as *di pad*, the road; *di rifir*, the river; *di home*, the trees. The word *di* also means "this" or "that" when used before a noun.

The indefinite article is the word *een*, abbreviated to 'n, as 'n pad, 'n man, 'n frou, and when used in full, signifies the number one, as *een pad*, one road.

The verb *is* has the English signification, and is also used for the word "are."

**Examples.**

\[
\begin{align*}
Di & \quad pad & \quad is & \quad goed \\
\text{The} & \quad \text{road} & \quad \text{is} & \quad \text{good} \\
Di & \quad home & \quad is & \quad mooi \\
\text{The} & \quad \text{trees} & \quad \text{are} & \quad \text{pretty}
\end{align*}
\]