

Spelling and Pronunciation

- Below is a description of how to pronounce each letter used to spell Dothraki. Actors can refer to this in determining how to pronounce a given word or phrase.
 - ◉ *A, a*: Pronounced somewhere between the "a" in "father" and the "a" in "fad". The tongue should be flatter (closer to the bottom of the mouth) than it is when pronouncing the "a" in "father", but not as high as it is when pronouncing the "a" in "fad". Dothraki Example: *khalasar*
 - ◉ *B, b*: Pronounced like the "b" in "bad". Dothraki Example: *Bharbo*
 - ◉ *Ch, ch*: Pronounced like the "ch" in "chalk" (even at the end of the word, *ch* is pronounced with a puff of air). Dothraki Example: *chakat*
 - ◉ *D, d*: Pronounced like the "d" in Spanish "dolor". The difference between *d* and the English "d" is that it's pronounced with the tongue touching the tip of the teeth, almost like the "th" in "there", but with less friction. Dothraki Example: *dothrak*
 - ◉ *E, e*: Pronounced like the "e" in "get" (occasionally like the "a" in "gate" in stressed positions or when followed by a vowel or a glide like *y*), even at the end of a word. Dothraki Example: *ershe*
 - ◉ *F, f*: Pronounced like the "f" in "father". Dothraki Example: *foz*
 - ◉ *G, g*: Pronounced like the "g" in "goat" (never like the "g" in "genius"). Dothraki Example: *gango*
 - ◉ *H, h*: Pronounced like the "h" in "hop". This sound is *always* pronounced, even if it comes after another consonant, or at the end of a word. The only cases in which it is *not* pronounced is when it occurs in the digraphs *ch, kh, sh, th* and *zh*. Dothraki Example: *havazh*
 - ◉ *I, i*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine" or the "i" in "kid" (there's no distinction between the two sounds in Dothraki). Dothraki Example: *irge*
 - ◉ *J, j*: Pronounced like the "j" in "jam" in all positions. Dothraki Example: *jahak*
 - ◉ *K, k*: Pronounced like the "k" in "kite" (even at the end of the word, *k* is pronounced with a puff of air). Dothraki Example: *kazga*

- *Kh, kh*: Pronounced like the "ch" in the German pronunciation of "Buch". In English, this sound is commonly used with onomatopoeic words associated with disgust, like "blech!" or "ich!" To pronounce it correctly, put your tongue in position to pronounce a "k", but release it slowly; allow the air to pass through the constricted space. The result should be a sound like white noise. Be sure to get good at pronouncing this sound, as it's used in some of the most frequent and important words in Dothraki (e.g. *khal*, *khaleesi*, *ko*, etc.). Dothraki Example: *khalakka*
- *L, l*: Pronounced like the "l" in the Southern Californian pronunciation of "love". Like *t*, *d* and *n*, this sound is pronounced with the tongue between the teeth. It's simple to do, if one is paying attention, and shows up well on camera. Dothraki Example: *lavakh*
- *M, m*: Pronounced like the "m" in "matter". Dothraki Example: *mahrazh*
- *N, n*: Pronounced like the "n" in "never", except that the tongue should be between the teeth (see *l*). When *n* occurs in compounds, pronounce it naturally (so the *n* in *ng* will be different from the *n* in *nt* or *nq*, but the change should happen automatically, as it does in English [cf. "saint" vs. "sank"]). Dothraki Example: *nayat*
- *O, o*: Pronounced like the open "o" in English "for", or the East Coast pronunciation of "law". Failing this, a plain old "o" as in English "boat" is fine, but be sure the sound is pure, and doesn't trail off into a *w* the way English's does. Dothraki Example: *Ogo*
- *P, p*: Pronounced like the "p" in "pike" (even at the end of the word, *p* is pronounced with a puff of air). Dothraki Example: *Pono*
- *Q, q*: This is likely the most difficult sound in Dothraki for an English speaker to master. The sound is produced by touching the back of the tongue to the uvula and making a constriction as one would for a "k". One pronounces this sound like any other stop (*p*, *t*, *k*), it's just pronounced further back in the mouth than an English speaker is used to. Think about when the doctor asks you to go, "Ahhhhhhh..." Try doing that, and as you're doing it, take the back of your tongue, without moving it, and plug up the opening in the back of your mouth. That should put you in perfect position to pronounce *q*. Dothraki Example: *gora*

- **R, r:** At the beginning or end of a word, this is pronounced like the "rr" in Spanish "perro"; everywhere else, it's pronounced like the "r" in Spanish "pero". In many dialects of American English, this latter sound is equivalent to the "t" in "water". Failing that, pronouncing it as the "dd" in "middle" shouldn't be too far off for most dialects. As with Spanish, though, any *r* can be rolled excessively for dramatic effect (think of the ads during soccer games). Dothraki Example: *rahsan*
- **S, s:** Pronounced like the "s" in "sad". Dothraki Example: *save*
- **Sh, sh:** Pronounced like the "sh" in "shack". Dothraki Example: *shierak*
- **T, t:** Pronounced like the "t" in Spanish "tener", but with a puff of air like English. The difference between *t* and the English "t" is that it's pronounced with the tongue touching the tip of the teeth, almost like the "th" in "thin", but with much less friction. (Note: Even at the end of the word, *t* is pronounced with a puff of air.) Dothraki Example: *taoka*
- **Th, th:** Pronounced like the "th" in "thin" (never like the "th" in "that"). Dothraki Example: *atthirar*
- **V, v:** Pronounced like the "v" in "victory". Dothraki Example: *vego*
- **W, w:** Pronounced like the "w" in "war". Dothraki Example: *mawan*
- **Y, y:** Pronounced like the "y" in "yesterday" (note: Never occurs as a vowel). Dothraki Example: *yeri*
- **Z, z:** Pronounced like the "z" in "zebra". Dothraki Example: *zelatha*
- **Zh, zh:** Pronounced like the "z" in "azure" or the "s" in "measure" (an analogy: *s* is to *z* as *sh* is to *zh*). Dothraki Example: *zhikwi*
- **'**: The apostrophe simply marks contractions, like in English; it isn't pronounced. If it ever causes confusion, *any* apostrophe can simply be deleted (e.g. *mr'anha* would become *mranha*).
- **Hiatus:** All vowels are pronounced separately. This means that if two vowels come next to each other—even if they're the same vowel—each one gets full voicing and is pronounced distinctly. This doesn't mean that words with multiple vowels can't be pronounced quickly; just that each vowel gets equal billing. For

real world examples, consider English "react" and "cooperate" and Spanish "creer" and "ahora". Dothraki Example: *khalaan, khaloon, dothrae*

- **Double Consonants:** Doubled consonants, or geminates, occur frequently in Dothraki. To pronounce a doubled consonant, simply pronounce it twice. You might think of it as lingering over the consonant. Think of the "s" sound you pronounce in "Miss Sally". It's a longer "s" than if you had pronounced a single word written "missally". The same goes for the doubled consonants of Dothraki. One important note about the romanization: If a digraph (e.g. *sh*, *ch*, etc.) is *doubled*, only the first letter will be doubled (hence, *ssh* not *shsh*). The consonant is pronounced like a doubled consonant, though, as actual combinations such as *s* followed by *sh* are impossible. Dothraki Example: *jaqqa, temmo, redda*
- **Long Stressed Vowels:** The stressed vowel in every word is slightly longer than other vowels. Notice how the "a" in English "bad" is longer than the "a" in English "bat". The same phenomenon occurs in Dothraki, but with stressed vowels. This might not be noticeable in fast speech, but in careful or normal speech, it should be evident. Dothraki Example: *qaeya, ovethat, maegi*