

## Lhazareen-Accented English

Mirri Maz Duur, the lone Lhazareen speaker with lines in *A Game of Thrones*, has command of a number of language (Common, Dothraki, Lhazareen, Asshai—perhaps even Valyrian), but her speech would be colored by her native tongue, Lhazareen. This document will instruct the actress how to speak English with a Lhazareen and accent, and will include reference to all of Mirri Maz Duur's English lines (with recordings).

Unlike many of the Dothraki speakers speaking Common, Mirri Maz Duur should be a fluent non-native speaker, so all my notes below relate directly to her accent, not to her word choice. Below is a summary of substitutions should we make as a native Lhazareen speaker:

- As with Dothraki speakers, the English "r" would be difficult to master. The Lhazareen *r* is identical to the Dothraki *r*, and should be lightly trilled in all instances.
- Unlike Dothraki, Lhazareen lacks a "th" sound (either the one in "this" or the one in "thin"). The closest sound in Lhazareen for these two sounds is "z" and "s", respectively. So, for example, rather than saying "these things", Mirri Maz Duur would likely say "zese sings" (the same would likely be true of her speaking Dothraki).
- In Lhazareen, no word ends in a voiced sound (for the most part). What this means is that in word-final position, the sounds *b*, *d*, *dz*, *j*, *g*, *z*, *zh* and *v* routinely become *p*, *t*, *ts*, *ch*, *k*, *s*, *sh* and *f*. In English, this practice should be ubiquitous. So, words like "stab", "bad", "words", "badge", "bag", "lose", "garage" and "give" will sound like "stap", "bat", "werts", "batch", "back", "loose", "garosh" and "giff".
- Unlike Dothraki, the Lhazareen vowel system is rather large. This means that Mirri Maz Duur can reliably distinguish words like "hawed", "hoed", "had" and "head". However, certain finer grade distinctions will not be retained. She will not be able to reliably produce distinctions between English "short" and "long" vowels. So "keyed" and "kid" will sound roughly the same, as will "bet" and "bait", "could" and "cooed", and "bud" and "bod".
- There are a couple unique substitutions where vowels are concerned. For the so-called "long u" of English in words like "cute", "pew", "fuel", etc., Mirri Maz Duur will substitute the vowel [y], which is found in French in words like "tu", "mute", "dûs", etc. To pronounce it, one pronounces the vowel in "key"

with rounded lips. Similarly, the "-er" vowel in "heard", "bird", "word", "curds", etc. will be pronounced with the vowel [ø]. This is found in French "feu", "le", etc. It is pronounced like the vowel "ai" in "bait", but with rounded lips.

- Any instance of "v" in an English word (*except* when occurring at the end of a word) will be pronounced like a "w". Thus: "village" > "willage"; "convenient" > "conwenient"; "very" > "wery", etc.
- For the common "-ing" ending in English, Mirri will pronounce it with a "k" at the end (so "runnink", "seeink", etc.).
- All alveolar obstruents ("t", "d", "l" and "n") will be pronounced with the tongue between the teeth, just like in Dothraki.
- Lhazareen lacks many of the consonant clusters of Dothraki. Difficult clusters in English will be broken up with an "i" vowel (like the "i" in "kit"). This will probably be most noticeable in words beginning with "st", "sk", "sp", "sn" or "sm". Some examples: "smell" > "issmell"; "strength" > "isstirenkis"; "spy" > "isspy"; "foundry" > "foundiry".
- The most noticeable aspect of Lhazareen is its "singsong" quality. This should surface in English by making every secondary stress a high tone, with all unstressed syllables being a low tone. This should make the English sound almost as if its spoken with a Swedish accent, with key differences.

Below are Mirri Maz Duur's lines in the series. I'll go by episode, and include the .mp3 name after each line:

### Episode VIII

- "I can help the great rider with his cut." ([MMD\\_1.mp3](#))
- "Thank you, silver lady." ([MMD\\_2.mp3](#))
- "I am named Mirri Maz Duur. I was the godswife of this temple." ([MMD\\_3.mp3](#))
- "My mother was godswife here before me. She taught me how to make healing smokes and ointments." ([MMD\\_4.mp3](#))

- "All men are one flock, my people believe. The Great Shepherd sent me to earth to heal his lambs." ([MMD\\_5.mp3](#))
- "Lamb or lion, his wound must be washed and sewn, lest it fester." ([MMD\\_6.mp3](#))

### Episode IX

- "The wound has festered." ([MMD\\_7.mp3](#))
- "You've saved me once more." ([MMD\\_8.mp3](#))
- "You don't ask a slave. You tell her." ([MMD\\_9.mp3](#))
- "Ask or tell, it doesn't matter. He's beyond a healer's skills. All I can do now is ease the dark road before him." ([MMD\\_10.mp3](#))
- "There is a spell. But it is hard, lady, and dark. Some would say death is cleaner." ([MMD\\_11.mp3](#))
- "Only a witch can save your rider now." ([MMD\\_12.mp3](#))
- "There is a price..." ([MMD\\_13.mp3](#))
- "It's not a matter of gold or horses. This is bloodmagic. Only death pays for life." ([MMD\\_14.mp3](#))
- "No. Not your death, khaleesi." ([MMD\\_15.mp3](#))
- "Bring me his horse." ([MMD\\_16.mp3](#))
- "We need the blood." ([MMD\\_17.mp3](#))
- "Go now, lady." ([MMD\\_18.mp3](#))
- "You must. Once I begin to sing, no one can enter the tent. The dead will dance here tonight. No living man can look at them." ([MMD\\_19.mp3](#))

### Episode X

- "As you command, lady. Come, I will take you to him." ([MMD\\_20.mp3](#))

- "He lives. You asked for life. You paid for life." ([MMD\\_21.mp3](#))
- "When the sun rises in the west and sets in the east. When the seas go dry and mountains blow in the wind like leaves." ([MMD\\_22.mp3](#))
- "It was wrong of them to burn my temple. It angered the Great Shepherd." ([MMD\\_23.mp3](#))
- "Innocent? He would have been the Stallion Who Mounts the World. Now he will burn no cities. His khalasar will trample no nations into dust." ([MMD\\_24.mp3](#))
- "Saved me? Three riders had already taken me. The fourth was in me when you rode past. How did you save me? I saw my god's house burn, where I had healed men and women beyond counting. In the street I saw a pile of heads. I saw the head of the baker who made my bread. I saw the head of a boy I had cured of fever, only three moons past. Tell me again what you saved." ([MMD\\_25.mp3](#))
- "Look at your khal and see what life is worth when all the rest is gone." ([MMD\\_26.mp3](#))
- "You will not hear me scream." ([MMD\\_27.mp3](#))