

Low Valyrian Pronunciation

This is guide for pronouncing Low Valyrian. This is crucially different from High Valyrian pronunciation. The guide below pertains to the phonetic transcription only. When in doubt, please refer to the pronunciation in the .mp3 files. If that pronunciation is copied precisely, the result will be as close to perfect as possible.

- The phonetic transcription system used in the scripts divides all words into syllables and puts the stressed syllable in all caps. There are no diacritics in the system, and all letters are pronounced as indicated below:
 - Letter - [IPA] Description.
 - A, a - [a] Pronounced like the "a" in "father".
 - AI, ai - [aj] Pronounced like the "i" in "mice".
 - AO, ao - [aw] Pronounced like the "ou" in "mouse" and the "ow" in "how".
 - B, b - [b] Pronounced like the "b" in "bad".
 - D, d - [d] Pronounced like the "d" in "dog".
 - Dh, dh - [ð] Pronounced like the "th" in "that" (*never* like the "th" in "think").
 - E, e - [ɛ] *Always* pronounced like the "e" in "get".
 - G, g - [g] Pronounced like the "g" in "goat" (never like the "g" in "genius").
 - GH, gh - [ɣ] Pronounced like the "r" in French "rouge" or the "g" in Dutch "goed" (never like the "g" in "ghost"). It's a rough, throaty sound—kind of like a hard "h".
 - H, 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 *gh*, *kh* and *dh*.
 - I, i - [i] Pronounced like the "i" in "machine".

- J, j - [ʒ] Pronounced like the "g" in "genre" or "beige".
- K, k - [k] Pronounced like the "k" in "sky" (this sound features *no* aspiration. Aspiration is the puff of air that occurs in the "k" in "kite". Compare the "k" in "kite" and the "k" in "sky" [try holding your hand in front of your face when pronouncing both]. The High Valyrian "k" should always be pronounced like the "k" in "sky"; never like the "k" in "kite").
- L, l - [l] Pronounced like the "l" in "love" (*never* like the so-called "swallowed" l in "filth").
- M, m - [m] Pronounced like the "m" in "matter".
- N, n - [n] Pronounced like the "n" in "never". In the case of *n* occurring between two vowels, it should be pronounced just like the "on" in "button".
- O, o - [o] Pronounced like the "o" in "tote".
- P, p - [p] Pronounced like the "p" in "spike" (this sound features *no* aspiration. Aspiration is the puff of air that occurs in the "p" in "pike". Compare the "p" in "pike" and the "p" in "spike" [try holding your hand in front of your face when pronouncing both]. The High Valyrian "p" should always be pronounced like the "p" in "spike"; never like the "p" in "pike").
- R, r - [r] *or* [r̄] Pronounced like the "rr" in Spanish "perro". It's a nice trilled "r", so be sure to get the trill in there. In the case of *r* occurring between two consonants (or at the beginning of a word before another consonant), it should be pronounced like the single *r* of Spanish "pero".
- S, s - [s] Pronounced like the "s" in "sad".
- T, t - [t] Pronounced like the "t" in "stake" (this sound features *no* aspiration. Aspiration is the puff of air that occurs in the "t" in "take". Compare the "t" in "take" and the "t" in "stake" [try holding your hand in front of your face when pronouncing both]. The High Valyrian "t" should always be pronounced like the "t" in "stake"; never like the "t" in "take").
- U, u - [u] Pronounced like the "u" in "impromptu".

- **V, v** - [v] Pronounced like the "v" in "van".
- **Y, y** - [j] Pronounced like the "y" in English "yak".
- **Z, z** - [z] Pronounced like the "z" in "zebra".
- **Uvular Stop:** High Valyrian has a consonant spelled **q** in its official romanization that's pronounced [q] (a voiceless uvular stop, like the "q" in the Arabic pronunciation of "Iraq"). I have omitted this consonant from the transcription (always transcribing it as k), but continue to pronounce it. If the recording is imitated, the consonant can be replicated. Otherwise, substituting [k] is fine. One example of a word that has [q] in it is **Loraq**, which, properly, is pronounced [ˈlo.raq].
- **High Front Rounded Vowel:** Low Valyrian has a vowel spelled **y** in its official romanization that's pronounced [y] (a high front rounded vowel, like the "u" in French "rue" or the "ü" in German "für"). I have omitted this vowel from the transcription (always transcribing it as i), but continue to pronounce it. If the recording is imitated, the vowel can be replicated. Otherwise, substituting [i] is fine. One example of a word that has [y] in it is **Dovogedhy**, which, properly, is pronounced [do.vo.ˈye.ðy].
- **Double Consonants:** Doubled consonants, or geminates, occur frequently in High Valyrian. 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 pronounce the similar phrase "Miss Ally". The same goes for the doubled consonants of High Valyrian.