

## 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" *except* at the end of a word *when unstressed only*, in which case it's pronounced [ə] like the "a" in sofa.
  - 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".
  - Ch, ch - [tʃ] Pronounced like the "ch" in "chat".
  - 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".
  - F, f - [f] Pronounced like the "f" in "fog".
  - 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".
  - 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").
- Kh, kh - [x] 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.
- 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".
- Ng, ng - [ŋ] Pronounced like the "ng" in "sing".
- 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".

- Sh, sh - [ʃ] Pronounced like the "sh" in "shed".
- 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").
- Th, th - [θ] Pronounced like the "th" in "thin" (*never* like the "th" in "that").
- 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 ['lo.raq].