

Romanization and Pronunciation:

- This is the romanization system, which will be used to spell the language using the Roman alphabet. I'm going to describe the full system in detail below:
  - ◉ *A, a*: Pronounced like the "a" in "father".
  - ◉ *B, b*: Pronounced like the "b" in "bad".
  - ◉ *Ch, ch*: Pronounced like the "ch" in "each". Unlike the sound "ch" in English "chair", there is no discernible puff of air that accompanies this sound. If one holds one's breath while pronouncing the "ch" in English "chair", one will pronounce this sound correctly.
  - ◉ *D, d*: Pronounced like the "d" in "diet".
  - ◉ *Dh, dh*: Pronounced like the "th" in "this" (never like the "th" in "thin").
  - ◉ *E, e*: Pronounced like the "e" in "get".
  - ◉ *Ǝ, ə*: Pronounced like the "a" in "sofa".
  - ◉ *F, f*: Pronounced like the "f" in "fog".
  - ◉ *G, g*: Pronounced like the "g" in "goat" (never like the "g" in "genius").
  - ◉ *Gh, gh*: Pronounced like the "r" in French "rouge" (never like the "gh" in "ghost").
  - ◉ *I, i*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine".
  - ◉ *J, j*: Pronounced like the "j" in "jam".
  - ◉ *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 G'Vunna *k* should always be pronounced like the "k" in "sky"; never like the "k" in "kite").
  - ◉ *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.

- *L, l*: Pronounced like the "l" in "love".
- *M, m*: Pronounced like the "m" in "matter".
- *N, n*: Pronounced like the "n" in "never".
- *Ng, ng*: Pronounced like the "ng" in "sing".
- *O, o*: Pronounced like the "o" in "tote".
- *Ö, ö*: Pronounced like the "eu" in French "feu", or the "ö" in German "Köln".
- *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 G'Vunna *p* should always be pronounced like the "p" in "spike"; never like the "p" in "pike").
- *Q, q*: This is likely the most difficult sound in G'Vunna 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*.
- *R, r*: Pronounced like the "r" in Spanish "pero". Nearly identical to the "r" or "d" sound in English "matador" (pronounced quickly). (Note: When doubled, this is pronounced like a true trill, as in Spanish "perro".)
- *S, s*: Pronounced like the "s" in "sad".
- *Sh, sh*: Pronounced like the "sh" in "shade".
- *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 "sttake" [try holding your hand in front of your face when pronouncing both]. The G'Vunna *t* should always be pronounced like the "t" in "sttake"; never like the "t" in "ttake").

- *Th, th*: Pronounced like the "th" in "thin" (never like the "th" in "this").
- *U, u*: Pronounced like the "u" in "ruuminate".
- *Ü, ü*: Pronounced like the "u" in French "rue", or the "ü" in German "für".
- *V, v*: Pronounced like the "v" in "van".
- *Z, z*: Pronounced like the "z" n "zezbra".
- *Zh, zh*: Pronounced like the "z" n "azure".
- *Double Consonants*: Doubled consonants, or geminates, occur frequently in G'Vunna. 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 u Ally". The same goes for the doubled consonants of G'Vunna. One important note about the romanization: If a digraph (e.g. *kh*, *gh*, etc.) is *doubled*, only the first letter will be doubled (hence, *kkh* not *khkh*). The consonant is pronounced like a doubled consonant, though, as actual combinations such as *k* followed by *kh* are impossible.