

Romanization and Pronunciation:

- Övüsi is the name of the Elvish language in the language itself (in English we can refer to it simply as Elvish). The simplest romanization system I could conceive makes use of diacritic marks, but only a few. I'm going to describe the full system in detail below. I'm going to describe the full system in detail below:
  - ◉ *A, a*: Pronounced like the "a" in "father".
  - ◉ *Aa, aa*: Pronounced like the "a" in "father", but held slightly longer.
  - ◉ *Ai, ai*: Pronounced like the "i" in "night".
  - ◉ *Au, au*: Pronounced like the "ow" in "how".
  - ◉ *B, b*: Pronounced like the "b" in "bad".
  - ◉ *Ch, ch*: Pronounced like the "ch" in "chive".
  - ◉ *D, d*: Pronounced like the "d" in "die".
  - ◉ *E, e*: Always pronounced like the "a" in "gate".
  - ◉ *Ee, ee*: Pronounced like the "a" in "gate", but held slightly longer. (Note: Old Elvish only!)
  - ◉ *Ē, ē*: Pronounced like the "u" in "cut".
  - ◉ *F, f*: Pronounced like the "f" in "fad".
  - ◉ *G, g*: Pronounced like the "g" in "goat" (never like the "g" in "genius").
  - ◉ *H, h*: Pronounced like the "h" in "hop".
  - ◉ *I, i*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine".
  - ◉ *Ii, ii*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine", but held slightly longer.
  - ◉ *Ī, ī*: Pronounced like the "oo" in Southern Californian English "good". (It's pronounced like an ordinary "oo", as in "mood", but with your lips completely unrounded. Just takes a little practice; not too difficult.)

- **Ï, ï:** Pronounced like the "oo" in Southern Californian English "good", but held slightly longer.
- **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 Övüsi *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. (Note: Old Elvish *only!*)
- **L, l:** Pronounced like the "l" in "love" (*never* like the so-called "swallowed l" in "filth").
- **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".
- **Oo, oo:** Pronounced like the "o" in "tote", but held slightly longer. (Note: Old Elvish *only!*)
- **Ö, ö:** Pronounced like the "eu" in French "feu", or the "ö" in German "Köln". (Hint: Round your lips and pronounce the "e" in "met". That's how this vowel is pronounced.)
- **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 Övüsi *p* should always be pronounced like the "p" in "spike"; never like the "p" in "pike").

- **R, r:** Pronounced like the "r" in Spanish "pero". Nearly identical to the "r" or "d" sound in English "matador" (pronounced quickly).
- **Rr, rr:** Pronounced like the "rr" in Spanish "perro". It's a nice trilled "r", so be sure to get the trill in there.
- **S, s:** Pronounced like the "s" in "sad".
- **Sh, sh:** Pronounced like the "sh" in "shack".
- **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 Övüsi *t* should always be pronounced like the "t" in "stake"; never like the "t" in "take").
- **Th, th:** Pronounced like the "th" in "thin" (*never* like the "th" in "that").
- **U, u:** Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate".
- **Uu, uu:** Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate", but held slightly longer.
- **Ü, ü:** Pronounced like the "u" in French "rue", or the "ü" in German "für". (Hint: Round your lips and pronounce the "ee" in "meet". That's how this vowel is pronounced.)
- **Üü, üü:** Pronounced like the "u" in French "rue", or the "ü" in German "für", but held slightly longer.
- **V, v:** Pronounced like the "v" in "van".
- **Long Vowels:** Long vowels are held for twice as long as ordinary vowels. Consider the "a" vowel in English "bat" and in English "bad". Notice how the "a" vowel in "bad" is considerably longer than the "a" vowel in "bat"? The same can be true of *any* vowel in Övüsi. Such vowels are written doubled (e.g. *a* is a short vowel and *aa* is a long vowel). It shouldn't require too much effort.

- **Diphthongs:** Aside from the two listed above (i.e. *ai* and *au*), whenever a vowel occurs next to another vowel, both are pronounced fully. Some common vowel combinations you'll see in Övüsi are *uo*, *ie*, *ou*, and *ei*. In each instance, both vowels are pronounced (so *u* then *o* for *uo*). Neither vowel sound should be lost.
- **Double Consonants:** Doubled consonants, or geminates, occur frequently in Övüsi. 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 Övüsi. One important note about the romanization: If a digraph (e.g. *sh*, *th*, etc.) is *doubled*, only the first letter will be doubled (hence, *nnng* not *ngng*). The consonant is pronounced like a doubled consonant, though, as actual combinations such as *t* followed by *th* are impossible.