



Chakobsa

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”, but further forward in the mouth.
 - *Aa, aa*: Pronounced like the “a” in “father”, but further forward in the mouth, and held for a longer duration.
 - *B, b*: Pronounced like the “b” in “bad”. In certain circumstances (as before s), it will sound more like *p*, but the result will be quite natural.
 - *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* pronounced like the “th” in “think”).
 - *E, e*: Pronounced like the “e” in “get”.
 - *F, f*: Pronounced like the “f” in “fog”.
 - *G, g*: Pronounced like the “g” in “goat” (never like the “g” in “genius”).
 - *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.
 - *I, i*: Pronounced like the “i” in “machine”.
 - *Ii, ii*: Pronounced like the “i” in “machine”, but held for a longer duration.

- *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 Chakobsa *k* should always be pronounced like the "k" in "sky"; never like the "k" in "kite").
- *L, l*: Pronounced like the "l" in "love".
- *M, m*: Pronounced like the "m" in "matter".
- *N, n*: Pronounced like the "n" in "never".
- *O, o*: Pronounced like the "o" in "tote".
- *Q, q*: This is likely the most difficult sound in Chakobsa 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).
- *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 "stake" [try holding your hand in front of your face when pronouncing both]. The Chakobsa *t* should always be pronounced like the "t" in "stake"; never like the "t" in "take").

- *Th, th*: Pronounced like the "th" in "think" (*never* pronounced like the "th" in "this").
- *U, u*: Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate".
- *Uu, uu*: Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate", but held for a longer duration.
- *V, v*: Pronounced like the "v" in "van".
- *W, w*: Pronounced like the "w" in "went".
- *Y, y*: Pronounced like the "y" in "yet".
- *Z, z*: Pronounced like the "z" in "zebra".
- ' : This is referred to as a glottal stop, and is pronounced just like the catch in one's throat that occurs in between the "uh" and "oh" in English "uh_oh". This isn't a difficult sound to produce; it just requires a bit of practice to insert it into words. It will occur naturally in a string of vowels pronounced separately in English (e.g. if one were to say "A A A A A A A" [saying the actual name of the letter each time] over and over, a glottal stop will naturally occur before each instance of the vowel). If one simply stops pronouncing a word mid-vowel and starts again, it will naturally occur. (Note: It is important to remember that this apostrophe is *not* a stray mark, and *not* simply there for decoration. The apostrophe stands for a consonant which has the same status as *g* or *k* or any other consonant.)
- *Double Consonants*: Doubled consonants, or geminates, occur frequently in Chakobsa. 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 Chakobsa. 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.