

Sardaukar Pronunciation Guide

The Sardaukar language will be featured in a chant used by a priest blessing a battalion of troops. The language is meant to sound both fierce and ritualistic. It should sound very off-putting. In addition to the pronunciation guidelines below, note that your voice should sound like a drone, at as low an octave as you can safely produce. For a detailed description of how to voice it, listen to the .mp3 entitled `SPRIEST_DUNE_8_EXP.mp3`. That will explain it in detail. For the particulars of how each letter is pronounced, see below:

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 “sofa”, but with lips fully rounded.
 - *Ā, ā*: Pronounced like the “a” in “father”, but with lips fully rounded. It rather sounds like the English pronunciation of the “o” in “Harry Potter”.
 - *Ay, ay*: Pronounced a little like the “oy” in “boy”, but a little more centrally (more like “uh” followed by a “y” sound).
 - *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.
 - *Ch', ch'*: There's no English equivalent to this sound. This is an *ejective* consonant. In the case of *ch'*, it's pronounced just like *ch*, but with one's breath held. The result is a little “popping” sound that immediately follows the production of the *ch*. You can think of it as a *ch* that's followed by a glottal ' sound. Producing those two sounds in short succession will result in a sound very close to *ch'*. Continue to practice and you should be able to get it.
 - *D, d*: Pronounced like the “d” in “diet”.
 - *Dz, dz*: Pronounced like the “ds” in “kids”.

- **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. (Do note where it occurs in digraphs, though. *Ch, ch', kh, sh,* and *zh* are all single sounds.)
- **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 Sardaukar *k* should always be pronounced like the "k" in "sky"; never like the "k" in "kite").
- **K', k':** There's no English equivalent to this sound. This is an *ejective* consonant. In the case of *k'*, it's pronounced just like *k*, but with one's breath held. The result is a little "popping" sound that immediately follows the production of the *k*. You can think of it as a *k* that's followed by a glottal ' sound. Producing those two sounds in short succession will result in a sound very close to *k'*. Continue to practice and you should be able to get it.
- **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".
- **O, o:** Pronounced like the "o" in "tote".
- **Ö, ö:** Pronounced like the "œu" in French "sœur", or the "ö" in German "hören".
- **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 Sardaukar *p* should always be pronounced like the "p" in "spike"; never like the "p" in "pike").

- *P', p'*: There's no English equivalent to this sound. This is an *ejective* consonant. In the case of *p'*, it's pronounced just like *p*, but with one's breath held. The result is a little "popping" sound that immediately follows the production of the *p*. You can think of it as a *p* that's followed by a glottal ' sound. Producing those two sounds in short succession will result in a sound very close to *p'*. Continue to practice and you should be able to get it.
- *Q, q*: This is likely the most difficult sound in Sardaukar 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 French "rouge". It's a nice trilled "r" pronounced at the back of the throat (like a purr or a growl), so be sure to get the trill in there. It should always be rumby and roll; it should never be harsh.
- *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 Sardaukar *t* should always be pronounced like the "t" in "stake"; never like the "t" in "take").
- *T', t'*: There's no English equivalent to this sound. This is an *ejective* consonant. In the case of *t'*, it's pronounced just like *t*, but with one's breath held. The result is a little "popping" sound that immediately follows the production of the *t*. You can think of it as a *t* that's followed by a glottal ' sound. Producing those two sounds in short succession will result in a sound very close to *t'*. Continue to practice and you should be able to get it.

- **Ts, ts:** Pronounced like the "ts" in "cuts".
- **Ts', ts':** There's no English equivalent to this sound. This is an *ejective* consonant. In the case of *ts'*, it's pronounced just like *ts*, but with one's breath held. The result is a little "popping" sound that immediately follows the production of the *ts*. You can think of it as a *ts* that's followed by a glottal ' sound. Producing those two sounds in short succession will result in a sound very close to *ts'*. Continue to practice and you should be able to get it.
- **U, u:** Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate".
- **Ü, ü:** Pronounced like the "u" in French "rue", or the "ü" in German "für".
- **V, v:** Pronounced like the "v" in "van".
- **Y, y:** Pronounced like the "y" in "yet".
- **Z, z:** Pronounced like the "z" in "zebra".
- **Zh, zh:** Pronounced like the "z" in "azure" or the "s" in "measure".
- **ʔ:** 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 Sardaukar. 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".