

Sangheili Romanization Reference

Below is a list of all the Roman letters and digraphs used in Sangheili, along with a description of how they're pronounced.

- **A, a:** Pronounced like the "a" in "father".
- **Aa, aa:** Pronounced like the "a" in "father", but held for slightly longer.
- **Ai, ai:** Pronounced like the "y" in "sky".
- **Au, au:** Pronounced like the "pe" in "how".
- **B, b:** Pronounced like the "b" in "bad".
- **Ch, ch:** Pronounced like the "match" in "match".
- **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.
- **Chkh, chkh:** This sound isn't found in English. It's rather like a consonant cluster combining *ch* and *kh*. Think of it like pronouncing *ch*, but in producing it, one allows the back of one's tongue to contact the soft palate, releasing a rough *kh* sound as one releases *ch*. This sound can occur anywhere in the word, and so should be practiced in initial position, not just medially.
- **D, d:** Pronounced like the "d" in "die".
- **Dz, dz:** Pronounced like the "ds" in "kids" (even at the beginning of a word).
- **E, e:** Always pronounced like the "e" in "get".
- **Ei, ei:** Pronounced like the "a" in "gate".
- **G, g:** Pronounced like the "g" in "goat" (never like the "g" in "genius").

- *Gh, gh*: Pronounced like the "r" in French "rouge" (the harsher pronunciation; not trilled).
- *H, h*: Pronounced like the "h" in "hop".
- *I, i*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine".
- *I, i*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine", but held for slightly longer.
- *J, j*: Pronounced like the "j" in "jam".
- *K, k*: Pronounced like the "sk" in "sky".
- *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.
- *Kkh, kkh*: This sound isn't found in English. It's rather like a consonant cluster combining *k* and *kh*. Think of it like pronouncing *k*, but releasing *very* slowly, so that there is strong friction as one releases the *k*. This sound can occur anywhere in the word, and so should be practiced in initial position, not just medially.
- *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". This sound *can* occur at the beginning of a word. It takes some practice, but it's doable. Try slowing down your

pronunciation of the word "singing", and see if you can separate it into "si" and "nging". *Never* pronounced like the "ng" in "anger"(for which, see *ngg*).

- *Ngg, ngg*: Pronounced like the "ng" in "anger" (building off of the previous, think of *ng* as a single consonant; to get a [g] sound afterwards there must be another *g*).
- *O, o*: Pronounced like the "o" in "tote".
- *P, p*: Pronounced like the "p" in "spike".
- *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.
- *Pkh, pkh*: This sound isn't found in English. It's rather like a consonant cluster combining *p* and *kh*. Think of it like pronouncing *p*, but in producing it, one allows the back of one's tongue to contact the soft palate, releasing a rough *kh* sound as one releases *p*. This sound can occur anywhere in the word, and so should be practiced in initial position, not just medially.
- *Q, q*: This 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*.
- *Q', q'*: There's no English equivalent to this sound. This is an *ejective* consonant. In the case of *q'*, it's pronounced just like *q*, but with one's breath held. The result is a little "popping" sound that immediately follows the production of the *q*. You can think of it as a *q* that's followed by a glottal ' sound. Producing those two sounds in short succession will result in a sound very close to *q'*. Continue to practice and you should be able to get it.

- **Qkh, qkh:** This sound isn't found in English. It's rather like a consonant cluster combining *q* and *kh*. Think of it like pronouncing *q*, but in producing it, one allows the back of one's tongue to contact the soft palate, releasing a rough *kh* sound as one releases *q*. This sound can occur anywhere in the word, and so should be practiced in initial position, not just medially.
- **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 "shack".
- **Shkh, shkh:** This sound isn't found in English. It's rather like a consonant cluster combining *sh* and *kh*. Think of it like pronouncing *sh*, but in producing it, one allows the back of one's tongue to contact the soft palate, releasing a rough *kh* sound as one releases *sh*. This sound can occur anywhere in the word, and so should be practiced in initial position, not just medially.
- **Skh, skh:** This sound isn't found in English. It's rather like a consonant cluster combining *s* and *kh*. Think of it like pronouncing *s*, but in producing it, one allows the back of one's tongue to contact the soft palate, releasing a rough *kh* sound as one releases *s*. This sound can occur anywhere in the word, and so should be practiced in initial position, not just medially.
- **T, t:** Pronounced like the "t" in "stake".
- **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.
- **Tkh, tkh:** This sound isn't found in English. It's rather like a consonant cluster combining *t* and *kh*. Think of it like pronouncing *t*, but in producing it, one allows the back of one's tongue to contact the soft palate, releasing a rough *kh* sound as one releases *t*. This sound can occur anywhere in the word, and so should be practiced in initial position, not just medially.

- **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.
- **Tskh, tskh**: This sound isn't found in English. It's rather like a consonant cluster combining **ts** and **kh**. Think of it like pronouncing **ts**, but in producing it, one allows the back of one's tongue to contact the soft palate, releasing a rough **kh** sound as one releases **ts**. This sound can occur anywhere in the word, and so should be practiced in initial position, not just medially.
- **U, u**: Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate".
- **Uu, uu**: Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate", but held for slightly longer.
- **W, w**: Pronounced like the "w" in "wagon".
- **Y, y**: Pronounced like the "y" in "young". (Note: *Never* occurs as a vowel.)
- **Z, z**: Pronounced like the "z" n "zebra".
- **Zh, zh**: Pronounced like the "z" in "azure" or the "s" in "measure" (an analogy: s is to z as **sh** is to **zh**).
- ' : 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.)