

## Romanization and Pronunciation

- This is the romanization system, which will be used to spell the language using the Roman alphabet. The full system is described in detail below:
  - *A, a*: Pronounced like the "a" in "father" when stressed; otherwise pronounced like the "a" in "sofa".
  - *B, b*: Pronounced like the "b" in "bad".
  - *D, d*: Pronounced like the "d" in "diet".
  - *Dh, dh*: Pronounced like the "th" in "this" (*never* like the "th" in "thin", for which see *dh*).
  - *E, e*: Pronounced like the "e" in "get" in closed syllables; otherwise pronounced like the "a" in "gate".
  - *F, f*: Pronounced like the "f" in "fog".
  - *G, g*: Pronounced like the "g" in "goat" (*never* like the "g" in "genius").
  - *I, i*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine".
  - *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 *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 "aw" in "law" in closed syllables; otherwise pronounced like the "o" in "tote".

- **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 "pirke". Compare the "p" in "pirke" and the "p" in "spirke" [try holding your hand in front of your face when pronouncing both]. The *p* should always be pronounced like the "p" in "spirke"; never like the "p" in "pirke").
- **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 *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 "this", for which see *dh*).
- **U, u**: Pronounced like the "u" in "ruminate".
- **V, v**: Pronounced like the "v" in "van".
- **W, w**: Pronounced like the "w" in "walk".
- **Y, y**: Pronounced like the "y" in "yet".
- **Z, z**: Pronounced like the "z" in "zebra".
- **Zh, zh**: Pronounced like the "z" in "azure".
- **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.)