Elvish Language Romanization and Pronunciation

Below is a list of the Roman letters we're using to spell the Elvish language, and how they're pronounced. When in doubt, follow the recordings, but this should give you a good idea how everything works:

◉ *A, a*: Pronounced like the "a" in "father" when stressed; otherwise pronounced like the "a" in "sofa".

◉ *Aa, aa*: Always pronounced like the "a" in "father", but held for a slightly longer duration than *a*.

◉ *B, b*: Pronounced like the "b" in "Blitzen".

◉ *Ch, ch*: Pronounced like the "ch" in "cheer".

◉ *D, d*: Pronounced like the "d" in "Dasher".

◉ *E, e*: Always pronounced like the "e" in "elf"; never silent.

◉ *Ee, ee*: Always pronounced like the "e" in "elf"; never like the "ee" in "feed". Held for a slightly longer duration than *e*.

◉ *F, f*: Pronounced like the "f" in "fat".

◉ *G, g*: Always pronounced like the "g" in "gift"; never pronounced like the "g" in "genre" or "gene".

◉ *H, h*: Pronounced like the "h" in "hat".

◉ *I, i*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine" when stressed; otherwise pronounced like the "i" in "kid".

◉ *Ii, ii*: Always pronounced like the "i" in "machine", but held for a slightly longer duration than *i*.

◉ *K, k*: Pronounced like the "k" in "kid".

◉ *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 "ble<u>ch</u>!" or "i<u>ch</u>!" 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*: Always pronounced like the "<u>l</u>" in "<u>l</u>ove"; never swallowed as in the "<u>l</u>" in "midd<u>l</u>e".

◉ *M, m*: Pronounced like the "<u>m</u>" in "<u>m</u>erry".

◉ *N, n*: Always pronounced like the "<u>n</u>" in "<u>N</u>oël".

◉ *O, o*: Always pronounced like the "<u>o</u>" in "c<u>o</u>captain".

◉ *Oo, oo*: Always pronounced like the "<u>o</u>" in "c<u>o</u>captain"; never like the "<u>oo</u>" in "b<u>oo</u>t". Held for a slightly longer duration than *o*.

◉ *Ö, ö*: Pronounced like the "<u>eu</u>" in French "d<u>eu</u>x" or the "<u>ö</u>" in German "K<u>ö</u>ln" or the "<u>ö</u>" in Finnish "tytt<u>ö</u>". To pronounce this sound correctly, pronounce a pure *e*, but then round your lips entirely as if you were pronouncing *o*. If you do both of these things at the same time, you'll be pronouncing a perfect *ö*.

◉ *Öö, öö*: Pronounced as described above (see *Ö, ö*), but held for a slightly longer duration.

◉ *P, p*: Pronounced like the "<u>p</u>" in "<u>P</u>rancer".

◉ *R, r*: Pronounced like the "<u>r</u>" in French "<u>r</u>ouge". It's a nice trilled "<u>r</u>" 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 rumbly and *roll*; it should never be harsh. Mastering this sound is essential to sounding like a true elf!

◉ *S, s*: Pronounced like the "<u>s</u>" in "<u>S</u>anta".

◉ *Sh, sh*: Pronounced like the "<u>sh</u>" in "<u>sh</u>are".

◉ *T, t*: Pronounced like the "<u>t</u>" in "<u>t</u>idings".

◉ *U, u*: Always pronounced like the "<u>u</u>" in "r<u>u</u>minate"; never like the "<u>u</u>" in "c<u>u</u>te".

◉ *Uu, uu*: Always pronounced like the "u̲" in "ru̲minate"; never like the "u" in "cu̲te". Held for a slightly longer duration than *u*.

◉ *Ü, ü*: Pronounced like the "u̲" in French "ru̲e" or the "ü̲" in German "fü̲r" or the "y̲" in Finnish "ty̲ttö". To pronounce this sound correctly, pronounce a pure *i*, but then round your lips entirely as if you were pronouncing *u*. If you do both of these things at the same time, you'll be pronouncing a perfect *ü*.

◉ *Üü, üü*: Pronounced as described above (see *Ü, ü*), but held for a slightly longer duration.

◉ *V, v*: Pronounced like the "v̲" in "V̲ixen".

◉ *W, w*: Pronounced like the "w̲" in "w̲ise".

◉ *Y, y*: Always pronounced like the "y̲" in "y̲ear"; never like the "y̲" in "fly̲".

◉ *Z, z*: Pronounced like the "z̲" in "z̲ip".

◉ *Doubled Consonants*: Doubled consonants are pronounced just like two separate instances of the same consonant. Think of them as long, like the doubled vowels.

◉ *Stress*: The Elvish language has a very particular intonational pattern. In the script, the changes in intonation will be represented with upper and lower case letters as follows: *rampata* `RAM-pa-ta`. It can't capture the intonational patterns of each sentence perfectly, so you're advised to use it as a guide when listening to the recordings.